



THE MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1933

OUTLOOK

University Joins Medical Mission in Haiti

DANIELLE SCHIPANI
NEWS EDITOR

Over winter break, 14 people, including University students and faculty, traveled to Haiti with 25 nurses and nursing students from other universities to run medical clinics throughout the country, helping about 1500 patients from Jan. 4-Jan. 10.

“We set up the clinics in the countryside and more urban areas (where the Haitian people were relocated after their earthquake which happened six years ago). We also visited a hospital and went to an orphanage,” said Dr. Laura Jannone, Associate Professor of Nursing.

Janone went with her husband Dr. Joel Jannone a Primary Care Physician, their daughter Gina Jannone, a graduate student who helped run the pharmacy, pediatrician, Dr. Steve Miller, Carol Miller and their daughter Amanda Miller, a nurse, along with eight sophomore pre-licensure nursing students.

The students and faculty handed out hygiene kits filled with soap, washcloths, toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, and hand sanitizer, to the patients they encountered. The students who attended used the skills they learned in their Individual Health Assessment course they took during the fall semester with Dr. Patricia Sciscione,

specialist professor of nursing, at makeshift clinics.

One sophomore nursing student, Kimberly Thompson, explained how she always dreamed of going to Haiti to help people. “I love traveling and have always wanted to go on a medical mission trip. I found out my freshman year some of my nursing professors have been going to Haiti to do mission work. I knew right away I had to go. I started to save my money and my dream of mission work soon became a reality.”

Nursing student, Caroline Sha-

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PHOTO COURTESY of Laura Jannone

Over winter break 14 students and faculty travelled to Haiti to work at medical clinics throughout the country.

No Snow Days for Dining Hall Staff

KERRY BREEN
COPY EDITOR

Upon closure of the University due to inclement weather, dining hall employees must still come to work to make sure residential students are fed.

On snow days, almost all buildings are closed. The Rebecca Stafford Student Center will often be closed, or it may have a delayed opening. Other locations, such as the café in the library and the convenience store, are also shut down.

All non-essential offices are closed; many classes are cancelled so that students can stay inside. However, all students still need to eat, and since many on-campus dormitories do not have kitchens, the dining hall must stay open, even during snow storms.

While most University employees are able to stay home during dangerous weather, those who work in the dining hall still have to go to work, and accommodations must be made to make sure that they are able to arrive safely.

“Sometimes, we have employees sleep over,” said Steven Black, the resident dining director. “They can sleep over in the club rooms. I personally, and my general manager Chris Ryerson, sometimes pick them up and drive them home, but we would rather them stay here if the storm is really bad, when it’s over a foot or more.”

However, these employee sleepovers are done only in the case of emergency, such as during winter storm Jonas. The previous snow on Friday, Feb. 5, would not have qualified as such an emergency situation. According to Black, employees are compensated at an hourly rate. Typically, it is

only employees who would be working night shifts that stay overnight.

“We always have it open for students,” said Black. “Somebody would be here. Even if it was just me and the head chef, somebody would be here to feed students.”

During inclement weather, the dining hall also offers fewer options, closing several stations to minimize the amount of employees that need to go out in the storm. The first stations to close are typically the carving station and the deli, as well as the omelet station. The stations that typically remain open are the grill, pizza, and pasta stations, as well as the salad bar. The other entrée stations, as well as the international and vegan stations, are opened if possible, depending on the severity of the storm.

“We just have partial stations open,” said Black. “It’s hard for people to get around, it’s hard for our employees to get around. During the snowstorm, we had pizza, grill, entrée, the pasta station, and sometimes we had international and vegan. The salad bar is always open. I know everyone loves the omelet station and the deli, but it’s hard for us to get everyone in safely, so we have selective items open, but it’s still enough to feed everyone.”

While dining hall employee Diamond Perkins was not present for winter storm Jonas, she has been at the dining hall during other storms, and knows how they accommodate both workers and students.

“They let the kids go in for free,” said Perkins. “They let them stay as long as they want to eat. They also make sure

Dining Hall cont. on pg. 2

MU Celebrates World Hijab Day

JAMILAH MCMILLAN
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Each year, Feb. 1 marks World Hijab Day, a holiday that supports millions of Muslim women who chose to wear the hijab (headscarf) around the world.

For the fourth time at the University, the Muslim Student Association (MSA) and Lambda Theta Alpha (LTA) invited students to participate in the celebration on Tuesday Feb. 2 in the Rebecca Stafford Student Center (RSSC).

The hijab is an obligatory head covering that is a signature of Muslim women

around the world. It is meant to be worn in public around men who are not relatives, and it does not need to be worn in front of other women or family members.

Similar to last year’s World Hijab Day celebration, members of the MSA and LTA laid out a table of different colored hijabs; there were pinks, and greens, prints, and nudes. They also provided a mirror to give participants the opportunity to see their appearance after donning a hijab. Alongside the hijabs were pamphlets that addressed misconceptions, and answered basic questions about Islam.

According to members of the MSA, when non-Muslim students and faculty volunteered to

wear the hijab they exhibited interfaith-solidarity. “The simple act of wearing a hijab breaks down anti-Muslim sentiments, and stereotypes. It is the most visible way that a person can support Muslim women,” said Maya Ayubi, a junior chemistry student and secretary of the MSA.

Rekha Datta, a professor in the political science department, asserts that events like World Hijab Day affect the campus culture. “Often, a university campus has diverse students but they tend to stay within their groups. When there is more integration and inclusivity of diverse individuals and groups, a deeper culture of understanding

and respecting different cultures and identities emerges. An event such as Word Hijab Day offers opportunity for inclusivity. Students from a variety of backgrounds participate together and gain a better understanding of what wearing a hijab signifies. Through understanding comes empathy and compassion. All of these contribute to a campus and the larger society the culture of respecting and including everyone as part of the community,” said Datta.

For the first time since its fruition, the celebration of

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University Reacts to Zika Virus Outbreak

JALIZE CANELA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As explained by the Pan American Health Organization, the Zika virus is an infection that is transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito of the *Aedes* genus. This virus usually causes mild fever, exanthema (skin rash), conjunctivitis, and muscle pain.

Although the first isolated case was in the Zika forest of Uganda in 1947 with minor outbreaks in the Asian regions, the Zika virus soon became a widespread epidemic that affected individuals both asymptotically and symptomatically. Nearly one in five people infected show symptoms that were very similar to those of the dengue or chikungunya.

However, studies show that 80 percent of infected individuals do not feel ill or show any symptoms. According to an article in *The New York Times*, women who live in or have visited infected areas during the beginning of their pregnancy may have experienced birth defects with their newborn such as microcephaly.

Microcephaly is a medical condition where the fetus's head is abnormally smaller than it should be and is often associated with incomplete brain development. If an infected mosquito bites a woman during her pregnancy, the infection could make its way into the amniotic fluid that aids in the nourishment and well-being of the fetus which could ultimately make the fetus more susceptible to birth defects.

At first, microcephaly was not seen as a symptom for women who were infected while pregnant. Health officials often counted microcephaly as a symptom for other possible illness that could cause this birth defect. Some of these illnesses

include: rubella (measles), poisoning of the fetus through alcohol intake, gene mutations, severe maternal malnutrition (common in impoverished regions), etc.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) was asked a series of questions about any exist-

ing tests that could determine whether an individual is indeed infected with Zika. Tests for the virus only work during the first week after infection. Tests for antibodies can be done, but they may yield false positives if the woman has had dengue, yellow fever, or has received the yellow fever vaccine.

Pregnant women who have been to infected regions should have an ultrasound scan to see if their fetus is developing microcephaly or calcification of the skull. However, an ultrasound can usually only detect microcephaly after the second trimester. Amniocentesis is also offered for fetuses who are

at risk. A positive RT-PCR (reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction) result after testing the amniotic fluid could be indicative of an intrauterine infection.

Health care professionals can then suggest the level of neonatal care needed after delivery

to be spread only by the infected mostquitoes of the *Aedes* genus. However, recent reports by *PIXII*, broke the news of the first case in which the viral infection was sexually transmitted here in the United States. The CDC predicted the likelihood of the disease appearing

Dr. William Schreiber, Chair of the Chemistry and Physics Department.

"I feel that effort should be made where the public health consequences show that the problem is serious. There are possibly more significantly dangerous diseases and other things that don't fall in the infectious disease category that represent a far greater threat to the individual. However, it does pose a great threat to women who are pregnant. Research efforts and the funding for research is finite and it has to be done by looking at the overall public health consequences. There is something going on now that seems to be spreading this disease much further that wasn't contributing to its widespread in the past. These are very difficult questions and decisions that are not easily answered.

Unfortunately, the popular press will continue to inform the population of this disease which will instill fear in the infected population and their adjacent countries. These things need to be studied, but we have to look at public health issues as a whole."

Public health issues are extremely difficult to tackle. Just when researchers have found the solution to a viral, parasitic, or bacterial infection, they are reminded that there are many deadly illnesses in the world that have yet to have set treatment or a vaccine. Some diseases may even grow resistant to treatment overtime such.

However, there are ways to help prevent individuals from contracting certain diseases while visiting other countries. If you're traveling to a country that faces public health issues, ask your doctor for any recommended vaccinations you should receive before your travels or check the CDC website for more information.

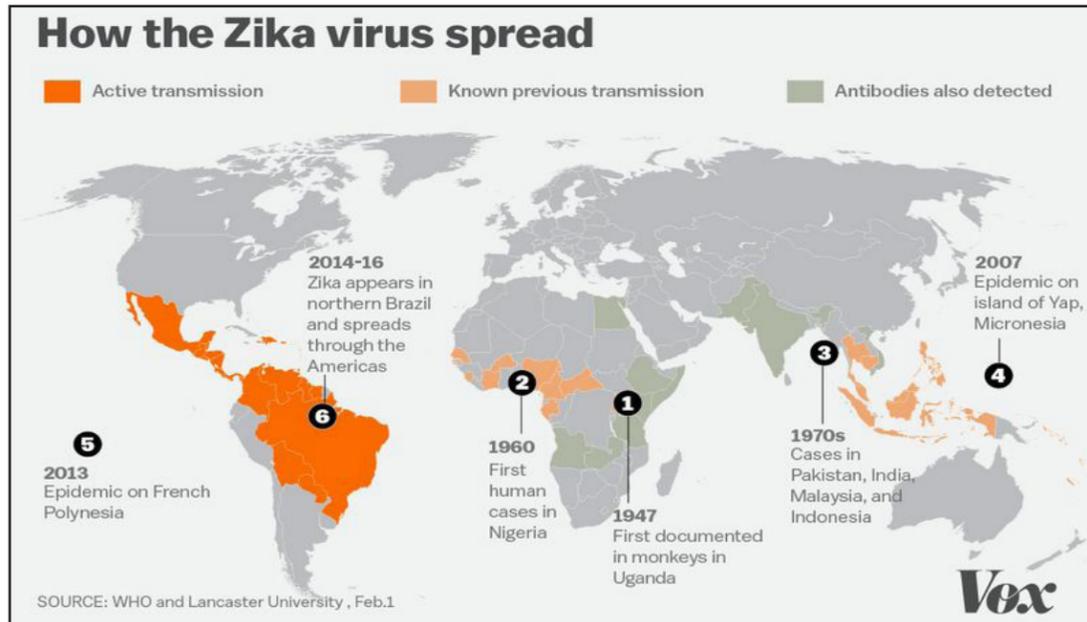


IMAGE TAKEN from <http://www.vox.com>

The map above displays the areas where the Zika virus has spread so far. It has mainly had an effect on South America.

and safety precautions that can be taken throughout the rest of the pregnancy which can ultimately aid in the health of both the mother and the fetus.

"I think preventative medicine is extremely important in the health care industry as it cuts higher emergency medicine costs later on. Rapidly spreading viral infections are often difficult to contain, but immediate action to curb the spread is essential to mitigate the risk, reduce costs, and allows for more time to research and target the infection," said Sachin Parikh, sophomore biology student.

From previously reported cases, the Zika virus was thought

in the U.S. by explaining that the likelihood of viral introduction and local spread in the U.S. has increased. With new cases being reported in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, the number of U.S. travelers is expected to increase throughout time.

Since health officials often associated the Zika virus to other related illnesses, the virus hasn't grabbed the attention of the infectious diseases specialists until its recent outbreak. "Through an organic chemistry perspective, there should be a scientific view here that should be applied and doesn't happen well in the popular press," said

Dr. William Schreiber, Chair of the Chemistry and Physics Department.

Public health issues are extremely difficult to tackle. Just when researchers have found the solution to a viral, parasitic, or bacterial infection, they are reminded that there are many deadly illnesses in the world that have yet to have set treatment or a vaccine. Some diseases may even grow resistant to treatment overtime such.

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Students and Faculty Provide Medical Assistance in Haiti

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Shanahan, explained: "the most memorable part of the trip was helping a woman who had scabies. After applying ointment to her body, the woman turned to me and said 'I love you.' It was such a beautiful moment, seeing that I was making a difference in her life. Just seeing how appreciative this woman was for a small gesture was very humbling."

Students explained that they were able to takeaway life experience and life lessons from attending the trip. "After the trip, I learned an important lesson of how to not take what I have here in the United States for granted," said Jason Hebron, sophomore nursing student. "Living in Haiti for a short amount of time, without internet, phone connection, clean water in the sink in the bathroom, or even a bed, made me realize that everything we have here in our homes is a luxury to those in third world countries such as in Haiti," he said.

Hebron shared a memory about the trip where he experienced the joy and gratitude that the people of Haiti felt after being helped. "I remember I had a family come in during one of our clinics for us to assess what was wrong with them. After the fact, we handed

them the usual health kit with the common household toiletries. The look on the young boy's face was of pure excitement and joy. He kept on repeating 'Mesi, Mesi! God Bless You! Mesi!' This meant 'Thank you' in Creole. I have never seen someone so excited to see such basic things in my entire life. And that was a common theme throughout every clinic day. Someone, if not everyone would be so grateful to receive such normality to us here and to them, it was a blessing."

Jannone explained what she hoped students learned from the experience. "I hope the students learned cultural differences in countries like Haiti and to see diseases you might never see here. Also to be grateful for medical care and even meals, and housing we have in our country not afforded to others. I hope they have lifetime friendships with our Haitian interpreters (many the same age as our students) and nursing students from other universities that participated in our trip."

"I learned about the Haitian culture and their way of life which was shocking to me," said Amanda Sanford, sophomore nursing student. "I took away an appreciation for the way I live in the United States, and every day I feel grateful to take a hot shower,

flush a toilet, eat a healthy meal, get an education, sleep through the night, and many other things that I took for granted before my experience in this country."

All of the students who attended volunteered to go. The

clothes that would be taken to an orphanage and medication that was to be given to patients in need.

This medical mission was set up through Foundation for Peace and Sigma Theta Tau, The Nurs-



PHOTO COURTESY OF Laura Jannone

Students and faculty took a day to experience Haiti.

students were Amanda Sanford, Caroline Shanahan, Kim Thompson, Jason Hebron, Melina La Rouche, Miranda Konstantinides, Shannon Averill, and Julianna Emilio.

Before the trip, a packing party was held in Birch Hall, where everyone who was to attend the trip came together to make the hygiene kits. They also sorted

ing Honor Society. Student fundraising along with donations from friends and family helped fund the trip.

"I would definitely go on a trip like this again and I would encourage others to do so too if they have the opportunity. There is no other feeling like working together as a team to help those in need," said Shanahan.

Dining Hall Staff Stays the Night During Storm

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that employees are allowed to eat."

Malia Padalino, a sophomore English student, was on campus during winter storm Jonas, and ate at the dining hall several times.

"They absolutely need to have the dining hall open somehow," she said. "Not all students have cars to go off-campus and get food, and even the ones that do are snowed in. Something has to be done to feed the students, so it's important that the dining hall stays open."

Padalino added, "During that weekend [the dining hall staff] didn't have it at full force, but that was okay. It wasn't like it normally is, but it was enough to feed everyone. They didn't have everything, but they had enough for people to eat."

Traditional College Admissions Process May See Changes Soon

RICHARD FELICETTI
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Harvard University plans on revolutionizing the college admissions process. For decades, colleges have stressed the importance of stellar grades, astronomical SAT scores, and abundant extracurricular activities. However, for many students across the country, the opportunities for a stacked resume simply are not present.

Recently, the Harvard Graduate School of Education presented its case for an admissions “revolution.” Rather than placing heavy emphasis on great test scores and extracurricular activities, the Harvard report suggested that the admissions process should reward students who aid their families and strive to be good individuals.

Statistics on a resume do not tell the whole story of a student; often, those with picture-perfect grades and activities lack the interpersonal abilities to contribute to society. Therefore, the new process will take into consideration personal attributes and rely less on solely the numbers.

The report implies that prospective students will be able to write essays describing their experiences helping their families. Not every student has the access to community service and extracurricular activities; therefore, this new process would allow students to display their redeemable qualities in the form of a narrative. Whether it is babysitting or mowing the lawn, these activities would be valued just as highly as an afterschool club or internship.

“I believe that there is a certain degree of appropriateness to this decision,” said Jake Marciniak, sophomore business student.

Many times there are students who are strictly book smart and are extremely proficient in taking a test. However, much of what an individual will be doing in a job and in the real world after college will be a strong combination of intelligence and interpersonal skill.”

Marciniak stressed the importance of personal characteristics in determining exactly who is a proper fit to be admitted to a university. Although grades are most definitely important, the other attributes should be weighed just as heavily.

“The ‘person’ you are speaks volumes to the performance you are capable of. I am not saying you take the most outgoing and charismatic student and neglect his potentially poor grades and achievements,” said Marciniak. “However, I feel that it is good, for any student to have a strong balance of knowledge and ‘education’ as well as the ability to combine their talents and personality with those of the people around them.”

Although in its infancy, the report has been received fairly positively, and the ultimate goal is for all of the nation’s colleges to adopt this policy.

Daniel Kenny, a Harvard University sophomore government student, noted that making students from various socioeconomic backgrounds feel comfortable is an important aspect of the college experience.

“I believe the college admissions system is undergoing a necessary nationwide change. As a first generation college student on Harvard’s ‘lite’ campus, I often feel out of place. I blame this in part on the college’s admissions process. Right now, I don’t



IMAGE TAKEN from www.kaptest.com

Harvard looks to change the way the college acceptance process works in order to put an emphasis on character and life experience.

think the college does a good job reaching out to students from public high schools, especially in low-income communities. Elite universities like Harvard continue to seek students from elite private schools, such as Phillips Academy and Phillips Exeter Academy,” said Kenny.

“They perpetuate a cycle of elite-educated children from wealthy families attending elite universities. I think Harvard’s more general goal of preferring students who advance the ‘common good’ is small- but good-way to combat a history of elitist admissions. More schools should consider their applicants’ socioeconomic backgrounds when evaluating their academics and extracurriculars. Harvard’s is a noble aim, and I hope they take their initiative a step further by eliminating preferences for ‘leg-

acy’ students whose parents and other family members graduated from Harvard.”

If more schools take into consideration an applicant’s socioeconomic background, then perhaps all students will have a fair chance at being admitted into a university as opposed to those that have family members in the institution’s legacy.

“Sometimes we focus too much on the so-called elite universities. Colleges across America could take more steps to help make poor and otherwise underprivileged students feel more welcome on campus in order to help those students succeed,” said Kenny.

“For example, instituting mentor programs is one way to help first-generation students adapt to campus life while making a friend in a strange place. Addi-

tionally, I think free community college would allow students who are unsure about college the freedom to try it out. Unfortunately, such a system seems like a pipe dream in the current political environment.”

Moreover, Erin Smith, an MU Admission Counselor, noted that although beneficial, there must be a loophole in which grades maintain their hefty prominence.

“It is a great idea to rely more so on the person themselves than simply their statistics,” said Smith. “However, I am sure that grades that are not stellar will result in less of a scholarship, so the background from which the person comes from will still have a role. There must be a good combination of both personal attributes and grades for the applicant to have the best shot at admission.”

World Hijab Day Educates Students

Hijab Day continued from pg. 1

World Hijab day at the University was located outside of the dining area of the RSSC, however, Zareen Shueib, treasurer of the MSA, believes the event was successful in reaching its goals. “It was more isolated than other years because of the renovations to the dining area, so we were located in the hallway, but it was still a great event. As a Muslim it showed me that Monmouth students are willing and open to new experiences and knowledge. They don’t let the media influence their choices and opportunities of learning new things,” she said.

“I loved how many students were interested in learning how to wear one [a hijab]. I think it was a wonderful, and humbling experience helping students who were honestly interested in learning how to wear one,” said Ayubi.

Tatiana Castro, a senior marine and environmental biology and policy student, enthusiastically described her experience. “When I first put on the hijab I simply felt beautiful. I don’t know how else to describe it, I just felt so humbled to have the opportunity to learn about the Muslim religion and to be able to put a hijab on without possibly offending anyone. I always wanted to see what it felt like, and having people around you showing you how to put it on, and encouraging you to flaunt it was such a wonderful experience. I loved every minute of it,” she



PHOTO TAKEN by Jamilah McMillan

A group of attendees wore their hijabs together to celebrate World Hijab Day.

said.

Some were surprised by the number of students willing to try on hijabs, however, others were not. “I have been at Monmouth for the last 18 years, and I have always been so impressed by our students, staff, and faculty members and their enthusiasm for diversity. So it was not surprising to me that students at Monmouth were interested in learning about the hijab,” said Golam Mathbor, Ph.D. is the MSA Advisor, and the chair of the Department of Philosophy, Reli-

gion, and Interdisciplinary Studies.

“I am proud of the MSA because events like these always bring curious people of diverse backgrounds together to learn about others. I hope MSA will always hold onto its principles of inclusiveness, co-existence, and peace that is embodied in its constitution,” Mathbor continued.

Momna Ayub is the president of the MSA. She does not wear the hijab, yet she feels that events like World Hijab Day are impor-

tant aspects of the educational experience. “Exposing the university community to diversity is extremely important and necessary. Monmouth, while not completely homogenous, lacks in minority representation when compared to other universities,” she said. “In an effort to compensate for this, it is important for events providing diversity to attain recognition and interest. This event in particular is very important not only for the university community, but for the nation at large which is faced

with a great misunderstanding of American Muslims.”

Emely Diaz, a sophomore political science student and member of LTA, said that it was her first year participating in the event. She said, “The celebration was very enlightening, I learned a lot of new information that I did not know about hijabs and why women wear them. People should know the basics of the hijab; they don’t know enough about it. It’s supposed to be a personal choice, and I feel that many people are not educated enough about that.”

According to *WorldHijabDay.com*, the holiday was founded in NY by a Muslim woman named Nazma Khan. She initiated the first World Hijab Day on Feb. 1, 2013. Khan sought to create a day that would foster tolerance and end discrimination by inviting non-Muslim women to wear the hijab for a day. The vision sprouted after facing much discrimination for her religion and hijab post 9/11.

Today, World Hijab Day has spread to over 140 countries. It is organized through social media, and participants are connected through hashtags. Mainstream news organizations have covered this global movement since its origination.

Diaz said, “The event was affective in stopping ignorance on campus. LTA will definitely co-sponsor it again next year with the MSA, and I hope that students that did not participate stop by next time.”

THE OUTLOOK

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Can't Buy Me Love

THE OUTLOOK STAFF

Valentine's Day is upon us, and along with boxes of chocolates and bouquets of roses, there seems to be an air of cynicism that surrounds the holiday. Traditionally, on February 14 the love you have for your significant other is exhibited through store-bought gifts and cliché Hallmark cards. For singles this holiday is a yearly reminder that you are still alone, but for those that are in relationships it a time to flaunt how "in love" you are with one another. Many people debate that Valentine's Day is not truly about love, but it is about a partner's feelings of obligation to shower their partner with material gifts. Is this holiday legitimate or is it merely for the monetary gain of industries? *The Outlook* weighs in on this so-called "Hallmark holiday".

Once the ball has dropped in Times Square, it seems as if the shelves at stores become an endless array of heart-shaped merchandise and stuffed teddy bears. However, if we reflect back onto the origins of Valentine's Day it has nothing to do with Whitman's assortment of chocolates. St. Valentine was a priest that strongly believed in love and marriage. He would secretly marry couples during the reign of Claudius, an emperor that prohibited marriages. Prior to St. Valentine's execution, in his last letter, he signed off with the sentiment, "from your Valentine." When

touching upon the validity of this holiday many *Outlook* editors believe that it is a legitimate holiday, but it has been highly influenced by industries. One editor shared her thoughts, "There's no reason not to celebrate being with someone you love once a year. It's like Mother's Day or Father's Day. It has turned into a huge consumer holiday, but the original concept is nice."

Americans are expected to spend

...if we reflect back onto the origins of Valentine's Day it has nothing to do with Whitman's assortment of chocolates.

\$18.9 billion this year on gifts for their loved ones this Valentine's Day. I guess chivalry isn't dead, after all. Most *Outlook* editors would like to believe that the gifts purchased for Valentine's Day hold value, but most feel that they are given out of one's feeling of obligation to their partner. The editors believe that this obligation is constructed by societal norms, consumer advertisements, and the fact that this holiday over

time has become a nuisance. However, one *Outlook* editor had a different view. "I think that if anyone takes the time and money to get a gift that it has meaning behind it."

There are positive and negative aspects surrounding the celebration of Valentine's Day depending upon who you speak to. Spending money on meaningless gifts for the holiday was seen as a negative quality for this celebration of love. Also, singles feel that this day serves as reminder that you have yet to find your own love affair. "I take the day to love myself and other people as a single person," said a single editor. Amongst the *Outlook* staff, an overarching positive aspect of Valentine's Day was the receiving of chocolate and candy. Almost all of editors felt that February 14 is a day worth celebrating, but they recognize that it is highly commercialized.

The debate for whether or not Valentine's Day has meaning or if it was simply created by the greeting card companies will be questioned long after this week's *Outlook* issue is published. Although this holiday is highly commercialized and tends to awaken people's cynicism it is worth celebrating. We may all be feeding into the materialism of the day, but there is no reason to not celebrate your love for another person. *The Outlook* believes that Valentine's Day is more than a Hallmark holiday. Overall, the editors feel that it is a celebration of love and everyday should really be treated as Valentine's Day.



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Mattel Introduces New Figure for Barbie Doll

AMANDA DRENNAN
COPY EDITOR

Since 1959 Barbie has been known her as the doll who was tall, blonde, skinny, and essentially the definition of perfect. Barbie literally has it all. There is not one package of accessories I can think of that doesn't exist. There is everything from Malibu Barbie to President Barbie; is there anything she can't do? This figure is someone that most young girls have wanted to be because she has always had the freedom to be whatever she wanted to be.

Barbie has obviously played a role in the way young girls view their bodies. No matter the age, girls are concerned with their weight, and having a Barbie doll with an unrealistic body doesn't help. Barbie's image isn't the only thing that would influence girls to think their bodies aren't "normal."

When you look back to Slumber Party Barbie, she came with a scale set to 110 pounds. She also came with a book about how to lose weight and the only thing written in it was "DON'T EAT!" It's very true that a Barbie doll acts as a role model to many young girls. This was sending the wrong message to girls, telling encouraging them not to eat and providing them the "perfect" weight. There have even been lawsuits against Mattel, the company that makes Barbie, because of the image they are presenting to girls to be a standard.

When playing with their dolls, children create their own fantasy world and for many, Barbie is the main character. I think it is about time Barbie dolls started looking like the kids who play with them. If



IMAGE TAKEN from businessinsider.com

The Mattel Company introduced their new Barbie dolls on TIME Magazine's cover on Jan. 28.

they don't look like this ideal figure, they could become unsure of their own bodies.

Just recently the Barbie doll has had a major transformation. After over 50 years of her signature look, new looks have been introduced. The Mattel Company decided that they were going to allow Barbie's look to be more versatile. There are over 33 new dolls, and Mattel is calling it an evolution.

I think the changes made to Barbie dolls is going to have a great impact on young girls and the way they view themselves. I know when I was growing up and playing with dolls, I wanted to live that kind of fantasy life. She could do anything she wanted, which made me think I could do anything I wanted.

I think the new image Barbie is

portraying will help young girls to realize that not everyone looks the same. The new look is refreshing and it's good to see the company not set a specific standard of how everyone should look. I think this major change in the Barbie doll can only have a positive impact. The new dolls vary in body type, race, and different hair color. More young girls are able to identify with the new body types, and see themselves in Barbie.

The dolls come in tall, petite, curvy, and original. They also come in many different skin tones and hairstyles. The change allows young girls to feel like they can be anything and do everything, just like Barbie. After all, Barbie's new catch phrase is, "Imagine the Possibilities."

MU Bookstore: Y U Expensive?

ALISON SILVERMAN
STAFF WRITER

It's time for a new semester and you have almost everything you need. You've pushed it off for as long as you can, but you can't avoid them: **textbooks**.

Semester after semester, students are required to buy their own textbooks with little or no help from the University. Furthermore, these aren't your cheap textbooks: students are encouraged to purchase books from the bookstore, where prices are so high that students would rather wait and order

example, last year I bought a \$200 textbook and the University bookstore only gave me \$50 for it, while some of my books weren't even accepted.

As much as students would like, the bookstore will not budge its prices (if that were the case, I don't think I would be writing this article.) So, here are some great places to get textbooks if you don't want to deal with the skyrocketing prices of the bookstore.

1.) Chegg: Chegg is perhaps one of the most popular book rental sites. According to the website, Chegg says that students

the first week of class due to late shipping on books!

3.) Valore Books: While it may not be as popular as Chegg or Amazon, Valore Books offers a search engine for all textbooks and enables the user to track their order. You can also return your books for free – isn't that every college student's favorite four letter word?

4.) Skyo: Looking for new books for less? While most students might opt for the cheaper, used option, if you're looking for cheap new textbooks, Skyo is the way to go.

5.) Bookbyte: Bookbyte has free shipping both ways, enables you to pick how long you want to rent your books for, and guarantees saving 87 percent. They also give you an extra week to return your book if they're late.

6.) eBooks: If you have postponed your homework reading until the night before it was due and you feel your only resort is to buy from the campus bookstore, think again. Many sites, such as Barnes and Nobles, are offering eBooks as an alternative to textbooks. You receive the book right away and although you will not receive a hardbook form, most college campuses are accepting laptops or tablets in the classroom. eBooks are also great to lighten one's load on the trek to and from class. More often than not, these are the cheapest forms of textbooks.

Don't forget, the bookstore is always a quick way to get books, but if you're looking not to break the bank, these options are great!

Students are encouraged to purchase books from the bookstore, where prices are so high that students would rather wait and order their books to be shipped almost a week after classes begin.

their books to be shipped almost a week after classes begin.

Why is it that the University requires us to not only pay for classes, which as we all know are extremely expensive to begin with, but we have to pay for textbooks and supplies, too? I do not think that it is at all fair that we have to pay for textbooks, especially since we don't even receive a discount when we buy them from the University bookstore. Furthermore, some classes require that the students pay for supplies as well.

When the semester ends and we finally go to sell our books back, the bookstore won't even take it for half the price. For

will save up to "80 percent on rentals and eBooks and 90 percent on used textbooks." Not only does Chegg provide an answer to all your textbook needs, but it also provides students with an internship search engine and ways to help study for all your exams – kill three birds with one stone and save money? Who doesn't want that!

2.) Amazon: known for being one of the biggest online stores, Amazon is a great way to find all the textbooks you need. On top of that, Amazon offers any student with an .edu email address Amazon Prime, which comes with two day shipping – no more being unprepared for

HOROSCOPES

ARIES

MAR. 21 - APR. 19

Think carefully about making a fresh start this week. While this can be an excellent opportunity to move in new circles, it might help to do a little detective work before you get too involved. Valentine's Day weekend looks sensual, a little intense, and fun.

TAURUS

APR. 20 - MAY 20

You could find yourself at odds with another just when you're most excited about forging ahead with a new plan or idea. As a result, a heart-to-heart may be necessary. Tension eases by the weekend, although the passion stays strong as Valentine's Day arrives.

GEMINI

MAY 21 - JUNE 20

Though you may want to explore new opportunities, responsibilities can be holding you back. But on Saturday, there's a chance that new options could still come your way, even if they aren't as enticing as the original. Valentine's Day could revive a secret crush.

CANCER

JUNE 21 - JULY 22

There's still an intense focus on partnerships, and with this being the week of Valentine's Day, the passion in a relationship could begin to spill over. But things could be more intensely romantic earlier in the week than later.

LEO

JULY 23 - AUG. 22

Objections from family members or certain reservations on your part could be the problem. Don't ignore these, as they could be important.

You'll likely feel happier about proceeding once you've resolved them.

VIRGO

AUG. 23 - SEPT. 22

Your creative side is out in force, with upbeat energies encouraging you to showcase your abilities. If you're having trouble with a decision, consider hiring a personal trainer who can help you reach your goals and avoid any pitfalls.

LIBRA

SEPT. 23 - OCT. 22

Issues of self-worth could play a part in deciding whether to go ahead with a new romance. The start of the week could be a crucial time when a budding relationship needs a decision. But you'll have greater clarity if you can put it off for a few days.

SCORPIO

OCT. 23 - NOV. 21

You have no problem knowing what to do about a project that fascinates you. Valentine's Day looks like it should be quite thrilling, with an enhancing passion. Long-term and new relationships can benefit from a delightful date or a social get-together.

SAGITTARIUS

NOV. 22 - DEC. 21

Unresolved issues could be the reason you refrain from making a move or beginning a new phase or project. If one matter has been causing you to lose energy and feel bad for a while, it's worth taking the time to resolve it. Once you do, you'll have a lot more vitality to put into your everyday life.

CAPRICORN

DEC. 22 - JAN. 19

This might not be the best time to join an expensive club, even though you may want to invest in your social life. It's better to do a little research on prices before you proceed. In addition, this isn't an ideal time to lend money to friends. Plus, friends may have travel plans you might want to consider.

AQUARIUS

JAN. 20 - FEB. 18

The choice between running with plans that pertain to your career or goals that are meaningful to you personally is a big one that could impinge on your future. Don't rush. Instead, take the time to consider your options. Valentine's Day could be delightful, although you may share more than you intend where feelings are concerned.

PISCES

FEB. 19 - MAR. 20

This could be an excellent opportunity to make a fresh start regarding your spiritual path. You may be encouraged to learn to meditate, take up yoga, or connect with others who share your ideas and ideals. Valentine's Day combines Taurus sensuality with Scorpio's passion, making it rather special.

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Debate: Should the University Rename Wilson Hall?



IMAGE TAKEN FROM WIKIPEDIA.ORG

Wilson Hall's potential name change causes controversy and debate among University students, staff, faculty, and alumni.

AFFIRMATIVE

BENJAMMIN SMITH
STAFF WRITER

When analyzing the morality encapsulating the particular actions of past influencers, should the context of the era in which they exist be considered? Or are some forms of thought so outdated that they can no longer be reconciled with a modern generation?

An ongoing series of conversations “on race and inclusion” hosted by Monmouth University aims to answer these questions and more.

While not explicit in their purpose, these conversations will be used to gauge student interest in changing the name of Wilson Hall, named for President Woodrow Wilson, who rented the original Shadow Lawn Mansion and gave speeches from the front balconies during the election of 1912.

Although Wilson was Governor of New Jersey at the time, he was born in Virginia, and later became the first President from a secessionist state in almost fifty years and the first since the end of the Reconstruction Era.

With the memory of the Civil War still prominent in American society, racial inequality was an unfortunate commonality of Wilson's administrations. Despite the passing of the Pendleton Act in 1883, which stipulates that government jobs are to be awarded on the basis of merit and made it illegal to fire or demote an employee for political reasons, President Wilson mandated that all applicants for federal jobs be photographed before they were hired.

Under his supervision, many African American civil servants who were in positions of managerial supremacy to their white colleagues were demoted to, ac-

ording to Wilson, “reduce the social friction building up in American society.”

Notwithstanding their discriminatory nature, the policies, he said, were “as far as possible from being a movement against the Negroes,” and he “sincerely believe[s] it to be in their interest.”

While president of Princeton University, Wilson “envisioned an intellectual utopia, a community of the mind,” according to Wilson biographer A. Scott Berg. But Princeton was then the “only major college in the North” that did not admit students of color.

When a black student from Virginia wrote directly to Wilson himself, he replied that “it is altogether inadvisable for a colored man to enter Princeton.”

Berg also reveals that Wilson even opposed President Teddy Roosevelt's appointment of a

black Collector of the Port of Charleston, South Carolina, as “an unwise piece of bravado” because a black man with authority over white merchants was “too much ... to stand”

Wilson was clearly a bigot if only, as he so claims, for purely political reasons. But if that is the case, why should Monmouth, or any institution of higher learning for that matter, choose to name an academic building after someone who was so close minded as to promote segregation fifty years after the Emancipation Proclamation, assuming it would be in the best interest of everyone?

This begs another obvious question. Who should replace Wilson as namesake of the Shadow Lawn Mansion?

If the only contribution that Wilson has to the University is in a few speeches that he gave one summer, perhaps the build-

ing could be renamed for Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., who once addressed a crowd of students on our campus in 1966.

Or maybe the mansion should be renamed for Julian Abele, the first African-American professional architect, who helped designed it in the neoclassical French tradition along with Horace Trumbauer.

To learn more about the Wilsonian legacy, a panel discussion featuring distinct faculty members entitled Woodrow Wilson: Legacy, Memory, and Achievement, will be held on Wednesday, February 17, from 1:15p.m – 2:35 p.m. in the aptly named Woodrow Wilson Auditorium.

The program will provide “important background and context” as the University explores “whether or not Wilson's name is still appropriate” to feature on its signature building.

NEGATIVE

BRENDAN GREVE
POLITICS EDITOR

The University's Wilson Hall is a big part of the history of this campus, which makes many students want to come here. Woodrow Wilson was the only governor of N.J. to ever become President of the U.S. His summer home, or “Summer White House”, is the big beautiful building that we call Wilson Hall. Whether you like or dislike the former governor and president, Wilson Hall is a major part of American history right here on the campus.

Woodrow Wilson had a very progressive agenda that included supporting women's right to vote, helping labor unions, and created the Federal Reserve, making loans more accessible to Americans, and finally he won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1918 for his peace efforts to end World War I.

He sounds like a liberals dream, but one caveat is that he is believed to be a racist with a spotty civil rights record by his critics. Although it is a bit unfair to single out Wilson as the lone bigot in America in the early 1900's, he was sympathetic towards

segregation but he also believed it was for the good of African Americans at the time.

He also offered W.E.B. DuBois, an African American civil rights leader at the time who campaigned for Wilson, an army commission to deal with race relations. That by itself does not change many of his racist views but this was at a time where the Ku Klux Klan was at its height.

He was actually fairly moderate compared to the rest of the Democratic Party at the time— which was the party of the segregated south and much different than the party that is seen today— and the rest of the country which was at one of its lowest points in race relations in modern history.

Because of that, the liberal progressive takeover of academia is showing in full force with their politically correct strategy, “It doesn't go along with our agenda and we don't like it, so let's change the name and pretend it never happened.”

I am not writing this article in defense of bigotry nor am I writing on behalf of Woodrow Wilson. As a conservative, I do not believe in

many of Wilson's policies because they went along with the progressive ideas of government expansion into the lives of the American people.

I write this article because I do not agree with the idea of erasing history as a way of confronting bigotry. It is simply a historical fact that Woodrow Wilson used the mansion as his summer home. It is also a fact that George Washington owned slaves. Should we take his face off of the dollar bill and tell the next generation that he wasn't the general who won the Revolutionary War and first President of the United States? That would be the same logic that our University administrators would be following if they were to rename Wilson Hall.

Although some of our nation's history might be unpleasant for some, erasing it does not put us in a better position. There is much better ways that this campus can show acceptance and tolerance towards people of different colors than by taking away the history of the building that draws many of our diverse student body to come here in the first place.

The uncomfortable truth for some is that Wilson Hall was the summer home of Woodrow Wilson. Renaming the mansion can't change that. It is uncomfortable that he, along with many other Americans, had negative views towards people of color. Renaming the mansion will not change that either.

So instead of renaming the mansion, which will not change anything, why can't we as a university focus on the positive strides that Monmouth University has made towards inclusion. Just last year there was a black lives matter rally right in front of Wilson Hall. The name of the mansion did not seem to have a negative effect on that.

Our University celebrates “World Hijab Day”, promoting tolerance of our friends from the Middle East despite the ongoing threat of Islamic terrorism by ISIS. The name of Wilson Hall did not seem to stop the students from showing tolerance there. In fact, Martin Luther King Jr. once addressed Monmouth University students about civil rights in 1966. He addressed them right in front of Wilson Hall.

Even better, as a University we

could look towards making a more inclusive future instead of looking towards the past. Instead of renaming the mansion to make us “feel good”, how about the school administrators that are so passionate about equal rights just lower tuition for students. That way, students of all colors can afford to attend this beautiful university and we would have more of a diverse student body than we do now. However, the fat cat administrators and bureaucrats that lead unnecessary and wasteful programs that our tuition dollars go to, will have to take pay cuts and lose their fancy titles.

Instead of taking the easy way out, Monmouth can just continue its racial progress and look to a more diverse future. At the same time, we can keep our history too and not promote intolerance by banishing things that we feel uncomfortable with. It makes little sense to fight intolerance with intolerance. I have never heard of someone getting positive recognition for erasing history. Monmouth students should embrace history— the good and the bad— and make even bigger strides for a better future.

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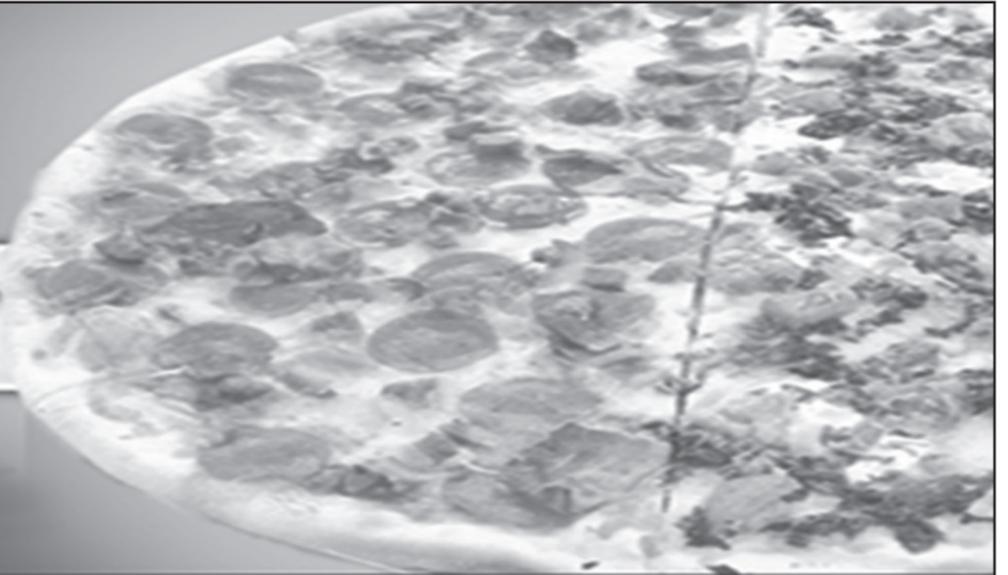
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Remember... don't let your pig starve!





Valentine's Day: Single Guys vs. Girls



JULIA BURKE
STAFF WRITER

The holiday that singles dread most is upon us. For those that lack a significant other on Valentine's Day it may feel as if they will be #foreveralone. However, your mom usually pulls through by sending you your favorite candy or a cute stuffed teddy bear. Even spending time with your friends help you cope with the copious amounts of couples that are out and about on February 14. Just because you don't have a bae does not mean that you can't enjoy the holiday.

Communication professor, Shannon Hokanson gave her advice for single people on Valentine's Day, "Don't put too much energy into the holiday. It's a little overblown. Take care of yourself."

When single people are asked about their Valentine's Day plans, they seem to not give much thought to their relationship status. Casey Labarre, a health studies student discussed her plans for Valentine's Day this year, "I'm just going to hang with my friends, and have a good time. Who needs a boy, you know?"

Nick Bellomo, a student studying business, remarked "There's other things to love in life; there's nothing wrong with loving yourself."

Both students may seem as if they do not mind being single, but it is apparent that single girls tend to spend their Valentine's



IMAGE TAKEN from wordpress.com

It is a common stereotype that single girls over indulge in chocolate on Valentine's Day.

Day differently than single guys do. Typically, women seem to be more heartbroken by the day, while guys treat it as if it is just another day. Both genders have different ways of celebrating Valentine's Days and within in this article I have described how both typically choose to spend

February 14.

Single girls call up all of their single girl friends to hang out because they don't want to be alone on Valentine's Day; that would be tragic. They typically make plans to treat themselves by splurging on some new makeup and getting a mani and

pedi. While they read *People Magazine* and have their nails painted pink they talk about their friends that could not make it because they have boyfriends. They comment that their friends in a relationship are really missing out, and criticize their relationship because they are

jealous that they do not have a significant other of their own to spend Valentine's Day with.

Typically, women get dressed up to grab dinner together at a nice restaurant where they over indulge in foods that would exceed their Weight Watcher's points for the day. After dinner, they put on their cozy pajamas and curl up on the couch, cuddling with their pillow pets, to watch a romantic movie. While they devour their individual pints of chocolate-brownie ice cream, they ponder why their lives did not mirror a Nicholas Sparks' novel. Once the movie ends, they scroll through Instagram and become disgusted and jealous of the photos of happy couples. Later, the girls go to bed and can only hope that next Valentine's Day maybe they will have a special someone to share it with.

For single guys, Valentine's Day is just another day. They might watch the NBA (ball is life), play XBOX, or order Domino's Pizza. Besides that, they enjoy chilling out and not having to deal with the stress of buying a gift and pleasing their girlfriend on Valentine's Day.

Both genders have drastically different ways of spending Valentine's Day. It is a really over-rated holiday, and you do not have to sulk because you are not in a relationship. Whether you are single, in a relationship, or looking to mingle, you can find ways to enjoy this Valentine's Day.

Sweet Treats for Your Sweet This Valentine's Day

CHELSIE TROMBETTA
STAFF WRITER

With Valentine's Day coming up this weekend, you probably will not be able to walk into a store without seeing a huge display of candy and boxes of chocolate. However, there are many more treats that you can make for this holiday whether it's for a party or your significant other.

They say that the best way to a person's heart is through their stomach, and what better way to do that than making them a delicious treat. Here are some Valentine's Day treats that are perfect for showing them that you care.

Matt Marino, an adjunct professor, shared his favorite red velvet cupcake with cream cheese frosting recipe from celebrity chef, Paula Deen. Marino said, "It tastes delicious and is easy to make. It also makes enough for a number of people to have some."

Cupcake Ingredients:

2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 1/2 cups sugar
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon cocoa powder
1 1/2 cups vegetable oil
1 cup buttermilk, room temperature
2 large eggs, room temperature
2 tablespoons red food coloring
1 teaspoon white distilled vinegar
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Line 2 (12-cup) muffin pans with cupcake papers.
2. In a medium mixing bowl, sift together the flour, sugar, baking soda, salt, and cocoa powder.

3. In a large bowl gently beat together the oil, buttermilk, eggs, food coloring, vinegar, and vanilla with an electric mixer. Add the sifted dry ingredients to the wet and mix until smooth and thoroughly combined.

4. Divide the batter evenly amongst the cupcake tins about 2/3 filled.

5. Bake in the oven for about 20 to 22 minutes, turning the pans once, half way through. Place a toothpick in one of the cupcakes to ensure that the batter is fully cooked. Remove them from the oven and allow them to cool completely before frosting.

Frosting Ingredients:

1 pound cream cheese softened

2 sticks butter softened
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
4 cups sifted confectioners' sugar

Chopped pecans and fresh raspberries or strawberries, for garnish

Frosting Directions:

In a large mixing bowl, beat the cream cheese, butter, and vanilla together until smooth. Add the sugar and on low speed, beat until incorporated. Increase the speed to high and mix until very light and fluffy. Garnish with chopped pecans and a fresh raspberry or strawberry.

Even if they don't like red velvet cake or cream cheese frosting, cupcakes are still a great Valen-

tine's Day treat. Decorating these sweet treats with pink, red, or purple icing to spell out messages or sprinkles will make them festive for the holiday.

Senior international business student, Nicole Simpson, shared her recipe for Valentine's Day Rice Krispie treats. "Pink Homemade Rice Krispie treats are easy to make and you can shape them into hearts and add sprinkles or icing to decorate them. I just use the cutout treats recipe from the Rice Krispies website," said Simpson.

Ingredients:

3 tablespoons butter or margarine
1 package (10 oz., about 40) Jet-

Puffed Marshmallows or 4 cups of Jet-Puffed Miniature Marshmallows

Food coloring (optional)

6 cups Kellogg's® Rice Krispies® cereal

Canned frosting or decorating gel

Assorted candies

Directions:

1. In a large saucepan melt butter over low heat. Add marshmallows and stir until completely melted. Stir in food coloring (if desired). Remove from heat.

2. Add Kellogg's Rice Krispies cereal. Stir until well coated.

3. Using a buttered spatula or wax paper evenly press the mixture into 15 x 10 x 1-inch pan coated with cooking spray. Using cookie cutters coated with cooking spray cut the mixture into desired shapes. Decorate with frosting and/or candies. These treats are best if served they are served on the same day.

Microwave Directions:

In microwave-safe bowl heat butter and marshmallows on high for 3 minutes, stirring after 2 minutes. Stir until smooth. Follow steps 2 and 3 above. Microwave cooking times may vary.

If you are not confident in your baking abilities and want to avoid the mess there is an easier way to have a homemade treat without the hassle. Grace McCann, a freshman finance student, says, "You can never go wrong with the Pillsbury Valentine's Day sugar cookies. They are a quick and easy way to make something for a party." These cookies are a delicious, mess-free treat that everyone will love. Shower your sweet this Valentine's Day with these delicious desserts to show them how much you care.



IMAGE TAKEN from thecupcakeblog.com

Red velvet cupcakes are the perfect treat for your significant other on Valentine's Day.

MONMOUTH VS. THE ACADEMY

Students Weigh in on the Contenders for Best Picture

BRIDGET NOCERA
STAFF WRITER

There are some things we all know to be true: the sky is blue, a pizza party is the best kind of party, Bey Hall is always unnecessarily hot, and you can't make everyone happy.

For all aspects of life, the last rings absolutely true. The Academy, though, knows this all too well. Each year, when the Academy Award nominations are announced, there is the always-inevitable backlash: great movies get overlooked, some get too much praise, and some egregious decisions just cannot be ignored. This year is no different, with possibly more anger than ever before.

But what does the average person think or, more specifically, your fellow Monmouth students? *The Revenant*, *Mad Max: Fury Road*, *The Big Short*, *Brooklyn*, *Bridge of Spies*, *Spotlight*, *The Martian*, and *Room* are all in the running for the biggest prize of the night: Best Picture. Are these the right choices, and did other films get ignored for no good reason?

"Like Viola Davis said at the Emmy's, there isn't much opportunity for black people in Hollywood," said sophomore Jessica French. "*Straight Outta Compton* had an almost all black cast and should have been nomi-

nated for more, not only because of its success at the box office, but also because the acting was amazing."

Many have argued on how ridiculous not only *Straight Outta Compton*'s shutout at the Oscars was, but also the absence of nominations for films that prominently featured people of color this past year overall. The lack of diversity has called many to wonder how the Academy could completely ignore some fantastic films and performances. While *Straight Outta Compton* was led by a mostly black cast, including O'Shea Jackson Jr., Corey Hawkins, and Jason Mitchell, and was directed by African American director F. Gary Gray, the film's only nominations went to the four white writers for Best Original Screenplay. Some have pointed out that not only *Straight Outta Compton*, but also films like *Creed* and *Beasts of No Nation*, which featured interesting, diverse performances onscreen and great work done behind the camera, also deserved recognition.

"I saw *Mad Max*, *The Revenant*, and *The Martian*," said freshman Najah Pryor. "I also saw *Creed*, which was amazing!"

Of course, it is not difficult to find people who were upset to see some of their favorites get shut out or ignored in certain

categories.

"I would have liked to see *Straight Outta Compton* and *Steve Jobs* nominated," said student Anthony Papetti, "Aaron Sorkin's *Jobs* screenplay should have definitely been nominated."

In one way, the Academy could have done more to please audiences: they have the chance to nominate up to ten films for Best Picture, but voting only resulted in eight nominees. Many films were able to get nominated in certain categories, but lost out on the big prize.

"*Carol* should have been nominated for Best Picture, and I'm upset to see *Ex Machina* passed over for it as well," said sophomore Julian Garcia, "I also would have loved to see anything for *Crimson Peak*."

Even well-established acts were snubbed this year: Ridley Scott for Best Director for *The Martian*, Will Smith for *Concussion*, Quentin Tarantino for Best Director and Best Screenplay for *The Hateful Eight*, and more.

"I loved *The Hateful Eight*," said sophomore Stephanie Young, "It was one of my favorite films from last year."

Despite some complaints, many films were rightfully nominated. Certain smaller films were able to achieve a lot of love as well.

"I liked how well *Room* was adapted from the original book," said sophomore Casey Schellinger, "It worked really well, and I loved the movie."

When it comes to acting, the chances for a nomination are even slimmer, with only five slots available in each of the four acting categories. Not only were the omission of any people of color a problem for some, but so were snubs for well-known actors who turned in impressive performances this past year.

"I actually wanted Steve Carell to be nominated for Best Supporting Actor over Christian Bale," said sophomore Jillian Young.

While Best Picture will be a tossup this year, many of the acting categories seem pretty locked up. Brie Larson for *Room* and Leonardo DiCaprio for *The Revenant* appear to be the easy

frontrunners in the lead actor categories so far.

"Honestly, I think [DiCaprio] should win everything," continues French, "He's the only one worthy."

Of course, you cannot make everyone happy, but the Academy does have the ability to make some appropriate changes. Widening the Academy to allow for more diverse voters and taking into consideration films that bring mainstream audiences and critics together would be beneficial changes to a system that, while becoming more and more antiquated each year, still has a huge cultural impact.

We can only hope that next year, the Oscar nominations leave us a little bit happier.

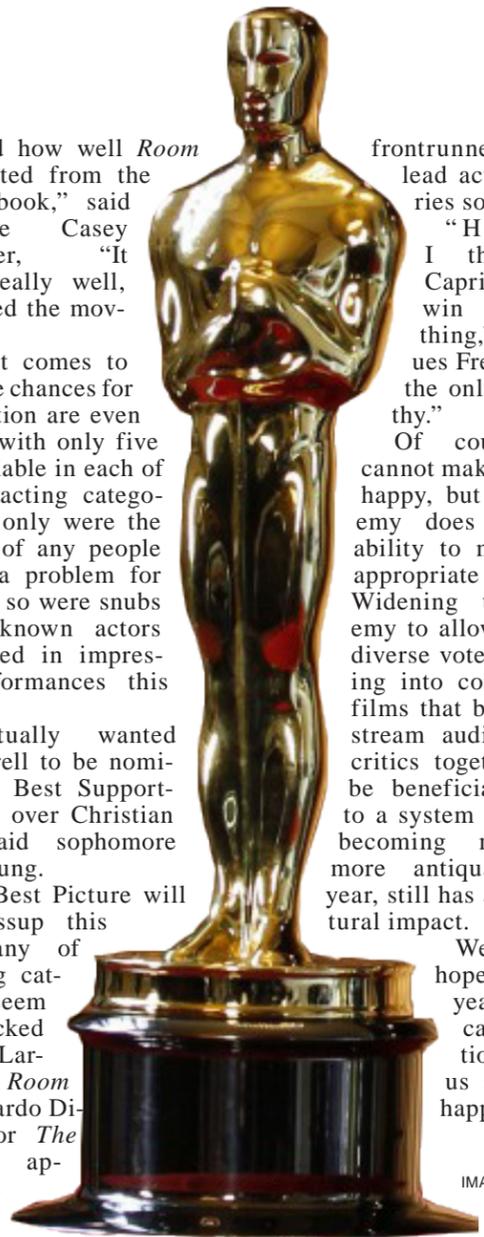


IMAGE TAKEN from
blogs.spectator.co.uk

FOX Jives with "Grease Live"

ALISON SILVERMAN
STAFF WRITER

On Jan. 31, millions of Americans tuned in to FOX to watch what was going to be either a hit or a miss. *Grease Live*, which aired Sunday and starred Aaron Tveit and Julianne Hough as Danny and Sandy respectively, was just the push America needed to get their dancing shoes on.

The show, which was recorded live as a stage production in front of a studio audience, had its ups and downs. What stole the show, or should I say *who*, was not the leads themselves but the charming and cunning Betty Rizzo, played by Vanessa Hudgens of *High School Musical* fame. Hudgens, who is best known for her role as Gabriella Montez in the *Disney Channel* movies, does a total 180 here as *Grease*'s antagonist. Promiscuous and sultry are only two of the many words to describe her character and Hudgens did the role justice—especially under the pressing circumstances.

The news broke the morning of *Grease Live* that Hudgens' father had passed away after a battle with cancer. All eyes were on Hudgens as America watched if she would crack under the pressure. Pressure, however, is not a word in either Hudgens' or Rizzo's vocabulary, and the 27-year-old performed the role



IMAGE TAKEN from thewrap.com

"*Grease Live*" premiered to 12.2 million viewers on Sunday, Jan. 31. The musical on FOX easily beat out viewer totals for NBC's productions of "Peter Pan" and "The Wiz," falling only to "The Sound of Music."

without any hint of sadness. She shined in her heart-wrenching number, "There Are Worse Things I Could Do," and made the crowd laugh in the earlier number, "Look at Me, I'm Sandra Dee." Hudgens swept everyone away.

Other members of Rizzo's crew included Frenchy, Marty, and Jan, played by Carly Rae Jepsen, Keke Palmer, and newbie Kether Donohue, respectively. All of the Pink Ladies were ac-

curately portrayed and were cast by FOX with the intention of giving the original characters a modern spin. Palmer as Marty was just the progressive twist *Grease Live* was going for, and with her sass and quick wit, Marty was a force to be reckoned with.

Jepsen, however, should stick to auto tune. The 29-year old sang a song just before the classic "Beauty School Dropout" (which was performed by Boys

II Men) as an addition to the live production. However, Jepsen was flat and pitchy in the song and it did not really fit, especially being immediately before one of the best songs in the movie. Though her characterization as Frenchy was just as annoying as she is, she should stick to the computerized mess that is "Call Me Maybe."

While the Pink Ladies were perfectly pink, the T-Birds were mostly bland. Aside from Tveit,

the lead T-Bird, the man who stole the night was Jordan Fischer, the 21-year-old who starred as Doodle. Fischer, with his guitar in hand, performed a cover of "Those Magic Changes" off the original *Grease* soundtrack. Sighs of teen girls everywhere were heard as the next Bruno Mars might have been found. All eyes and ears are on Fischer as we await his next musical contribution.

While the ensemble cast had us putting our poodle skirts and leather jackets on, we cannot forget about Danny and Sandy. Their chemistry was great, though not to the scale of *Grease*'s original John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John. However, Hough was the perfect choice for Sandy, and the 27-year old, usually known for her dance moves, proved she's a triple threat. Her rendition of "Hopelessly Devoted to You" was even recognized by Newton-John herself, according to a *People Magazine* article. Tveit, while he may have been too old to play a high schooler, nailed Danny's charisma that any woman would expect in a T-Bird—and his vocals weren't too harsh either.

Grease Live, while full of songs to move and shake to, cannot be compared to the original. For an updated version of the original, though, *Grease* is definitely the word.

Sia Releases "This Is Acting"

MARIE SOLDO
STAFF WRITER

40-year-old Australian singer-songwriter Sia released her seventh album, *This Is Acting*, on Jan. 29. Sia is known for her compelling voice and her outstanding abilities as a songwriter, and is most recognized for her hits "Chandelier" and "Elastic Heart" from her sixth album, *1000 Forms of Fear*.

The songs on *This Is Acting* were originally written by Sia for other artists such as Adele, Katy Perry, Kanye West and Rihanna, but unfortunately, the tracks never made it into production. Sia appeared on *The Ellen DeGeneres Show* on Feb. 2 to talk about the songs on the album which Sia jokingly referred to as rejects. Although they might be "rejects," there are some incredible songs on this album. On iTunes, the album received 4.5 out of 5 stars after 1,486 ratings.

The first song on the album is called "Bird Set Free." I enjoy this song because it is about doing what you want and doing what makes you happy regardless of what people think: "And I don't care if I sing off key, I find myself in my melodies. I sing for love, I sing for me, I shout it out like a bird set free."

My favorite song off the album is the second track, "Alive." It is very catchy and Sia's vocals are absolutely incredible. When I listen to music, I always pay more attention to the lyrics, and I love the lyrics to this song. "I had a one-way ticket to a place where all the demons go, where the wind don't change and nothing in the ground can ever grow. No hope, just lies, and you're taught to cry in your pillow, but I'll sur-

vive." Everyone has their own interpretation of songs, but I interpret this song as getting through rough patches. In life, you come across both good and bad people who may not always be honest with you, but that's life, and you have to be strong and you'll survive.

My second favorite song on this album is "Footprints." When I first heard the song, it really touched me. My dad passed away

very suddenly almost two years ago. For as long as I can remember, he had a picture of a beach on his dresser entitled "Footprints in the Sand," which states that when you see only one set of footprints in the sand, it is then that Jesus carried you, and that is very similar to Sia's lyrics: "And I saw only two footprints in the sand, thought you'd abandoned me and let go of my hand, but you were carrying me, carrying

me to safety, two footprints, your footprints in the sand."

I like the lyrics to the third song on the album, "One Million Bullets," but I am not a fan of the tempo. The complete opposite goes for the fourth song on the album, "Move Your Body." The lyrics are a little too repetitive but the song is very upbeat; it is something I could work out to. After "Move Your Body," we have "Unstoppable." I really like

the lyrics to this song, such as the line, "Leave my sunglasses on when I shed a tear, it's never the right time. I put my armor on, show you how strong I am, I'll put my armor on, I'll show you that I am." Just like the lyrics in "Alive," this song is all about being strong and refusing to let anyone bring you down.

The seventh song on the album, "Reaper," was co-written by Kanye West. I really like Sia but I can see why this song was a reject. "You came to take me away, so close I was to Heaven's gates." And I can see why the eighth song, "House on Fire," follows "Reaper." "So take me to the Heavens now, as we burn down, as we are found. Take me to the Heavens now, my heart screams out."

The tenth song, "Sweet Design," is awful and it is extremely difficult to catch what exactly Sia is proclaiming. However, Sia turns it back around with the beautiful "Broken Glass," singing, "This too shall pass, we're right where we're meant to be. There's things I don't ask, what I don't know can't hurt me. I'm not discarding you like broken glass." I believe this song is about problems in a relationship and the idea that you need to work through them and not just throw the relationship away like you would broken glass.

Lastly, there is "Space Between." Sia certainly didn't save the best for last. This song is very slow and dismal.

Currently, Sia's *This Is Acting* album is surpassing Rihanna's new album, *Anti*, on the charts. Sia's reject album is proving not to be a reject after all, and maybe next time Rihanna should accept any songs that Sia writes for her.



IMAGE TAKEN from www.josepvinaixa.com

"This Is Acting," released on Jan. 29, is Sia's seventh studio album and follows the popular "1000 Forms of Fear."

DON'T OVERLOOK "THE HATEFUL EIGHT"

JACOB TURCHI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With the Oscars coming up very soon, I couldn't help but notice that one of my favorite movies of the year went completely under the radar—and not only to the Academy, but also to the entire public. Grabbing only a mere three Oscar nominations, Quentin Tarantino's new film, *The Hateful Eight*, contained everything one can hope for in a Tarantino film: malicious characters, excessive blood and gore, an intense climax, and dialogue so funny and natural sounding that any actor can have a ball with it. This new "who-done-it" murder mystery takes place in a snowed in haberdashery in Wyoming during post-Civil War America, where eight unlikely visitors are forced to spend a whole night with each other. Questions about race, capital punishment, war, and loyalty to one's family brings these characters to violent ends, and the story culminates in a third act that kept me on the edge of my seat and guessing the whole way.

Some people were skeptical of Tarantino making another Western right on the heels of his last huge hit *Django Unchained*, the controversial film about a former slave turned bounty hunter. But this film has a completely different vibe and pace to it, and a much bigger emphasis on the characters and story arc. In fact, the whole movie feels as though you are watching a stage play, which is

exactly how Tarantino wanted the movie to feel to the audience. Tarantino discovered that this was meant to become a stage play after a live reading at Los Angeles County Museum of Art (ACMA), and plans to adapt the movie for the stage after he ends his film career.

It also should be noted how great this movie is considering the controversy surrounding its release and the fact that it almost wasn't made at all. In December of 2013, a first draft of the script was leaked onto the internet. Tarantino reacted to this by nearly pulling the plug on the film altogether. The studio also had to fight it out with Tarantino because he shot the film in 70mm and caused the studios and theaters to pay large fees for upgrades. Not to mention the fact that Tarantino brought the film on a classic road show, as if it were an epic film like *Ben-Hur* or *Spartacus*. Tarantino also dug up legendary Western composer Ennio Morricone to score the film, the first time he has done so for a Western in 40 years.

So with all of these elements going for it, an all-star Tarantino cast (including Samuel L. Jackson, Tim Roth, and Micheal Madsen), a controversial screenplay and release, and some of the best writing ever from Tarantino, why did this movie receive so little attention from audiences and the Academy? I have two theories.

The first one is that it fell into the black hole that was *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, which easily



IMAGE TAKEN from www.josepvinaixa.com

"The Hateful Eight," while not included in the running for Best Picture, was nominated for Best Supporting Actress, Best Original Score, and Achievement in Cinematography.

grabbed audiences' attention faster than a gritty drama set in a western saloon. This explains why the movie only saw \$4.6 million on its opening weekend, where Tarantino's last movie, *Django*, opened at \$30.1 million, and the movie before that, *Inglorious Bastards*, received \$38 million.

The second theory is that there was nothing immediately controversial with this movie regarding its subject matter. Tarantino's last two movies grabbed the Academy's attention because one was about a

black slave killing white people for money, and the other was focused on a Jewish underground militia that joins together to kill Nazis in France. Both of these are heavy subjects, which is what attracts the Academy. When broken down, this film is really only about eight people who are trapped with each other, trying to solve a murder. While the central story of *The Hateful Eight* does not focus on a particular topic like slavery or Nazis, big issues do come into view, mostly centered on Jackson's character being ostrac-

cized for being a black war hero. Other topics like loyalty, justice, and vengeance are also addressed in a very stylistic matter that creates an intense and entertaining film.

I think it's a shame that a movie is getting overlooked because it lacks a certain amount of substance that would create public conversation. This is a great film with an amazing amount of energy that should be seen and appreciated as one of the best films of the year, regardless of what the Academy says.



MOMENTS AT MONMOUTH



TOP LEFT: STUDENT COLIN PATTERSON RECENTLY TOOK A TRIP TO THE TOP OF THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING. (PHOTO COURTESY OF COLIN PATTERSON)



CENTER RIGHT: SIGMA PI SENIORS (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT) RYAN KENNEDY, ANDREW MUCCI, CHANDLER NICHOLS AND EVAN COWEN. (PHOTO COURTESY OF CHANDLER NICHOLS)



CENTER LEFT: CESAR MONTERROSO WAS TASKED WITH GOING TO SOUTH CAROLINA FOR AIR FORCE DUTY DURING WINTER BREAK. HERE HE IS NEXT TO A NAVY AIRCRAFT. (PHOTO COURTESY OF CESAR MONTERROSO)



BOTTOM RIGHT ZACHARY KARVELAS WITH HIS ADVENTURE EDUCATION CLASS IN COSTA RICA OVER WINTER BREAK. (PHOTO COURTESY OF ZACHARY KARVELAS)



What are your feelings about Valentine's Day?



Compiled by: Kiera Lanni



Nikole Junior

"Is it over yet?"



Amy Senior

"It's a cute holiday."



Anthony Junior

"Indifferent."



Valerie Senior

"I'm excited to spend my first Valentine's Day with my partner."



Kelly Craig
Student Employment Coordinator

"I think it's a great day to spend with my dog!"

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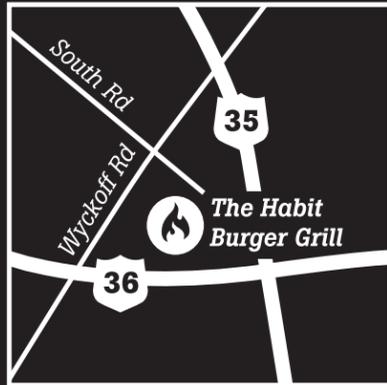
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Student Musician Returns From Brief Hiatus

JAMES ROMANO
STAFF WRITER

One rainy afternoon, I scampered to my car, leaping over puddles. I hopped in and stuck my key into the ignition. I plugged the auxiliary cable into my iPhone and pressed the power button on my dashboard. As I began driving towards West Long Branch, an array of acoustic medleys accompanied by soothing, smooth vocals permeated the air through my speakers.

I began to hum along to the song "2 Months 2 Early," from an acoustic extended play (EP) known as "All in the Past," as the sound of rain droplets pattered against my windshield.

After about five minutes of splashing through the saturated streets, I stopped my car in front of a brown paneled house. I ran up to the residence as quickly as possible so the writing materials inside my backpack would not get wet. *Knock...Knock...Knock.*

"Door's open," an occupant said. I stepped inside and found a man plucking the strings of a cedar colored guitar with a glistening finish reclined in an armchair while two other men, who appeared to be his housemates, sat on a couch.

As everyone greeted me, the man with the acoustic stood up and outstretched his arm. We shook hands. "It feels good to be back, dude. I was actually just working on some new stuff," the guitarist said.

This gent is Ross Ottman, the creator of "All in the Past" and a marketing and manage-

ment student at the University on a five-year graduate track. "I took a break from music so I could focus more on getting my degree," Ottman said. "That is priority."

Prior to his fermata, Ottman was the lead singer and guitarist of a band named The Rundown, as he also relished in a number of acoustic session successes at venues such as Brighton Bar, Marlboro Rec Center,

The Jersey Shore Music Festival at Lakewood Blue Claws Stadium.

With intentions to graduate in May 2016, Ottman is currently in the transitioning phase from undergraduate to graduate student at the University. "I felt it was a good time to get back into [music]," he explained. "It just felt right."

Luckily, Ottman and the rest of his band mates in The Run-

down, the music will keep coming. Currently, he is in the process of songwriting and brainstorming future collaborations with musicians that he has met through his musical accomplishments and concert goings.

"My plan as of now with the band and for myself is to reconvene, start to play shows, continue to make more connections, and write more music so that we can continue to grow and branch out," he stated.

Ottman is no stranger to the world of music as he was introduced to the lifestyle at a young age. "I always made music available to Ross, and included him in on concerts, music listening, going to my gigs, etcetera, but never told him what to like, or when to pick up an instrument, or when to start writing songs," explained Lee Ottman, the musician's father. "I feel like I laid the foundation, but he took 'the steps' in when he was ready."

Now that he already made the initial steps, Ottman is back and ready for new endeavors. He said that it was nice to refocus, but he is looking forward to start playing acoustic shows again.

"The amount of people I have been able to meet through playing shows alone has been phenomenal and it has given me some of the best friends that I have right now," Ottman said. "I am excited to share my new material with the world."

Keep an eye out for Ottman's name on campus set lists, as this will be the awaited return of a talented University musician.



IMAGE TAKEN from NJ-TownProductions
Ross Ottman took a short break from creating and performing music to focus more on his studies at the University, but has recently decided to begin writing again.

Colts Neck Rec Center, Freehold Veterans of Foreign Wars, Red Bank Rehearsal Studio, The Inkwell Coffeehouse, and

down were on the same page and left off on the right note. After the band released an EP titled "The Next Step" that fea-

me so it made it easy to work with him."

Ottman said that regardless of who is in the band in

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"Love Will Keep Us Together": Dealing with a Long Distance Relationship on Valentine's Day

EMILY SANTANA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

While being in a long-distance relationship is never easy, having to spend Valentine's Day without your significant other is probably one of the hardest things about them.

With Valentine's Day around the corner, couples are getting ready to celebrate with their loved ones, but for those in long-distance relationships, celebrations aren't done in person, but instead over FaceTime or Skype.

My boyfriend and I will be celebrating our three year anniversary on Feb. 25 and this will be our fourth Valentine's Day

together, but our first celebrating apart.

My boyfriend is currently studying to receive his Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry at the University of Miami in Florida, so our Valentine's Day will be celebrated with over 1,000 miles between us. Our nightly FaceTime calls have become the norm for us since August, so Valentine's Day will just be another day.

Knowing my boyfriend the way I do, he will probably be sending me two-dozen red roses on Valentine's Day, as this has become a habit for him to do once a month since he has moved to Miami.

Not to sound ungrateful, but

I would much rather have him as a gift instead of the flowers. But I understand that with his schedule of taking classes, conducting research, and teaching, he will not be able to make the trip home for the weekend.

While being in a long-distance relationship is certainly something I never pictured for myself, I am grateful for the three years I was able to spend with him while he was an undergraduate student here at the University.

Making a long-distance relationship work is never an easy thing with us both currently leading two different lives; we have to constantly work to make

this relationship last.

Being apart on one of the most romantic holidays is not ideal, but it is something that we will work through together because we feel that our relationship is worth it. We also will not be able to celebrate our anniversary together in the last week of February, but we always look on the positive side of things, like the fact that I will be spending spring break down in Miami with him. That one week we will be making up for our lost Valentine's Day and anniversary celebrations together.

This whole process has been a learning experience for us, especially because we were once

so used to living on the same campus and taking classes in the same buildings.

When we started school again this past September, we had to adapt to the fact that we no longer attended the same university.

It was not easy at first but we are determined to make our relationship last through this tough spot we are currently going through because we feel that our relationship is worth it.

While we cannot be together in person for Valentine's Day this year, at least we can still celebrate together over FaceTime. It doesn't matter the distance as long as we're together.

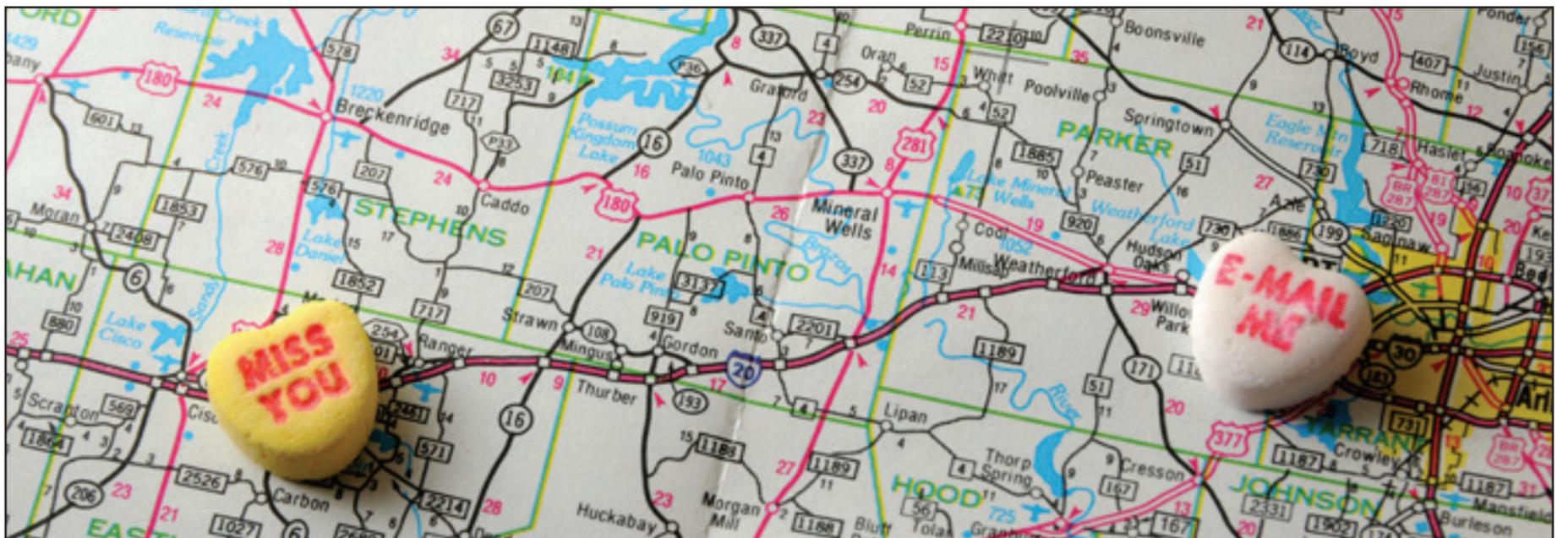


IMAGE TAKEN from lovesnotabuse.com

Long distance relationships are hard all year round, but tend to be even tougher to deal with around Valentine's Day when every other couple is able to spend time together.

New Semester, New Motivation?

The Spring Semester Serves as a Fresh Start for Many Students

CLARE MAURER
STAFF WRITER

The new spring semester brings new challenges and possibilities. It seems as though students have just had a whole month of relaxing by Christmas trees and fireplaces during winter break, only to have a new list of classes to drag their feet to by the time the end of January comes around.

It's a short semester, saturated with events and deadlines ending earlier than ever in April this year, due to the University's new 14-week schedule. With such a short time span for students to get their lives together, will they be able to rev up their motivation towards the spring semester?

Fall is always a time of beginnings; as the red and orange leaves fall to the ground, students gear up for a brand new year.

"I definitely am more motivated in the fall; it's a new school year, you are so excited to be back, you think you're going to do great and you have an open mind," Jackie Giacalone, a junior communication student, explained. "Because of that motivation, my grades are better in the fall," she continued.

When 21 students at the University, ranging from sophomores to seniors, were asked which semester they felt more motivated in, 20 claimed that they were more driven in the fall. Only one student felt more motivated in the spring.

Despite these attitudes, stu-

dents' grades seem to improve in the second half of the year. Claude Taylor, Athletics Professor in Residence for the Communication Department and a First Year Advisor, has seen first hand the growth of grades in the spring semester.

"Returning to school from winter break is less disruptive for academic habits than summer can be. I think students are more 'dialed-in' for spring than the start of school in September," Taylor explained.

For some, the spring brings the promise of a fresh start. You can wipe the slate clean, erasing the D's and embarrassing moments from the fall semester behind all while gearing up for a more successful spring semester.

"I'm more motivated in the spring because if I didn't do as well in the fall, I feel more obligated to get my grades up in the spring," Jackie Burzo, a junior health studies student, said.

Taylor added, "Students catch more enthusiasm in the spring... due to less time away from schoolwork and the change of seasons."

As the chill of winter break begins to melt away, the sunshine of spring encourages students to emerge from their dorm room hibernation.

But when the temperature begins to rise into the seventies, students would rather walk down to the beach or stroll through Pier Village than hunch over a computer in the library.

This forces students to get all of their work done so they can

head down to the sandy shoreline and enjoy their down time.

"I know I want to get stuff done so I can go to the beach. In the fall, the weather is so cold that I just want to stay in my bed all day," Courtney Motolla, a junior anthropology and elementary education student, said.

No matter the semester, it's important for students to keep up with the commitments their schedules throw at them, whether it be club meetings, sports practices, Greek events, basketball games, or paper deadlines.

If your grades fell below your expectations in the beginning of the year, spring gives you a second chance.

"It's always great to keep an enthusiastic and positive attitude no matter the grade you receive as long as you stay positive and work with your professors," said Ashley Beneventine, a sophomore social work student.

"My advice is moderation," suggested Taylor. "Students who struggle to keep up with schoolwork should not totally

deny themselves some warm weather leisure, they just have to limit their time to a reward for getting necessary school tasks done. I tell students to make a social life schedule too, and stick with it."

So whether you're inclined to hit the books while wrapped in a sweater or lounging on the beach, the spring semester is a fresh start for all of us.

College is all about balance, and if we try our best to stay motivated, we'll all be at the beach before we know it.



IMAGE TAKEN from goingconcern.com

Although the spring semester brings a new set of classes and assignments, the warmer weather gives students a reason to get their work done so that they are able to enjoy the beach.

My Funny Galentine

ERIN MCMULLEN
FEATURES EDITOR

The question of whether or not I will soon become the world's most single woman is always valid, but I find that my nonexistent relationship status tends to become more of a pressing issue around the same time every year: Valentine's Day.

But alas, there is a light that shines in the darkness for all of us single ladies during the month of February, and it's a holiday that doesn't call for a significant other. I give you, Galentine's Day.

This holiday, which seems to have originally been created by Amy Poehler's character Leslie Knope in *Parks and Recreation*, is to be celebrated on Feb. 13 every year.

"February 14, Valentine's Day, is about romance, but February 13, Galentine's Day, is about celebrating lady friends," Poehler, as Knope, explained in an episode of the hit NBC show. "It's wonderful and should be a national holiday," she continued.

What's great about Galentine's Day, for the women in relationships, at least, is that it doesn't interfere with Valentine's Day, which means that those happily in love are still able to celebrate with their other halves on V-Day, even after spending the previous night with their best girlfriends.

And what makes it even better is that unlike Valentine's Day, there is no need to make elaborate plans or buy expensive presents; Galentine's Day is simply about showing love

for the women that mean the most to you.

"Galentine's Day is a reminder of how important female friendships are and a great way to celebrate them," explained Hayley Toft, a junior fine arts student and avid *Parks and Recreation* fan.

"It serves as a reminder that women should encourage and protect each other rather than

ing and valuable to me," said Chandler McCarthy, a junior business administration student.

Galentine's Day doesn't discriminate, so whether you're single or taken, celebrations are always encouraged.

Although Knope and her gals celebrated by going out to breakfast together in *Parks and Recreation*, there are a handful

restaurants only serve meals from a special menu with a limited variety and a lot of dollar signs.

Having a movie night is also a great way to enjoy Galentine's Day. Stock up on popcorn – the kind with the movie theater butter, obviously – and lots of candy and you'll all be set.

The only tough decision of the night will be whether or not

be found online and completed on your bedroom floor, or the 21 and over crowd can meet at a "paint and sip" destination like Pinot's Palette in Red Bank to indulge in some wine and artistic endeavors.

If all else fails or none of the above options seem appealing to you, your Galentine's Day can always be celebrated with a traditional girls' night in, makeovers and nail polish included.

Truthfully, there is no wrong way to celebrate this special day; it really all depends on what you and your girlfriends are into.

In the end, though, it doesn't matter how you celebrate, all that matters is that you share the love you have for the amazing women in your life in any way that you can this Feb. 13th.

Even with all of that said, I still don't think that it's fair to downplay the value of a so-called "Hallmark holiday" like Valentine's Day because it's a day that promotes the celebration of love and kindness, and if there is anything in this entire world that we need more of, it's those two things.

So even if your Valentine's Day plans currently consist of Chinese food, Netflix, and feelings of bitterness and resentment for all of your happy couple friends, take a step back and look at the bigger picture: romantic relationships are not the only relationships that deserve to be celebrated and cherished this month.

Galentine's Day is all about "ladies celebrating ladies," according to Knope, so grab your girlfriends and have yourselves a very happy holiday.



IMAGE TAKEN from popsugar-assets.com

Galentine's Day is the perfect opportunity to remind all of your girlfriends how much you love them, all while enjoying some quality time together.

compete with one another," she continued.

It's also a nice reminder that it's okay to be single, especially during what is supposed to be the most romantic time of the year.

"I love the idea of Galentine's Day because it reminds me that I'll always have the support and love from my friends and that's something that's very comfort-

ing and valuable to me," said Chandler McCarthy, a junior business administration student.

Galentine's Day doesn't discriminate, so whether you're single or taken, celebrations are always encouraged.

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PNM Orientation Introduces Women to Greek Life

KENDAL ADAMS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Panhellenic Council hosted its PNM Orientation on Tues. Feb. 2 and Wed. Feb. 3. in Wilson Hall Auditorium. This was an event open to all women who signed up for Spring Formal Recruitment.

PNM stands for "potential new member" and each PNM was required to attend one of the two orientation sessions. At each session, the women were asked to view a PowerPoint presentation given by Ashley McMahon, Panhellenic Council Vice President of Recruitment.

After introducing the women to what their schedules will contain in the next week, they were divided into specific color groups and paired up with two or three recruitment counselors. The counselors would be the women to guide them through the recruitment process. Their groups would go over any important recruitment details, such as schedules, conflicts, and questions regarding the weekend. Afterward, the women were sent on their way with all they needed to know about recruitment and contact information if they wanted to know more from their counselors.

"It was really great to get to know the girls beforehand and get the information out to them and the questions cleared up. I felt like it was really good to get all of the girls comfortable and prepared for

recruitment. It made me excited for recruitment and to help all of the girls find their homes and become a part of our awesome Greek community," said Mollie Dunnigan, a senior recruitment counselor, study-

It made me excited for recruitment and to help all of the girls find their homes and become a part of our awesome Greek community."

MOLLIE DUNNIGAN

ing elementary education.

The orientation began with an introductory video about the National Panhellenic Conference and what being a sorority woman means. The video helped to break down any negative stereotypes the potential new members might have been exposed to. It also helped to link Greek life to something bigger than just the individual. Being a sorority woman is much more than partying and self-image. It is about service,

sisterhood, and the pursuit of a better "you".

There are six of the 26 Panhellenic sororities on the Monmouth University campus: Alpha Omicron Pi, Alpha Sigma Tau, Alpha Xi Delta, Delta Phi Epsilon, Phi Sigma Sigma, and Zeta Tau Alpha. Each organization has unique values and traditions, but they all "stand for scholarship, for guarding of good health, for maintenance of fine standards, and for serving, to the best of our ability, our college community," as read from the Panhellenic Creed.

The recruitment process is through a mutual selections of the sororities and PNMs. Both parties rank each other and at the end of the process, the main goal is for each PNM to receive a bid from the chapter that they desire, just as much as the organization would like to extend one to them. The PowerPoint goes over the schedule for all three days, as well as the evaluation process. After each day, the PNMs will be given a chance to rank each party they have attended that day.

At the end of the recruitment process, all PNMs who were invited back to all three days of recruitment, are invited to the Bid Day Celebration in Wilson Hall at 10 p.m. on Mon., Feb. 8. This is the time where all the PNMs receive and open their bids and choose to accept or deny the bid. If they choose to accept it, they are able to run up the stairs of Wilson Hall to the sorority they received the bid from, and celebrate



PHOTO COURTESY of Kendal Adams

The Recruitment Counsellors, also known as Rho Chi, who temporarily disaffiliate themselves from their chapters to help others join Greek life during the formal recruitment process.

their new found home. If a PNM attends all three days of recruitment and chooses to deny their bid, they must wait until the next year to be eligible for recruitment by any other organization.

McMahon, a Health Studies Senior, says, "Orientation is such a crucial part of the recruitment process. It gives the girls the opportunity to get themselves completely

comfortable before actually going through the process. Meeting their counselor gives them a safe place to go to for any questions or problems that may come about."

After the presentation, PNMs were able to mingle and become better acquainted with their recruitment counselors. This helps to ease the recruitment process and prepare for a smooth, stress-free weekend.

Panhellenic Community Celebrates A Successful Recruitment

ERIN SHEVLIN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Excitement and nerves ran high on Friday Feb. 5, 2016 as undergraduate women at Monmouth University began their first day of formal sorority recruitment.

Panic set in for students of Greek life and those interested in joining after receiving an email from the University cancelling classes for Friday afternoon. Thankfully, the roads cleared up and formal recruitment remained as scheduled.

"Recruitment is like Christmas for sororities so I was so nervous when it was rumored to be cancelled. Almost every student interested in joining still came out despite the weather so I am so glad everything worked out in the end," said Danielle Romanowski a junior communications major.

Formal recruitment is the process in which students meet every sorority on campus and ultimately join the one that best suits them. Formal recruitment

occurs for all Panhellenic organizations on campus, which include Alpha Xi Delta, Alpha Omicron Pi, Alpha Sigma Tau, Delta Phi Epsilon, Zeta Tau Alpha, and Phi Sigma Sigma.

This year saw over 250 women participate in recruitment,

"This recruitment was a huge success. I cannot even put into words how unbelievable it is to watch 30 strangers walk into your room and find their home in your organization."

EMILY RODRIGUES

a significant increase when compared to past years. "There are so many more girls going through recruitment than there were when I went through which is absolutely amazing. Joining Greek life at Monmouth truly changed my life and I am so excited to see more girls getting involved," said Kerrin Hageny, an alumni of Monmouth University.

Recruitment is a three day long process in which women

interested in Greek life meet every sorority and ultimately find their home in the Panhellenic community. The first day began at 4:30 p.m. on Friday afternoon and lasted until 10:15 p.m.

Throughout the night, women travelled across campus to

from Wilson Hall to Anacon to Boylan Gym to meet the Panhellenic organizations in their elaborately decorated rooms.

Saturday was the second day of recruitment, which began at 11:30 a.m. During the second day of recruitment, each sorority focuses on their philanthropy. Ali Hart, a junior education major, said, "As Programs Vice President, my position focuses around our philanthropy which is why day two is always my

favorite. Our philanthropy is so near and dear to our hearts and it is so amazing to be able to share that with the women going through recruitment."

The third and final day of recruitment began at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday morning. On this

day, women make the tough decision of deciding which of the six organizations they hope to receive a bid from.

"This recruitment was a huge success. I cannot even put into words how unbelievable it is to watch 30 strangers walk into your room and find their home in your organization," said Emily Rodrigues, a senior education major. "The biggest piece of advice I have for anyone going through recruitment is

to follow your heart. It sounds corny but as long as you go in with an open mind, you will know where you belong as soon as you walk through the door of that organizations room.

Bid night will take place on Monday, Feb. 8 at 10 p.m. in Wilson Hall. At this time, women will receive their bids to their respective organization and celebrate.

"Being a member of a fraternal organization is a lifelong commitment. While you are at Monmouth to be a student first, you must understand there is a time commitment, as well as a financial commitment to your organization. Look at all the chapters with an open mind. You will want to gain an understanding of the chapter, what they represent, and their overall values- see how they match up with yours. This is a big decision, so only you can make the decision where you fill the proper fit is," said Michelle Kaplan, Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life.

ON AND OFF CAMPUS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Outdoors Club

The Outdoors Club is hosting numerous events this semester. The first will be on Game Night held on Friday, February 19 in the Student Center at 9pm. There will be multiple games and plenty of snacks. You can also stop by if you just want to meet the members and become more acquainted with the club.

If you cannot make game night but still want to join the

Outdoors Club, do not worry. Our Future events include

Future Events to keep an eye out for:

March 25-27: Cabin Camping at Belleplain State Forest

April 3: Old fashioned picnic at Shark River Park from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

April 23-24: White Water Rafting and Aerial Zip Lining Adventure Course at Hudson

Canyon, NY

April 26 : Beach Bash, the location will be determined closer to the date

*Come to an Outdoors Club Meeting every other Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. in Bey Hall 126.

You can also join our Facebook group, Monmouth University Outdoors Club, to find out about upcoming events.

MOCC

The Monmouth Oral Communication Center invites you to take advantage of free peer tutoring for presentations and public speaking! Our walk-in schedule is posted outside of JP 203, or you can contact Kevin Moedt at s0879290@monmouth.edu for an appointment.

Interested? Join us in JP 135 on Wednesday's at 2:45 p.m. to see what we are all about!

The Outlook

The Outlook is looking for students interested in writing for the student-run newspaper. Sections include News, Opinion, Politics, Lifestyles, Features, Entertainment, Club & Greek, and Sports. No prior experience is necessary. *The Outlook* fulfills practicum requirements for communication majors, however, any majors can write for *The Outlook*.

Women's Basketball Fights Back to Beat Canisius, 79-75

ZACH COSENZA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The women's basketball team beat the Canisius Golden Griffins 79-75 Sunday afternoon at the Multipurpose Activity Center, recording their first win of the season after trailing at half-time.

Senior guards Sarah Olson and Jamiyah Bethune led the way for the Hawks, with Olson scoring 24 points and Bethune recording her first double-double in her career at MU with 19 points and 11 rebounds.

"It's just another day," Bethune said of her performance. "I'm happy I got the double-double, but that means that I need to work harder, set the standard for myself and be consistent."

For the Griffins, senior forward Crystal Porter had 24 points with nine rebounds and freshman guard Maria Welch dominated from behind the arch, hitting all six of her field goals from 3-point range—ending the game with 20 points and seven rebounds.

With the win, MU is now 8-15 (6-8 MAAC), while Canisius falls to 9-14 (4-10 MAAC).

"We have to be more aware of her on the court," Bethune said about Welch. "We lost her a lot during the game and she made us pay for it. Next game we're going to lock in on her more."

In the first quarter, MU got off to a fast start with a 7-0 run which included a deep three-pointer by Olson, forcing Canisius to take an early timeout. The Hawks used an effective full court press defense and forced eight total turnovers in the first.

In the second quarter, the Hawks relaxed their defensive

pressure, allowing Porter to score 11 points while the Hawks turned the ball over five times. At the Half, Monmouth was trailing Canisius 45-40.

However, in the second half,

both teams had each other's backs and defense was huge for us."

Both teams had trouble going on runs in the second half, which caused MU and Canisius to go back-and-forth with the

trying her own shot's rebound and hitting a layup as time expired—sparking the momentum change back the Hawks' way.

In the fourth quarter Olson took over, showing that she

tan, so I think it's pretty obvious she really likes to play at home," head coach Jenny Palmateer said about Olson's strong performance, after scoring only two points in their previous game against Iona. "She has a short memory and I love that about her. And that's the experience of a senior. She learns from the games in the past, whether they're good or bad, and just finds a way and I think you can never count seniors out during this time of year."

After a three-pointer by Canisius at the 5:10 mark, MU held the Golden Griffins from making a single field goal for the rest of the game, proving to be the difference maker in the inter-conference match. Trailing by two points late in the game, junior guard Tyrese Purvis secured the comeback for MU by hitting a three-pointer with 46.2 seconds remaining in regulation.

"We knew Canisius would be a tough match for us, they shoot the ball so well," Palmateer said. "They've been in so many games. They lost a lot of tough ones, a couple in overtime. I feel very fortunate and very happy that our team was able to execute down the stretch to pull this one out."

Looking forward, the Hawks will begin a four game road stretch, which includes only one team over .500 (Fairfield).

"I think it's a huge [win] for us," Palmateer said. "We have big week and a half coming up, going head-to-head with a lot of teams were battling for position with."

The Hawks return to action Thursday, Feb. 11 at 8 p.m. against Manhattan at Draddy Gym. MU will be playing for the season sweep against the Jaspers.



Senior guard Sarah Olson had 24 points in MU's win over Canisius.

PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

it was defense that took over the game.

"Everyone really came together on defense," Bethune said. "We got in the huddle and we said what we had to do. Every-

lead. Bethune led the Hawks in the third quarter with six points while Welch and Porter both had six points each for the Griffins. MU freshman guard McKinzee Barker ended the third with re-

wanted the win. She had nine points in the quarter including two late free-throws which gave MU a three-point lead.

"This is more like the Sarah that we saw against Manhat-

Monmouth University Winter Collegiate Invitational at the MAC



Saturday, February 13, 2016

Multi-Purpose Athletic Center, Monmouth University, West Long Branch, NJ

Start Times: Field Events – 9:00 AM; Running Events – 11:30 AM

Men's Basketball Keeps Rolling with Two Conference Wins

JOHN SORCE
STAFF WRITER

The men's basketball team got a taste of what's to come in the MAAC Tournament as they defeated the Siena Saints on Monday, Feb. 2 93-87 at Times Union Center in Albany, NY as one of their two victories over the past week.

The arena has hosted the MAAC Tournament 11 times since 1990 and will host it again in 2016 from Mar. 3-7. Seven thousand and sixteen fans were in attendance to see junior guard Justin Robinson score a career-high 36 points, becoming the sixth Hawk to do so and the first since Rahsaan Johnson had 40 points in 2001. Siena went into the contest an undefeated 9-0 at home, but MU's depth proved to be too much as Robinson was one of five Monmouth players to put up double-figures.

"Our kids got going tonight on offense, especially Justin (Robinson) early," said head coach King Rice. "Both teams can really score the ball and fortunately for us, we scored more than them tonight."

With the conference tournament being hosted at Siena's home arena and both teams playing as well as they have been, it has some people thinking that this game could have been a preview of the MAAC Championship game on Mar. 7.

"When Siena gets rolling like they are now, the building fills up and in a month from now, if we play them, the building will be full," Rice said. "Hopefully, it's not going to be until Monday night, and we would be in for a hard battle."

The Hawks also defeated the

Fairfield Stags 91-67 on Feb. 5 in front of 3,785 at The MAC. This game featured seven Hawks recording double-figures, once again showing the depth that the team has displayed all season long.

"That's how our team is built," Rice said. "You could tell early that Justin was struggling scoring; he had three turnovers in the first half. But the good thing was Chris Brady had such a great start and other guys stepped up and Justin got it going a little bit late. Our team has so many options that sooner or later, somebody is going to get going."

MU was led by sophomore guard Austin Tilghman, who scored a career-high 16 points. Tilghman is currently in the midst of a nice four-game stretch where he is averaging 11 points a contest while shooting 76.2% from the field. Junior center Chris Brady finished the game with 13 points and senior guard Deon Jones added 12.

"Early on, my guys were finding me and I was able to get to the rim which is what I like to do," Tilghman said. "We came up with a great win tonight."

Robinson, along with freshman guard Micah Seaborn and junior guards Collin Stewart and Je'lon Hornbeak, also scored in double-figures.

A transfer from Oklahoma, Hornbeak got off to a slow start in his first year with the Hawks. However, he is feeling more confident as the season goes along.

"I was trying to force it too much early in the season, but my teammates and coaches have been behind me the whole year," Hornbeak

said. "They just have patience with me, and I had to find some patience with myself. It's starting to pay off."

road contests and a rematch with a Manhattan Jaspers (9-11, 6-5) team that gave the Hawks one of their two conference losses. The Hawks



PHOTO COURTESY OF Monmouth Athletics

Junior guard Justin Robinson scored a career-high 36 points against Siena.

The two victories increased the Hawks record to 19-5 on the season and 7-0 at home. Their 11-2 record in the MAAC keeps them a game ahead of the Iona Gaels (13-9, 10-3) for the conference lead. The two teams have one regular season matchup remaining on Friday Feb. 19 at 10 p.m. in a game at The MAC that will be nationally televised on ESPNU.

Prior to that game, MU has two

will head to Poughkeepsie, NY to take on the Marist Red Foxes (4-17, 1-11) on Tuesday Feb. 9 at 7 p.m. followed by a trip to Lawrenceville, NJ for the first matchup of the season against the Rider Broncs (10-14, 6-7) for a 9 p.m. tip-off that will also be televised on ESPNU. The rematch against Manhattan will be Monday, Feb. 15 at 8 p.m. at The MAC. The game can also be seen on ESPN3.

Men's Soccer Alum Derek Luke Signed by FC Cincinnati

ERIC KLENOFSKY
STAFF WRITER

Former MU men's soccer captain and left back Derek Luke signed his first professional contract with FC Cincinnati of the United Soccer League just over a week ago in Ohio.

"Realizing that I signed my first contract was a big moment in my life filled with excitement and a little bit of nervousness," said Luke, a 22 year-old Bridgewater, N.J. native. "I was very excited of course because it has been a lifelong dream of mine to play professionally, but it also meant moving away from my family and friends back in Jersey. Although, it was an easy decision when the opportunity to play for FC.C. came knocking."

Luke spent his youth career with the Player Development Academy before joining the Hawks in West Long Branch. The young aspiring professional hit the ground running his freshman year on the Great Lawn playing in all 18 games, starting 16 of them. He finished the season with three goals and one assist, none more notable than his right footed effort which found the top corner against Central Connecticut in the semi-finals of the Northeast Conference Tournament. The goal helped him earn a NEC All-Tournament Team selection in only his first year suited up for MU.

Sophomore year was a wash. After suffering a torn anterior cruciate ligament in the second game of the non-conference slate, Luke was forced to take a medical redshirt. Any injury of such severity puts that much more emphasis on a productive off-season.

"Our programs most successful



PHOTO COURTESY OF Monmouth Athletics

MU grad Derek Luke will play in his first professional soccer game Saturday, Mar. 26.

players have always had fantastic work ethic and commitment to improve," said MU men's head coach Robert McCourt, currently in his 12th season. "Derek is no different. He was always on the field working hard at his game before and after practice. His development as a player comes from his commitment both on and off the field."

In his redshirt sophomore season, Luke bounced back—starting all 20 games for the Hawks on the left side.

In his redshirt junior season, Luke's value to the MU soccer program shone as he gathered six assists, earning him a Second Team All-Metro Atlantic Athletic Con-

ference selection. Although he was a threat offensively, Luke was just as pivotal defensively. The veteran defender successfully guided the Hawks back line to the lowest goals against average in the nation (0.48) and a MAAC Tournament Championship.

This past fall was Luke's redshirt senior season and his last with the Hawks before graduating during Winter Commencement. As captain, Luke managed a goal and seven assists over the course of the year, one upping his previous seasons tally. Not only did he improve his production on the field, but he was also given the nod to the All-

MAAC First Team for the first time in his career.

"From the time Derek showed up his freshman year, he was always willing to put in the time to work on his defensive and offensive shape and learn," said MU associate head men's soccer coach Hugh MacDonald, who specifically works with the defense. "You add that with his natural ability and his internal drive and you have yourself a pro. I'm just really happy a person like Derek has a chance to continue doing what he loves."

In the five years that Luke spent with the Hawks, he steered the program to two NCAA Tournament berths, a NEC Regular Season and Conference Tournament Championship, two MAAC Regular Season Championships and one MAAC Tournament Championship.

Luke will look to continue his on field success as he transitions into the professional ranks. After attending combines with various Major League Soccer clubs, Luke made his way to a FC Cincinnati combine in Ohio where he found the right fit.

FC Cincinnati is now in the process of gearing up for its inaugural season in the USL and is holding preseason currently. The club has their first game ever on Saturday, Mar. 26 against the Charleston Battery at 7:30 p.m.

"I'm still getting adjusted to everyday life as a professional, but overall it's just a lot of training and taking care of your body to make sure you are playing at the highest level possible every training session," Luke said. "It's more of an adjustment moving into a new city than anything else."

SIDE LINES

MEN'S TENNIS

Four Monmouth University men's tennis players won at both singles and doubles as the Hawks swept the University of Connecticut, 7-0, Saturday at Army West Point. Przemyslaw Filipek, Vidit Vaghela Guiffrida each won twice as new head coach Kyle Bailey picked up his first win with the Hawks. They will face Drexel Wednesday, Feb 24 in Shrewsbury, NJ.

BASEBALL

The Monmouth University baseball team has been selected to finish fourth by the league's coaches, the conference announced Wednesday. MU received 77 votes from the conference's 11 head coaches. Monmouth was selected fourth, behind Canisius, who received 114 votes and six first-place notches, Quinnipiac (109, 3 first place) and Siena (98, 1 first place). Marist did receive one first-place ranking, coming in at fifth with 69 votes. Manhattan was a small margin behind the Red Foxes with 68, and Rider earned 60 points in seventh. Fairfield, Iona, Niagara and Saint Peter's rounded out the preseason list.

UPCOMING GAMES

Wednesday, February 10
MSWIM at MAAC Champ.
Buffalo, NY TBA
Erie Community College

WSWIM at MAAC Champ.
Buffalo, NY TBA
Erie Community College

MLAX at Towson
Towson, MD 4:00pm
Johnny Unitas Stadium

Thursday, February 11
WBB vs. Manhattan*
New Rochelle, NY 5:00pm
Draddy Gym

Friday, February 12
BOWL at SFA Classic
Houston, TX All Day
Palace Lanes

MBB at Rider*
Lawrence Twp., NJ 9:00pm
Alumni Gym.

Saturday, February 13
MT at Monmouth WC Inv.
West Long Branch, NJ 9:00am
The MAC

WT at Monmouth WC Inv.
West Long Branch, NJ
The MAC

MLAX vs. George Washington
West Long Branch, NJ 1:00pm
Klessler Field

MT at Villanova Invitational
Staten Island, NY 5:00pm
The MAC

Sunday, February 14
WBB at Fairfield*
Fairfield, CT 2:00pm
George R. Bisacca Court

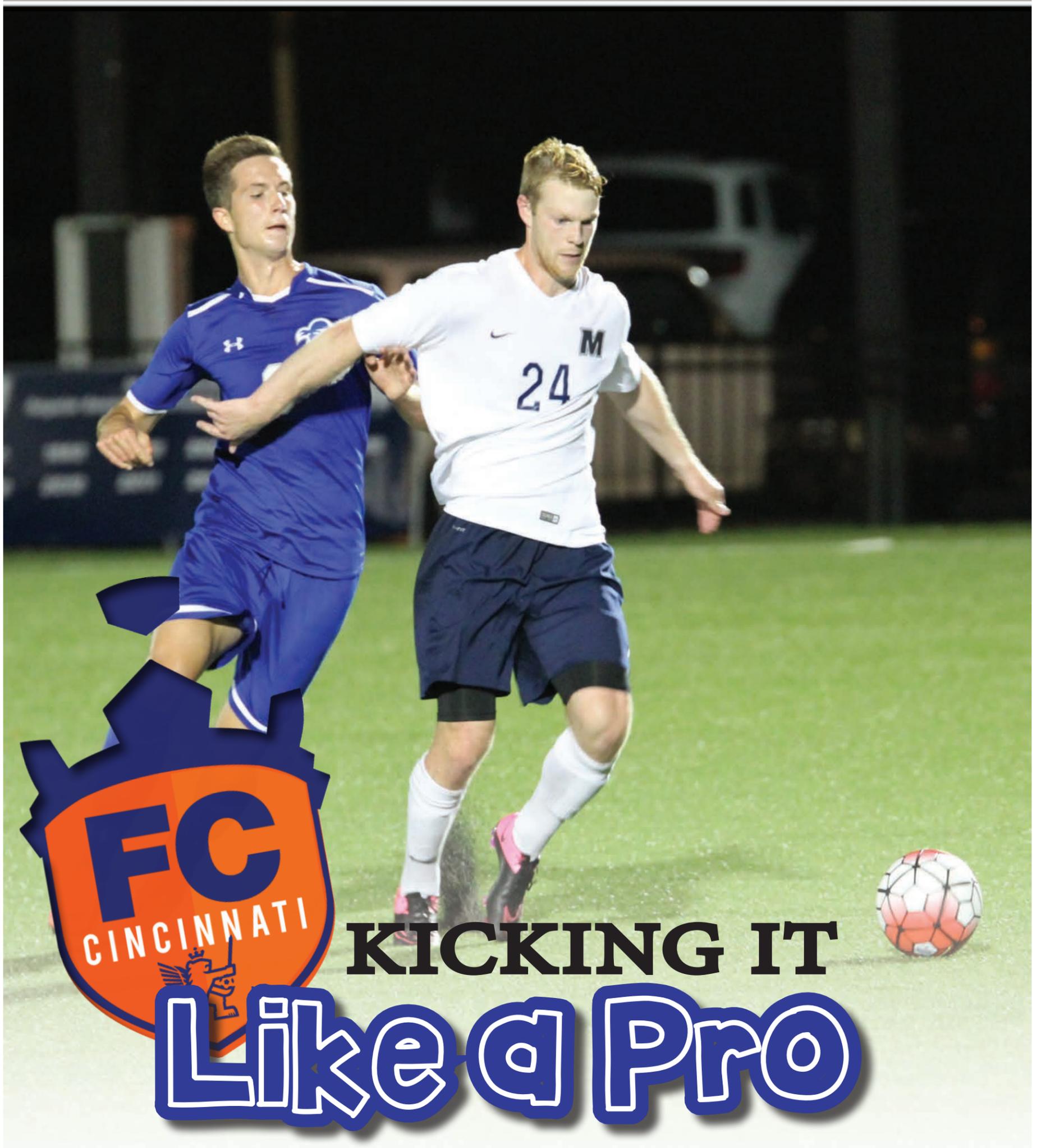
MLAX at Jacksonville
Jacksonville, FL 6:00pm
D.B. Milne Field

*Conference Games

THE OUTLOOK

S P O R T S

MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY



Derek Luke, University graduate and former captain of the men's soccer team, was signed to play for FC Cincinnati in the United Soccer League.

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Photo Courtesy of Monmouth Athletics