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President Brown Plans An Open Discussion Whether to Change Name of Wilson Hall

JAMILAH MCMILLAN
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Students at Princeton University managed a 32-hour protest in the university's president's office on Nov. 18. Demands were made to diminish the prominence of Woodrow Wilson's legacy on the Princeton campus due to his racial attitudes and regressive policies.

Members of Princeton's Black Justice league demanded that the name of Woodrow Wilson, the 28th U.S. president, and a segregationist, be removed from various buildings on campus. They also demanded that his mural be "scrubbed" from the dining hall.

At the University, President Paul Brown, PhD was proactive in addressing the possible issues involved in Woodrow Wilson's legacy on campus in a memorandum he emailed to the community last Thursday, Dec. 3.

He began, "In recent weeks the conflicted legacy of a number of prominent national historic figures including Woodrow Wilson has sparked a national conversation on racial injustice. As a university we have a special responsibility for critical self-examination and leadership on these important issues," said Brown.

Dr. Brian Greenberg, a Professor of American Social History said, "I've read President Brown's email and am glad that he has opened a campus-wide discussion of Wilson and race.

"The issue is less did Wilson hold racist beliefs – he clearly did – but the act of segregating Washington that he initiated after becoming president. His racism and the policies he initiated damaged real people,

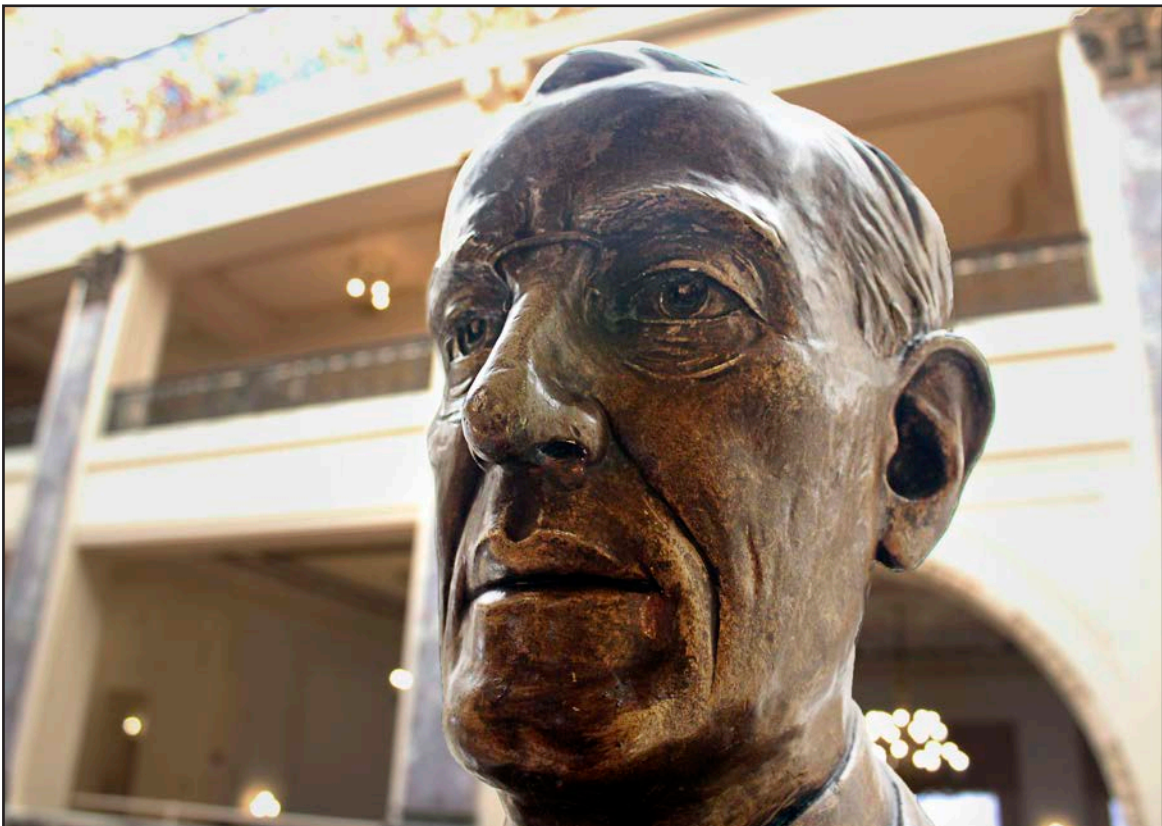


PHOTO COURTESY of Kiera Lanni

Woodrow Wilson is now facing criticism for alleged racial discrimination placing the University's Wilson Hall in the midst of an ongoing controversy.

cost them their jobs, and ruined their lives."

Brown said that there will be a series of open sessions throughout the next few months to gather input from the campus community on this issue. A committee is being formed that includes Board Chair Henry Mercer, Nina Anderson, Director of the Office of Equity and Diversity, students, faculty, alumni, administrators and trustees.

Together they will engage the University in a discussion about Wilson, his legacy, and his role on campus. The first listening sessions will begin today, Dec. 9, from 12:00 to 1:30, and 2:30 to 4:30 in the Afflitto Conference Room on the third floor of the Rebecca Stafford Student Center.

Anderson asserts that presumptions cannot be made on the outcome of these open dialogues. "Ultimately, we expect that after listening to this feedback the committee will make a recommendation to the Board on the name of Wilson Hall and it will be for the Board to decide what actions may or may not be taken," she said.

If the University community was interested in following in the footsteps of Princeton students then that may include the possible renaming of the University's administrative building Wilson Hall.

However, some students are opposed to this idea. Mallory Inselberg, a junior political science and psychology student said,

"Honestly, I don't think that Wilson's actions should be relevant nowadays. Wilson Hall is basically a historical landmark and to change its name now I feel would kind of be a disgrace to the University, and to all the memories, and all of the history that has come with it."

"Princeton students have their own opinions, which we can respect and accept, but I feel like for us to do the same thing based on an issue that is not relevant now is wrong. I mean he is not here technically to defend himself, so I feel like it is a waste of time when people could be spreading awareness about other issues," Inselberg continued.

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Are Adjuncts Paid Too Little?

JAMILAH MCMILLAN
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

In fall 2015, the University hired 71 adjuncts, capping the total number of part-time faculty at 352 members. Some feel that adjuncts at the University are underpaid, and that an increase in adjunct salaries would mirror their value.

"More than most universities, Monmouth dramatically underpays their adjuncts. Our adjuncts are devoted teachers, but too many are forced by the low pay to spread their efforts across many students at other institutions and jobs to try to earn a living wage. The University should not be profiting on the backs of poorly paid colleagues to avoid hiring more full-time tenure-track faculty," said Katherine Parkin, the President of the Faculty Association of Monmouth University (FAMCO).

According to Christine L. Benol, Vice Provost for Planning and Decision Support, "The average fall 2015 adjunct compensation at the University calculated across the entire spectrum of adjuncts is \$2,637 per 3-credit course," she said.

Adjuncts are part-time professors, lecturers or instructors that are hired by colleges and universities to teach one or more classes per semester. They usually don't have a campus office, get few benefits and have little job security. Moreover, they are not eligible for tenure.

"Investing in our faculty is a cornerstone of our strategic

Adjuncts continued on pg. 3

Monmouth Basketball Stuns the Nation, but the Bench Wins America Over

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The college basketball season may be young, however Monmouth University has a lot to celebrate. With recent wins over the No. 17 Notre Dame Fighting Irish and the University of Southern California Trojans at the Advocare Invitational basketball tournament over Thanksgiving, the team has gained the nation's attention. However, the team's most noise has been coming from their own bench rather than their fan base.

"I didn't expect us to go viral but it is great publicity for a great university," said junior

forward Greg Noack, one fourth of the famed Monmouth Bench.

The Bench, led by sophomore guard Dan Pillari, includes freshman guards Louie Pillari and Tyler Robinson along with injured Noack. Throughout the televised tournament, the Bench has been bringing an energy to the court that may just be what this team needs to continue their success.

Their celebrations have gone viral, featured on Instagram and Twitter accounts such as *ESPN*, *Barstool Sports* and *CBS College Basketball*, along with various recognition from athletes such as Frank Kaminsky III of the Charlotte Hornets literally calling the Monmouth Bench his spirit animal. Put the choreographed Hawks will put on routines on the bench to support their teammates when-

ever it is needed.

"It helps the school shed light to a very good and very special basketball team and I am very proud to be a part of it," said Dan Pillari.

National attention has surrounded the Monmouth Bench because of their over the top celebrations to support their team. Although the Hawks have not seen NCAA tournament play since 2006, this year they are bringing huge noise to season play with their recent triumphs.

The Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) favorites Iona this season, who has won the golden ticket to tournaments in the past, however the Gaels have not been coming out in top in early play while the Hawks are making a name for themselves by

being the underdog victor.

After the upset against Notre Dame began to unfold, cameras did not only notice the talent on the court, but off the court as well. Cousins, Dan and Louie Pillari, as well as Robinson and Noack began to become more animated on the sidelines to support their teammates.

"I just do it for the team, giving energy to the guys off the bench is something I can do when I'm not in the game," said Robinson.

One of the Monmouth Bench's most appealing moments came following a major three point play by freshman guard Micah Seaborn in the win over USC.

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New Jersey Sees the Rise of Armed College Police Patrol: MU Ahead of the Trend

KERRY BREEN
STAFF WRITER

Several NJ colleges, including Monmouth University, have armed police forces on campus. The number of schools with this safety feature is increasing, especially as active shooter situations become more and more common.

Monmouth University employs 20 police officers, all having been certified by the state, some with more than 25 years of experience. The University also employs 12 safety officers and seven traffic attendants. Furthermore, there is a variety of safety measures in place to benefit and protect students. Officers are available 24 hours a day, every day, to help students and others on campus.

“Monmouth University is fortunate to have a professional, well trained police department,” said William McElrath, the Monmouth University Chief of Police.

Armed Monmouth University officers must pass several levels of qualifications to be allowed to carry their firearms. All uni-

formed officers carry a Glock 23, 40 caliber handgun, according to McElrath; many officers are also qualified with the Colt M4 semi-automatic assault rifle that remains secured in police vehicles.

“Police officers qualify twice a year with their firearms, and must pass a ‘Use of Force’ written test twice a year as well,” said McElrath. “All sworn Monmouth University police officers are armed. Prior to becoming police officers, all officers must complete a five-month certified New Jersey Police Academy. This is a rigorous process that covers all aspects of policing, including ‘Use of Force’ and firearms training.”

Monmouth University police officers receive the same training as municipal officers and State Troopers, and are required to follow the Attorney General Guidelines on Use of Force. The guidelines, written in 1985 and revised in 2000, say that force may only be used as a last resort, after all other methods have been attempted.

“In situations where law enforcement officers are justified in

using force, the utmost restraint should be exercised,” read the guidelines of the New Jersey Attorney General’s Office, found online. “The use of force should never be considered routine. In determining to use of force, the law enforcement officer shall be guided by the principle that the degree of force employed in any situation should be only that reasonably necessary. Law enforcement officers should exhaust all other reasonable means before resorting to the use of force. It is the policy of the State of New Jersey that law enforcement officers will use only that force which is objectively reasonable and necessary.”

Under these guidelines (the full text of which can be found online), armed police officers can only use force in situations where there is no other option, and even then, they are urged to use restraint. Another section of the guidelines urges de-escalation as a tactic, as well as ‘interrupting the flow of events’ to make the use of force unnecessary. The guidelines also point out that according to McElrath, there has never been an inci-

dent on campus where the use of force was needed.

The Monmouth University police force works with the West Long Branch, Long Branch, and Ocean Township police forces; however, McElrath believes that having an armed police force on campus is nothing but a positive.

“Having our own well-trained police department allows for a quick, professional, and effective response to dangerous situations on campus,” he said. “There is no delay in waiting for outside agencies to respond who may not know the campus, or our campus community, as well as a University officer does.”

“I think they should be armed,” said Malia Padaliano, a sophomore English student. “That way they have a way to defend students if something happens. It also works as a deterrent – when people see a gun, they step back and they take the police more seriously. Besides, usually when you think of cops, you assume that they’re armed, whether it be with a gun or Tazer or something else. It makes the campus a safer place.”

“I guess it’s a good thing

because they’re police, they should be armed,” said sophomore chemistry student Lauren Lucia.

Other colleges in the state have armed police forces, including: Rutgers University, the New Jersey Institute of Technology, Rowan University, and Richard Stockton University. Most community colleges do not have armed police forces; neither do schools including Fairleigh Dickinson University, Seton Hall University, Rider, Drew University, and St. Peter’s College. Princeton University will soon be having a form of armed police – the officers will not carry weapons on their bodies, but they will have weapons in their cars.

The Monmouth Police station is open twenty-four hours a day, every day of the year, even when classes are not in session. Monmouth University and the surrounding area has a very low crime rate; however, those looking to contact the Monmouth University Police Department can do so at 732-571-4444, or call the confidential hotline at 732-263-5222.

Fidel Castro’s Daughter Visits MU to Speak with Students

JANAYA LEWINSKI
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Fidel Castro’s daughter, Alina Fernandez, spoke at the University for the second time about various issues regarding past and present forging policy perspectives on Wednesday, Dec. 2. Monmouth’s Student Activities Board (SAB), Students Advocating Girls Education (SAGE), and the Political Science Club, hosted the event.



IMAGE TAKEN from www.havana-live.com

Alina Fernandez spoke to students and faculty about foreign affair issues, both past and present.

Before the talk began, freshman business student, Camilla Gini had the chance to speak with Fernandez personally, and said she “picked up a down to earth vibe from someone who has been through so much. She approaches things with humor, and it was wonderful to see.”

The actual talk was about 45 minutes. Fernandez gave a descriptive interpretation of the country where she hails from, saying, “I come from a country where revolution is endless.” She explains how she was tied to her pacifier as a child.

She described Cuba’s situation further by explaining complexities of the economy, days

of the revolution, and the way that things are changing now. Later, Castro’s daughter moved into comments that seemed to resonate with most in the room. She was unaware that she was Castro’s daughter, saying one day she found out, “Fidel was my dad.”

After speaking, there was an open forum for questions. Some questions regarded how Fernandez felt about current events in America and Cuba

just a wonderful woman and she feels so strongly about the Cuban people. She reached out to us and wanted us to talk and hear about all the wonderful things this woman had to say I can say that it was truly a pleasure.”

A Wall High School Teacher, Monmouth University adjunct, Miriam Arminio is of Cuban decent. One of her students discussed how she felt about seeing Fernandez, and she said, “I felt a connection with her because my parents and I fled the country she did as well. It was an honor to watch.”

Freshman business student Nicholas Bellomo also commented, “I think it is wonderful that she is here, I think it is great that she does this at colleges and universities, and again, I am just glad to see her here at Monmouth.”

After the speaking engagement and questions concluded, and the high school and lingering Monmouth students dissipated –in a candid moment with Ms. Fernandez, she talked about her home after being asked about diplomatic ties between Cuba and the U.S.

She said, “I have gone back to Cuba. It was because my mother passed. But, I would like to see the changes (in reference to modernizing Cuba) because there is in fact something magical about the place that you were born. It has a special energy for you.”

Expanding on an earlier sentiment about the last time she saw her father, she explained, “We met in an embassy, it was public. We said hello, that was really it.”

Fernandez has been to the University once before, and she spoke about how it felt coming back to the University, “It is always more exciting and more scary.”

She also spoke about how she feels about speaking publicly, “I shake and everything. It’s so bad.”

Wilson Hall’s Name In Jeopardy

Wilson continued from page 1

Some students believe that the current Wilson Hall that overlooks Shadow Lawn is the exact same building Woodrow Wilson allegedly summered in during his presidency. However, according to Hettie Williams, a lecturer, on African American History from the Department of History and Anthropology, this is not the case.

“President Wilson never lived in the current structure that is now a part of our campus as the main administration building. He summered in West Long Branch in 1916 and died in 1924. The original Shadow Lawn mansion was destroyed in a fire in 1927; and, the current structure was built in 1929. This building was not named Wilson Hall until 1966,” Williams continued. “While Wilson’s legacy is attached to the state of New Jersey and progressive reform more specifically, coupled with his role as president of Princeton University, it is less so to the actual structure that we now call Wilson Hall,” Williams continued.

Allison Goerke, a senior communication student supports the actions taken by students at Princeton University. She is also open to the idea of renaming Wilson Hall if Monmouth University students were interested in that idea. “I think that it is very important that our University is a climate where people feel protected and really comfortable, and if attending class in a building named after a racist president is hindering that process then maybe the school should consider changing it,” she said.

Mariah Toussaint, a senior health studies student, and a member of the African Ameri-

can Student Union did not know of Wilson’s regressive racism until the recent protests at Princeton were talked about during a club meeting.

“Now that I know, I feel like everything that I stand for which is non-racism, and equality would be diminished if we upheld his legacy by keeping the hall named after him. It’s literally just a name so I think that we should change it,” she said.

Hetti asserts that the University’s prize jewel, Wilson Hall, is not recognized as a national historical landmark due to any recorded links to Woodrow Wilson, but because of its unique construction.

“This designation of national historical landmark is due to its grandiose Beau-Arts architecture coupled with the fact that the plans for the structure were drafted by America’s first classically trained African American architect Julian F. Abele who was retained by the Philadelphia architectural firm of Horace Trumbauer to develop the plans for the structure,” Hetti continued. “Abele designed or assisted in the design of more than 400 buildings throughout the country including homes, mansions, and public buildings on college campuses such as Duke University, Harvard University, and Monmouth University.”

Goerke deduces that these sessions are critical for the betterment of the future. “History repeats itself. Things are happening right now that probably have happened decades or centuries ago, and I think that it is important to discuss what has happened in the past in order to see what we can fix today,” she said.

Inmates Share their Stories at the Tenth Annual Project P.R.I.D.E. Event

KIERA LANNI
PHOTOGRAPHY/LEISURE EDITOR

Project P.R.I.D.E. (Promoting Responsibility in Drug Education) came to the University's Pollak Theatre for its 10th year, warning the community that poor choices can cause even worse outcomes, on Dec. 1.

"I was supposed to be a marine biologist training dolphins, not be in a prison," said Crystal, an inmate who spoke at the Project P.R.I.D.E. presentation.

The Project P.R.I.D.E program travels up and down New Jersey three times a week to spread their message. Five minimum-custody offenders from Edna Mahan Correctional Facility and Mountainview Correctional Facility each shared their stories, recounting how their poor choices led them to prison. The speakers all shared how they ended up in jail, and warned the audience on how their past hopes and dreams have been shattered thanks to their prison sentence.

There was a sign on the stage that read, "The worst thing you can do is establish a criminal record." Michael Ritter, Project P.R.I.D.E.'s coordinator for the New Jersey Department of Corrections, said a criminal record is, "like a big grey cloud, it will never go away."

The speakers all looked like an average person you could see on campus. One inmate, Sam, is only 20 years old. He was sentenced to five years in prison when he was 17 for causing a fatal collision. Before his accident, Sam's life was full of potential. He came from a wealthy family, was a star lacrosse player, was in the National Honor Society, and had a full scholarship to a major university.

Unfortunately, Sam adopted an unhealthy lifestyle involving alcohol. One night while driving

home after drinking at a party, Sam had collided with an oncoming vehicle while he was texting. The other driver had died on impact. "I have no idea how to describe to guys the emotions you feel when you find out you took someone's life."

Another speaker, Crystal, of Brick, N.J., is serving six years for killing a pedestrian while driving under the influence of drugs. Crystal said she came across a quote recently that she related to. She said, "When bad things happen to you, you can allow it to do one of three things; One: you can allow it to define you. Two: you can allow it to destroy. Or three: Allow it to strengthen you." She said that she allowed her problems to define her, and ultimately destroy her.

Crystal had faced many traumas in her life such as her parents divorce, her best friend's murder, and being sexual assault. Crystal said she had to raise herself and her younger sister, and grew up with the mindset that she had to take care of herself. She turned to drugs and never dealt with the emotions that were consuming her. Instead of choosing to get help, she chose substance abuse.

Crystal stressed that if you have issues, you have the choice to deal with them. She said, "You're not weak if you ask for help. It's really ironic that today, I'm physically incarcerated, but for the first time in forever, I'm mentally free. That's only because I chose to deal with my issues at hand." By the time she realized she needed help, however, she was in a prison cell. Crystal wants her listeners to realize this before it's too late.

The other speakers, Summer, Connor, and Shakir all followed with a similar sentiment: your life can change in an instant, so control your life and make the right choices. "It's not worth it,



PHOTO TAKEN by Kiera Lanni

The speakers and current inmates sat in front of the crowd to speak of their live choices and urged students to think always think about their actions and how their actions might effect others.

I can promise you guys," said Shakir, who was charged with unlawful possession of firearms.

Brennan Lanni, a senior criminal justice major, felt the presentation was very eye opening. "The presentation provided a more human perspective on correctional facilities. Instead of looking at numbers, it shows on a personal level how prison affects inmates."

Suanne Schaad Substance Abuse Coordinator at the Office of Substance Awareness, first invited Project P.R.I.D.E. to Monmouth University 10 years ago through Michael Ritter. Ritter had been with the program since 1999, and was the moderator for the presentation.

The program has become very popular, and is a community event. High schools, local programs, and the public have been invited to attend the presentation.

"I think it's a great peer-to-peer message. As we've seen, they (the inmates) are young people who have sat in the seats that our college students have sat in today, and made a choice. I think it's

just easy, relatable situations that I hope our students take a message from," said Schaad.

The inmates who speak at the presentation are chosen from a pool of about 10 to 11 inmates, according to Ritter. The speakers do not get anything for participating, such as time off their sentence. Right after the presentation, they are sent back to their facility.

Ritter said, "to participate in Project P.R.I.D.E you have to, number one, volunteer. Number two, you have to go through a very thorough evaluation process, and number three, you have to be almost at the point where you're getting ready to go home or to a half-way house."

The program not only benefits the audience, but it benefits the speakers too. Ritter said, "I've been told many, many, many times by our presenters that, 'This really helped me turn my life around because in the first time in a long time, I can do something positive, and turn a very terrible, tragic situation into something somewhat posi-

tive, to help others.'"

Summer, who was sentenced to 10 years and is currently serving her 8th year for drug related charges, graduated college the day before in the facility. Even though she is in jail, Summer feels she is taking steps to get her life back on track once her sentence is over. She said, "It doesn't matter where you are or what you're going through. If you have faith in yourself, you can rise above anything. I'm proof right now."

Ritter ended the program by inviting the audience to speak with the inmates after the presentation, to speak to him or the officers accompanying him for information on how to volunteer at the prisons to help the inmates earn their GEDs, or get information on internships. If interested in volunteering, call Ritter at 609-292-4036 ex 5325

Schaad encourages students seeking help with substance abuse to visit the Office of Substance Awareness at the Health Center. She said, "It's totally confidential, and it's free, I work with students at all different ranges; if you're simply contemplating, changing a use, cutting down, or you know you want to stop, come check it out, even one or two sessions. It can't hurt."

The event was cosponsored by HERO Campaign for Designated Drivers, Greek Senate, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Alpha Kappa Psi Business Fraternity, Alpha Omicron Pi, Alpha Sigma Tau, Alpha Xi Delta, Delta Phi Epsilon, Delta Tau Delta, Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority Inc., Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity, Inc., Phi Kappa Psi, Phi Sigma Sigma, Sigma Pi, Sigma Tau Gamma, Tau Delta Phi, Tau Kappa Epsilon, Theta Xi, Zeta Tau Alpha, Office of Substance Awareness, and Students in Recovery.

Underpaid Adjuncts at Monmouth?

Adjuncts continued from pg 1

plan, and critical to our continued academic growth as a University," said Laura J. Moriarty, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

John Morano, a professor of communication, compared the University's average adjunct salary to that of other universities. He said, "I saw an ad from Montclair State looking for a communication adjunct professor and their rate of pay was \$3,900 for a 3 credit course. If we are paying in the neighborhood of \$2,500 and you were an adjunct, where would you go, would you want to be paid \$2,500 or \$3,900? What that means is not that our people are not wonderful but that any of the better people will likely go where there is more money. So we are not trying to hire the best, and that is not good for our students," he said.

According to nj.com, Rutgers University has between 1,600 to 1,700 part-time lecturers, and they are guaranteed a minimum of about \$4,800 per class. Adjuncts at most New Jersey community colleges can average \$3,000 or more per class.

Alongside the 71 new hired adjuncts, the University also hired 22 full-time faculty members. The total number of full-time

faculty as of fall 2015 is now 289. When comparing the average compensation of adjuncts to that of full-time faculty the numbers are significantly dissimilar. "The 2015-16 average of academic year salary for the full-time teaching faculty calculated across all faculty ranks and across a wide range of longevity is \$83,274," said Benol.

"I think many adjuncts would love to submerge themselves in their teaching. However, some don't because they can't afford to," said Britney Wade, a senior journalism student. "I find it really disconcerting to think that I make more than the average adjunct working part-time at Sunglass Hut," she said.

Between fall 2014 and fall 2015, 74 adjuncts

stopped working at the University. This may show that the longevity of an adjunct's placement at the University is short-lived. "If an adjunct

works for a short time students are unable to build the same type of long lasting connections with adjunct professors as they would with a full-time Professor whose job is secured throughout their full University experience," said Wade.

Some students however, think that dedicated adjuncts can maintain lasting relationships with their students. "I've had adjuncts that would give out their personal cell phone numbers, and give students opportunities to meet up with them outside of class. Such adjuncts are

able to uphold relationships with students even if they move on from the University," said Christopher Lambiase, a graduate student studying homeland security.

According to Symmone Fisher, an Adjunct of Political Science and Sociology, adjuncts in the Political Science Department are expected to work a maximum of 26 hours per 3 credit course. Parkins believes that the maximum work hours of many departments do not correlate with the reality of what it takes to effectively teach. "That [maximum work hours] does not include any potential 'over time', which could include things such as preparing the syllabus, ordering books, departmental meetings, or trying to find parking as they race between jobs," she said.

"Adjunct faculty members offer valuable perspectives to our students as many are experienced professionals within their fields and bring very current experiential learning into the classroom," said Moriarty.

"As somewhat of a 'seasoned' adjunct prior to arriving at Monmouth Uni-

versity, when I juggled various courses, I did try to spend more time and energy in courses that paid more. I felt that was only fair. Adjunct professors like those in full time positions, do spend a lot of time and energy trying to teach the course to the best of their ability. In addition, there are many adjuncts that bring in guest speakers, organize and participate in community wide events. Compensating them at a higher rate will not only benefit the adjunct professor, but it will benefit the students and the university community on a whole, as it will likely provide a stronger incentive for greater teaching and participation," said Catherine Barch a political science instructor.

As an adjunct Fisher does not assert that she is on the same level as a full-time professor. "I would not say that an adjunct is equal to a full-time faculty member. For example, I do not have that maximum amount of education that qualifies me to be an authority on any one particular subject," said Fisher.

Members of the university community think that part-time faculty at the university are undervalued. "Adjuncts may not be equal in academia as experienced professors, but they are crucial members of this institutions, and they deserve to be paid more," said Wade.



PHOTO TAKEN from theodysseyonline.com

New NJ Stalking Law to Protect Victims

DANIELLE SCHIPANI
NEWS EDITOR

A bill that increases second offense penalties for stalkers sponsored by Deputy Republican Conference Leader Mary Pat Angelini as well as Assemblywoman Nancy Munoz has been signed into law. They have been working on the bill since 2014.

The bill (A-3841) authorizes courts to order electronic monitoring of a defendant convicted of a second or subsequent stalking offense against the same victim. The bill requires the Administrative Office of the courts to work with the Attorney General to establish a program for the continuous, satellite-based monitoring of second-offense stalking defendants. The bill also upgrades second offense stalking against the same victim or a violation of an existing court order to a third degree crime.

“Approximately 7.5 million

“Approximately 7.5 million people are stalked in one year in the United States.”

MARY PAT ANGELINI
Deputy Republican Conference Leader

people are stalked in one year in the United States,” said Assemblywoman Angelini. “The impact on stalking victims can be devastating, as they often suffer a wide range of psychological, physical, occupational, social and general life- style effects as a result of being stalked. This bill is a positive step forward to help protect these victims from stalkers who are not deterred by a first-time conviction.”

A study performed by the National Institute of Justice in 2011 found that, “...monitoring significantly reduces the likelihood of failure under community supervision. The decline in the risk of failure is about 31 percent compared with offenders placed on other forms of community supervision.”

“I believe it sends a message to suspects that stalking will not be tolerated and at the same times reassures victims that the courts are taking the issue seriously,” said Monmouth University Chief of Police William McElrath. He believes that the law was passed to “prevent further incidents of stalking and to reassure the victim that all is being done to prevent further occurrences.”

The electronic monitoring device is similar to a GPS that allows the police to track them, is worn on the ankle of the defendant. Angelini explained that stalkers frequently ignore restraining orders.

She believes the electronic monitoring device will be more effective and will help ensure the safety of stalking victims. “This puts the stalker on alert that they will be monitored 24/7 and if they leave their permitted geographic areas the police will come arrest them,” said Angelini.

The amount of time the defendant has to wear the device is to be decided on a case-by-case basis by the judge. The state parole board will determine the particulars of the law which judges will use as guidelines when sentencing defendants.

“This is another tool in the

toolbox for protecting victims of stalking. Many times domestic violence cases have a component of stalking to them and the law gives judges another opportunity to really restrain the perpetrator,” said Angelini.

McElrath said that stalking is not a common problem at the University but that there has been some isolated incidents.

“I wouldn’t say that it is a problem. We have received isolated complaints that could be considered stalking but it usually is resolved by the Police Department contacting the suspect and advising them of the repercussions if the stalking continues. In most cases the victim does not wish to sign complaints and is satisfied that the stalker has been talked to by the police.”

Susan Levine, victim support program coordinator of *180 Turning Lives Around* said that the organization is pleased with the new law and hopes that it will help ensure the safety of

both victims of stalking and of domestic violence. This will hopefully help victims themselves. Them just knowing that the defendants are being monitored by the police constantly will make them feel more secure. It will help empower victims that are affected by stalking,” she said.

180 Turning Lives Around is a Monmouth County based non-profit agency which provides support to individuals and families who have been affected by domestic violence, many of whom experience stalking. They have a 24/7 hotline that provides completely confidential support at 732-264-4111.


Another important aspect of protecting victims of stalking is to educate people on the issue. Angelini described how many people do not understand that stalking is a crime that has consequences.

“The new law is great as it will improve the security and safety of stalking victims in New Jersey,” said Melanie Brima, a junior social work and psychology student at the University. She explained that any law that improves the life quality of these victims can be seen as a positive since there are so many victims in New Jersey and throughout the nation.


McElrath explained that The University Police always advises victims that if they have any safety concerns, to let them know about as soon as possible. MUPD can provide escort services 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The most important thing is to first start out by notifying the police and have your concerns documented.

Additionally, students should know that they, “can be punished for stalking under the Student Code of Conduct. Students Services will issue ‘No Contact’ letters to students who might be involved in stalking type incidents,” he said.

MUPD can be contacted at 732-571-4444 (on campus ext. 4444) any time a student has safety concerns.



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PREPARING FOR FINALS

JENNIFER MURPHY
STAFF WRITER

It’s that time of the year again - something that every college student dreads: finals. It’s that point in the semester that makes you question all of your life decisions and wonder why you ever chose the path of going to college. Although finals can be described as an accurate depiction of the underworld, if you prepare for finals the right way, you may be able to walk out them alive, and with a decent grade.

Here are a few ways to prepare for finals:

Get Organized - One good way to start preparing for your finals is to get organized. Sit down and write out each final you have and what it covers.

“For some of my classes, I don’t have a final. As for the finals I do have, some of my finals are cumulative and some only cover specific chapters. I like to sit down, look at my class schedule, list which classes I have a final for and what I need to cover for each of those finals. For instance, my communication ethics class final is based on the entire semester but my public relations final is based on just the last three chapters from the textbook,” said Madison Dorn, a junior communication major.

By getting organized you are preparing yourself for what you need to do, so that you aren’t scrambling when time is running out.

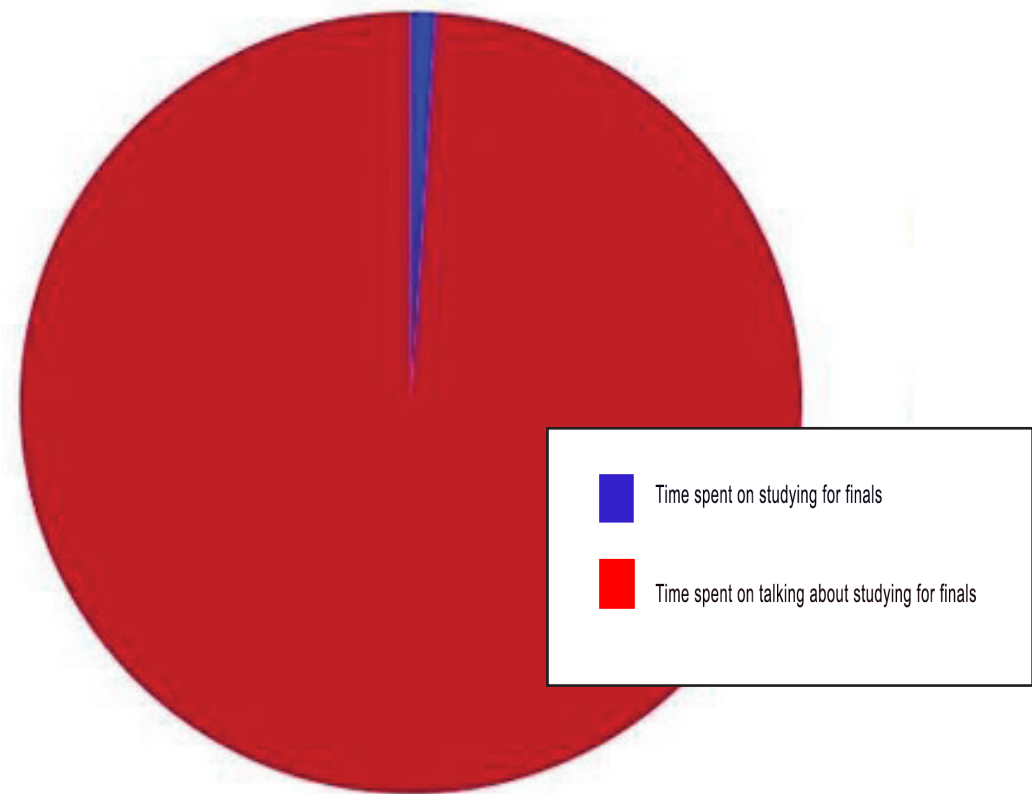
Outline Your Material - Once you have compiled a list of what you need to study for each final and how much time you need to spend studying, it is time to actually outline those materials so you can begin studying. One of the best ways to study is to make an outline. As you read over your textbook, class notes, and handouts, write a brief summary for each topic. Highlight the areas in your outline that were most troublesome. When you have finished with all the material, you will have an outline you can review and make flash cards out of.

Start Early - Start the studying process as early as possible before it’s too late. What’s difficult about finals is that you have multiple tests that cover multiple areas. Once you have compiled a list of what you need to study for each final, how much time you need to spend studying and outlined your materials, it is time to actually study. The sooner you start studying, the better. You are going to be covering a lot of material and you need to give your brain time to process all of that material. Do not leave studying until the last minute, it’ll only be harder for you to memorize and

understand everything.

Get Help – If you’re having trouble memorizing something or one area really isn’t making sense to you, get help from your professor before it’s too late. Ask them to go over that trouble area with you during their office hours. Even if you are not having a hard time with the material, it would be very beneficial to create a study group. Having multiple people contribute and explain their way of taking on the material can be very helpful. Someone might mention a great way of studying that you didn’t even think of.

Take Care of Your Body - It’s going to be pretty hard to crush your finals if you’re sleep deprived, haven’t eaten a real meal in days, and are fighting off a cold. In order to perform your best, you have to treat your body kindly during finals week. Don’t be irrational and think you’re going to get tons of sleep, because we know that’s not true, but you should get enough so that you can be mentally alert during your study sessions and the exams themselves. Give yourself enough time to take a long, hot shower and get your laundry done so you can study in freshly washed sweatpants. Feeling healthy and energized will help you to perform at your mental best.



Finals may seem overwhelming but can be managed if a student is organized and begins preparing early.

Tackling Depression in the Media

ALISON SILVERMAN
STAFF WRITER

Owen Wilson. Demi Lovato. Gwyneth Paltrow. Brooke Shields.

What do all of these celebrities have in common? All have struggled with depression and all have been open about it.

Depression is defined by the U.S. National Library of Medicine as “a state of mood of low aversion or activity that affects a person’s thoughts, behavior, feelings, and sense of well-being.”

More and more, celebrities like Lovato and Paltrow have stepped forward with this issue. It is probably wise to say that it has had a positive effect on fans and the public eye and that being in the public eye itself makes managing depression moreso a positive thing than a negative one.

For one, it helps those who cannot speak for themselves.

Fans of these celebrities often look to them as role models. When they come out as having a mental health issue, it shows that they too are human and makes them relatable.

Being in the public eye also creates awareness about the subject. Depression is not something that is a light topic, but with public figures starting to speak about it, it creates more awareness about the topic. When Lovato came out as bipolar and depressed, immediately the press picked up the story about her going to rehab and soon after, she shared her story. Between interviews on *ABC* and even writing her own memoir, Lovato has provided more awareness about depression and mental illness than ever before.

It also shows fans of these celebrities that their heroes are human. When we see celebrities, we often look up to them as perfect and untouchable. With more and more celebrities being honest about mental health, it makes us realize that they have the same emotions and feelings that we do, and, in turn, makes us feel like we know them better. It is easier to say we connect better to Lovato, who has dealt with public breakups and pressure, than to Kim Kardashian, who also lives in the public eye but never seems to have any mental health issues.

More and more celebrities are being open and honest about mental health and should continue to do so. We have lost many great talents who had depression, like Heath Ledger and Robin Williams, but if we create awareness about the subject, perhaps people will know they’re not alone.

[Depression] shows fans that their heroes are human.

Papers Vs. Exams

LAUREN NIESZ
COPY EDITOR

There are so many different pros and cons to having your final exam be an essay you write at home or having it be a traditional exam you take at school. In a way the two are almost incomparable because they are in such different leagues, but it is worth taking a look at the way they measure up.

the above essays, you could be editing the essay after writing it for days afterward. With these traditional exams, you get it all done and after that it is what it is and it is out of your hands.

Different Types of Questions—traditional exams are usually multiple choice, but there is also room for creativity on the professor’s part in the makeup of the exam. Multiple choice is

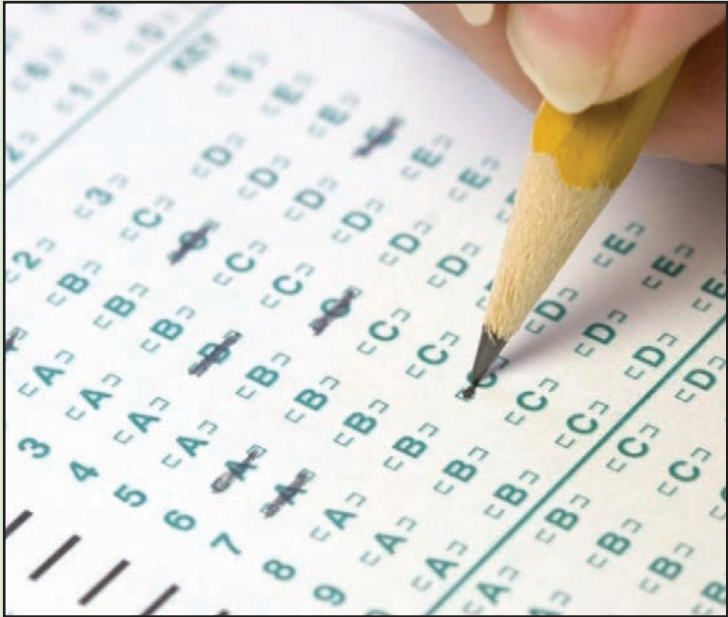


IMAGE TAKEN from www.guiapicos.com

There are pros and cons to final exams in the form of essays versus traditional exams.

Essays:

Pros-

Wiggle Room—with writing an essay, it seems as though professors can be more lenient with grading. There is more wiggle room for you to get a better grade when writing an essay because it is a more subjective way of assessing knowledge.

More Time—if you are assigned the essay in advance, you know exactly when it is due and you usually have multiple days to complete it. Therefore, it is easier to get the essay exactly how you want it.

Don’t Have to Come in on Final Day—for many professors, if they assign an essay as the final assessment in lieu of an actual exam, they won’t make you come in for the scheduled examination period. And, if they do make you come in, it is usually just to hand the essay in and say goodbye!

Cons-

Time Consuming—writing an essay is a time consuming process, so if you are a perfectionist, this make take a chunk out of your studying time for other courses.

More Pressure for Perfection—yes, having more time is both a blessing and a curse. You do have more time to get the essay done, so professors are expecting a spotless essay.

Second-Guessing—when you are given more time to do things, you may end up second-guessing your essay topics or evidence choices within the paper. When writing a final essay, you may be more inclined to change your topic various times, mostly because you have that luxury of extra time.

Traditional Exam:

Pros-

Clear-Cut Study Guide—with most professors, if they are giving a traditional exam, they will give you a very clear study guide with topics and/or terms that are important. Therefore, you are able to get some index cards prepared with exactly what you need to know for the examination day.

Quicker—with traditional exams, you prep for the exam, but once you finish it you are finished with it for good. With

the most popular selection by the majority of professors, but there may also be the addition of identifications, short answers, and/or essays. Identifications are similar in multiple choice in that if you get it wrong, it’s wrong. But, if professors add a short answer or essay component, there is an added layer of wiggle room you to increase your grade.

Cons-

Not Much Wiggle Room—if the traditional exam is just that, traditional, then there really isn’t much wiggle room in your grade. If you get a multiple choice question wrong, it’s wrong and there is no arguing against that!

Coming in for the Exam—there is no chance that you won’t be made to come into the scheduled final examination period for a traditional exam.

Test-Taking Ability—some of us aren’t good test takers. Coming in to take the test gives some students anxiety; even just the ability to take a multiple choice exam can be daunting for some students.

Everyone has a different set of test-taking skills, so it is difficult to choose which type of test is best. I think that a good combination of essays and traditional exams is a fair assessment. It gives students who aren’t good writers a chance to shine through multiple choice and students who aren’t great multiple-choice/fact-oriented a chance to shine through their writing skills.

Regardless of the type of exam your professor chooses to give this year, just know that your professors build both types of exams with you in mind. Your exams are created to assess the information you’ve learned in the semester in the best way possible for the course. Have faith in that and don’t fret!

Jimmy Carter once said, “You can do what you have to do, and sometimes you can do it even better than you think you can.” Tackle your exams head on this semester and you could end up doing even better than you had expected. Happy finals time, Hawks, and good luck!

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It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year

As the semester is coming to a close and the holidays begin to get closer, there has been a change in the air. The “Holiday Madness” season has begun, as houses are being decorated, stores are having their sales, and food is everywhere. It’s that wonderful time of the year where we can spread joy, and make our friends and family happy.

Since it only happens once a year, *The Outlook* editors believe people look forward to it, and become very excited when it arrives. This motivates people to go all out and truly enjoy themselves. However, it does become very intense.

Since it is the season of giving and receiving, people generally become more generous and donate to a lot of charities and like to help others. Some stores even partner up with a local charity to help with donations. However, one editor believes that “it’s hard to get donations because so many stores are asking nowadays.”

But there are those people who are just on the verge of making the naughty list during this time, and ruin the joy of others, especially when it comes to retail. Beginning with Black Friday, people seem to be very selfish with trying to get their hands on the next hot item and we forget about

others. Then there are others that are naughty with the intention of being nice. They try to give gifts to their friends and loved once but will stop at nothing until they get what they want.

Working in retail is where you get to experience this first hand. Many of the editors have had the luck to work first hand through holiday season. First off, the hours of many stores are extended requiring everyone working to adjust their schedules to accommodate stores. The lines are long, the stores are crowded, and people are impatient. Needless to say it is not fun.

One editor shared her experience with working in a grocery store during the holiday season. “People are a different kind of crazy than they would be in a clothing or department store. People generally aren’t too problematic but there are a few who have some ridiculous requests.”

There might be a sense of obligation to spend a lot of money during this time of year. Some of editors believe that the holidays have become very material-driven, and the more money you spend, the better the gift. The way people have begun to view different types of friendships are starting to rely heavily on material items and the pressure in-

creases. However, some believe that there is not an obligation on spending money, but rather trying to buy something nice and meaningful might just end up being expensive.

One prominent statement of the holiday season is Christmas decorations, and the biggest argument is when they should go up and come down. *The Outlook* editors agreed that after Thanksgiving would be a reasonable time to begin to decorate. The decorations should be left up until New Year’s because no one wants to see the holiday season leave so quickly.

So since this is a lot to take in, what is some advice the editors can give you? One editor suggests, “Be nice. Even if others are rude and stores are crowded, if you’re nice and polite, odds are people are going to reciprocate.”

The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear. If you can, shop online. It saves you time, and stress, and you don’t have to deal with parking in mall lots, traffic, and people. Spend time with loved ones, but also save plenty of time for yourself. Do your own thing, shop at your own pace, and enjoy the season! Happy holidays from the *Outlook* Editors and see you next semester.



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Monmouth Revisits the Watergate Scandal

PRACHI PATEL
STAFF WRITER

University had the honor of hearing John Dean speak about his experience and trials he experienced due to the Watergate Scandal. There was an array of people in attendance. From Deborah Portiz, former Attorney General of New Jersey to President Brown.

“There’s a cancer in the presidency and it’s growing.” This quote stated by John Dean, has been notorious in regards to political scandals. The Watergate Scandal regarding President Nixon changed not only the Executive but also ethnics within society. Caught up in the mixed of this scandal was former white house counsel to President Nixon, John Dean.

Dr. Rekha Datta, Interim Vice Provost For Global Education, raved about the event. Along with that she expressed the courage Dean embodied. “The Watergate event was outstanding. It was engaging and had universal appeal that cut across generations and scholarly and general interest surrounding an issue

that laid the foundations of many ethics reforms in American public policy. We were fortunate to hear from a key player as the Watergate Scandal unfolded, and a historian who contextualized the day to day developments as they evolved on those fateful days in the 1970’s. It also highlighted the importance of integrity.”

She continued, “As White House counsel, a young lawyer, John Dean, was a true profile in courage in standing up to the highest office in the country. He followed the courage of his conviction, and made a tremendous contribution to strengthening the institution of government; but not without backlash. An important takeaway is that as in the government, in other organizations too, this can happen.” She continued to say “John Dean demonstrated the importance of standing up when rules and processes are violated in any organization. In that sense, he was truly a ‘profile in courage.’” and that “It was a historic event that was a wonderful learning opportunity for the campus com-

munity. I thank the speakers, and Dean Moliver, Peter Reinhart, Joe Patten, and others who made this event possible.”

John Dean has a particular role in the Watergate Scandal. He started off by being associate deputy in the office of the Attorney General of the U.S. At the time, he served under Attorney General John N. Mitchell. Around 1970, in July, he was appointed to become the counsel to the President. Dean, at the time was among the youngest working for the President. He was unaware at the time of taking the position what his future held.

Around June 17, 1972, news had broken that a group of people had broken in to the headquarters of Democratic National Committee’s office. Nixon at this point chose to have Dean investigate this incident while maintaining that he is innocent throughout the whole event. Towards the end of the Watergate Scandal and more details started to unravel and Dean realized that this whole problem rooted farther back than expected. He decided it would be in his best interest to testify

against the Nixon Administration and come forward with all the facts he had and knew.

Dean was among the youngest to testify in front of the Senate after agreeing to cooperate with the prosecutors. He received multitudes of death threats. The threats got so severe to the point where he was admitted with the witness protection program. Prior to testifying Dean had asked Nixon for a pardon for any crime committed that was denied. This also was an additional factor causing Dean to go against Nixon.

Dr. Joseph Patten, Chair of Political Science, said “John Dean is a complicated historic figure. It was fascinating to watch history come to life through his thoughtful, informative, and dynamic presentation. The Watergate Scandal was a watershed moment in American politics and its impacts continue to shape discussions on public ethics, campaign finance, and investigative reporting. Professor Peter Reinhart and the Business School did a masterful job in organizing what was truly one of the most com-

PELLING and substantive academic events hosted on our campus over the past 10 years”.

Professor Peter Reinhart, Director of the Kislak Real Estate Institute said, “It is very rare to be able to have a living witness to history discuss one of the most compelling historic events that shaped the future of the country. Watergate left several enduring legacies. The teaching of ethics for all lawyers and in most universities is now mandatory.” He also said that “The public scrutiny of candidates for public office is now greater than ever. The Leon Hess Business School and Kislak Real Estate Institute are proud to further the education and dialogue on these important issues and look forward to bringing other significant public figures to campus.”

The event was such a success for not just the Monmouth community but also the surrounding towns. Victoria Kelly, a sophomore health studies major enjoyed her experience. She said, “The event was extremely engaging and different. It was interesting to see the narration of a such a popular scandal”

U.N. Holds Conference on Climate Change in France

KATHARINE DIX
STAFF WRITER

On Nov. 30, in Paris, France the U.N. Conference on Climate Change began, and it will conclude on Dec. 11. According to the COP21 website, this is the 21st U.N. Conference on Climate Change, and there are representatives from any and all nations that wish to take action on behalf of the environment.

Dr. Ken Mitchell, associate professor of political science, speculated on the ability for such different countries to work together, “The Paris conference reveals the potential for global governance, as well as the challenges for global governance. The problems and challenges have been identified, but science cannot take us much further. We are now in the realm of global policy making, and this is a realm we know very little about.”

Zachary Dix, a masters student at the University of Iceland studying Environmental Sustainability,

attended the conference said “The conference brings together countries of the world to create a document that is internationally binding with the United Nations. The nations come together and used the scientific knowledge about how to mitigate and adapt to climate change and try to reach a consensus internationally on how to handle climate change.”

According to Dix and the COP21 website, a large aspect of the negotiations is how many degrees Celsius the world temperature my increase. Dix explained, “A lot of the previous agreements have aimed to increase no more than 2 degrees Celsius from pre industrial levels.” He said, “However the recent increases in intense weather events and the severity of sea level rise is displacing nations such as Micronesia as we speak; these islands are literally sinking and the people are being forced to relocate almost immediately. Consequently, now the majorities of countries are feeling as

though 2 degrees Celsius is insufficient and need to move it to a 1.5 degree goal. Scientists have been studying the global temperature, and in their latest report they started degree scenarios where they emit different amount of greenhouse gasses to create global temperature scenarios. Right now the big thing they’re pushing for is a scenario of no more than a global temperature increase of 1.5 degrees Celsius.”

Small islands such as Micronesia are suffering due to the rise of sea level caused by climate change. Dr. Michael Schwebel of Monmouth University and the New Jersey Sea Grant explained the conference and the climate’s effect on small islands further, “The nations of the world are trying to solidify a global approach to addressing global climate change on behalf of all kinds of countries and peoples. We must look at both developing and industrialized countries and understand their different points of view; in either setting emission limits or types

of development permitted because any global agreement has to take all the players into account.”

He continued, “One example I can give is the islands of the globe. The islands are not responsible for 99 percent of what is causing the increased emissions, but they are disproportionately affected by the emissions of others. On the other hand, with these larger countries, if the effects of climate change hit them, they have more ‘adaptive capacity’ to absorb the shocks.”

Considering larger countries are more capable of coping with environmental calamities, it can be assumed that developing countries do not have the same advantage. This adds equality issues into the already complex world of climate change.

Dix explained how climate change and the environment can play into equality, “The main obstacles of achieving that are establishing sufficient support and transfer of knowledge of research from first world countries to developing

countries. So perhaps the biggest trick right now is to figure out how to finance low carbon development of the developing world; both for the sake of the climate and humankind generally. This field is no longer about the climate, this is an inequality issue because not all people have the resources to combat the challenges the environment creates such as drought. This is not just about saving the planet; this is also about saving human lives.”

Sal Pololillo, junior political science student was asked what he thought about the current negotiations, “It’s lit,” he said, “these politicians are saving the planet and putting serious emphasis on issues that are not given enough consideration.” The conclusions of the Conference on Climate Change will not be made until Dec. 11, however it is evident that the result of these negotiations are about more than saving the earth we walk on.

Should There be More Study of Philosophy, Religion, and Interdisciplinary Studies at Monmouth?

BRENDAN GREVE
POLITICS EDITOR

According to the United States Census Bureau, there are over 322 million people living in the United States and over seven billion in the world. This is remarkable but there is one issue, how can all of these people get along? Humans have been at war with each other for as far back as history can trace. This is evident in the current terrorist attacks in San Bernardino, CA and in Paris in which the Islamic extremist group, ISIS, has taken credit for. Today, the challenge for Americans is to quell threats like ISIS, while still being open and tolerant to those who hold different ideological, political, religious, and cultural beliefs. There is not a simple answer to this problem but according to multiple University professors, learning more about interdisciplinary studies which include ideological, political, religious, and cultural beliefs.

Professor and Chair of the Department of Philosophy, Religion, and Interdisciplinary Studies, Dr. Golan Mathbor, who is from Bangladesh, said “The number one problem in the world is ignorance. The core point of interdisciplinary studies is to learn about each other.”

Unfortunately, Monmouth University students cannot major or even minor in interdisciplinary studies. According to Mathbor, there are only seven or eight courses available in his department during a given semester. He said, “We need a strong interdisciplinary or global studies program.” This could help quell tension between different groups because it would help students to develop “holistic thinking” and to “see what is happening in the grassroots.” However, most of these interdisciplinary topic can only be found in other majors and is not a program itself.

Professor of Political Science Saliba Sarsar, who teaches various classes on Islam and the Middle East said, “As global citizens, we have an obligation to learn as much as possible about the world around us” and “By learning about others, we can learn more about ourselves.”

Sarsar’s interesting background has especially allowed him to see various perspectives. According to Elaine Durbach of *New Jersey Jewish News*, Sarsar spoke in front of the Jewish Community Campus (JCC) on April 29 of this year and said, “My father was a White Russian prince” and his mother was Greek. Born and raised as a Chris-

tian in Jerusalem, which was under Jordanian control at the time, Sarsar “grew up caught between the Jewish and Muslim communities, and with memories of fleeing during one of the periodic eruptions of violence.” Sarsar explained in front of the JCC that it wasn’t until the six day war in 1967 where he realized that Jews were not the enemy like he was taught, and that “they were just like us.”

Sarsar is now an avid supporter of peace in the region. He believes that problems like these can be solved through, “small successes through dialogue.” He also said that “dialogue is one thing action is another” and that it doesn’t matter which faith but is about “How you put faith into action.” In terms of how interdisciplinary classes can help prevent misconceptions about groups, he said, “There needs to be a safe place to engage in debate and dialogue” and that “We need to respect other views. We need to create a balance to create awareness and understanding.”

Junior chemistry student at Monmouth University and a student in Sarsar’s Islam and Politics class said, “As a Muslim, I want people to try to understand the depth of Islam. As an institution spanning

14 centuries, Islam has spread all over the world and provides a sense of identity for more than 1.5 billion people, the overwhelming majority of whom practice peacefully.” She continued to say, “Interdisciplinary courses like Islam and Politics are increasingly necessary because they contextualize daily phenomena, thereby helping us relate to others and the larger global community.”

Associate Professor and Director of the Graduate Program in History at Monmouth University, Maryanne Rhett, agreed said, “I’d like to have open dialogue in a safe space where people can disagree” and said, “I think the classroom is one of the best places to do that.” Rhett teaches courses on topics such as the Arab-Palestinian conflict and other classes on Middle Eastern, Islamic, and world history. She said that “We are losing vantage points for people to have these conversations.” A good example of this could be the polarized political climate in today’s society. Rhett said that “People group people into narrow categories” and that “There is a breakdown of dialogue.”

Dr. George Gonzalez, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Religion and Interdisciplinary Studies at Monmouth Universi-

ty teaches classes such as Comparative Religions and classes that touch on religious philosophy. He said, “I think cultural and religious literacy is absolutely essential if one is to avoid falling into the trap of a dangerous parochialism that assumes that one’s position is somehow ‘neutral’ or the best or only way to be human.” In terms of teaching classes, he said “I am not sure we do ourselves any favors if we tuck religion away from the critical reflection proper to the secular university” he said, “There is an old adage that we don’t like people to mess with our sports and our religion.”

It’s a self-defeating posture because it allows misunderstanding and resentment rooted in ignorance to breed.” In terms of interdisciplinary studies and what he teaches, “It is important to remember that ‘religion’ does not exist outside of the particular context in which it is lived.” He continued, “It cannot be distilled and removed from the messy welter of lived history that includes the political, economic, historical and psychological modalities of human experience.”

The 5 Best Light Shows in New Jersey

AMANDA GANGIDINO
STAFF WRITER

The holiday season is in full swing and light shows are illuminating the Garden State this year. Amongst your holiday gift shopping, decking the halls, and tuning into *ABC Family's* "25 days of Christmas," I highly suggest you the find time to see these radiant light shows. Here are some of the most spectacular displays in NJ that are sure to put anyone in the holiday spirit:

1. Historic Smithville
Location: Smithville, NJ
Website: <http://www.historic-smithvillenj.com>

See a display of 100 Christmas trees float along Lake Meone along with holiday music. Also, there is a variety of shops and restaurants in the area to go to after the show. Plus, the light show is free.

2. Cranbury Christmas Lights
Location: 128 North Main Street, Cranbury, NJ 08512
Website: www.cranbury-christmaslights.com

The Cranbury light show is known for their tree of lights that has more lights on it than the Rockefeller Center tree. Also, with a 120,000 light display, this is show is considered one of the best in the state. The

display is free, but donations for charity are appreciated. Not only can you enjoy a light show, but you can also donate to those in need.

3. Schaefer Farms
Location: 1051 County Route 523, Flemington, NJ 08822

Enjoy thousands of holiday lights from the comfort of your own car. Rebecca Leone, a sophomore business student loves having the option to stay in her car for holiday light shows. "It is so much more enjoyable to see the lights from your car because you can stay in the heat instead of freezing outside in the cold," said Leone.

4. Turtle Back Zoo
Location: Turtle Back Zoo 560 Northfield Avenue, West Orange NJ 07052
Website: www.turtlebackzoo.com/holiday-lights-zoo/

Visit the Turtle Back Zoo this holiday season, which is draped with lights and fantastic displays. Admission is free but donations of non-perishable food items, toys and coats are encouraged.

5. The Christmas Light Show
Location: 2702 Woolley Road, Wall NJ 07719

The Christmas light show is a free outdoor event featuring music and holiday lights on Daniel Brateris' home, the engineer behind the light show. Any donations that are made are given to

a local charity for Challenged Youth Sports.

This December, take a trip to any of these light shows across New Jersey for free or donate to embrace the giving season. Most shows are open every night and are in operation from now until the first of January. Be sure to check out their websites if you have any further questions. These shows are entertaining for all ages and make for a great holiday tradition.

Professor Maria Ciezak, an adjunct communication professor loves these displays, "I love Christmas lights. I really enjoy light shows." If you are unable to attend one of these light shows because of finals or you are simply are just too busy shopping, drive around your neighborhood. You'll be surprised at how many of your fellow neighbors deck their halls.

Nicole Meissner, a sophomore business student does not travel to light shows because her town is filled with holiday spirit. "Almost every house is decorated. My town takes the holiday season very seriously," said Meissner. These light shows across New Jersey could even make the Grinch of your group appreciate this holiday season.

Holiday Gift Ideas

CHELSIE TROMBETTA
STAFF WRITER

With the holidays just around the corner, it is time to hit the stores and shop for your friends, family, and significant others. Sometimes it can be challenging trying to think of what to get them. Here are some ideas that will make the perfect gift this holiday season:

Drinkware- Beer mugs, thermoses, glasses, tumbler cups, and wine glasses could be a great gift for anyone. Buying someone a cup with their favorite quotes, movie or television characters on it or their favorite sport teams' logo could be a great gift for anybody.

Kara Bradley, a senior communication student, said "One of my favorite items that I'm buying from Francesca's, is a huge wine glass that can hold a whole bottle of wine." Even novelty cups could be a great gift for people to add to their collections. You could even attach their favorite drink with the glass you choose to give them.

Movies- A great gift to give to people who love to watch movies and TV shows would be a popcorn bucket filled with their favorite movie candy, bags of popcorn, and a DVD set of their favorite show or

a couple of their favorite movies. Speaking of candy, Claude Taylor, Athletics Professor-in-Residence, said, a great gift idea would be 30 days of classic candy. Buy one candy item for each day of the month."

Trips- Taylor also said, "I.O.U. trips are a great gift that encourages quality time." It could be doing a day trip of their favorite activities in the city or tickets to a zoo to see their favorite animals. Even getting them tickets to a concert to see their favorite artist or to see their favorite Broadway show could be the perfect gift to spend time with them doing and seeing the things they love.

Gift Sets- You could also get them a gift set of their favorite cologne/perfume. There are a lot of gift sets that come with the fragrances in body spray and lotion form. Or you can make up your own basket with their favorite fragrances and lotions.

Gift Cards- When it comes down to it and you can't find anything that you're sure about, you can never go wrong with giving people money or gift cards to their favorite stores, spas, or restaurants. Ben Marcello, a senior criminal law student, said "Gift cards are a great idea for anyone. Almost every business has gift cards or gift certificates that you can buy for someone so that way they can get what they want with it." You can also attach the gift card to their favorite candy, or buy a wallet to put it in.



Festive Holiday Baking Ideas to Get Into the Spirit

LAUREN NIESZ
COPY EDITOR

Tie on your apron and let's get to baking! It's time to start talking holiday sweets. The holidays are approaching very quickly and before you know it you'll be in the kitchen on the 23rd scratching your head and wondering what on earth you are going to bring to your family holiday party.

You want to be unique, but maybe you make a pretty horrible artist, so gingerbread men are out of the question. That's okay! Honestly, the key to holiday baking is simplicity—leave it to your crazy aunt to make the elaborate croquembouche tree complete with the eight different dipping sauces.

You can still look like you spent a lot of time on something super cute and delicious. One trick I like to share is that if you want to do something more artsy, don't do it from scratch. Making a fabulously decorated cake? Use a boxed cake mix. This way, if the cake ends up being a major Pinterest fail, at least it still tastes good!

Madelyn Arcchi, a junior english and education student, says, "Since I'm a pretty busy person, I say you can't go wrong with the Pillsbury Christmas Tree Shape Cookies...everyone loves them and all you have to do is throw them in the oven!" Sometimes, especially during the holidays you just don't have time to bake things from scratch. And, Madelyn is right, who doesn't love a good Pillsbury cookie? Just be sure with those cookies not to over bake them; if anything, take them out before they look completely done and then while they are cooling they will finish baking on the still hot pan.

One idea I personally love and have executed myself with a friend is the "gift cake." Okay, she made the cake, I just helped decorate (...and eat half of the decorations!).

Ingredients:

- 1 Square Pan
- 1 Boxed Cake Mix
- 1 Store-bought Frosting

5 Strawberry Fruit By The Foot (give or take a few in case you cut one too short!)

1/4-1/2 Cup M&Ms

Instructions:

1. Bake your cake according to the instructions on the box in a square pan.

2. Let the cake cool and ice with frosting.

3. Once the cake is set, take out your fruit rollups and M&Ms.

4. Measure and cut a fruit by the foot to be the length of the cake, leaving enough to also lie over the sides. Repeat this step for the other side, making a cross shape on the cake. This is your "gift ribbon."

5. Cut a triangle at the bottom of two substantially shorter pieces of fruit by the foot to put in the middle

of your "gift ribbon."

6. With the remainder of the fruit by the foot, fold over two small pieces and lay them crisscrossed on top of the middle of the ribbon.

7. Fold another, smaller piece of fruit by the foot and put that in the middle of the crisscrossed ones.

8. The last piece of fruit by the foot will be rolled in the manner it was packaged and placed on top of the other folded pieces in the center of the cake.

9. The last step here is the polka dot the cake with M&Ms (preferably the holiday themed ones).

While the steps may seem confusing, it truly is very easy to execute and it looks like you spent hours on it! It is a very thoughtful dessert to bring to any holiday party or gather-

ing. Another great thing about this holiday gift cake idea is that you can alter it to fit any occasion. Celebrating Hanukkah? Use blue fruit by the foot and the Hanukkah themed M&Ms! Furthermore, you can even use this cake idea for birthdays!

The biggest takeaway about holiday baking is to keep it simple and keep it delicious. Sometimes we get caught up in the festivities and try to do too much for holiday baking (I'm totally guilty, too!). But, I think what people really appreciate most is the taste and how much love was really put into it.

Not artistic? That's fine! Make some simple chocolate chip cookies; there is a stellar recipe right on the back of the bag of Nestle chocolate chips! If you're trying to get fancy,



substitute the chocolate chips with M&Ms and maybe add a mini marshmallow or Hershey Kiss to the middle of the cookies straight after they come out of the oven.

Another simple and delicious holiday treat is Peppermint Bark. Dr. Sue Starke, associate professor of English, shares her recipe:

1. Melt a bag of white chocolate chips in the microwave.

2. Put a package of candy canes in a Ziploc and crush with a rolling pin or a heavy book.

3. Combine the melted chips and the crushed candy canes.

4. Spread on a baking sheet lined with wax paper and refrigerate for a couple of hours.

5. Break into pieces and you have your peppermint bark.

6. Store in an airtight container.

Another holiday baking tip is to really consider your presentation. You could make a very simple cookie, but it all has to do with how you present it. A festive and smaller platter does best for cookies and other sweets. Rather have a smaller platter that you can stack cookies and sweets on; this makes it look like there is an endless supply of delightful goodies to dive into!

Keep it simple and keep it tasty. If you keep it simple, you'll be able to make more sweets, which is another great tip. Ally Afanador, sophomore English student, says, "Start baking early and make tons, more than you normally would, so that they last a while." Another added bonus to making more than you need, as Afanador states, is that they "make great holiday, or last minute, gifts for friends, family, and acquaintances!"

Now, hike up those sleeves, blast your holiday music, and get in that kitchen. Happy baking!



PHOTO COURTESY of Christina Goumas

Baking festive cakes or cookies is a great way to get into the holiday spirit while putting your baking skills to work.

BLUE HAWK RECORDS SPOTLIGHT: THANKS GENIE

NICOLE SEITZ
STAFF WRITER

Blue Hawk Records' seventh compilation album contains a great group of talented musicians. At the release show, we will be hearing all the amazing tracks on the album and you can pick up your very own copy outside of the Rebecca Stafford Student Center on Dec. 9 at 2:50 p.m. The artists featured on this album are: singer-song writer Dan Amato and his song "Beautiful to Me," dynamic duo Dan and Jackson and their track "I Told You," 'Homebrew Jazz' artist, Kellan Brennan with his song "Old Soul," and our final spotlight, Thanks Genie.

Thanks Genie is a four piece rock and roll band with some blues and jazz vibes. The members consist of: junior music industry students, Dave DePaola on guitar and Andy Jackle on drums; senior music industry student, Chris Durham on bass; and sophomore music industry student and singer Amanda McTigue. Their sound is greatly influenced by Jimi Hendrix and Led Zeppelin with Haylee Williams-esque vocals.

Thanks Genie actually began last spring semester when DePaola and Jackle had just ended their old band, The Trustees. At this point, the two musicians were looking for a new project and a new bassist to jam with. Durham transferred to Monmouth from Kutztown last spring and began playing with

DePaola and Jackle. The trio played under the name "Uncle Leo" in reference to the iconic *Seinfeld* character, Jerry's crazy uncle. The three began playing a lot and even performed at the promotional event for the music department, "Where's Woods?", in May 2015. Over the summer, the boys began writing music and putting together some songs. They had some tracks written out but still no lyrics or strong vocalist for the group. Once school started up again in September, DePaola, Jackle, and Durham were able to play more and Durham asked McTigue to join the band as their singer. McTigue's role in the band is lead vocalist and lyricist.

Amongst the four students, together they have over 30 years of music experience. DePaola has played guitar for about 10 years and has also picked up bass and drums throughout that time. Jackle has been playing the drums for almost 10 years as well and has learned some guitar in recent years since starting college. Durham has played bass for six years and McTigue has been singing for five years.

Through all their experience and hard work, Thanks Genie brings you their track "Run" that will be featured on the compilation album this semester. For all the members, being in a recording studio was not a new thing. However, Durham had not been in a real recording studio since he recorded

in Scranton with his old high school band, Public Service Announcement, four years ago. Jackle and DePaola had recorded with The Trustees at Lakehouse studios for the third compilation album in spring 2014 and for their unreleased EP in the summer of 2014. Jackle has also recorded with the band Emily Youth Project, from Monmouth University. McTigue recorded a whole album with her other band, Mildly Medicated, last summer at Retro Media in Red Bank.

For these four music industry students, this recording experience for the seventh compilation album was much different than any of their previous experience. McTigue stated, "[This] was the first time all four of us had ever played the song in full for other people." Joe Rapolla, Chair of the Music Department at the University, likes to refer to DePaola as "one take Dave," and that was certainly true this time around as all their instrumentals were recorded live all in one take. Jackle recalled having some technical difficulties when preparing for the recording, and explains how his cymbal broke and he needed to find a new one. McTigue also commented on how the people at Lakehouse were much more hospitable than the staff at her previous studio.

After recording and mastering, the single was ready for the album. The song "Run" was actually put together over the



PHOTO TAKEN by Liam Frank

Andy Jackle recording drums for the song "Run" by Thanks Genie at Lakehouse Studios.

summer during a "jam sesh" the guys had. Durham made the "skeleton" of the song and then DePaola and Jackle collaborated to get the final product. When McTigue joined the band, she listened to the guys play through the songs they had written, thinking up lyrics for what is now "Run." McTigue said, "While I'm listening I just get ideas for lyrics and write them down." She explained that the lyrics for "Run" are about growing up and the child-like fear of becoming an adult. The

name "Run" is suitable because the song is about running away from your responsibilities. She says this song is kind of personal to her because it is relevant to her current feelings.

Come hear "Run" and the other songs on the album live in the Rebecca Stafford Student Center at 2:50 p.m. on Dec. 9! Also, don't forget to keep checking up on what Blue Hawk Records is up to over winter break and follow them on Facebook for updates including the date for next semester's auditions.

WINTER BREAK RECOMMENDATION

"About a Boy"

ALLISON PERRINE
STAFF WRITER

If you're bored this winter break and are looking for something to do, watch *About a Boy*. The 2002 English movie is one that has an interesting plot but also contains a great message. It even ends around the holidays, which definitely corresponds with the time of year.

In search of a movie that's different than the typical 'rom-com,' I stumbled across this film and found it to be entertaining in a different way than other movies. The humor is subtle yet present, but also has some life lessons and serious scenarios in it. It's definitely a different kind of movie than I've seen before, which is refreshing.

According to IMDb, *About a Boy* is about, "A cynical, immature young man [who] is taught how to act like a grown-up by a little boy." The movie is 101 minutes in duration and received an average rating of 7.1 on the site out of 138,475 users.

The movie begins with Will (Hugh Grant) talking about how "every man is an island," and showing that he is a loner in his adult life. He enjoys being at home, doing his own thing, and that's about it. He's a single man that never settled down or worked hard because he lives off of the royalties of a Christmas song that his father wrote, which is partly why he is unmotivated to achieve more in life.

The plot flips between Will's point of view and Marcus' (Nicholas Hoult), who is a young boy that gets bullied in school. Marcus has a tough time at home as well, but doesn't let these things bring him down. He constantly worries about his mother, who suffers with depression. Though it sounds as though the movie is dark and sad, it gets much lighter.



IMAGE TAKEN from IMDb.com

"About a Boy" starring Hugh Grant and Nicholas Hoult is a unique rom-com that you can check out on Netflix over break.

After an incident that happens with Marcus' mother, he finds comfort in Will, though he is still basically a stranger to him. Marcus had met Will once before, but now finds him to be a friend. And whether Will likes it or not, Marcus is usually hanging around him and asking him questions. It takes a lot of patience for a man who considers himself to be "an island," but Marcus' pestering eventually teaches Will many life lessons about growing up, character, and positivity.

The film seems to follow the stereotypical gender role plotline, but not necessarily the character set-up. Some examples include: Marcus' mother as the emotional woman; Will's expectation that all of the single mothers in the movie should be attractive yet

fragile; and Will himself as the emotionally unavailable, beer-drinking man. But we tend to see the adults as the mature ones, not the children, which is where the movie stands out. For instance, Will has never been able to settle down with one woman for more than a few months in his entire lifetime, and Marcus is the one to point out what he is doing wrong. Though he is just a young boy, Marcus eventually gives him dating advice and is able to help get his life back on track as a mature adult.

Overall, I feel as though the movie was entertaining and different (in a good way). There are so many movies out today that continuously use the same plotline, but *About a Boy* is unique. This would be a good watch for those that are looking to gain a fresh perspective on life, or those who are even just in search of motivation to do something. So if you're bored over winter break with nothing to do and are in the mood to binge watch, definitely consider this movie.

Will, however, is also able to teach Marcus not to take life so seriously. Children tend to be the dreamers and adventurers in life, but Marcus is different. Because he has seen many hardships, he wears what he can to blend in and not be noticed by others and he's also afraid to be himself. Through multiple entertaining scenes, Will is able to teach Marcus that he doesn't have to be afraid to step out of his comfort zone and be the fun, free-spirited child that he should be. The movie wraps up around the holiday time and shows just how much both characters have learned from each other.

About a Boy received a 94 percent enjoyment rate on *RottenTomatoes.com*, a commonly known entertainment source. The average rating was a 7.7/10, out of 185 reviews on the site. The site also says that the critics' consensus is that the movie is, "A winning comedy that benefits from Hugh Grant's boyish charms."

"STAR WARS BATTLEFRONT": NO STARS, NO WARS

JOHN MORANO
STAFF WRITER

Earlier in the semester, I wrote a feature on video game preorders in which I mention *Star Wars Battlefront*. I cautioned readers away from preordering *Battlefront*, citing questionable business practices of the game's publisher. I also warned of potential bugs/balance issues, and that this new *Battlefront* title may bear very little resemblance to the original *Star Wars Battlefront* titles on which it is based. I finished on a positive note, stating that *Battlefront* would probably be a great, albeit flawed, game, due to Dice being the developer (Dice is known for the wildly successful *Battlefield* series). After spending a large number of hours playing it, I can say that I was very wrong about *Star Wars Battlefront*. It is not a great game, and, for most gamers, isn't even worth playing.

Let's start off positive. There are two things *Battlefront* nails: graphics and sound. Visually, this is the most impressive representation of the *Star Wars* universe that I have ever seen (be it in games, movies, or animated television series). Dice put a lot of effort into allowing players to customize the game's graphics for their computers. In a gaming industry where console titles dominate sales, it's impressive that they did this. When I should have been storming an Imperial bunker, I was occasionally stopping to watch AT-AT Walkers blow up my fellow rebels or stare at Endor's foliage; the graphics

were just that good. I played *Star Wars Battlefront* on my PC at max graphics, and you'll need a very powerful PC to do that, but from what I've heard the console version's graphics are quite phenomenal. If any gaming outlets give rewards for best graphics this year, I would expect *Battlefront* to be the front-runner. As for the sound, it's basically an updated version of the original *Star Wars* trilogy. Imagine those sorts of sound effects, and the same orchestral score.

Now onto the bad/questionable and, unfortunately, there is a lot of that. When I say that *Star Wars Battlefront* lacks stars and wars, I am referring to the removal of two in-game features. Space battles (stars), a staple of the *Star Wars* franchise which was present in *Star Wars Battlefront 2*, are not included in this, the supposedly newer-and-better reboot of the series. Large-scale conflicts (wars) are also not in this game; battles feel much more simplistic and are limited in scope (closer to *Call of Duty* than previous *Battlefield* or *Battlefront* titles). The inability to customize your weapons (with attachments like sights/scopes) and the inclusion of only 11 weapons at launch further contribute to the shallow/simplistic tone.

My biggest issue with this game is its horrendous balance. Dynamic strategy and skill have been replaced with repetition and dumb luck, respectively. In *Battlefield* games, for which Dice is best known, modes like conquest and rush allow for dynamic strat-

egy; even the 10-year-old original *Star Wars Battlefront* allowed for more complicated strategy than is available here. In walker assault, the games are wildly predictable and imbalanced as nine out of 10 times the rebels will win. You have two sides fighting over two control points—at certain times these points are easy to hold (typically when the AT-ATs are far away), and other times, you're just rushing forward to be massacred.

Most games play out exactly the same way, and you very rarely feel like you're contributing. It's not like *Battlefield 4*, where a command structure is assigned and decisions have an impact of the battle. You (or your leader) might notice that the enemy is congregated over one point, and that your team has the option to abandon that fight, split up, then take and control the other four points. Even if the game did allow such decisions impact, without squads, command structure, or an option for in-game voice chat, your ability to communicate and strategize is further limited. Typically, the only one who does contribute is the one who finds a hero and/or vehicle power-up, and the chances of finding this are very random.

As for skill being replaced by luck, *Battlefront's* in-game blaster weapons are actually inaccurate all on their own due to exaggerated projectile spread, and due to reduced recoil, skill's impact is minimized. In most games, there is a dual reliance on recoil and spread. You determine the accu-

racy of various weapons with your ability to aim and control recoil, and spread puts some measure of randomness into the equation; this way no matter how good you are at controlling recoil, certain weapons will only be effective at certain ranges. Let's not forget bullet-sponge heroes, like Luke Skywalker or Boba Fett, who take about 100 shots to kill (literally). Heroes typically get a minimum of 10 kills each time they spawn.

With regards to value, for \$60 you get a game that has essentially 1.5 good game modes (walker assault is fun, the other mode, supremacy, is a slightly altered version of it). On those 1.5 game modes, there are effectively four good maps. EA claims that it has 12 maps, but most of those are small maps on unpopular modes that I can't even find matches. Either EA's matchmaking system is broken or literally no one is playing these modes, but given its impressive sales, the latter seems unlikely. If these 12 maps were all playable on walker assault, EA would have met the minimum for what a \$60 game should offer, at least in my mind. Instead they're selling a season pass for another \$60, which will supposedly come with 16 additional maps (which I translate to mean only five or six).

EA mentioned that they were doing away with paid shortcut bundles (in which they unlock everything in the game for money), which I was happy to hear. What they didn't mention was that the "deluxe edition" of *Star Wars*

Battlefront (which costs \$10 extra) comes with one of the best weapons in-game, so that those who pay extra get a marked advantage over those who "only" pay \$60. With *Battlefront*, EA gives you less and asks for more; they started doing this a while ago (back with *Battlefield 4*), but this is a new low.

According to metacritic, *Star Wars Battlefront* has an average score of 71/100, to which 17 critics contributed. The highest score was from IGN, and was an 8/10. According to user reviews, *Star Wars Battlefront* is a 3.5/10 game (935 users contributed to this score). Whether or not 3.5/10 is a fair score (it isn't) it shows how upset people are by *Battlefront*. I personally feel that *Star Wars Battlefront* deserves a 6/10. It can occasionally be fun and it's beautiful, but frustrating in-game mechanics make it a third-rate shooter. Despite my harsh criticism, I know that at some point, I'll play *Battlefront* again due to the graphics (even if only for a few hours). *Star Wars Battlefront* is clearly to its predecessors what the *Star Wars* prequel series was to the original trilogy (in my aforementioned preorder feature, I stated that this may be the case). I would only recommend a \$60 copy of *Star Wars Battlefront* to the most hardcore of *Star Wars* fans, and even then for only 10 hours. *Star Wars Battlefront's* entertainment value pretty much explodes after very little use, much like the Death Star (oh yeah, spoiler alert...).

WE ALL SCREAM FOR "SCREAM QUEENS"

BRIDGET NOCERA
STAFF WRITER

Like many Ryan Murphy shows before it, *Scream Queens* is not perfect. The man who created *Glee* and *American Horror Story* does not exactly know how to make a fast-paced, plot-driven series, when to tone down the camp, and struggles at times to find coherent endings to the series he helms. But *Scream Queens*, FOX's comedy-horror series that just wrapped its first season on Dec. 8, reaches levels of hilarity and campiness that is nothing more than pure fun, and seems to have the potential to be Murphy's best show yet.

The show follows the sorority sisters and pledges of Kappa Kappa Tau of Wallace University, an exclusive group that only accepts the richest, prettiest, and most popular of girls. The new president, Chanel Oberlin (Emma Roberts), runs the sorority with her wealth, style, unmatched meanness, and her minions, Chanel #2 to Chanel #5. Yet when Dean Munsch (Jamie Lee Curtis) decides that KKT has to accept all of their pledges, no matter how nerdy or lame, all hell breaks loose. Of course, that is not where the story ends. The audience is reminded of a mysterious death that occurred in the sorority house 20 years ago, which may have something to do with the serial killer on the loose at Wallace. Known as the Red Devil, due to their creepy, full body devil costume, this killer seems to only

have an interest in the girls of KKT and the people around them.

A serial killer terrorizing a bunch of sorority girls is not a new story by any means. But what makes *Scream Queens* so fun to watch is how quick and witty it is when it comes to non-stop jokes. Each character talks so fast that it's almost hard to keep up, which allows for every silly, crude, ridiculous remark to hit the audience so fast that they cannot help but pay attention. The comedy element works perfectly for the show, allowing it to be as campy and over the top as it can be. It does not try to push dramatic elements like *Glee*, or even try to truly scare the audience and fail, like *American Horror Story*. It knows that it's a show to entertain and make someone laugh, and it completes that job to a T.

The show also boasts a fantastic cast that is game for anything thrown at them. Curtis is perfect as the prideful dean of the university who can be just as mean-spirited and conniving as the sorority girls she hates so much. It's a fun, interesting role, and Curtis plays it just right without chewing the scenery. Niecy Nash as Denise Hemphill, a private security guard hired to protect KKT despite not exactly being a pro at her job, is also an unexpected delight. She has perfect comedic timing, and bounces off each character she interacts with expertly. Despite only being a recurring character, she stands out in every scene she's in. Finally, Glen Powell as Chad Radwell, Chanel's popular, stereotypical fraternity



IMAGE TAKEN from variety.com

"Scream Queens" is Ryan Murphy's latest FOX project about a serial killer terrorizing a sorority house.

boyfriend, is excellent, making what should be the most hated character on the show incredibly entertaining to watch, and even likeable at times. Chad is ridiculous in every action he does and in every word that comes out of his mouth, and Powell is not afraid to do whatever it takes to make the character believable.

It's hard not to see that the best thing about *Scream Queens* is its eccentric, original, and hilarious characters. Which is exactly why when it tries to push its plot along, which heavily involves the show's few boring characters, the show stalls. The central mystery does have an intriguing premise: what happened on that fateful night 20 years ago, and is the Red Devil involved? This mys-

tery is put into the hands of Grace Gardner (Skyler Samuels), a boring, self-righteous sorority pledge who is only interested in the case because she feels it might involve her. She pairs up with Pete Martinez (Diego Boneta), a reporter for the school newspaper with a creepy past and an unabashedly annoying personality. Samuels and Boneta are great actors with solid chemistry, yet with a plot and mystery that takes numerous episodes to crack open and much more interesting characters on the backburner, it's hard to find stay interested in their scenes.

Despite its few setbacks, for anyone looking for an interesting comedy that is completely unafraid to be

campy and strange, *Scream Queens* will be the show for you. The only element that remains to be seen is whether Murphy and company will bungle the ending, in which he has proclaimed that only four characters will survive. Hopefully, they will reveal the season-long mystery of who truly is the Red Devil, and we have some satisfying ends for these characters.

Glee and *American Horror Story* both have spotty track records when it comes to finales, but with *Scream Queens* being able to stand out as much more fun and unexpected than its predecessors, audiences might finally get a solid ending. If not, its hard to disregard such an enjoyable debut season overall.



MOMENTS AT MONMOUTH



TOP LEFT:
STUDENTS DECORATE
TREES IN WILSON HALL
(PHOTO COURTESY OF
KIERA LANNI)



CENTER RIGHT:
SOPHOMORE ANDREW
MOON OVERLOOKING
OLIVE GROVES AND THE
FRENCH ALPS
DURING A SKI/SURF TRIP
TO FRANCE (PHOTO
COURTESY OF ANDREW
MOON)



BOTTOM LEFT:
AN INTERESTING LOOK
AT THE PLANGERE
CENTER (PHOTO
COURTESY OF LIAM
FRANK)



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“THIS IS MY WISH FOR YOU: PEACE OF MIND, PROSPERITY
THROUGH THE YEAR, HAPPINESS THAT MULTIPLIES, HEALTH
FOR YOU AND YOURS, FUN AROUND EVERY CORNER, ENERGY
TO CHASE YOUR DREAMS, JOY TO FILL YOUR HOLIDAYS!”
- D.M. DELLINGER



How will you be spending winter
break?

COMPILED BY: KIERA LANNI



David
Junior

“I’m just going to work and look for an
internship for next semester.”



Cidia (left)
Sophomore

“Just hang out with friends and family. Eat
a lot of cookies.”

Natalie (right)
Sophomore

“For two weeks, I’m going to Clearwater,
Florida, and the other two weeks, I will vol-
unteer at Monmouth Medical Center.”



David
Senior

“I’m going to work, hang out with family,
see some friends and I will go on vacation
to California at some point.”



President Paul Brown

“A lot of sleeping! And spending
a lot of time with my daughter.”



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Through the Lens of a Pro: Tips for Beginning Photographers

KIERA LANNI
PHOTOGRAPHY/LEISURE EDITOR

When I held my first “real” camera, all I wanted to do was shoot, shoot, shoot. I would shoot a photo of that bug on the ground, the clouds in the sky, or my sister in awful outfits I thought were fashionable at the time. I was drawn to photography because it has the ability to tell a story with no words and capture a moment in time forever.

The art of photography has gone from sitting still in front of a camera for an extended amount of time to get a single photograph in the 1800s, to using your phone to take multiple selfies at a time. We are so saturated in images today that we forget that much more goes into a photograph than just pointing and shooting. People dedicate their lives to the craft of photography in order to perfect it, and share a different perspective of the world that we often look past in our busy lives.

So, what should you know if you want to pursue photography as a career?

First, it is good to know some statistics on photography as an occupation. According to the United States Department of Labor, in 2012, 136,600 people were employed as professional photographers. That includes everyone from studio photographers, to product photographers, to photojournalists. The average salary of a photographer is \$28,490 per year, but of course, that depends on the photographer’s level of success. Their income always fluctuates as well, since their jobs depend on clients and assignments.

When I first became interested in photography, I didn’t know much and didn’t think I could potentially have a career in the field. However, as I started to photograph, I instantly fell in love. Photography allowed me to be artistic and express myself through the scenes and stories I could create through the photos. I was able to tell people something without talking which, as a shy person, is a good thing for me.

My high school teacher told me I had a real knack for photography, so I decided to make it my minor in college. Along my way of discovering my own photographic voice, I met two influential photographers who truly taught me what I know. One of them is Danny Sanchez, a notable photographer from Red Bank, NJ, with whom I intern. The other is Mark Ludak, a specialist professor of photography at the University. What they have taught me is useful to all potential photographers.

When you first start out, you should have a hunger to learn all

roll of film that I shot would be better than the last one.”

Sanchez had landed a job with *US* and *Star* Magazines, and has shot celebrities such as Jon Bon Jovi and Anne Heche. However, before he got to that level, Sanchez had much to learn. He suggests collecting photos and studying photographers that you want to emulate.

“One of the first things they [potential photographers] should probably do is to put together photographic materials of subjects that you like and can envision yourself doing in the future,” he said.

dark room, and all the frustration when I couldn’t get the photo I wanted, I still learned something in the end. I learned to not make that mistake again and move on.

Even so, Sanchez has a warning for new photographers: “One thing that I did not do was compare myself to other students or other people who were starting out like myself.” Comparing yourself to other photographers disables you from finding your own voice.

Moreover, a photographer should find what area of photography appeals to them most. Personally, I love to photograph peo-

studio or photographer. One of the studios Sanchez interned at was a studio in New York City that shot for magazines like *Cosmo*. “I made myself useful; I was so gung-ho about going into this world that it showed,” Sanchez said.

At an internship, you can really see every little thing that goes on. When I intern with Sanchez, I examine the relationship between him and his subject: how they communicate and how they connect. I observe the different techniques he uses to get the results he wants. I observe how he adjusts the lighting, how he stands when he photographs, and how uses his personality to make his subjects feel comfortable and good about themselves.

Photography is different from other lines of work because you get a different view of the world when you have to connect with your subject or analyze a scene. You look for the beauty or the ugliness in the world. It causes you to be more vigilant.

Ludak studied philosophy in college before becoming a photojournalist and professor. His background in philosophy provided him with the means to explore photojournalism and travel the world. “Philosophy taught me to investigate the world we live in and look for meaning, value, purpose and an ethical foundation for life. Photography provided for me a way to both investigate the world and make art,” Ludak said.

Ludak continued to say that he does not really know a person until he photographs them. “Photography forces me to slow down and really examine and appreciate the world around me. Through it, I learn new things about the world and consequently myself.”

The biggest lesson for someone interested in photography is to get to know themselves. Know what you want to do, and learn how to do it. After you do that, just keeping shooting until you can’t shoot anymore. Even after that, keep shooting because you will learn what you are capable of, and it may surprise you.



PHOTO COURTESY OF Danny Sanchez

Kiera Lanni (right) has long had a love for photography. Through her internship with notable photographer Danny Sanchez, Lanni is able to continue learning about this particular form of art.

you can about photography. Sanchez chose to be a photographer after being unsure what he wanted to be. When he came out of the army, he took a few classes at Brookdale Community College and held different jobs until he realized that he really had a love for photography.

Sanchez said, “I was in all the way right from the get-go; there was no turning back. Even if I took terrible pictures in the beginning, I just knew that the next

Sanchez also suggests shooting as much as you can. He said, “When you’re starting out, shoot fairly often and be critical of yourself. Don’t think just because you shot it that it’s great; try to get something out of every shoot to put in your book.”

I know that I am my own biggest critic, and that can be a good thing. Thinking that everything you shoot belongs in a museum is not going to help you learn. Even after many failed attempts in the

ple, and I like to shoot artistic and fashion photography. I learned what I like by trying out all the aspects of photography. Sanchez said, though, some people might shoot something they do not like or endorse just for the money. That is when choosing what area you want to work in becomes a question of your own integrity, and that can be tricky.

Another way to gain valuable knowledge of the world of photography is to intern with a photo

The Stress of Student Loans and College Tuition

NICOLE SEITZ
STAFF WRITER

College students are subject to many sources of stress throughout their time in school; homework and projects for classes, trying to make money by having a job, maintaining a social life, and attempting to balance all of these things at once. On top of all this pressure, students eventually begin to realize that they must think about their future after graduation.

A college student’s biggest fear is being swamped with student loans after graduating. Many undergraduates receive a great amount of help from their parents when it comes to paying the bills and loans. However, there are students who have to deal with the stress and burden of student loans all on their own.

Tom Gargano, a sophomore business student at the University who is paying his own way through college, said, “It has its rewards and downsides...because I have to work throughout the week I have less time for social activities and homework. I have to manage myself properly and according to my work and class

schedule.”

He explained that this kind of balancing act is hard for any student, but it seems to be even more difficult when your college student job is the only way you are getting through school.

I am a junior transfer education student here at the University. When you were in high school, I’m sure one of the parts that you were most excited about in regards to going to college was

ter, PA and The College of New Jersey in Trenton, NJ. But I remember always thinking, “How could I ever afford to go away to school?”

Coming from a family with two parents who never went to college and have low paying jobs, I always knew that paying for my education would be difficult. Knowing I would have to handle college tuition on my own, I knew I had to concentrate even more on mak-

the time senior year came around I knew I had to decide what I was doing as far as college was concerned. That’s when I began considering Brookdale Community College, although I had felt like I should do “better.”

Some students may think that going to community college first for a two year degree is either embarrassing or means you are not as driven academically. However, for many students, including

thinking, “Where am I going to transfer to now?”

When I found out about the University’s education program and discovered that it was only a half hour away from my house, I began to consider it as my top choice. Now I am almost done with my first semester here and I could not be any happier with my decision.

Always being a commuter student and never experiencing the college dorm lifestyle at first seemed like such a big deal. Now I realize that I could still have fun at school, make friends, and get the whole experience while still being able to afford it all on my own.

“Being able to put myself through college is something I am very proud of and has helped me build a better understanding and mentality about education and my own sense of responsibility,” shared Gargano.

It really is a great feeling knowing I can do this. It may be difficult and stressful at times, but it’s all worthwhile.

Gargano agrees, “Trying to maintain good grades and work can be exhausting, but in the end it is more than worth it.”

“Being able to put myself through college is something I am very proud of and has helped me build a better understanding and mentality about education and my own sense of responsibility”

TOM GARGANO
Sophomore

getting the full away-from-home experience. I felt the same way; I even remember thinking about going away to school since my freshman year of high school.

I had always known that I wanted to be a teacher, so some of my favorite schools with great education programs were West Chester University in West Ches-

ing sure I had really good grades in high school so I could receive academic scholarships.

Pressures of college and having a successful future seemed to come right when I started high school. I often had to think about how I was doing in school and wonder how that would affect where I would go to college. By

myself, going to community college for two years may be the best option when you have to pay for school on your own. At first I felt like I was not achieving my full potential by going to community college, but it was what made the most sense financially.

After I had finished my two years at Brookdale, I was stuck

Winter Celebrations: Not Just Christmas

CHELSE TROMBETTA
STAFF WRITER

December is one of the most important months of the whole year. Not only does it signify the end of a year but it is also filled with many different holidays. While some people are getting into the Christmas spirit, it is important to focus on all of the other significant holidays that December brings.

One of the most celebrated holidays is Hanukkah. For those who practice Judaism, Hanukkah is an important celebration of a very historical moment in their religion. Heide Estes, a professor of English at the University explained, "The holiday commemorates a time when the Assyrians and the Jews were at war, and the Jews were driven out of the Temple in Jerusalem."

Estes continued, "Eventually they defeated the Assyrians and regained control of the Temple, and prepared to rekindle the 'eternal light' that is always burned in the Temple, but discovered they had enough oil to last only for one day. It takes eight days, apparently, to make new olive oil. By a miracle, the original oil lasted until new oil could be obtained."

This is why those who practice Judaism light the Hanukkah Menorah for each of the eight nights of Hanukkah and say the blessings. "You have eight candles and one taller candle called the Shamash. Each night you light it starting from right to left and you always start with the number candle that represents the night it is. For example, on the second night

of Hanukkah, you would light the second candle in from the right first and then the new candle to the right of it," said Dr. Michael Schwebel, a Coastal Resilience and Climate Adaptation Specialist at the University.

Another fun Hanukkah tradition is playing Dreidel. This is commonly played with Gelt, which are chocolate coins.

Rachael Thalheimer, a junior social work student, said, "Dreidel is almost like a gambling game, where you 'anti-up' gelt and the dreidel (a toy top) dictates what you win from the collective pile of gelt."

Thalheimer continued, "The dreidel has four letters on it: nun, hay, gimel, and shin. Each letter dictates how much gelt you can win from the middle pile. Nun means you get nothing, hay means you get half, shin means you put one of your gelt into the middle pile, and gimel means you get all the coins. Once someone wins gimel, you start a new round where everyone anti-ups again, and the game goes until someone wins all the gelt."

During these gatherings to celebrate Hanukkah, a lot of food is eaten. One of the most commonly eaten foods during Hanukkah is Latkes. Latkes are potato pancakes that you can put different toppings on.

Schwebel said, "Some families put different toppings on them like sour cream or apple sauce. My family puts confectioners' sugar on top." Another food eaten during Hanukkah is Sufganiyot, which are like jelly doughnuts.

Along with Hanukkah and

Christmas, Kwanzaa, an African American and Pan-African holiday, is also celebrated in December. Kwanzaa begins on Dec. 26 and ends on Jan. 1; it lasts seven days to honor the seven principles.

According to officialkwanzaawebsite.org, these seven principles are unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith. Kwanzaa means "first fruits" in Swahili and is a time for people to come together to celebrate African culture and history.

Kaila Lane, a senior communication student, said, "Kwanzaa reflects the African thoughts of the important values in life, mostly family." These principles are honored by lighting a candle in the Kinara for each of the seven nights.

The colors associated with Kwanzaa hold symbolic meanings. Lane said, "The colors of Kwanzaa are red, green, and black. Red stands for the struggles of the past and present. Green stands for a good future. Black represents the rich skin color of people of African descent."

These holidays are a special time for families and friends to come together. Dr. Brian Greenburg, the Chair of American Social History, said in regards to Hanukkah, "It is mostly about family." This is one of the main foundations for all of the holidays including Kwanzaa and Christmas.

So, no matter what you celebrate, take this time to be with your family and enjoy the holidays and the New Year.



IMAGE TAKEN from highpoint.edu



IMAGE TAKEN from cdn.history.com



IMAGE TAKEN from extras.mngiinteractive.com

December is a month full of religious celebrations. Whatever your faith, remember to enjoy the time with your family this holiday season.

Alumnae Start Cupcake Business

MELISSA PRAVATA
STAFF WRITER

Sisterly bonds sometimes go on a little further than just family, especially when sisters are just three years apart. Alumnae Carissa and Jaclyn Franzi both graduated from the University and have started their own cupcake business called Stuffed Enuff, where they create personalized cupcake orders to match any occasion.

Carissa graduated from the University in 2011 with a degree in anthropology and elementary education. Carissa attended school on a scholarship for women's lacrosse and not only met some of her lifelong friends at the University, but also eventually had her younger sister, Jaclyn, by her side through her final college year.

Jaclyn, who graduated in 2014 with a degree in elementary education, anthropology, and special education, found her way to the University because of Carissa. While touring other campuses, she began comparing all of them to her sister's campus and quickly realized there was no place better than Monmouth.

While Carissa was on the field scoring goals in lacrosse, Jaclyn spent time participating as a member of the Alpha Omicron Pi Fraternity which was colonized on campus in 2013. Before then, Jaclyn, although not as always involved as a college athlete, would have said that she always felt welcomed at all and any events she attended on campus.

As of right now, Stuffed Enuff is mainly based on Instagram with no established website, however, hopes for it to become more well-known over time are high. The Franzi sisters are currently continuing to take classes to find new ways to increase their pastry skills. Not only that, but they also get to keep baking and

testing out their own products.

"Growing up and even today, I've always had the biggest sweet tooth. I've enjoyed baking and cooking for any events, especially when it came to preparing food for a theme or special occasion. When we started getting compliments and requests for some of our cupcakes, I figured I would take a shot and create Stuffed Enuff," said Carissa about her and her sibling's new business venture.

Jaclyn and Carissa have been involved with various events such as bridal parties, birthday parties, and baby showers. Not only do they create delicious products for their customers, but also clever creations to catch the eye such as beach themed cupcakes, wedding dress cupcakes and flower pot centerpieces made of none other than cupcakes.

"My mother is an amazing cook and an exceptional baker. Watching her create dishes that others rave

about has been quite the inspiration. It's great getting to work together on projects as well as pick each other's brains when it comes to new themes and ideas for our desserts," Jaclyn said.

Stuffed Enuff is more than just a pretty cake. This company is about taste and bringing people together around food. When people come together to celebrate, they believe every part from the hello kisses at the door to the last bite of dessert should be memorable.

"Food has always been a big part of our family traditions and we would love to be a part in making your events more memorable with the addition of our treats," said Jaclyn.

For more information on how to have Stuffed Enuff cater your event, follow them on Instagram at @StuffedEnuff or email jaclynfranzi2@gmail.com.



PHOTO COURTESY of Melissa Pravata

Jaclyn (left) and Carissa (right) Franzi recently created their own cupcake business after graduating from the University



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BRAD BRACH SUCCEEDS IN MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

JOHN SORCE
STAFF WRITER

In 2014, the Baltimore Orioles won the American League East with a 96-66 record and advanced to the American League Championship Series. One of the key members of their bullpen was Brad Brach, who pitched for the Hawks from 2005-2008.

“It was pretty much indescribable, I get chills every time I think about it,” Brach said in a phone interview. “It was just one of those experiences that you want to go through again. Once you get to play in [the postseason], you don’t realize how exciting it is; how into every single pitch every single fan and player is. Getting a little bit of a taste of it last year just makes you want to get back.”

Brach recorded the win in game two of the American League Division Series against the Detroit Tigers in his first career postseason appearance. He recorded the final two outs in the eighth inning and Camden Yards went into a frenzy shortly thereafter in a moment he will always remember.

“One moment I will never forget was in Game Two of the

rarely told a freshman that he’s the top guy at his spot, just to keep that hunger in them,” Eehalt said. “Brad used it as a motivating factor as opposed to the ‘me’ or ‘I’ syndrome that some players have. He was drafted in the 42nd round and that’s somebody telling him ‘hey, you’re not a first rounder,’ so he used that as motivation too.”

Brach was a starter during his career at Monmouth, but the Padres placed him in the bullpen right away for their Arizona league rookie ball affiliate.

“I think Brad saw that as an opportunity to just go out and say ‘hey I got one inning, I’m going to go out and dominate.’ And it kind of snowballed and he was really good at it,” Eehalt said. “I think he had that bullpen mentality even though he was a starter in college. Most guys would view that as a demotion and he looked at it as a great opportunity.”

Now as an established major league reliever, Brach realized that baseball has become a bullpen game and being in that role is very important with the game evolving over the past few seasons.

“I think any baseball fan can realize now that baseball has turned

hit a triple against him. He had a man on third with nobody out and then he got the next three guys out. When Brad came into the dugout I asked him if he was afraid of that hitter because I thought he made some bad pitches. He gave me a look and then went out and threw eight shutout innings and I’m like ‘man this kid is unbelievable.’ Yeah, he’s the best.”

Brach’s climb to where he is today was a steep one, but Ristano never had a doubt he would eventually make it.

“He’s a big leaguer but people who get drafted in the 42nd round just don’t make it to the big leagues. At that point it was the Padres and Brad just gave them no choice. He just kept getting people out and that was his only chance to do it; to be so flawless that he outperformed the 41 guys who were drafted in front of him and everybody else who was drafted in previous years. For him to climb that mountain is unbelievable. Since I saw him pick up a baseball, not a day went by where I didn’t think he was going to make it and that wasn’t crazy because I wasn’t the only one. Dean [Eehalt] knew it, his teammates knew it. Brad was



PHOTO TAKEN from minorleaguebaseball.com

Brad Brach pitched for the San Diego Padres from 2011-2013.



PHOTO TAKEN from camdenchat.com

Brad Brach currently has a 15-10 record and a 3.25 ERA.



PHOTO TAKEN from camdenchat.com

Brad Brach was traded from the Padres to the Orioles in 2013.



PHOTO COURTESY of Gary Kowal

Brad Brach pitched for the Hawks for three seasons.

“Whenever people ask me what it’s like, I tell them it’s everything that I’ve dreamed of times a thousand.”

BRAD BRACH
Baltimore Orioles Closer

ALDS against Detroit. I got the last couple outs and we go back in the dugout. We were down three runs going into the eighth inning and Delmon Young hit a bases clearing double to put us ahead in that game and it wasn’t like we were major leaguers anymore. It was like we were little leaguers playing for the first time ever. Everyone in the dugout was jumping and screaming like little girls. The whole stadium felt like it was shaking and it was just absolutely incredible.”

As the all-time leader in strikeouts and wins for the Hawks, Brach has enjoyed success coming out of the bullpen for Buck Showalter’s Orioles over the past two seasons after making his major league debut with the San Diego Padres in 2011. Over his five year career, Brach has appeared in 217 regular season games and has posted a 15-10 record, a 3.25 ERA and has struck out 260 batters over 246.1 innings.

The road to the show did not come easy for Brach, however. The right hander came to the University after attending Freehold Township High School and was drafted by San Diego in the 42nd round in 2008, a round that no longer exists in the MLB Draft.

“I’ll never forget talking to Coach Eehalt my first fall,” Brach said. “We had to do a team assessment where basically we had to tell him where we fit on the team. We gave him a lineup card, a pitching rotation and relievers. I told him that I was in the top three just because I had a lot of drive inside myself and he told me that he didn’t see me in the top five if not the top seven. That was one of those things that drove me every single day from that point on.”

Eehalt, who will enter his 23rd season as head coach for the Monmouth baseball team in 2016, reflected on how Brach took this as motivation.

“Over the years, I have very

into a bullpen game,” Brach said. “If you don’t have a good bullpen then your team is really going to struggle. Last year [2014 against the Kansas City Royals in the ALCS] we knew we had to score before the fifth or the game was over. I think it’s more of a mental advantage than a physical advantage because when you fall behind, you know you’re in trouble so it’s definitely the way the game is turning. It makes me strive every single day because I want to be like Wade Davis or Kelvin Herrera or one of those type of guys.”

Brach mentioned that his pitching coach while at Monmouth had a big impact on his career.

“In college my pitching coach, Chuck Ristano, made me take my game to a whole new level. He gave me so much confidence in the college game that it catapulted me to get me through pro ball once I got there.”

Ristano served as the Hawks’ pitching coach from 2006-2009 and is now on the coaching staff at The University of Notre Dame.

“To be honest with you I can talk about Brad until your phone runs out of battery,” Ristano said. “Brad was going to do it no matter who he played for. You knew something special was going to happen with Brad just off the way he went about his business. He got drafted in the 42nd round but he did things like a first round draft pick. Once in a while you run into guys who are not going to be denied and that was Brad. He’s a special, special kid from a special, special family. I’m flattered to have been a part of it.”

Ristano recalled the 2007 season in which the Hawks won the Northeast Conference (NEC) championship and appeared in the NCAA Regionals at Arizona State. The Hawks played Mount St. Mary’s in Game 1 of the NEC Tournament when Brach got the start.

“The first batter of the game

going to do it and we were just happy to be along for the ride.”

Being drafted as late as he was and coming from a small northeast school in a cold weather environment, Brach realizes that playing in the major leagues is a privilege.

“Whenever people ask me what it’s like I tell them it’s everything that I’ve dreamed of times a thousand,” Brach said. “The opportunity to go out there and wear a major league uniform everyday has been incredible. It’s one of those things that I never take for granted and that’s why I work so hard every offseason and every day. I know how easily it can slip away since I’ve seen it happen to guys. I definitely strive everyday to keep living the dream as everyone says and continue to have the opportunity to pitch at the major league level.”

With a degree in history and education, Brach’s backup plan is to be a history teacher and high school coach if pro ball doesn’t continue to work out. However, there is no doubt in Ristano’s mind that Brach’s success at baseball’s highest level is just getting started.

“The longer I have coached, the more I realize you learn to trust personalities more than stuff. And if the Padres, Orioles or whoever he goes onto pitch for trusts his personality, then Brad is going to be a big leaguer for a really long time because he has a big league personality.”

Brach resides in Nashville over the offseason, but he relishes every opportunity that he gets to come back to West Long Branch.

“I idolize everything at Monmouth; the people, the coaches and the administration. Everybody is so supportive. Even when I go back today I can go up and say hi and talk to any of them and it’s like I haven’t been gone this entire time. It was a great experience when I was there and still to this day, I love going back there anytime I get a chance to.”

Monmouth Basketball Downs Purple Eagles

MATTHEW DELUCA
STAFF WRITER

The Monmouth men's basketball team defeated the Niagara Purple Eagles 56-42 Sunday afternoon at the Gallagher Center at Niagara University. Redshirt freshman guard Micah Seaborn led the Hawks with 13 points, and senior guard Deon Jones had a solid offensive day with 11 points and six rebounds. Monmouth also received contributions from junior guard Justin Robinson, who had eight points and four rebounds, and freshman forward Diago Quinn, who had six points and three rebounds in his first career start.

Seaborn credited the team's success to their energy and mindset. "Today we knew we had to come out and play the best defense we have played so far and couldn't have a slow start. I felt the main reason we won was because of the energy we came out with". Seaborn's 13 points led all Monmouth players, and was one short of the game high of 14 by Niagara's Emile Blackman.

The Hawks rattled off eight straight points to begin the game, coming from a Robinson layup, a Seaborn basket, and two fast-break scores from junior guard Je'lon Hornbeak. Monmouth extended their lead to 14-3 halfway through a low-scoring first half. Niagara cut the Monmouth lead to six, but the Hawks responded with a 13-7 scoring run to make the halftime score 27-15.

MU opened the second half with five points from Seaborn, keeping the lead in double-digits. The largest lead of the game was 16 for Monmouth, a feat which they reached three times dur-



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Senior forward Deon Jones had 11 points for the Hawks last Sunday as they cruised past Niagara for their first conference win of the season.

ing the second half. Monmouth controlled the game throughout the second half, making seven of eight free throws down the stretch to clinch the game 56-42. Head Coach King Rice was satisfied with his team's performance Sunday afternoon. "Tonight we made a couple more plays than them, our defense was really good. We

really have great leadership on our team."

MU never trailed in the game, leading for 38 of the 40 minutes in the game. The Hawks outshot the Purple Eagles with a 39 percent shooting percentage, despite shooting only 18 percent from three-point range. The Hawks defense had an outstanding perfor-

mance, holding Niagara to only 15 first half points and 42 for the game. The defense also forced 20 Niagara turnovers, leading to 16 Monmouth points off of those turnovers.

This is the first conference win in two tries for Monmouth, who fell in their MAAC opener Friday night at Canisius 96-86. The

Golden Griffins shot 60 percent from three-point range in the first half, making 12 three pointers in the opening stanza. The red-hot Golden Griffins ended the first half on a 33-17 scoring run to end the half, and held off a feisty Monmouth comeback in the second half. The Hawks could not fully overcome the deficit, falling by 10 to open conference play. Sunday's win provided a huge momentum boost for the men's team to get back on track after a tough loss to open conference play Friday night.

Coach Rice expects teams to play Monmouth tough during conference play. "It's a 20 game deal, and what happens with that is that we don't change a lot from year to year, so when I call out a play, their whole bench stands up and knows the play." Rice also added "We all know each other, we know each other's tendencies, and how a guy is going to try to get you and what he's going to try to do." Monmouth will take a brief hiatus from MAAC play for the remainder of Dec., but then will dive right back into the close-knit league in January.

With the 56-42 win over Niagara on Sunday, the men's basketball team improved to 5-3 overall, and 1-1 in MAAC play. Meanwhile, Niagara dropped to 3-6 on the season, and 1-1 in MAAC play. Monmouth's next game is Sunday, Dec. 13, which is the 2015-16 home opener. The Hawks will take on former NEC opponent Wagner, who is 4-2 on the season and currently riding a four game winning streak.

Tip-off is set for shortly after 2 pm, and the game is viewable on ESPN3 and available on WMCX 88.9 radio.

"Tonight, we made a couple more plays than them, our defense was really good. We really have great leadership on our team."

KING RICE
Head Coach

Small In Stature Large In Talent: Justin Robinson

JOHN SORCE
STAFF WRITER

Junior guard Justin Robinson has been proving people wrong his entire life. Just look at when the Hawks star player, listed at 5'8", reflected back after the team's victory over The University of Southern California in the third place game of the AdvoCare Invitational.

"One incident that I remember was when we were at the Hoop Group. I played pretty well and a coach came up to me and asked if I wanted to play for him. I asked him what school he was from and it was a Division III program. I told him 'I'm not going to close the door on anything, but I'm hoping to get a Division I offer' and he kind of laughed in my face. That's just been my whole life; to prove people wrong and let my play speak."

Robinson got his Division I offer from Monmouth and made an immediate impact since arriving in West Long Branch in the fall of 2013. He started 25 of the 28 games he played in his freshman year and was named First Team All-MAAC in his sophomore year.

He recently broke Michael Beasley's record for scoring at the AdvoCare Invitational by scoring 77 points in the three games and took home the tournament's MVP honors. Head coach King Rice has enjoyed every second of Robinson's career at Monmouth.

"(Coaching Justin) has been awesome," Rice said. "Justin is a great young man. He's from a strong, close family. He's been

proving people wrong his whole life. I told him when I met him how much I believe in him. I didn't care about the concerns that other people had. I thought he was a really good player and he was better than I thought when I got him."

Robinson played four years of varsity basketball at Kingston High School in Kingston, New York. Mark Wyncoop was an assistant coach through Robinson's career there.

"He has always used his size as a chip on his shoulder and he has always used that to prove people wrong," Wyncoop said. "In our league, he had everybody's respect by the time he was in tenth grade because they all knew what he could do. He's always had a big heart and that has helped him continue his success."

Robinson reflected back on his high school career and pointed out that not being the main guy early on helped him develop his all-around game.

"My freshman year was more of a learning experience since I wasn't really allowed to shoot the ball too much," Robinson said. "I took on more of a scoring role my sophomore year. My junior and senior years I became the top scorer but I kept my teammates involved as well which helped me develop my game as a point guard."

There are many aspects to Robinson's game that separates him from other players, according to Wyncoop.

"The great thing about Justin is that he sees things on the floor that nobody else can see," Wyncoop said. "He just has in-

credible vision and knows where guys are. He's lightening quick and his overall athleticism; I can remember like it happened yesterday. He pulled me aside after one practice and he said 'Hey coach Coop, check this out.' He takes a basketball, bounces it and he goes up and dunks it and I was like 'Oh my God did he just do that?' and he was 5'6" at the time. He just has tremendous athleticism. Tremendous."

Robinson shines off the court as much as he does on it, as he

is always trying to make himself better in any way that he can. Rice believes that will take his basketball career a long way.

"Justin is the nicest young man," Rice said. "All of this success will not go to his head. He's going to be in the gym, or with his family. That's what he does and he is truly a worker. That's why someday he will be able to play after college and it's going to be fun to watch him be able to take care of his family because of the game of basketball."

Robinson strives every day to achieve his goal of playing at the next level one day, but he is enjoying his time at Monmouth and taking things one step at a time.

"That's been my dream my entire life but right now my goal is to win a MAAC Championship for these next two years. I have a tremendous team around me with a tremendous coaching staff and the students on campus make it feel very welcoming," Robinson concluded.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Junior guard Justin Robinson is currently ranked 12th in the country in scoring and is also the shortest player ranked in the Top 50 by the NCAA.

Monmouth Bench Gains National Fame

MU Bench continued from pg.1

As soon as Seaborn sunk the three in the game against USC, whom have already defeated Monmouth once this season, Dan Pillari ran in front of injured teammate Greg Noack, stood on his hands in front of his teammate while Noack grabbed Pillari's ankles and began clapping them together.

The Monmouth Bench has received various recognition from news outlets such as *The Daily News*, *CBS*, *Asbury Park Press*, *New York Post*, and many more. *USA Today* has said, "Monmouth may have assembled the greatest bench squad in college basketball history." Which is also the bench's profile on their twitter handle, @monmouthbench.

Louie Pillari, the freshman and new comer of the cousin duo said, "I don't pay much attention to the media, I just like helping our team win."

But the media certainly pays a lot of attention to them. *ESPN's SportCenter* Instagram account has received 114,000 likes and nearly 12,000 comments on a video of the Monmouth Bench madness. House of Highlights, an Instagram account dedicated sports highlights, also uploaded a clip which is now known as the 'Katniss Everdeen.' This post has received 92,700 likes and over 10,000 comments.

Monmouth Bench continued to dominate social media when @WhiteBBallPains asked them to handle their Snapchat for a 24-hour period on Friday, Nov. 30. The four teammates antics on Snapchat included jokes about how their uniforms are never dirty because they do not play, a video of them pretending to practice by shooting basketballs in an arcade, and concluded with a serenade of Piano Man by Billy Joel.

Max DiLeo, who played with the Hawks from 2011-2015 and is currently playing professional basketball with the Oettinger Rockets said, "I think it's great

for the players to contribute to the team's success even when they are not on the court by encouraging and creating a good atmosphere even at away games. The national coverage is great too. It helped draw more attention to the big wins we had but most importantly it seems like a ton of fun."

When asked his favorite celebration, DiLeo said "My favorite celebration has to be when Dan [Pillari] died and they brought him back to life. Dan and I had some good celebrations last year during timeouts."

Thankfully for the Monmouth Bench fans, *ESPN* dedicated an entire camera to just observe their celebrations during the Advocate Invitational.

The Monmouth Bench has become so well known that rumors have circulated of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) creating rules specifically to deter their celebrations. *ESPN's* Jay Bilas tweeted, "Source: NCAA currently discussing rewriting bench decorum rules to curtail celebrations of Monmouth bench. Remember, it's about the kids!" on Monday, Dec. 7.

David Worlock, NCAA Director of Media Coordination/Statistics, responded to this claim with a tweet of his own.

"With regards to @JayBilas tweet we are NOT rewriting bench decorum rules. We received request for a rules interpretation & determined... Monmouth players aren't interfering w/game. Just having fun, not harming anyone. Spontaneous reactions, not coming on court so all is OK. FWIW I attended tourney in Orlando, saw @MUHawks play 3 games. Couldn't keep eyes off bench. Great kids, super nice to my 6yr old at hotel," he said.

Humbled, and hungry, the 5-3 Monmouth men's basketball team prepares for their home opener against Wagner on Dec. 13 at 2 pm. All students are encouraged by the team and newly formed "Monmouth Bench" to attend.



PHOTO COURTESY from top to bottom USAToday, Slamonline.com, and Service-RS.rv. The Monmouth Bench has received much attention from the media for their well choreographed celebrations on the sidelines.

SIDE LINES

TRACK The Monmouth University men's and women's indoor track and field teams opened the 2015-16 season at the Metro Holiday Season Opener at the brand new Ocean Breeze Athletic Complex on Saturday, as the Hawks posted numerous IC4A and ECAC qualifiers throughout the day of competition.

"We have a lot to work on, but that's exactly what first meets are for," stated head coach Joe Compagni. "Both teams competed well in a great new facility and we should get better every week from here."

The Hawks' men's side registered 10 IC4A qualifiers on the day, while the women's side claimed three ECAC qualifying marks.

MAAC Honors

Freshman Sarena Dixon-Martin was named the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Field Performer of the Week. Dixon-Martin, won the shot put at the Metro Holiday Season Opener on Friday, Dec. 5 at the Ocean Breeze Athletic Complex. This was her first career competition with Monmouth.

UPCOMING GAMES

Thursday, December 10
WBB vs Eastern Michigan
W. Long Branch, NJ 7:00pm
The MAC
ESPN3

Sunday, December 13
MBB vs Wagner
W. Long Branch, NJ 2:00pm
The MAC
ESPN3

Tuesday, December 15
MBB at Georgetown
Washington, DC 7:30pm
Verizon Center
Fox Sports 1

Sunday, December 20
MBB at Rutgers/
Piscataway, NJ 1:00pm
The RAC

WBB at Farleigh Dickinson
Hackensack, NJ 7:00pm
Stratis Arena

Wednesday, December 23
MBB at Cornell
Ithaca, N.Y. 4:00pm
Newman Arena

Monday, December 28
MBB at Army West Point
West Point, N.Y. 4:00pm
Christi Arena

Tuesday, December 29
WBB vs St. Francis Brooklyn
West Long Branch, NJ 3:00pm
The MAC

Wednesday, December 30
WBB vs.La Salle/Norfolk State
West Long Branch, NJ TBA
The MAC

Saturday, January 2
WBB vs. Quinnipiac
West Long Branch, NJ 2:00pm
The MAC

Monday, January 4
MBB vs. Canisius
West Long Branch, NJ 7:00pm
The MAC

**Conference Games*

Women's Basketball Dismantles Niagara

MATT DELUCA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The women's basketball defeated Niagara University 83-60 Sunday afternoon in West Long Branch, NJ. Senior guard Jamiyah Bethune scored a team-high 20 points while grabbing eight rebounds and four assists. Monmouth also received double-digit points from junior guard Tyese Purvis (13) and senior guard Sarah Olson (16). Junior forward Christina Mitchell also contributed nine points and seven rebounds. It is the first conference win for Monmouth in the young season.

Olson was on fire from three-point range, make five of 11 shots from beyond the arch, accounting for 15 of her 16 points. "I think it was just a matter of her not getting rushed," Head Coach Jenny Palmateer said after the game. "Our players did a great job finding her and getting her the ball when she needed it". Olson had one of her best games of the season, adding two rebounds, two assists, and two steals to her 16 points.

Olson credited her success to the team's overall morale and performance, "The team's energy was unbelievable this morning and before the game. We were all on the same page and

ready to go. We said let's pick it up, it's conference play and it's now or never." The team as a whole scored 83 points, which is their highest total scored in a non-overtime game.

Monmouth opened the game red hot, shooting 52.9 percent from the field in the first quarter. Monmouth forced nine Niagara turnovers in the first quarter, and capitalized by scoring nine points off of those turnovers. The Hawks did not stop there, as they opened up a 41-32 lead at halftime. Bethune

and Olson each had ten points at the half, while Niagara was guided all throughout the first half by sophomore forward Kaylee Stroemple, who led all scorers with 12 points.

The Hawks began the second half on another red-hot scoring run, shooting an incredible 50 percent from both field goal and three point range for the third quarter. Niagara's offense stag-

nated once again, as the Hawks outscored the Purple Eagles 23-12 in the quarter. Monmouth entered the fourth quarter with a comfortable 20 point lead, up 64-44 over Niagara. The Hawks never looked back, cruising through the fourth quarter to capture their first conference win of the season.

Monmouth never trailed in the contest, holding a lead for over 39 of the 40 minutes in the game. Monmouth dominated in all facets of the game, outshooting the Purple Eagles in three of

the four quarters. The Hawks' new press defense forced 22 Niagara turnovers, and scored 26 points off of those turnovers.

Coach Palmateer credited the team's offensive success to their patience, "The biggest key was that we were very patient today on the offensive end. We took very few bad shots, and I thought we moved the ball around very well to find the

openings. We were able to score from the inside, the three point line, and in transition, and we were able to vary the way that we score."

The Hawks received consistent production from the inside from Mitchell, who followed up her 13 point, 21 rebound game with nine points and seven rebounds. Monmouth also had consistent three point shooting from senior guard Jasmine Walker and Olson, as well as Purvis.

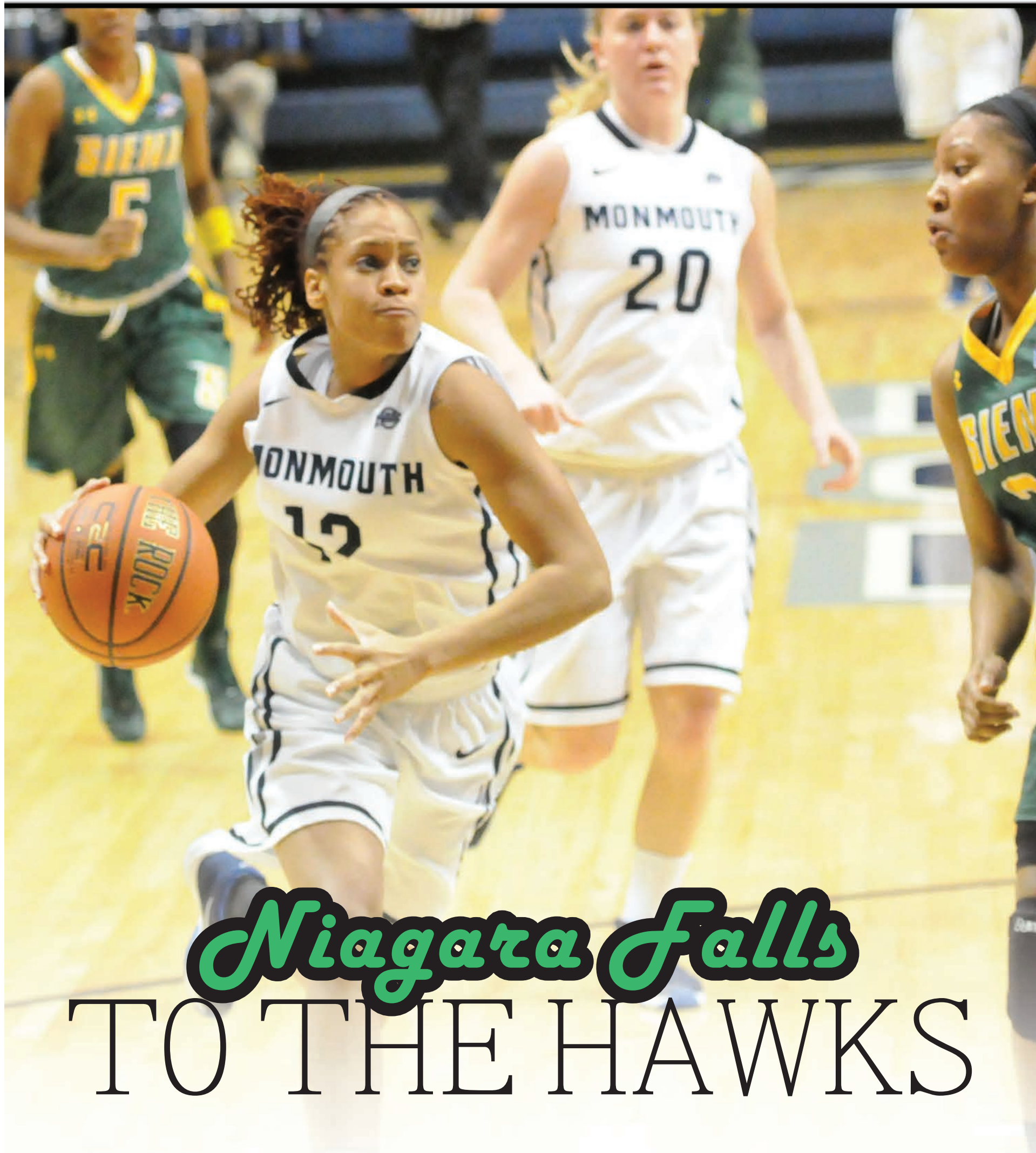
The win provided a huge momentum boost for the Hawks, who were coming off of a 69-63 loss to Siena on Friday night. Monmouth got off to a solid start against the Saints, but fell behind by double digits in the second half. The Hawks cut the deficit down to four with 7:19 remaining, but were unable to fully surmount Siena's lead, losing by six points.

With Sunday's win over Niagara, Monmouth improved to 2-4 overall, and 1-1 in the conference. The Hawks' next game is Tuesday night, as they travel to face a tough Princeton University Tigers team. Princeton went 31-1 last year, making it to the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

Tip-off will be shortly after 7 pm.

"We said let's pick it up, it's conference play and it's now or never."

SARAH OLSON
Senior Guard



Niagara Falls TO THE HAWKS

The women's basketball team lost by six points to Siena on Friday, Dec. 4, to open their conference play. They bounced back on Sunday, Dec. 6, defeating Niagara by over 30 points.

Full story on page 19

Photo Courtesy of Monmouth Athletics