



THE OUTLOOK

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University Welcomes New Dean of the Honors School



Walter Greason, photographed above, was appointed as the new Dean of the Honors School for the spring 2017 semester.

MEHDI HUSAINI
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Walter Greason, Ph.D. of the History and Anthropology Department was appointed as Dean of the Honors School this semester. He hopes to use his lifetime of diverse experiences to develop the Honors School to create a more meaningful and impactful program.

Greason will be taking over for Interim Dean Stanley Blair, PhD, and is charged with the responsibility of overseeing and advancing Honors School

classes and programs by harnessing resources like the University's faculty to push students to become leaders inside and outside the classroom.

"Honors students and faculty will feel an awesome sense of wonder that will be the envy of higher education worldwide," said Greason, who promises to dedicate his time to making sure students fully appreciate the opportunities they are given at Monmouth.

Greason began his educational journey at the Ranney School, a local liberal arts school in Tinton Falls, where he studied for thir-

teen years before selecting Villanova University for undergraduate study. Greason excelled in his studies at Villanova as a Presidential Scholar, a recipient of a full-tuition scholarship from the University, and eventually earned his degree in history.

Greason earned certifications in Philosophy, English, Peace and Justice Studies, and Africana Studies. He continued his education by attending Temple University, focusing his research on suburbanization and segregation in New Jersey. Greason is no strang-

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Millennials: Overeducated and Underpaid

KELLI GALAYDA
STAFF WRITER

Millennials make 20 percent less than Boomers did at the same stage in life, according to a report published on Jan. 13 by research advocacy group, Young Invincibles. The report titled, *Measuring Generational Declines Between Baby Boomers & Millennials*, used a cross-generational analysis of millennials and Baby Boomers.

Along with the 20 percent decline in earnings, the group also found that millennials have amassed a net wealth that is half that of Boomers at the same age, and that when Boomers were young adults they owned twice the amount of assets as young adults today.

According to Robert Scott, a professor of economics and finance, these findings are a result of millennials facing an economic climate that differs greatly from that of their Boomer parents. "Millennials suffered the brunt of the Great Recession, starting around 2007, more than any other group," he said.

"Those people trying to get their first real jobs were faced with one of the weakest labor markets in many decades. This likely had a ripple effect, leaving them unable to get better jobs and forcing them to settle for lower-paying jobs, or not working," Scott added.

According to Scott, millennials entered an economy that was working against them. He explained, "You don't have any control over what kind of labor

market you enter, it's all luck."

"I've witnessed this effect over the years – in strong labor markets students get good high-paying jobs right out of college, but in weak labor markets even the best students struggle to get a good job at decent pay. This has nothing to do with the quality of the person, just where they fall on the business cycle," he continued.

Student loan debt also plays a major role in the earnings gap according to Walter Greason, Ph.D., a professor of history and anthropology. He said, "the amount of college debt is much more severe than anything boomers have faced. You have to have extraordinary levels of high education to be eligible for entry level jobs, and to pay for it, we're asking people to borrow mass amounts of money that will take years to pay off."

Greason added that millennials have to show they bring a particular market edge to their employers - an edge that can only be sharpened by a college degree.

"We're in debt before we even get the chance to start our careers," said Nick Van Daley, a graduate student of anthropology. "Our parents had the opportunity to get skill-based, higher paying jobs without a college degree, so they can't understand the financial challenges we face."

While student loan debt can be overwhelming, another form of debt appears to be wreaking even more havoc on millenni-

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MU Community Responds to the Future of Education Following Secretary Appointment

ALEXANDRIA AFANADOR
CO-FEATURES/ PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

The nomination of Betsy DeVos incited controversy following her appointment as Secretary of Education on Jan. 31.

Some of the areas of disagreement between parties includes her stance on guns in schools, the legal rights of disabled students, questionable positions on LGBTQ+ rights, or the future of public schools.

On Jan. 17, DeVos attended her senate confirmation hearing in which she was consistently interrogated by senator after senator with questions that ranged from her tax returns, which previously have never been an issue for other nominees in the past, to her possible conflicts of interest and the debate on proficiency versus growth.

Carolyn Groff, Ph.D., Chair of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, said, "In an effort to present both sides, I tried to do some research on why some people think Mrs. DeVos is qualified to be the Secretary of Education. Mrs. DeVos, as many know, is an heiress who donates philanthropically to many causes. Therefore, she was well-known among political circles..." she said.

"It is not clear if her political and philanthropic ties will allow her to remain neutral and keep a clear separation between religious institutions and federal/state-run institutions. She has not been a teacher, and this worries teachers who feel that their profession might be de-professionalized further under DeVos..." Groff continued.

Minnesota Senator, Alan Franken, addressed the conflict of her family's supposed donations to Focus on the Family, a global Chris-



Betsy DeVos was nominated as the Secretary of Education, despite national scrutiny over her qualifications for the position.

tian ministry focusing on helping families via marriage help and blog posts dealing with a number

of issues from homosexuality to raising children. Focus on the Family has been said to support

the idea of conversion therapy which, since its development in the 20th century, has been widely discredited and rejected due to the fact that it leads to homelessness, suicide, depression, drug

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Art and Design Faculty Show Their Talents in New Exhibit

JAMILAH MCMILLAN
MANAGING/NEWS EDITOR

Over 60 students, faculty, and members of the University community gathered in Rechnitz Hall's DiMattio Gallery for the opening reception of works created by faculty of the Art and Design Department on Friday, Jan. 27.

The new exhibit showcased only faculty work and will be up until March 10. Doors opened at 7 p.m., and light refreshments were served in the Rechnitz Hall lobby.

Upon entrance to the exhibit, patrons gathered in the first and second floors of the gallery. The space was covered in pieces composed of different mediums through varying techniques.

"I think the Faculty Exhibition is a wonderful opportunity for students, the Monmouth University community, and the community at large to gain an insight into the artistic work of the Department of Art and Design faculty," said Scott Knauer, Director of Galleries and Collections and professor of art and design.

"Of course the faculty interact with students constantly, but this exhibition presents an opportunity for students to ask faculty about their personal work, inspirations, concepts, ideas, influences, as well as discussing a variety of materials used for photography, sculpture, painting, ceramics, interactive media, and animation," Knauer added.

Scattered in the center of the room were a number of cream sculpture stands. On three of the stands were different but related pieces created by Eileen Sackman, an adjunct professor of art and design. Each of the works incorporated rhino sculptures and pots in a series that touched upon animal rights.

"The forms I construct are essential for communication. This exploration and the formation of my work opens a venue for change. My current series of work is a study of animal poaching," said Sackman. "The abuse and exploitation of animals has driven many of the world's species to near extinction and beyond. It is my hope to open the minds and hearts of the viewers. A movement beyond the frivolous and unjustified desires of poachers and practitioners, and into the needs of the voiceless animals who desperately require a change."

On the right side of the gallery wall was a mixed-media series by Pat Cresson, a professor of art and design. She asserted that the most important element of her work is the design period. She said, "I start with old drawings and old prints and glue them on. Then I coat it with wax, and then I start painting on top of it. Sometimes I cover up most of the collage, and then I start scraping it away. I worked as an archeologist for a while, and it's like excavating. I dig into the surface, and pull out what I need."

Displayed in the center of the room was a large laser-sketched blimp sculpture by Tom Baker, Chair of the Department of Art and Design. There were multiple other pieces made by Baker through his laser-sketching technique that were placed throughout the exhibit on the first floor.

Vincent DiMattio, a professor of art and design, and the namesake of the gallery contributed twelve multi-colored books to the show. On each of the pages he spent time cutting out different shapes using an x-acto knife. When the books were opened, as displayed in the show, the different layers of shapes and colors were visible through the books.

"Back in the seventies paper companies would send you paper sample books in the mail. When I got the books, I would cut the pages differently, and see what happened underneath each of the pages," said Dimattio. "I didn't even know I still had the books, until I discovered them recently, and the idea for this piece grew from that. I began working on these ones last summer, and it was a lot of work because it is all hand cut. I had to be very careful with how I used the tools."

In the near vicinity of DiMattio's work, a sculpture of a woman's head with piercing green eyes hung from one of the gallery walls. Her skin resembled bark, and a long rod made of the same material, protruded from her mouth, and curved at the end. Kimberly Callas, a professor of art and design, created the piece, titling it "The Beekeeper's Wife." Callas also had another sculpture of a light green male bust form. The only aspect that was not green were the eyes of the figure which were masked with dried leaves.

Amongst the sculptures and paintings on the first floor was a more interactive piece that com-

bined a vintage voting machine with custom music software by Mike Richison, an assistant professor of art and design. Instead of selecting candidates, "voters" could select a drumbeat on their ballot. In the end the custom software would create a unique rhythm of drumbeats and debate video snippets.

Students like Monica Cioppettini, a senior fine art student, has learned from many of the professors whose works were on display in the show. She said, "It is nice to see their works on the wall. They always tell us how we can improve ourselves, and be better artists. Through their works we can actually see what they mean."

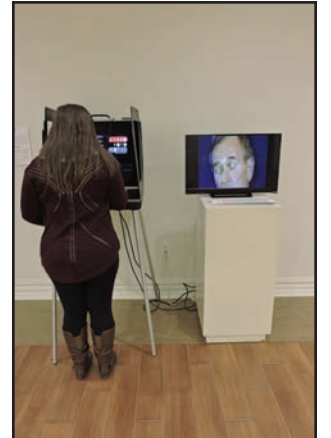
Near the back corner of the room were three large black and white photographs by Andrew Cohen, a professor of art and design. One of the photographs was of the back of a Jewish man praying in front of the Western Wall in Jerusalem. The bricks of the wall took up most of the frame, and the man in dark clothing contrasted starkly with the setting.

As patrons ascended to the second floor of the gallery the musical notes of a student playing on a black piano were amplified.

More photography was on display on the second floor of the gallery including a series by Gina Torello, an adjunct professor of art and design. Her photographs were five portraits of a bird nest from different vantage points enclosed in white frames. Some of the photographs of the bird nest included two light tiffany-blue bird eggs.

On the same wall were two large vibrant works by Knauer, made mostly of primary colors. His inspiration derived from areas like the price of gasoline, housing markets, and the production of foods. "One of my pieces is someone on a bicycle. It is a scene at dusk with the bicyclist going towards a deserted downtown area. It is acrylic with vinyl lettering on Styrofoam."

A number of other faculty members had their works on display as well, and students like Cioppettini benefited greatly. "I am so impressed," she said. "A lot of the stuff is even different from what they teach, for example all of the works from the print making professors are 3-D. It is really wonderful to see all of the different facets, and skills of our faculty. It is really inspirational."



IMAGES TAKEN by Jamilah McMillan and Alexandria Afanador

Students, faculty, and members of the University Community attended the opening reception for faculty artwork.

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Come visit the Outlook Office, Plangere Room 260!
Or email: Danielle Schipani s0927658@monmouth.edu

Millenials Make Much Less Than Parents

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als, Greason explained, “The increasing reliance of credit card debt is a bigger issue for millennials, as it is more devastating than student loan debt.”

According to Greason, Millennials are struggling to manage and comprehend this debt partly due to “bad advice [they receive] from parents and older relatives who don’t understand the new economy,” he said.

“The unprecedented nature of having to work 2-3 part-time jobs out of school so it can turn into a quality full time job is one of the things folks in their mid forties to seventies have not had to endure. They don’t understand how big the scale is, or how quickly changing the current economy is,” Greason added.

According to Scott, although making less money and holding more debt may sound like total negatives, there is a positive side to it all. “It is possible that millennials place less emphasis on income and wealth-building. It may not be entirely negative that millennials are making less money and have less wealth if it affords them other freedom,” he said.

For example, Scott said that some millennials do not own homes, so they are free to move around. He also said that they may not be working at a job just for money, so they may take jobs they find more rewarding, or work for less pay because they value their free time more for friends and other interests.

“Some students would benefit greatly from traveling and exploring the world rather than being stuck in a job they hate so they can buy things they don’t really want,” said Scott.

Scholarship Week Returns in April



PHOTO COURTESY of Chris Spiegel

Students from the schools of Social Work, Education, Nursing and Health Studies present posters based on their research and practice reflections during Student Scholarship Week 2016.

RICH FELLCITI
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The University’s annual Student Scholarship Week will celebrate the academic accomplishments of its students from April 17-23. Throughout the week students display their scholarly contributions in various areas including research, writing, service learning, art, musical, and theater productions.

According to Dr. Laura Moriarty, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, the event is meant to be a celebration of student achievement. “The goal of Scholarship Week is to showcase and celebrate students’ academic work inside and outside of the classroom as well as highlight student-faculty collaboration, across the University,” she said.

In 2016, Scholarship Week showcased 46 events and over 700 student participants from all six schools of the University. Events highlighted student work and student-faculty collaboration across departments and disciplines, including musical performances, creative design displays, research presentations, and service learn-

ing presentations. The events included the Department of Psychology’s undergraduate research conference, and the Department of Communication’s research poster conference.

This year’s Scholarship Week will include an event sponsored by the University, titled Hawk Talks. According to Moriarty the event will highlight student scholarship across the University in Wilson Hall on Tuesday, April 18, 2017, from 5:00 – 8:00 PM.

In an email to the student body sent out yesterday, Moriarty wrote, “The Hawk Talks Event is intended to highlight the rich diversity of events offered during Student Scholarship Week by including student work from all academic disciplines, including graduate and undergraduate students, in one premiere interdisciplinary event. The event format will showcase student work through poster presentations and 5 to 7-minute TED-talk style presentations.”

Susan Pagano, a graduate public policy student, presented in last year’s conference. “Scholarship Week is important because it is an amazing opportunity for students to showcase what they’re working on,” said Paga-

no. “I participated last year, and it was a really great experience for me to share some of my work with other students, faculty, and staff.”

Pagano also noted that as a student, she doesn’t really get as many opportunities to attend conferences as she would like. She asserts that the event is a really fun and easy way to present in a conference-type atmosphere without having to leave campus. “Presenting your research is incredibly valuable and rewarding because you gain skills and experience that can be used for any future career,” she said.

In the past the event opens with a keynote speaker that discusses the importance of academic and scholarly achievement. Then, the students are given the opportunity to discuss and explain their research. Not only do students have the opportunity to complete their own work, but they can also collaborate with professors.

Last year, Elizabeth Ambos, Director of the Council on Undergraduate Research in Washington D.C., delivered a speech titled “Opening the Door: The Long Term Benefits of Undergraduate Research” in which she explained the countless benefits

of conducting research.

“I would say that student scholarship week is important insofar that it encourages and incentivizes students to engage in serious research. When students write and publish their own original works, it helps them advance in their own academic careers,” said Kristen Jezycki, a senior marine biology student. “Moreover, it enhances the University’s profile as a leader in intellectual achievement, which is beneficial for all of us,” she added.

The committee urges the University community to attend the Scholarship Week events, as they are a celebration of academic excellence. “Students should be excited about participating in and attending events. It’s fun to see what your peers are learning about and working on in their classes and for your friends to come see what you’re doing,” said Pagano, who is assisting with this years Scholarship week preparations. “There will be all different types of events across campus, like performances, poster presentations, round-table discussions, and more, so there will be an event for everyone’s interests.”

Dr. Greason: The New Face of the Honors School

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er to academia—he has taught as a professor at Drexel University, Rowan University, and Ursinus College, and has had the privilege of presenting his extensive studies at institutions such as Columbia University, the University of Buffalo, and Purdue University.

In regard to another one of his key priorities, Greason said, “We will work collaboratively to increase interdisciplinary work both inside and outside of the classroom, helping faculty produce unique new research that can shape scholarly discourse in powerful ways.” He hopes to utilize Monmouth’s global network to further the Honors School’s research, development, and funding to make sharing new ideas easier for faculty members.

“We are one of the leading academic institutions in the most important geographic region on the planet. Our alumni make decisions every day that improve the lives of human beings in every part of the world,” Greason explained. Another one of his initiatives is to make sure people know about the Monmouth name and attribute good things to the Honors program, a program he

sees as a paradigm of “intellectual excellence.”

For Greason, the position has an immense personal value as well. He explained that his family and friends have always placed a great emphasis on guiding motivated young leaders to succeed. “When the position became available, I felt it was a unique chance to share a lifetime of experience with a community of learners who shared my fundamental values...The chance to work every day with a team of academic all-stars whose dedication to providing a revolutionary sense of transformative learning to each student and faculty member is an absolute joy,” he said.

“His background and experience will bring a new perspective to the Honors Schools. I know he has a lot of new ideas and is very excited to start implementing them,” said Reenie Menditto, Director of Student Standards, Advising and Services for the Honors School.

“I’m excited to welcome Dr. Greason into his new role at Monmouth,” said Dr. Laura J. Moriarty, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. “When looking for the next leader of the Honors School, our search committee



PHOTO COURTESY of Tina Collella

Dr. Walter Greason, the new Dean of the Honors School at the spring semester welcome party for honors students in early Jan. 2017.

wanted to ensure that it selected someone who was both a superlative scholar and someone who could be at the forefront of developing new and exciting transformative experiences for our students.”

Feedback from an interview with a panel of Honors students was factored into the final decision to hire him. Students like Landon Myers, a freshman majoring in political sci-

ence, got to interact with candidates for the position, and provide their input for a truly unique opportunity to help shape the future of the University’s Honors School. Myers and his colleagues met during the last days of the previous semester to hear from faculty that wanted to leave their mark on the program.

“Dr. Greason has a lot of great ideas that would further the Honors

School,” said Myers. “It’s easy to tell he wants to move the school in the best direction for the students. I’m excited to see what he is able to do in this new position.”

“It is a fantastic opportunity and a culmination of decades of work. I have never been more determined to share my gifts with the Monmouth University family,” said Greason.

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BECOME A FAN

The Outlook Recognizes Influential Black Figures

THE OUTLOOK STAFF

Black History month in America consists of a celebratory string of events honoring Black history and culture. Currently, the African American Student Union at the University has organized a handful of events that run through the month of February to honor African American culture, including a flag ceremony on Feb 1. as well as African American Leaders Trivia on Feb. 20.

The editors of *The Outlook* recognize the heroism depicted by their past and present black figures:

Michelle Obama

One staffer commented on her well-spoken and overall classy composure and attitude. Michelle Obama's accomplishments, education, and career paths are what have influenced many people. She graduated locally from Princeton University and went on to become a lawyer, and then later came to accomplish so much as first lady. The editor added, "She really is such an inspiration to me to work hard and achieve all the goals I have set for myself." Michelle Obama has become a shining example of what girls of all ages and races can become.

Jackie Robinson

Robinson, as the first African American to play Major League Baseball, went through obstacles on and off the field. "Without his courage to ignore the hate and continue to play at a high level, there would be so many great athletes and baseball players in particular that would have never had an opportunity to play," an editor com-

mented.

Shonda Rhimes

Many know Shonda Rhimes as the writer and producer of the hit drama series *Grey's Anatomy*. But, what most people don't know is that she began her career writing for her school newspaper. "If you listen to any interviews with her, she's extremely genuine and hardworking after being told she couldn't do things, she went on to accomplish what she knew she was capable of. She's inspiring not only as a writer but a person who sets goals to accomplish them," one editor explained.

Phillis Wheatley

A prominent beacon of hope for many, Phillis Wheatley, pushed boundaries and defied the odds that were surely stacked against her. Reading and writing were mastered despite it being completely unfathomable for women of the time. One editor said, "Being an English major, I really love writing and to see someone such as Wheatley break through boundaries that were so intensely against her back in the 1700s, it puts life today in perspective for me."

Peers

A number of editors have said that their friends and fellow staffers of color are their biggest inspirations. "The person of color that inspires me the most is my childhood best friend, Maggie. I have seen her stick up for others whenever they needed it and inspire people to think of others in different perspectives," an editor said.

Another staffer asserted, "I grew up around mostly white people... but they [fellow editors] are the first

black persons I have communicated with on a weekly basis...People don't get that you can passionately disagree about something but still not dislike them personally. They are the prime example of how a super conservative white guy like me and liberal black girls can put politics aside and get along."

Professors

An editor stated, "My advisor, Claude Taylor has helped me since freshman orientation to set goals for myself and exceed them. He does so much for the school as well with the human relations advisory council and starting transformative learning."

Professors of the Monmouth community have influenced their students greatly throughout the years, whether it be through advising, mentoring, teaching, or just being open to conversation during office hours.

The editors agree that celebrating this month in any way possible is important. One staffer commented, "I like to expose myself to a lot of the hidden history that isn't taught in school. That history should also be taught, and their accomplishments shouldn't be hidden. And not just during February, but all year around."

Whereas one editor said, "I recognize Black History month every day of my life." The observance of Black History month continues daily in the editor's lives as people like the Obama's, Rosa Parks, Shonda Rhimes, Jesse Williams, and all of the other influential people of color relentlessly push the boundaries of society to better the future generations.



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Life Lessons for an MU Student from *The Jersey Shore*

KATIE BURKERT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

There’s probably been a handful of times where your mother, father, or gentle gray-haired neighbor offered you some inquisitive words of advice. During these times you may have shaken your head, rolled your eyes, or even thought to yourself, “why does this weathered down baby boomer think their advice applies to my super trendy millennial lifestyle?” While you’re a little wrong, you are also a little right.

Today, our lives are so focused on our connection to the world through technology. Long gone are the days when you were only on television if you were an actor or someone of true importance. If you surf through your television channels (or just hop on Netflix), you’ll find reality shows featuring the least important people you can imagine. These people are able to have a television show centered around their ‘normal’ lives, so we should be able to find many similarities between their lives and ours.

These similarities provide us with many life lessons for us to learn from. But, what reality show can we most relate our lives too? Do we identify most with 200-pound southern trailer trash mother raising a sassy, chubby, child pageant prodigy? Or do you identify most with a group of twenty-something, juiced up, spikey-haired Italian Americans? I think for most of us, we might pick the twenty-something Italian Americans; so, what lessons can we learn from their successes and not so pretty mistakes?

One of the reality show’s most classic words of advice are: never fall in love at the Jersey Shore. These words of advice illicit a message you should consider emphasizing in your own life here at Monmouth University.

I’ve seen it time and time again where the couples that resemble the infamous Ronnie and Sam relationship fall in love and wind up hating their lives. Your significant other could hinder you from too many fun nights out, and probably drain your bank account funds.

Another lesson *Jersey Shore* teaches us is that you can’t live off of pickles and uncontrolled substances. Nicole Polizzi, more affectionately named ‘Snooki,’ may be one of the only women to look better *after* delivering two babies than she did beforehand. During her days of partying up and down the Seaside Boardwalk, she resembled a rotten meatball. She did not focus on her health and it showed in her appearance.

Her daily intake of her favorite food, pickles, and immeasurable amounts of alcohol shows us that we shouldn’t be consuming the same things as her. Once she became a mother, Snooki began to hit the gym and care more about her lifestyle choices. At the very least, try to eat balanced meals and drink more water; this should help with enhancing your appearance so that you don’t look like a pre-children Snooki.

Another lesson *Jersey Shore* brings to our attention is no matter how much you adore a certain someone, don’t become their certified stalker. Remember

the muscular, beautifully tanned DJ Pauly D? Remember all the women that use to flaunt themselves around him? If you do, then you know it took a lot for him to say no to their ‘offers.’ However, there was one time when he said flat out no. This crazy ‘Seaside leech’ would not accept that Pauly was not interested in her. She would follow him around for countless hours of the day, and stalked his every move.

He not only disliked her to begin with, but he ended up becoming afraid of her. If the person you blatantly like does not show interest, like Pauly D’s situation, don’t continue to harass them. Sometimes it is best to simply let it go.

The Jersey Shore provides us with plenty of lessons that we can adapt to our everyday life at Monmouth University. At the university it’s best to be wary of relationships and try not to obsess over them. This goes for any university—relationships can be wonderful and long-term, but, with anything, caution is always important.

The other lesson about taking care of yourself is important because, as college students we are always eating out and eating quickly. We can always find time to hit the university gym and make healthier choices like post-pregnant Snooki.

While the show can be seriously absurd and can have some rude tendencies, it really offers a lot of great life lessons for us! As Snooki would say, “I don’t have regrets, there are only lessons. You learn from them, and you become a better person.”

Groundhog Day Deserves More Love

AMANDA DRENNAN
VIEWPOINT EDITOR

Every year on Feb. 2 Punxsutawney Phil gets to shine like the star that he is and tell the people if spring will come early, or if there will be six more weeks of winter.

Groundhog Day is a tradition that began in America when most people thought badgers had the power to predict when spring is coming. This allowed them to decide when would be the right time to plant their crops. Because of the lack of badgers in Pennsylvania, the groundhog was used and thus became Groundhog Day.

Currently, Groundhog Day is a day of observation in the United States. When you think about it, there are a lot of ‘holidays’ that sometimes get ignored; Groundhog Day can usually be found on this list. Of course, Groundhog Day doesn’t have the same meaningful messages as holidays such as Christmas or Thanksgiving, but there’s no reason that we should forget about it.

Holidays like Groundhog Day do bring forward an important message, and it’s not whether or not spring will be here soon. They teach us the importance of animals and what we can learn from them. This can sound silly when you think about it, because what can you really learn from a groundhog?

If it weren’t for animals in the past signaling farmers when they should plant their crops, the farmers would have struggled with planting too early or late in the season. The groundhogs were helping the farmers even though they don’t realize it. It’s important to recognize that animals have helped us to get to where we are today, and the least we can do is revere them with

the utmost respect. There are several different groundhogs around America that predict the season to come. These predictions are announced during a weekend long event celebrating the groundhog. There are different breakfasts, auctions, and celebrations, which collect money that is given to charities that benefit the well being of animals. Not only do you get to celebrate Groundhog Day, but you also get to contribute to a cause that helps animals in need.

Punxsutawney Phil, who’s known as the most famous groundhog in America, is the center of attention for a few days in February. He’s been known to draw crowds of up to 30,000 people to the town of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania just to witness his predictions on the weather for the next six weeks.

These crowds are then invited to celebrate the prediction Phil makes with live entertainment, food, and various activities. The weekend is complete with a historical explanation of Groundhog Day and some background on the little creatures themselves.

Groundhog Day creates fun traditions; whether you’re traveling to see Phil himself make a prediction or staying at home watching the event on television, wishing that spring will come early, it’s important to remember that even though this might seem to be a silly holiday to celebrate, we should be thankful for all the help we get from animals.

Most of us will agree that the most important day in February is Groundhog Day. Even if you’re not doing anything special this year for Groundhog Day, it’s important that we celebrate the importance and value of animals in our society and show them respect.

A Call for Immigration Law Reform

A Personal Tale and Call for Action on Immigrating to the United States

CLAUDIA DI MONDO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When I first moved to this country from a small town in the south of France called Gentilly, I never took into consideration how much the government has an effect on immigration. As a little girl, I did not understand the complications my mom faced when trying to become a citizen of the United States of America.

Now, immigration is playing a significant role in the news due to the policies created by our new President, Donald Trump. Trump has made it clear that his plan is to deport all illegal immigrants. He proposes that once the border is secured, there will be decisions made on any further action. Trump also plans to charge undocumented immigrants with legal felonies for being in the country illegally. He wants to raise the use of “expedited removals,” which allows officers to immediately force illegal immigrants out of the country.

Now more than ever, our immigration system needs to be reformed. State and local lawmakers have to look for solutions that promise fairness and opportunity for all Americans. Immigration policies have to offer a way to gain citizenship for all undocumented immigrants who live and work in this country.

When I moved here, my mom was struggling to keep our family here and paid thousands of dollars

trying to become a citizen. At one point she considered getting ready to pack up our things and move back to the country we came from. Fortunately, I was lucky enough that my mom soon married a man who was a U.S citizen, so that our process was expedited to gain citizenship. However, this creates the question, why is becoming a legal citizen of the United States so tedious and costly?

When trying to become a citizen, fees can go up into the thousands. Most people would have to look for immigration lawyers who are extremely costly and can charge up to \$15,000 or more. Applicants can spend years feeling helpless as they wait and hope for the process to grant them citizenship.

Only people who have family members already living in the U.S. as citizens, the rich, and skilled workers have a chance at becoming a citizen. However, even with all of those qualifications the process is still extremely tiresome and long.

First, the federal government has a quota of the certain number of people they can take from each country to make citizens. After applications are filled out, potential citizens must stay in the U.S and pass a test that includes 10 questions about American history and our government.

They also have to prove they are proficient in English. Because of how challenging it is to immigrate legally, many resort to immigrat-

ing illegally.

In an article called “Fixing Our Broken Immigration System Truly Would Be Great,” the Denver Post Editorial Board states, “Yes, a flood of refugees and the poor entering the country can harm economics, communities, crime and poverty rates.

But to resort to demonizing the newcomers, who often are fleeing real dangers as well as severe economic hardship-is simply not befitting this country, which was shaped and re-

talized by generation of immigrants legal and illegal.” There has to be a safer and fairer way to handle our immigration laws.

It is time for Congress to fix our nation’s broken immigration system that hurts families and our economy. My family and I were lucky. However, this is not the case for millions of Americans that are still waiting for their right to citizenship. I now understand the struggles and complications that occurred when we tried immigrat-

ing here.

These innocent people and families should not have to struggle to become citizens because just like I was given the fortunate opportunity, others who want to move to America for a better life deserve the same as well. And that is why, now, more than ever, our government needs to create a reform policy that creates citizenship for the millions of immigrants currently contributing to our country.



IMAGE TAKEN from <http://www.frontpagemag.com/fpm/261098/immigration-and-our-founding-fathers-values-michelle-malkin>

In light of recent events, Immigrant Reformation is a concern of many immigrated Americans.

Celebrities Stand Together at Women’s March

CLAUDIA DI MONDO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On Jan. 21, according to *Vox*, half a million women marched in Washington D.C alone, which was said to be the largest rally in years.

The Women’s March sent a strong and bold message to our new government, and to the rest of the world that women’s rights are important. Both women and men from all over the country marched to have their voices heard in the support of women’s rights, immigration reform, LGBT rights, racial justice, health care reform, among other issues.

The crowds were enormous and marches took place in Washington D.C., New York City, and Chicago, and other cities around the world. Additionally, the terror and anger that came from President Donald Trump’s rise to presidency resounded protests all over the world in places like Paris and London.

The movement especially aimed to fight that women’s rights are human rights. These rallies were aimed at President Trump due to his controversial plans for abortion and the inappropriate comments he made about women during his campaign.

Many celebrities, such as Scarlett Johansson, came to speak on behalf of the event. She said that her daughter, “may potentially not have the

right to make choices for her body and her future that your daughter Ivanka has been privileged to have.”

Planned Parenthood President Cecile Richards said, “We will send a strong message to the incoming administration that millions of people across this country are prepared to fight attacks on reproductive health care, abortion services, and access to Planned Parenthood, as they intersect with the rights of young people, people of color, immigrants, and people of all faiths, backgrounds, and incomes.”

Another celebrity, Natalie Portman, spoke out at the march and said, “[Women] must seek leadership positions, and support other women who do the same. Until we make it normal to have at least half, if not more, of our leaders be female, we will be serving, and with our taxes financing, a government that believes it’s within their domain to make decisions for our future.”

Just two days after millions of people came together to for this historic march,

Trump has restored the “global gag rule.” This policy prevents U.S. funding for any international healthcare administrations that takes care of abortions. This would create many clinics to shut down, more pregnancies to be unintended and more dangerous abortions for women. Women should have a choice in what they want to do with their bodies.

No one should prevent them



IMAGES TAKEN from Teenvogue.com, Newsday.com, ChicagoTribune.com
Zendaya, Natalie Portman, America Ferrea, and another celebrities walked in the Women's March on Jan. 21.

from aborting if she does not want to have a baby. That is a choice a woman should be able to make on her own, without the government’s say.

Although much of the Women’s March was targeted at Trump, protestors stood up for women’s rights and issues that have been present for quite a while now. One of the bigger issues had to do with equal pay. In the article “Women Deserve Equal Pay,” The National Organization for Women said that according to the Shriver Report released in 2014, “Women’s average annual paychecks reflected only 77 cents for every \$1.00 earned by men. Specifically, for women of color, the gap is even wider: In comparison to a white, non-Hispanic man’s dollar, African American women earn only 64 cents and Latinas just 55 cents.”

Regardless of gender, skin, or religion everyone should be treated equally and have the same rights.

Megan Kudisch, freshman student, agrees and says that, “As a women working in retail, I have felt diminished because of my sex and having to agree to sign on paper work that I accept getting payed less than my male counterparts was utterly humiliating.”

She continued, “To add salt to the wound I found out from word of mouth that a male co-

worker who started working two months after me with no work experience received a pay higher than me. Needless to say the system is corrupt and pay wages should be given based on experience and work ethic not on one’s gender.

Trump responded to these protest. “Peaceful protest are a hallmark of our democracy. Even if I don’t always agree, I recognize the rights of people to express their views.” However, after the overwhelming success of Women’s March, a question remains, what actions will President Trump take in response to these protestors legitimate concerns?

Trump’s New Cabinet Pick Is Betsy DeVos

United States Secretary of Education

Education continued from pg. 1

abuse, etc specifically in LGBT youth; founders of conversion therapy have since renounced the idea and have issued formal apologies.

DeVos contradicts her family’s supposed donations by stating at her hearing, “I’ve never believed in that...I fully embrace equality and believe in the innate value of every single human being and that all students, no matter their age, should be able to attend a school and feel safe and be free of discrimination, so let’s start there.”

While Groff is not the only one who is leery about the future of teachers and their professions, David Glass, a junior history and secondary education student, commented, “I think it is important to have a Secretary of Education who has experience in the field and who has served as a teacher. The people who understand the needs of the students the most are those who most directly work with them. That being said, it is hard to support such a nominee who understands little about the field and who struggles to answer some of the most pressing issues in the field.”

On a lighter note, Glass also mentioned, “At the end of the day, in my opinion, as long as teachers remain passionate, caring, and hardworking, the success of the students is guaranteed. Policy does not create success in education, but rather it is the teachers and students who generate success, and as

long as there are good teachers, students will continue to succeed.”

Ken Mitchell, Ph.D., Department Chair of the Political Science Department, explained DeVos’ personal schooling preferences, he said, “She [Betsy DeVos] comes out of the school choice--there’s three different models: traditional public schools, funded by taxpayers, the second option, charter schools--publicly funded, and the third one, school choice. Each parent is essentially given a ticket, the state is going to give a certain amount of money per student so the student can go to essentially any public school they want.”

Upon the recent vote to appoint DeVos as the Secretary of Education, Mitchell explained that it makes sense that the vote was so clearly divided: the Republican party understands that the federal government’s role in education will essentially be abolished. Senate questions didn’t stop there. In her hearing, DeVos seemed to have misinterpreted or confused the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) by not realizing it is a federal law.

Since her hearing, she has sent a letter to Georgia Senator, Johnny Isakson, who originally touched on the topic, stating clearly her position. Though the letter was addressed to Senator Isakson, New Hampshire Senator, Margaret Hassan who questioned DeVos’ commitment to students with disabilities, responded via The Mighty: “While I’m glad Mrs. DeVos



IMAGE TAKEN from https://s1.yimg.com/NC-Betsy-DeVos-ml-170118_16x9_992.jpg
Over the coming weeks the country will see the role DeVos takes in her new position as United States Secretary of Education.

clarified that she is no longer confused about whether the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act is a federal law and was able to define the basic tenets of this law, her letter does nothing to reassure me that she will enforce the IDEA or honor our commitment to ensuring that all students receive a free and appropriate public education.”

In response to how DeVos’ opinions on IDEA affect the community, Groff said, “This is not a post in which simply ‘related’ or ‘similar’ experience will do. In the confirmation hearings, Mrs. DeVos showed a lack of understanding about important aspects of education, such as how the IDEA works in schools, and the difference between proficiency and growth, which are basic concepts in implementing the assessment and instruction cycle.”

Getting the chance to speak to Groff of her experiences sheds a light on what not only teachers go through, but what students deserve of their teachers and how the future of education needs to be pushed in the right direction: “When I first began teaching, many of my students did not have running water in their homes. I would have them all go to the restroom upon getting off the bus in order to wash up. I taught in a trailer with a hole in the door and a leak in the roof. If you opened the back door, one would fall into a cornfield that had snakes. These children deserved better public schools. And now their own children deserve the same. I’m not sure, under Mrs. DeVos, if this would become a reality due to her lack of commitment to public schools and her lack of experience in managing such major educational challenges.”



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NO MORE NEGATIVE NELLIES

ALEXANDRIA AFANADOR
CO-FEATURE/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

We’ve all been there—that dark place where things just seem to keep going wrong. That time where one thing after another happens to you and it feels as if the world has turned against you and nothing seems to be going right; it’s happened to all of us, so don’t feel alone.

The beginning of a new year, as well as the beginning of a new semester both bring about feelings of renewal, change, and fear of staying in the same place you were the year or the semester before, but 2017 is the year to change all of that!

It is easier said than done, but, Dr. Andrew J. Lee, Director of Counseling and Psychological Services, shares recommendations on how to combat these negative thought patterns: “Often, negative thinking patterns result from unrealistic expectations that people place on themselves, such as ‘I’m a failure if I don’t get all A’s’ or ‘I am not good enough if I am not at the top of my class in every subject.’” Dr. Lee says.

“Once an individual notices and understands the negative thoughts, it is very helpful to be able to challenge one’s negative thinking using more objective and realistic metrics, and to stop placing so much pressure on themselves. For example, instead of calling oneself a failure for not getting straight A’s, it can be helpful to appreciate the amount of work they put in and to know that they are not a failure if they don’t achieve this unrealistic goal. Striving for excellence, as op-

posed to perfection, can help students decrease the pressure they place on themselves, and may consequently, decrease their levels of anxiety,” Lee continues.

One way we can do this is to make sure we keep organized in all aspects of our lives: using a planner, keeping up with homework, readings, and papers, and overall simply trying our best to succeed.

It’s simple to get lost in the midst of new year resolutions and being overwhelmed with a ton of work doesn’t exactly aid the situation. “Anxiety is the number one reported problem by students who seek services at Monmouth University’s Counseling and Psychological Services,” Dr. Lee reports.

“Almost 80% of students who sought services in the Fall 2016 semester endorsed anxiety as a pressing issue. The prevalence of anxiety is not only an issue for Monmouth University students. Nationally, anxiety is the most common presenting issue for students seeking services at college counseling centers,” says Dr. Lee.

Coral Cooper, a senior English and creative writing student, doesn’t seem taken aback by this news. “That makes sense to me considering the amount of mental and emotional energy students exhaust in school work. It’s unsettling that something such as knowledge, that should empower and progress our lives is causing students such distress,” she states.

Dr. Lee recognizes this stress as he believes that “It appears that people place a great deal of pressure on themselves and expect all aspects of their lives to be ‘perfect.’ From this base, it is easy for

individuals to create these negative thinking patterns.”

Stephanie Vela, a junior social work, and Spanish student, agrees with this stance: “College students have so much on their plates between classes, work, internships, extracurriculars, etc. It is sometimes difficult for students to balance all of this especially because they want to be perfect at it all causing them more stress and anxiety.”

Overall, negative thought patterns have been on the uprise, what with the advancement of technology/social media platforms creating

extra spaces for negativity to occur, society has made it utterly simple to grasp onto pessimistic and unfavorable thoughts for dear life.

Dr. Lee also made it a point to mention the effects of social media: “I do believe that this negative self-evaluation is adversely affected by social media and the false facades that are created on various social media platforms. Almost always, the picture that is presented on social media is a positively exaggerated version of reality. However, although we know this intellectually, emotionally, it is very easy

to get caught up in this negative comparison game. This breeds insecurity, negative evaluations and ultimately, negative thinking and self-talk.”

Cooper is right alongside Dr. Lee in this argument. She states, “As a society, we need to offer different ways for people to cope with negative thinking. If healthy ways of dealing with anxiety are introduced during early childhood, adults and college students would have an easier time combating negative thinking. The idea of positivity and healthy stress relievers, like exercise, music, and communication, need to be practiced at younger ages so the issue of anxiety does not need to be treated later in life as it develops into an overwhelming entity for many people.”

Vela adds that as a society, there are little things we can do like “working together to de-stigmatize stress and anxiety, this way students may be more comfortable talking about it.”

As a whole, the Monmouth community, as well as society in general, are able to do little things here and there, but as said by Dr. Lee, “Ultimately, it is up to the students themselves to deal with their own negative thinking and manage their own lives. If students are having difficulty with this, they can always come to Counseling and Psychological Services to talk with one of our trained and experienced counselors about these issues. We are here to help. Let’s talk about it.”

You can visit the Counseling and Psychological Services Department on the third floor of the Student Center.



PHOTO TAKEN by Amanda Gangidino

Conquering negative thinking will give you an overall more positive outlook on life.

LESS is MORE

ZACK KARVELAS
STAFF WRITER

Most people would assume the more things you have the happier you will be, but some believe the exact opposite; they are called minimalists. Minimalism is the idea of prioritizing your life around the things you just want and the things you need. It is a tool, as Joshua Fields Millburn and Ryan Nicodemus, commonly known as “The Minimalists,” refer to it. This tool allows individuals to find freedom.

Millburn and Nicodemus have been traveling the world speaking about their experiences and teaching others how to apply this tool to their own life for over five years. The pair quit their high-paying corporate jobs, left their big houses and fancy cars, and transformed

the way they lived.

They discuss how the idea of minimalism gets a little lost in translation. People tend to think it revolves solely around decluttering your car, house, or life from material possessions like a television, extra furniture, electronics, excess clothing, and more, but The Minimalists believe it’s much more than that. Minimalism isn’t just about getting rid of the possessions in your life, it’s about creating more opportunities for happiness and meaning.

The dynamic duo say by getting rid of the distractions and the things that aren’t directly important to your overall well-being; the electronics that waste precious time and keep us indoors, the media and advertising that influences our minds to think one way and purchase a specific product or service, the closets filled wall-to-wall with clothes you

haven’t worn for months or years, you are creating more time and freedom for yourself, more experiences, and allowing more room for personal growth.

The whole point is to create a more meaningful and happy life using less and only things you truly need. People seem to be stuck in this cycle of growing up thinking money buys happiness and you need a well-paying job to buy that so-called “happiness” in the forms of houses, cars, and luxury clothes and accessories.

If you happen to find a career in the realm of your passion or major from college, that fills your life with a little more meaning and purpose. But the other likely case is that you are stuck in a job you hate just for the money to buy all these things we think we need. In a minimalistic life, you shouldn’t have to feel like you must work somewhere you dislike just for money or just to get by.

People who have all these luxuries only look successful because society has put an image around what they think success is. But is having multiple cars, a big house, and expensive gadgets really what makes you successful?

Specialist Communication Professor and active minimalist Mary Harris has been going at the simplistic lifestyle for a couple of years now. She said, “Simplicity is a part of who I am. It is something that I always felt drawn to even as a child, but it wasn’t until adulthood, namely the past several years of my life, that I really started to embrace it naturally.”

Harris furthers elaborates on the lifestyle, “The concept of minimalism is not a new thing. When you think about it, it has been a part of our natural existence. It’s just that because of all of the options and the

type of society we live in, it is easy to go overboard on everything without even realizing it. Minimalism brings all of this into awareness.”

Minimalists want to show people they can live with less and be just as happy if not more. Once Millburn and Nicodemus left their corporate jobs they hated, they got to travel more and do the things that actually made them happy. They gave up certain amenities like a car and big home, which has saved them hundreds of thousands of dollars. A minimalistic lifestyle can help with relieving or preventing debt, spending and shopping less, pursuing passions, growth as an individual, less discontent, and more meaning. It allows you to focus on the truly important values in your life and live in the moment.

Senior music industry student, Huascar Holguin learned about the idea of minimalism and has been looking for ways to declutter his life. “I think it [minimalism] could benefit me a lot by eliminating all unnecessary possession and material desires from life. Allowing me to focus on the things that truly matter like connections and people. I think it will lead to a more virtuous life,” said Holguin.

Due to each person having their own lifestyles and situations, there is no easy recipe for a minimalistic life. Each person can interpret it and apply it to their own life differently. For those adults who have already started a family, it might be a little harder to get rid of certain things like a car or extra space if there are children in the picture. Any step taken towards creating more and consuming less are beneficial and a great start on the road to a more meaningful and fulfilling life.

Some may get rid of most of their clothes or clear the clutter from their

home, others will sell their car or their home, but they all are living a minimalistic lifestyle in their own ways.

Mikala Miller, a recent graduate from Monmouth University, lives a healthy proactive vegan and minimalistic lifestyle. “I think I do it in many different ways. I like to make people gifts instead of buying them. Currently, my boyfriend and I are redoing the van so we can travel and sleep in it and not have to spend money on hotel rooms and be able to see the remote areas instead of high volume cities.”

Minimalism is a very thought-provoking and important concept that can be grasped by everyone and applied in many different ways. We have become such a consumer culture that has been conditioned to believe that materialistic items are needs and that we must work hard to continue buying them throughout our lives.

Minimalism can help prioritize what’s important in your life and help you live a simpler and happier life filled with meaning and joy. Professor Harris had some insight to share for those interested in making some changes in their lives. “My main tip for anyone who wants to simplify their life is this: Take a few minutes to sit quietly and ask yourself, ‘Is any of the stress in my life self-induced?’ Then, ‘Is there anything holding me back from living a life filled with conscious connection, intention, and happiness?’”

The answers to those two questions will be revealing and will guide the process of letting go of what no longer serves you. The best way to declutter one’s mind might be found in decluttering one’s life.



IMAGE TAKEN from www.buzzfeed.com

A minimalistic lifestyle requires one to believe that material items do not bring you happiness but doing what you love does.

Hurricane Diane Wins The Crowd Over

ANNA BLAINE
STAFF WRITER

The eccentric new play *Hurricane Diane* opened Jan. 27 at Two River Theater and I had the pleasure of seeing it performed for the first time. Theater is an immersive experience that awakens an audience and asks them to trust where the director, actors, scenes, and story line take them. This play makes you think past the existential experiences that shape human behavior in the funniest possible way, of course.

Playwright Madeleine George weaves together a satirical, yet enlightening play about the discord between humans and planet Earth. The show draws inspiration from *The Bacchae*, which is the Greek story of how Dionysus seeks revenge on those that openly defied her power as a god. Diane (Becca Blackwell) is the contemporary version of Dionysus who seeks to bring carnage while she poses as a gardener with experience in permaculture. Diane coaxed her way into the lives of four women living in a quiet cul-de-sac in Red Bank, which makes this play endearingly familiar. The setting is not a complete replica of Red Bank, but the sights and smells of Delfini's, a restaurant in the area can be envisioned in this play and that is a reminder of the Monmouth County community.

The four women who form this quatrain of something resembling *Desperate House-*

wives is entertaining because they are all best friends that nag each other, yet love each other. They gossip regularly and drink coffee or wine together in their

her as this inspiration for creativity. Pam (Danielle Skraastad) is the feisty, Italian-American that does not trust Diane whatsoever, but the string of

as her followers to take revenge on the way humans are destroying nature. There is a natural banter between the cast and the comedic timing or innuendos

the way you don't expect. The characters are flawed and relatable. Heightened versions of themselves, but also extremely human. Though the story is set up to mirror a particular theme, as the stakes were raised you could gauge many other themes as well."

Case in point, it was interesting that the play alluded to themes about climate change, the human capacity to exist in our own bubbles, selfish pursuits of vanity, and also broaching the subject of Hurricane Sandy. The destruction that hurricane caused, but also the humanity that brought many people in communities in New Jersey together. Playwright Madeleine George and Artistic Director John Dias combined their love for theater with the rambunctious style of Greek, satirical storytelling and soliloquies that those Greek plays were known for. Another audience member and resident of Monmouth County, Jane Goodman said, "I thought the play was beautifully written. It seems to get at the essence of the characters. It was extremely thought provoking."

Hurricane Diane was written by Madeleine George and directed by Leigh Silverman. Performances will continue at Two River Theater, Red Bank from now until Feb. 12, 2017.

Box office hours: Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. and starting one hour prior to all performances.



IMAGE TAKEN from theatermania.com

Becca Blackwell and Kate Wetherhead starred in the Two River Theater's *Hurricane Diane*.

kitchens. Throughout the play this demonstrates how close knit they are as they interact with Diane. Sandy (Mia Barron) is an HGTV enthusiast who is immediately skeptical of Diane's motives. Meanwhile others like Renee (Nikiya Mathis) and Beth (Kate Wetherhead) are attracted to Diane and see

clichés is what makes her character one of the stand-outs. From her many Italian hand gestures whenever she talks to the offense she takes when Diane admitted that she has never been to Delfini's. The dialogue is captured intuitively by the actors that play the four women whom Diane ends up recruiting

synchronizes with the affability of Diane's personality since she is the source of all this ensuing chaos.

Audience member Michael Bulger, who works for a theater company in New York, said,

"I think it was a poignant story told through a sly, satirical lens that lets you into a story in

Neil Simon Visits MU

PRESS RELEASE

The Center for the Arts at Monmouth University has announced that tickets are now on sale for Neil Simon's *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, scheduled for the evening of Feb. 16 as part of the Winter/Spring Performing Arts Series of events.

Presented inside Pollak, the 7:30 p.m. show brings the assembled talents of Philadelphia's Walnut Street Theatre — America's longest established stage company, founded in 1808 — to the flagship auditorium of the Monmouth campus. It's a welcome engagement by the troupe that brought Eugene O'Neill's *Moon for the Misbegotten* to Manasquan's Algonquin Theatre last year — and with the Pollak's newly enlarged performance area, improved sight lines and nearly 700 new seats, the stage is set for a fresh and funny look at a classic comedy from the era of "Mad Men" mores and manners.

The playwright who created *Barefoot in the Park* and *The Odd Couple* had entered the prime of his career when *Last of the Red Hot Lovers* opened on Broadway in 1969, during a time of fast-changing attitudes toward sex, gender roles and monogamy. The so-called 'sexual revolution' is very much on the mind of Barney Cashman, the play's central character and a middle-aged, married man who yearns to get in touch with his long-suppressed "swinger" side.

Cashman's adventures in adultery are doomed to comical complication goes without saying, as his trysts with a trio of potential conquests — hard-drinking free spirit Elaine, addled actress Bobbi, and moralizing Jeannette — form

the basis of an intimately scaled favorite that's long been a mainstay of the nation's dinner theaters and community playhouses (and which hit the silver screen in a 1972 release that starred Alan Arkin).

The Walnut Street production of *Lovers* reclaims 'Doc' Simon's Tony-nominated script from amateur-hour exile, in a professional staging under the direction of Adam Immerwahr. It's a tour stop for the show that plays at the company's Independence Studio On 3 between Jan. 10 and Feb. 5, and it stars Walnut Street regular Fran Prisco as Cashman, with fellow Equity pro Karen Peakes appearing as all three of the "other" women in Cashman's life.

A time capsule from an era when Americans of all ages obsessed over which side of the cultural chasm they were on, Simon's play reinforces the fact that nothing, not even "free love," comes without a (frequently comical) cost. In the expert hands of Walnut Street Theatre, it's a show that invites the audience to "fall in love all over again" with *The Last of the Red Hot Lovers*.

Tickets for the Feb. 16 presentation of *Last of the Red Hot Lovers* are priced at \$35 and \$50, with reservations available through the Monmouth University Performing Arts Box Office at 732-263-6889, or online at www.monmouth.edu/arts.

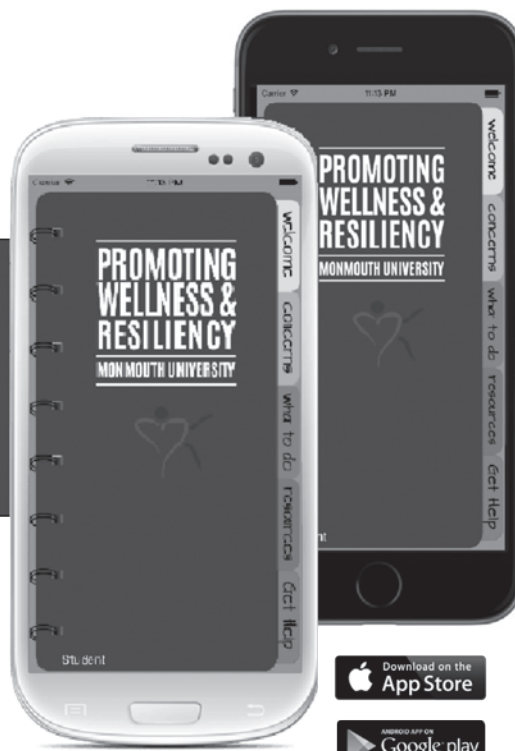
Tickets for other upcoming Performing Arts events — including Koresh Dance (Feb. 18) and Sweet Honey in the Rock (Feb. 24) — are also on sale now. To schedule interviews, please contact Kelly Barratt at 732-263-5114.

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Hidden Figures is an Excellent Discovery

BRIDGET NOCERA
STAFF WRITER

"Every time we get a chance to get ahead, they move the finish line," said the fiery Mary Jackson (Janelle Monáe) in the recently released *Hidden Figures*. This quote and more is what makes the film so poignant: even an early 1960s set story is still strikingly relevant today, for better or worse. *Hidden Figures* is a heartfelt, sometimes corny, but always inspiring story that is finally getting its opportunity to be told.

Directed and written by Theodore Melfi, and based off the book of the same name by Margot Lee Shetterly, the plot follows the little known true story of three brilliant, female, African American mathematicians: shy Katherine Johnson (Taraji P. Henson), determined Dorothy Vaughan (Octavia Spencer), and outspoken Mary Jackson. The three friends attempt to move up the ranks at NASA, while the contentious Space Race between the United States and Russia barrels on, as does the continuing discrimination against not only African Americans, but women.

Katherine faces doubt at her new post in the almost all white and all male Flight Research Division, Dorothy struggles to be promoted to supervisor while also facing losing her job due to new technology, and Mary must confront the courts while also trying to become the first black engineer at NASA. Melfi, writer and director of the 2014 film starring Bill Murray, *St. Vincent*, knows how to craft a briskly paced, entertaining film. He has the benefit of three well-written storylines composed of fascinating characters at his disposal, and moves between them gracefully. The film is also shot beautifully,

with grand scenes from the NASA campus in Virginia to the woman's humble homes in suburbia.

The writing behind *Hidden Figures* is where the film falters occasionally. Screenwriters Melfi and Allison Schroeder excel when it comes to fleshing out our heroines, yet tend to fall susceptible to the occasional schmaltz. If you're looking for a gritty, hyper realistic biopic, this is not the film for you. *Hidden Figures* generally focuses on the work the women do, like Katharine doing extensive equations on a blackboard and Dorothy studying up on the newest type of super computer, but also includes some behind the scenes looks at their personal lives. Scenes of the woman gossiping at a church function and setting an awkward Katharine up with the handsome Colonel Jim Johnson (Mahershala Ali) might seem unnecessary, but are still absolutely charming and essential in making these women seem dynamic and real.

Surprisingly, *Hidden Figures* transcends its occasional layer of cheese with a poignant portrayal of racial discrimination. The film never becomes heavy handed in how it shows Jim Crow laws at work. One excellent scene is in which Katharine, now working in a primarily white building, has to run miles across the NASA compound to reach the "colored" women's restroom. As she sprints in her kitten heels and preppy dresses while carrying pounds of paperwork in order to finish her work as she uses the bathroom, we witness her struggle in an original, amusing, yet upsetting way. When Katharine eventually gets fed up with this treatment, it makes it all the more rewarding for the viewer. We witness all the types of discrimination, big and small, that



IMAGE TAKEN from www.complex.com

Director and Writer Theodore Melfi mastered his work with *Hidden Figures*.

women face, like having to use a completely separate coffee machine to just small microaggressions from coworkers, and it is all very well done.

Similarly, *Hidden Figures* is unexpectedly relevant today. Stories of black Americans, and more specifically, black women, are hard to come by. Katharine, Dorothy, and Mary were real life figures who shaped the Space Race and NASA thanks to their work, yet it took years for their stories to even be acknowledged in the media, let alone your average textbook. Seeing their stories unfold is not only inspiring to all, but also incredibly important.

The main actors of the film are also fantastic, and have palpable chemistry together. If you only know Henson from her character 'Cookie' on the television show *Empire*, prepare to be thrown for a loop.

Henson is perfect as the hesitant math prodigy whose work speaks louder than her own voice. Her determination to succeed despite the world going against her is amazing to experience, and she is a great foil to the much more boisterous Dorothy and Mary. Speaking of, Spencer is a delight as Dorothy, who keeps her calm while also being the most cunning person in the room. Finally, Monáe, known mainly as a musician, is remarkable as Mary. She's a spitfire through and through, and Monáe not only has great comedic timing, but can also hit the dramatic beats the film throws at her. On the sidelines, Kevin Costner as the big boss at NASA, Kirsten Dunst as a stern co-worker, and Mahershala Ali as the charming colonel are reliable performers that add great depth to the film overall.

The fun, funky music crafted by

Benjamin Wallfisch, Pharrell Williams, and Hans Zimmer. The score is typical Zimmer fare, but Williams' original songs are high notes. Combining old school sounds with present day flair is what Pharrell does best, and it shows throughout the film. "Runnin'" and "Able" are memorable anthems that perfectly compliment the film, while also having the ability to stand on their own.

In the end, *Hidden Figures* should absolutely be recognized by audiences. It's an inspiration tale that is rarely told, and hopefully it's overwhelming success creates a wave of more diverse stories being brought to the big screen. Even though the film's problems might still be faced today, it's an excellent reminder that sometimes, the quietest, sometimes forgotten voices can make the biggest difference.

Kevin Chambers Returns to MU

ALLISON PERRINE
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

On March 13, 2015, the young musician, Kevin Chambers' life was changed forever.

Scheduled to perform at about 7 p.m. at the annual 24-hour music festival on that day in March, Chambers was pre-

paring in the WMCX studio, the University's radio station. Just before he was about to go on-air for his solo performance, Chambers became ill and needed medical attention.

"I played my set, everything was normal, he was on top of it," David Rothschild said in a press release, who is a friend

of Chambers and a fellow musician. "He even ripped off this beautiful piano solo when I dropped my harmonica."

The press release said that afterward, David went off to do an interview while Chambers set up for his slot. However, this is when things went awry. The paramedics came and brought him to the hospital. Chambers' sudden illness at the studio was actually the symptoms of something more severe.

Chambers' sister Meg Steedle was the first to be called and rushed over to the hospital, where she found her brother in the intensive care unit (ICU). "He had a breathing tube in, so his mouth was open, his eyes were half-open and rolled back, and I remember just trying not to cry because I was so conscious that I wanted my energy to be hopeful," Steedle said.

According to a press release, Chambers experienced an arteriovenous malformation (AVM) in the left temporal lobe of his brain. A press release said, "An AVM is a congenital defect in less than one percent of the population, in which high-pressure arteries, rather than passing through a bed of small capillaries, connect directly into low-pressure veins, which are ill equipped to handle the pressure. It's only a matter of time before this creates a bulge in the vessel walls, which can rupture, often with fatal results. For KC (Chambers), this tangled mass

of weakened blood vessels had burst open and the bleeding was shutting down critical areas of his brain."

After various extensive surgeries and rehabilitation visits, Chambers has made a full recovery. On Friday, Jan. 27, he reappeared to WMCX and showed the world the music he created after this event took place.

"My perspective has changed in that I know how short life can be," Chambers said in a press release. "You don't have an endless amount of time. I just want to keep working on new music and write about what everyone meant to me during that time."

"When Kevin became sick, I honestly did not know what was going on. I just knew that something wasn't right," said Aaron Furgason, Chair of the Department of Communication and WMCX's Advisor. "Monmouth University's police were on the scene quickly, and the paramedics arrived a few minutes later. Because Kevin wasn't an MU student, I had no idea on an outcome until he reached out to our General Manager, Hunter Farman with his story."

Hunter Farman, senior communication student and WMCX's general manager, interviewed Chambers on Friday. They spoke for over 30 minutes about the night of his incident, his recovery process, and music that he has created since then.

"The interview went really

"My perspective has changed in that I know how short life can be."

KEVIN CHAMBERS
Musician

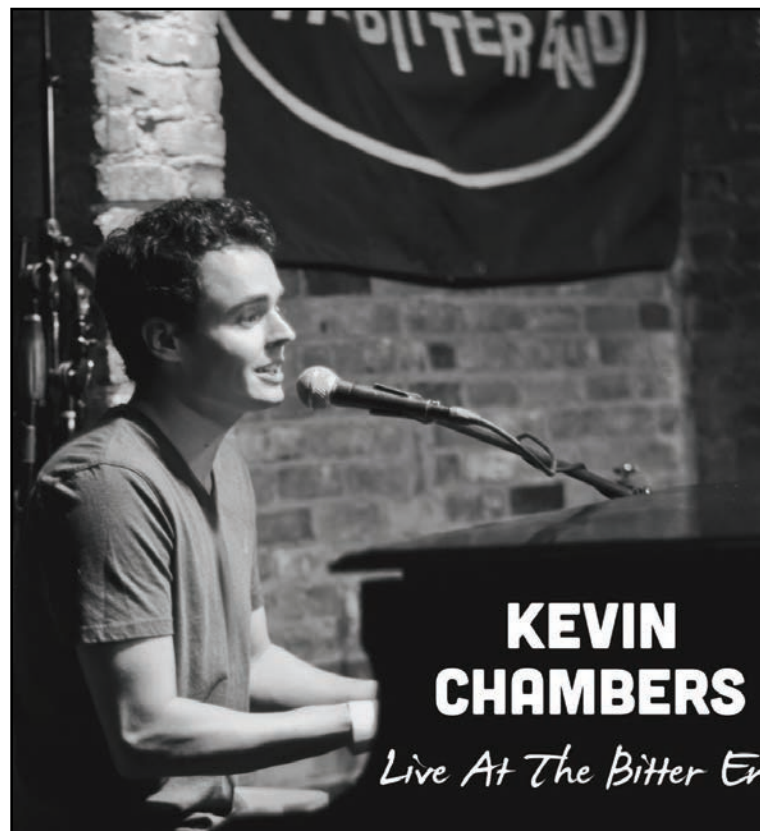


IMAGE TAKEN from www.kevinchambers.bandcamp.com

Kevin Chambers made a comeback at WMCX this past Friday, Jan. 27 after recovering from serious health issues.

well!" Farman said. "We were really thankful that Kevin was able to come back in. He's incredibly lucky, and it was almost surreal to be talking with him. We've posted it on our SoundCloud account before we played it on air, and the early feedback to it has been positive so far."

Farman added that Chambers seemed to be excited to be back. "We were able to listen to a couple of tracks off his EP 'Starting Over' together, and then we talked about stories behind the songs. He seemed to be taking everything in, and I imagine that it was a very emotional experience for him. He was definitely happy to share his story and talk about the music."

"I'm happy to see and hear that Kevin has made a full recovery and is out again playing music," Furgason added. "Amazing story with a happy ending!"



MOMENTS AT MONMOUTH



LEFT:
SENIOR ANTHONY PAPETTI AND
ALUMNI SISTER, JULIA, ATTEND
THE MEN'S BASKETBALL GAME
AGAINST QUINNIPIAC.
(PHOTO COURTESY OF ANTHONY
PAPETTI)



RIGHT:
STUDENT ACTIVITIES
BOARD HOSTS AN EVENT
THAT ALLOWS STUDENTS
TO CREATE THEIR OWN
MINI BASKETBALL HOOPS.
(PHOTO COURTESY OF
SABINA GRAZIANO)



LEFT:
BROTHERS OF SIGMA TAU
GAMMA ENCOURAGE
STUDENTS TO "GO GREEK."
(PHOTO TAKEN BY CORAL
COOPER)



RIGHT:
JUNIORS AMANDA AND
COURTNEY WELCOME NEW
MEMBERS TO ALPHA OMICRON PI
ON BID DAY.
(PHOTO COURTESY OF AMANDA
GANGIDINO)



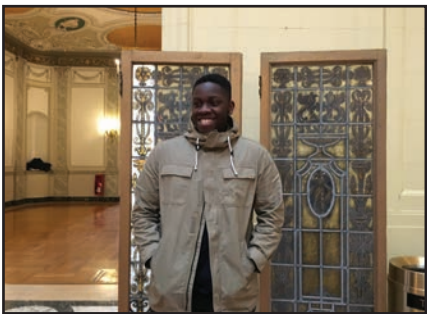
WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT THE SUPERBOWL?

COMPILED BY: AMANDA DRENNAN



**Coral
Senior**

"Making the food beforehand with friends."



**Akintunde
Senior**

"Trash talking."



**Katryna
Senior**

"The performances, because the Schuyler Sisters are performing."



**Connor
Freshman**

"The food that my dad makes."



**Matthew Harmon
Communication Specialist Professor**

"The game, it's a day to watch football and spend time with friends and family."

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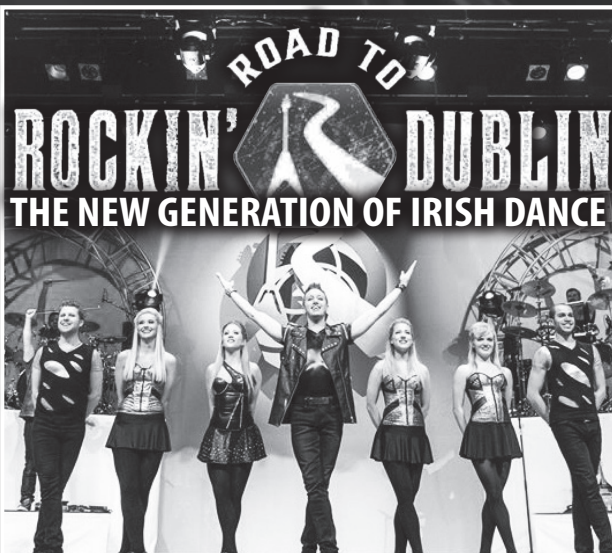
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MU Debate Team Reaches Championship Round in Tournament

COURTNEY BUELL
CLUB & GREEK EDITOR

Monmouth University’s debate team won seven team and individual speaking awards at a debate tournament in San Diego, California over the weekend of Jan. 21. The team competed against 60 other teams and twelve colleges and universities.

The team consisted of ten pairs who squared off against the opposition in six preliminary rounds. Each of these rounds were two hours in length. An argument to debate was provided and the pairs were divided so that three were on the affirmative and three were on the negative.

The argument chosen by the Cross Examination Debate Association (CEDA) was, “The United States Federal Government should establish a domestic climate policy, including at least substantially increasing restrictions on private sector emissions of greenhouse gases in the United States.”

Teams that won playoff rounds were eligible to debate in the one-round eliminations which led to the eventual championship winner. Many



PHOTO COURTESY of Dr. Joseph Patten

Members of the Debate team pose for a photo at the tournament in San Diego, California.

members of the team made it into the playoffs and won numerous rounds. Three pairs made the playoffs: Francesca Vaccaro and Alec Gulluian and Megan Fleitz and Rossana Valdivia. Another pair, Ryan Kelly and Phoebe Nelson also made it to the quarter final round after go-

ing 5-1 at the tournament and scored a playoff victory against a team from Cal State Northridge before losing in a close decision to a team from the University of Miami.

Phoebe Nelson, a sophomore political science student and member of the debate team said,

“It was such a great experience and I’m really proud of how well we all did.”

University of Southern California and California State Northridge were defeated in three playoff rounds by team members Prachi Patel and Sabrina Saenger.

The pair made it to the championship round before ultimately losing to the University of Las Vegas’ team.

In addition to the playoff rounds won, individual team members also won awards for speaking. Prachi Patel placed 3rd, Kaitlin Allsopp placed 9th, and Bob Davies placed 10th.

Senior communication student Bob Davies said of the tournament, “It is amazing to see how much hard work and effort these students put in to following their passion.”

Faculty advisor and professor of political science, Dr. Joseph Patten, Ph.D. said, “Our debaters work really hard in researching the topic and in scrimmaging against each other prior to competitive tournaments. Even more than that, it is really inspiring to see how much our debaters care about each other and push each other to find the the best in themselves. I am the luckiest guy in the world to be a part of this team.”

To join or for more information please contact Prof. Joseph Patten at jpatten@monmouth.edu. Join the debate team and learn an important skill while making lifelong friendships.

Celebrate World Hijab Day With MSA and LTA

COURTNEY BUELL
CLUB & GREEK EDITOR

Friday, Feb. 3 the Muslim Student Association (MSA) and Lambda Theta Alpha (LTA), the Latin American sorority on campus will be cosponsoring an event to celebrate World Hijab Day. The holiday is internationally recognized annually on Feb. 1.

According to WorldHijabDay.com, the celebration was started by Nazma Khan, in an attempt to combat the discrimination and general lack of understanding of why women wear it, and to also invite women to wear one for a day.

The hijab is a traditional, mandatory head covering worn by Muslim women all over the world. Both organizations intend to spread that message to the Monmouth University community.

The event is intended to celebrate the hijab as well as the women who wear hijabs. Another purpose is to break down stereotypes. It is also intended to start a conversation about the cultural practices of women all over the world.

Students, faculty, and anyone else interested are welcome to come to the Rebecca Stafford Student Center from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

President of Lambda Theta Alpha and senior health studies student, Daniela Villamin said, “As president of Lambda Theta Alpha, a sorority that promotes acceptance of women from all ethnicities, we felt that this event is significant, especially with all the recent controversy in the country over discrimination of people with certain beliefs/traditions.”

Villamin explained the importance of having an event like this and why it is important for all women to support each other, even if they are not Muslim.

“I thought it was extremely

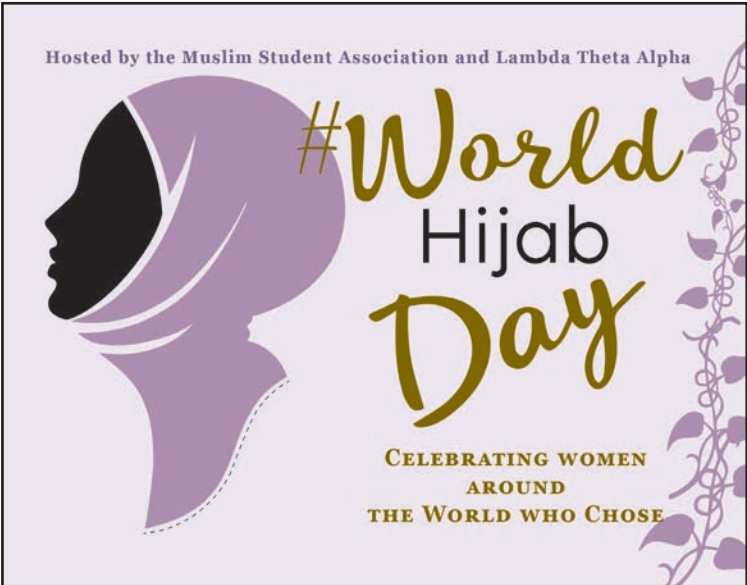


PHOTO COURTESY of Jamillah McMillan

World Hijab Day will be celebrated this Friday Feb. 3 in the Rebecca Stafford Student Center.

important for LTA to get involved with World Hijab Day. It is a chance for students to understand and support women who choose to look or live differently,” she explained.

At these tables attendees will be encouraged to try on the hijab and will be educated briefly on what a hijab is and what it means to Muslim women.

The purpose is for people to wear one, see themselves in it, and understand what it is like before judging someone who wears one. A common misconception about the hijab is the idea that it is a sign of oppression. For many women, the hijab is a symbol of their faith and modesty, and a piece of their personal identity and culture.

Dr. Rekha Datta, Ph.D., a political science professor, said, “An event like this makes it possible for everyone to understand the cultural practice of wearing the hijab and to address the stereotypes of the Islamic faith and to see people come together on a wonderful human level. Western

cultures tend to see the hijab as restraining, and to have an open dialogue about it and to address it in a festive, positive and respectful environment is a beautiful thing to see.”

It is expected for many people to attend and participate, as this is the third year the organizations are celebrating it.

Senior business administration student and Vice President of MSA, Zareen Shueib said, “This is the third year that MSA and LTA have held World Hijab Day at Monmouth. We have had great turn outs in the past and I am hoping for the same this year.”

Students are encouraged to attend and have an open mind. “MU students have been very intrigued and open to the event. Students and faculty stop by to try on the Hijab’s and talk to members of both groups. I hope this year is like past years, given the recent events,” said Shueib.

Both organizations encourage everyone to attend the event and participate, and to reach out if you have any questions.

Club and Greek Announcements

Cinema Club

The Cinema Club would like to announce that until the Oscars there will be a showing of musical films. They will be showing this Thursday, Feb. 2 in JP234 at 7:30 p.m. and they will be screening either Funny Face or The Bandwagon . The club hopes that you can make it!

CommWorks

Interested in poetry slams, stand up comedy, creative writing, original group and solo performances? Want to work with a group of dynamic students who are committed to having fun and creating performances of social relevance for college students? Join CommWorks! We meet Wed. at 2:45 in JP 235.

BoomRoasted Productions

BoomRoasted Productions will be holding auditions on Feb. 3 at 7p.m. for their production of Sweeney Todd. Callbacks will be held Feb. 4 at 12 p.m. For any additional information or questions, please email Nick Zaccario at s0943525@monmouth.edu.

The Outlook

The Outlook is looking for students interested in writing for the student-run newspaper. They are having an interest meeting Wed. February 1 at 3:30 p.m.Sections in need of writers include News, Opinion, Politics, Lifestyles, Features, Entertainment, Club & Greek, and Sports. No prior experience is necessary. *The Outlook* fulfills practicum.

Blue Hawk Records

ATTENTION! Is it your dream to record in a professional recording studio? Are you an aspiring solo artist or have a band? Then come out and audition to be on Blue Hawk Records’ 10th compilation album this coming Wednesday, February 1st! Auditions will run from 7:00 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Woods Theater! Email us at bluehawkrecords@gmail.com.

Split from the Stereotype: The Problematic Portrayal of Mental Illness in Movies

DANIELLE ROMANOWSKI
STAFF WRITER

The true terror that fuels scary movies has no longer become about the suspenseful plot or the battle between good and evil, but rather the minds of the villainous characters that are made to seem so inhuman in order to partake in such terrible activity.

For decades, movie writers and producers have preyed on mental illness as a way to entice moviegoers to buy tickets for horror films. Numerous movies have leveraged mental disorders in hopes of making their main characters more complex and unique. While this may help in creating a more obscure plot, it subsequently creates a harmful notion that those who struggle with mental disorders, such as dissociative identity disorder, should be feared. This problem has come to the big screen yet again through M. Night Shyamalan's *Split*.

This suspense movie centers on the persona of a mentally ill serial killer named Kevin, who also goes by Hedwig, Patricia, Jade, Barry and a handful of other personalities that come alive in the film. As seen in the trailer, Kevin kidnaps three teenage girls from inside the doors of their unlocked car. His illness is the centralized theme in the movie as he preys on these three young girls through his 243 personalities. We are first introduced to the notion that the kidnapper has a mental illness when the young girls scream for help after noticing what they believe is a woman wearing high heels through the crack of a

door. It's soon revealed to the young girls that this is the same man who kidnapped him, and the first plot twist of the movie is set into action.

Filming a movie about a person with dissociative identity disorder (D.I.D) as the main villain becomes problematic to not only those who struggle with

that movies like *Split* often portray the more serious mental health disorders as being something violent or dangerous when in actuality that isn't always the case."

Wright continued, "Mental health disorders already get a bad reputation and stigma to the point where its almost ta-

ty-three identities live inside his body. She went on to explain that an individual with multiple personalities can change their body chemistry with their thoughts.

As she is explaining this, the trailer shows a glimpse into what it looks like when Kevin shifts into another personal-

gic reactions dependent on the personality, Shaylaman takes it to another level and has Kevin transform into a beast, a literal monster that aims in harming, and even eating young girls.

Pairing the analysis and diagnosis from a certified psychiatrist, and Kevin's extreme behavior leads the audience to believe this this type of behavior is actually plausible in real life, thus creating fear of the mentally ill.

While there are many who feel very strongly against this film, others would argue that is it just a factious movie about someone with an extreme case of dissociative identity disorder.

Drew Holjes, a junior nursing student who recently saw the film, shared her opinion on Kevin's portrayal of this illness. She said, "overall I really liked the film. It was suspenseful and kept you guessing on what was going to happen next. James McAvoy did an amazing job acting as a person with 23 different personality types. Although it was fictional, it was really interesting to see how someone with different personalities can juggle them all."

Regardless if you believe that movies like *Split* are problematic or just make for a harmless suspense film, it is important to become media literate and understand that mental illness is not how it is portrayed in horror movies, and those who struggle with these disorders are not to be feared. As Wright stated, "Dealing with a mental health disorder makes someone a warrior not a villain."



PHOTO TAKEN from cinemabravo.com.

Movies that turn mental illness into something to be afraid of are damaging to those who deal with mental illnesses, as senior psychology student Victoria Wright said.

the disorder in real life, but the audience and society as well. Through the messages in this movie (that those with D.I.D. are dangerous to themselves and to others) we are subconsciously misinforming society on what we know of this mental illness.

Senior psychology student Victoria Wright explained her take this film, stating, "Being a psych student and taking abnormal psychology, I really believe

boo to talk about and that really hinders our society because it prevents us from being able to make strides towards progress."

Not only are we guided to fear Kevin and his condition due to his monstrous acts of kidnapping, but we are also educated on the nature of his condition by Karen Fletcher, his therapist in the film.

In the trailer, she explains that she has never seen a case like this before, and that twen-

ty. However, it is portrayed as if he is resisting his own body that is physically morphing into someone else. This in turn dehumanizes those who struggle with dissociative personality disorder and creates a notion that those with this illness are a danger to themselves and to others.

While it is true to an extent that those with this illness can change their body chemistry like their eye color or aller-

Why All Men Should be Feminists

KAAN JON BOZTEPE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I am a feminist. Queue the questions and judgements. Yes, you heard correctly, I am a feminist, I am not a female, and feminism isn't a women's issue.

Merriam-Webster defines feminism as "the theory of the political, economic, and social equality of the sexes."

Sadly, we've grown up in a society that color-coded infants according to gender; boys in blue, girls in pink. This socialization is something that causes a rift between the two genders rather than considering them both as equal.

This goes beyond color-coding; the toys children receive are also based on the parents and society's views on what's culturally appropriate per gender role.

Parents often gift male children with toy trucks, superheroes, and anything that would promote aggression and an authoritative mindset, while female children predominately receive dolls, doll houses, and dress-up kits which endorse nurturing and communal contiguity meaning they get a better understanding of "family."

I splurge these facts solely to explain that the negative male complex is related to the years of men being raised as the superior gender. And then there's the dilemma of how society views a female that does not suit the traditional norms their families have set forth or what society is accustomed to. I would be doing an injustice if I were to attempt to define what femininity is be-

cause that definition differs from female to female.

Regardless of the female's family norms and how society defines what being female is, the mind is the female's and she can determine what being a female means to her. Regardless of how they define their gender, they should always be receiving respect and equality and not yearning for it.

Sean Becker, a freshman accounting student, shared his views, "In my opinion, I disagree with the entire concept of the phrase feminism. If you are going to argue and rally for equality, do not put one of the options over the other. If you want males and females to be equal, market your group as an 'equalist,' or something of the sort. Do not single out females. That implies that you want females to be more important which is not equality."

My view may be different than Becker's, but I appreciate and understand that his problem is with the phrase "feminism" rather than the thought of equality. People tend to have a distasteful view on feminism strictly because of the terminology of it.

Dr. Lynn Siracusa, a lecturer of English, further analyzes the term "feminism": "Feminism is a social justice movement centered on matters that impact women, but it has also been viewed as an intersectional movement focused on marginalized and oppressed people. Men can (and should) play a role in tearing down social, political, and economic systems that sustain patterns of male privilege."



PHOTO TAKEN by Alexandria Afanador

Feminism is often misconstrued, but everyone should believe in the equality of men and women.

Siracusa continued, "With the recent Women's Marches, I was happy to see fathers, brothers, sons, and spouses come out to support women in their pursuit of essential American values."

Conservative views may continue to exist, but there's still hope. The new uprisings of feminism are encouraging men to get behind the outspoken women and spread the belief that feminism is just a group of people who want equality for all. The same benefits, the same respects, and the same freedom to dream and inspire younger generations.

Nick Vail-Stein, a freshman software engineering student, said, "I believe that feminism is typically misunderstood. Feminism is a lot less radical in nature as it is equal in nature. Feminism, for me, is women's way of asking for equality."

Vail-Stein elaborated, "On paper that sounds very simple, but sadly in reality it can be misin-

terpreted. As for gender roles, I don't belittle anyone that chooses to follow them, but I believe people have the freedom to go against gender roles without being outcasted."

Equality is achievable if society works together. This goal can be achieved if we start to not color-code gender, teach boys that they aren't superior to girls, buckle down on corporations that unfairly pay or mistreat women, and to create a society that sees females and males as what they truly are—humans.

In the 19th and 20th centuries there have been two waves of feminism. The first wave was to make women equal to men in the eyes of law by granting women the right to vote. The second wave, however, went further; women fought social issues such as abortion, equal pay, assault crimes, and more. Progression is in the making and women have a voice now more than ever. Society, not just men, must under-

stand that feminism is just another way of stating that women want equality, not special treatment.

To truly achieve or erase this ideology of superiority that men feel is to attack it at its root. We must, as a society, break this norm, we can start with small things like giving children gender-neutral toys so they can become more well rounded and less biased. But, looking at the bigger picture, these norms and family traditions are imbedded by what the society sees as right or wrong.

We must collectively show society the traumatic problems of gender roles and being gender specific and how poorly it affects the psychology of growing men and women, in a world where we should only be going forward, not backwards. Going forward, we need all hands on deck, which means that all genders need to get involved in the fight for equality, for what's right.

Avoiding the Fallout of Fake News

KERRY BREEN
COPY EDITOR

Ever since “fake news” became a talking point of the recent presidential election, the topic seems to be increasingly prevalent in the media and on the political stage.

According to the *BBC*, fake news is marked by dubious sourcing, vague details, a lack of reports on the topic, and a lack of clearly sourced evidence.

Dubious sourcing can mean one of two things - firstly, it can be a news source that one has never heard of before, or it can be very closely named after a real source, in the hopes of tricking readers into believing it is a legitimate source. This was the case with the *Christian Times Newspaper*, which was a false publication used as a source in a fake news story. In reality, the organization does not exist, but was easily confused with the legitimate newspaper *Christian Times*, according to the *BBC*.

“I recently fell for an instance of fake news myself,” said Marina Vujnovic, Ph.D., an associate communication professor. “I believe that sometimes it’s not easy to tell right away fake news from real news. However, fake news usually appears on less credible news sites or distributors of news such as Facebook, or on news aggregation sites such as *Yahoo News*. They are often distributed via e-mails as well. In my experience, fake

news is hyper-sensational and often not well written.”

Vague details and a lack of reports on the topic are also characteristics of fake news. The information sourced can be entirely made up, or it can

amusing story of a public vote by the British Antarctic Survey to name a new vessel, with the winning name being Boaty McBoatface.

However, while some fake news stories can be lightheart-

opinions.”

“Democracies are reliant on the input of their citizens,” said Kevin Dooley, Ph.D., an associate professor of political science. “It’s important that citizens remain informed. Thus, fake news poses a serious problem to the core of democratic life. If people are not educated to the reality of life, they are less likely to make informed choices.”

Dooley went on to explain that a reliance on fake news can make people more likely to believe in conspiracy theories, which are designed to convince their audience of the dangers of government, instead of the necessary role that the government plays.

While he does not believe that the use of fake news could have affected the recent election, it is clear that fake news does convince readers and could affect the real world, as seen in “Pizzagate” - an elaborate fake news story claiming that a child sexual slavery ring was being run out of a Washington, D.C. pizza shop and other local eateries, catering to the D.C. elite, specifically members of the Democratic Party. The story was later debunked by local police, the *New York Times*, *Fox News*, and *snopes.com*.

The website that publicized the story had all of the hallmarks of fake news. The story is written with an incredible emotional focus, and the facts are practically nonexistent - it claims that the information

has been gathered via hacking website Anonymous, and that is the only source offered. The connections and ‘facts’ that the writer uses to tell the story are tenuously linked at best, but were still able to convince a reader - who arrived at the pizza shop in question with an AR-15 rifle and allegedly fired three shots.

While there is more awareness of fake news now than there was previously, they are still prevalent and widely shared. Vujnovic recommends reading sources carefully, and says that by going to traditional news sources one can avoid some of the problems of fake news.

However, these stories also may have mistakes, and even reputable sites like *CNN* have reported stories that are found to be fake news.

“I think there is still a lot of good reporting out there,” she said. “It is pretty clear which news organizations pander to certain political groups. The problem actually lies in the news consumer. Do we want non-biased news? Research has shown that people don’t like their positions to be challenged, and tend to consume news that is directly aligned with their worldview.”

She recommends looking at traditional news sources, such as *NPR*, *PBS*, the *BBC*, the *New York Times*, and other similar sources. Dooley recommended looking at sources such as the *Economist* and *Financial Times*.



IMAGE TAKEN from pexels.com.

Monmouth professors advise students to check out traditional news sources for their news, and not get lost in the potential fake news online.

be exaggerated details of something that has already gone viral.

One such story was published by fake news sites including the *Boston Outlet*, the *Denver Guardian*, and the *Christian Times Newspaper*, claiming that a zoo in China was about to name a gorilla Harambe McHarambeface. The story brought together two viral memes of the year - the widespread Harambe meme, and the

ed and even amusing in their ridiculousness, false news also has more far-reaching ramifications.

“Using fake news leads to misunderstandings and inappropriate responses to public needs,” said Tom Navalance, a junior political science student. “Policies could be made following fake information that as a result impact society negatively. It could also manipulates the mindset of the people and their

How Does Global Warming Affect Students?

CLAUDIA LAMARCA
STAFF WRITER

When thinking of global warming, my first thought, and maybe a few others’ are: I don’t hate it, if its 60 degrees on Christmas Day. But the reality of it is that global warming is having immense effects on the environment and its inhabitants. So, just because we appreciate when its warm in December, it doesn’t necessarily mean we should be okay with it.

In order to have life on earth, green house gasses hold the heat we need. They trap the gasses and heat that are necessary, and make earth a average of 59 degrees Fahrenheit.

An article written by Elizabeth May and Zoe Caron on *dummies.com* states that because of our own human contribution of greenhouse gasses to the atmosphere, we have increased the amount of greenhouse gasses by almost 35%.

Plainly stated, the more greenhouse gasses we have, the warmer the temperature of earth gets. The two main gasses to worry about, that humans can produce both actively and naturally, are CO2 (Car-

bon Dioxide) and CH4 (Methane). The same article from May and Zoe explains that CO2 is produced through “from burning fossil fuels, such as coal and oil. It also occurs naturally as it flows in a cycle between oceans, soil, plants and animals” and that MH4 is produced “by rotting garbage and wastewater, gas from livestock, and rice crops. Swamps and anything that decomposes without air naturally creates methane.”

While most of the main changes we all can make to reduce our carbon footprint are easiest when we become homeowners, there are a few easy changes we all can make without thinking and we can save the environment at the same time. First, instead of ordering that juicy hamburger at Five Guys, or buying steaks from Wegmans – try a vegetarian option instead.

An article on the National Resources Defense Council’s website explained that livestock products “are among the most resource-intensive to produce” – therefor a meat-free meal can help save the environment.

When making the decision to pur-



IMAGE TAKEN from gizmodo.com

Monmouth students express concern for the new government taking initiative to stop global warming.



IMAGE TAKEN from www.wildcat.arizona.edu/

Climate change is something many disagree on, but is something many students feel seriously about.

chase a car, looking into ecofriendly options can save the environment as well. Both hybrids and electric cars save both fuel and money, therefor as a fresh college graduate you could be saving money and the environment all in one!

Lastly, an easy way for college students to cut down on greenhouse emissions is by walking. Instead of taking the five-minute drive from the dorms to campus for class, take a leisurely walk. You’re saving both gas, and greenhouse emissions from escaping your car (and if were being honest, you probably wont find a parking spot either).

The biggest reason we should be taking these small steps to reduce our carbon footprint is because global warming is irreversible. Once the damage is done, it is done and we will have to live in the effects of what we can prevent now.

With a new president taking office, these concerns about irreversible effects are now more prominent. From an article on *scientificamerican.com*, his plans are explained: “They include ‘canceling’ American involvement in the Paris climate accord, reviving the coal industry and rolling back federal environmental regulations. If Trump follows through, scientists say it could

have a profound long-term effect on the planet.”

Junior criminal justice student Christen Piersanti explained that: “My concern is that President Trump isn’t going to make climate change as much of a priority as it should be, and as of now, that’s how its shaping up. It’s a worldwide movement that needs full participation, and without Trump’s support, its just one less country helping this global cause.”

Riley Bragger, a sophomore communication major, had similar views, stating, “Its so easy for us all to take the little steps we can to be as energy effective and efficient as possible. I didn’t know that eating less meat could help decrease greenhouse gasses, but that’s definitely something I can do and we all can do without thinking twice.”

So while we all enjoy warm weather, we should think twice about what it means for our country, and start thinking about what we can do to save our planet.

Robinson Becomes Men's Basketball Leading Scorer

JOHN SORCE
SPORTS EDITOR

All senior point guard Justin Robinson has ever cared about was winning. That approach to his game has led him to become the D1 scoring leader for Monmouth men's basketball.

Robinson eclipsed the mark at the 13:39 mark in the second half with a three-pointer that gave

the blue and white a five-point lead in the Hawks 83-71 win over Marist on Monday night, surpassing Alex Blackwell (1989-92) and John Giraldo (1992-96), who were tied at 1,749 points.

"I got an open look, knocked it down, trotted back on defense a little bit and I realized, 'Man, that's the one,'" Robinson said. "You don't get to think about it in the heat of the game because you

want to keep playing and doing the right things but once that final sub came in for me I said, 'Man, I'm not supposed to be here, but I am,' and that's cool."

The Lake Katrine, NY native accomplished the feat about 30 minutes south of his hometown. The fact that he got the record so close to home was just coincidence, but he relishes every opportunity he gets to play in front of his family and friends back home.

"It was special because I don't get to come home too often," Robinson said. "When I do, it's always a good time with the people I get to be around. I had a lot of family, friends, guidance counselors, some of my favorite teachers from middle school, elementary school, and high school here and having them in the building is a great feeling."

Marist held the Hawks to just 27 first half points and had a seven-point lead going into halftime, but MU came storming out of the locker room on a 19-9 run leading up to Robinson's first of three consecutive triples.

But Monmouth regrouped and outscored the Red Foxes 56-37 in the second half, shooting 48.6 percent from the floor and 55.7 percent from three. Robinson led the Hawks with 24 points on 6-13 from the field. Redshirt sophomore guard Micah Seaborn added 20 points while senior guard Je'lon Hornbeak added 11 points and eight rebounds. It was their sixth consecutive win against Marist as the team swept the sea-

son series for the third year in a row.

"Tonight was a special night for us for a lot of different reasons," Monmouth Head Coach King Rice said. "To be able to win on Marist's home court is the first one, and then Justin Robinson choosing Monmouth four years ago and him just keeping his head low and being the best young man and the hardest worker in our program. The impact he has made on our campus has changed everybody's life at Monmouth."

Robinson also got praise from the two men that he surpassed. "To come out of college as the all-time leading scorer was never something I really thought could happen, and then to get that mark and have it last 20 years was even more of a surprise," said Giraldo, who is currently the head basketball coach at Matawan High School.

"Records are made to be broken, and if it was to be broken, there is no better way than to have it be done by somebody who is on a team that has been able to put MU hoops back on the national stage and have one of the best runs the school has ever had," continued Giraldo. "I take pride in being part of a great basketball tradition at MU, and to see where the program is now, it makes not only me, but all of the hoop alumni proud."

"After 25 years, I am happy that a player has reached this milestone and I wish him well. I am very happy for Justin," said Blackwell, a basketball coach and

English educator in Arica, Chile. "I am so happy, not only for the basketball program, but for the University as a whole. For me, it was a great place to be, and now it looks even better."

Robinson also led the blue and white with 22 points in their 95-76 win over Quinnipiac, sweeping the season series against the Bobcats.

Seaborn contributed 21 points and made four three-pointers for the second time this season. It was Seaborn's 11th game in a row with double figures and his 12th career 20-point game.

"(Coach Rice) told us that he wanted the game to be up-and-down so he told me in the beginning if I felt that I was open to get a few quick shots and get the game going," Seaborn said. "I missed the first one but it felt good and I made the next two, so I just tried to build off of that."

Senior center Chris Brady pulled down 11 rebounds, tying the most for a Hawk in a game this season.

Monmouth is now 18-5 overall and 10-2 in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) on the season and have now won eight games in a row. They have a two game lead over Iona and Saint Peter's for first place. They return to the OceanFirst Bank Center on Friday, where they will look to split the season series with Saint Peter's, who came away with a ten-point victory at the Yanitelli Center on Monday, Jan. 2. Tip-off will be at 7 p.m. and will air on ESPN3.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth University Athletics

Senior point guard Justin Robinson scored 24 points in the Hawks' 83-71 win over Marist on Monday night, their eighth in a row.

Men's Soccer Alumnus Klenofsky Drafted by D.C. United

EVAN MCMURTRIE
STAFF WRITER

JOHN SORCE
SPORTS EDITOR

Monmouth men's soccer alumnus Eric Klenofsky has officially become a professional after being drafted by Major League Soccer (MLS) outfit D.C. United with the 34th overall pick of the 2017 MLS SuperDraft on Jan. 13.

"D.C. United is an historic club with multiple MLS Cups, a knowledgeable technical staff, and a front office that cares. It's truly a blessing to have been drafted by D.C. and I can't wait to play in front of the incredible fans at RFK [Robert F. Kennedy Stadium]," Klenofsky said.

"Eric is a competitor. He has soft hands and good feet," said D.C. United Head Coach Ben Olsen. "He's still a touch raw and we have a lot of faith in (Director of Goalkeeping and assistant coach) Zach Thornton to move him along quickly to make him better. He's another guy that has a bunch of tools that suit the position and suit our league."

The goalkeeper was recently invited to participate in the 2017 MLS Player Combine in Los Angeles, CA, which took place throughout the days leading up to the draft. Klenofsky's selection makes him the eighth ever Monmouth student-athlete to make the step up to Major League Soccer.

"I'd definitely say there was a touch of nerves while I was there [at the combine]. I've worked for an opportunity to play pro for as long as I can remember and when that opportunity is staring you in the face, it's normal to be nervous," Klenofsky said.

"I'm proud to represent Monmouth in Major League Soccer," Klenofsky added. "We have a few guys like Bryan [Meredith], RJ [Allen], and Derek [Luke] who are all great Monmouth soccer ambas-

sadors in the professional game currently that I've learned a lot from. The knowledge I've gotten from them will be so important as I make the transition."

Klenofsky, a Lincoln Park native and DePaul Catholic High School graduate, became Monmouth Head Coach Rob McCourt's first choice goalkeeper midway through his freshman year at Monmouth. He thrived under the newfound responsibility, leading the nation in goals against average (0.22), coming second in save percentage (.914), and being named Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Defensive Player of the Week four weeks in a row spanning from the middle of October to early November 2013.

Klenofsky carried his success into his sophomore year as Monmouth's main man in between the posts. He shined in the spotlight once again, ending the season second in the nation and the MAAC in save percentage (.880) while being named All-MAAC Second Team for the second year in a row, amongst a host of other honors.

"We are so happy for Eric," said McCourt. "He has always pushed himself to get better, and his everyday habits are those of a professional soccer player. He has a wonderful future in Major League Soccer and for D.C. United. It's going to be fun watching Eric as he progresses onto this next stage of his career."

Klenofsky's junior year was undoubtedly his most successful one for Monmouth men's soccer. Before the season even kicked off, he was named MAAC Preseason Player of the Year and was recognized as being one of the nation's top ten goalkeepers by *TopDrawerSoccer.com*, which is a website that "provides authoritative, responsible coverage of college and high school aged soccer; promoting the game and the players who play it," according to the website. He was named in both the All-Northeast Region and All-MAAC First Teams, as well as be-

ing crowned MAAC Goalkeeper of the Year.

Klenofsky was in goal for the Hawks for every minute of every match throughout the fall 2015 season, being recognized as an Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) All-Star and a member of the MAAC 35th Anniversary Second Team, culminating in setting a career-high record of nine saves in the MAAC Championship where the Hawks fell to Rider by a score of three goals to two.

On top of all of his success on the field and in the classroom, Klenofsky was also a member of *The Outlook* and served as the Sports Editor for the fall 2015 semester.

"Eric's service to *The Outlook* really illustrates the kind of person he is," said John Morano, professor of journalism and faculty advisor of *The Outlook*. "Eric was studying journalism and decided that he might want to write sports for the student paper. Not only did he do that, he quickly took on the role of Sports Editor, running the entire section. He did this while playing soccer and taking a full course load. Eric is a hustler. And he doesn't like to settle for 'good enough'. Eric gives you 100 percent no matter what he's involved with. I'm excited to see where life takes him."

"Eric is the latest in a long line of outstanding goalkeepers for Monmouth soccer," said Matt Harmon, Specialist Professor of Communication and broadcaster of Monmouth Soccer for the *Monmouth Digital Network*. "He is a great ambassador for the program and for Monmouth University Athletics as a whole. He did a great job dealing with the pressure of being such a highly rated prospect during his time in West Long Branch. I also had the pleasure of having him in class and saw him balance being a student-athlete extremely well."

In a senior season plagued by a broken bone in his right hand, Klenofsky still managed to rank

first in the MAAC in save percentage, as well as earning recognition as MAAC Co-Goalkeeper of the Year, earning two MAAC Defensive Player of the Week honors and a spot on the All-MAAC Second Team. Klenofsky's collegiate career ends with him holding the record for fourth-best goals against average in Monmouth men's soccer history as well as recording 32 clean sheets in his 66 career appearances.

"Eric is an example of how successful a student-athlete can be when hard work and perseverance meet natural ability and talent," said Eddy Occhipinti, Associate Athletics Director/Marketing & Sponsorships. "As skilled as he was, it was his determination to work hard every day that separated him from

the rest of the keepers at the collegiate level and one of the reasons he is now a professional. It was a joy to get to know him and be able to broadcast his matches, and I have no doubt that Eric's best soccer is ahead of him."

The MAAC superstar turned MLS recruit had a message for the youth soccer players of today, too, and it is that dreams really do come true.

"My advice to those trying to play professionally is not to be afraid to fail," said Klenofsky. "Whatever you want to do in life, whether it be soccer or anything else, you can make it happen. Give everything you have to what you want and whole-heartedly commit yourself to your dreams and they will come true, I promise you."



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth University Athletics

Former Monmouth goalkeeper Eric Klenofsky became the sixth student-athlete to be drafted into the MLS in the last seven years.

Off Big Win, Ice Hockey Eyes Postseason Birth

JOHN SORCE
SPORTS EDITOR

The University's ice hockey team picked up their tenth victory of the season against Rutgers-Camden by a score of 4-3 on Friday night.

Junior forward Allen Zak, junior defensemen Jordan Shelepak, senior center and captain Kyle Blazier and junior left wing Erik Smith provided the offense for the Hawks, while senior goalkeeper Stephen Bonora had 35 saves on 38 shots.

"Our last game was a huge win for our team," Zak said. "We have a great group of guys and a great senior core to lead the way and we're heading into the final stretch of the season with great confidence. Our ultimate goal this season is to win playoffs and move on to regionals and I believe we have the group of guys to do it. We are all a tight knit group and get along great and that is the key to our success."

The team is now 10-11-1-1 on the season and seek to make the postseason for the second consecutive year. The team plays in the Colonial States College Hockey Conference and are currently in sixth place in the 10 team conference. The top six teams make the playoffs, with the top two seeds getting a first-round bye.

"Our captain, Kyle Blazier, has been here with me for five years," Bonora said. "He's a great guy and is always clutch when you need a goal. Anthony DeFede is a senior and our assistant captain. He works his butt off nonstop and is always giving 120 percent. Our other alternate captain, Talon Ribsam, is my best friend on the team. We played together in high school and I know everything I am going to get from him in a game and I love him to death."

Bonora also mentioned senior defenseman Nick Tarquini as a player who always comes ready to play and has been one of the

team's best players since his freshman year. "It's been a pleasure playing alongside all four of these guys," he added.

The team is currently at .500 in their conference at 6-6-1-1, but ended the fall semester on a strong note.

"We beat The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) and Princeton, who are the top two teams in the league," Bonora said. "That is something that we are looking to build on once we get back into league play."

The Ice Hawks have had two other games in the spring semester. They dropped games to Saint Joseph's 6-3 on Friday, Jan. 20 and Rider 6-0 on Saturday, Jan. 21.

Freshman goaltender Noah Goldberg collected 34 saves against Saint Joseph's. Blazier scored early to give the Hawks a 1-0 lead, but SJU scored three unanswered to take a 3-1 lead after the first period. A goal by senior defender Nick Tarquini made it a one-score game, but Saint Joseph's outscored Monmouth 3-1 from that point on.

Bonora had 30 saves against Rider, who out-shot the Hawks 34-19 in the contest.

The future for the ice hockey team is a bright one. As Bonora noted, the team has nine freshman on the team including Goldberg, who is likely to accumulate a lot of minutes between the pipes next season, alongside junior goalie, Andrew Terracciano.

"He's a very good goalie skill-wise, but I would say the biggest thing for him is mental preparation before a game," Bonora said. "The only thing I can really teach him is to keep his focus and not let your head spin around when things start to go bad. Other than that, I can only compliment him on his game. I know both Goldy (Goldberg) and Tersh (Terracciano) will get the job done next season."

Blazier strongly agreed with Bonora's viewpoint about the



PHOTO TAKEN from Monmouth Ice Hockey Facebook page

Junior forward Allen Zak scored one of four goals for the Ice Hawks in their win over Rutgers-Camden on Friday night.

bright future, noting that the program has done a good job of consistently adding talented players each year.

"The kind of hockey you have to play to fight for a playoff spot and win elimination games is much different from the earlier games," Blazier said. "Getting our entire team exposed to these high-intensity games makes us better both immediately and for the seasons to come."

The blue and white return to the ice for their final regular season home game on Friday night against the University of Scranton. Puck-drop from Wall Sports Arena will be at 9 p.m. The team will be on the road for their final three games: at Seton Hall on Saturday, at UPenn on Friday, Feb. 10 and at Rutgers on Saturday, Feb. 11. All four of these games have postseason implications for the team.

"Our last four games of the season are all league games so if we win three or four out of four, we are going to make the playoffs automatically," Bonora said.

Bonora is one of six seniors on the team and while their time together is nearing an end, they are

focused on what they still hope to accomplish together.

"It's been a great five years here. I've seen a little bit of good, with some bad thrown in as well, but the good has definitely outweighed the bad, especially these past two seasons," Bonora said.

"It's not over yet – we still have two more jobs to do. Number one is make the playoffs, and number two is to win our conference and go to regionals, and maybe shock a team or two while we're there as well," Bonora added. "The last thing I want to do for this team is win them a championship. It would be the absolute best way possible to end my career as Hawk."

"The feeling you have when 20 guys in the same locker room as you put together a great effort and win a really important game for your school is one that is tough to beat, and those moments are the ones that will be most memorable for us all in five, 10 or 15 years," Blazier said. "It makes it especially sweet to see how much the program has grown over my five years here, and you obviously only hope for the best moving forward."

Women's Basketball Collects Win at Fairfield

MATT DELUCA
STAFF WRITER

The women's basketball team defeated Fairfield 60-53 in overtime Thursday night at Alumni Hall in Fairfield, CT.

Freshman guard Kayla Shaw hit a three-point shot with less than a second remaining to tie the game at 50, sending the game to overtime. The Hawks would dominate the overtime period, leading them to their fifth conference victory of the season.

"Kayla Shaw is usually our go-to scorer, but she hadn't hit a shot all day," Monmouth Head Coach Jenny Palmateer said after the game. "She buried the one that means the most."

Senior guard Tyese Purvis led the Hawks in scoring with 22 points, with no other Hawk reaching double figures in scoring for the game. Freshman forward Alexa Middleton grabbed 16 rebounds in the game, a career-high.

"For us to get our conference road win against a team like Fairfield is a great victory for us," Palmateer said. "I think it shows our team is maturing, especially since we didn't shoot the ball well. To still be able to gut that one out and pull through in the end was huge."

Fairfield led by as many as 13, coming with 5:00 remaining in the third quarter. Monmouth closed the gap by going on a 12-0 run to go into the fourth quarter down by just one point. Battling back-and-forth in the final ten minutes, it was



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth University Athletics

Freshman guard Kayla Shaw leads the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference with 53 three-pointers so far this season.

Shaw's three that kept Monmouth's hopes alive and sent the game into overtime. The Hawks outscored the Stags 10-3 during overtime.

With the victory, the Hawks improved to 10-9 on the season, with a 5-5 MAAC record. They hoped to continue their success on Saturday, but they fell to Siena 91-86 in double overtime Saturday afternoon at the OceanFirst Bank Center.

Shaw led the Hawks with 24 points, making seven three-point shots. Purvis scored 12, and sophomore guard McKinzee Barker had 11. Middleton had a double-double in the game, with 10 points and 10

took a two-point advantage into the final minute of regulation. With 30 seconds remaining, the Hawks had the ball with a chance to tie the game up at 68. Shaw was able to thread a pass over the top of the defense into the hands of Middleton, who was able to finish on a wide-open layup. The Monmouth defense was able to hold a late push by Siena, as the game went into overtime tied at 68.

Siena controlled most of the overtime period, but Monmouth received five points from Purvis in the final minute, including a three-point shot to tie the game at 77 with 21 seconds remaining in overtime. Neither team was able to score in the final seconds, sending the game into a second overtime period.

The Saints commanded most of the second overtime as well, as they outscored the Hawks 13-9 on their way to seal their ninth victory of the season.

"We're disappointed," Palmateer said after the game. "I think we battled really hard in the second half and the overtime period to give ourselves a shot."

"The positive of this game is that we're getting used to playing in different scenarios," Palmateer continued. "This kind of experience for our young players is invaluable."

With the loss, the Hawks fell to 10-10 on the season, with a 5-6 record in conference play.

They look to bounce back Thursday night, as they host in-state rival Rider. Tip-off is slated for 7 p.m., with the game being broadcasted on both ESPN3 and WMCX 88.9 FM.

SIDE LINES

Softball: The softball team was selected to finish second in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Preseason coaches' poll, the league announced on Monday. Senior first baseman Justene Reyes and junior pitcher Amanda Riley were named to the Preseason All-MAAC First Team. The blue and white made it to the MAAC Championship a season ago, but fell to Marist, who garnered 10 of the 11 first place votes, by a run. Monmouth recieved the other first place vote. Fairfield came in third followed by Canisius, Manhattan, Quinnipiac, and Iona. Siena placed eighth in the poll, while Niagara, Rider, and Saint Peter's round out the final three.

Men's Tennis: The men's tennis team competed against three schools at the NJIT Invitational over the weekend and picked up doubles wins over Binghamton and New Jersey Institute of Technology on Saturday and recieved singles wins from Przemyslaw Filipek, Sam Bellersen, and Nicola Pipoli, while Alberto Giuffrida earned two singles wins on Saturday. MU recorded four more doubles matches on Sunday and picked up singles victories from Pipoli, Filipek, Vikrant Dahiya, Ale Gomez Estrada, and Richard Chen. The Hawks will next hit the court when they travel to Chicago, IL on Feb. 3 to take on DePaul. The first match is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.

UPCOMING GAMES

Thursday, Feb. 2
*WBB vs. Rider**
OceanFirst Bank Center
West Long Branch, NJ 7:00 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 3
*MBB vs. Saint Peter's**
OceanFirst Bank Center
West Long Branch, NJ 7:00 p.m.

M Tennis at DePaul
Chicago, IL 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 4
Men's & Women's Indoor Track
Scarlet & White Invitational
Boston University
Boston, MA 9:00 a.m.

M Tennis at Notre Dame
South Bend, IN 10:00 a.m.

*WBB at Quinnipiac**
TD Bank Sports Center
Hamden, CT 1:00 p.m.

Men's & Women's Indoor Track
Villanova Invitational
Staten Island, NY, 4:00 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 6
*MBB at Rider**
Alumni Gymnasium
Lawrenceville, NJ 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 8
*Men's & Women's Swimming**
MAAC Championship
Buffalo, NY 8:00 a.m.

**Conference games*



Senior point guard Justin Robinson became the men's basketball Division I career points leader with 1,762 in the Hawks' 83-71 win over Marist on Monday night. He surpassed Alex Blackwell (1989-92) and John Giraldo (1992-96), who were tied at 1,749 points.