



# THE OUTLOOK

MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY'S  
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## Gender Inclusive Bathrooms Unaffected by Rollback of Transgender Protections

KERRY BREEN  
HEAD COPY EDITOR

The Trump administration removed Obama-era federal guidelines for transgender students in public schools and as a result, students are no longer guaranteed the right under federal law to use bathrooms, locker rooms, and other facilities that match their gender identity, as of Feb. 23. However, the University's establishment of gender-neutral bathrooms will remain unaffected, according to administration.

The protections, in place since May 2016 by former President Barack Obama, said that prohibiting transgender students from using facilities that align with their gender identity violated

federal anti-discrimination laws. The White House announced the roll-back of Obama's protection guidelines in a statement published on Feb. 22.

President Trump declared, "policy regarding transgender bathrooms should be decided at the state level...returning power to the states paves the way for an open and inclusive process to take place at the local level with input from students, parents, teachers, and administrators."

In 2016, the University took steps to make the campus more inclusive towards transgender and gender non-conforming individuals. Every single building on campus now has at least one gender-neutral bathroom that can be used by all students, regardless of gen-

der identity.

"Monmouth University established gender neutral bathrooms and fully intends to keep them as they are designated today," said Mary Anne Nagy, Vice President for Student Life and Leadership Engagement, speaking on the behalf of University President Grey Dimenna.

"The executive order says you are no longer required to do so but we will continue to provide them because it is the right thing to do. Monmouth prides itself on being caring, welcoming, and inclusive community, and all members of our campus should feel safe here. We are committed as a campus to be a place where

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## Hackers Can Steal Fingerprints From Online Selfies



PHOTO COURTESY of Yasir Alsaedi

Hackers are able to retrieve fingerprints from photos on social media and online, researchers warn..

MEHDI HUSAINI  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Researchers at Japan's National Institute of Informatics found that hackers can steal a victim's biometric data by recreating fingerprints from pictures posted on social media.

The Institute found that users could be at risk even without posting extremely high-resolution photos online. As long as the range of the photograph was about three meters and the area was well lit, hackers can steal fingerprints for later use. This means that even something as benign as putting up a peace sign in a selfie can be dangerous, since it openly exposes fingerprints to the lens.

According to an article by *The Telegraph*, released on Jan. 12, since an individual's prints do not change throughout the course of his or her lifetime, and can be linked to locks on their personal information as well as

bank accounts, stolen biometric data means vulnerability for a lifetime, especially if the data is sold illegally.

"[Students] shouldn't fall into the trap of thinking that biometric security is necessarily better than traditional security mechanisms," said Dr. Joe Chung, Unix Administrator-Teacher of the computer science and software engineering department. "An inkjet-printed fingerprint could be enough to unlock a phone. Biometric security may be more convenient than typing in a password or pin, but it's not inherently better."

Technology is advancing to accommodate for more secure biometric security that may offset fingerprint theft. According to the article [from *The Telegraph*], a China-based company is working on creating 'live' fingerprint scanners that analyze living tissue underneath the print to en-

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## Communication Career Event Brings Professionals from NBC, Asbury Park Press, ESPN



PHOTO COURTESY of Fiona Mullen

Students sat with University alumni and discussed life after graduation at the Career Event.

DANIELLE SCHIPANI  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Over 100 students, faculty, University alumni and industry professionals from *Asbury Park Press*, *Sirius XM*, *NY Daily News*, *Star Ledger*, *NBC*, *ESPN*, and more attended the Communication Career Event on Monday, Mar. 6 in Wilson Hall from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

"Events like this are beneficial to current students for networking purposes, for learning insider tips about their industries from former students who were once in the same position as them, and potentially for future internships and career advancement as well," said Mary Harris, a specialist professor of public relations.

There were four parts of the event. The day began with a

panel discussion that focused on careers in radio as well as a journalism and public relations career mentor session. This was followed by a panel discussion of careers in television and media production as well as a panel discussion on what you can do with a journalism and public relations degree.

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“Worldwide, women and men stand in solidarity with each other to achieve equality. Despite great progress made possible by generations that came before us, we still have miles to go.”

REKHA DATTA  
Professor of Political Science

PHOTOS COURTESY of Kenny Bieber

#MarchWithMU



# Students March On International Women’s Day

DALLY MATOS  
COPY EDITOR

Over 50 students, faculty, administrators, and other members of the University community participated in a demonstration on International Women’s Day on March 8. The program began with a march from the Monmouth University Guggenheim Library to a rally at Wilson Hall, and ended with a movie screening of “She’s Beautiful When She’s Angry” in Pozycki auditorium.

“Women have come a long way in the ‘march’ towards gender equality. Worldwide, women and men stand in solidarity with each other to achieve equality. Despite great progress made possible by generations that came before us, we still have miles to go,” said Rekha Datta, a professor of political science and sociology.

“Worldwide, one in three women will face sexual violence in their lifetime. Gender pay gap is almost ubiquitous. These are the global causes that international women’s day reminds us about in terms of the work that is still to be done. The day is also a reminder for us to celebrate what has been accomplished by the human community,” Datta continued.

The march was co-sponsored by a number of student clubs and organizations including Students Advocating Girls’ Education (SAGE), the Gender Studies Club, the Sociology Club, Sexuality, Pride, Education, Community, Truth, Respect, and Unity at Monmouth (S.P.E.C.T.R.U.M.), the Social Work Society, and the Muslim Student Association.

Students and supporters alike gathered near the back steps of the library with an array of signs, such as “women equal people,” and “stop policing women’s bodies.” A cameraman from *Asbury Park Press* interviewed students while they waited for the march to begin.

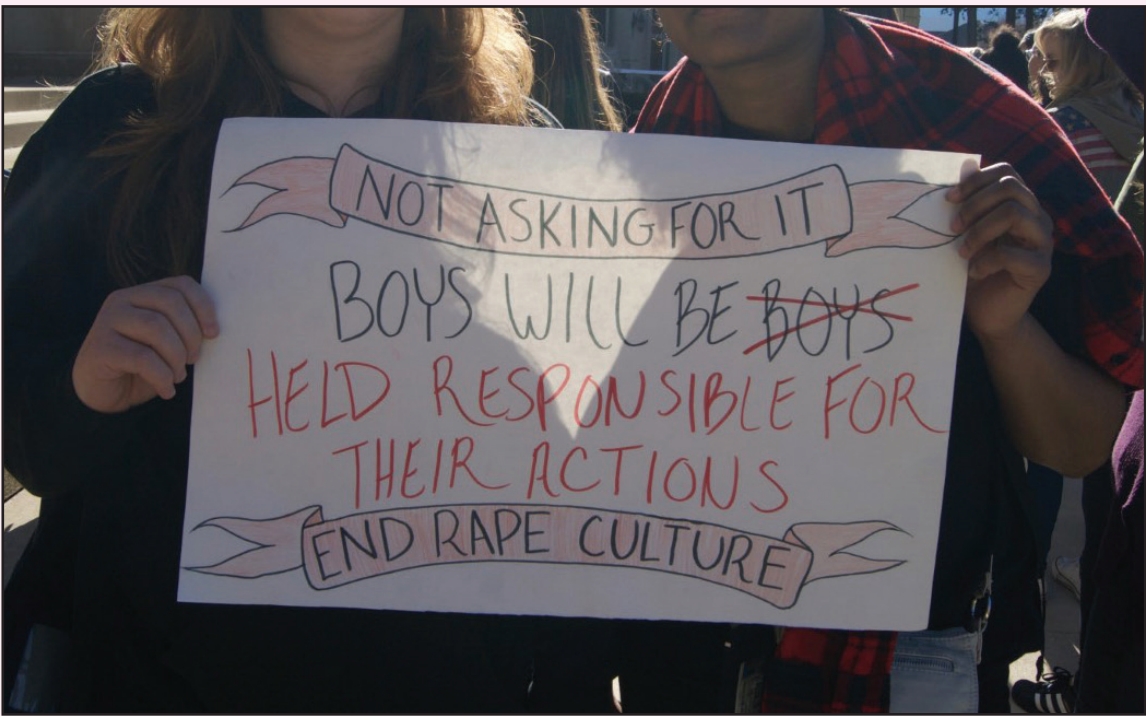


PHOTO COURTESY of Kenny Bieber

A march, rally, and movie premiere took place on International Women’s Day in a program organized by student organizations.

Janaya Lewinski, President of S.A.G.E. and a senior political science student, said that the march was inspired by similar events held across the country. “Some of the people who helped organize the march, included professors in mental health counseling, an associate dean, professors in political science and sociology, and student leaders like myself who had attended women’s marches following the inauguration of our 45<sup>th</sup> president,” she commented.

“We all were hungry about what to do next. After attending such a massively inspiring event we all wanted to be able to mobilize ourselves, and the community we belong to,” said Lewinski.

Around 2:50 p.m. the group marched from the library to the steps of Wilson Hall chanting various cries related to ending rape culture and women’s rights.

The rally at Wilson began with opening remarks from Lewinski,

and then the spotlight was turned to the crowd, who were invited to speak if they felt comfortable.

Briana Merckson, a sophomore and music industry student, was the first student to approach the microphone. She sang India Arie’s song “Video.” “I’m not the average girl from your video. And I ain’t built like a supermodel. But I learned to love myself unconditionally, because I am a queen,” she sang.

Victoria Borges, a senior social work student, carried a sign that stated, “women equal people.” She said, “Although the symbol and message on the sign was simple the idea is far more complex than what we think. Once people understand that women are people, they will understand that we have voices, we are more than just our bodies, and we are diverse.”

“We should be allowed to speak for ourselves and tell society what is our best method of empowerment, whether it be exposing ourselves

or covering up our bodies. Let us speak for ourselves. We are all different so we should talk about our differences and discuss them, and keep fighting,” said Borges.

Tyler Castro, a sophomore psychology student, was one of a handful of men in attendance at the march. “It is important for men to celebrate International Women’s Day and also be an advocate for change because we are all equal,” he said.

“I feel that many men believe that being a feminist or pro-women is inherently anti-men, which is not true. We all came from women, if it were not for the sacrifices they make every day, none of us would be here. Men have been living the good life for too long, it is time to have women experience the luxuries we receive every day,” Castro continued.

Johanna Foster, an assistant professor of political science and sociology, became involved with the

demonstration after attending the March on Washington on Jan. 21. “I know many students and faculty here at MU who attended that march, or the march in New York City, or the local march in Asbury Park that same day and who also wanted to make the point that one march is not going to solve anything, and that the point is to keep marching, and to turn that energy into direct actions to change the policies and actions of the people in power.”

“I encouraged all my students to attend even if they were not sure where they stood on the fights for gender, racial, immigrant, or LG-BTQ justice, for example, but to be a part of the process of learning how to make your voice heard and how to mobilize for the changes you want to see in your world,” said Foster.

Lewinski was pleased with the openness of the speakers at the rally. “I was surprised at the depth of the contributions made on the open mic. Some of the speeches made me kind of emotional, and I’m never ready for that,” she said.

According to Datta, the march was a celebration of diversity on campus. “The readings and reflections clearly showed our student leaders at their best. They served as voices for those who need support. They made us proud to be part of the MU community,” she said.

Following the rally, some participants went to the showing of “She’s Beautiful When She’s Angry,” in Pozycki auditorium.

Jane Lai, Vice President of S.P.E.C.T.R.U.M. and a sophomore English student, hopes that students left the series of events feeling hopeful. She said, “As simple as that sounds, sometimes simplicity is what we are blinded to. Sometimes it only takes one tiny thing, whether it be a compliment or just a sign that tells someone, ‘I can do this.’”

# Selfies May Leave You Vulnerable to Hackers

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sure the fingerprint isn’t a dummy created by hackers to steal personal information.

“It is alarming, yet not surprising to me, that biometric data can be stolen via online photos,” said Mary Harris, a specialist professor in public relations. “As technology continues to advance, I am sure we will see more and more of this.”

According to Chung, students may be better targets for schemes that steal personal information like this because they spend more time online than older generations. “The Internet that they’ve been raised on also has more online services, such as social apps, that require more accounts to be created than ever before,” said Chung.

In addition, Chung thinks students are at further risk because they spend more time than other demographics in computer labs where they may be susceptible to those trying to steal personal information.

“It’s quite alarming how personal information can be commandeered by hackers through fingerprints found in photos we post online. It really puts everything into perspective on

how we need to be more careful about what we post,” said Kathy Chen, a freshman chemistry student.

“As the rise of these concerns continues to take place, I recommend that students make the necessary changes in what types of photos they are taking and sharing so that their data is not stolen,” said Harris. This means that students may have to change their own photo-sharing behavior and habits once they realize the risks of putting certain data online.

Chung advises students that suspect they have been part of hacks to notify the appropriate services after taking defensive action to ensure their accounts are secure. “[Students should] change their online service passwords and contact university or local authorities who can warn other students. They should check and secure the things that matter: bank and credit card accounts. If their financial accounts have been compromised, it may mean contacting a credit reporting agency,” he said.

According to Edward Christensen, Vice President for Information Management, identity theft and unauthorized access are significant issues and



PHOTO TAKEN by Jamilah McMillan

Researchers in China announced that hackers can retrieve fingerprints from pictures where fingertips are visible.

are more likely to result from phishing emails, malware installed on a computer or skimming credit card info in a public place.

“While connected technology advances make our lives easier

they also bring about new ways to for crime and fraud. Security is in the hands of the user, not just technology solutions, so be aware of the latest advice for protecting yourself,” said Christensen.

“Think before you post,” said Kyle Frankenbush, a freshman computer science student. “There’s no turning back. Once something is posted online, it’s there forever, even if you try and ‘delete’ it.”



# Visiting Writer Series Welcomes Liz Moore

LAUREN NIESZ  
SENIOR/OPINIONS EDITOR

The Visiting Writer Series introduced its first installation for the spring semester by hosting creative nonfiction writer, Liz Moore, on Tuesday, Mar. 7 in Wilson Auditorium.

The event opened with two introductions; Michael Thomas, Associate Dean and Director of the Visiting Writers Series, who introduced assistant professor, Alex Gilvarry.

Gilvarry attended graduate school with Moore and suggested her to Thomas as a possible visiting writer. With little persuasion necessary, Thomas agreed to invite Moore to the University.

Moore currently has three published novels and has received high acclaim and recognition for the talent in these works. She is the winner of the Medici Book Club Prize and Philadelphia's Athenaeum Literary Award, and her most recent novel, *The Unseen World*, which was published just this past year, was listed in "Best of 2016" lists by *The New Yorker*, the BBC, and multiple others.

The majority of the Visiting Writers Series has been poetry heavy; however, Moore is an acclaimed creative nonfiction/fiction writer. This is a different flavor for consistent Visiting Writers Series goes. Thomas stated, "We wanted to offer as much styles and genres of literature that appeal to our students and the kind of work they are doing at the undergraduate and the graduate level."

Moore is a young writer who published her first work before she entered graduate school. According to Thomas her age is something that the predomi-

nately college student audience could connect with. He said, "Students can feel some connection with someone her age; she can be a great influence on our young writers, and women too."

"She comes to a campus and she is very aware of her audience and I think students feel that. They know when a writer is connected the way she is," he continued.

At the event, Moore read specifically from her most recent work, *The Unseen World*. Moore indulged the audience in the background of the inspiration for this novel. The novel, which focuses on a father-daughter relationship in 1980's Boston, was very much a reflection of Moore's own childhood.

The protagonist of the novel, Ada, a homeschooled teenager, has an interesting relationship with her father, David, a computer scientist. In the likeness of Moore's own childhood, she shared that her father was also a scientist; however, he was not a computer scientist.

Moore spent time around her father's colleagues and claimed that she was fascinated by the "particular ethos and humor they had." This translated into *The Unseen World* heavily with the character of David and his co-workers in the novel.

Moore then continued to read directly from the novel. She explained that she took one thread or theme of the novel and took portions of it from different areas sections to explain to the audience. The particular thread she chose to exhibit for the Visiting Writers Series was the theme of Ada's entrance into the teenage world after a prolonged lack of exposure to anything but homeschooling.

According to Moore, *The Unseen World* delves into a



Liz Moore reads excerpts from her newest novel, *The Unseen World* at the University's visiting writers series on March 7.

PHOTO COURTESY of Tina Colella

world of advancing technology, adolescent curiosity, and enigmatic tendencies. One notion that most critics comment on in Moore's work is her character development.

Gilvarry said, "When you read her books you can really tell that she cares for people through the way she writes her characters. She is really generous and loving with her characters and they are very well rounded and living, breathing people."

"Her novels are about people at some of the hardest points in their lives, but there is a bit of hope in each story. They are not escapist fiction—it's realism," Gilvarry continued.

The audience is able to relate to many of Moore's characters, even if this was their first time listening to any of Moore's works. Katryna Cordova, a senior English student, commented, "The novel definitely seems like something I've never read before, and after today I'm thoroughly interested in reading it." These connections that the audience makes with readers of the Visiting Writers Series are what the events are all about.

Jesi Halprin, a senior English student, said, "I think Monmouth's Visiting Writers Series is a really amazing event that give us students the opportunity to meet and converse

with authors that we otherwise wouldn't get the chance to do. Personally, as an English major with a creative writing concentration, I find that these events always have me leaving with a new understanding of the craft."

Thomas said, "It only takes that one reading to really change a young writer's life where they hear from a poet or fiction writer that they are completely changed by."

The next installation of the event will be on April 4 at 4:30 p.m. in Wilson Auditorium. Monmouth will be welcoming writer of eight novels, including *The Master and Brooklyn*, Colm Toibin.

## Gender Inclusive Bathrooms Remain At University

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a place where everyone is valued and respected."

"The appropriations of society become huge pushbacks for transgender youth as kids search for years looking for an identity that is not available to them," explained Jane Lai, a sophomore English student and the Vice President of Sexuality, Pride, Education, Community, Truth, Respect, and Unity at Monmouth (S.P.E.C.T.R.U.M.).

"The male and female binaries, to this day, are extremely strict, harming both men and women. Unfortunately, in many transgender cases, they have to live a large portion of their early life by blindly stumbling through a facet of a test which they don't know the answers to," Lai added.

While Lai believes that more can be done to help the campus community understand transgender issues, she felt that the bathrooms themselves were a step in the right direction.

"There were some positives," Lai said. "Some transitioning, as well as gender-fluid and transgender individuals felt more comfortable in using those bathrooms, especially the single-stalled gender neutral ones."

"I find the neutral bathrooms [on campus] to be an interesting social movement, and I am happy that people who felt misunderstood and distressed are fighting

for their rights for comfort," said Joy Morgan, a junior communications student and the president of the University's Youth Activists Club. "The club has multiple political perspectives, including pro-Trump. That being said, we try to have educated and positive conversations about politics without being clearly polarized."

Morgan added, "I should also mention then that there are also members who are disturbed by this decision and find Trump's behaviors to be disturbing and inhumane. It has also been expressed that decisions like this from Trump shows his inability to move forward with social change and civil rights."

Lai herself was involved in conversations with Kenneth Womack, the Dean of the University's School of Humanities and Social Sciences Department, to try to make further improvements. According to Lai, those improvements have included the implementation of SafeZone training for faculty, and offering more diversity talks on campus.

According to Nancy Mezey, Associate Dean of Faculty and Academic Affairs for the McMurray School of Humanities and Social Science, SafeZone is a national program that was brought to the University in 2015. "Trainers from the *gayalliance.org* came and trained approximately 10 administrators across the University to think about gender and sexuality diver-



PHOTO TAKEN by Alexandria Afanador

In February President Trump revoked protections for transgender students initiated by former President Barack Obama. The University's gender inclusive restrooms will remain.

sity and create a campus climate where people who claim diverse gender and sexuality feel safe," she said.

While the University may remain unaffected by the roll-backs of Obamas executive order, it is one that may have far-reaching ramifications nationwide. One such example is the case of Gavin Grimm, a transgender student in Virginia who sued his school board after it barred him from using the boy's bathroom.

On Thursday, Mar. 2, unions representing more than one mil-

lion teachers told the Supreme Court that it should grant Grimm and students like him across the country access to school restrooms that match their gender, despite Trump's executive order.

While Grimm's case won in a federal appeals court, it was appealed and brought to the Supreme Court. However, the Supreme Court sent the case back down to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals on Monday, Mar. 6. According to an article by *The Atlantic* on Mar. 6, the decision was made in part because of the

Trump administration's new position on the issues involved in the case.

A similar case may not arise at the University as Nagy reminds students that while the executive order may have been issued, the campus is still a place where "everyone is valued and respected."

"Anyone who may be subjected to behavior or actions contrary to that should seek assistance from my office, the Monmouth University Police, or the Office of Equity and Diversity," Nagy said.



# Communication Students Connect with Professionals

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Throughout many of the panel discussions, the panelists highlighted the importance of taking part in on campus communication clubs as it gives students the chance to begin to practice their craft. “I was particularly impressed by the alumni on the TV panel. They all started their journeys with *Hawk TV* and classes at Monmouth. And now that they are in the professional world, most of them are still working with each other and continue to rely on one another for new opportunities and connections,” said Robert Scott, specialist professor of communication. It’s encouraging to know there is a major network in place for our students when they graduate, one that offers personal support and professional guidance,” he continued.

Students have seen an increase in interest in their clubs on campus since the Communication Career Event. Russell Cerminaro, junior communication student and Webmaster at *Hawk TV* said, “The following week, we saw a lot of new members at our *Hawk TV* general meeting. So along with meeting and speaking with alumni, now more students are trying harder to get involved in extracurricular activities.”

Cerminaro believes that the highlight of the event for him was the panel discussions, as he was able to take away meaningful advice from professionals in the business. “Personally, I

liked the TV panel the best. As a TV major looking to work my way into the business, it was the perfect panel to check out. The alumni gave great advice and answered everyone’s questions. They even hung around afterward to speak with people individually,” he said.

The event also allowed professors to reconnect with alumni they had taught and see where their careers have taken them. “The Communication Career event was a success because of the alumni engagement and the student participation. It was wonderful to reconnect with alumni and learn about their experiences in the work field,” said Harris.

Tara Ackaway, CEO and Founder of Social Wise Communications LLC and University alumna, offered some advice for current students regarding the importance of networking as well as the importance of keeping strong connections with your peers. She said, “It’s extremely important to listen and learn from others who were once in your shoes. Every professional who attended the career event wants nothing more than to see fellow Hawks go on to achieve big things,” she said. “You never know what opportunities will come out of networking. I recommend using career events as a way to selfishly get all of your career questions answered by people who are currently excelling in a field you dream of pursuing.”

There was an Alumni Acad-



PHOTO COURTESY of Fiona Mullen

Students get one on one advice from alumni succeeding in their professional fields.

emy Award Ceremony at 4:30 p.m. followed by the opportunity for students to have their resume reviewed by professionals. The event closed with a networking and internships and jobs fair where students had the chance to meet with professionals in the field.

The networking portion of the event was also a major highlight for many students. Haley Gasparine, sophomore communica-

tion student, was able to hand her resume to professionals in the field and make connections with peers and alumni. “We actually got to speak with the individuals that gave us business advice during the panel. I spoke with Jenna (Gaudio) from *Vydia* and Alex (Appolonia) from *Business Insider*. This was awesome because I had the chance to give them my resumes, learn about their internship programs

in depth, and connect with both of them on LinkedIn. This was the perfect opportunity to make a good first impression and get my foot in the door,” she said.

In the future Aaron Furgason, Chair of the Communication Department, hopes that all communication students will attend. “Networking is such an important tool to success in Communication jobs. The event offers students that opportunity,” he said.

## Criminal Justice Networking Event Coming Soon

ALEXANDRIA AFANADOR

PHOTOGRAPHY/CO-FEATURES EDITOR

Over 40 different organizations will be joining the Criminal Justice Department at their 5th annual networking fair on March 29 in an effort to help students of all majors build mentorships, secure internships, and establish professional relationships. The event will be held in Wilson Hall from 5 to 9 p.m.

Over 50 officials – 40 percent of which are University alumni – will represent career areas including: law enforcement; homeland security; postal inspection; secret service; the Fire Department City of New York (FDNY); and victim witness units from county prosecutor’s offices.

Nicholas Sewitch, an instructor of criminal justice and Internship Coordinator, organized the event. He said, “These presenters, being Monmouth alumni, prove that going into your career is possible, and it’s not just a dream--you can do it. They get to see them as their equals, as human beings. These are their role models; it’s good to present them with young and motivated people.”

The event will host all types of criminal justice-related areas of work such as members representing postal inspection, secret service, the fire department city of New York (FDNY), victim witness units from county prosecutor’s offices, along with many other dedicated individuals from the area.

“On one night, under one roof, almost every single criminal justice career is in one place, and I think that is just fascinating... all genders, sexes, all walks of life,



PHOTO COURTESY of Jenna Frain

On March 29 students of all majors will be allowed to network with professionals within the criminal justice world.

making a difference in everyone’s lives,” Sewitch continued.

The networking event has been specifically designed to be unlike an internship or career fair, according to Sewitch, because of its interactive nature. After an opening statement, three breakout sessions will commence on the first floor of Wilson Hall. Each of the 100-level rooms will hold a different form of law enforcement, victim advocacy, security, etc. Students will be able to choose a room to listen to the presenters and have time to ask questions and mingle in between and after each session.

Dr. Beth Sanders, Chair of the

Criminal Justice Department, said, “Students get to hear the reality of the jobs they look forward to getting into, rather than hearing the generic bureaucracy. You get to know the people and what they do day to day and be able to get inspired by these individuals.”

Keone Osby, an officer of the Hamilton Township Police Department and Monmouth University alumnus, said, “I think the event is extremely beneficial for students. It brings people from different aspects of law enforcement into one event where students can interact with them. The event allows students of all

grade levels to speak with these different laws enforcement agencies and learn what they do. It also allows students to ask questions on what they might expect from the job or the academy.”

The criminal justice department made it a point to emphasize that the event is inclusive to all majors because, according to Sewitch, teachings from criminal justice can be applied to every single major. Sewitch explained that each year, he wants to breakdown the stereotype that this type of an event would end up being a “cop-shop,” or that the event will solely focus on law enforcement, rather than the many

other areas of criminal justice.

Stephanie Vela, a junior social work student, though unable to attend the event, said, “I heard that there would be people from different organizations that relate to my major. Social work in the criminal justice system is important so I understand why it would be good for social work majors to attend [the event].”

By giving students this immersive experience of meeting some of their “role models,” as Sewitch said, students are able to not only understand their potential career fields and see just how attainable they are, but they are also able to mingle with likely employers.

Jeffrey Mass, Assistant Director of Career Services, said, “Students and alums get to meet with many, many potential employers in one place and time. This is a very efficient job search method. By meeting a hiring official in person (versus over the internet) candidates are able to showcase their drive, motivation, interpersonal and communication skills in a much more direct and effective way.”

In preparation for the event, Sewitch recommends business casual wear is more than acceptable--the event is not suit and tie formal but looking presentable is key to a good first impression. Although the event is rather relaxed and primarily focused on open conversation, rather than ‘sign up here,’ Sewitch said it is always a good idea to have a résumé handy.

Mass said, “First impressions still go a long way, so make sure to start off with a firm handshake, and maintain good eye contact.”



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Phone: (732) 571-3481  
Fax: (732) 263-5151

Mailing Address:  
The Outlook  
Monmouth University  
400 Cedar Ave  
West Long Branch, NJ 07764

Website: outlook.monmouth.edu  
E-Mail: outlook@monmouth.edu  
Advertising Inquiries: outlookads@monmouth.edu

A Welcome Letter to Our President

THE OUTLOOK STAFF

Dear President Grey Dimenna, As you know, Monmouth University is a wonderful place. The University itself has been thriving recently and we feel that you are returning at an ideal time to continue that legacy. Your previous 21 years of experience and your familiarity with the school will certainly be beneficial in your new role and we look forward to working with you during your time as Interim President. Monmouth's campus is constantly improving with various new initiatives, and we have faith that you will continue to help us on our path to success. We are hopeful that you will continue to lead Monmouth in the right direction and aid in the growth of the University. While there are certainly positives about the current state of the University, there are is always room for improvement. We hope that you listen to student voices and ensure that any pertinent issues are addressed

ethically. We hope that you will put your best foot forward in leading Monmouth in the right direction as far as quality of education, community interactions, and fostering creativity for every single student. We hope that you continue to promote inclusiveness of all ethnicities, races, and genders represented throughout the student body on campus, and we think that you will do a wonderful job since you are no stranger to Monmouth University and our evolving campus culture. We would also like to see you continue with the efforts that your predecessor took in encouraging diversity on campus, by way of discussions on the issue. In place of changing the name of Wilson Hall your predecessor asserted that informative tactics would be enacted to educate the University community on Wilsons legacy. We hope that you continue with these plans. Moreover, since you left

there may have been an increase of national recognition of the University. The editors believe this is in large part due to the recent success of our Athletic programs on campus. The men's basketball team, for example, has really popularized the University's name on a national level. All in all, we hope that you will lead with excitement and light, which is just what the University needs. As a small campus, it is easy to grow close with peers and faculty, and we hope that we will get to know you more as time progresses. We would encourage you to be involved within the student body. We enjoy seeing administration take part in what we, the Monmouth community, engage in every day. Being involved in student life and activities is an important part of letting us know that you care. It is a wonderful time to be a Hawk, and we are looking forward to flying with you. Sincerely, The Outlook staff



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5th Annual

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Wilson Hall

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# Taking Learning Outside of the Classroom

LAUREN NIESZ  
SENIOR/OPINION EDITOR

On a campus so enriched with a plethora of diverse events, it would be a shame if students did not attend these events. For many humanities courses at the University, there is a mandatory attendance requirement for students to attend a specific event for the course.

Many students shudder at the word “mandatory” because of their busy and hectic lives. Students choose classes to fit their schedules to a T; so, hearing that there is a mandatory event outside of the class time frame that one has to attend is irksome for most.

Lucia Bailey, a sophomore English student, said, “At times I wish the attendance was not mandatory, because if I am not on campus I find myself driving 45 minutes from my house to get there to attend the event.”

Dr. Susan Starke, associate professor of English, who has required her Shakespeare classes to attend simulcasts of popular Shakespeare plays studied in class, said, “As long as the professor offers an alternative assignment for students whose prior obligations literally don’t permit attendance at a special event, I feel it’s reasonable. I put it in the syllabus so students know from the start of the course what they are getting into.”

It seems as though classes in the humanities are more likely to assign these mandatory attendance events than the sciences. Dr. Merrily Ervin, Coordinator of School of Science General Education Courses, explains why the School of Science does not require students to attend events outside of class: “Students’ schedules vary and most likely, not all students would be



PHOTO TAKEN by Alexandria Afanador

Professor Alex Gilvarry introduced author Liz Moore at the most recent installment of the Visiting Writer's Series

able to attend an event that does not coincide with class time.”

Ervin added, “Even if you just offer extra credit for attendance, it is not fair to those who are unable to attend, unless you offer them an alternative way to get extra credit.”

However, Bailey, who was required to attend an installation of the Visiting Writers Series for one of her English courses, agrees that these events are applicable to class and enjoyable: “I love going to these events because I feel as if I learn so much information from the authors. I get different perspectives from different authors and see the way they write compared to someone else.”

Professors do not force students to attend out of class

events for no reason. In most cases, the events required are relatable to course materials and/or concepts. Most professors require students to go to events because of their relevance to the courses they are teaching.

Starke commented, “Studies show that requiring students to participate in co-curricular or outside-class events related to the course content encourages engagement in the course material and knowledge retention. Students remember these events more than they would remember just another lecture.”

Jesi Halprin, a senior English student, attended a recent Visiting Writers Series for a class, and reflected, “My class read *The Unseen World* [a novel written by Liz Moore, the

event’s writer] this past week and being able to hear Liz Moore read from her book allowed me to understand more about the voice that she used for the book.”

Another aspect of the classroom that requires students to do work on their own time is volunteer work. In his First Year Seminar course, *Animals, Life, Death, Kindness, and Sin*, Chair of Health and Physical Education and associate professor, Dr. Chris Hirschler, requires his first year students to volunteer hours at the local Monmouth County SPCA.

Hirschler believes that service work outside of the classroom is extremely beneficial to students: “Service-learning experiences improve students’

professionalism, expose them to organizational policies and procedures, and often involve helping those in need.”

“Faculty members incorporate course material that addresses real life problems and situations students will face in the course of their service and in life after Monmouth,” Hirschler continued.

By giving students the responsibility of getting their service hours off-campus and going to these various events, professors are encouraging life skills that students should harness and further develop. Furthermore, they are tools that help students understand fully and see a real life application of what they are learning in their courses.

## FIRST IS NOT THE WORST: First Generation Students Take Higher Education by Storm

NICOLE SEITZ  
STAFF WRITER

The day your acceptance letter to college comes in the mail is a proud day for you and your family, but there is a completely new level of pride and achievement when you are the first child in your family to go to college. Although it is 2017, and college seems like a norm to everyone, we still have students who are the ‘first generation’ students.

Being a first generation student means being the first person in your entire family to earn a degree in college. Many parents of first generation students may have only gotten

a high school diploma at the most. Some students graduating this May are the first in their families to be able to call themselves a college graduate.

Dr Robert McCaig, Vice President for Enrollment Management, said, “40.7% of the fall 2016 incoming freshman were first gen students.”

“One of the myths about Monmouth is that we are a rich white kid school. That is so untrue, 30% of the incoming class comes from varying ethnic backgrounds. These are facts, these are real. Our school is very rich in diversity,” according to McCaig.

Joey Affatato, a senior music in-

dustrial student and first generation student said, “Going away to college and having this experience really means a lot to me especially because my parents didn’t get to have this same experience.”

“I feel the opportunity to go away to school, make lifelong friends, and learn from professionals is an amazing experience that some can only dream of,” he continued.

The first university in America, founded in 1636, was Harvard (then called New College). That set off the establishment of thousands of colleges and universities nationwide over the years.

Although college has been around for hundreds of years, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century we have students whose families have never received higher education before. In my own family, I am the first person to go and the only one of my siblings to go to college. This whole experience of being a college student and graduating this May has been a huge deal for my family.

“First generation students are considered an at risk group because they don’t have parents who understand how to get through college,” McCaig explained.

“Now, almost everyone is going to college, it’s what we all have to do to get a job,” Dave DePaola, a senior business management student and first generation college student said. “When my grandpa (then also my dad) finished high school, they hadn’t planned to go to college because there was no need for it. They



PHOTO COURTESY of Miya Fragale

By working diligently, Taffy Lashley keeps up her grades and makes her family proud as the first in the family to go to Monmouth.

were both entrepreneurs in Real Estate,” he continued.

“My parents really encouraged me to try hard in high school so I could go to a good college. Although they have both made it without their college degrees, they have had to work extremely hard their whole careers to be where they are,” DePaola commented.

Emma Caban, Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admission, said in a presentation to parents of first generation students “What your students may be feeling are what you may be feeling too.” Those feelings of relief, excitement, anxiety, confusion, pride, and responsibility that

first year students often feel about starting the ‘college life’ are exactly what their parents are feeling. It is as if parents are living vicariously through their children, always ensuring their children have a better life and opportunity than they had.

DePaola understands the triumphs that his father and grandfather had to go through as high school students and the ability to have a job right out of school.

Falling into the same cycle is something that DePaola’s family tried hard to push him away from—now, DePaola applies himself and encourages other first generation students to do the same.



PHOTO COURTESY of Miya Fragale

Taffy Lashley prides herself on being the first in her family to attend a college or university.



# NIKE Launches Pro Hijab

**ANNA BLAINE**  
STAFF WRITER

Nike recently revealed that they are creating a hijab for Muslim female athletes to wear as they play sports. It is officially being called the “pro-hijab” which is a fitting name for promoting inclusiveness in a time when many Muslims are being alienated and treated like enemies. The Nike hijab will be sold in stores beginning this spring.

The hijab is a traditional head covering that Muslim women wear for religious reasons, but it often goes amiss that wearing the hijab is a personal choice as well. There is a stigma present within Western society associated with the hijab and what it represents.

During the 2016 election process, current President Donald Trump shared what he believes to be the problem with America, “We have a problem in this country it’s called Muslims we know our current president [Obama] is one.”

Whether people admit it or not, there is a general conception, that it represents extremist views. Western liberalism and conservatism has caused many people to exclude what they do not want to understand. That practice results in ignorance, which might explain the current climate of American culture. The pro-hijab is a necessary sportswear item in today’s society because it will promote equality.

Zareen Shueib, a senior business student and Vice President of the Muslim Student Association (MSA), said, “By creating a hijab, I think Nike is really working towards the inclusion of all different types of people. Nike is a renowned for its innovative gear; adding a hijab for Muslim athletes

shows the company isn’t afraid of trying new things and I appreciate and respect that.”

The idea behind this hijab was formulated after Emirati Olympic weightlifter, Amna Al Haddad, visited Nike headquarters and spoke about having only one hijab to weightlift in. This started a discussion about the ways in which Nike can design a comfortable alternative hijab seeing that many Muslim female athletes like

Had-d a d h a v e a h i g h p h y s i c a l demand of training for competitions or sports they compete in. The material for this hijab is made of a tight, thin polyester mesh so that it can absorb perspiration. It

Nike’s pro-hijab will be sold in stores to cater to Muslim female athletes.

has taken 13 months to design and while they are still going through iterations, the first person to try on the design is Muslim figure skater Zahra Lari who expressed her happiness with the results.

The product was also tested by Manal Rostom, a Muslim runner and triathlete. In promotion for the pro-hijab, Nike released a video last month featuring Middle Eastern female athletes called “What will they say about you?” This promotion video has garnered over a million views already ensuring that people are at least interested in Nike’s new apparel.

N i - c o l e G a l l a g h e r , a j u n i o r p s y c h o l o g y s t u d e n t , b e l i e v e s , “ I t h i n k t h a t N i k e ’ s p r o h i j a b

movement will enforce a climate of acceptance in society for one’s culture and religious beliefs.”

In the current political crisis today, Nike is one of the latest organizations attempting to dispel the rampant xenophobia led on by the Trump administration. Over the last few years there has been an influx of Middle Eastern female athletes from countries like Saudi Arabia, Brunei and Qatar competing at a professional level. Not only is the pro-hijab about unity and expression of one’s personal beliefs, this item is also helping young girls in less developed countries go after their dreams. This encouragement might be needed by young Muslim American female athletes as well.

Nike has received some negative feedback from the release of the hijab. A recent article from Teen Vogue criticized the sportswear. There was Twitter backlash; some people were protesting that they will not buy another product from Nike again because, according to them, the hijab oppresses women.

It is unfortunate today that making a statement about being a Muslim is deemed threatening in Western society to some folks. This is not about the oppression of women. The pro-hijab is a positive movement that aims to liberate Muslim women from feeling like they are outsiders. Muslim women should have the same advantages in sports or competitions, and not experience discrimination because they choose to wear a head scarf.

Some criticize that the global corporation is designing a hijab to simply appeal to Muslim customers, rather than making strides towards equality. Dr. Johanna Foster, an assistant pro-

fessor of sociology and Director of the Sociology Program, feels that we cannot allow corporations to dictate human rights agenda. “It is extremely important that women and girls of all religious and cultural backgrounds be afforded access to participate in sports in ways that uphold their religious freedoms, but if Nike really cared about that, they wouldn’t need to put a giant Nike Swoosh front and center, nor would they continue to exploit women and girls all around the world in systemic labor exploitation,” said Foster.

Hijabs do not differ from wearing a cross to express one’s faith. Many athletes wear crosses to represent their Christianity. The pro-hijab could be seen as a fashion statement in the future. Olympic track and field star, Gail Devers became popular on and off the track for wearing fashionable nails, maybe Muslim women wearing the hijab could end up being a fashion statement.

There are opposing viewpoints about whether or not Nike’s pro-hijab movement is reinforcing a climate of acceptance in America or targeting a religious group to buy their products. As Americans, we stand for freedom of speech and the right to express religious beliefs. Although, some claim that they will, “never buy another Nike product again,” it was necessary because Muslim women expressed a need for it. However, it was not necessary for the Nike swoosh branded on the sports hijab. Is Nike is actually standing up for the prejudices that Muslims face or are they simply promoting their brand?



IMAGE TAKEN from [www.elle.com](http://www.elle.com)

## How to Become a Morning Person

**MARIE SOLDO**  
STAFF WRITER

Waking up in the morning and preparing for your day is a struggle for everyone, especially if you are not a morning person. If the sound of your alarm clock is the equivalent of nails on a chalkboard, as *Entrepreneur* magazine puts it, then keep reading to discover ways on how to improve your morning routine.

First, changing the sound of your alarm will eliminate the “nails on a chalkboard” sensation associated with the sound of waking up. Your alarm should be something more pleasant than a loud repetitive beeping or buzzing sound. It also helps to open up your curtains or blinds and let the sun shine through. Avoiding the use of technology in the morning helps to eliminate

distractions and start the day off productively.

Stephanie Brady, a senior communication student, offers some advice for improving one’s morning routine. “I’ve read that instead of waking up and immediately checking your phone and all your social media, it is better to get up and stretch. I also read that if you still feel tired you should drink a glass of cold water,” said Brady.

Choosing one’s outfit for the following day and creating a to-do list will save you time in the morning and help you to stay organized throughout the day.

A second way to improve your morning routine is working out. Begin your day with a workout that makes you feel good and sets the tone for the rest of the day. Exercise helps to eliminate stress, which is beneficial to college students that experience the need to con-

stantly meet due dates and keep their grades up.

While stretching and ice cold water can help your morning routine, a little bit of yoga can be beneficial too. Eleanor Novek, a professor of communication, would like to incorporate yoga into her morning routine. “My ideal morning routine would be to: kiss my husband, get out of bed, make a cup of green tea, and do about fifteen minutes of yoga as the sun rises. But I haven’t incorporated the yoga yet,” she said.

Stretching in the morning can improve posture, increase blood flow, and result in fewer aches and pains.

On the other hand, sophomore health studies student Baylee Kilfoil-Greaves wants to incorporate coffee into her morning routine. “I usually wake up, get dressed, brush my teeth, and run to class. I would improve by trying to wake up on time and get breakfast with coffee.”

Hitting the snooze button is a habit that must be broken to improve one’s morning routine. Natalie Merlo, a senior communication student, admits to pressing the snooze button too often. “I personally always hit the snooze button on my alarms, which eventually results in me running late to things. I’m trying to get myself in the habit of going to bed early enough to get eight hours of sleep,” she said.

Implementing these strategies into one’s morning routine is important, but maintaining a positive mindset is vital to ensuring that these tactics are effective. Even if you have a long, stressful day ahead of you, looking at the positives will have a significant impact on the outcome of your day. Reminding one’s self that even on the busiest days there will eventually be time to relax helps to maintain motivation. Coffee is also a neces-

sity to get through the busiest of days. Rook, Dunkin’ Donuts, and Starbucks all help college students satisfy their craving for an energy boost.

According to *Lifehack*, you experience 25,000 mornings in our adult life, so make each morning count and do whatever you can to improve your morning routine. Drink some water, avoid that snooze button, and have a positive mindset so that those 25,000 mornings can be a little bit easier.



IMAGE TAKEN from [Pexels](http://Pexels)

According to *Lifehack*, the average person experiences 25,000 mornings throughout their adult life, so make each morning count.

Besides drinking coffee, there are many other ways to wake yourself in the morning.



# Response to Outlook Editorial: Monmouth is Green

**PATRICIA SWANNACK**  
VICE PRESIDENT FOR  
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

We read the recent article regarding sustainability and wanted to share with you some of the University's efforts to be green.

Monmouth University was the first private institution of higher education in New Jersey to enter into a voluntary Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), documenting our commitment as an environmental steward and pledging to reduce our carbon footprint. In addition, the University was the only institution of higher education east of the Mississippi to install a solar system in 2006. We have been included in the Princeton Review's Guide to Green Colleges several times. We are also members of Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) and APPA: Leadership in Educational Facilities.

Our sustainability efforts are accomplished through the cooperation of multiple divisions and departments within the University. For example, Facilities Management organizes trash/recycling practices on-campus and coordinates our outside waste removal company. One of Gour-

met Dining's top priorities includes sustainable development, including purchasing food from sustainable sources whenever possible and by vowing to increase the amount of plastic recycled by at least 10% every year while sourcing alternative materials to replace the plastics used in their operations. Residential Life provides trash/recycling information included in their *Residential Life Guidebook* and hosts "floor meetings" during the first week of the Fall semester each year, and information is also included on bulletin boards and in hallways in residence halls. The Office of Off-Campus and Commuter Services also provides information regarding trash/recycling in their *Guide to Living Off-Campus*. Information Management handles recycling computer equipment.

The University's waste diversion rate for 2016 (including Single-stream recycling, yardwaste/compost, metal, construction/demo, electronics, and lightbulbs, etc.) was approximately 80%. We utilize Single-stream Recycling, with containers adjacent to all of our campus trash receptacles. Landscaping waste is re-used or recycled, including use in the Community Garden. We also recycle metal, car batteries, tires, used oil, used antifreeze, used light bulbs, and printer/copier ink/toner cartridges. In 2016, we

recycled approximately 1.5 tons of light bulbs and 43 tons of metal. We partner with Computers for Kids of America to repurpose electronic waste, approximately 7.58 tons in 2016. During residence hall move-outs, we partner with Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Monmouth County to collect clothing and books for reuse or recycling. We also regularly participate in Recyclemania.

Since 2014 when the University began installing Hydration Stations (to fill reusable containers with filtered water), your collective effort has helped to avoid the inclusion of more than 507,000 disposable plastic bottles (or approximately 136,000 bottles during 2016).

We continue to increase our purchases of Green Seal and EcoLogo certified cleaning products used for housekeeping. All restroom paper products are 100% recycled. All trash can liners are made from 70% post-consumer recycled content.

We continue to improve the efficiency of our current building operations. We have completed LED lighting retro-fits in the OceanFirst Bank Center, Bey Hall, Plangere Center, and Anacon Hall in the Student Center, resulting in an annual reduction of approximately 594,524 kWh of electricity. We are scheduled to complete an LED lighting retro-fit in all park-

ing lots. The University's NOx emissions for 2015 were 4.07 tons as compared to 2014's emission of 6.08 tons. The reduction is a direct result of the updated and efficient choices made when replacing mechanical equipment. In addition, the University always looks to ASHRAE green building guidelines to help us create buildings that are healthier, more environmentally responsible, and resource efficient.

We guarantee annually to purchase at least 15% of our utility-supplied electricity from certified green sources. Further, we have been generating electricity with our University-owned 454 kWp solar photovoltaic system, installed since 2006. We generated 495 SRECs in 2016. The University also installed an additional 568.36 kWp solar photovoltaic system on the rooftops of seven additional campus buildings through a private partnership with an outside company at no cost to our students. We accomplished this by entering into a Power Purchase Agreement where at the end of the term we will own the system. Combined, these University systems have the capacity to generate over 1.02 MW of electricity annually from renewable sources. A solar performance-monitoring kiosk is located on the first floor of the Student Center so students can see

the results in real-time.

The University's fleet of vehicles includes 3 electric hybrid vehicles and 30 electric golf carts used to transport people and goods around campus. We have an electric vehicle charging station located adjacent to Boylan Gymnasium. Bicycle racks are installed near all major campus buildings and residence halls. We partner with Long Branch EZ Ride community shuttle service and Zipcar. Our Zipcar program provides a choice between two vehicles for University members, one being a hybrid. Zipcar estimates that each Zipcar will take at least 15 privately owned vehicles off the road. During 2016, the Zipcar program at the University recorded over 23,268 miles driven and 459 member reservations. The University also complies with EPA regulations which prohibit the idling of any vehicle on campus for more than three minutes.

Thank you for helping us go green! The University continually looks for ways to improve our sustainability efforts.

*If you have any questions, or would like to present an idea, please contact Patricia Swannack, at pswannac@monmouth.edu.*

## Exploring Negative Effects of Social Media

**MEGAN KUDISCH**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Social media was created to allow people to get connected, but, ironically, people are becoming so distant from each other. Social media allows people to view the glamorous life of others from afar, but these glamorous posts only show what the person posting it wants viewers to see.

This causes a skewed perception of them, often making them see the one side of them that they portray on social media and not displaying the person who is posting's actual character, their flaws or their misfortunes.

These images on social media convince people that those individuals are next to perfect based on seeing pictures of them appearing happy, wearing makeup, utilizing filters, and even looking insanely fit. When seeing these images, our minds often convince us that they are a superior being and that we are unworthy of knowing them. This causes people to be afraid to talk to them and just watch them from a distance because of their impending fear of being rejected by them.

This affects social interactions by causing people to be on their electronic devices, instead of being in the moment and actually talking to their peers. By engaging in these behaviors, it can lead to you feeling isolated, depressed, which could lead to low self-esteem. In time, it can trigger one to feel suicidal. These behaviors are linked together because when one feels isolated, they often have negative thoughts brewing in their mind leading to you to feel depressed, which makes them have a lower sense of self-esteem.

These problems can lead to a negative effect on your education. For example, students with this mentality will be too preoccupied with the online world to focus on their schoolwork, and if they are extremely distracted, they may perform poorly on exams.

Many adults have commented on how with many young people spending so much time online, they are losing the ability to develop and



IMAGE COURTESY of Yasir Talal G Alsaedi

Social Media is a technological medium that not only distracts us, but has some consequences on our mental health.

maintain connectedness with each other. Furthermore, they will not be able to efficiently communicate with their peers. The art of conversation is allegedly lost, and does not look like it will be resurfacing any time soon.

How many times have you been to the gym, and you see people plugged in to their iPhones either listening to music or posting/reading their Facebook timelines? Or you walk into a common area, and there are people on their laptops, not interacting with their peers, but plugged into their own private world?

I think it has made meeting people harder for our generation in real time, where people are spending more time acquiring 500 online friends, as opposed to 25 real friends that are empathic and loyal.

Many people spend more time online than they do interacting with their friends and families in real time.

For those who need help getting out of this toxic social media addiction, here are some solutions: monitor your social media usage, try taking a social media hiatus, and even try deleting the apps.

Another solution that a Monmouth student can do is visit the counseling center in the student center on the third floor and receive emotional support to help break out of the negative social media environment.

Overall, to fully enjoy the college experience, one might want to strike a healthy balance between the virtual world and the real world.

## Final Thoughts: Tomi Lahren

**JANAYA LEWINSKI**  
STAFF WRITER

When a person's mind summons a millennial, social and political commentator in 2017, Tomi Lahren is probably one of the first names that comes to mind. Her brand of know-it-all conservatism has a pretty stable home on *The Blaze*, Glen Beck's network. And her bit known around the world called "Final Thoughts" circulates newsfeeds on Facebook and Twitter daily with people either denouncing her, or agreeing. Today my comments will be addressing Lahren's sentiments about an Iranian film director responding to the travel ban in the form of a political statement at the Oscars. So buckle up and "Feel free to disagree..." as Lahren herself often explains.

After the Oscars this past month, Lahren's response to celebrities using the fact they have a wide audience to speak out against injustices like the travel ban put in place through an executive order by President Donald Trump was to be expected. She has a history of telling entertainers that they should "should stick to entertaining." This tweet, "Foreign film translation: Iranian filmmakers don't like the new POTUS because they're used to former POTUS kissing their behinds" plus her "Final Thoughts" gave me agita.

This tweet from the night of the Oscars has a lot to unpack, let's start here. Did former President Barack Obama personally bend over and kiss the behinds of all Iranians? I don't think so. He treated them like people, unlike Lahren. The former president attempted to thaw icy relations with a nation. The United States' relationship with Iran can be described as a great balancing in which the former president stepped with great care and tact. Let's afford Asghar Farhadi the same justices, okay? He does not have to support every decision his government makes, so holding him responsible for the actions of the Iranian government as

a whole is lunacy at best. Lahren spent the last eight years frazzled and made furious by the Obama administration.

Blaming large groups of people for what few do is easy, but if Lahren really cared about eradicating this issue she would be calling out people in government who actually have control over political questions instead of picking on a man with an opinion, who uses his platform to simply state it. To top off my issues with this tweet, her language is not only uncomfortable, but it condones a level of intolerance that frankly, for lack of a better word, is gross. This storm of hate occurred in congruence with the travel ban, so in her world is a perfect time for a glorified tantrum, or "Final Thoughts."

The thing about her "Final thoughts" – I am like one hundred percent sure they are not going to be final. She seems constantly ready battle, and if something fires her up enough I have a sneaking suspicion she does not care about repeats.

Lahren uses this opportunity to state that Asghar has no right to talk about human rights violations because he's from Iran. However, I have a question for Lahren: is he human? Yes. So he can talk about violations of human rights just as freely as you, an American human being. She later goes off on a tangent about the Hollywood celebrities again, a recurring theme. To paraphrase what I took from the final thought on the Oscars, Lahren explains that Tinsel-town is lacking a diversity of thought while they are busy looking for diversity in the people who are winning awards.

This idea of hers is interesting, but misguided. When you include more varieties of race, religion, and gender in award shows a diversity of thought will be there because people are unique and bring their own life experiences. It might not be exactly the way Lahren wants, but I think that'll be a good character builder for her. Those are my "Final Thoughts."



# Life Lessons For an MU Student from *The Book Thief*

**BRITTANY COTE**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It's safe to assume that many of us have read a book and taken away some valuable life lessons. No different than the rest of the books we read, *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak is a book that produces some of these lessons. This is a poignant and staggering story about Liesel Meminger, a young girl living in Nazi Germany.

Life isn't easy for her, nor is it easy for anyone during this time period, but Liesel and her foster family are put in danger when they begin to hide a Jewish man in their basement. This experience will expose Liesel to lessons she never knew before. These life lessons are applicable to MU students:

**Accept Others' Differences**  
When Liesel's foster family take in Max, a Jewish man, they slowly get to know him. During this time Jews were demonized, but as Max opened up about his past Liesel learns that his differences didn't make him a monster. Liesel learned to accept Max's differences.

This is something every MU student knows because our campus is so diverse. No two people are the same and that shouldn't be a problem; it makes life more interesting. Thanks to organizations, like the Gender Studies Club for example, at MU, which help promote these ideas and instill them into students, we have a rather ac-

cepting campus.

**Stand Up for the Oppressed**  
In Nazi Germany, those who sympathized or helped the Jews could've been punished or killed. Liesel's foster family takes in Max and risk their lives to help save his own. The Meminger's stood up for what's right just like those here at MU. Those who cannot or will not be heard in society need the help of those who can be heard.

Human rights should never be violated or compromised. This is something MU upholds. On International Women's Day, Mar. 8, MU students, faculty, and community members marched on campus for women and attempted to give a voice to those who are oppressed. There are plenty of opportunities like this on campus for students to give a voice to marginalized groups.

**Words Have Power**  
After stealing her first book from a graveyard, Liesel soon began to steal books from Nazi burnings and the mayor's wife's library. Liesel began to learn how to read and created stories with Max on the pages of *Mein Kampf*. She learned to love words and the power that they have on us.

Like Liesel, most everyone at MU understand that words have power. They can empower, enlighten or impact us. It's why we have literary students and programs here at MU.

**We All Make Mistakes**  
Liesel and her friend Rudy make

several mistakes throughout *The Book Thief*. They get involved with the wrong people and steal food from farmers, but they recognize their mistakes and reconcile them. No one is perfect. We are all human and humans make mistakes-something students know well.

As students we are going to make many mistakes throughout our lives, and there's nothing we can do to avoid it. That's why as MU students we roll with the punches and lean from our mistakes.

**Keep Moving Forward**  
There are many hardships Liesel and her family and friends face throughout the novel, and Liesel withstands the worst of all- losing all of her loved ones. No matter what difficulties she faced she kept moving forward, just like MU students.

Whether it's a low grade on a midterm or a relationship that's ended, don't stop and agonize over it. Focusing on the negatives in life will never help you; it's important to look at the positives in life when the world is cruel.

These life lessons are not only applicable to a young girl in Germany during World War II, but to MU students here in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It's through the stories and journeys of others, fictional or non-fictional, that we learn what it means to be human and how we can help better ourselves and, eventually, the world.

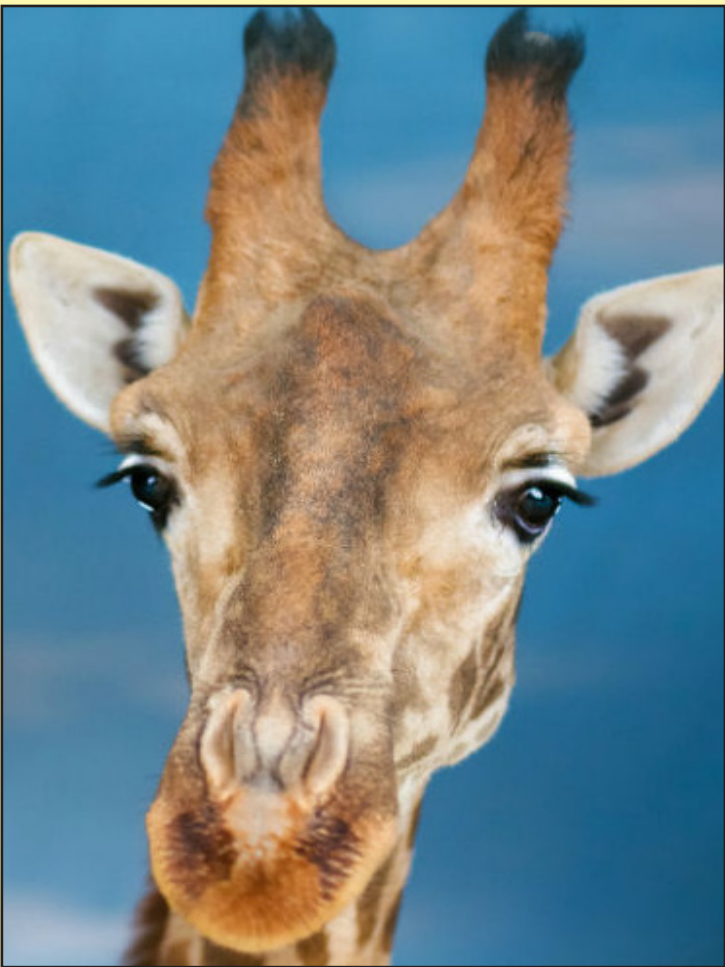


PHOTO TAKEN from The Inquisitor.

April the Giraffe is a 15 year old star on social media.

## Internet Sensation: April the Giraffe

**AMANDA DRENNAN**  
VIEWPOINT EDITOR

Today with the internet, it's not uncommon to hear about people's obsessions with a variety of things. Normally, it's users who are obsessed with Facebook, social media, or people who are into online gaming that get hooked on these obsessions. Recently, there's been a new craze that's been circling the internet.

April is a 15 year old pregnant giraffe that's pulled in over 100,000 viewers at a time. The craze started when Animal Adventure Park, located in New York, put a giraffe cam on April for viewers to watch the birth for an educational purpose.

Local zoos like this usually expect their typical viewers to tune in and a few from further away. With April, it was a different story. The zoo put her camera up and announced that they would be live streaming the birth of her calf. When the news got to the media, it spread with headlines about how the giraffe was in active labor and she would give birth at any minute. However, all of these claims are untrue according to the zoo.

The real story is that Animal Adventure Park set up the giraffe cam before April was in labor and never actually made a statement that she was in labor. They have sent out several updates saying that they do not know when she will be in labor, but it will be soon. There is no way for the zoo to give people an exact date- that's up to mother nature.

At Monmouth, there are several opportunities that take learning from the classroom and turn it into a real life experience. There are many opportunities for students to get internships or take experiential education courses that relate the work you do in class to the real world. Of course, these courses do include a little more work besides looking at a gi-

raffe all day, they still educate us with a visual experience.

An issue with this giraffe craze is that people are taking advantage of others on the internet saying that they are the zoo and that they're taking donations for April. The zoo never set up an actual Go Fund Me, but the imposter pages raised over \$5,000. There are also other videos being posted of other giraffes giving birth claiming that they're April and saying that she already had her baby.

There was a point where a group of zoo protesters began reporting the zoo to force them to stop the livestream, which caused the livestream to be shut down for a small amount of time. The purpose of this was because they do not believe that animals should be captive. Once the video was back up and running, the zoo reassured it's viewers that April had more than enough attention and one of the biggest spaces provided to giraffes in the United States.

Animal Adventure Park began the livestream to educate and share the birth of their first giraffe calf, but it has exploded into thousands of people tuning in every day to check on April. The zoo provides two updates a day that allow people who cannot be watching all day to catch up and get an idea of when the baby will be born.

The zoo has explained that any and all donations will go to expansions and changes in the giraffe exhibit and help with the care and keeping of the animals. They've also taken advantage of their popularity by educating viewers not only on giraffes, but also on the importance in conservation of all animals

The craze of a giraffe birth has taken over a portion of the internet and has drawn in huge crowds from all around the world.

What was meant to be a learning experience for those interested in giraffes, has turned into an obsession with waiting for April's baby.

## Wearing What You are Comfortable In

**NICOLE RIDDLE**  
STAFF WRITER

In the last few years, acceptance of different gender identities and challenging of cishnormativity been seen across all media outlets. As more people are willing to share the details of their journey in finding their identity, they express themselves in various ways.

Whether it be through presentation online, creating artwork to express their struggles, or changing up their look, more people are experimenting with how others view them.

With large platforms utilizing their influence in order to represent marginalized people, people will feel more comfortable with their identity and feel accepted. Most notably, H&M, a fashion brand popular with both men and women, has introduced its campaign capitalizing on the importance of self-expression and wearing clothes that help illustrate one's unique sense of style.

In turn, advertisements such as these celebrate the experimentation any person can have with the image they present to others around them, and create a safer environment for

those that are typically the outliers.

By providing encouragement to step outside any preconceived notions on fashion, people can discover the flexibility of clothing regardless of the section to which it's assigned.

Personally, I enjoy wearing flannels and sweaters from the men's section of thrift shops because they flow nicely and add a distinctive silhouette to my ensemble, and draw focus to different areas of my outfit. Not having to limit yourself to certain patterns, styles or labels can allow for creativity in fashion and explore different parts of oneself.

For example, YouTube sensation and LGBTQ+ activist Connor Franta recently shared his thoughts on wearing a dress for the first time: "It was such an out-of-body experience...but I just felt so confident." What is typically reserved for the opposite sex or what is socialized to be perfect for a person may not always be, and allowing others to experiment with their presentation to the world.

Contrary to what others may believe, people that freely express themselves and feel confident in their choices should be celebrated

and encouraged to further discover ways to make themselves happy.

For instance, those that fall outside of the gender binary that may have difficulty identifying with the clothes presented to them could benefit from being recognized in the realm of fashion. Clothes can be interpreted as art, and we should not stifle the vision of those who wish to create outside of what already exists.

With companies like H&M helping to blur the gender lines that are presented to us, a collective effort between the consumer and producer emerges that can begin to challenge that do not serve our ever-changing society. Just a simple ad-campaign can reach out to millions of people: some who may be wishing to be represented, others who are ignorant on the subject, or people who support the development of how we see others.

Regardless of what personal beliefs you may have, at its core, movements like this one strive to celebrate those that are outside of the restrictions we place on ourselves and make this world a more imaginative place.



IMAGE TAKEN from pexels.com

H&M recently released a unisex clothing line that reflect its pro LGBTQ+ stance, but the main takeaway from this new line is acceptance in others' fashion choices.



# Ed Sheeran Makes Comeback With *Divide*

AYSE YASAS  
STAFF WRITER

After a yearlong break, Ed Sheeran made a comeback with *Divide*, which dropped March 4. Since his 2014 release of *X*, Sheeran has accomplished a lot, including winning two Grammy's. He has become one of the most popular male artists in the industry and has worked with big names like Justin Bieber, Taylor Swift and One Direction. His fans were impatiently waiting for any of his new material and he came back with one of his best works yet.

The highly anticipated album *Divide* was named the best-selling album on 2017 within its first week of being released. This record is definitely different from his previous records because of its diversity. Each track individually unique, which makes sense with the album title being *Divide*.

With "Castle on the Hill" and "Shape of You" being the two singles, it was just a

preview of how different each song would be. "Castle on the Hill" takes you back to the English countryside in Suffolk where Sheeran grew up with an incredibly catchy chorus, and "Shape of You" is perfect for pop radio with its fun and dance-y beat; it was originally intended to be written for Rihanna.

The first track on the album is "Eraser," where Sheeran raps and speaks about his struggles with fame and success. It has a darker feel about the problems that he has faced while making his way to the top of the charts. Another song with rapping is "New Man" which is more light-hearted, and is a remi-

niscient of Sheeran's previous hit, "Don't." The song is all about an ex's new man that makes you cringe; you can't help but laugh at the lyrics.

One of my personal favorites, "Dive," which has a classic guitar feel with an emotional, raw chorus that will have you belting along the words as loud as your vocal chords allow. It's all about the hesitation when it comes to falling for someone new. A little fun fact about this track is that Eric Clapton plays guitar on it while being credited under the name Angelo Mysterioso, which was previously done by Clapton and George Harrison.

"Happier" is all about unrequited love. It shares the story of seeing an old flame with a new partner and realizing how much happier they are without you. It's heart-breaking and it reminds me of every movie with a happy ending but rather a more realistic one.

A true story and tear jerker, "Supermarket Flowers" is the song that will make you cry unless you have a heart that is cold as ice. Writing from his mother's perspective, he talks about the experience losing his grandmother. The simple,

yet detailed lyrics just tug at your heartstrings when he talks about cleaning out the hospital room of all of his loved one's belongings.

While Sheeran was taking his yearlong break, a lot went on in the world of politics. "What Do I Know?" is his take on how the world can change with the power of music, love and positivity. He also mentions how his father told him not to get involved with "politics, religion and other people's quarrels." So this is his very light take on the subject but in the end questioning whether his opinion is valid or not.

The next single, which was announced on St. Patrick's Day, "Galway Girl" is influenced by Irish folk music with a bit of hip-hop which is something that is a bit unexpected, but it works rather well. "Nancy Mulligan," a bonus track, also has Irish influence and it's all about the Romeo and Juliet-esque story of his grandparents getting married.

Ireland isn't the only country that gets a shout out though. "Barcelona" is fairly self-explanatory with its influence coming from Spanish-sounding guitar melodies. It even ends with quite a bit of Spanish lyrics. "Bibia Be Ye Ye" was written while Sheeran was away in Ghana with an artist that is based there. Listening to both of these tracks, it might make you feel like you're away on vacation for about six minutes.

Perhaps Sheeran's most famous song before this record was the romantic "Thinking Out Loud," which even won him his Grammy's last year in 2016. He didn't disappoint with songs that will make your heart melt like "Per-

fect" "Hearts Don't Break Around Here" and "How Would You Feel." It's clear that they're all influenced by his blossoming relationship with his childhood friend, Cherry Seaborn, who he reconnected with through a mutual friend. "Perfect" can easily be a bigger follow up to "Thinking Out Loud" and it might be what people expect from him. It's not hard to imagine it being played at several upcoming weddings within the next few years as couples have their first dance. John Mayer also plays the guitar solo on "How Would You Feel."

The album comes to an end with bonus track "Save Myself" which somewhat makes you feel concerned for Ed's well-being. For anyone going through personal struggles, it'll be easy to relate. It's raw and real which makes it so tragically beautiful. It's refreshing to listen to an artist share so much of their lives through their music even when it comes to more difficult topics.

Overall, this record has exceeded my expectations and was well worth the wait. The influence of Sheeran's roots is present and it only makes sense with him taking a step back from the music industry to go back home and remember where he grew up and came from. While a few songs might be what you expect from him, this album went places that are new and different from anything that Ed has ever done before. It shows his growth as an artist and his dabbling into different genres like hip-hop and folk music while still remaining mostly pop. His willingness to take risks and challenge himself sets him apart and continues to help him reach the top of the charts.

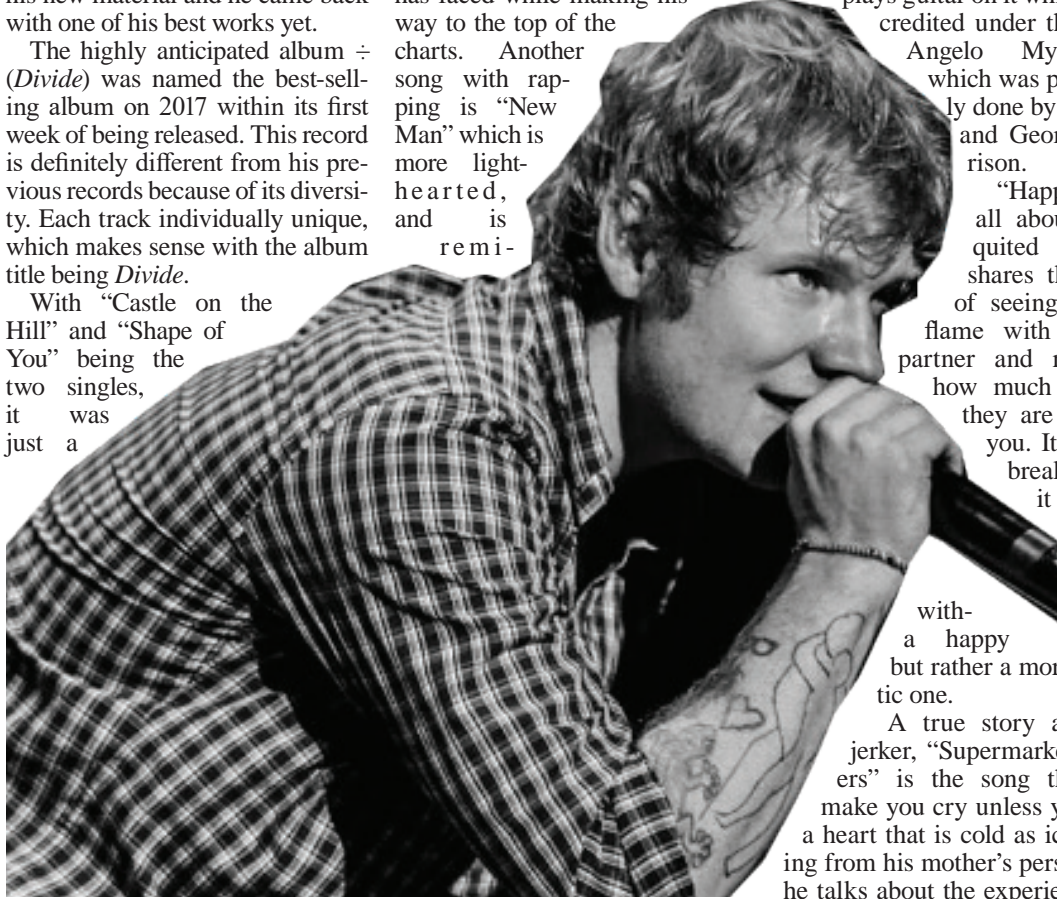


IMAGE TAKEN from www.idolator.com

# Teens Excel in Shakespeare at Two River Theater

ANNA BLAINE  
STAFF WRITER

When high school students are able to perform Shakespeare for young audiences and get them invested, that is a testament to the enduring quality of his plays. I was skeptical at first about the impact that Shakespeare's plays can have on young people. My experience with reading *Romeo & Juliet* in high school was not a pleasant one, but after watching high school students perform in "A Little Shakespeare," I underestimated the adaptability of Shakespeare's plays which can be modernized and engaging to this young generation growing up today. It definitely speaks volumes about his artistic work imbued on posterity.

Two River Theater has been presenting "A Little Shakespeare" every year, apart from

both versions of this play -- one performed by adults and the other performed by teenagers. Although both versions are geared toward a particular demographic age group, it struck me that the humor in this comedy resonates with everyone who watches it.

There seems to be an immediate connection between the audience and the actors in character on stage when it comes to the humor expressed through the witty dialogue. Without a moment's notice there is always laughter in the audience. I consider that a good thing because humor is not supposed to be disingenuous. It has to be sincere and has to be delivered by the actors in a genuine way.

including the scene changes, lighting, and props. In particular, I was really impressed by the comedic timing, and engagement of these teenage actors. They were able to engage the audience with the humor, which seemed challenging. It seems as if it would be difficult as teenagers to authentically perform adult characters, but they pulled it off. The humor is often lewd and chauvinistic in this play so I wondered about the expediency of the way these lines would be delivered. However, I was surprised that these high school students understood the language and the bawdy humor that Shakespeare incorporated into his plays.

This version of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* was easier to follow than the adult version with the cast of three actors playing multiple characters. With a larger cast of actors, the narrative was more clear so that provided a better sense of getting to know each character

their regular scheduled productions, and it's wonderful to see the outpouring of love and response to this endeavor for young people. I had the opportunity to see a talented group of high school students from around the Monmouth County area perform a 75-minute version of *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, which is currently running performances as well, except it has a cast of three actors. Thankfully, I was able to see

An audience is a sound-in-g board. They respond to everything on stage, each actor and



IMAGES COURTESY of Two River Theater.

Two River Theater's cast thrived while performing Shakespeare's famous play, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

journey. On the contrary, I was not thrilled with the set design for this "A Little Shakespeare" production. The set was a stairwell with a colorful and vibrant background, but I thought that it lacked specificity. I did not know what the setting of *Windsor* was supposed to represent in this version of the play. I wanted the setting to have more

dimension and more symbolic or metaphoric meaning like the seedy motel room did in the adult version of *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

Performances of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* will be at Two River Theater in Red Bank from now until Mar. 26. For tickets please call 732.345.1400 or email [tworivertheater.org](mailto:tworivertheater.org).



# Three Decades of *Final Fantasy*

JOHN MORANO  
STAFF WRITER

*Final Fantasy* is one of the longest running series of Japanese Role-Playing Games (JRPG's); the fact that the core series just released its fifteenth title is testament to this. Each numbered *Final Fantasy* title takes place in a unique world, with new characters and plot elements, yet most titles have a number of features tying them together. *Final Fantasy* games are all fantasy titles, typically rife with magic and arcane technology; recurring elements in the series include powerful magical crystals, Chocobos (birds which are ridden like horses) and the idea of a "hero of light" (the player character who brings salvation to worlds plagued by darkness).

*Final Fantasy*, the series' first title, was released in Japan in 1987, however, it did not receive a North American localization until 1990, and only experienced moderate success. *Final Fantasy IV* was the second title to receive a western localization in 1991, and to avoid confusion, it was titled *Final Fantasy II*. Ironically, the protagonist and first memorable warrior of light, Cecil, was originally a dark knight in service to a cruel empire before he went on a journey of self-discovery and developed as a person. This was the first *Final Fantasy* game I ever played; while I personally was not infatuated with it, I did enjoy it enough to complete it, and I can see why many in the west consider it the series' breakout title.

In 1994, *Final Fantasy VI* was released in North America as *Final Fantasy III*; many western players, myself included, consider this title to be the series' first masterpiece. The original western localization received some censorship, specifi-

cally, the removal of several minor instances of profanity/nudity that, by today's standards, wouldn't even raise an eyebrow. This title was notable for introducing magitek (the fusion of magic and futuristic technology) to the series, featuring a dark plot, a twisted villain (Kefka, nicknamed "the psycho clown" by fans), and dealing with dark, mature themes, such as suicide. The game's protagonist, Tera, is also worthy of note for being *Final Fantasy*'s first female protagonist, along with being regarded as one of its best.

*Final Fantasy VII* was released in both Japan and North America in 1997, and is probably the most popular title in the series. The world of *Final Fantasy VII* is one of the series' most well-constructed settings, and its cast featured a number of interesting secondary characters, along with a phenomenal antagonist. Environmental destruction by Mako reactors in *FFVII* parallels the modern-day crisis of global warming. I feel this theme struck a chord with much of the game's audience. As a testament to its legacy, *Final Fantasy VII* is due to receive a full modern remake for the PS4, something which fans had been demanding for years, and I am personally quite excited for.

*Final Fantasy VII: Crisis Core* was developed as a prequel to this entry, it released on the PSP (playstation portable), a rather unsuccessful platform which likely functioned to impede its success. Personally, I consider it to be Square Enix's best *Final Fantasy* spinoff and better than the title which spawned it.

*Final Fantasy VIII* released in 1999, and is commonly regarded as having the series' best protagonist, Squall Leonhart (a sentiment I agree with wholeheartedly). What makes *VIII* such a great *Final Fan-*

*tasy* is Squall's internal dialogue, and the game's development of him as a character. Between his personal growth and self-discovery, I found my impression of him completely transformed by the conclusion. A famous scene from this game was actually used by Sony for their Playstation 2 tech demo (the ballroom waltz scene, for those few who may be familiar with it). Personally, I consider *Final Fantasy VIII* to be by far my favorite *Final Fantasy*, and possibly my favorite video game.

*Final Fantasy IX* was Square Enix's attempt to bring the series back to its roots. The scenario was simpler and lighter (less political intrigue, more character-focused) and the graphics were less realistic, bearing more of an animated/fantasy aesthetic. Zidane was also something of an irregular protagonist, being young, jovial, and having a tail (prior *Final Fantasy* protagonists were all human). In my mind, this title was a masterpiece, and it unfortunately was the last such title until this most recent entry.

*Final Fantasy X* is something of a divisive title, fans tend to either love it or hate it. Personally, while I feel that it is an excellent game, I don't see it as being a masterpiece (it doesn't reach the height of *Final Fantasy VI, VII, and VIII*). That said, in many ways, *Final Fantasy X* is the first truly modern *Final Fantasy* (it was the first core title to feature voice acted characters and was also a significant graphical leap from previous entries). It was also the first core *Final Fantasy* title to receive a direct numbered sequel (*Final Fantasy X-2*) which is notable for being the first title in the series to feature an all-female cast. Unfortunately, I can't recommend it due to the plot being, frankly, silly.

*Final Fantasy XI* is the series'



IMAGE TAKEN from [www.ultimafinalfantasy.geekdomentertainment.com](http://www.ultimafinalfantasy.geekdomentertainment.com)

One of the longest running Japanese Role Playing Game series, *Final Fantasy*, just released its fifteenth title.

first massively multiplayer online role-playing game (MMORPG). Personally, I've never had an interest in it; I'm of the opinion that MMO's typically age poorly, in a large part due to plot being a secondary concern. Popular opinion is that it was more or less a successful MMORPG title, and that it set the stage for *Final Fantasy XIV*, one of the best MMORPGs currently available. *Final Fantasy XIV* released with numerous flaws to an underwhelming response, which prompted Square Enix to pull the game out of release and basically remake it, with the end result being a masterfully crafted MMORPG, and one of the only successful modern titles to successfully rely on a subscription business model.

Up until the release of *Final Fantasy XV*, the *Final Fantasy XIII* saga

(made up of *FFXIII*, *XIII-2*, and *XIII-3*) was the most recent core title within the *Final Fantasy* series. Personally, I enjoyed these games, but I don't feel that they reached previous series heights. The *FFXIII* saga is notable for being the second universe within the core series to feature a female protagonist (Lightning) and for its graphics, which were stunning at the time of release. However, this entry in the *Final Fantasy* series drew severe criticism for its linearity and the combat system, which many, including myself, felt lacked in interactivity (the game basically played itself). Personally, I much preferred the *Final Fantasy: Type-0* spinoff of *FFXIII*, which was the first M-rated *Final Fantasy* title in the series. Its notable for featuring action combat, an open world, social sim elements, and graphical violence.

## *Final Fantasy XV* is Worth the Wait

JOHN MORANO  
STAFF WRITER

*Final Fantasy XV* is a game I, and many others, have been waiting to play for a very long time now. The game was originally announced as *Final Fantasy Versus XIII* way back in 2006, it spent about seven years in development before many elements of its core concept was scrapped and the title changed to *Final Fantasy XV*. *FFXV* released in Nov. of 2016, 10 years after it was announced. I guess at this point, the big question is, was it worth the wait? My answer would be yes, *Final Fantasy XV* is the core series first masterpiece since *Final Fantasy IX*.

*Final Fantasy XV* follows Noctis, the crown prince of Lucis, in a tragic story of brotherhood and loss. The story is multi-media, with parts being told via a movie, Kingsglaive, an anime webseries,

and a demo (available for free via the Playstation store). The world of *Final Fantasy XV* is beautifully designed, and aside from linear narrative sections, the game's experience is largely an open world one. At the start of the game Noctis's father, King Regis, is killed, and his kingdom occupied by the Niflheim empire. Noctis had been on a journey to wed his childhood sweetheart, Lady Lunafreya, and establish a treaty with the Niflheim Empire, her captors. His father's assassination changed the situation, forcing him to turn around and go on the offensive. Players spend most of the game traveling around, helping Noctis's subjects and disrupting Niflheim in an open world environment.

Initial praise aside, the game is not above criticism. *Final Fantasy XV* can only properly be referred to as a flawed masterpiece, with its three biggest flaws, in my mind, being the plot's poor use of

the open-world, the action gameplay, and the imprecise camera. My largest criticism of this game is that it makes poor use of the beautiful open world. The latter half of the story, which contains most of the important events, is entirely linear/separate from the open world, whereas most of the game prior had made use of the open world. Not only does this make the game's ending feel rush, and it also creates a sense of inconsistency. I'm not convinced that Square Enix knows how to write side missions and mesh them with the gameplay. Most side stories and associated characters were rather shallow; anyone who has played games from series like *The Witcher* or *Elder Scrolls* would expect more. That said, the core narrative is so well done, I was willing to overlook this glaring flaw.

My second major issue with *FFXV* is the action combat, main-

ly that it doesn't feel like fast-paced action to me. Standard enemies typically fall into one of two categories, weak ones who die in just a few hits, or tanky ones which require a prolonged assault, often surviving several minutes. Inconvenience aside, neither of these represent much of a threat to the player, especially considering the amount of consumables provided. The combat controls also felt too passive for my tastes. The camera is quite flawed; it follows action poorly and even locking on to enemies felt imprecise. Oftentimes when I needed to be looking toward the enemy I was facing, my camera was staring stupidly at a bush or a stone.

*Final Fantasy XV* features a number of standout features, such as Prompto (one of your companions) taking pictures of the world as you adventure through it, which you can choose to save. The fishing mini-game is the best such system I've ever seen in a videogame. Also, the cooking system gives players an interesting and immersive way to boost their power for challenging encounters.

One thing that I can't praise enough about this game is the latter half of the narrative. There are numerous scenes and fights which take place on an epic scale; Eidolon encounters were my personal favorites. In a lesser game, these fights would have been a simple cut scene, or series of quick-time events, but *Final Fantasy XV* worked them into gameplay and they turned out to be some of the best moments in the series.

Now it's time to discuss the

ending, which, for obvious reasons, I can't go into too much detail about. That said, this is one of the most satisfying endings I have experienced in video games, let alone the *Final Fantasy* series, for ages. Also, if it's possible for a tragedy to have a happy ending, which is quite debatable, this one arguably did, which is a plus for many players.

Finally, there's the issue of DLC, which *FFXV* does have. Personally, I'm not a fan of DLC. I typically see it used as an excuse for developers/publishers to release half-finished games, and charge their customers more money for the finished product. That said, DLC is becoming a reality, and I feel it would be wrong for me to criticize Square Enix and *Final Fantasy* for conforming to it. Suffice it to say, *Final Fantasy XV* lacked an epilogue (details about its world after the game's climax) and DLC is supposed to fill in the blanks.

In conclusion, I've been a fan of the *Final Fantasy* series for about a decade. That aside, I found it to be well worth the wait, being my third *Final Fantasy* to date. I absolutely recommend it to anyone who found this story interesting; that said, anyone interested should regard it as a flawed masterpiece, as it absolutely has flaws. I would rate it at 8.5/10, and state that it has, to a large degree, reignited my interest in the *Final Fantasy* series, which was beginning to wane. If I have learned anything from the *Final Fantasy* series, it is that each fantasy is anything but final, and I am now looking forward to the next more than ever.

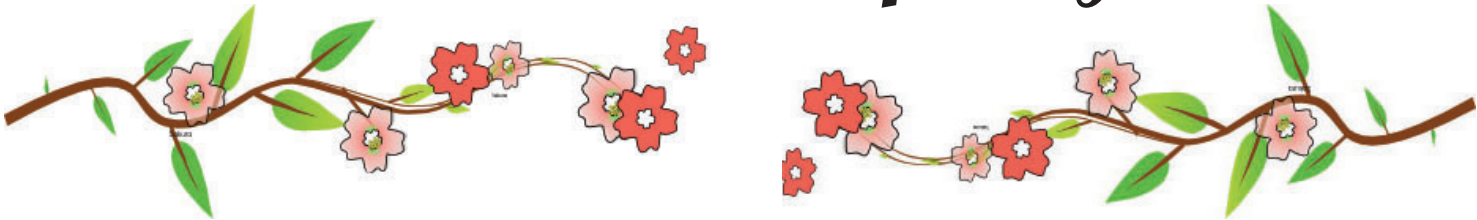


IMAGE TAKEN from [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

As anticipated, *Final Fantasy XV* was worth the wait.



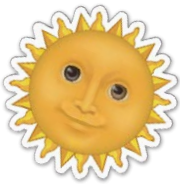
# Monmouth Students Spring into Break



**ABOVE:**  
SOPHOMORES GRACE ROEDER  
AND SEBASTIAN REBELO SPEND  
THE DAY IN BOSTON AT THE  
ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER  
MUSEUM.  
(PHOTO COURTESY OF GRACE  
ROEDER)



**LEFT:**  
SOPHOMORE KEMAL  
KANSU AND HIS  
GIRLFRIEND VISITING THE  
BOCA WEST COUNTRY  
CLUB IN FLORIDA.  
(PHOTO COURTESY OF  
KEMAL KANSU)



**RIGHT:**  
SENIOR BRIAN  
GUTIERREZ AND HIS  
SON, JORY, VISIT KEY  
BISCAYNE IN MIAMI,  
FLORIDA.  
(PHOTO COURTESY OF  
BRIAN GUTIERREZ)

**RIGHT:**  
SENIORS TAYLOR PIVANO  
VISITS DISNEY WORLD OVER  
SPRING BREAK.  
(PHOTO COURTESY OF  
TAYLOR PIVANO)



**BELOW:**  
THE NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION  
2017 ELEVATED STAFF AT THE  
NODACONFERENCE AT TEMPLE  
UNIVERSITY IN PHILADELPHIA, PA.  
(PHOTO COURTESY OF POOJA  
SHAH)



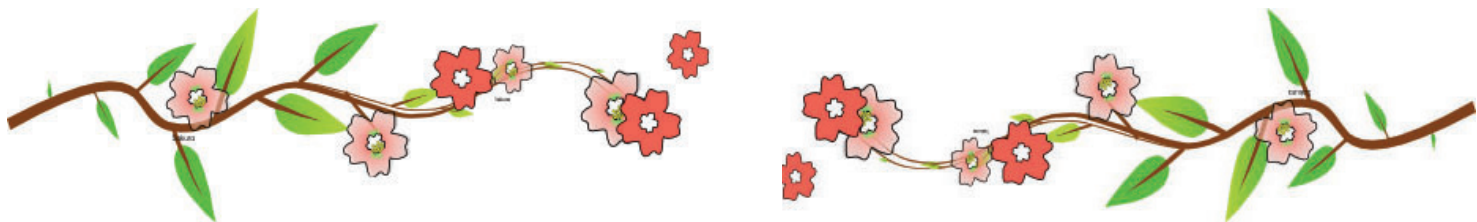
**LEFT:**  
MONMOUTH GETS A FRESH  
BLANKET OF SNOW OVER  
SPRING BREAK.  
(PHOTO COURTESY OF NOUF  
ALMUQAHWI)



**LEFT:**  
JUNIOR TAYMANI RIVERA-  
KISSLING VISITS MT. SNOW IN  
WEST DOVER, VERMONT.  
(PHOTO COURTESY OF TAYMANI  
RIVERA-KISSLING)



# Moments at Monmouth



**LEFT:**  
SENIORS ANTHONY PAPETTI  
AND STEPHANIE YOUNG HAVE  
BREAKFAST WITH PLUTO IN  
DISNEY WORLD.  
(PHOTO COURTESY OF ANTHONY  
PAPETTI)



**ABOVE:**  
GRAD STUDENT PARTH NILESH KADAKIA  
ENJOYS THE VIEW FROM DUQUESNE  
INCLINE IN PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA.  
(PHOTO COURTESY OF PARTH NILESH  
KADAKIA)



**LEFT:**  
SENIORS LAUREN  
NIESZ AND AMANDA DRENNAN  
VISIT DISNEY WORLD OVER  
SPRING BREAK.  
(PHOTO COURTESY OF LAUREN  
NIESZ)

**RIGHT:**  
SOPHOMORE MATT AQUINO  
VISITS THE ABSTRACT  
EXPRESSIONISM EXHIBIT IN THE  
GUGGENHEIM MUSEM IN NEW  
YORK CITY.  
(PHOTO COURTESY OF MATTHEW



**ABOVE:**  
BLUE HAWK RECORDS VISITS THE  
GRAMMY MUSEUM IN LOS ANGELES,  
CALIFORNIA.  
(PHOTO COURTESY OF NICOLE SEITZ)



**RIGHT:**  
FRESHMAN DALLY MATOS  
SEES *DEAR EVAN HANSEN* ON  
BROADWAY IN NEW YORK CITY.  
(PHOTO COURTESY OF DALLY  
MATOS)



**LEFT:**  
JUNIOR ALLY AFANADOR SPENDS  
TIME AT AVON BY THE SEA OVER  
SPRING BREAK.  
(PHOTO COURTESY OF ALLY  
AFANADOR)



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# The Outlook

**The Outlook is currently seeking help in the following departments:**

- Staff Writers\*
- Copy Editors\*
- Photography
- Layout (Using Adobe InDesign CS6)

Students from *any* major are welcome to join, experience is *not* necessary.

Feel free to visit the office on Mondays or Tuesdays and/or contact the Editor-in Chief, Danielle Schipani at [s0927658@monmouth.edu](mailto:s0927658@monmouth.edu).



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Theft- MUID  
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3/3  
11:27 PM  
PULA with Alcohol  
Mullaney Hall

3/8  
5-6:58 PM  
Theft  
Cedar Hall

3/3  
12-1:00 AM  
Criminal Mischief  
Elmwood Hall

3/8  
6:30 PM  
Harassment- Dispute  
Mullaney Hall

3/4  
10:49 PM  
Harrassment (Domestic Vio)  
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(On-Campus Ext. #4444)  
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E-mail: MUPD@monmouth.edu



# Peace Corps Prep Holds Film Festival

JOY MORGAN  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On Feb. 28th the Peace Corps Prep program held a Peace Corps Film Festival in Wilson Auditorium.

The film festival was open to the entire student body offering any students who are interested in the Peace Corps an opportunity to meet return volunteers, ask questions with parents, and get a closer look at what the Peace Corps program can offer to individuals who serve.

Multiple tables were set up outside of the auditorium offering-



IMAGE TAKEN from  
PeaceCorps.gov

ing guests an opportunity to learn more about returned volunteers service location and experience. Many of these tables contained artifacts brought back from the different countries.

The evening consisted of hospitality themed anecdotes and shared experiences from the returned volunteers. Dan Turkel (Albania 2013-2015) Carl Mulhausen (Uganda 1971-1972), Brian Boyle (Nigeria, 1962-1964), John Ramus (Madagascar 2007-2009) and John Christopher, a parent of two Peace Corps Volunteers.

Following the guest speakers was a series of brief and sentimental films. Following the evening's theme of hospitality, each video provided perspective and insight into the family and community kindness that volunteers receive. The videos discussed the subject of hospitality towards members such as the food a Peace Corps volunteer will be offered, the family's pride in their Peace Corps family member, and the hospi-

ality shown when open invitation parties are thrown in these communities.

This evening was useful considering there were multiple audience members currently awaiting their acceptance into the Peace Corps. Nikki Armstrong, senior marine biology and environmental policy student, said, "While watching these videos I had tears in my eyes and butterflies in my stomach because tomorrow I am going to find out whether or not I am going to be accepted. It has never felt more right than tonight."

James Wolfe a graduate student in archeology who has been assigned to Ethiopia, had similar feelings.

At one table was a freshman in the Peace Corps prep program, multiple juniors in the program, a senior, and graduate students.

This evening and program provided an opportunity for likeminded individuals who are passionate about the environment and social justice to discuss their plans for the future of saving the world.

The Peace Corps Prep Program is led by World Language and Culture Professor, Frank Cipriani, who has a personal investment in the program because his daughter serves in the Peace Corps.

Cipriani led a freshman seminar course for the Peace Corps Prep and has built a community in all majors and ages who are interested in the Peace Corps.

These students have a sense of community tending to a local arborum, pursuing green infrastructure plans, and even learning ukulele together.

The Peace Corps Prep program at Monmouth exists with this mission: "We audit the courses to see if your courses qualify for Peace Corps Prep Certification, help you chart a course toward certification, and help you find internships and opportunities to make you valuable to Peace Corps service upon graduation. You join other students and go on adventures that are exciting and that prepare you for life in the Peace Corps and at other NGOs.

You have a great resume item, a wonderful experience, and a network of fascinating people. You graduate. Because of your PCVPP experience, you are valuable to the Peace Corps and to other NGOs. We give you the world."

One of the returned volunteers present were Monmouth's very own chemistry and physics adjunct Professor Carl Mulhausen. Mulhausen has served twice in Uganda, though his first term in 1971 was cut short. The volunteers were forced to evacuate after Idi Amin came to power in Uganda in 1971. Amin is known to be a vicious and violent dictator..

Despite this experience Mulhausen vowed to return to the Peace Corps.

Forty-two years later Mulhausen finds himself in the position to return and by serendipity at best he is

assigned just 40 miles away from his first location in Uganda. Upon his return he meets the Deputy Principle an esteemed police general. Through conversation he finds that this now powerful individual was his formed chemistry student. Mulhausen about the Peace Corps, "It's the hardest job you will ever love."

Represented at the event was the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of New Jersey.

Their mission statement is "A non-profit organization comprised of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of and former Peace Corps Staff as well as other individuals who promote the ideals of the United States Peace Corps."

This organization funds projects that are consistent with Peace Corps goals of community building projects, they offer service and volunteering here in the United States, social activities, and legislative advocacy for Peace Corp supported legislative action.

All members of this group were happy to be together, gain new members, and share details with interested students about their program.

If you are interested in joining the Peace Corps Prep program, assisting in environmental movements, or are interested in having an audit ran to test your eligibility for a Peace Corps Prep Certification e-mail Frank Cipriani at fciprian@monmouth.edu.

# Sea Sharps Present Annual Acafest

DALLY MATOS  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On Sat. Mar. 25, Monmouth University's a capella group, the Sea Sharps will be hosting their second annual Acafest, which will feature collegiate a capella groups from multiple schools across the tri-state area.

This year, a portion of the proceeds will benefit the Special Olympics, the philanthropy of fraternity, Sigma Tau Gamma.

Melanie Doe, senior social work student and president of the Sea Sharps, claims there is a lot of work that goes into each show. "We have been preparing for this performance all year and we cannot wait to show how much our group is grown," Doe said.

Dr. Pedram Daneshgar, associate biology professor and advisor of the group, noticed the difference in the group from last year's show to this one. "The group is a lot different from last year. They are a cohesive group that's more in tune with each other. When they sing together, they seem like they are having more fun than before. They have improved chemistry which makes for better music," he said.

The Sea Sharps were founded in 2013, and are the University's only a capella group. They have been featured on MTV and have made Acafest an annual tradition.

This year, guest groups include The Orphan Sparks of Rutgers University, The Trentones of The College of New Jersey, Tonal Recall from Drexel University, and many more.

With these different groups, one can expect to see different styles of arrangements, singing,

genres of music and certainly different group personalities.

With this performance, new and old members reflect on their time with the group, and this might be the last time performing in this setting.

Chioma Gabriel, a senior chemistry student and the musical director of the Sea Sharps, said that this performance is going to be bittersweet.

"I feel sad because it is my last time performing on stage in a school setting...every performance is an invitation to my friends and family to come see what I love to do, but I feel accomplished and happy to perform with my group.

I never thought I would be in an a cappella group in college,

and this last performance will be the best and will showcase all of our growth and effort," Gabriel continued.

Sara Todd, a freshman communication student and new Sea Sharp member is enthusiastic about her first Acafest with the group. "I'm very excited to see what we've been working towards to be put together on stage. Hopefully we'll be able to share a night of fun, modern music with the audience as we showcase not only the Sea Sharps, but the other groups."

Tickets for the event are \$5. For more information about the event please reach out to a member of the Sea Sharps, or email the group at museasharps@gmail.com.



PHOTO TAKEN by Dally Matos

Members of the Sea Sharps a capella group pose for a photo together.

## Club and Greek Announcements

### CommWorks

Interested in performing? 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 Wednesday at 2:45 in JP 235.

### Alpha Omicron Pi

The sisters of Alpha Omicron Pi are holding their annual philanthropy event, Strike Out Arthritis on Saturday, Mar. 25 at 12 p.m. The event will be a wiffle ball tournament to raise money for arthritis research and will be held outside of Wilson Hall. For more information contact Philanthropy Chair Jessica Hertman at s0991926@monmouth.edu.

### The Outlook

The Outlook is looking for students interested in writing for the student-run newspaper. Sections in need of writers include News, Opinion, Politics, Lifestyles, Features, Entertainment, Club & Greek, and Sports. No experience necessary.

### Delta Phi Epsilon

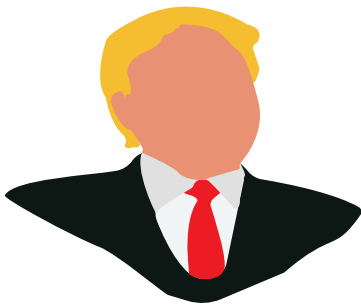
The Sisters of Delta Phi Epsilon will be holding their annual Lip Sync philanthropy event on Thursday, Mar. 23 in Pollak theatre at 10 p.m. For more information contact a sister.

### Student Activities Board

The Student Activities Board encourages you to come to their Glow Concert featuring The Weekend Riot on Friday, Mar. 24 from 8 -10 p.m. in Anacon Hall on the second floor of the Rebecca Stafford Student Center.



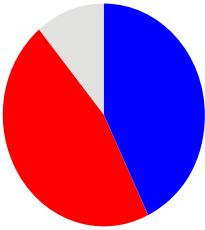
# Nation: Divided on Trump



The Monmouth University Poll was conducted by telephone from March 2 to 5, 2017 with 801 adults in the United States. The results in this release have a margin of error of +/- 3.5 percent. The poll was conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute in West Long Branch, NJ.

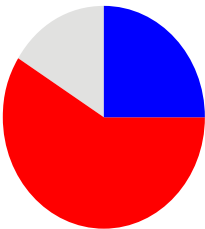
Do you approve or disapprove of the job Donald Trump is doing as president?

- Approve - 43%
- Disapprove - 46%
- No Opinion - 11%



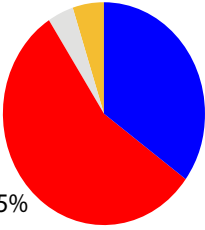
Do you approve or disapprove of the job the U.S. Congress is doing?

- Approve - 25%
- Disapprove - 59%
- No Opinion - 16%



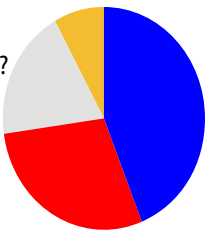
Would you say things in the country are going in the right direction, or have they gotten off on the wrong track?

- Right Direction - 35%
- Wrong Track - 56%
- Depends - 4%
- Don't Know - 5%



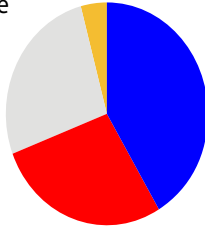
How much has Donald Trump's agenda during his first month in office focused on issues important to conservatives activists?

- A lot - 44%
- A little - 29%
- Don't Know - 8%
- Not at all - 19%



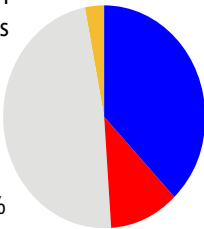
How much has Donald Trump's agenda during his first month in office focused on issues important to average Americans?

- A lot - 42%
- A little - 28%
- Not at all - 27%
- Don't Know - 4%



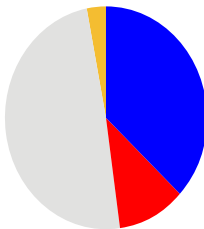
Are you concerned or not concerned that other members of the Trump administration may be too friendly towards Russia?

- If concerned: Are you concerned a lot or a little?
- Concerned, a lot - 38%
  - Concerned, a little - 11%
  - Not concerned - 48%
  - Don't know - 3%



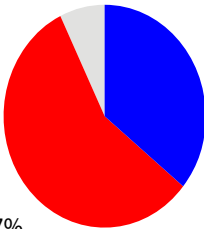
Are you concerned or not concerned that Donald Trump may be too friendly toward Russia?

- If concerned: Are you concerned a lot or a little?
- Concerned, a lot - 37%
  - Concerned, a little - 11%
  - Not concerned - 49%
  - Don't know - 3%



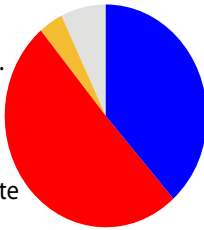
Regardless of whether you agree or disagree with Trump, has he been giving enough attention to the issues that are most important to your family or do you wish he would give more attention to issues that are important to your family?

- Good enough attention - 36%
- Wish he'd give more attention - 57%
- Don't know - 7%



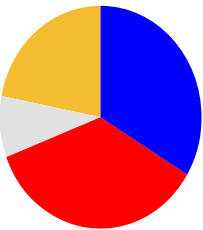
If Yes: As you may know, federal courts put a stop to this travel ban. Should President Trump try to devise a new travel ban plan that the courts would be okay with or should he move on and concentrate on other issues instead?

- Devise new travel ban - 38%
- Move on to other issues - 50%
- Don't Know - 4%
- Have not heard of the ban - 7%



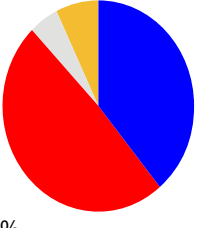
Have you heard that Attorney General Jeff Sessions met with the Russian Ambassador during the 2016 campaign, or not? If Yes: Based on what you know about this issue, should Sessions resign or not resign at the current time?

- Should Resign - 34%
- Should not resign - 36%
- Don't know - 9%
- Have not heard about it - 22%



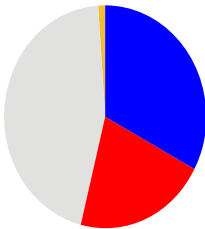
Have you hear about the Trump administration's travel ban that affected people from certain countries in the Middle East and Africa, or not? If Yes, Do you think the original travel ban was a good idea or a bad idea?

- Good Idea - 39%
- Bad Idea - 49%
- Don't Know - 5%
- Have not heard of the ban - 7%



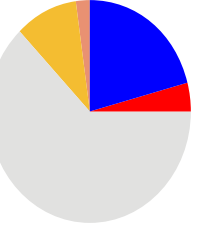
Did you see any of President Trump's speech to congress on Tuesday night, or have you not seen it? If yes, Did you watch the entire speech or did you just see clips of it?

- Yes, Watched entire speech - 33%
- Yes, watched clips - 21%
- No, did not watch - 45%
- Don't know - 1%



Did what you saw or heard of President Trump's speech change your level of confidence in his presidency in any way or did it not change the level of confidence you already had? If changed: Do you feel more confident or less confident?

- Changed, more confident - 21%
- Changed, less confident - 4%
- Did not change confidence - 63%
- Did not hear anything - 10%
- Don't know - 2%



# Medicaid Cuts in GOP Health Bill Could Reduce Services for Elderly, Disabled

TONY PUGH  
MCT CAMPUS

Vital health care services for more than 17 million of the nation's most vulnerable citizens could be on the chopping block if the Republican health care bill becomes law.

If Medicaid home and community-based services are cut for children with special needs and adults and seniors with disabilities, many would end up in costly nursing homes, require more assistance from struggling family members or simply do without the care that allows them to live independently.

Many of these low-income patients are functionally and cognitively impaired. They require home health aides, personal care attendants and day care programs to help with basic activities like eating, dressing, bathing and mobility.

Medicaid, the state-national health care plan for poor people and those with disabilities, is the largest public provider of these non-medical services, covering 30 percent of working-age adults with disabilities like cerebral palsy, mental illness, and traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries.

Unlike coverage for nursing home care, which is mandatory under Medicaid, home care services for the elderly and people with disabilities are optional.

Patient advocates fear that states will trim those optional Medicaid services if the program faces the 10-year, \$880 billion cut in federal funding that the GOP health care bill proposes.

If the legislation becomes law, and states roll back their home and community-based services, many Medicaid patients with special needs and disabilities will end up in nursing homes, said David Certner, legislative policy director at AARP.

"This really threatens the ability of people to live independently in their homes," Certner said. "We can take care of three people at home for the cost of one person in a nursing home, so it's bad policy and it's bad in terms

of what people prefer."

People with disabilities make up 15 percent of Medicaid enrollees but account for 42 percent of program spending because of their costly care, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation.

Faced with a loss of services, other home care patients would require more support from family members, who "are already carrying a huge load for their loved ones," said Alice Dembner, senior policy analyst at Community Catalyst, a national advocacy group for vulnerable patients.

Nearly 18 million Americans help support elderly, impaired family members, providing largely uncompensated care worth \$234 billion in 2011, the Congressional Budget Office reported.

"That results in real effects in the economy, because you have lost wages and lost productivity from the folks who are now trying to balance more care of their family members than perhaps they can handle," Dembner said.

The GOP bill moves Medicaid from an open-ended entitlement program to one with capped funding based on the number of enrollees.

That "per capita" funding formula wouldn't keep pace with Medicaid's current spending growth, leaving states to either make up the funding shortfall or cut costs by limiting enrollment, cutting services or lowering payments to Medicaid providers.

"Many home care providers already don't participate in Medicaid because the payments are so low, said Howard Bedlin, vice president for public policy and advocacy at the National Council on Aging.

Bedlin, of the National Council on Aging, said he expects GOP congressional leaders to amend the bill in order to counter the mounting criticism of the legislation following the CBO report last week. The full House of Representatives is expected to vote on the measure this week.

"Whether it can get through the Senate is a whole other story," Bedlin said.



IMAGE TAKEN from MCT Campus

Elderly woman receives in home care, which may be effected by the Affordable Care Act replacement.



# Softball Looks to Rebound After Spring Break

JOHN SORCE  
SPORTS EDITOR

The softball team competed in two tournaments over spring break, playing 13 games over a 10 day span in the Under Armour Showcase and the Clearwater Parks & Rec/Michele Smith Spring Break Invitational in Clearwater, FL.

The team won four games including a shutout win against Army on Wednesday, Mar. 15. This was the second game of a doubleheader for the Hawks, who dropped the first game to Indiana State, 6-5.

Senior left-handed pitcher Sydney Underhill threw all seven innings against Army, allowing seven hits and striking out three. She threw 138 pitches and 81 strikes. Senior first baseman Justene Reyes and junior outfielder Katie Barron each drove in two runs. Barron and freshman shortstop Deangie Jimenez recorded two hits in the win.

Reyes was also successful at the plate against Indiana State, going 3-for-3 with a two-run home run that gave Monmouth a 4-2 lead in the fifth inning. But junior right-hander Amanda Riley allowed four runs in the sixth inning, giving the Sycamores a lead they would not relinquish. Junior catcher Alex Holzman also homered, a two-run shot in the first to give the blue and white a 2-0 lead at the time.

"We played and won 13 innings today. When we play 14, we will be a dangerous team," Monmouth Head Coach Shannon Salsburg said. "It was great

to see a lot of different people step up today. Sydney pitched outstanding and did a great job of working out of jams. We continue to focus on us and being better in all facets of the game."

The blue and white picked up two more victories on Friday, Mar. 17 sweeping a doubleheader from Tennessee at Chattanooga (9-6) and Bethune-Cookman (9-8).

Senior shortstop Rachel Shotzbarger led the way against Chattanooga, going 3-for-4 with three runs batted in and a run scored. She drove in two in the first with a double that gave Monmouth a 2-0 lead and drove in her third run with a single in the third, with the Hawks down 4-3.

Monmouth re-took the lead in the fourth on a two-run homer by Reyes. Jimenez (2-for-3, 2 RBI) led off the inning with a single and scored on a single by junior third baseman Morgan Balderas, which set up Reyes' long ball. The Hawks extended their lead to 8-4 with a Jimenez two-run double in the fifth and they scored their ninth run on a single by freshman first baseman Kayla Rosado in the sixth, scoring sophomore infielder Nicole Wieczorek.

The Hawks had an offensive explosion against Bethune-Cookman, scoring six runs in the fourth inning. Jimenez picked up an RBI on a successful squeeze bunt, Baron drove in a run with a sacrifice fly, junior outfielder Chloe Howerth hit an RBI triple, and Holzman added an RBI single. Monmouth scored three runs off Bethune-Cookman errors in the contest.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

**Senior first baseman Justene Reyes homered** against Indiana State and Tennessee at Chattanooga over spring break.

Jimenez went 5-for-7 with three RBI, three runs, and two doubles in the two games.

"I couldn't be more proud of our team," Salsburg said. "We got offensive production from one through nine and kept attacking throughout both games. Our pitchers did a great job of getting outs and we had some stellar defensive plays."

Monmouth downed Yale on Saturday, Mar. 18 in the first game of a doubleheader. The

Hawks were trailing 4-1 in the sixth inning when Shotzbarger came up with the bases loaded and belted a grand slam to left that propelled the Hawks to a 5-4 victory, their third straight. The tem dropped the second game 7-6 to North Florida despite a six-run fifth inning that saw them take a 6-3 lead.

"I am proud of our grit today. We found ways to push runs across and get outs when we needed it," Salsburg said.

"While we are disappointed in the split, there is no doubt we are trending in the right direction. We have started playing together and for each other, and those two things have impacted us greatly."

The Hawks are now 6-14 on the season and they return to action today as they travel to Stony Brook, NY to take on Stony Brook in a doubleheader. First pitch for game one is slated for 2 p.m.

## Women's Lacrosse Looks Forward to Conference Play

CHRIS FITZSIMMONS  
STAFF WRITER

The women's lacrosse team was defeated in all three of their matchups over spring break. They competed against three highly talented teams in Delaware, Boston College (BC) and Towson. Monmouth now has a season record of 2-7 and have concluded non-conference play.

The Hawks faced off against the Blue Hens on Wednesday, Mar. 8 under the lights at Hesse Field on The Great Lawn. A closely contested first half ended up meaning nothing as Delaware dominated the second half to easily triumph 19-9 in the end.

Monmouth once again scored first, registering a goal within the game's first three minutes. Delaware recorded back-to-back goals to gain to the lead, but Monmouth answered with a goal of their own to tie the contest.

Delaware took the lead in the 17<sup>th</sup> minute and carried that lead into half in a close 6-4 game. But the Blue Hens took control in the second half scoring 13 goals on 20 shots to win handily, 19-9.

"Delaware took advantage of their opportunities on the draw, which led to many more opportunities on offense, especially in the second half," Head Coach Eileen Ghent said after the game. The Blue Hens controlled 23 of 30 draws and with 16 of those coming in their second half explosion.

The Hawks next opponent was Boston College and that game took place on Wednesday, Mar. 15 in Chestnut Hill, MA.

Monmouth once again kept the first half close but eventually succumbed to a talented Boston College team.

The Eagles struck first in the initial minute but the Hawks retorted with a goal of their own three minutes later. BC netted back-to-back goals but Monmouth scored right before half to make the score 3-2.

Coming out of the half Boston College scored quickly, but Monmouth answered to keep the game close. Over the next ten minutes the Eagles went on a tear, registering seven straight goals to make the score 11-3 with 10 minutes to go. The Hawks added two goals in the end but never mounted a meaningful comeback attempt and in the end the final tally was 14-5, Boston College.

Boston College received votes in the Mar. 13 *Inside Lacrosse Poll*. Even though the Hawks lost, the first half proved that the Hawks can compete with highly rated teams. Not to be forgotten in the loss was sophomore goalie Riley Brager's performance. She logged a career-high 14 saves against a total of 36 shots, with 23 of them coming in the second half.

"We played a very tough first half, but unfortunately couldn't sustain it for a full 60 minutes," Ghent said. "Boston College did a great job on the draw in the second half, which was the major source of the momentum shift."

Monmouth culminated non-conference play on Sunday, Mar. 19 in an afternoon tilt against Towson. The Tigers, ranked 15<sup>th</sup> in RPI and 20<sup>th</sup> in the *Inside Lacrosse Poll*, did not

leave any doubt in this contest winning 17-6.

The Tigers roared out of the gate, netting nine straight goals before the Hawks got one of their own. Monmouth tallied one more before the half but the idea of a comeback was slim to say the least judging by the first half performance of Towson.

Towson pounced early in the second half adding two more to their total to extend their lead to 10. Monmouth failed to mount

any sort of substantial comeback attempt in the second half and in the end, the Hawks failed to reduce the differential by more than 10. Monmouth was outshot 33-20 and for the first time this season failed to score on any of their three free position shots.

"We are continuing to improve although the win-loss record doesn't quite show it," Ghent said. "Towson was excellent on the 50/50 balls and used those

possessions to get their offense going. We are looking forward to the beginning of MAAC play and to use our out of conference experience to prepare us."

The Hawks next take on Quinnipiac as they begin their Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference portion of their schedule. Monmouth will be looking to snap a three-game slide and return to their winning ways on Saturday, Mar. 25 at 5:00 p.m. in New Haven, CT.



PHOTO COURTESY of Karlee Sell

**Junior midfielder Kate Ryan scored** three goals against No. 15 Towson on Sunday Mar 15.



# Men's Basketball Falls to Ole Miss in NIT

JOHN SORCE  
SPORTS EDITOR

The season came to an end for men's basketball in the first round of the National Invitation Tournament (NIT) on Tuesday, Mar. 14 as the fourth-seeded Hawks fell to fifth-seeded Ole Miss, 91-83 at OceanFirst Bank Center.

"It was a big honor for our program to be in the NIT and get a home game," Head Coach King Rice said. "What we have accomplished as a group with (Vice President/Director of Athletics) Dr. (Marilyn) McNeil at the head has been amazing."

Monmouth had a 42-39 half-time lead but were outperformed by the Rebels in the second half, who shot 65.4 percent from the floor and 7-11 from deep. It was

only the second time this season Monmouth lost when having a halftime lead – the other game being the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Tournament semifinal game against Siena on Sunday, Mar. 5.

Senior point guard Justin Robinson scored his 2000<sup>th</sup> career point on a three-pointer with 4:33 to play in the second half that cut the Ole Miss lead to 76-73. He became the second Hawk ever to score 2,000 points, joining Ron Kornegay (1966-69).

"It stings to lose your last game in your home building, but it's hard to be down when you realize what we've done in our careers," said Robinson, who will end his career with 2,003 points. "Now is the time when we can take a step back and look at what we've done. We couldn't

do that throughout the season until that final buzzer went off. It hurts but it's hard to be down about it."

Robinson and senior guard Je'lon Hornbeak combined to make 13 three-pointers. Hornbeak finished with 18 points on 6-for-13 from deep and Robinson had 23 on seven three-pointers and two free throws. Junior guard Austin Tilghman, who made his first career start, and sophomore forward Diago Quinn also scored in double-figures.

The Rebels were led by Sebastian Saiz, who recorded a double-double with 23 points and 11 rebounds. He was 6-9 from the floor and a perfect 10-10 from the free-throw line. Four more Rebels scored in double figures including Breein Tyree, who is

from Somerset and went to high school at St. Joseph's. He is also the cousin of former New York Giants wide receiver and Super Bowl hero David Tyree.

Ole Miss Head Coach Andy Kennedy also had praise for Rice and what he has been able to do with this program. "I've known King Rice since both of us were in college and I have great respect for what he's done," Kennedy said. "This was a team effort and that's what it was going to take because I thought they were terribly under-seeded."

Kennedy continued, "I know based on their resume, there wasn't a lot of talk this year as opposed to last year in terms of them getting an at-large bid, but I really thought they would be at worst a two (seed) because that's a very good team."

Monmouth ends the season with a 27-7 record and have won 55 games over the last two years. They were 13-2 at home this year and won 24 out of 28 home games over the last two seasons. Robinson and Hornbeak believe that this program will continue to grow.

"We have had this program going up since I stepped foot on campus," Robinson said. "I always joke with Josh (James) and Chris (Brady) about it. We were lucky to play for Coach Rice right now at a time where this program was on the rise and we added Je'lon to the mix as well. Coach Rice is going to continue to bring in the right guys and keep this program heading in the right direction."

"These last two years have been real fun with this group," Hornbeak said. "I love to win, I've won everywhere I'm at. So just the fact that I can share the joy of winning and really make winning something we're supposed to do here, that's the standard we set."



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Senior point guard Justin Robinson finished his Monmouth career with 2,003 points becoming the second player to score 2,000 career points

# Baseball Wraps up Spring Break Trip

ZACH COSENZA  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The baseball team recorded wins over Wofford on Saturday, Mar. 11 and another against George Washington on Sunday, Mar. 19 over spring break.

The Hawks scored four of their six runs in the top of the ninth inning against Wofford, snapping a seven-game losing streak. Senior outfielder Ryan Crowley came up with the bases loaded and hit a fly ball to left field, which was dropped and allowed freshman catcher Zach Schild to score the go-ahead run from third base. Senior outfielder Tom Jakubowski then hit a three-run home run to right that gave the Hawks a 6-2 lead.

Wofford scored two unearned runs in the bottom of the ninth but sophomore right-handed pitcher Joe Molettiere secured the win with a strikeout securing their 6-4 victory. Junior infielder Aidan Favia finished the game going 4-for-5 and Crowley finished with an RBI and two runs scored.

Pitching was the key for the Hawks. Sophomore right-handed pitcher Tyler Ksiazek pitched 5 and 2/3 innings allowing only three hits and two earned runs. Molettiere tossed 3 and 1/3 innings, allowing no earned runs and recording six strikeouts.

"It is nice to get back that W (win) that has been somewhat elusive," Head Coach Dean Ehehalt said. "Ksiazek and Molet-



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Sophomore right-hander Tyler Ksiazek allowed two runs on three hits over 5 and 2/3 innings in Monmouth's 6-4 win over Wofford on Saturday, Mar. 11.

tiere pitched excellent. Joe definitely gave us a lift with some late inning energy. Zach Schild was a huge contributor both on offense and defense. Of course, Tommy (Tom Jakubowski) had the big blow, which was nice to see. I hope that gets him jump-started."

MU won their second game against George Washington 3-1 on Friday, Mar. 17.

"We played with some toughness today and the result was a solid team win." Ehehalt said. "We played with some purpose

today and it is encouraging to see."

Pitching once again shined for the blue and white as sophomore right-handed pitcher Jordan McCrum pitched 6 and 1/3 innings, allowing only one run and four hits. McCrum retired 11 in a row from innings three to six.

Molettiere and senior left-handed pitcher Justin Andrews finished the game for MU, pitching a combined 2 and 2/3 innings allowing only one hit and no runs. Senior infielders

Shaine Hughes and Grant Lamberton each went 2-for-4, with Hughes adding an RBI and a run scored. Hughes and senior outfielder Dan Shea each hit solo home runs, their third of the season.

Monmouth is now 3-13 on the season after spring break and will host a three-game weekend series to open Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) play against Quinnipiac with a doubleheader on Saturday, Mar. 25 and the series finale on Sunday, Mar. 26.

# SIDE LINES

**Men's Lacrosse:** The men's lacrosse team recorded their fourth win of the season and opened up Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) play with an 8-7 double-overtime victory over Quinnipiac in New Haven, CT on Saturday, Mar. 18. Junior attacker Bryce Wasserman was assisted by junior midfielder Chandler Vanderbeek on the game-winning goal after senior goalkeeper Nick Hreshko's 12th save of the night. Hreshko was named MAAC Defensive Player of the Week on Monday, Mar. 20. The Hawks snapped the Bobcats' nine-game conference regular season winning streak, dating back to last season.

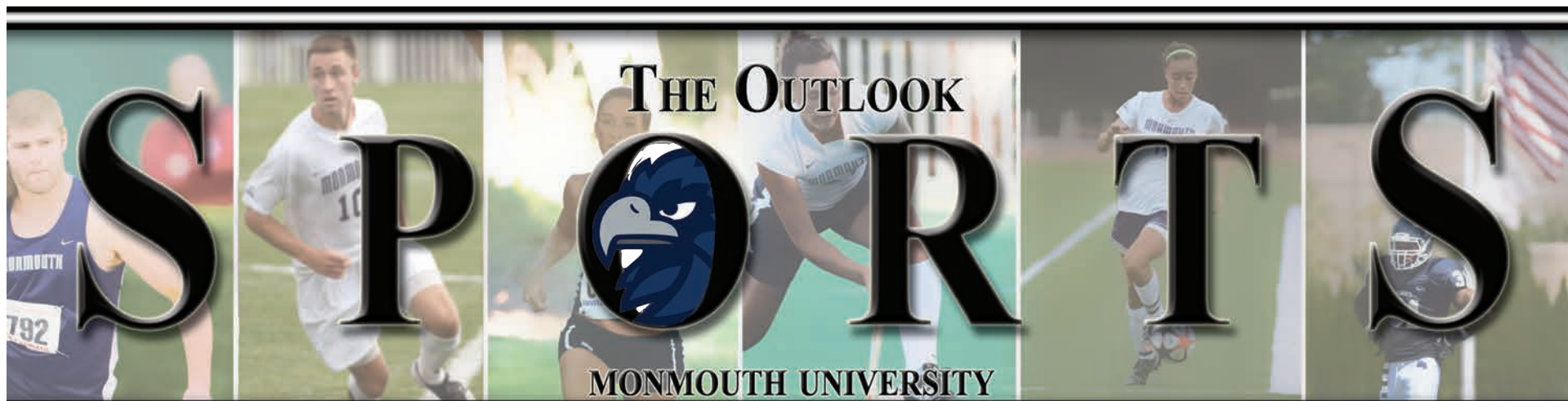
"It feels good to be on the right side of an overtime game and start off conference play with a win," Head Coach Brian Fisher said. "Tonight was as good as it gets in terms of a total team win."

Monmouth will continue conference play on Saturday, Mar. 25 when it will host Siena on Hesse Field on The Great Lawn at 1 p.m. It will be broadcasted on ESPN3.

# UPCOMING GAMES

- Wednesday, Mar. 22**  
Softball at Stony Brook  
Stony Brook, NY 2:00 p.m.
- Softball at Stony Brook  
Stony Brook, NY 4:00 p.m.
- Friday, Mar. 24**  
Outdoor Track & Field  
Monmouth Season Opener  
West Long Branch, NJ TBA
- Softball at Columbia  
New York, NY 1:00 p.m.
- Softball at Columbia  
New York, NY 3:00 p.m.
- Saturday, Mar. 25**  
*Baseball vs. Quinnipiac\**  
West Long Branch, NJ 12:00 p.m.
- Baseball vs. Quinnipiac\**  
West Long Branch, NJ 3:00 p.m.
- Men's Tennis at VCU  
Richmond, VA 1:00 p.m.
- Men's Lax vs Siena\**  
Hesse Field at the Great Lawn  
West Long Branch, NJ 1:00 p.m.
- Women's Lax at Quinnipiac\**  
New Haven, CT 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday, Mar. 26**  
Men's Tennis at Richmond  
Richmond, VA 10:30 a.m.
- Baseball vs. Quinnipiac\**  
West Long Branch, NJ 12:00 p.m.
- Women's Tennis vs. Marist\**  
West Long Branch, NJ 1:00 p.m.
- Monday, Mar. 27**  
Men's Golf  
Villanova Wildcat Invitational  
White Manor C.C.  
Malvern, PA
- \*conference games*





# STEPPIN' UP TO THE PLATE



Softball looks  
to **bounce  
back** from 4-9  
Spring Break  
tournament  
record

Senior infielder Rachel Shotzbarger hit a game-winning grand slam on Saturday, Mar. 18 in the Hawks' 5-4 win against Yale. This win was one of four in the 13-game tournament played over a ten day span in Clearwater, FL.