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Plan for Payments: A Look Into Student Loan Debt



PHOTO COURTESY of Yasir Alsaedi

Student loan debt is a problem nationwide for many college graduates as the average student will pay approximately \$259 a month over ten years.

RICHARD FELICETTI
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Paying off student loans is a feat that most student loan borrowers must face just six months after graduation, as the average student loan from a 4-year college in 2016 was approximately \$37,100, according to *student-loanhero.com*.

Upon graduation, a student must pick a particular plan to pay off their student loans, according

to an article published by *nerdwallet.com*. There are eight different plans a student can choose from to repay their federal student loans, including four that are based on income level.

The basic payment plans include standard, graduated and extended plans. Unless a student elects otherwise, they will be placed on the standard repayment plan, which is ten years for many companies, according to the article. This would mean that the average student

will pay approximately \$259 per month, on a 10 year standard plan.

According to Kristen Isaksen, Associate Director of Financial Aid, students should utilize resources such as *studentaid.ed.gov* and *nelnetloanservicing.com* for helpful options regarding loan repayment. "These sites will provide you with repayment calculators, loan servicer

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'Walk a Mile in Her Shoes' Brings Awareness to Sexual Assault

COURTNEY BUELL
CLUB & GREEK EDITOR

Nearly 100 students and faculty put on women's shoes and walked in the ninth annual "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" event to raise awareness for sexual assault and gender violence on Wednesday, April 6.

The original event, started in 2001, was created as an opportunity for men to raise awareness in their community about the serious causes, effects and restitution to men's sexualized violence against women, according to the organizations official site. Its intention was to create a discussion and to establish open communication on sexual violence.

Coordinated by Thomas McCarthy, Assistant Director of Counseling and Psychological Services, the event had a large presence from the Greek community, as well as Monmouth Athletics, such as the men's basketball team.

McCarthy said, "It is absolutely important to have a strong male presence here. The event was started by men to bring awareness to show that we are here to support. Having campus leaders, like athletes and Greeks really helps to spread the message and make sexual assault a men's issue too."

Students from these organizations understand how significant and important an event like this is, as well as how impactful their participation is in it. Junior health and physical education student and guard on the men's basketball team, Daniel Pillari was one of the members participating in the walk. "It is so important for people to be aware and bring this issue to light, and having men involved in advocating for this cause is crucial," Pillari said.

McCarthy encouraged different groups to attend the event. He said, "This event is a way for people on campus to know that we care about sexual assault awareness. The goal is to spread awareness and encouraging people to speak up if they are a bystander."

Sister of Alpha Omicron Pi and senior business administration student, Aashni Shah enjoyed seeing so many men at an event centered around a subject that would typically be a women's issue. "I think that by having these guys come here and put the shoes on, we get to have a conversation about an issue that isn't about women, but about people in general," she said.

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Monmouth Talks Compensating Athletes

NAMRA SHUEIB
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A controversial debate surrounds student-athletes and whether or not they should receive wages. Last year, two suits were filed against the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) over compensating student-athletes.

A former University of South California football player opened a suit against the NCAA, alleging that student-athletes are employees who should be paid. In December, the NCAA asked the U.S. Dis-

trict Court in San Francisco to dismiss the lawsuit, stating that paying athletes "could jeopardize the long-term sustainability of college sports." A decision by the Court has not yet been made.

In early 2016, former members of the University of Pennsylvania track and field team, opened a collective lawsuit against the NCAA and 123 of its member institutions, alleging that athletes at NCAA schools are actually "employees" of the schools for purposes of the Fair

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Jack Ford Creates Dialogue About Student-Athlete Wages

JOHN SORCE
CO-SENIOR/SPORTS EDITOR

RICHARD FELICETTI
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The University hosted a lecture by television news personality Jack Ford in Anacon Hall that was designed as an open dialogue regarding the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and the controversy regarding student athlete wages on Wednesday, April 5.

Ford began the lecture talking about his background. He and his three siblings were raised by



PHOTO TAKEN by John Sorce

Jack Ford and the Monmouth community initiate conversation on student-athlete wages.

a single mother, as their father abandoned the family when Ford was five years of age. Shortly

thereafter, Ford moved into the

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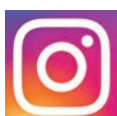
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Jack Ford Prompts Discussion on Student-Athlete Wages



PHOTO TAKEN by John Sorace

Jack Ford opens a dialogue on student-athlete wages in Anacon Hall in the Rebecca Stafford Student Center on Wednesday, April 5.

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attic of his grandparents' home in Jersey City that had no air conditioning. However, his mother was steadfast in her commitment to youth athletics, and Ford excelled at football.

Eventually, he received a scholarship to play at Yale University, then received a law degree from Fordham University.

Being a former college athlete himself, Ford discussed the recent NCAA college basketball tournament and his thoughts concerning the organizations reception.

"After the championship game when Jim Nantz (sportscaster) comes over and takes the microphone, with all the players and coaches and you have this big celebration. But as soon as Jim says 'I want to introduce from the NCAA,' boos took over," said Ford.

"In the midst of all this great joy and celebration, there is still these boos cascading from the rafters for the NCAA. The one overarching factor for this is money. It is the fact of money. In many instances, it is the fallacy of money. But it is always hovering above college sports," he said.

Ford presented staggering statistics regarding the academic success of college athletes.

Graduation rates for Division 1 student-athletes within the six-year window the government utilizes is 86 percent, whereas the figure is 65 percent for non-athletes. At MU, almost 94 percent of student-athletes are graduating in four years.

Ford then opened the lecture to the audience, and asked if student athletes should be paid.

Dissenters concluded that athletes should indeed be paid, as one audience member noted their current relationship to the NCAA is akin to slavery.

But not all agree with the

notion that student-athletes are tools that drive a billion dollar industry.

"I kind of find it insulting to call me a slave. I'm a walk-on here on the track team and I have been given an incredible opportunity to run and be supportive by a training staff who really cares about me," said Jake Howell, a junior accounting student and a distance runner on the men's track team.

"The facilities that I have to take advantage of to do something I love, that's my choice. It's like if I go out to do volunteer work. I'm not a slave, I am doing something I want to do and people are allowing me to do that. I am appreciative to the NCAA and Monmouth University for that opportunity. I

Ford, who primarily lectured through the vehicle of open discussion, sought to gauge the crowd's opinion on coach pay.

For example, Nick Saban, the head football coach for the University of Alabama, makes \$7 million per year, while professors do not make 1/30 of such a salary.

Albert Shalom, a junior political science student, said that there is a clear flaw in the attribution of resources.

The revenue from sports should not go solely to the coach; rather it should be allocated among various important aspects of the university.

Dr. Janice Stapley, an associate professor of psychology, said that coaches should not be paid such astronomical salaries, as professors actually produce a lot of the intellectual talent that derives from the University's academics.

Ford proceeded to break down the allocation of NCAA revenue. Of the \$900 million accrued, about \$45 million goes to paying salaries and operations for the NCAA.

Another \$45 million or so goes to costs that are needed to put together the business, while the remaining \$810 million goes directly back to the colleges and universities.

"There's a distribution of about \$200 billion that just came out from the NCAA. It goes to colleges and universities based upon their scholarship levels," said Ford. "Monmouth University got about \$500 thousand, not for coaches' salaries or facilities. That is for the student-athletes. When we say there's all this money out there, and the athletes don't get their share, the reality is that they do, just not in a traditional way."

Thus, the debate of college athletic salary is a curious paradox, and universities are beginning to discuss the matter on a more serious note. Perhaps the future will see college sports as a legitimate form of income.

"The one overarching factor for this is money. It is the fact of money. In many instances, it is the fallacy of money. But it is always hovering above college sports."

JACK FORD
Television News Personality

think calling me a slave kind of demeans my own freedom to choose to do something I love," Howell added.

Ford raised a number of paradoxes for the audience to solve. He inquired whether soccer players, who primarily bring low revenue, should be paid the same as high revenue sports such as football and basketball.

Rachel Ross, a junior health studies student and forward on the women's soccer team, noted that a payment method should be instated, as people underestimate the amount of time and energy players put into their sport. Between training, rehab, recovery, and class, it is difficult to manage these factors. "It's like where do you find the time to fit in that stuff, school work, and have a job at the same time and also have enough sleep during the night to be able to be able to perform well," said Ross.

University Weighs in on Athlete Compensation

Athletes continued from pg. 1

Labor Standards Act (FLSA), which would entitle them to minimum wages and overtime pay for all athletic activities. The suit was dismissed on Feb. 16, 2016 by the Federal District Court for the Southern District of Indiana.

"I think that student-athletes add immeasurably to the student life component. They are the students that are always on campus, weekdays through weekends and holiday periods," said Dr. Marilyn McNeil, Vice President and Director of Athletics.

Like many other schools, the NCAA regulates the University's athletic teams.

The organization has 1,123 member colleges and universities, and generates about \$1 billion in revenue per year, according to their site.

At the University, a noticeable uptick in athletics revenue was witnessed during the men's basketball team's recent two-year run of success.

Last season's ticket sales increased from \$145,119.93 in the 2014-15 season, to \$249,203.93 in the 2015-16 season, according to Jarred Wiess, Assistant Athletics Director/Business and Communications.

Although the basketball team and other athletics teams bring revenue to the University, there is still a deficit. According to McNeil the costs for running Division I men's basketball program, for example, outweighs any of the revenue that is produced from their success.

"Salaries, benefits, facilities, operating costs such as travel, meals, hotels, transportation, recruitment, and scholarships all have significant costs and do not begin to meet the revenue that is produced," McNeil said.

"Statistics would support that only about 30 schools nationwide do not have a deficit, and those are your big football schools. Football creates the revenue that allows a school, such as Ohio State, to support its entire athletics program. It is not the basketball program," McNeil continued.

Claudia Lamarca, a senior midfielder on the women's lacrosse team, acknowledges that there is a difference between athletes at the University and big name schools. "I think that the issue is completely different when talking about a school like Monmouth and a school like Duke."

She continued, "Those high major athletes bring in so much revenue for their schools in exchange for most times a free education, and so many perks to follow."

Nevertheless, the opinions of athletes in regards to whether or not they feel they deserve wages vary.

Domenick D'Agostino, a senior distance runner on the men's track & field team, said, "I don't think that it is necessary. For me, being able to run in college is a privilege."

He added, "Being a student-athlete is something that I have struggled with in the past and it is something that you figure out through time. Taking care of things at practice and getting schoolwork done are my top two priorities."

Lamarca said, "I don't think athletes should be compensated

for their time because we knew what we were getting into before we did it -- and we basically get to do what we love everyday. That doesn't seem like a 'job' for me."

Other student-athletes feel otherwise.

Chris Brady, a senior center on the men's basketball team, said, "I do not have time to work. A part-time job would take away hours I spend in the gym focusing on my sport. There would also be an impact on my performance as a student and an athlete."

According to Brady if it weren't for him being a full scholarship athlete and receiving financial aid, he wouldn't be able to afford to come to the University.

He said, "I believe between the University and the NCAA, athletes should be paid since most don't have time to be a student, athlete, and have a job."

Antionette Isekenegebe, a senior sprinter on the women's track and field team, agrees with Brady.

Isekenegebe said, "That [wages] would be nice to have because, for an athlete, it is definitely a lot harder. I put in a lot of time as an athlete and I need to focus a lot of time to doing just one thing."

She continued, "It takes a lot of mental toughness to be a student-athlete and I find that being prepared ahead of time is the most important thing for me."

Robert Scott III, an associate professor of economics and finance, said that University athletics scholarships are great since they can reduce or completely eliminate the cost of an education that a student may not be able to afford relieving them of debt when they graduate.

However, according to McNeil not all athletes receive enough scholarships for a full ride.

For instance, the NCAA only allows 11.7 scholarships for baseball and at the University there are 35 student-athletes in baseball.

Basketball, however, is fully funded at full rides for 13 male and 14 female basketball athletes.

"Some sports have many more team members than the amount of scholarship aid, which means that not all student-athletes receive athletics aid," said McNeil.

To pay for extra expenses some athletes receive full rides as well as additional aid for the cost of attendance, or fees that go beyond the typical full ride, according to McNeil.

However, she believes that additional aid should be granted on a case-by-case basis.

"Our conference, the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC), agreed to give this additional aid to our basketball athletes only. I agree that some of the student-athletes really do need this additional aid, as they have no other sources of support; however, I do not think all of the student-athletes are in this category. I would prefer giving aid above a full grant in aid, based on need only," she said.

With these varying opinions, and recent suits, it seems as though the debate around paying student-athletes is far from over.

Monmouth University Holds Annual Career Fair

DANIELLE SCHIPANI
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The annual spring career day hosted more than 250 representatives from 130 organizations, as well as a record-breaking 680 jobseekers on Wednesday, April 5 in the OceanFirst Bank Center.

There was a wide variety of employers looking for students majoring in all fields.

New employers included: American Standard Brands, AvalonBay Communities, Bayada, Customs and Border Protection, Dow Jones, Extensis Group, Hackensack Meridian Health, Horizon Blue Cross Blue shield, Lab Design, NJ Titans Hockey, NY Red Bulls, Two River Times, Shore Digital, Skyline Solar, Wakefern Food Corp., and Wiley Publishing.

A total of 130 employers attended last spring. “We actually tied last year’s record-breaking event, but our focus is always on the quality of our employers,” said Jeff Mass, Assistant Director of Career Services.

Mass explained that there has been a 36 percent increase in attendance from last spring as there were 500 students in attendance last year and 680+ students in attendance this year.

Mass said that employers who attend the event often hire Monmouth students for full time, part time, and

internship positions.

Hunter McHugh, a Monmouth alumnus and current marketing representative at Federated Insurance, attended the fair looking for potential employers. “The first of which was to be able give back to the University and give fellow future alumni the chance to learn more about the amazing and life-changing opportunity that Federated offers. In the past, Federated did not recruit very much from Monmouth. With that being said, I know that Monmouth has the resources to help develop students into great candidates for our company,” he said.

McHugh never attended a career fair during his time as an undergraduate at the University.

However, after having attended this year he realized that he should have attended due to the benefits and opportunities available. “Looking back, after attending the career fair and seeing how many opportunities there are for students, I would have attended every single one,” he said.

Janaya Lewinski, a senior political science student, attended the event for the first time looking for a job post-graduation. She explained how she was able to give out résumés and although she has not locked in a job she was able to network and was able to create leads to potential jobs.

Lewinski offered advice for un-

dergraduate students, “Always be persistent and take advantage of the resources the University has to offer.”

Sara Palughi, an employee at iCims, explained how she did not attend the career fair when she was an undergraduate but that the event has grown and offers a great networking opportunity for students. “A large percentage of iCIMS’ employees are MU alumnus and we are always looking for Monmouth students for both our Summer Internship Program as well as entry level full time roles. MU career fairs present the ideal opportunity to engage with potential hires and to share more about our opportunities and organization,” she said.

Mass said, “Job fairs can be really effective if you plan accordingly. Prior to the event, make a complete list of who you would like to speak to. The list of employers is posted in advance on the Monmouth University Career Services page. You can then visit the attending employers careers section portal on their websites and see what openings they have.”

McHugh discussed what employers look for in potential future employees when conducting interviews. “Among the most important are the following: demonstrated success inside and outside of the classroom, the ability to build lasting relationships, and a competitive nature

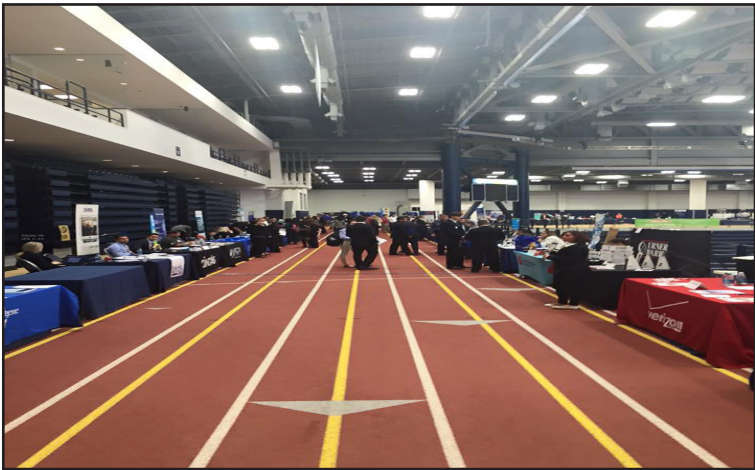


IMAGE TAKEN from Monmouth CSSE Facebook page
Students and potential employers gather at the career fair.

Students Walk for Sexual Assault Awareness



IMAGE TAKEN from Monmouth Facebook Page
President Dimenna and students hold a banner outside of Wilson Hall at the Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event.

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Sharing similar thoughts was senior communication student and brother of Sigma Tau Gamma, Thomas Foye. As a member of Greek life, Foye felt compelled to attend the event.

He said, “Raising awareness for a cause like this is especially important to the Greek organizations because sexual assault can happen to anyone and we are such a large group on campus, and we need to look out for each other.”

Nina Anderson, Director of Equity and Diversity and Title IX Coordinator was proud of the event’s turnout. Anderson said, “We try to have a wide range of sexual misconduct programming on campus. Be-

ing aware of something that goes on on campus is really important and we try to assert just how important it is.”

Also in attendance was President Grey Dimenna, who was impressed by the amount of people in attendance. “Sexual assault and violence against women are very important issues and it’s great to see support from various students on campus. I try to be present as much as I can. I feel like it sets an example that everyone should attend events like this one,” Dimenna said.

“I hope to see double the amount of people here next year, and I never want to wear shoes like these again,” Dimenna joked.

Managing Student Loan Repayment

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information and the different repayment plans,” said Isaksen. “Knowing who your loan servicer is, when repayment begins and which payment plan is right for your situation is key.”

Peter Reinhart, Director of the Kislak Real Estate Institute, said that it is important for borrowers to understand the small “fine print” that each loan provider sets in place.

If a student undertakes a loan that he/she is simply unfit to handle, it can severely damage their credit score.

“Students and parents should be diligent in repaying the loans and being aware of their rights and obligations,” said Reinhart. “Besides the potential legal issues with a delinquent loan, the impact of a bad loan on a student’s credit report is just as bad as a bad credit report impacts other parts of life, including the ability to get a job. Employers will look negatively upon a prospective applicant with a negative credit report,” he continued.

Jeff Mass, Assistant Director of Career Services, further explained the importance of good credit when applying for a job.

“Some employers might check job applicants’ credit as part of the background check. If your credit is bad, you can expect a red flag, which might include not getting that dream job, if your role requires you to be involved in accounting or finance,” he said.

“Most students or job seekers, don’t realize that bad credit can be used in their initial screening. Whenever you sign an employment application, read the fine print. Be aware of what exactly you’re agreeing to upfront,” Mass continued.

Students can also choose to refinance their loan. Typically, multiple loans can be accompanied with multiple interest rates.

In the process of refinancing, students may be able to consolidate their multiple loans into one low interest rate.

Students can also aim to defer loans, meaning a temporarily postponement of their payments if they plan on returning to school, or are unemployed. Additionally, students can sign up for student loan forgiveness.

The Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program forgives the

“Knowing who your loan servicer is when repayment begins and which payment plan is right for your situation is key.”

KRISTEN ISAKSEN
Director of Financial Aid

remaining balance on a loan after the student has made 120 qualifying monthly payments while working full-time for a qualifying employer.

Isaksen said, “All of the loan servicers, as well as Federal Student Aid, are on social media.” He added, “If you follow them, you’ll receive tips and information on a daily basis.”

As stated by *nelnet.com*, students should educate themselves regarding certain strategies of repayment.

For example, the site recommends that students begin paying off their loans while in school.

Even if it is only a few hundred dollars, it can certainly help in the long run.

Repayment is substantially easier when the overall sum of debt is lower. Additionally, it is important that students create and follow a monthly budget in order to keep track of their money.

Students are also advised to create a comprehensive plan that outlines precisely when payments are going to be made.

It is wise for students to become familiar with their repayment options, as many providers will allow users to customize their own repayment process, according to the site.

Additionally, students should acknowledge the fact that there are different types of loans. For example, accrued interest for subsidized loans is paid by the government while you’re in school, but unsubsidized loans require immediate interest repayment.

“With the price of college in today’s day and age, it is almost inevitable for someone to graduate college without having any student loans,” said Kristen Jezycki, a senior marine biology student.

“My advice would be to start saving up money as soon as possible and make small payments toward the loans whenever you can to lessen the burden you will have later in life,” she suggested.

Jeremy Colon, a junior criminal justice student, said that borrowers should not underestimate the importance of the loan.

Just because it is easy to brush aside doesn’t mean that is responsible. “A loan is just that: a loan. It is easy to forget about them and push them to the back of your mind when you’re currently in school, but try your best to monitor them and get a feel for what you’re eventually going to have to pay back,” said Colon. “Just do your best to be as aware as possible,” he warned.

Visiting Writer Series Welcomes Brooklyn Author, Colm Tóibín

LAUREN NIESZ
CO-SENIOR/OPINION EDITOR

The Visiting Writer Series hosted acclaimed fiction writer, Colm Tóibín, on Tuesday, April 4, in Wilson Auditorium. This is the last installment of the spring 2017 season, and marks the end of the 12th season of the Visiting Writer Series.

The event opened with two introductions: Michael Thomas, Associate Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences and Director of the Visiting Writers Series and Dr. Elizabeth Gilmartin, lecturer of English, who teaches Colm Tóibín's *Brooklyn* in her Irish Literature class.

Gilmartin mentioned in her introduction of Tóibín that he had previously visited the University seven years prior to this most recent visit, which was just after one of his most popular works, *Brooklyn*, was published.

One thing that Gilmartin claims that Tóibín is especially good at is his character development, especially of mother characters, and the conveyance of themes of "identity creation, grief, loss, and the family complex."

According to Gilmartin, this character and theme development can be seen in Tóibín's work *The Testament of Mary*. In this work, Tóibín humanizes the Virgin Mother, Mary, to where the reader can actually relate to such a historic and influential figure.

Gilmartin herself has a connection to the book *Brooklyn*. She shared, "My own grandmother came over from Ireland as a 16 year old by herself; it was a very similar story, but she ended up working in a diner [not a garment store like Eilis in the novel] in Brooklyn. The basic

story has that connection."

After Gilmartin's introduction, Tóibín took the podium and read from two of his works: *Nora Webster* and *Brooklyn*. *Nora Webster* is a novel influenced by Tóibín's own life. In this novel, Tóibín conveys the story of a widowed mother who has to rebuild her life after the death of her husband.

Gilmartin commented, "I knew it (*Nora Webster*) had some autobiographical elements to it, but I didn't realize the extent until he started talking. He was quite open about it being autobiographical. Any time you see an author talking about their writing, you really get a better sense of where they are coming from."

Tóibín explained that the novel was based in 1967 Southeast Ireland. At this time, the death of a family member was mourned differently than people in America. In Ireland, when someone passes away, people—family, friends, and acquaintances—gather in the home of the deceased and as the months progress, the people slowly stop coming every day. The purpose of this is to keep the family of the deceased's minds off of the passing of a loved one.

Tóibín read from the opening from *Nora Webster*, which was about this Irish tradition, and one phrase that was repeated more than once was "people mean well." This emphasized the exhaustion that the waves of people visiting after the death of Nora's husband, but also the gratitude that she had for their care.

The next book that Tóibín read from is perhaps one of his most famous works—*Brooklyn*. *Brooklyn* was adapted into an award-winning film directed by John Crowley in 2015. *Brooklyn*

is about the struggles and successes of Eilis, a young Irish immigrant that immigrated to Brooklyn, NY in the 1950s.

Tóibín shared two scenes with the audience from *Brooklyn*. The first scene depicted Eilis's work day at a clothing store that had a famous Nylon sale that was so secretive that not even those who worked at the shop knew when the owner was going to announce it.

The second scene that Tóibín read from *Brooklyn* was one that painted a picture of homesickness. It was a scene set on Christmas Day—the first Christmas that Eilis would be away from home.

The way Tóibín presented his works was very tactful. He presented them in a way that would set a story for the audience. Tóibín said, "I always try to work out a sort of story to tell as to how these two books (*Nora Webster* and *Brooklyn*) really become almost companion pieces. [One is] about somebody who stays, Nora, and somebody who leaves, Eilis."

This event was very much a cultural lesson for the audience as well. Tóibín, being from Ireland, shared many cultural values with the audience. For example, he claims that books and literature back in Ireland are comparable to American mega-stages like Hollywood and Broadway. He said, "If you wrote a bad book, or a lazy book [...] a book with any kind of impurities about it, people would despise you."

"I hesitate to say this, but you probably could murder somebody and people will think, 'That wasn't great,' but writing a bad book would be taken very seriously indeed. You would be ostracized and as will members of your family," he added, in a

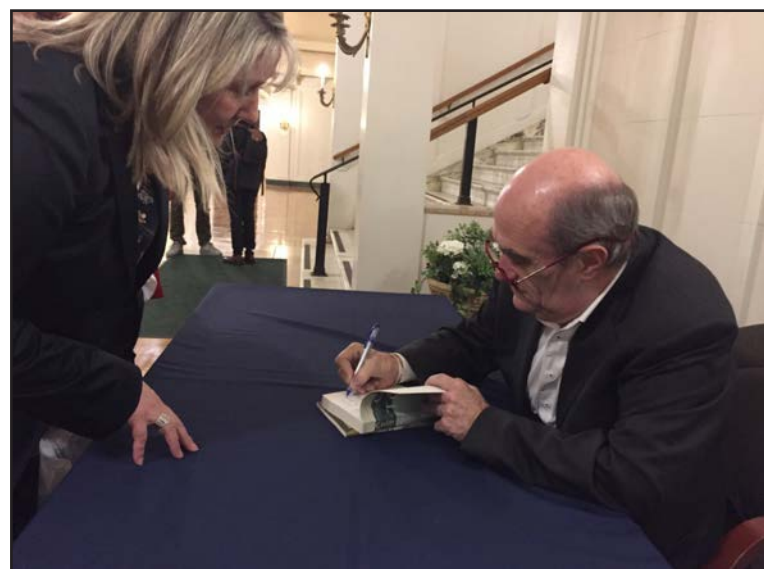


PHOTO COURTESY of Michael P. Thomas
Colm Tóibín reads excerpts from his novel, *Brooklyn* at the University's Visiting Writer Series.

hyperbolic and jokingly way.

Some students were particularly captivated by Tóibín's ability to translate his love of writing and dazzling personality to the audience. Annabel Lamb, a sophomore English student, said, "Tóibín's reading was a wonderful combination of personal anecdote and writing craft talk that entertained and fascinated me equally."

"Not only were attendees given an intimate portrait of the writer himself, but the glimpse into his writing process and inspiration feels valuable on an academic and creative level, also," Lamb continued.

Jaime Kops, a junior English student, complied with what Lamb had to say about his injection of personal anecdote. She stated, "I really enjoyed Tóibín's event because it wasn't only about the books he has published, but him as a person."

Kops continued, "His personality shined through as he spoke. Whether it was reading

parts of his book or answering questions, you could tell how much he enjoyed being a writer. I think that's important in itself because it shows that he genuinely enjoys what he does and that's an important lesson to be learned."

Thomas gushed about the event, "It was one of our best."

"I have never heard or seen a fiction writer handle their fiction the way he does in a public performance. No other fiction writer does it the way he does it. It is so unique," Thomas continued.

Thomas also added about the reception by the audience, "People were in awe; they were awestruck. Great literature can draw all kinds of audiences in from any age group and any background and I think he [Tóibín] achieves that."

While Tóibín closed the Visiting Writer Series for this semester, the University highly anticipates who the series will invite next year for the 2017-2018 season.

Local Vendors Sell Goods at 'Made in Monmouth'

AMANDA DRENNAN
VIEWPOINT EDITOR

Monmouth University held its sixth annual Made in Monmouth event in the OceanFirst Bank Center on April 8 with over 200 local vendors.

Made in Monmouth is a seven hour, free admission event open to the public organized by the Grow Monmouth Team within the County's Division of Economic Development.

The event is sponsored by the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders in partnership with Monmouth University. Monmouth describes their event as, "a free event for both vendors and visitors; its purpose is to encourage people to shop local."

The event's purpose is to gather different local vendors like Delicious Orchards and Booskerdoo Coffee and Baking Co., who set up tables at no charge to sell their products.

The FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties was also in attendance and encouraged shoppers to bring along donations of nonperishable food items to support the local food bank.

Michael Chattalas, a professor of marketing and international business, said, "Made in Monmouth offers a unique marketplace that, by showcas-

ing local crafts and entrepreneurs, promotes the Monmouth 'place brand' as well as community and belonging."

According to their press release, published on April 5, "Thousands of people attend the previous events which showcased jewelry, pretzels, orchids, surfboards, handmade glass, honey, cosmetics, flags, chocolate, tea and much more."

Upon arriving at the event, there is a team of greeters who welcome shoppers.

They send them off to a variety of vendors with a vendor directory in hand, complete with the names, short description, and contact information of every vendor at the event. The shoppers also receive a free reusable bag to carry any of their purchases.

Vendor tables were set up on the first and second floor of the OceanFirst Bank Center where shoppers could peruse or even try free samples of products.

Senior communication student, Brianna Merriman had a table set up for the launch of her new company, The Love Your Neighbor Project. Merriman said, "[My business is] a new brand that is aiming to spread positivity and love through whatever means necessary. First we start off by selling original artwork prints done by me."



PHOTO TAKEN by Amanda Drennan
Greeters at the Made in Monmouth event hand out vendor directories and free shopping bags.

Her table was decorated with original artwork she had done and a board that she asked shoppers to write on saying how they "helped their neighbor." Any money that she makes in sales, she gives back 10 percent to those in need. Merriman said, "The really great thing about The Love Your Neighbor Project is that we are going to always donate a portion of our proceeds back to a great cause. The first project we're working with is the Missions Beyond Borders Organization which

works with kids in Nicaragua."

Jackie Rizzo, a Monmouth County local, set up her table for her fourth year at Made in Monmouth with her handmade jewelry business, Artistic Layers.

Being a veteran to this event, she's watched crowds grow and more vendors attend each year. She said, "I came to this the first year that it happened and there weren't many people here. There were a few tables and only the upstairs level was open to vendors and that wasn't even

full," Rizzo said.

Sarah Lewis, a senior English student, said, "We've gone every year and always look forward to it. There are so many vendors with such a huge variety of items. But the beach vendors are always my favorite—they have such cute jewelry."

Those who could not attend the event are encouraged by the Grow Monmouth Team to view the vendor directory that provides websites, store front locations, and contact information on local vendors who attended.

ATTENTION: FINANCIAL AID STUDENTS

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Applications are available online at <http://cms.monmouth.edu/alumni/Alumni-Association-Scholarship.aspx> or at Alumni House, the Information Desk at the Student Center, and the Financial Aid Office. For more information, call University Engagement at 732-571-3489.



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On **Sunday, April 23** the Student Government Association will host **Springfest** on **Shadow Lawn** (rain site: the OFBC) from **12:00 pm to 5:00 pm**. The day will include live music, a BBQ by Gourmet Dining, festival games, and giveaways. **However, no alcohol will be served or permitted on the Shadow Lawn or the rain location of the Ocean First Bank Center.** Springfest 2017 will have everything you need and it should be a great way for us all to celebrate the end of another year at Monmouth University.

While your attendance at Springfest is a key part of what continues to make this event so popular, it is also important that you practice **good decision making** before, during, and after the festival. Your respect for the rules and regulations of the University and your willingness to look out for one another are all essential to making this day successful. Therefore, I ask that you spend a few moments reviewing the following guidelines that will be in effect for Springfest 2017.

1. If you plan to attend Springfest 2017, please know that pets/animals, open-containers, alcohol, squeeze bottles, bags, purses, backpacks, and/or similar items **WILL NOT BE PERMITTED.** **Any student/guest that attempts to bring the related items to the event will be asked to leave the festival area.**

2. Students living in any of the on-campus housing units **are not permitted** to host a social gathering during or after Springfest, which occurs on Sunday, April 23. Students that wish to hold a gathering on **Saturday, April 22** must complete the Office of Residential Life's *Social Affairs/Policy Application* by **Thursday, April 20, 2017 by 3:00 pm.**

3. Parking in the **Great Lawn** and **Garden Apartment** Lots will be **strictly enforced** on April 23. If you plan to drive to campus for the festival and do not have a valid parking sticker for the Garden or Great Lawn parking lots, you **MUST** park in the commuter parking lot by the Student Center. No exceptions permitted. Students should enter the campus from the Larchwood Avenue entrance.

For those students who live off campus, I would also remind you that the local communities have a **zero tolerance** for any quality of life disruptions in the local residential neighborhoods. Should you decide to host a social gathering before, during or after Springfest, please make sure that it stays within the limits of common sense, respect for one's neighbors, and all applicable laws and ordinances within your community.

I hope you will take an active role in assisting the Student Government Association and Monmouth University in our effort to present Springfest 2017 in a **safe** and **positive** manner. Your commitment to making this event a celebration of the year's achievements is critical. I know I can count on you to do so!

I look forward to your anticipated cooperation and I hope to see you at Springfest. Best wishes on your final exams!

Sincerely,

Mary Anne Nagy
Vice President for Student Life and Leadership Engagement

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U.S. Launches Missile Strike Against Syrian Regime



IMAGE TAKEN from Google.com

JASMINE RAMOS
CO-POLITICS EDITOR

President Donald Trump launched a missile strike April 6 against Syrian weapon bases controlled by the Bashar al-Assad regime in response to their use of chemical weapons on civilians.

The attack consisted of 60 missiles, with only 59 actually hitting the target, going against the al-Shayrat air base, where the chemical weapons were set off to hit the town of Khan Sheikhoun.

Trump briefed journalists hours after the attack and stated, “There can be no dispute that Syria used banned chemical weapons, violated its obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention and ignored the urging of the U.N. Security Council. Years of previous attempts at changing Assad’s behavior have

all failed and failed very dramatically.”

The missile strike is the first direct military action that was taken by the U.S. since the civil war in Syria broke out six years ago.

This all has been a shock to the political world, since Trump has been extremely vocal about his thoughts on staying out of Syria before of his presidential campaign.

Two years after the start of the civil war in Syria, the U.N. weapons inspectors reported that chemical weapons were used in Ghouta. Trump tweeted against action in Syria by saying, “President Obama, do not attack Syria. There is no upside and tremendous downside. Save your ‘powder’ for another (and more important) day!”

Dr. Saliba Sarsar, a professor of political science, believes that there needs to be a way to figure

out how to solve the Syrian conflicts through diplomacy and negotiation, but also have the force of arms present if needed.

He said, “Although I want peace to happen, I believe President Trump’s actions were very measured. His plan was very calculated; he did not cause much damage. He was sending a warning to Assad, to the Russians, and to the world as a whole, saying ‘If I need to I will use force.’”

Russia’s deputy U.N. representative, Vladimir Safronkov, issued a warning after he was informed of possible interference from the U.S. “We have to think about negative consequences, negative consequences, and all the responsibility if military action occurred will be on shoulders of those who initiated such doubtful and tragic enterprise,” he said.

After the attack, Russia no-

tified the U.S. that they would suspend a military communication channel. This channel was set up to avoid mid-air incidents between Russian and U.S. pilots in Syrian skies.

Dr. Thomas Pearson, a professor of history, explained that Russia’s involvement in Syria plays a key factor to the development of their civil war. “Russia has several strategic interests in its involvement in Syria. Putin has sought to restore international respect for Russia’s power in the world and particularly in the Middle East, and to ensure that there be no recurrence of an “Arab Spring” in Syria.”

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson will travel to Moscow on April 12 to meet with the foreign minister and other Russian officials to discuss further developments.

Pearson expects a very difficult visit because of the Trump

administration’s recent rhetoric towards Russia.

“This language is completely contrary to the language about Russia that Trump used during the presidential campaign and the Kremlin and its media are publicly “bemoaning” Trump’s capitulation to the neo-conservatives in Washington.

However, given Tillerson’s history of strong personal ties with Putin and members of his “inner circle,” in private he may be able to shift the dialogue back to common U.S. and Russian strategic interests in Syria,” he said.

Sarsar strongly believes that force should be the last resort, but with a regime like Assad’s, it is hard to do. “Assad cannot have it all. He keeps making promises, making agreements to stop using chemical weapons, and keeps breaking them. And that is totally unacceptable.”

Monmouth School of Education Hosts 'Special Education Reconsidered' as Part of MU Lecture Series

BRENDAN GREVE
CO-POLITICS EDITOR

Monmouth hosted special education lawyer Lori Gaines of Barger & Gaines on Thursday, April 6 in the Wilson Hall Auditorium.

The goal of the lecture was to lead a timely conversation surrounding the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision in Endrew F. v. Douglas County School District as part of its lecture series called “Special Education Reconsidered.” The event was hosted by the Department of Education and was moderated by Dr. Stacy Lauderdale, Department Chair and assistant professor.

Dr. John Henning, the Dean of the School of Education, said, “The School of Education is split into four departments, with special education being one of those departments.”

This event was just one of numerous ways that the department recognizes special education. They have also taken part of programs such as the Autism MVP Associate and Autism Awareness month.

The speaker, Lori Gaines, has a background in special education. She said that when she was in high school, she volunteered at a special education program in Marlboro, and never looked back.

Gaines began her career as a special education teacher and increasingly found herself advocating for her students. Eventually, she decided to pursue her advocacy by attending law school at the University of San Diego. Since 2005, she has practiced exclusively in the area

of special education law.

She discussed the recent development in special education because of the outcome in Endrew F.

Traditionally, Federal law requires school districts to provide students with special needs a “free appropriate public education.” But since the question was considered in a Supreme Court case in 1982, various courts have adopted varying standards.

Gaines said that the Third Circuit, in which New Jersey is part of, has one of the highest standards for special education. The standard is that public schools must provide an education that create a “significant and meaningful benefit.” However, other circuits have a much lower standard like the Tenth Circuit in which Endrew F. came from.

The main question is, “what would a reasonable standard be?” The Tenth Circuit just provided a basic floor for special education students. Gaines referred to their standard as “de minimis,” which is defined in Webster’s Dictionary as “lacking significance or importance.”

Inconsistencies in the standard led the high court to consider this issue in the Endrew F. case, which was argued in January 2017.

The case included a minor with autism who had received individualized special education through the fourth grade. His parents rejected the school district’s proposed plan for his fifth grade year and placed the child in a private school. The parents then sought reimburse-

ment for expenses incurred through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

A federal district court and the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the district did not have to reimburse Endrew’s parents.

On March 22, 2017, the Supreme Court issued a unanimous opinion, authored by Chief Justice John G. Roberts, which vacated and remanded the judgment of the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals.

The court held that IDEA requires schools to offer children an education plan that would enable progress that would be appropriate to the individual needs of the child. The court declined to create a uniform rule for determining the adequacy of an individualized education plan.

Gaines was particularly excited about the ruling because she had just finished a case that worked it’s way to the Third Circuit concerning a special education child in which she won.

Lauderdale said of the conversation, “It was great because now everybody can have a broad understanding of the law and what special education students can achieve.”

Alana Bielski, who is a graduate student getting her Master’s in Education with a Special Education endorsement, said, “As future special education teach-

ers, you have a better outlook on what can be expected and accomplished by students. This event definitely helped me gain that outlook.”



PHOTO TAKEN from Monmouth Facebook Page

Lori Gaines, Esq. discussed her practice in special education law in an MU Lecture Series hosted in Wilson Hall on Thursday, April 6.

“It was great because now everybody can have a broad understanding of the law and what special education students can achieve.”

DR. STACY LAUDERDALE
Chair of the Department of Education

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Reporting on Sexual Assault

THE OUTLOOK STAFF

It is uncomfortable and almost unspeakable, but we have to talk about sexual assault on campus. According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, 1 in 5 college women and 1 in 16 college men who have likely been a victim of some form of sexual assault.

The Outlook Staff weighs in to discuss the awareness of sexual assault on campus and the impact it has had as April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. This semester the Monmouth University Police Department (MUPD) stated that they have received two reports of sexual misconduct and one report of sexual assault on campus. However, many editors believe that there are more sexual assaults and misconducts on campus and off campus that go unreported.

One editor brought up the statistic that The Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (RAINN) provided: only 20 percent of sexual assault cases are reported on college campuses. According to the University site, “Many victims do not report because they are afraid of what others may say or think. They feel like what happened is their fault because they were drinking or they went someplace they had been warned could be dangerous.”

Awareness is crucial on campus. “Being vocal is what not just the University needs, but society needs to be more vocal about this topic. We are the ones who can bring light to these situations and we are the ones

who can break down the stigma that men can’t also be sexually assaulted. We need to speak up when things happen to us or the ones around us and we need to be able to shed light on the ones that go unheard and the people who can’t speak for themselves,” said an editor.

The University has held several successful programs to help inform the students about sexual assault. They annually hold the “Take Back the Night” event in the fall and the “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes” event in the spring. They held the empty desk demonstration across campus last fall as well as the poster campaign. There is Sexual Assault Awareness Week where the University holds a series of educational events on campus throughout the week. HAVEN is also available to students, which is an awareness training program.

Starting in the summer, all incoming freshman are going to be required to complete an online sexual misconduct training course according to Mary Ann Nagy, Vice President for Student Life and Leadership Engagement. Students will have from Aug. 1 to Sept. 15 to complete the course. If they do not complete the course, they will be blocked from spring registration. New staff members will also be required to take the course as of July and all transfer students will be required to take the course as of the fall of 2018.

The editors brought up some initiatives the school could take to raise more awareness for sexual assault, the first being to talk about it more. An editor said, “People don’t

like to talk about rape because it is an uncomfortable topic, but it’s real. It happens. So we need to talk about it, and we need to integrate these discussions into class discussions where students have no choice but to talk about it.”

Some staff members recommended that this type of conversation be brought up in first year freshman seminars. A few editors claimed that the movie *Hunting Ground*, a documentary about the reality of the epidemic of college sexual assault, should be shown to these first year seminar classes so that the conversation about the severity of sexual assault/misconduct is brought up early on in a student’s college career.

While students may not know it, there are many outlets and avenues for discussion about sexual assault/misconduct. One editor said, “The school has a Title IX Coordinator, as well as MUPD, and there are local organizations like 180 Turning Lives Around that are resources for students that are victims/survivors of sexual assault.”

Furthermore, one editor suggested, “The Department of Counseling and Psychological Services is always more than willing to step in and provide mental relief for suffering students in any way they can.”

Sexual assault and the lack awareness of it is a huge problem on campuses nationwide and our staff believes that informing our students is key when combating this issue. Every student should know that resources and outlets are available on and off campus if needed.



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The Outlook provides the Monmouth University community with information concerning issues in and around the University while serving as a forum for expression of the ideas of its readers.

Contributions must be submitted by email (outlook@monmouth.edu) or to The Outlook office, 2nd floor, room 260, Plangere Center, by 12:00 p.m. on Sundays.

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Accepting Tattoos

DANIELLE ROMANOWSKI
STAFF WRITER

Tattoos are becoming more common in today’s society and college students, recent high school grads and millennials are getting inked. The odds of knowing someone with a tattoo, or multiple tattoos are extremely high. It has become more commonplace for people to want to get something tattooed on their bodies and show off their personal artwork.

Personally, I never thought I would want a tattoo, but over the past couple of years I have actually gotten several. When I first asked my mother for permission for getting a tattoo, her response was, “Why don’t you just draw a picture of what you want and hang it on your wall? Don’t you think that’s a better place for art?” Clearly, her opinion on getting inked is very different from mine.

After a couple of conversations with her, she realized why I wanted one so badly, and she finally gave in. Originally, I thought I just wanted the one small finger tattoo and it would be done. Everyone said it was addicting and that I would want more, and it turns out they were right. Today, I have four tattoos and they all mean something different to me.

Each one of my tattoos tells a different story about my life. For me, it’s really a symbolic way of remembering certain people, places and life experiences I have had. Tattoos can tell you a lot about the people that have them. It sheds a light on what they value and what kinds of life experiences they have gone through.

Although tattoos are a personal choice and no one gets them just for other people to ask, “what is your tattoo for?” they are definitely good conversation starters. When people ask me about my tattoos, they get a

better idea of who I am as a person and I love sharing more about myself with others.

Tattoos are definitely becoming more accepted in the general population. In the past, they were frowned upon by many, especially by older generations as it could be seen as unprofessional. A place where it still can pose a problem, however, is in the workplace, depending on the job type or employer. I have worked one retail job that required me to cover up my small tattoos, as it didn’t fit with the store policy. While I really enjoyed the job, my co-workers, and the company I worked for, I felt a little degraded and judged because of my decision to have something tattooed on my body.

I don’t believe there should be policies or rules against where you can and can’t show off your tattoos. Sometimes it can come with a stigma or a stereotype, and I don’t think the workplace is an environment that should reinforce that. It’s a personal choice and I don’t believe that they should have to be hidden for me or for anyone to be appropriate at work.

On the other hand, I am working in a clothing store now that doesn’t have any guidelines or rules for tattoos, and I don’t have to wear a watch, or close toed shoes to hide them. Since it doesn’t affect my ability to work, or distract my co-workers or the customers that walk in to shop, it isn’t seen as a problem.

There is really no better way of expressing yourself, in my opinion, than having something tattooed on your body. It is a great way to commemorate a special person in your life, put more value on something you love, and express your individuality. For whatever the reason, having a tattoo is a way to put permanent importance on the things in life that matter the most to you.

Life Lessons for an MU Student from *The Office*

JANAYA LEWINSKI
STAFF WRITER

For many people, spring break is a time of vacationing and tanning on a beach the farthest away they could get. For me, your local, lovable pal and *Outlook* writer, it was a time of bingeing. I binged Netflix shows until my eyes literally closed. Now that I have let you in on how cool I am, I’m going to share with you some of the life lessons I learned from my most recent binge: *The Office*.

“I am Beyoncé, Always.”

When talking to Michael Scott, Andy Bernard explains that he is Beyoncé because anyone who gets cheated on in the movie is the hero. So this makes Michael the Ali Larter (in reference to the 2009 film, *Obsessed*) in this case. But, about eleven seconds into this conversation, Michael lets him know he will always be Queen B. This mentality is important to carry into life. Be a queen. Slay all day and every day, even if someone thinks that you’re the Ali Larter.

Patience is key.

Jim Halpert is the picture of patience for so many reasons. He waited as long as he needed to for Pam Beesly to realize she loved him too. But on another note, he is able to pull off deceptively well thought out pranks on Dwight Schrute because he knows that slow and steady wins the race. Great examples

of this would be when Jim puts Dwight’s stapler in Jell-O, or when Jim and Pam both trick Dwight into thinking he’s being recruited for the CIA.

We can all learn a thing or two from Jim’s patience in our everyday lives. Even though when we think of patience we think of Jim, it is important to mention Michael and Holly Flax. When she comes back from the Nashua branch, Michael is relentless in his pursuit of Holly and is able to win her in the end because he waited.

Exercising patience like these characters do is important in our lives too. We may have to wait and work relentlessly for leadership roles and positions and jobs or internships, but if we have patience, it will work out. All good things come to those who wait.

Theme parties are not just a college thing.

In college, no matter what anyone says, it was kind of important to have the perfect outfit for a theme party at some point. This feeling does not end once you have a bachelor’s degree. Whether it was a Christmas sweater, or the perfect party hats, everyone at the Scranton Business Park teaches how to carry this obsession with theme parties well into the future.

A friendship is the best foundation for love.

Jim and Pam show us so much in their love story, but I think first and foremost, it’s that being someone’s best friend is the strongest foundation for a future. They bond over inside

jokes, special moments, and many, many trips to reception.

Friendships are so important in our everyday lives. These friendships can often times lead to loving relationships like Jim and Pam’s. But, even if they don’t, they purely show the importance of friendships.

Stay Safe.

As you watch the show, I feel like Dwight’s commitment to safety is super prevalent. As a volunteer sheriff’s deputy and part of a citizen’s group in future seasons, Dwight’s commitment to safety, although misguided sometimes, is steadfast. We can all carry this lesson into our own personal lives, by staying safe where ever we go.

We should care about ourselves—our health and our futures. So, safety is truly important in our lives as college students. We find ourselves in some pretty odd situations sometimes as college students, but remembering that safety is always first is a good place to start if we find ourselves in one of these situations.

I hope that you can take all the lessons from Dunder Mifflin that I have found and apply them in your own daily lives as well. As Michael Scott said, or maybe it was Wayne Gretzky, “You miss 100% of the shots you don’t take.” So, get out there and start making a name for yourself that is as iconic as Michael Scott.

The Importance of Physical Music

There is More to Music than Meets the Ear

NICOLE SEITZ
COPY EDITOR

My dad always says to me, “When I was a kid, we spent our money on vinyl records, not whatever you kids do today.” The act of listening to music was a huge part of people’s lives. More often than not, people would make an experience out of listening to a whole 45 minute or so album. Buying and listening to music used to be a big event for music lovers, which made the music more meaningful.

Music was made for the sole purpose of listening and experiencing the music. Now, music seems to be just the background noise in everyone’s lives. Many people only listen to music at parties or when they’re out just to dance or have something playing to fill the space. There’s nothing wrong with dancing to music, but there is so much more to it that younger people today don’t understand.

The world of music is similar today as it was during our parents and grandparents’ generation. There are still boybands, pop icons, rock stars, etc. The big difference is what is important to fans about these artists. In the

1960s when fan girls swooned over The Beatles members’ long hair and British accents; they weren’t only concerned with the band’s image, they were attached to their music. If you heard a song on the radio that you really liked, you would go find that song on whatever album it was on, then buy the vinyl record for it, and spin it until the record wore out.

Today’s artists are still making music that their fans like, but their fans aren’t overly concerned with how good their album is and are more concerned with how the artists looks.

Dave DePaola, a senior music industry student, said, “Artists used to go on tour to support their new album, now artists make music just

so they can tour.” DePaola explains how the focus has really shifted from the music to the image. Some people go to concerts now just to have something to do, not really to listen to the music.

Often times you’ll see on social media feeds friends going to a country concert at PNC Bank Arts Center. They won’t say anything about the music the artist was playing, they’re more concerned with the amount of beer they drank and how dreamy the singer was. That’s fine and dandy, but what happened to the art of music?

The art of music isn’t only just

the music (while that is still very important) it is also about the album artwork and the liner notes. You can only really get these little things from buying an album (CD or vinyl). Album covers and liner notes used to be something that an artist or band put a lot of thought into when making the final product of their album; it was part of the experience.

Some of the most iconic album covers are Pink Floyd’s *Dark Side of the Moon*, David Bowie’s *Aladdin Sane*, and The Beatles’ *Abbey Road* and *Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band*. All of these album covers told a story that helped paint a picture for the music on the album.

When most new artists come out with an album now, the cover is just a

picture of them, which shows the focus on artist image rather than art.

DePaola also said, “My dad tells me how when he was younger, he would get a new album and then open up the liner notes and read through them while he was listening to the album.” Liner notes are found inside the album usually. Often times, liner notes include pictures and stories of the making of that album.

The liner notes on Blink-182’s self-titled album that included hits like “I Miss You,” shared stories of how each song was created and what inspired those songs. The notes specifically for the song “Feeling This” talk about how Mark Hoppus and Tom Delonge both wrote separate lyrics about their sexual experiences and brought it together to write that song. It’s little stories like those that you wouldn’t know just from listening to these songs on the radio or streaming the music.

Music should be an experience. It should be more than a good-looking guy singing with auto-tune. Music is an art. From the writing of a song, to producing it, all the way to creating the album art for it, musicians write stories that they want people to hear, but people need to listen to the story, not just look at the person.



IMAGE TAKEN from pexels.com



ALLISON GSPANN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Every day it seems like there is an overwhelming amount of new information emerging that has to do with health and fitness lifestyles. Whether it be our diets or what we physically do with our bodies, it is hard to get away from the conversation. Magazines, television, and social media (specifically, Instagram) are flooded with images of people at their peak performance, giving the impression that “gym culture” is now a significant part of our everyday life.

The media pushes this image on us, but the reality is that not everyone exists in a perfectly picturesque health and fitness bubble. Many feel as though joining a gym and being a part of that arena is intimidating for different reasons, such as learning how to participate and fit in to a new space that has been labeled “male dominated.” While there are some truths built into these statements, they should not be the end all be all to the decision to be a part of any “gym culture.”

The first step into this realm may translate into a few hours of the week and, as a busy MU student, this may help you decompress from the many stresses we experience in a positive and productive way.

With anything new there is always a learning curve, and that is no different with the gym. However, the difference is that the learning curve should not be a deterrent. As students, we learn boundless amounts of new information every day, and while it may be difficult, we plow through it because we are not afraid of learning. That mindset should be applied here in the gym realm as well.

Similar to the college setting, we would never major in every

Gym Culture: No Need to be So Intimidated

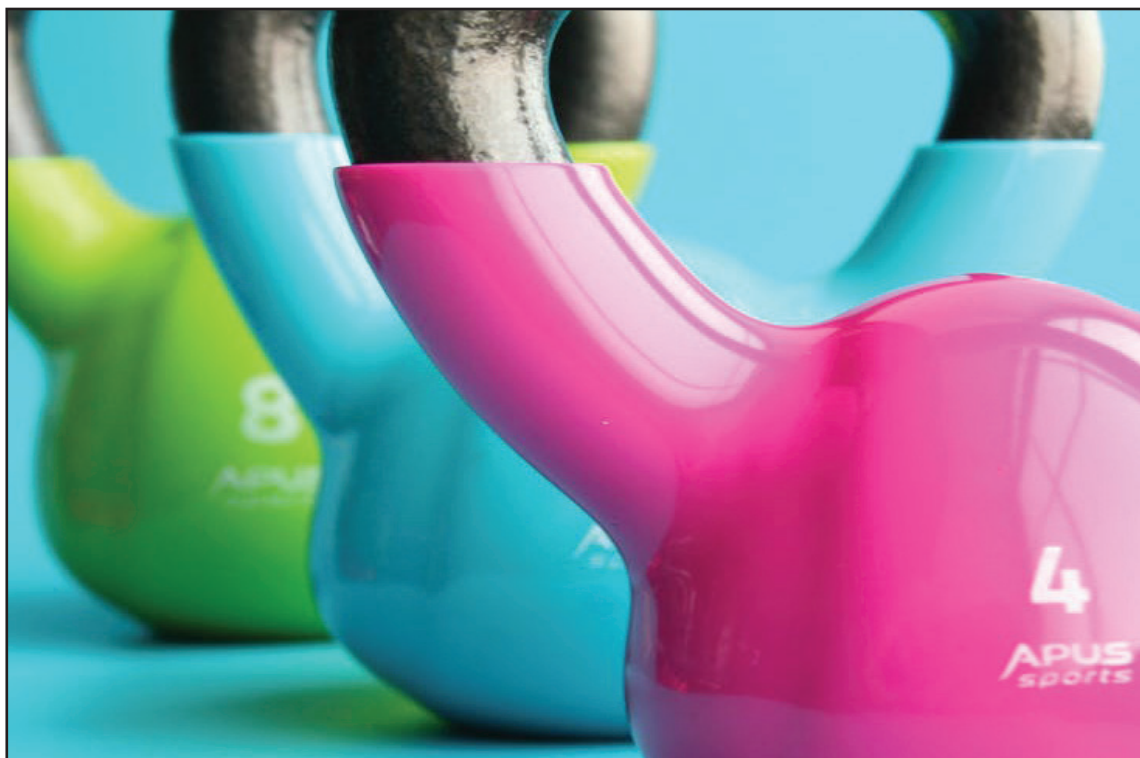


IMAGE TAKEN from pexels.com

The gym can be an intimidating arena for many people, especially women, given that it is a stereotypically “male dominated” territory.

subject all at once, so why is there a feeling of dread trying to figure out what healthy habit we might be fond of? The same way we decide our majors, we can pick what area of athletics we find most appealing and from there slowly learn more about it.

Let yourself learn more about the culture and community you are entering into, whether it be weight lifting, yoga, cross-fit, etc., the people you encounter might become the supportive network you did not know you were missing. Since you share a similar interest, they will help guide you and relate to you, just like when you make friends with people within your major at school.

Once the fear of stepping foot through the door is conquered, the thought of the gym being a “male dominated” arena still ex-

ists for women new to the gym. I am not going to tell you this is not true, which may be disheartening for some, but I want to remind you of a few things.

“Male dominated” does not mean walking into a room of a hundred men who are going to stare at every single thing you do. It means out of the handful of people that might be in the gym, maybe a majority of them are male, but everyone is minding their own business.

The people you will encounter are also people who, at some point in their life, started in the same place as you—unaware, unsure, and perhaps just as intimidated by “gym culture” as you were. While some people may appear to have the hard exterior of someone you never dreamed of speaking to or interacting with in your wildest dreams, they may be just the

person to help you break out of your shell and feel more comfortable in your new community.

Everyone has to start somewhere; these people just started before you. Learning from others is the best way to expand your knowledge and provide yourself with the basis for what you might want to learn more about. Interestingly enough, that sounds just like the reason we have teachers in the classroom.

Secondly, “male dominated” is a term that frequently gets associated with weight lifting gyms. The point to be made about weight lifting is that the people who participate in this community are dedicated to improving themselves and reaching their goals in the gym. Even if the population is majority male over female, you should not be intimidated because you have the same goals, and you are focused on you, not everyone

around you.

The people you may feel intimidated by have a mindset of ultimate focus. Even though personal anxiety may make it feel like entering into a new space will make you the center of attention, this is far from the truth and it is important to remind yourself of that. Although the gym can be a great place to meet new friends, and you most likely will, it still is not prioritized as a social endeavor. As you are feeling things out, you’ll be able to come and go as you please with no interruptions, despite what “gym culture intimidation” might have us believe.

Although the pressures and anxieties of living a healthy gym based lifestyle may always be bearing down on us in some way, the takeaway is that health should never be something to be intimidated by. It is something you do for you and that is who it should matter to most of all: you.

Once the ice is broken and new activities are explored this space becomes an outlet, one I personally find of utmost importance throughout a stressful life. The stress of getting started certainly does not outweigh the benefits of relieving future stressors. Beyond that, you gain confidence boosts every time you achieve something you did not think was possible and there is no downside to that.

If we enjoy reaching goals in other aspects of our life, like raising a low grade, for example, why stop ourselves from experiencing it in a way that is good for us mentally and physically as well?

Gym culture may be on an upswing in terms of media presence, and maybe it won’t be “trendy” next year, but regardless of that fact, getting involved in this culture and community is for you and not a decision that should be swayed by anyone but yourself.

Why We Love Dogs So Much

LAUREN NIESZ
CO-SENIOR/OPINION EDITOR

Plain and simple: dogs are God’s gift to this earth. There is nothing that makes a heart smile more than a dog with a cocked head and searching eyes does. There is something truly incredible about the way dogs make us feel and, simply put, it is therapeutic.

Around campus, dogs are usually greeted with gasps, pointing, and fawning. There is a reason for this obsession. According to an article on *Psychology Today*, there is a concept called “biophilia,” which means that we are all genetically programmed to interact with nature. We seek a connection and relationship with living things.

We have an internal yearning for these connections and relationships, not only with our peers, but with animals and what better animal is there than a dog (cat people will debate, but I think the paws have it)?

Biophilia, the article suggests, could be the reason that we don’t find dog slobber as disgusting as it really is, or why petting a dog is ex-

tremely soothing and comforting. Interacting with animals is proven to lower blood pressure and brings a sense of calmness and awareness that we really cannot achieve on our own.

We don’t mind picking up after our dogs or wearing a blanket of dog hair sheddings on our outfits of the day because they truly know how to love unconditionally and all we want is for them to be happy. If that means getting covered in dog hair after rubbing their bellies and scratching their ears, so be it.

No matter what we look like day by day or how we speak, our dogs don’t judge us. They truly are a man’s best friend, but, furthermore, they are just exemplary of a phenomenal friend. They give you undivided attention, they listen to you (for the most part), and they are always there when you need them. A little nudge of the nose or a lick on the face are all we really need to cheer up and our dogs know just when to provide it.

I always found it fascinating that dogs can sense exactly when you need these pick-me-ups. If I am upset, my dog knows; that is incredible. Perhaps that has to do with this

biophilia—something internal that relates humans with dogs so that we are emotionally connected too. While I am not sure just how this connection is made, dogs have an incredible sense of knowing when something is wrong.

If I am crying or if I am angry, my dog knows to try to comfort me and calm me. A specific example that I have seen not only in my life, but have heard about in others, is when you cry, dogs have an instinct to come over and start licking you in the face. Some may say they just like to lick the salty tears, but I am more of a believer in that they’re trying to wipe the tears away as fast as they can so that they stop and we can be happy.

Regardless of any scientific reasons like biophilia, it is safe to say that there is a unique relationship between humans and dogs. They really care about us and we should always return the favor and care equally as much.

Josh Billings, a famous nineteenth century writer, once wrote, “A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself.” A dog will do anything for its owner, but would you do anything for your dog?



PHOTO TAKEN by Lauren Niesz

We have a true connection to dogs and it seems like they always know what we are thinking and how to help.

Nier Automata is Nier-ly Perfect

JOHN MORANO
STAFF WRITER

Nier Automata earns every bit of high praise that it receives. Honestly, *Nier Automata* was a game I expected nothing from, being an indirect sequel of Square Enix's unsuccessful *Nier*. There are many standout features, all of which work together to make it a great game, but let's start with my personal favorite: the plot.

The setting is a post-apocalyptic Earth, which was invaded by aliens and their machine soldiers several millennia before the events of the game. In that time, humans fled to the moon and created a space bunker in Earth's orbit. This houses their own mechanical soldiers and androids who fight the machines on Earth's surface. Basically, the whole thing starts off as a proxy war; you play as the human's androids and fight against the alien's machines, and neither the humans or the aliens are anywhere to be seen. Over the course of this massive, 60-hour plus game, deep philosophical questions are explored such as what humanity, sentience, and free will are.

One of the more important aspects of any plot is characters, and, again, *Nier Automata* nails this. The game's initial protagonist, 2B – as in, “to be or not to be” from Shakespeare's *Hamlet* – is notable for being a female. This might not sound important to non-gamers, but there aren't a lot female protagonists in video

games, and those that are often receive criticism for their portrayal of females.

However, I don't foresee 2B receiving such criticism. She is a strong protagonist, something of a realist, but with a bit of a vicious streak. The game opens with her pondering over her existence, specifically the ‘gods’ who created her, and wondering if she'll ever get the chance to kill them. “Nines” (9S) is a secondary protagonist; he's an idealist and a competent enough character, but lacks the depth of 2B.

At times, *Nier Automata*'s plot can get downright disturbing, and has no problem making you feel like the bad guy. There was one mission where I had to infiltrate a castle and destroy the machines occupying it. Most of them were preaching about laying down their lives to “protect their king.”

When I made it to the king, he was not a t a l l what I expected, and I ended up questioning how justifiable killing his followers to reach him was. Even though they're machines, many of the beings you're fighting against clearly have complicated emotions.

One machine upon seeing me flew into a rage, screaming that I had killed his “brother”

and that I was true evil, another attacked me for fear that I would hurt his pet moose. Perhaps most disturbing of all, I came across a group of machines using a canyon to commit suicide because they couldn't take any more fighting.

Graphics, while certainly competent, aren't something I see as a standout feature. *Nier Automata*'s open world/characters are well-designed, with beautiful landscapes and detailed facial features. The soundtrack is an absolute home-r u n though; it features multiple tracks with vocals, a n d does an excellent job of underscoring the emotions, *Nier Automata* evokes in its memory where a mentor had asked me sort of a her body. The mentor to desert prior to her to tell the that. Her reaction was

not what I expected, considering that prior she had seemed troubled by her mentor's death. When informed of the desertion attempt, she laughed and said that she deserved to die like a coward. While this was going on, a music track started playing, which seemed to effectively support the narrative's themes of despair and insanity. Voice acting/dialogue is also solid across the board, many times when I finished a quest, 2B and 9S would take a break to talk about it. This is something great that many games don't do.

Finally, we make it to the gameplay, and in my 15+ years of gaming, I've never seen gameplay quite like what *Nier Automata* offers. Most readers are probably unfamiliar with the term “bullet-hell,” which refers to an older sub-genre of arcade game, with a vast number of projectiles – created by enemies – fill the screen, and players would have to avoid/destroy the bullets and enemies both.

The game mixes elements of arcade game play with modern third-person action combat, at time the perspective will be an arcade-ish top-down (no verticality), at others it will be a side-scroller (can only move sideways/vertically), but most often it will be standard third-person (with three-dimensional movement). This might seem confusing to some, but eventually you develop a feel for it and the transitions between gameplay style helps to keep things fresh.

Also worth mention is that *Nier Automata* offers some incredibly challenging gameplay at higher difficulty. Hard mode removes your ability to lock on to enemies,

“I wasn't expecting much from it, but I can already tell that it is going to be in my top-five games list for this year.”

JOHN MORANO
Staff Writer

and lunatic makes it so you always die in one-hit. Also, if you die, you drop your plugin chips, which are responsible for most of your power, and you need to make it back to your body without dying to pick them up. I typically like to play games on at least the hard difficulty, but with *Nier Automata*, I found normal to be plenty challenging.

Quick disclaimer, *Nier Automata* is M-rated, and with good reason. In terms of portrayal, it deals with a number of mature subjects, such as suicide, reproduction, and the nature of life/death. Beyond that, it has language, nudity, and blood. If however such content isn't a problem, then this game gets my highest recommendation. I wasn't expecting much from it, but I can already tell that it is going to be in my top-five games list for this year. In terms of rating, I consider it a 9.5/10.

IMAGE TAKEN from forums.somethingawful.com

Nosotros: Beauty in Two Languages

ANNA BLAINE
STAFF WRITER

In celebration of Spanish artist-ry and to showcase the upcoming new play *The Women of Padilla*, Two River Theater presented an evening of reading Spanish language poetry in English translation on Wednesday, March 29. The event was also honoring the playwright of *The Women of Padilla*, Tony Meneses. Meneses is a renowned Spanish-American playwright whose previous play, *Guadalupe in the Guest Room*, made its debut at Two River Theater.

The poetry event was moderated by Anika Chapin, a literary manager at Two River Theater. To warm the audience up, Chapin read a poem by the Spanish poet Federico Garcia Lorca called “The Ballad of Black Pain,” in which she later on read an English translation of that same poem by Langston Hughes. Lorca was one of Meneses' inspirations for writing *The Women of Padilla*, which is amazing considering that Lorca was also a playwright.

According to Chapin, who dropped tidbits of biographical information about Meneses during the reading, “Meneses traffics in poetry even when he is writing prose.” She spoke about his affinity for revealing the beauty of the Spanish language and the culture associated with Spanish-speaking people in his plays. Meneses was born in Mexico and was raised in Texas. Because of his bi-lingual upbringing, his plays usually deal

with overcoming language barriers and the biases that obstruct people from communicating effectively.

Chapin's enthusiasm for Spanish language poetry was evident with her extensive knowledge of many Spanish poets, including Pablo Neruda. Throughout the evening she opened the floor to poets and poetry readers of different ages, starting with some of the young, gifted writers at Project Write Now, a non-profit business for writers in Red Bank.

Jennifer Chauhan, the Executive Director at Project Write Now, read a poem entitled “A Woman Sleeps on an Island,” and some of the young writers read their own Spanish/English translated poems entitled “Gathering Woods” and “Oh My.” It was gratifying to see the response to the readings and to see various people read poems that they identify with.

Amanda Espinosa, a staff member at Two River Theater, read a poem that held a special place in her heart since elementary school. “Legal Alien” by Pat Mora is a poem that illustrates the two different worlds that bi-lingual people navigate through. As Espinosa read the words, she gradually built to the climax of the poem which encompassed the reality that many descendants of Spanish immigrants faced. The poem questions the notion of citizenship and brings up the question, where must a bi-lingual speaker of Spanish and English fit in if they are not accepted by either culture? Finally, the poem expresses the way



PHOTO COURTESY of Jenna Rocca

On March 29, literature fans gathered to read various poems to celebrate the upcoming play, *The Women of Padilla*.

language has a universal connection that should be embraced, instead of shunned.

One of the last poems read at the poetry reading was entitled “The Eagle” by Joy Harjo. This poem was selected by artistic director John Dias, who felt inspired by the theme of the poem which deals with the connectedness of human beings and the circle of life. He spoke about the Native

American roots of the poet Joy Harjo, and how that tied in with the Spanish language and English poetry reading. It flowed naturally with the other selected poems that were read that evening.

After the event was concluded, Anika Chapin commented on the experience of moderating poetry readings at Two River Theater. Chapin said, “We did the first poetry reading in the lobby with no

particular theme. It felt like such a natural fit to celebrate this form of communication. This art form goes really well with *The Women of Padilla* because the play is so specific.”

Opening night of *The Women of Padilla* will be Friday, April 14 at 8 p.m., and will run until Sunday, April 30. For available tickets, please call 732.345.1400 or email tworivertheater.org.

Sold Screens at Monmouth

NICOLE INGRAFFIA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The University hosted New-ark’s International Women’s History Month Film Festival on April 3 in Pollak Theatre.

The film *Sold*’s goal was to advocate prevalent issues that women face globally. It is based on true events that highlights the story of a young girl who was sold to be a sex slave. The movie was followed by a panel of local professionals to answer questions from the audience and provide their insight.

The audience was attentive to *Sold* when Lakshmi, 13, was sold by her stepfather to work for a brothel in India. Lakshmi left her home under the impression that she would be cleaning houses, but soon learns the truth.

Audience members twisted uncomfortably in their seats when the woman in charge of the brothel tied Lakshmi’s feet together on a bed and disappeared behind closed doors. Shortly after, a drunk man stumbled into the room with cruel seduction in his eyes. He slammed crumpled up paper currency on the nightstand. His grimy hands caressed her naïve face; Lakshmi flinched, as did the audience. Can you predict what happens next?

This scene, like many others in *Sold*, are as unimaginable as they are real. Human trafficking has been named the modern day slavery. Despite common beliefs, moving victims across borders is not a requirement. The United States alone has

about 700,000 people trafficked each year. It must be disclosed that other countries resort to human trafficking because of poverty. In America, it’s because of vulnerability.

Regardless of the reason, it happens everywhere. It is happening now. It is in our community.

The idea that human trafficking occurs in the state that people call their home was a shock to some in attendance, and especially Taylor Von Bartheld.

Von Bartheld, a sophomore communication student, believes that spreading awareness about the reality human trafficking is a key element to saving potential victims. “It is so important for young people and other community members to learn about this crime,” Von Bartheld said. “Human trafficking was not talked about on larger scales for a long time, so events like these are the first steps to stopping it.”

The movie concluded, but the presence of the issue remained strong as the professional panel took their seats on the stage.

Panelists included Wincy Terry and Susan Panzica, of the New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking; Dr. Guia Calicdan-Apostle, Vice President of Helping to Educate and Advocate Against Trafficking (HEAAT) Foundation; Keyla Munoz, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI); and Detective Shawn Murphy, Special Victims Bureau of the Monmouth County Prosecutor’s Office.

Francesca Marina, a junior political science student, raised

her hand and asked the group for warning signs to spot a potential victim and insight on how to safely report an incident.

Detective Murphy pulled his microphone towards him and mentioned a handful of signs. “If a person is not speaking for herself, not making eye contact, appears to be malnourished or shows signs of physical abuse, don’t be too quick to assume, but don’t disregard it,” he cautioned. “If your gut is telling you to, call 911 from a safe distance.”

People may be in the presence of a trafficker or victim unknowingly because their conversation may not sound like sexual exploitation immediately. Munoz leaned into her microphone and added another resource to spot warning signs: Learning the terminology.

“A trafficker can be called ‘Daddy,’ ‘Pimp,’ or Business Manager,” Munoz explained. “I was working with a victim who told me her daddy was coming to get her. Then I realized she didn’t mean her father.”

An article from CNN discussed the ways to spot trafficking victims in airports and elaborated on terminology being an indicator. “Traffickers or pimps feel they own their victims and a barcode tattoo, or a tattoo with ‘Daddy’ could be a red flag that the person is a victim.”

At the end of the day, noticing small details could be the difference between a life lost or a life saved.

While some progress has

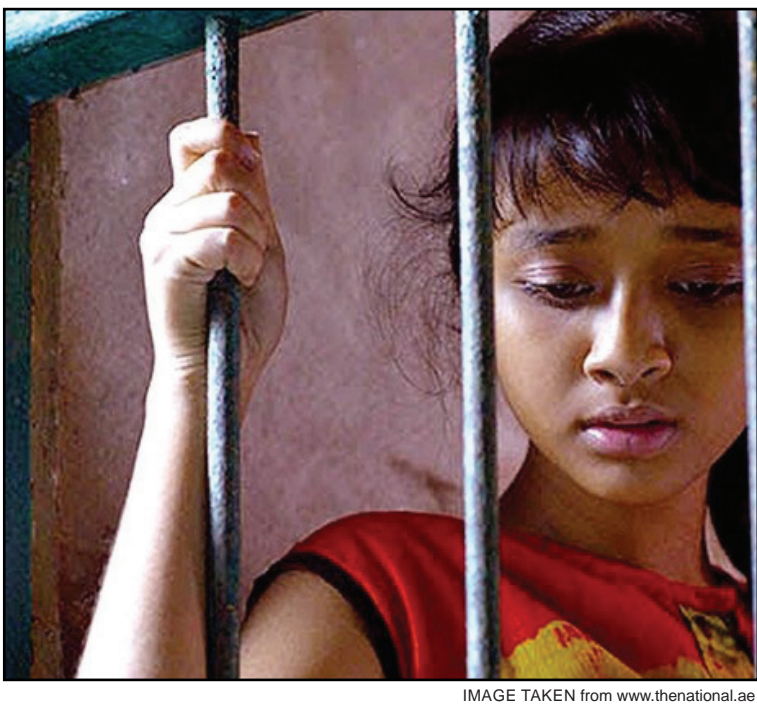


IMAGE TAKEN from www.thenational.ae

MU’s Pollak Theatre screened the film *Sold* on April 3. The film highlighted the issue of sex trafficking and slavery in our world today.

been made in terms of spreading awareness of human trafficking, the finish line is nowhere in sight.

What advances has Monmouth made as a community? Aside from hosting events with this topic, according to New Jersey’s Coalition Against Human Trafficking, the alliance urged municipalities to issue individual proclamations designating Jan. 11 of each year as “Human Trafficking Awareness Day;” Long Branch has signed this proclamation.

This begs the question, what can individuals do? Be aware of potential victims and remember red flags may suggest a person’s safety may be in jeopardy. More importantly, individuals should share this information with as many people as possible.

Edmund Burke explained it best when he said, “Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little.”

If you or someone you know have been exposed to harms from human traffickers, please contact New Jersey’s Coalition against human trafficking at (201) 903-2111. To learn more about ways to raise awareness or donate, please visit <https://www.njhumantrafficking.org>.

Tenth Annual Record Store Day



NICOLE SEITZ
COPY EDITOR

Record stores are not as popular and ‘hoppin’ as they used to be with the introduction of music streaming and less of a need for physical copies of music. However, Record Store Day is keeping the music alive. This year is going to be the 10th Record Store Day across the nation. Every April, record shops get special releases of some your favorite artists and they get their staff ready for the biggest day of the year.

This year, Record Store Day is Saturday, April 22. Some special releases for this year include newer artists such as All Time Low,

Dave Matthews Band, and The Lumineers. There will also be special releases of live performances, unreleased music, or remastered music from legends like David Bowie, Prince, and The Beatles.

“Record store day reminds us that music is an art form- it can be listen as a single song or as I prefer, in an entire album of material from an artist,” said Communication Department Chair and Associate Professor Aaron Furgason. “What makes this day special is that a trip to a record store means that you leave with tangible evidence of the artist, instead of simple download or stream of the music. A record allows you to admire the album cover art, read the lyrics, credits and thank you’s by the artist- elements you don’t necessarily have access to through streaming or downloading a song.”

“In the past, I’ve

been excited to get exclusive content that was only available on Record Store Day,” said senior music industry student, Joey Affatato. “In 2015, I bought a special 10th anniversary release of Brand New’s *Deja Entendu*, and last year I got a special acoustic version of Frank Ocean’s *Channel Orange*.”

To pick up some cool tunes, you can either just stop at your favorite local record store or make a whole day trip out of it. Senior music industry student, Dave DePaola, mapped a whole day’s worth of NJ record stores to visit a few years ago and has been doing that with his friends since 2015.

DePaola said, “I love Record Store Day because I love being able to just explore with my friends. Not only is it exciting every time I find an album I’ve been looking for or discover a new album while searching through all the stores, I love being able to explore all the different towns we stop in and see all different areas in New Jersey.”

If you start your day around 10 a.m., it should be easy to get through all the stores and stop wherever you want for lunch and dinner along the way in one of the various towns.

The route starts locally at Hold Fast in Asbury Park right on Cookman Ave. This a cool little store with

a pretty good collection of new releases and old ones alike. They also have some cool music memorabilia for collectors.

The next stop is everyone’s favorite, Jack’s Music Shoppe, in Red Bank. Red Bank is always a good time and Jack’s has not only CD’s, vinyl, and tapes, but also an extensive collection of posters and sheet music and even movies (if you’re not into music).

The next stop on the list is Vintage Vinyl about 40 minutes north in Fords. Vintage Vinyl is probably the largest record store on the list and has a huge selection of music on various mediums. The store is even a venue for local and bigger acts from time to time with their stage in the back of the place.

Next stop is New Brunswick. There are two pretty cool record stores here and obviously lots of other cool places to check out around town. Spinn Records is a tiny little hipster record store in the basement of a building. There are \$1 records outside and walk down the stairs to a solid collection of CD’s and records for a fairly small space.

The next one in New Brunswick is Revilla Grooves and Gear, which is just outside of the main town area in New Brunswick. It was here that we found some rare finds like *Ziggy*

Stardust by David Bowie and *The Wall* by Pink Floyd both on vinyl for a great price.

Next up, Princeton Record Exchange (PREX). If you’ve ever been to Princeton to just walk around and get dinner, you’ve probably wandered into PREX. This is probably the most organized, considering it’s not that big of a place. There is always something new to find and you can always find at least one album that you’ve been looking for for a while there.

The last stop on our list is Randy Now’s Man Cave in the heart of Historic Bordentown. The Man Cave is a tiny shop with music knick-knacks and various mediums of music. There is also a whole room of movie/TV show memorabilia for those interested in that.

Overall, Record Store Day is a great day to explore and find new music. It’s also a good chance for up and coming musicians to give their music to various record stores. Affatato has copies of his album *The Ramparts Rebel* available at Randy Now’s.

DePaola said, “I have always loved collecting CDs and records. Record Store Day allows me to dedicate a whole day to collecting and listening to music and it’s the coolest thing ever.”



IMAGE TAKEN from www.wdthafm.com

“Springing” into Schoolwork

LAUREN NIESZ
CO-SENIOR/OPINION EDITOR

When the springtime weather starts rearing its head, there is a feeling of rejuvenation and a higher level of focus on getting things done. There is a reason that there are things like spring-cleaning and the temptations of buying new wardrobes for the spring season.

This rejuvenation is either a positive or a negative in our schoolwork. On one hand, this great weather could inspire us to be more productive and really get things done.

When the semester is winding down, we have quite a bit of work to not only do, but to catch up on too.

So, when we start to feel better about ourselves and our state of mind because of warmer weather, we can accomplish all of these tasks at hand.

Dr. David Strohmets, a professor of psychology, stated, “There is something called the good mood effect. When the weather is nice, we tend to be a better mood, which does influence our behavior. We become more willing to help another person in need and also become more generous.”

“For example, people tend to tip their server more when not only the weather is nicer out, but even when they believe that the weather is forecasted to be nice. So, regarding spring days, we do tend to be in a good mood those first nice days when it seems that the gloom of weather is over,” he further explained.

When we are in good moods because of this weather, we are nicer and in a happier state of mind in



PHOTO TAKEN by Alexandria Afanador

Warm weather has the potential to increase our happiness and inspire us to be more productive, but, many students tend to relax on sunnier days.

general. This helps us focus more on our work. Victoria Howe, a senior psychology student, said, “springtime, the nice weather at least, makes us view ourselves more positively and motivates us to do better in our classes.”

During the spring season, some professors try to harness this motivation and hold classes outside.

Dr. Merrily Ervin, coordinator of school of science general education courses, commented on her experiences with holding classes outside, “There are many distractions – one time I had a class outside and there was a soccer practice going on nearby, which proved to be much more interesting to many students, than whatever topic I was hoping to dis-

cuss!”

This brings up the other hand of spring weather—distractions. Many also find that the spring weather can be distracting from schoolwork. There is an itching to get outside and enjoy the sun and beautiful weather and neglect coursework. I know for me, personally, the spring weather is a negative impact on my course-

work.

Like Ervin stated, the distractions in the spring weather are overwhelming. There are lots of events on campus, sun and warmth outside the classroom, and there is an impending feeling of summer approaching slowly.

Katryna Cordova, a senior English student, claimed, “It’s a negative distraction because you really don’t want to be sitting inside a room and doing homework or working in the library at all hours. The spring weather makes me want to sit outside or go for a walk and knowing I have a really long paper to write only makes me upset.”

The second we feel that warmth, it is a reminder that summer is right around the corner. For some, this means that they feel as though they need to kick it into gear and finish the semester strong, but for others it means that it is relaxing time already.

Regardless of if this springtime change changes you and motivates in schoolwork or motivates you in slacking off and getting into the sun, there is a recognizable change in attitudes around campus when the spring weather emerges.

Motivation increases across the board purely because of the happiness that correlates with the warmer weather.

Where the motivation lies is a case-by-case scenario, but the fact that happiness increases is all that matters; I am sure we are all looking forward to a warmer and happier campus in our very near future.



CORAL COOPER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Women holding powerful positions has often been unheard of for the majority of American history. Of course, there were revolutionaries that broke through to become successful in otherwise male dominated fields such as Sandra Day O’Connor as the first woman on the supreme court; Janet Yellen, Chair of the Federal Reserve of the United States; and Mary Barra, CEO of General Motors. More women than in the past have recently held powerful positions.

Even right here at Monmouth, women hold powerful positions, but it was not easy to get there. Dr. Johanna Foster, Director of the Sociology Program in the department of political science and sociology, teaches gender studies and discusses being a woman in the professional world of today.

Foster recalls when her gender affected other’s views on how she would manage her work. “I was eight months pregnant and the University asked how I would be a professor and a mother.” Today, this question would still have the misogynistic undertones it had back then.

Another time, Foster was asked by a chair to take on an administrative position, assuming that she would be better at multitasking because she was a mother.

The issues of biased perceptions of women put them under a negative scope within

the workplace and that practice is still common today. However, Foster noted she has not experienced gender biases from faculty while working at Monmouth.

Maintaining respect and authority within a classroom environment requires more effort than a male professor does, Foster believes. “I am aware that my authority in a classroom can come across confrontational as a women’s studies professor. I use a lot of humor to manage my own authority,” Foster continued.

Alicia Torello, a senior communication student and the President of Student Activities Board, noticed respect is more than something that needs to be earned; to be successful, respect needs to be given to others as well. “I worked to gain the respect of my board by remaining honest and hardworking in SAB.”

“I think successful women need to establish a habit of encouraging and inspiring other women to gain respect as well as celebrate themselves for their achievements and successes,” Torello said.

Foster said she is inspired by many women around the world from the feminist movement but explains that her mother was an advocate for victims of domestic violence during the early second wave feminist movement. “Coincidentally, I began to study gender inequality and feminism in college and my mother happened to be a part of it,” Foster revealed.

Foster suggested that students looking to impact inequality should educate themselves on the issues. Gender inequality

goes hand in hand with class inequality, race inequality, and any other form of social wrongs.

Jill Murphy, a junior communication student, has ran for e-board positions in two separate organizations. “I know that people think that being respected as a woman is different than the respect a man is given, but I do not really see that because I have never been in that situation.”

Murphy has ran for an e-board position in *Hawk TV*, which is co-ed, and for her sorority, Phi Sigma Sigma, “Although I did not really think it was any different, I felt in my interviews that I did not come off too strong to the co-ed board because I did not want to give a wrong impression,” Mur-

phy said.

When it comes to maintaining respect and being recognized for one’s abilities and achievements, women may have to try harder for it. “A successful woman should be confident and not let people take advantage of her; especially in the workplace, it is important to stand your ground to be taken seriously,” Murphy said.

Murphy states that a role model of hers is Michelle Obama; she is impressed by her views and Ivy League academic background. “Her philanthropic beliefs were something that needed serious attention in America, and the way she could get an entire crowd’s attention with her speeches mesmerizes me,” Murphy explained.

Foster also commented on the profit corporations are gaining by marketing feminism. “Buying things does not make you empowered. They try to sell liberation.” Greed and superficiality has become prominent in new philosophies on feminism, but buying a “Girl Power” t-shirt does not allot women equal rights. “Feminism has been supersized to sell empowering things.”

“It is a very different world, but the issues for women are still there,” Foster noted, “Unless the folks in power are questioned about inequality, nothing will change. It’s not done enough. We can’t Facebook post our way out of rape culture, or tweet away the wage gap.

Power on, *Girls*: Women in the Workforce



PHOTO TAKEN by Alexandria Afanador

The Outlook has produced multiple generations worth of female Editor in Chief’s, furthering the advancement in the opportunity for women to hold positions of power.

Say Hello to Julia:

Sesame Street Introduces Their Newest Autistic Muppet

DALLY MATOS
COPY EDITOR

Sesame Street has always been a show that focuses on learning and inclusivity, and their new character Julia is no different. This spring, the show welcomed their first autistic cast member to the television screen. According to the *Huffington Post*, Julia has been included on their Digital Storybook series since 2015, but have decided to make her a regular cast member as of late.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), one in every 68 children in the United States is diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. “The inclusion of this character is not only helping with awareness outreach, but also disability representation,” explained Dr. Stacy Lauderdale, a professor in the school of education.

“More diversity in television is always a good thing, and disabilities are a part of that diversity,” said Lauderdale. “Older children with autism who are higher functioning understand what makes them different and suffer more from depression; [with the addition of Julia] more representation can help others understand [autism],” Lauderdale said.

Chelsea Byrne, a junior education student, noticed that this representation is an increasing trend. She said, “The ABC show *Switched at Birth* represents the deaf community by making the leads of the show deaf. *Speechless* has a main character who has cerebral palsy. Society and television have come a long way with including individuals with disabilities and giving them a voice on TV.”

Unlike her animal-like companions, such as Big Bird and Oscar the Grouch, Julia is a shy four-year-old girl. She has green eyes, orange hair, and loves to paint and pick flowers. She often groans and echoes what the characters around her are saying.

“Children without autism may want to form friendships and understand their classmates with autism, and this could help them understand autistic behavior,” Lauderdale commented.

Her designers wanted to highlight traits exclusive to children with autism, without making her the posterchild for all disabilities. Loud noises scare Julia, and she flaps her

arms around when she is excited. The creators consulted different organizations who work alongside families with autistic children to decide which features were best to highlight.

John Bazley, a senior education student, said, “*Sesame Street* has always been a good learning tool for children and I think introducing a character with autism will surely change the perception of children with autism, both among other children and adults.”

Carolyn Chirichello, Assistant Director of the Department of Disability Services, said, “[children with autism] will feel included and part of [the show] and can identify with someone who has a disorder that they may have, even though they may not know all of the terms and diagnostics of it,” Chirichello said.

Donna Dolphin, an associate professor of communication and advisor for *Hawk TV*, said, “Imagine entire generations growing up with an autistic friend, albeit a muppet. If so, very many people who are not on the spectrum could grow up understanding a little bit about the lives of those who are.”

“Perhaps eventually, autistic people would face less of a challenge to receive necessary services, education, employment, and understanding,” Dolphin explained.

Dolphin, who has a relative with autism, said how increasingly difficult it is for students in his age group to understand him. “He’s 17 years old and in high school, that’s hard enough. Add autism to that and life is pretty



Sesame Street is known to promote awareness in a fun, educational way so children are able to understand the world around them.

challenging,” she explained.

Stacy Gordon, the puppeteer of the new character, has a son who also has autism. According to *Huffington Post*, she said that she wishes the character had been around when her son was of *Sesame Street* age. She argued that if her son’s peers grew up seeing these behaviors on television, they might not have been so frightened.

Accidentally Famous:

A Look into Studio 54

NICOLE INGRAFFIA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Studio 54 was a 70’s nightclub, also known as, “The World’s Most Famous Nightclub”. Regular visitors included Elizabeth Taylor, Andy Warhol, Mick Jagger, Michael Jackson, Calvin Klein, Truman Capote, Cher, John Travolta, Tina Turner, and Elton John, just to name a few.

June of 1978, Patrick Taylor had just graduated high school. His plans for the upcoming fall were set to play football at Seton Hall University on a full athletic scholarship. To celebrate such an accomplishment, a few of his friends and his girlfriend took the train into New York City to attend San Gennaro’s Italian Feast.

Taylor and his friends enjoyed a long day at the feast and were just about to head for the train station, but a pair of drunk twenty-something Italian men interrupted those intentions. The tall one put his arm around Taylor, “Let’s go to down to Studio 54 and check out the freak show,” he suggested. The shorter one nodded and agreed, starting to tug on Taylor’s shirt.

“I looked at my girlfriend and man, her eyes could have cut into my soul”, Taylor recalled, “but it was my night and I was a selfish 18-year-old. My friends took her home and I went with the drunks.”

At the time, Studio 54 was one of the most inaccessible nightclubs; people would wait outside for countless hours in hopes the door attendant, Mark Benecke, would allow them entry. The owners wanted a compilation of people who were famous, rich, or beautiful. “If Mark [Benecke] did not find any of those in a person, there was no way to get in,” Taylor explained.

The trio arrived outside of Studio 54, walking along the opposite side of the red velvet rope. Taylor was following the drunks to the front door so they could catch a glimpse of the “freaks” they sought after so badly.

The door attendant glanced at the two drunks as if they were peasants and pointed back at Taylor. “Only you. Do you want in or not, Blondie?” The Italian duet pushed Taylor in the door and said simultaneously, “he wants in!”

He walked in and suddenly knew why the drunks called it a freak show. The sex appeal was intense and colorful lights cut through clouds of

smoke, illuminating the dark club as little as possible.

“A man approached me, handed me a drink and told me to follow him. I had no clue this man was Clyde Davis,” said Taylor. “He was the president of Columbia Records and well, anyway, he introduced me to one of the owners, Steve Rubell.” Davis told Rubell he should hire Taylor because of his good looks, and just like that, he was hired.

“I worked as a busboy for two months and by that time, Seton Hall’s football season was about to begin. To entice me to stay at Studio 54, Rubell promoted me to bartender, which probed me to resign from my scholarship.” At this time, Taylor was 19, living the lifestyle of the rich and famous. However, that is not why he decided to stay; the only true enticement was the quick and easy money he was making.

Michael Ingrassia, a childhood and current friend of Taylor, was not surprised at his instant success. “Patty was the one in our friend

looking than me,” Ingrassia laughed. “In all seriousness, he had it tough because his dad left his family and he never found out why. Maybe dropping out of college was his way to rebel against that.”

Taylor caught the attention of mostly every celebrity he encountered. “I quickly became Elton John’s favorite bartender, I thought it was because I made good drinks. But then he asked me to go home with him... When I declined, he moved onto a new favorite”

His life was on route to change yet again, when Francesco Scavullo, fashion photographer famous for shooting *Cosmopolitan* covers and celebrity portraits, approached Taylor at the bar.

The modelling audition was special because the director himself, Franco Zeffirelli, handpicked Taylor to be in the film. “I can truthfully say at one point in my life, I was more famous than Tom Cruise,” Taylor joked.

“I played Bob Clark, who group better

tried to make a move on Brooke Shield’s character, Jade. Ironically right after that scene, her house gets set on fire by the guy that’s in love with her,” Taylor said.

The celebrity and party lifestyle began to take a toll on Taylor. He took sex, drugs, and rock-and-roll a little too literally.

“I did a lot of things I’m not proud of because of the career path I took,” Taylor said, “drugs being the center of it all.” When asked for further detail about his past with drugs, Taylor declined to comment because he likes to leave that aspect far behind him.

After finishing a model campaign for Versace around the age of 22, he decided to leave his Studio 54 days behind and pursue a career that was less mentally exhausting. He went back to his roots and enrolled in Seton Hall, where he studied pre-law.

Taylor is now 55 and likes to think of himself as an average person. He is a father to two daughters and a son.

Overall, Taylor is a firm believer that everything happens for a reason; he regrets nothing and never wonders what life would be like if he stayed in the industry. “Whenever I have a rough day or I’m in a bad mood, I like to remind myself that I accomplished a lot in my life” Taylor points out, “Like when I didn’t let Elton John seduce me. How many people could say they dodged that bullet?”



The Benefits of Holistic Living

ZACHARY KARVELAS
STAFF WRITER

There are many questions surrounding the ideas of living a holistic lifestyle. Most of the curiosity stems from those who do not practice or even know about such ideals and mindsets.

Holistic living is rooted directly to spiritual practices and beliefs about the interconnectedness of the body, mind, and soul. The practice of holism, or living a holistic lifestyle, has many benefits for not just the person participating, but for everyone and everything else the lifestyle affects.

The main belief is that everything in this world is connected. Your actions have a direct effect on those around you, the environment, the global industries, and your well-being. The world is to be viewed, as one working system as a whole, not as individual parts that do not have to do with each other.

Now before you go ahead and judge these like-minded people, junior communication student, Ayse Yargas urges you to “Do. Your. Research.”

“Many people in my life have poked fun at me after going vegan but I know that a lot of them would change their mind if they knew what I knew. Ignorance really isn’t bliss because once you realize just how much what you do affects the world, your life and habits will change,” said Yargas.

To people that lead a holistic lifestyle, if you get sick, it is seen as more than just a physical ailment. Sickness has just as much to do with your mind as it does your body. It is viewed as a psychological problem that can be caused by more than just a scientific or physical explanation. Mainstream society tells us we have to go to the doctor when we feel sick to get western medicine that only treats the symptoms, but rarely cures the problem or solves it.

Julie Schaaff, a yoga professor from the health and physical education department, said a holistic lifestyle, “Focuses more on prevention and emphasizes individual choices and responsibility.” She continued, “For example, many students suffer from headaches. The quick fix is to treat the symptom with a pain reliever. In the holistic model, however, we would try to figure out the causes of the headaches to try to prevent them. Maybe the student has poor posture when working on the computer, or is dehydrated, hungry or stressed or something in his/her environment is causing allergies/congestion.”

The benefits of holistic living are endless and quite hard to ignore. The lifestyle calls for much healthier and more natural foods and avoid most products that are processed and filled with high sugar and fat. Exercise is also a huge part of aligning the mind, body, and soul and connecting with the

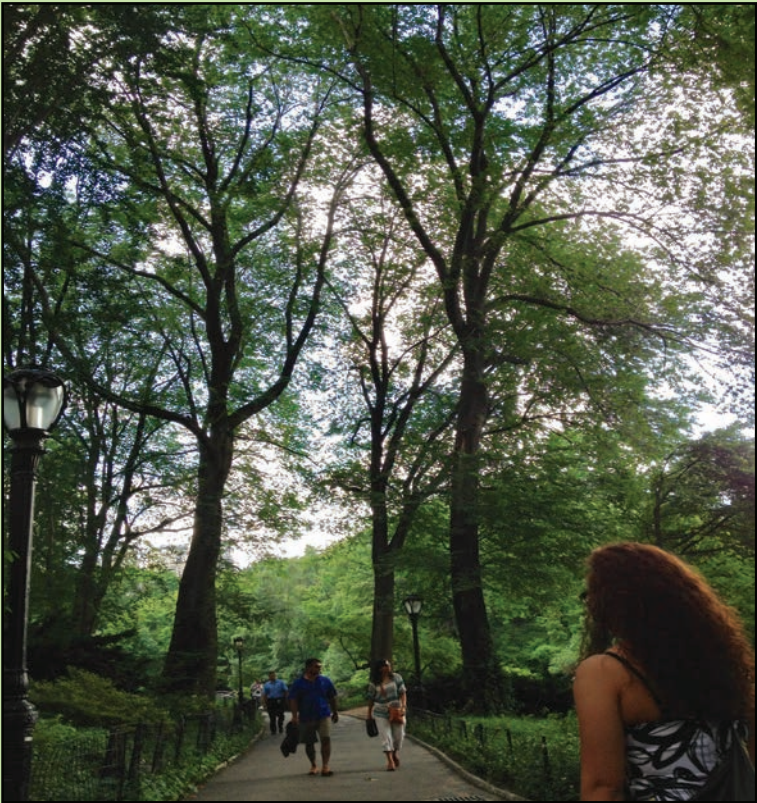


PHOTO TAKEN by Amanda Gangidino

Holistic living requires an individual to look at themselves with a whole new perspective.

Earth and the energy within.

Caress Fenton, a senior health and physical education student, lives a holistically inspired lifestyle. “I eat a vegan diet which is full of whole foods like fruits, vegetables, nuts and seeds. I also am a very active person and enjoy running, doing yoga, and other fitness activities that benefit my body and

health. I am very conscious of what I put in my body and what I do to it because maintaining a healthy body helps maintain a healthy mind. I also began to use essential oils as a way to stay healthy. Essential oils are very beneficial for one’s mind and body,” she said.

Small steps are they key to living such a lifestyle. You do not

need to switch to a vegan diet overnight, or become a gym enthusiast, but making small efforts in your life like the practice of yoga or meditation, eating less meat and/or processed foods, and having an open mind can make all the difference. These values help maintain a positive mindset through life’s trials and tribulations and promote a more peaceful and mindful attitude.

Chair and associate professor of the department of health and physical education, Christopher Hirschler makes sure he carves out time in his busy life to instill holistic values and practices into his life. Without his daily workouts and walks through Harts-horne Woods, his life would be filled with chaos and anxiety.

Hirschler encourages those who want to make a change in their life to “experiment with your life, investigate your options, talk with those who are living an inspired life, and understand that it’s important to focus on the pursuit, not to ever expect that you’ll arrive at some imaged permanent state of bliss.”

During one’s life journey, it is important to explore and experiment with different ways of living to discover what type of lifestyle best fits your needs. Leading a holistic influences an individual to become truly connected with others and the Earth.

NERD CULTURE

JANAYA LEWINSKI
STAFF WRITER

Upon being asked to “define nerdiness” most people have the same reaction. A mild head turn, an inquisitive look, and then a sharp unquantifiable response because to most, nerdiness is something unique to the nerd in question. Nerdiness is beautifully defined in this quote said by John Green to his brother Hank in a YouTube video:

“...Because nerds like us are allowed to be unironically enthusiastic about stuff... Nerds are allowed to love stuff, like jump-up-and-down-in-the-chair-can’t-control-yourself love it. Hank, when people call people nerds, mostly what they’re saying is ‘you like stuff.’ Which is just not a good insult at all. Like, ‘you are too enthusiastic about the miracle of human consciousnesses.’”

Definitions of nerdiness vary though, and upon asking, associate professor of political science, Kevin Dooley, said, “I think nerdiness is having an interest in things that aren’t commonly found as interesting to other people.”

On being asked the same question, professor of political science, Ryan Tetro, responded, “Nerdiness is when you have a vested interest in something that goes beyond what people think is normal or acceptable.” So with a working definition in tow, that brings us to a crossroads – is being a nerd an acceptable part of culture today?

The answer? YES. Being a nerd is imperative to making the world go around. When you embrace nerd culture, you embrace the idea that people expresses the unbridled joy that comes from someone loving something so much they cannot control it.

The culture of being a nerd is a culture of knowledge. A culture of perfectly acceptable, almost obsessive knowledge, focused on the happiness that comes with understanding something. Being nerdy

is not something derogatory, like some people may believe. It is a compliment to all who receive the word in their description, so on being asked whether or not they are nerdy, I received a barrage of answers.

Tetro explained that he is nerdy about a lot of things, specifically sports. Dooley said that he’s nerdy about perfecting his guitar.

Senior economics and finance student, Josh Manning, claimed that he is nerdy about baseball and the law.

Senior communications student, Aditi Vast, said, “The books and comics that I read would let me escape from the real world. The older I got the more immersed in certain ‘worlds’ I became, spanning into the film world and sparking a love for nerd culture and the opportunities it opened up for me not only personally but professionally as well.”

So when people call people nerds, it is a compliment to them. The word nerd speaks to a character trait, passionate seeker of knowledge and wisdom perhaps?

Finishing up this article, I thought it would be interesting to ask the people I talked to about me, and if they think I am a nerd. My professors all kind of chuckled, and said everyone’s a “nerd.” And my friends, they all said “Hahaha, yes.” And to all the yes people, I asked a follow up question, “What do you think I’m nerdy about?” My good friend said historical memes and another one mentioned my probably uncomfortable level of obsession with All Time Low.

Moral of the story? We are all nerds about something. I cannot wait to for you to find out where your nerdiness will take you, and how stinking cool it will be when you get there.

"Spring" into Spring with New Shoes

JORDAN SMITH
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As the warm weather of spring is approaching, the time to throw out those old sneakers is now. To most people, sneakers are seen as a necessity for every day living. But to others, such as myself, they represent so much more than just a part of an outfit. Shoes can show your interests, the type of lifestyle you live, and reflect who you are as a person.

There are multiple options for springtime sneakers. Whether you want something colorful, comfortable, or vibrant, there is a shoe option out there for you.

Nicholas Messina, a communication professor, expressed his interest in fashion and shoes. “I’ve really grown to like European fashion. Most of the outfits I see tend to be well put together.”

Messina also spoke about some of his favorite shoes for the spring. “Aldos and Vans are usually my go to shoes. But every guy should at least have one black dress shoe and one brown,” he said.

Messina believes that a person should purchase durable shoes that offer comfort and style. This does not mean that you should buy the most expensive, but keeping in mind your budget will allow finding stylish and affordable footwear.

Brendan Tedaldi, a sophomore student provided some additional insight on footwear with his experience as a former Footlocker sales associate. “Sneakers in my opinion are probably the most important part of the outfit. It shows the type of person you are, and it can also be a stand-out piece to your outfit,” he said.

The Nike Roshe Runs, the



IMAGE TAKEN from Pexels

Black and brown dress shoes should be in everyone’s shoe rotation.

Adidas Ultraboost, and for a dressier option, Sperry boat shoes are all comfortable and versatile options that were frequently sold out at Footlocker.

“With the nice weather, you have the opportunity to break out your nicest shoes. None of my nicer shoes tend to come out during the winter but when spring comes around, I have a steady rotation of shoes that I want people to see,” added Tedaldi.

Nicholas Bellomo, a sophomore marketing student believes that you can tell a lot about a person by the shoes that they wear. Some of Bellomo’s favorite sneakers for the spring are Converse, Adidas, Stan Smiths, Sperrys, and ultimately something that is easy to slip on. “As essential as sneakers are for the spring and summer, there’s nothing better than just putting on a slip-on shoe to go out for the day,” said Bellomo. He believes in investing in a more expensive pair of shoes

that will last.

Most of the opinions that I received are some that I agree with. Personally, I feel that everyone should have comfortable shoes within their rotation. Personally, my top five footwear options for spring are the Adidas Ultraboost, Vans slip-on, Adidas Stan Smith, Adidas NMD, and the Air Jordan 1. My reasoning behind this rotation is they all are extremely comfortable, they have multiple colorways, and they are reasonably priced for the popularity they receive.

The sneaker and shoe culture in our society has altered in many ways. Some people have stuck with the same shoes their whole lives, while others have embraced the new designs and technology that can be put into a pair of shoes. Many are in search for rare, expensive, and hard to obtain sneakers or shoes, but it is more important to purchase footwear that inspires you.

Thank You!



Jacqui



Susan



Mary



Jenn



Morgan



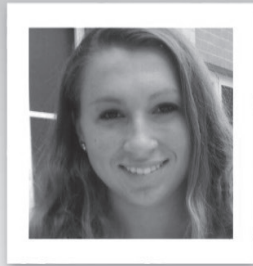
Brenna



Grace



Kelly



Brenna

The Honors School office
wishes to express its gratitude
to all of its current student employees
peer mentors, peer mentor coordinators, and office assistants
for their commitment to their fellow students in the Peer Mentoring Program,
for their support of initiatives in the Honors School office,
and for their pursuit of excellence in Honors education
at Monmouth University

*Sincerely,
The Honors School*



Dr. Greason, Dr. Blair, Reenie and Erin

The Monmouth University Student Employment Office thanks all the businesses that made our 20th Annual Student Employee Appreciation Week such a success! Please make sure to visit these special businesses!

AFRO BRAZILIAN MARTIAL ARTS AND FITNESS LONG BRANCH	FRATELLOS SEAGIRT	MU DIGITAL PRINT CENTER WILSON HALL	SANTANDER BANK LONG BRANCH
AMY'S OMELETTE HOUSE LONG BRANCH	GIANNI'S PIZZERIA OAKHURST	MU STUDENT LIFE STUDENT CENTER	SCALA'S PIZZERIA WEST END
ATTILIO RESTAURANT AND PIZZA WEST LONG BRANCH	GOLD'S GYM PIER VILLAGE	MU HUMAN RESOURCES WILSON HALL	SHERATON EATONTOWN EATONTOWN
BAGEL GUYS LONG BRANCH	GOURMET DINING WEST LONG BRANCH	MU THE OUTLOOK PLANGERE	SHORE FIT CLUB OAKHURST
BEACH BUM EATONTOWN	HERR FOODS LAKEWOOD	MU UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSION WILSON HALL	SIINO'S PIZZA EATONTOWN
BLUE SWAN DINER OAKHURST	HOT BAGEL BAKERY OAKHURST	MU UNIVERSITY STORE OCEANFIRST BANK CENTER	STARBUCKS OAKHURST
BROAD STREET DOUGHNUT COMPANY OAKHURST	HOULIHAN'S EATONTOWN	MU NEIL'S KITCHEN LONG BRANCH	STARBUCKS EATONTOWN
BUFFALO WILD WINGS EATONTOWN	I♥NAILS EATONTOWN	NELLY'S RESTAURANT WEST LONG BRANCH	STELAIR DESIGN LONG BRANCH
BURGER KING MONMOUTH MALL	INK WELL LONG BRANCH	NIKKI'S HAIR STUDIO OAKHURST	SUPER CUTS WEST LONG BRANCH
CHIK-FIL-A MONMOUTH MALL	IT'S GREEK TO ME LONG BRANCH	OCEAN PLACE RESORT LONG BRANCH	SURFTACO LONG BRANCH
CHILI'S EATONTOWN	JACK BAKER'S RESTAURANTS POINT PLEASANT BEACH	PAPA JOHN'S WEST LONG BRANCH CALL TO APPLY/ORDER 732-229-0200	TGI FRIDAYS EATONTOWN
DUNKIN DONUTS RT. 36, WEST LONG BRANCH	JACK'S GOAL LINE STAND LONG BRANCH	PARTY FAIR OAKHURST	THE HABIT BURGER GRILL EATONTOWN
DUNKIN DONUTS MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY	JERSEY MIKE'S MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY	PERRY'S TROPHY LONG BRANCH	TIKI IMAGE WEST LONG BRANCH
DUNKIN DONUTS 840 BROADWAY, WEST LONG BRANCH	JOE'S CRAB SHACK EATONTOWN	PRETZEL FACTORY EATONTOWN	TURNING POINT OF LONG BRANCH LONG BRANCH
EL SALON OAKHURST	KARMA & KISMET* KELLY CRAIG	RICHARDS DELI LONG BRANCH	ULTIPRO BLOOMFIELD
FANAGLE THE BAGEL LONG BRANCH	LA SCARPETTA ITALIAN GRILL & PIZZERIA WEST LONG BRANCH	ROCKAFELLA'S PIZZA LONG BRANCH	UNIVERSITY SUBS & DELI WEST LONG BRANCH
FIREBIRDS WOOD FIRE GRILL EATONTOWN	MCDONALD'S WEST LONG BRANCH	ROONEY'S OCEAN CRAB SHACK LONG BRANCH	VITAMIN SHOPPE EATONTOWN
FIRESTONE WEST LONG BRANCH	MCLOONE'S RESTAURANTS LONG BRANCH	SAKER SHOPRITE INC FREEHOLD	WAWA
FIVE GUYS BURGERS AND FRIES SHREWSBURY	MU ATHLETICS EQUIPMENT ROOM	SALAD SHACK LONG BRANCH	WEGMANS OCEAN TWP
FOOD CIRCUS SUPER MARKETS MIDDLETOWN	MU ATHLETICS MARKETING		WENDY'S OCEAN
	MU CAREER SERVICES STUDENT CENTER		WINDMILL RESTAURANTS THE LEVINE FAMILY NORTH LONG BRANCH
			WORKOUT WORLD OCEAN
			*DENOTES MU ALUM!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

STUDENT EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION WEEK

A big Thank You to our student staff in **Academic Foundations and General Education & First Year Seminar** – Adrianna, Alexis, Ashley, Namra, Rossana and Samantha! We appreciate your hard work, eagerness to tackle new projects, insight, sense of humor, and dedication. You all truly embrace the term Teamwork. And most of all you bring sunshine to the lower level! Wishing you all much success – Judy, Bea, and Kristina

Accounts Payable-
Thank you Jacklyn for helping us accomplish our goals. You’re a great asset to the department! - Laurie, Dawn & Roger

Administrative Services & Facilities Management-
Student Employees: Thank you for the effort and dedication you provide to support our division. Your assistance is greatly appreciated each and every day. Thank you for all you do!

Boyd, Thurild, Brown Jr., Michael Thomas, Castillo, Jason, Castrillo, Marjourie, Catano, Pablo, Chiusano, Joseph, Ciavattoni, Chris, Conlon, Erin, Connelly, Kelsey, Cotter, James D, Diaz, Ivana, Digangi, Frank, Ethridge, Chai, Falconetti, Robert, Gilby, Daniel, Gilby, James, Giordano, Arline, Giraldo Ilano, Amalia, Hidalgo, Emerson, Jezycki, Kristen, Kearney, John, Kesenheimer, Sean, Klee, Rebecca, Literate, Travis, Malaussena, Justin, Malik, Mohammed, Marino, Dominic, Mcmillon, Nyelle, Mejia, Marleny, Meyer, Chloe, Musselman, Patrick, Nace, Brittany, Nagidi, Elizabeth, Nason, Taylor, Neequaye, Edmond, Ospina, Kevin, Parada, Hugo, Pascali, Emily, Payne, Ashley, Pierce, Samuel, Rafferty, Ryan, Rodrigue, Alexander, Ruffin, Esosa, Saucedo, Karina, Serkus, Katie, Yaragangu, Akhil, Zarate, Johanna

Art & Design-
Thank you Melissa Thomas for your hard work, inspiration and leadership in the sculpture studio!

Thank You to the greatest group of student workers on campus, from **Monmouth Athletics Communications!** Our ESPN3 productions could not be possible without the hard work of our squad; Darren, Brady, Castro, LeKeith, Vinny, Corb, Bob, Fabel, Haley, Matt, Je’Lon, Zach, Lozito, Dani, Mangion, Christina, Jazz, Erin, Young Stape, Tom, SI-Joe, Rayne, Karlee, Logan, Craig, Cody, Jackie, Mike, Nick, Ryan, Colin, Austin and Reed. #FlyHawks

Athletics, Event Staff-
A great job well done by the “Yellow Jackets” as always, especially with such busy Athletics events!

Athletics, Track & Field-
Keryann – thank you very much from the entire track & field staff for joining us this year. We appreciate all your diligent efforts in the office and at home meets for us.
Brandon – we hope you can do some more hours with us the rest of the semester and we appreciate your help. From your coaching staff in the track & field office.
Emily – our team and our coaching staff can’t thank you enough for your awesome dedication to Monmouth track & field. Whether it is at practice, or home meets or on the road, you have been a great help to all of us. You are officially a school record holder as the only 4-year team manager in the history of our program!

Athletic Varsity Club Assistants, Thank you for all your hard work this Football and Basketball Season! –Ken and Jessica

Anne Marie and Tricia of the **Biology Department** would like to thank our dedicated, hardworking Laboratory Assistants who are like family to us. We could never have survived “The

Year of the Move” without all of your help. A shout out to: Erin – Our Rookie
Sara & Elizabeth– Our interior decorators and anatomy painters
Tom – Our Politician
Karina – Our senior member who has been with us for 4 years and is a nominee for Student Employee of the Year!

Career Services would like to thank David Morales and Jessica Intromasso for all their hard work and dedication this year. You make our team special and we appreciate all that you do!
David-we are excited that you will continue working with us. Jessica-we wish you all the best in your new career as a speech pathologist, we will miss you.

To our Enthusiastic & Loyal Student Employees for the **Center for the Arts**, THANKS FOR COMPLETING US! WE LOVE YOU TO PIECES!!!
Stephanie, Rachel, Colin, Ray, Sarah B., Kim, Sarah S., Riley, Marisa, John, Kaity, Tiki, Dally, Jeff, Dan, Caroline, Samantha, Chelsea, Katie, Christian, Kelly, Ayse, Emileah & Diypse!!!

Our **Central Box Office** Student Employees are Out of this World! We’re thankful for your efforts and customer service..... Amber Nolan, Lily Riche, Mackenzie Kuhl, Sam Lozano, Devin Bourne, Emily Nieliwocki, Ali Vetrano and Madison Nash. May your stars keep shining brightly!!!
~Patti & Patty~

Ciniello Family Bowling Center Staff-You are the best! Thank you for all of your hard work!
-Coach Karen

Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering – Thanks to all the Computer Science and Information Technology tutors who help their fellow students success possible!

The **Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering, including the Information Technology Program**, wishes to recognize these outstanding tutors and lab assistants. Thanks for all you do for our instructors and students!! Abdulmuhsin Al-Kandari, Aseem Anand, Giselle Bojorquez, Phil DiMarco, Sarena Dixon-Martin, Matt Drew, Nico Flora, Justin Golden, Liam Grover, Sabrina Gutierrez, Alex Kaczynski, Michael Karolewicz, Amanda Khatab, Giuseppe Licata, Irys Luna, GraceAnn McCann, Lauren Niesz, Justin Okun, Jackson Pope, Ashley Redfern, George Rohn, Anne Marie Rolwood, Jeffery Santos, Michelle Sapolnick, Josh Schlanger, Alexis Scorzelli, Conor Scott, Lena Sharesky, JP Stabner, Cayla Sullivan, Roberto Tanenbaum, Nianqi Tian, Andrew Timoniere, Luke Tomkus, Jenna Tornatore, David Walker, Matthew Zhang

Thank you to our Office Assistants and Event Assistants. You handle our clients and callers with grace and professionalism. We are proud to have you as members of our team. THANK YOU from your Colleagues in **Conference Services and Special Events**.

On behalf of the **Educational Counseling & Leadership Department** of the School of Education, I would like to thank all of our hardworking office assistants. Alyssa Viscione, Heather Piccoli, Julia Farhat, Emma Blair, Alyssa Crookhorn and Mariely Rodriguez thank you for all that you do, our office functions better because of you. Thank you for being a part of the team, I am truly grateful to know and work with every one of you.

Sincerely,
Colleen Finnigan,
ECL Office Coordinator

The **EOF (Educational Opportunity Fund)** Staff would like to thank our student employees, Allison Gonzalez, Marjorie Mora and Angel Soto for all their efforts and support. Allison, as you graduate, we will miss you but we certainly wish you all the successes you dream of!

English-
An-die, Katherine, Katryna, Marissa and Sarah: Everything is cool when you’re part of our team! Thank you for all of your help!

Visitors always feel welcomed by the warmth of your smiles, Callers always feel assisted with your friendliness, Boxes of paper seem to disappear with your expedited scanning skills, The **Office of the General Counsel, the Office of Equity and Diversity** and the Office of Internal Audit cannot thank you both enough Kenneth Broush and Madison Urraro for all of your hard work and professionalism!!!

Shout-out to Shan, Hawa, Taylor, Gaurav, Marissa, and Faith of **Global Education**: We are so thankful to have you here, thank you for your constant support of our office. We couldn’t accomplish all we have without you!!

Health Services:
Filing our charts is always a grind; A worker like Jazmin you’ll never find!
Brianna’s so happy to come in at four; She’ll continue to work until there is no more!
Danielle is glad to work ‘til seven, To have her is a little bit of heaven!

Thank you to all of our wonderful student workers!!
-Health Services Staff

The **Department of History and Anthropology** would like to express our gratitude and offer a round of applause to Kayla Kraft, Matthew Craig, Kristen Norbut, Gary DeSarno, Michelle Scott, Keith Pakela, Brittany Fishman, Sebastian Castillo-Giraldo, James Wolfe, Jessica Lakoske, Safa Akhtar, Taylor Cavanaugh, Matthew LoBiondo for their commitment and performance this past year.
JOB WELL DONE!

Information Management would like to thank all of the student workers and graduate assistants of the Student Technology Assistant Program (STAP) for their hard work and dedication.

Bryanna thank you for your wonderful spirit and energy and for all you do to help with **The Kortney Rose Foundation**.

The Long Branch Free Public Library thanks all of our students for their hard work and dedication. Thank you Megan, Miles, Ellyza, Bridget, & Marjourie!

Long Branch Schools -
Adult ESL program - Thank you for always thinking of us! Kyleigh was great to have! Please thank Kyleigh for her work with the children.

The **Department of Music and Theatre** has the BEST student employees; Nichole Seitz, Morgan Moxie, David DePaola, Zack Sandler, Mary Wagerik and Ryan Real!! Thank you for all your outstanding work and creative contributions! In bringing your positive attitudes to work every day, projects become easier to execute, changes become easier to implement and problems become easier to solve.

The **Outlook** would like to thank the Editor-in-Chief, Danielle Schipani, and all of the hard-working and dedicated editors and staff for all they have accomplished this year! We would also like to thank the Advertising Manager, Jessica Leahy; Technology Managers, Emerson Hidalgo, Evan Mydlowski, Matthew Toto, and Anthony Vives; and the Delivery Assistants, Matthew Aquino and Cara Ciavarella for their hard work!

Thank you to our grad assistants Nikki and Sia and our undergraduate students Chris and Maryam for all their hard work this year at the **Polling Institute!** Congratulations to Nikki and Chris on your graduation! -Patrick, Tina, and Tim

Emely, the **Department of Political Science and Sociology** is lucky to have such a dedicated student worker. Thank you!

Attention: Jen Alkess – The **Office of the President** extends our sincerest appreciation to you for your enthusiasm, dedication and hard work!
~President Dimenna, Annette Gough, Tina Agnello and Delaine Sarraf

Dominique Connell thank you for all your help, support and friendly smile!
-From, Lynette and the **Department of Psychology**

Registrar’s Office-
Sara, Joslyn, Nico, and Rebecca thank you for all of your hard work and dedication to our office!

The **Office of Service Learning and Community** Service student employees make every day great a great one! To Aneri, Denice, Diana, Ivan, Jennifer and Jessica, “Wherever you are you shine! We appreciate all of your hard work and positive attitudes! Thank you!”

Morgan, Pia, Kelly, Taylor and Vanessa, thank you so much for all your hard work and dedication you put forward this year in the **Speech-Language Pathology Department**. We truly appreciate it!

Deborah Schlipf, Director of Finance, and the staff at **Monmouth County SPCA** would like to thank Aaron Montanez for the “Purr-fect” job he did creating financial models and metrics during his short length of stay (LOS). We wish Aaron the best of luck in the future, we know he’ll go on to do GREAT THINGS! It was truly a pleasure having him here!

Story Time–
I am so proud of this program’s launching! Every student has contributed in her and her own special way. Thank you Naomi, Maria, Nicolette, Jillian, Hugo & our new hires and special guests. A most special thank you to Alex, our glue and this year’s “rock” of the program. Thank you all for your insight. I can’t wait for more and more Story Times! Sincerely, Aimee

Student Activities Office:
Courtney, Henry, Katherine, Najah, Alex, Casey, and Nicolette; Thank you for your hard work in the Student Activities Office!
Amber, Alicia, Anthony, Dave, Hannah, Alexis, Gianna, and Felicity; Thank you for being awesome information booth workers!
Ahmed, Carly, Chioma, Darius, Faith, Janaya, Jessica, Maritza, and Vanessa; Thank you for dedicating your weekends and nights to be building managers!
Brandon, Ryan, Sash, and Aaron; Thank you for all of your time and effort with all the set ups in Anacon!

Student Employment thanks our students who make our office shine. Filing, helping, answering, directing, running, typing, hanging, designing – all while smiling and having positive attitudes. We cannot thank you enough. Dave/Steve, you always pitch in without hesitation. Alexandra /Alex, we are so glad to have you designing so many wonderful flyers. Jillian – Disney or Student Employment?!! (We secretly know it’s Student Employment)! Aashini, thank you for growing and changing with our office! Kayla, thank you for your quick and accurate work!

Shout out to Raul & his family and a thank you to our special guests throughout the year!

Student Government Association:
Taylor, Your sunny disposition, positive attitude and willingness to always help out in the office are so appreciated. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! - Bette

Nicole – Thanks for all you do and your commitment to MUPD! It is a pleasure to work with you!
-The **MU Police Traffic Office**

Tutoring Services-
Sincere appreciation and gratitude doesn’t begin to express how much I value my student staff and peer tutors!! Working with this group of friendly, talented, bright, responsible, enthusiastic students is the best part of my job. Thank you for all that you do and keep up the great work! Sincerely, Dorothy Cleary, Director of Tutoring Services

Nick Zaccario – Thank you for all you do to help support the arts & connect Monmouth University to the theater!
– Your **Two River Theater** family!

Writing Services –
“In every job that must be done, there is an element of fun.” ~ Mary Poppins
Thank you Writing Assistants, Supplemental Leaders, and SI Writing Coaches for your hard work and dedication.

2017 Student Employee of the Year Nominees:
From over 1,370 student employees in over 1,760 different job placements who have worked on campus so far this year, 21 students are nominated for Student Employee of the Year. They are critiqued on their initiative, reliability, quality of work, professionalism and contribution to the employer and University:

2017 Student Employee of the Year Nominees:

- Angelo Adamo, Undergraduate Admission
- Emily Argano, Athletics, Track & Field
- John Bazley, Center for the Arts
- Allison Brutka, Monmouth Medical Center
- Nicole Cimaglia, Undergraduate Admission
- Giulana Fedele, Digital Print Center
- Julian Garcia, Production Services, Communication
- Jesse Hernandez, Digital Print Center
- Richard Kanson, Information Support
- Rebecca Klee, Biology, Greenhouse

- Brielle Pett, Digital Print Center
- Jessica Pinto, Controller’s Office
- Heather Piccoli, Educational Counseling & Leadership
- Madginie Previlon, Admission Processing
- Karina Saucedo, Biology
- Susan Schuld, Honors School
- Heather Schlindwein, Residential Life
- Melissa Thomas, Art & Design
- Trey Thomson, Athletics, Event Staff

2017 Supervisor of the Year Nominees:

- Joe Compagni - Athletics, Track & Field
- Dr. Gloria Rotella - Music & Theatre Arts
- Debbie Smith - Institutional Review Board
- Kristin Waring - Undergraduate Admission

Congratulations to all of this year’s Student Employees. This week is about YOU!
-Sincerely, Student Employment

Keep smiling and keep working hard! Someone is watching!
- Rose, Raul, Aimee & Angela, Student Employment 2017

Alpha Xi Delta “Lights it up Blue” for Autism

DANIELLE ROMANOWSKI
STAFF WRITER

Last week, Alpha Xi Delta participated in Light it up Blue Week to raise awareness for national philanthropy Autism Speaks. Each year, April 2 is the beginning of this national campaign. All across the country landmarks like the Empire State Building have been lit up blue to support families living with people who have Autism. It’s a week dedicated to educational activities, spreading awareness, and aiding families who are directly affected by Autism.

Similar to the Empire State Building, Woodrow Wilson Hall and the Guggenheim Library were lit up at night in order to encourage acceptance, and spread awareness and understanding of this condition.

Stephanie Merlis, a senior business student commented on Light it up Blue week. She said, “I think it was awesome how Monmouth got involved and had buildings on campus go blue for autism. As a sister of Alpha Xi Delta, it’s really great seeing that this university supports something that my own personal organization does as well.” She continued, “Autism effects the lives of so many people, and the odds of knowing someone with Autism are very high. What my sorority does for Light it up Blue Week is really great and I’m proud to be a part of something



IMAGE TAKEN from Alpha Xi Delta Monmouth Facebook

Alpha Xi Delta promotes Autism Awareness during Light it up Blue week through various philanthropy events on campus.

that cares so much about philanthropy.” As Autism Speaks is Alpha Xi Delta’s national philanthropy, chapters from the tristate area were featured on the Today Show during World Autism Day. Alpha Xi Delta at Monmouth is also doing its part to spread awareness to not only viewers of the Today Show, but the campus as well. Vice President of Programs for AXiD, Kristen Kennett commented on how her sorority got involved in Light it up Blue Week. She said, “Our chapter tries to

keep the campus community involved and help raise awareness for Autism Speaks so all throughout April we will be tabling both for light it up blue, as well as our event karaoke for a cause.” Through bake sales and tabling, sisters of this organization have been able to raise money for this cause. Junior nursing student, Shaheen Grajeda commented, “It’s really important that we have bake sales and table for Autism Speaks, because although its effects so many, not everyone is exactly aware of what Autism is,

or what our philanthropy does.” Grajeda continued, “Light it up Blue Week gives my organization a chance to spread the world on such a deserving cause, not just at Monmouth but on a national campaign as well, and I think that’s a really awesome thing to be involved in.” Philanthropic efforts are a huge part of being in Greek Life. It allows members to give back to the community and raise money for tons of great causes. Specialist Professor of Communication, Kristine Simoes com-

mented on Greek Life’s involvement with philanthropy. She said, “Being involved in philanthropy gives college students the opportunity to gain real life experience in fundraising and philanthropic efforts. It’s greatseeing Greek Life at Monmouth University raise money for such deserving causes.” Although Light it up Blue Week has come to an end, Autism Speaks celebrates April as Autism awareness month, holding Autism-friendly events and educational activities that take place nationwide to help all educate people about Autism. Alpha Xi Delta has raised thousands of dollars for its philanthropy and plans on raising more in the upcoming Greek event, “Karaoke for a Cause.” This event allows members of the Monmouth community to come together during Autism Awareness Month and participate in a singing competition to spread even more awareness and understanding about this cause. Junior nursing major Drew Holjes said, “I love how our philanthropy has an entire month dedicated to it. Its great how our event is always held in the middle of April so we can do our part in participating in this nationwide month of recognizing Autism Speaks.” Throughout the month of April, Alpha Xi Delta has done their part as Autism Speaks national sponsor and lit it up blue with awareness and acceptance of this cause.

Why it’s Good to Go Greek

CHRISTINA TERMYNA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When many people hear the word college, they often think about Greek Life. Movies and television shows, like *ABC Family’s Greek*, often depict what it’s like to be involved in these organizations, and may leave one wondering what it is really like in real life. Many students begin college completely on their own for the first time, which may be a difficult transition to make. Joining a sorority or fraternity provides them with the opportunity to meet new people, who are in the same position as themselves, and to create new, everlasting friendships. Joseph Brown, a senior business administration student and brother of Phi Kappa Psi said, “By joining an organization that you feel you fit best in, you will develop friendships that last a life time and also become friendlier with people in other organizations through Greek events. My fraternity gave me the feeling that I fit in and that I was

with a group of people that was similar to the people I hung out with from my hometown.” While it may be a common belief that Greek Life is strictly just about partying, it is so much more than that. “Greek life is more than just partying it’s about having a group of people you know you can always turn to and giving back to the philanthropies you’re involved in,” said Lauren Alexander, senior business marketing student and sister of Delta Phi Epsilon. Boys and Girls Club of America, Active Minds, and ANAD are just a few of the many organizations Monmouth’s sororities and fraternities are affiliated with. Michele Kaplan, Assistant Director of Student Activities for Fraternity and Sorority Life, said, “Greek organizations are values based and give students an opportunity to get involved with something outside of the campus which aligns with their values.” Speaking about Phi Kappa Psi’s work and involvement with Boys and Girls Club of America, Brown

said, “I find it very rewarding. The experience I have in the work field doesn’t usually allow me to work with children and to be able to make their lives happier for the time we spend with them makes it worth my time.” Another benefit of being involved in Greek Life is the connection you can make with people involved in your organization who have already established themselves. Being able to say that they are part of the same organization provides brothers and sisters with an immediate connection and can open doors for career opportunities. Senior communication student and member of Tau Delta Phi, Richard Todd believes that the opportunities one receives from joining an organization are endless. “I think the thing that you get out of being in a fraternity that you may not get anywhere else are the lessons that can help you in life. I’ve become more driven and more dedicated to contributing to something that is bigger than myself individually,” said Todd. When asked what being in his fraternity meant to him, Todd continued, “Being a part of the fraternity that I’m in means the world to me. The support and loyalty that I have received from my friends in my fraternity is what makes me know that not one penny I’ve spent to be in this fraternity was wasted.” So, what do brothers and sisters involved in Greek Life get out of being involved? “I think I get a mutual bond with a group of girls through the various different activities were involved in together,” said Alexander. Along with lasting relationships, members also get to give back to the community in various ways, make connections for their future, learn lessons about themselves, as well as life itself, and create memories that will last a lifetime.



IMAGE TAKEN from MU Greek Senate Facebook

Members of Monmouth Greek life pose for a group photo during Greek Week.

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.

HERO Campaign

The HERO Campaign cordially invites you to the Designated Driver Hero of the Year Award Ceremony on Wednesday, April 19 at 3 p.m. at the Oceanfirst Bank Center Varsity Club Room. Light refreshments will be served. RSVP by Saturday, April 15. Contact Suanne Schaad at 732 263 5804 or email her at sschaad.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.

Lambda Theta Alpha

Lambda Theta Alpha will be hosting their Yard Show on Wednesday, April 12 at 10 p.m. in Pollak theater. All proceeds go to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. The show consists of organizations performing strolling, saluting, and stepping.

Alpha Xi Delta

The sisters of Alpha Xi Delta will be holding their annual philanthropy event, Karaoke for a Cause, to raise money for Autism Speaks on Tuesday, April 18 at 10 p.m. in Pollak theater.

Moments at Monmouth



LEFT:
SENIORS ANTHONY PAPETTI, MIKE TRAPASSO, AND JUNIOR PAUL MATT WELCOME OFFTOP TO WMCX PRESENTS: 24 HOUR MUSIC FEST. (PHOTO COURTESY OF ANTHONY PAPETTI)



RIGHT:
SENIOR BRIAN FOYE AND JUNIOR MARISSA STIUSO HOST SAB EVENT, AROUND THE WORLD. (PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIAN FOYE)



LEFT:
SENIOR BRIANNA MERRIMAN LAUNCHES HER NEW BUSINESS, THE LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR PROJECT, AT MADE IN MONMOUTH. (PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIANNA MERRIMAN)



RIGHT:
SENIORS DAVE DEPAOLA AND HUASCAR HOLGUIN WORK ON A PROJECT FOR BLUE HAWK RECORDS TO RAISE MONEY FOR A CAMP IN BOSNIA. (PHOTO TAKEN BY NICOLE SEITZ)

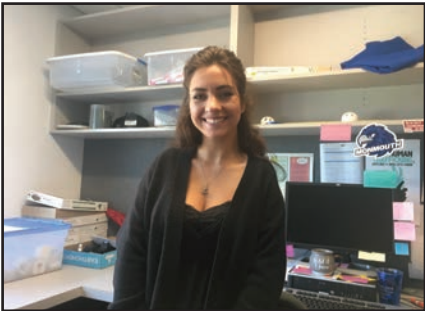


USE THREE WORDS TO DESCRIBE THE END OF YOUR SEMESTER.

COMPILED BY: AMANDA DRENNAN



Steph Junior
"Missing the seniors."



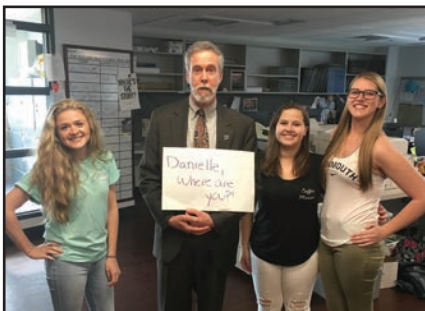
Coral Junior
"Relieved, exasperated, done."



Natorye Senior
"Help me, please."



Jenna Sophomore
"Stressful, exciting, anxious."



Courtney, President Dimenna, Amanda, and Lauren
"Where is Danielle?"

Track Competes in Colonial Relays, Stockton Invite

JOHN SORCE
CO-SENIOR/SPORTS EDITOR

The men's and women's track teams have had a successful start to their outdoor season.

They began with the Monmouth Season Opener, which was held on campus from Mar. 24-25. Both teams won the event, with the men totaling 335.5 points. This was 215.5 points higher than the next closest team, as Rider finished second with a score of 120. The women scored 266 points, 104 more than second place Sacred Heart.

With ongoing construction of Monmouth Stadium, Head Coach Joe Compagni noted Georgian Court hosted the long throws on March 24 to open the event. He was glad teams did not shy away from competing and was able to keep the tradition.

"I really wanted to keep the meet going," Compagni said. "This was the 22nd annual and I think it was a great opportunity for our folks at home. I wasn't sure what the turnout would be having the meet at two locations and the construction, but we still had 25 teams here."

Both teams had strong showings at the Stockton Invite and the Colonial Relays, which took place from March 30-April 1. The throwers went to Galloway, while the runners ran in Williamsburg, VA.

"At our home meet, we were fortunate that the conditions were pretty good," Compagni said. "What we saw at both Colonial and Stockton was the conditions are not always going to be good. That creates some challenges but the event is the event and the conditions are go-

ing to be the same for everyone. Managing those conditions is a big part of being successful outdoors. Some of our folks did that very well and others learned how they're going to need to improve at that."

Highlighting the Colonial Relays was the women's distance medley relay group of middle distance runners seniors Jenna Cupp and Tionna Garner, junior Danielle Leavitt, and sophomore Chandi Piiru. The group set a school record of 11:31 to win the event.

"We knew that was going to be very competitive so we just wanted to get out there and have fun," Garner said. "We knew it was going to be an opportunity for a lot of our people to do great things and we really took advantage of those opportunities. The same was the case with the throwing events at Stockton because a lot of them came out with personal records."

Two Hawks that performed well at Stockton were honored by the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) on April 4 as junior thrower Corey Murphy won Field Performer of the Week for the third time this season, while junior thrower Stephanie Roones earned Women's Field Performer of the Week. Both qualified for NCAA Regionals as Murphy posted a shot put mark of 60' 7.75" while Roones won javelin with a toss of 156' 8."

"We knew as we came into the season they would be among our top people," Compagni said. "Corey redshirted for the indoor season, so now he's come out for outdoors with a lot of energy that has let him put some big marks up early. For Steph, the javelin throwers have to work all

year just for the spring and it's hard to do 12 months of work to get yourself to a new level, and she's done that really well."

While the program has seen a lot of recent success, there are always areas for athletes to improve.

"We, as coaches, see things early in the season where you say, 'Hey it's nice to win at home or get a nice mark or time early in the year, but that's not going to get it done for us come championship time,'" Compagni said.

"That gives us the opportunity to come back during the week and know what we need to work on. For the field event folks it's more technical things. On the track it's more continuing to do the workouts they need to do to get to that point," Compagni explained.

Every meet throughout the season is preparation for the conference championships, which will be held on May 6-7 in Lawrenceville.

"We certainly want to finish at the top," Compagni said. "Rider is the favorite on the men's side. They upset us indoors and they were picked as the favorite outdoors, so our men know they have some work to do to defend their title. The women are the best group on paper, but they know there are several very good teams that can put up results."

"With conference, that's where we always try to put forth our best effort and I think everybody is excited," Garner said, agreeing with Compagni. "We get pretty pumped up about that and when we are doing well at other meets, we hope that it transfers over when it's time for us to go for the title."



PHOTO COURTESY of Tom Connelly

Senior Jenna Cupp runs her leg of the distance medley relay in the Colonial Relays in Williamsburg, VA.

Women's Lacrosse Falls to Fairfield, Canisius

CHRIS FITZSIMMONS
STAFF WRITER

The women's lacrosse team failed to achieve a win this week, dropping contests to Fairfield University on Wednesday, April 5 and Canisius College on Saturday, April 8.

Wednesday's matchup ended a two game winning streak for the Hawks as they fell 13-5 to Fairfield in Connecticut. The Stags broke open scoring but that goal was quickly answered by junior midfielder Caroline Corbliss, as-

sisted by senior midfielder Claudia LaMarca.

That would be the extent of scoring for the Hawks for a substantial amount of time. The Stags went to work crafting a five goal run over the remainder of the half to put themselves up 6-1. Fairfield continued to pad that lead early in the second half, tallying another goal at the 28:31 mark, giving themselves a six goal advantage.

Monmouth flashed some life at this point by netting two goals within two minutes. The goals

came courtesy of LaMarca and freshman attacker Nicole Ceraso. However, the Stags quickly stamped out any chance of a comeback by stringing together five unanswered goals to make the score 12-3 with about 10 minutes to go.

The Hawks salvaged two more goals before the end. Those goals came from senior attacker Carly Sane and Corbliss, who scored her second of the game. However, the game was never in question as they Hawks overall struggled in all aspects.

"Today's game came as a result of lack of fundamental throwing and catching," Head Coach Eileen Ghent said. "Fairfield, and every other team in our league, is very talented and took advantage of our mistakes. I am most proud of our attitude and effort to never give up. That has been constant this season and I believe it can be attributed to our captains and leaders."

Not to be overlooked in the loss was the play of sophomore goalkeeper Riley Brager, who made 13 saves and her play kept the game relatively close. The Stags outshot 36-12 and without Brager's play, the game would have been more lopsided in the score department.

"(Freshman midfielder) Chloe Novak made a big difference for us in the second half on the draws," Ghent said. "That gave us many more opportunities. Caroline was a force on both sides of the ball and really has become a leader for us while Riley was very solid and continues to make saves in big moments."

The highly talented Canisius College team overwhelmed the Hawks on Saturday afternoon at Hesse Field. The Golden Griffins have won the past six Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) tournaments and are ranked 35th in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Rating Percentage Index (RPI). When the clock reached zero, the scoreboard read 18-3 Griffins, and the result was never in question.

The Hawks were able to keep the Griffins off the scoreboard for

the first eight minutes, largely in part to Brager. However, as soon as Canisius put their first on the board, the flood gates opened. The Griffins ran off seven straight goals before senior attacker Olivia Higson scored to put the Hawks on the board. When the half concluded, the Hawks were facing a six goal deficit.

Canisius smothered all hopes of a comeback by burying eight straight goals with four of them coming in the first five minutes. The Hawks would not register another goal until the 4:43 mark in thanks to senior attacker Alexa Smith. Monmouth would add one more with a second left on the clock to make the final score 18-3, Canisius.

Ghent offered her message to the team after the game, "Our message is that the most important part of the season is still ahead of us. Right now, we have a week to work on what we need to work on, which is mostly the draw and our stick skills before Niagara and we will be ready come Saturday."

Not to be lost in the final score was the fact that Monmouth was able to make the game competitive in the first half. In large part to another impressive Brager performance. Brager made eight saves in the first half to give her team a fighter's chance and now has 108 on the season.

Monmouth now stands at 2-2 in MAAC play. They will look to get back to their winning ways as they will travel to Lewiston, NY to take on Niagara on Saturday, April 15 at 11 a.m.



PHOTO COURTESY of Karlee Sell

Freshman attacker Nicole Ceraso scored one goal and recorded an assist in the Hawks' 13-5 loss against Fairfield on April 5.

Baseball Drops Conference Series to Siena

JOHN SORCE
CO-SENIOR/SPORTS EDITOR

After defeating Princeton in a non-conference game on Wednesday, April 5, the baseball team resumed Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) play against Siena over the weekend in Loudonville, NY and split a Saturday doubleheader before dropping the series finale on Sunday.

Monmouth's lone win of the weekend came in the second game, when sophomore left-hander Kyle Ajjan fired a complete game, two-hit shutout, leading the Hawks to an 11-0 victory. He walked three batters and struck out seven on 96 pitches, 62 strikes. He was named MAAC Pitcher of the Week on Tuesday.

"Kyle was real good today. He really competed well. Offensively we were able to score early, which I thought was very important," Head Coach Dean Ehehalt said. "Our two out RBI (runs batted in) were huge and getting [senior outfielder Dan] Shea back allowed us to shape the lineup as well. I was real happy for [senior right fielder Chris] Gaetano and his five RBI. He provided us with a big lift."

The blue and white scored in five of seven innings beginning in the second, when two runs crossed the plate on an error. With two out in the third, senior outfielder Tom Jakubowski and sophomore catcher Clay Koniencki walked, which set up a two-run double down the right field line by Gaetano to make it 4-0 MU.

Monmouth doubled their lead in the fourth. Senior infielders Grant Lamberton and Shaine Hughes singled and advanced to second and third on a balk. Shea returned from injury in a big way as he cashed in with two runners in scoring position with a single to left-center, plating both runners. Junior designated hitter Pete Papcun walked, advancing Shea to second and both run-



PHOTO COURTESY of Willis Glasgow

Sophomore left-handed pitcher Kyle Ajjan threw a complete game, two-hit shutout against Siena on April 8.

ners moved into scoring position on Jakubowski's single. Gaetano came up big again and drove a single to right, allowing two more runs to score and extending the Monmouth lead to 8-0. He recorded the third five RBI game for a Hawk this year, the other two belonging to Papcun.

MU scored another run on an error in the sixth and plated two in the seventh. Pinch hitting for Papcun, senior infielder/outfielder Brad Rhoads singled to center with two men on base and Gaetano drove in his fifth of the game with a sacrifice fly, giving the Hawks the 11-0 lead.

The Hawks found themselves down early in the series opener as Siena's Joe Drpich belted a three-run home run in the first inning. Freshman outfielder JP Walsh got a run back in the second with an infield single and Papcun cut the deficit to one with a double in the fifth.

Siena added a run in the bot-

tom of the fifth on a groundout, but Hughes drove in two to tie the game with a single to left. The Saints scored the eventual winning run in the sixth on a Jordan Bishop double to right-center.

In the series finale on Sunday, April 9 Monmouth was trailing 6-1 in the top of the ninth and scratched across four runs to make it a one run game, but junior infielder Aidan Favia grounded into a double play with the bases loaded that ended the game.

Monmouth defeated Princeton 8-4 in a non-conference game on April 5 at MU Baseball Field. The Hawks opened the scoring with two in the bottom of the first with an infield single by freshman outfielder John LaRocca and a single by Koniencki, who finished the day 2-2 with three RBI and two walks. He also walked with the bases loaded in the third to make it 3-0.

"I got into good counts in all of my at bats," Koniencki said. "I

saw a lot of fastballs up and I was able to put some good swings on them."

The sixth was the big inning as the Hawks saw five runs cross the plate in the frame. They scored on a bases loaded walk and two wild pitches in addition to an RBI single from Hughes and a run-scoring double by Koniencki.

"We spoke about having a different kind of attack to win games and the weapons that were working were having good at bats, keeping the line moving and we took advantage of some wild pitches. Our strike zone discipline, pitches that we didn't swing at, got us those runs," Ehehalt said.

Monmouth is now 9-18 overall and 5-4 in conference play. They begin a seven-game home stand on Friday, April 14 when Marist comes to West Long Branch for the first of three before a doubleheader on Saturday. First pitch is set for 3 p.m.

Softball Takes Two from Quinnipiac

ZACH COSENZA
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

After splitting a pair of games on Wednesday, April 5 to Wagner and Saturday, April 8 to Rider, the softball team swept a doubleheader from Quinnipiac on Sunday, April 9.

The Hawks won both games against Quinnipiac 2-1 thanks to senior infielder Rachel Shotzbarger's two-RBI double during the sixth inning of game one and a two-run home run during the sixth inning of game two.

"I had just been really locked in all day, and I was seeing the ball well so I was ready to hit," said Shotzbarger after the second game on Sunday.

In game one, junior right-handed pitcher Amanda Riley finished the game with a complete game three hitter in the win allowing only one run. She struck out eight batters and threw 101 pitches, 69 of which were strikes. In game two, senior left-handed pitcher Sydney Underhill tossed a complete game, allowing only five hits and one earned run in the win. She struck out five and threw 98 pitches, 61 strikes.

"It took us a little bit to get on the board, and that's a credit to both of their pitchers. But we stayed aggressive and were trying to make things happen," said Head Coach Shannon Salsburg. "[Shotzbarger] had a great day yesterday and came up huge today. It's fun to see her locked in. Everyday matters in the MAAC and

to get off the split train is fantastic. I'm proud of our players; we pitched well, played defense and hit the ball, so it was great."

On April 5, MU split the series against Wagner, winning game one 4-3, then losing game two 5-3 in 11 innings. Thanks to back-to-back home runs from senior first baseman Justene Reyes and junior catcher Alex Holzman in the fifth, they would take and end up securing the win for the Hawks, with Riley tossing the complete game win.

On April 8, MU split with Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) foe Rider, losing game one 8-7 and winning game two 11-1, needing only five innings to secure the win. Shotzbarger finished game two 3-3, with two home runs, four runs batted in, and two runs scored. Underhill earned the win, giving up only two hits on one earned run.

"I am proud of the way our team came back in game two today," said Salsburg. "They played well and really came together. Sydney pitched

a great game and we had some huge hits. Rachel really led the way offensively in game two."

Junior outfielder Chloe Howerth finished game two 3-4 with three runs scored. Reyes finished 2-2 with five RBIs.

The Hawks, who are now 12-19 overall and 4-2 in the MAAC, return to action on Friday, April 14, with a home doubleheader against Fairfield, followed by a doubleheader against Iona on Saturday, April 15.



PHOTO COURTESY of Karlee Sell

Senior Rachel Shotzberger drove in four runs in a doubleheader against Quinnipiac on April 9.

SIDE LINES

Men's Tennis: After earning 7-0 wins over Niagara, Fairfield, and Siena, the men's tennis team swept their fourth straight opponent, defeating Stony Brook on Sunday, Apr. 5. Sophomore Nicola Pipoli earned the No. 1 singles win by a score of 6-4, 4-6, 6-4, and senior Przemyslaw Filipek earned the come from behind 2-6, 6-4, 6-2 win at No. 2 singles. Junior Ale Gomez Estrada also went to a third set, ultimately defeating Stony Brook 6-3, 0-6, 6-3. Monmouth earned two wins during the doubles portion, including the duos of Filipek and Gomez and senior Christian Vieira and freshman Vikrant Dahiya. Monmouth will host Hofstra on Friday, Apr. 14 for a 2 p.m. start. They will then travel to State College, PA to take on Penn State on Sunday, April 16 at a time to be announced.

UPCOMING GAMES

Thursday, April 13
W Tennis at George Mason
Fairfax, VA 4:00 p.m.

Friday, April 14
Outdoor Track & Field
Bison Outdoor Classic
Lewisburg, PA TBA

Outdoor Track & Field
Greyhound Invitational
Bethlehem, PA TBA

*Softball vs. Fairfield**
West Long Branch, NJ 1:00 p.m.

*Softball vs. Fairfield**
West Long Branch, NJ 3:00 p.m.

M Tennis vs. Hofstra
West Long Branch, NJ 2:00 p.m.

*Baseball vs. Marist**
West Long Branch, NJ 3:00 p.m.

W Tennis
at Christopher Newport
Fairfax, VA 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 15
W Lacrosse at Niagara*
Lewiston, NY 11:00 a.m.

*Softball vs. Iona**
West Long Branch, NJ 12:00 p.m.

*Softball vs. Iona**
West Long Branch, NJ 2:00 p.m.

*Baseball vs. Marist**
West Long Branch, NJ 12:00 p.m.

*Baseball vs. Marist**
West Long Branch, NJ 3:00 p.m.

M Lacrosse at Detroit Mercy*
Detroit, MI 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 16
M Tennis at Penn State
State College, PA TBA

Tuesday, April 18
W Tennis
at Maryland Eastern Shore
Princess Anne, MD 3:30 p.m.

Softball at Villanova
Villanova, PA 2:30 p.m.

Softball at Villanova
Villanova, PA 4:30 p.m.

**conference games*



LEADING THE PACK



Middle distance runners Jenna Cupp (senior), Tionna Garner (senior), Danielle Leavitt (junior), and Chandi Pirru (sophomore) won the Distance Medley Relay at the Colonial Relays on Saturday, Apr. 1 and set a school record with a time of 11:31.