



THE OUTLOOK

MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY'S
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University Institutes Publish Ocean Health Study

MEHDI HUSAINI
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Two survey reports released by the Monmouth University Polling Institute and the Urban Coast Institute (UCI) on Dec. 5, 2017 showed that citizens in the Mid-Atlantic region and coastal communities had a significant increase in concern for ocean health and the impact of oceans on the economy.

These reports were released simultaneously, and represented the first major report of regional public opinion regarding ocean health since 2009, consisting of two polls conducted in different populations.

Findings from the Mid-Atlantic region showed that 45 percent of respondents said not enough is being done currently to protect the oceans. Sixty-one percent have little to no confidence that the federal government will manage coastal issues adequately in the coming years.

Karl Vilacoba, UCI Communications Director, reported that of the two distinct polles, one was sent to residents of the six Mid-Atlantic states, from New York to Virginia, including Pennsylvania. The second poll was conducted in a population consisting of people



PHOTO TAKEN by Kerry Breen

The Monmouth University Polling Institute and the Urban Coast Institute (UCI) collaborated on the first ocean health study in nearly a decade.

specifically living coastal communities, which was defined as living within five miles of water.

The director of the Polling Institute, Patrick Murray, declined to comment for this story, after repeated attempts by the Outlook, and provided no reason for doing so.

The majority of residents also expressed that should federal funding for ocean health monitoring be cut, they would agree to state taxes being used instead, with 60 percent of resi-

dents indicating this as the best course of action.

The poll administered to residents of coastal communities showed that 95 percent of respondents believed that the oceans are at least somewhat important to local economies. Seventy-three percent recognized that local ocean health affects the coasts of other states.

Additionally, 78 percent of residents

POLLS cont. on pg. 2

Dimenna Reacts to Inappropriate Humor at Fundraiser

COURTNEY BUELL
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

University President Grey J. Dimenna, Esq. issued an apology statement via email regarding a fundraising event where inappropriate humor was used in a comedy act.

The Jan. 12 email referenced The First Annual Monmouth County Gala and Award Show, hosted by nonprofit organization Hometown Heroes, which took place the day before. The Gala was not planned by the University, however the event was held in Pollak Theatre and honored four guests, which included Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno, Joseph Azzolina, Jr., Byron Griffin, and Dimenna.

The fundraiser was originally intended to raise money for the organization, which "aims to support local communities when unexpected needs arise during a time of crisis," according to their mission statement.

However, audience members and the President were disappointed when the evening took a turn.

Set to the theme of "The Tonight Show," the event featured, according to Dimenna's email, "a

warm-up comedian as well as an opening monologue and other attempts at humor by the host of the show who is the head of Hometown Heroes."

Dimenna described a joke delivered by Michael Schwartz, founder of Hometown Heroes: "He (Schwartz) said something similar to, 'Three Monmouth basketball players arrive in a car. Who was the driver? The cop.'" Dimenna commented that the humor was insensitive and inappropriate, especially with everything going on with the Black Lives Matter movement, and believes that that kind of statement is inadvisable.

Dimenna continued in the email, "While the people being honored were acknowledged for their good work, and the University, its employees and students were also praised for the way they have given back to the community, there were numerous attempts at humor that unfortunately were disrespectful of minority groups as well as several other nationalities," he wrote.

Schwartz has since apologized

COMEDY cont. on pg. 2

University Offers Explanation for Annual Tuition Increases

KERRY BREEN
NEWS/SENIOR EDITOR

As students enter the spring semester at Monmouth University, many of the inevitable annual tuition increase.

According to William Craig, CPA, Vice President for Finance, for the past four or five years, University tuition has increased by just approximately four percent each year. Prior years saw tuition increases closer to four and a half to five percent.

"In the case of Monmouth University specifically, we are extremely tuition and student revenue dependent," explained Craig. "Tuition alone accounts for 80 percent of our revenues... If you add in room, board, and books the school is 93 percent student revenue driven."

According to Craig, other private schools similar to the University in size are more likely to be 60 percent student tuition driven, and are more assisted by endowment funds that have grown throughout the history of the institution.

"A lot of schools have these

endowment funds that have built up over long periods of time, and the revenue from that can be used to partially support their budgets. Our endowment today is somewhere around \$94 million," Craig explained. "For a school of our size, that isn't that large, and that puts us in a position that, as costs go up, a lot

of it falls on tuition revenue."

"From the standpoint of the endowment, the endowment assets that we have per student - our average would have been around \$13,000 per student. The national average is closer to \$22,000 per student," he continued. While Craig explained that the figures may be slightly out of date since annu-



PHOTO TAKEN by Nicole Riddle

For the past four or five years, University tuition has increased by just approximately four percent each year.

al data is not immediately available, he added that growing the endowment is a long process because of its complexity.

While raising tuition helps grow the endowment, Craig also explained that the increases are used to benefit students and faculty, as well as other members of the University community.

Some of the increased tuition rates are due to competitive markets and increased financial aid packages.

average is closer to 22,000 per student," he continued. While Craig explained that the figures may be slightly out of date since annual data is not immediately available, he added that growing the endowment is a long process because of its complexity.

While raising tuition helps grow the endowment, Craig also explained that the increases are used to benefit students and faculty, as well as other members of the University community. Some of the increased tuition rates are due to competitive markets and increased financial aid packages.

According to Claire Alasio, Di-

rector of Financial Aid and Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management, the total amount of scholarship and grants in 2016 was \$58.6 million, increasing more than \$19 million from 2012, when it was \$39.5 million. The average scholarship/grant package also rose from \$8,982 to \$12,279 in the same period. The average financial aid package per student, including all scholarships, grants, loans, and employment awarded, is \$29,408.

"In order to be competitive as the market for students is narrowing, schools are becoming more competitive and making larger financial aid awards," Craig said. "What that does is it narrows the money that you get to keep out of tuition to use to pay for the operations of the University."

Craig explained that universities are also highly-people oriented.

"It's compensation and salaries. Better than 60 percent of the costs of the University are related to salaries and fringe benefits," Craig said. "Generally, salaries are going to go up each year, and so that's another cost that needs to be covered. One

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Welcome Back From President Grey Dimenna

Dear students – Best wishes, and a warm welcome back to campus following our winter break. I hope your break was restful and reinvigorating. I also hope that you are already fully engaged with your studies and campus activities as we enter the second week of classes. If you are a new student, there is no time like the beginning of the semester to meet new friends, explore new clubs and organizations, and make a deliberate effort to get to know your profes-

sors. While some of you may be new to Monmouth, I also know that many of you are entering the “home stretch” in your undergraduate or graduate education. May will be here before you know it, and I encourage you to take advantage of every opportunity on campus, or in our area, before you take your next steps. Cheer on our athletic teams, visit our gallery exhibitions, attend a performance or participate in one of our many opportunities to meet with

artists and thought leaders this semester. With longer days and the promise of warmer weather, I hope you will also take time to visit the beach, travel to Sandy Hook, and enjoy the unique cultural resources available in nearby Long Branch, Red Bank, and Asbury Park. I look forward to seeing you on campus and hearing about the experiences that are making your semester a memorable one. Grey J. Dimenna, Esq. President

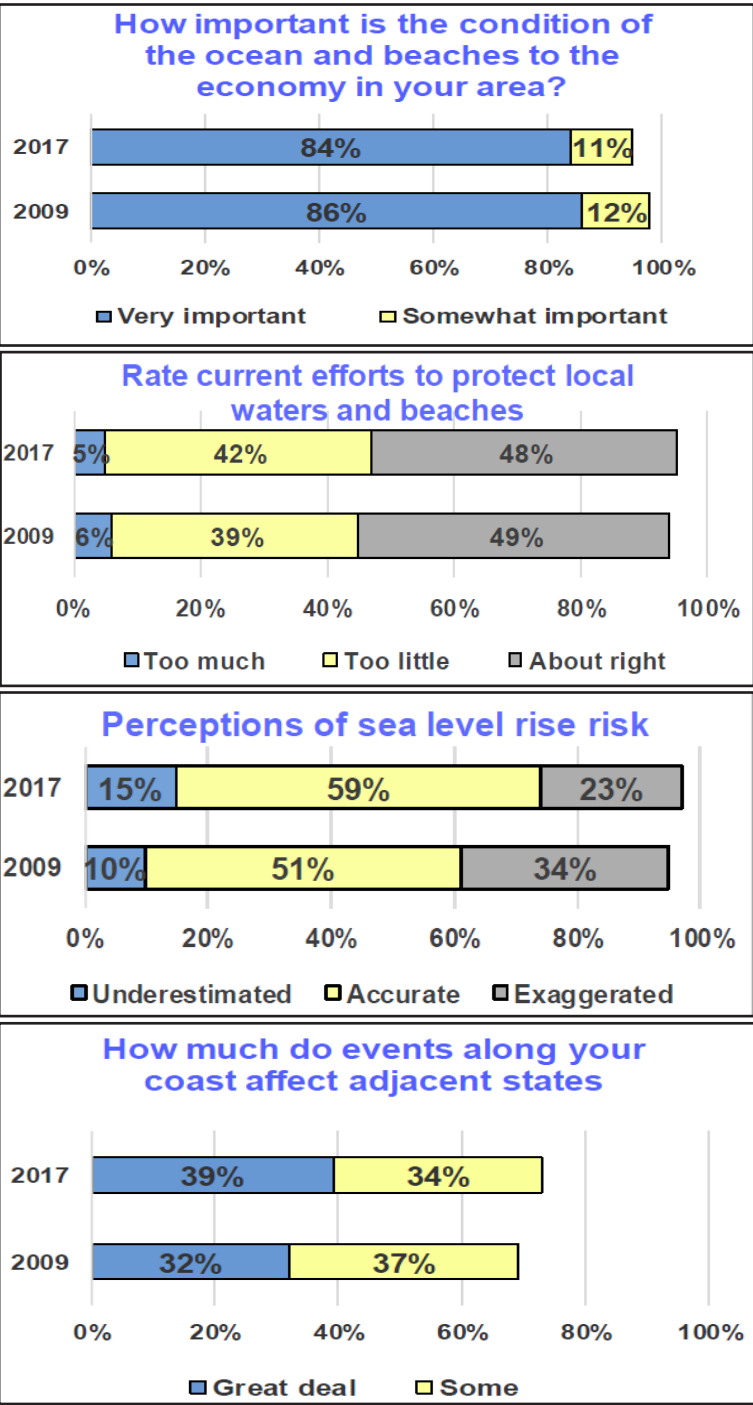
Polls Find Increased Concern for Ocean Health

POLLS cont. from pg. 1

were in favor of protecting areas of the ocean from coastal oil and gas drilling, while 68 percent would be willing to increase the amount they pay in taxes to increase efforts to protect the water and shoreline. “A whole lot of the questions were duplicated from a survey that we did just like it in 2009. That way we can post them head to head and see how things have changed,” said Vilacoba. Vilacoba cited a specific figure where in coastal communities, the amount of people in favor of offshore drilling dropped from 46 percent to 22 percent from 2009 to 2017. “One of the things that first jumped off to me was the drop in approval for offshore drilling, and that turned out to be very timely,” said Vilacoba, “Looking back at 2009, that was really the low point in the Great Recession, so I would assume that people then were probably pretty desperate for any kind of economic spark.” “This region has been fairly consistent in opposing all offshore drilling,” said Tony MacDonald, Director of the Urban Coast Institute, “It doesn’t matter what political party you’re from, but I was surprised to see that [the percentage in favor] went down as much as it did.” Vilacoba also cited the increase in the call for government action in response to climate change as another factor that influenced the numbers, specifically people’s reaction to Hurricanes Irene and Sandy. “Sometimes there’s sort of an anti-regulatory sentiment out there, but I think there was a pretty strong consensus that the government should actually do more,” said MacDonald. He also cited Hurricane Sandy as a major reason why residents are calling for government management to prepare for any future disasters. Vilacoba also noted that in both populations surveyed, majority of residents would allow their tax dollars to go to coastal maintenance efforts should the federal government fail allocate funds sufficiently. “Any time somebody tells you we’re willing to pay more in taxes to have [an effort] covered... it goes to that people feel very strongly about the role [oceans] play in our economy,” he said. According to the findings, “nearly all Mid-Atlantic residents say it is either very (61 percent) or somewhat (29 percent) important for the government to collect information and

maintain databases that track the health of the oceans.” Both MacDonald and Vilacoba were eager to underscore that this is an initiative that the UCI has been actively involved in as the project lead for the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal. The system tracks activity at sea, including human activity and natural phenomena, allowing for better understanding of ocean life and human interaction with the environment. “The results of this study are exciting for anyone in the environmental community. The changing opinion of coastal residents provides hope that concern for environmental issues will spread in America,” said junior Kaitlyn Smith, a marine and environmental biology and policy student. “Ultimately, the

greater the support for environmental action the greater the action.” According to MacDonald, the polls show a “broad general interest” in ocean health. “I still think we have a big challenge in educating the community about how ocean health impacts them in their daily lives.” MacDonald explained that ocean health is not just an environmental issue, but rather enhances tourism, fishing, and beach access, among other economic benefits. The UCI, he says, will continue to empower communities to take action against climate change, help others understand the complex workings of ocean ecosystems, and support student research to drive political conversation in a productive direction.



IMAGES TAKEN from the “Life on the Mid-Atlantic Coast” 2017 survey. A series of polls measured how viewpoints on the Mid-Atlantic Coast have changed between 2009 and 2017.

President Addresses Inappropriate Humor

COMEDY cont. from pg. 1

for the incident and claims that it was not his intention to be racist or insensitive. While apologies have been made, Dimenna believes that although the intent was not there to be hurtful, the impact the words had on the audience and the Monmouth community is what is more important. “Impact matters to me because humor can be great but also can be trouble when used inappropriately, and even if the comment wasn’t intentionally insulting, the way people understood it is what matters. That is what happened here,” Dimenna added. Michael Phillips-Anderson PhD. An associate professor of communication who teaches a course titled, “What’s So Funny,” which gives in depth analysis on humor and its place in society. Phillips-Anderson agreed that humor can be a great tool for bringing people together, but there can also be a fine line when determining what’s funny and what is inappropriate. “There can be a fine line, but it’s usually quite clear, if you know your audience. Every person has a different standard for taking offense, but it is likely that we can anticipate how groups might largely react, he said. Phillips-Anderson continued, “In general, people public take offense to jokes once they have enough political power that their taking of offense might persuade others. These standards are always changing. What was perceived by some, even the majority, to be funny in one generation is offense to the next. Comedians today don’t perform in blackface though that was the standard for white comedians.” When offering a possible explanation for incident, Phillips-Anderson added, “While a speaker might have a particular intention, the audience has the major role in constructing meaning. Speakers who attempt to use humor must remember that their audiences are not made up of clones of themselves. It’s rare that even comedians set out to offend their audiences.” He continued, “In the given case I would think that humor that has any chance of being offense is not appropriate at an awards event on a diverse college campus. Of course, that means that the comedian, and other speakers, didn’t think that these comments were offensive.” Roni Cervelli, a sophomore health studies student and Resi-

dent Assistant of Elmwood Hall, attended the event as per request from the University, and, much like her other Resident Assistant peers, was appalled and offended by the humor used. “As RA’s, we were on campus at the time of the event, and were invited to attend. Politely we all decided to go and were really disappointed with what we saw and heard,” said Cervelli. Cervelli also explained that the students were afraid to walk out in the event they would be fired for acting out. “A lot of people wanted to leave but we felt like we would get in trouble if we did. It was really awkward. Our staff is pretty diverse and they were saying some racist stuff,” she continued. Cervelli also added that comments were made to the students about their inability to donate to the fundraiser. “They were saying we were poor and that we shouldn’t be there because we couldn’t donate, which was weird because we were asked to be there.” These comments are inconsistent with the values of Monmouth University and hamper our efforts to foster an inclusive environment at Monmouth,” Dimenna’s email concluded. I felt it important to communicate to the campus even though it wasn’t our event. “They should have absolutely felt able to walk out if they felt offended. Mary Fitzgerald, a senior math and elementary education student and RA at the bluffs agreed, and was also offended by the event. “The humor at Hometown Heroes was offensive, insensitive, and prejudiced. No one working in Residential Life supported the comedy and as a whole we felt extremely uncomfortable,” Fitzgerald said. “While I was at the event, I wanted to leave, but feared what repercussions leaving could have on my job as an RA. From the debriefing meetings the RAs had with Area Coordinators, Nina Anderson, and President Dimenna, I realized that at Monmouth University we should always feel safe to stand up for our morals. We can’t undo the past, but this event is another reason for us to all stand together and recognize the injustices currently taking place in our society and culture,” she continued. Hindsight is 20/20 according to Dimenna, who added that he will definitely be more involved in events that are held at the University, and hopes that every person in the Monmouth community feels welcome and included.

HOMETOWN HEROES

MONMOUTH COUNTY GALA AND AWARD SHOW

HONORING LT. GOVERNOR KIM GUADAGNO,
MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT GREY J. DIMENNA, JOSEPH AZZOLINA JR., & BYRON GRIFFIN

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2018 6:00-9:30 PM

MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY, POLLAK THEATER, HOWARD AVE. WEST LONG BRANCH, NJ 07764

LT. GOVERNOR
KIM GUADAGNO

MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY
PRESIDENT GREY J. DIMENNA

JOSEPH AZZOLINA JR.

BYRON GRIFFIN

IMAGE TAKEN from the Hometown Heroes Facebook page. The Hometown Heroes event honored four prominent figures, including University President Grey J. Dimenna, Esq.

University Tuition Increases Questioned

TUITION cont. from pg. 1

of the big drivers on the compensation side hasn't even been salaries, but the cost of medical insurance. Those numbers have climbed significantly."

Other costs credited for rising tuition rates included the physical maintenance of the campus and its facilities, as well as maintaining student amenities including wireless internet, cable television, and other technological operations.

Lynn Petrovich, CPA, has been doing research on Form 990s and non-profit entities for over a decade, and has been volunteering at Jersey Shore tax clinics for 15 years, examined the Monmouth University Form 990s and tax information leading up to a Nov. 30 talk she held at the University. Her examination of the forms, which are filed to the IRS for informational purposes, found that between 2012 and 2015, the University made approximately 98 million dollars in what is known as excess revenue.

"Pretty much what I see, across the board, with regard to tax-exempt higher education gouging students, it's not uncommon for non-profit entities or state entities to just be stockpiling cash away and raise tuition at the same time," she said. "That's pretty common. And [I believe] that's criminal, because it's forcing students to pay more when they actually have money that could mitigate some of the tuition that's there... They don't call it profit, they call it excess revenue, but if it were Microsoft or if it were GE, it would be profit."

"The financial statements summarize all the fiscal activities of the University," explained Craig. "This includes the operating budget, which is largely the piece funded from student revenues, including tuition. But it also includes funds received from external donors that are restricted to activities not funded with the operating budget."

Non-funded items would include gifts and grants given to support academic programs in addition to their budget funding, as well as funding scholarships, research, endowments, and capital projects. According to Craig, in the past 10 years 18 million dollars has been received in endowment gifts, and over 27 million dollars of what has been spent

on capital projects comes from gifts and grants. Much of the new campus construction has also been funded by a combination of gifts and set-aside University funds.

"Since budgets are estimates based on many assumptions, excesses of revenues over expenditures can occur in the operating budget for a number of reasons," Craig explained. "For example, if enrollment comes in higher than projected, if planned salary positions aren't filled or if projected expenses are less than planned, unexpended balances are generated. In addition to these, the budget is developed each year with a contingency amount built in to protect against unforeseen issues that may arise."

Budget balances are reviewed by the University Board of Trustees at the end of the year, and decisions are made on their allocation. According to Craig, excesses are usually added to the endowment or used toward funding capital projects, allowing the University to minimize the use of debt for projects.

"I sent a letter to Monmouth in December expressing several concerns including the yearly profit, the compensation to adjunct professors, the increase in tuition, access to the campus calendar, etc.," said Petrovich, who attended Monmouth University as a part-time student in the 1980s and 1990s, graduating in 1993. "Monmouth sent me a letter in return. They did not acknowledge tuition increases of four percent per year, but did say scholarships also increased by about seven percent."

Petrovich's letter, sent to University President Grey Dimenna, Esq. on Dec. 9, 2017, received a response from John Christopher, J.D., University Vice President and General Counsel, on Dec. 20.

"The issues you raised are significantly more complicated than stated in the couple of paragraphs in your letter," said Christopher's response, provided by Petrovich. "Specifically, the University is a not-for-profit organization and as such has not accumulated any "profit" as asserted. Revenues received are put to use for the benefit of students in the form of facilities improvements, increased scholarships, and a variety of other ways."

According to the response, Monmouth has also been ranked at or near the top of the Federal Fiscal

Responsibility Calculation, calculated by the United States Department of Education, for more than a decade.

However, there is some disagreement about whether the rising tuition rates benefit the faculty and students.

"It is hard to justify increases in tuition in higher education today," said Marina Vujnovic, Ph.D., Vice Chair of the Monmouth University Faculty Council and the Corporate and Public Communication Program Director. "I believe it is becoming irresponsible to keep increasing tuition while income in America is stagnating. People are graduating with enormous debt. The question becomes: are we selling education or debt? It is an unsustainable model."

According to Monmouth University's 2015 Form 990, a total of 108,338,043 was spent on salaries and compensations for the University's 3,537 employees. Nearly 5 percent of the total was paid to just fifteen employees, thirteen of which are administrators.

According to the Chronicle of Higher Education, which catalogues data for public and private colleges, Paul Brown, Ph.D., the former President of Monmouth University, received a salary of \$698,887 in 2015, the most recent year available. In 2014, he had made \$676,564, a severe jump from his 2013 salary of \$243,201.

"As far as allocation goes, it is not a secret that universities have experienced an administrative bloat," said Vujnovic, who is also an associate professor of communication. "There are good things that are funded from tuition money, but what justifies enormous increases in administrative overhead and administrative pay? We should all ask ourselves: is this fair? Is it sustainable?"

According to the Monmouth University Facts In Brief promotional materials, the University had 975 full time employees, including in 2017, along with 452 part-time employees. However, of those numbers, only 310 full-time and 365 part-time employees were faculty. According to Christopher's letter to Petrovich, "adjunct professors generally earn between three thousand and six thousand dollars for each three credit course, depending upon the discipline and their credentials."

"I don't know that the tuition increases are going to the benefit of

the student, or to the benefit of the professors," said Lorna Schmidt, Director of Advising. "Can I say that they don't — you know, add classes or increase equipment, have better equipment available to students, things like that? I don't know. But it doesn't feel like it does. It feels more like there are more people hired to do other work. As we like to say in communication, it's all about perception. The audience can only receive a perceived message. That's the perception that is out there."

According to both Craig and Alasio, the University attempts to off-set costs as much as possible by offering various forms of financial aid to students. Financial aid, which includes scholarships, grants, loans, and work-study employment, can come from a variety of sources, including the federal or state government, the University itself, or private outside sources. According to Alasio, awards are given on the basis of either academic achievement, financial need, "some other special characteristic", or a combination.

"During 2016-2016, 4,771 undergraduate students received some form of financial aid; this represents 95 percent of undergraduate students," said Alasio. "Monmouth University has attempted to mitigate the impact of tuition increases by significantly expanding the amount of scholarships and grants offered to students."

However, while tuition increases on an annual basis, some scholarships may not.

"Tuition affects all students," Petrovich said. "Scholarships do not. They are handed out based on certain criteria (athletic, academic, need), and they may be heavily lopsided towards athletics (a full athletic scholarship could tilt the percentage toward sports, and that doesn't help the average student.)"

"There are slight increases (about 200 – 300 dollars) to federal and state grant funds each year," said Alasio. "Monmouth University grants and scholarship amounts are guaranteed throughout the duration of the student's enrollment, provided that the student maintains the required level of academic performance. We believe that this allows families to count on a certain dollar amount each year, and plan their finances accordingly. Before they enroll, students are advised of the guaranteed,

fixed amount in multiple formats."

According to Alasio, approximately 64 percent of Monmouth students take out student loans, with an average loan package of \$7,977.

"On average, Monmouth University students graduate with approximately 28,000 dollars in federal student loan debt," Alasio said. "This is significantly lower than at private colleges and universities nationally, where 75 percent of students graduate with an average debt of 32,300 dollars."

"I see so much student loan debt," Petrovich said, of her work with the tax clinics. "I see senior citizens who have their Social Security garnished for old federal debt. I had an 80 year old guy come in this tax season, 80 years old. He was in subsidized housing. The only reason he came in is because he had a little W-2 and a third of his Social Security was garnished for an old federal loan that he took out for his daughter. It's just a black hole."

"Most students do not have unlimited resources and must consider cost as a factor in their decision-making process for choosing where they will enroll," said Alasio. "The cost of doing business or simply keeping the lights on has gone up and so must tuition. We make sure that prospective students are clearly informed of their out-of-pocket costs (cost minus financial aid) very early on in the decision making process. Even with early and clear information, there are some students who sadly cannot afford the cost of a private education at Monmouth University and choose to enroll elsewhere."

"If you went on The Chronicle of Higher Education, where they have everybody's tuition rates every year and you looked, you would hardly find any place that, in a given year, doesn't have a tuition increase," said Craig. "The costs to operate go up, and the source of revenue is the students. The challenge is how do you do the things that are necessary to provide the environment that the students need, and to provide the services that the students need, and keep the cost increases under control."

Form 990s and other informational tax information is considered public record and is available online. Those interested can go to guidestar.org, which offers free access to a variety of up-to-date information

Monmouth University Recognized as Top Green Power User

JOY MORGAN
ENVIRONMENTAL/ASSISTANT NEWS
EDITOR

Monmouth University was recently recognized by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a top green power user in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) for 2016-2017. The University is also encouraging and working for increased sustainability efforts for 2018.

The University received this award in April of 2017, and continues to produce upwards of 12 million kilowatt-hours annually, which equates to 12 million hours of energy. According to Patricia Swannack, the Vice President of Administrative Services, Monmouth University has been able to sell additional solar energy harvested on campus.

The campus began harvesting solar energy in 2006 beginning with four buildings, and had grown to seven buildings in 2011.

"Sustainability efforts are good for everyone and the entire planet. We are proud of our efforts to be green and are always looking for ways to do more," said Swannack. "Other things we do throughout campus daily [include]: Water-sav-

ing devices used in all campus rest rooms, showers, and new plumbing purchases [and] energy consciousness in the purchase of lighting and electrical devices."

Buildings throughout the campus, including the OceanFirst Bank Center, Bey Hall, and Plangere use retro-fit LED lighting. These lights are also present in 90 percent of the lights in the parking lot. According to Swannack, these lights result in an annual reduction of 594,524 kilowatt-hours of electricity.

"I believe that renewable energy is critical for the future," said Dickie Cox, an assistant professor of communication, "I would encourage folks to investigate the work of Dr. David Orr who has devoted his career to educating others about impeding climate collapse and environmental design and education. We have a few decades to stabilize the relationship between our practices and our biosphere. Energy is major consideration in that relationship."

"[Green energy] is critical," said Scott Jeffrey, Ph.D., an associate professor of marketing and decision sciences. "The world cannot continue using fossil fuels at this rate. The economists might say that the market will dictate this as fossil fu-

els become more scarce, but given climate change and the pace of that change, we need to get to renewables only very quickly."

Monmouth University has also developed multiple partnerships to increase its sustainability beyond green energy. Recycling programs for repurposing e-waste is achieved through a partnership with Comput-

ers for Kids of America and clothing and books are recycled with the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Monmouth County during residence hall clean-ups.

"MU is attempting to make strides in sustainability beyond energy usage with single-stream recycling and work with food services about food waste," said Jeffrey. "The

Urban Coast Institute (UCI) is also sponsoring mini-grants on sustainable plans for the shore."

"As a student, it is very important to my peers and I to see efforts for sustainable energy at Monmouth," said Jon Bass, a senior music industry student. "If universities like Monmouth did not explore green energy and sustainable practices then the university would be failing its students. If in the future the planet is not healthy, then our future is in grave danger and our education is meaningless because humans require clean air and water to survive, which is currently being polluted by use of fossil fuels."

The University has received multiple green energy related awards by organizations including NJHEPS (2006), National Wildlife Foundation (2007), EPA (2008, 2017), and various others. The full list of sustainability and green energy awards is available on the University's website.

The University Sustainability Advisory Council is available for students and faculty to contribute ideas and opportunities to increase campus environmental stewardship, and green technology and operation advancements.



PHOTO TAKEN by Joy Morgan

Monmouth was honored for its green power efforts, and is encouraging further sustainability on campus.

THE OUTLOOK

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Punchlines that Hurt

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The United States is said to be a nation of diversity that welcomes people of all races, ethnicities, religions, and backgrounds.

Lately, given our national discourse, the ideology of our nation is being tested, even in our own community.

A recent campus event ran on January 11th by a local non-profit, Hometown Heroes, honored four individuals, including University President Grey Dimenna, Esq., for work they have done to support people in the local community.

At the event, those people being honored were acknowledged for all the good they have done along with students and employees of the University being praised for the various ways they give back.

Among all the honors, there were numerous attempts at humor that were disrespectful of minority groups as well as various other nationalities.

Dimenna sent out an email stating that the comments made at the event were “inconsistent with the values of Monmouth University and hamper our efforts to foster an inclusive environment at Monmouth.”

One editor reacted, “I do believe that the student body, faculty and staff are consistent

with values of Monmouth because I have never felt uncomfortable on campus and I feel that there is an overall inclusive atmosphere.”

In the aftermath of this event, we now question whether society has become easily offended by jokes or if overall, minority groups have too often become the punch line of a joke.

One editor argued, “Personally, I do believe that society is easily offended. I think people are now more conscious of how they are perceived by others and how they categorize people into groups based on ethnicity, skin color, religion, etc. That being said, I feel as though there has been a move towards becoming more politically correct to avoid making offensive comments. In the wake of this movement, I think there has been a heightened sensitivity toward jokes or comments that employ the use of stereotypes.”

Multiple editors agreed that comedians use minorities and stereotypes as a bad outdated punch line.

One editor said, “Using stereotypes makes for easier production of material for stand-up comedians since the punch lines are easily delivered to the audience without fear that someone will miss the joke.”

In essence, this can be seen as a cop-out joke tactic and can lead to an audience that is of-

fended.

One editor shared, “As a minority, there have been several times where I’ve been told a joke that crosses the line, even when it was not meant to be outright offensive to me personally. Jokes about my race, ethnicity, and religion are not uncommon, and they just end up making things uncomfortable and tense.”

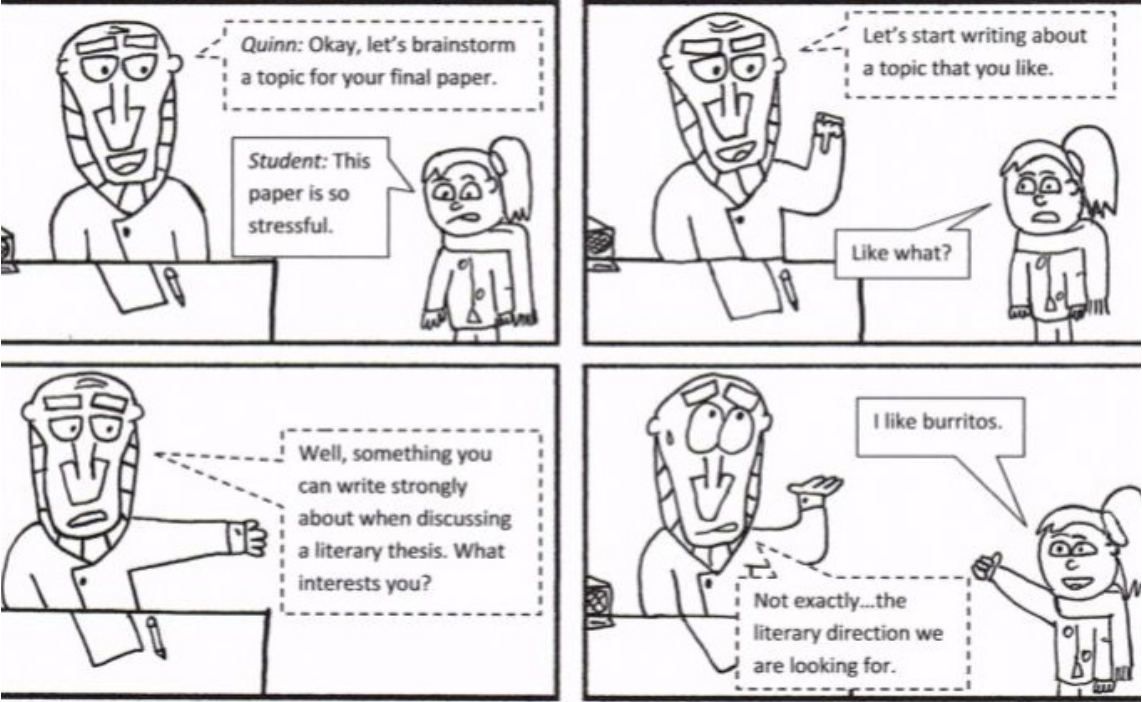
Jokes using minorities or stereotypes as a punch lines have the power to make people uneasy even when they are not the brunt of the joke. An editor said even when the joke is, “not against me personally, but for others; it can get uncomfortable when people make dark/questionable jokes because there’s definitely a fine line.”

With a U.S. President who crosses that fine line daily, if not on Twitter, on national television making remarks about immigration of minorities, it is important we keep in mind our values, both Monmouth-rooted and personally.

An editor reassured that they think Monmouth promotes “diversity and tolerance, we have a responsibility to digest these national issues and connect them back to how we can create a better environment for each other.

It’s important to allow others to express concern in a safe and productive environment.”

Knowledge and Quinn by Brian Turczmanovicz



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“Trump-ed Up” Trickle Down: The Latest GOP Tax Bill

NICHOLAS COSCARELLI
CO-POLITICS EDITOR

President Donald Trump and the Republican majority in Congress passed their long-anticipated tax reform bill on Dec. 20, 2017.

The bill passed the Senate 51 to 48, with no support from the Democrats and all support from Republicans present—Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) did not vote due to his undergoing cancer treatment, though he voiced his support for the bill.

The bill calls for a permanent cut to corporate tax rates from 35 percent to 21 percent, which Congressional Republicans and the President say will allow companies to hire more people and pay higher wages for their employees.

However, there is no requirement in the bill for companies to hire Americans in order to receive the lower tax rate; corporations can keep more profit from the tax deduction even if they fire workers.

Jeffrey Christakos, a specialist professor of accounting at Monmouth, says “If the goal is specifically to put Americans back to work, a better course of action may be to increase the tax effectiveness of investing in people...as opposed to lowering the tax rate, and allowing companies and their owners [to] make their own decisions.”

“Unless the law requires that businesses invest in specific areas to gain tax deductions to create the tax savings, companies will invest their investment capital into areas that provide the highest rates of returns,” Christakos explains.

Situations such as that with Walmart and its affiliate Sam’s Club demonstrate Christakos’ point; there was no requirement for companies to invest in its workers in order to receive the tax cuts. Although Walmart raised its minimum wage to \$11-an-hour, it nevertheless closed 63 Sam’s Club stores which left 10,000 workers unemployed.

The bill also cuts individual tax rates for all income levels. Stephen Chapman, Ph.D., an

assistant professor of political science, says that although the bill will reduce taxes, “most of the decrease will be seen in the upper percentiles of wealth in terms of dollar amounts.”

According to the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center, families who earn an annual income of less than \$25,000 will see an average tax cut of \$60 and those with an annual income of more than \$733,000 would see an average cut of \$51,000.

However, unlike the permanent corporate tax cut, the breaks for individuals are set to expire in coming years; those expirations dates were set to comply with the Senate limits on how much their legislation could add to the national deficit and Republicans say a future Congress will need to extend the cuts in order to make them permanent.

“This would remain relatively stable for at least seven years,” Chapman says.

“Essentially, the bill relies on the concept of trickle-down economics: giving more tax cuts to the wealthy and corporations, thereby energizing the economy and the effects [proposedly] wash down to lower income brackets,” Chapman says.

“There is little evidence that supports this type of theory, with multiple studies showing that it does little to help boost the economy and that most

“Essentially, the bill relies on trickle down economics: giving more tax cuts to the wealthy and corporations and the effects wash down to lower income brackets. There is little evidence that supports this type of theory.”

STEPHEN CHAPMAN, PH.D.
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

people transfer tax breaks to savings, thereby accumulating more wealth.”

According to the bill, the standard deduction, which is taken by many middle- and low-income households would double; and a child tax credit would be expanded.

However, other provisions such as a deduction on inter-



IMAGE TAKEN FROM CNN

Speaker of the House, Paul Ryan (R-WI), says the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act will simplify the tax code enough so that individual Americans can file their tax returns on one, single post card.

est paid on new-home mortgages and a provision that allows Americans to deduct what they pay in state and local taxes would be reduced.

Among the states to be affected most adversely by the latter provision are New York, New Jersey, and California—states with the highest taxes.

As such, of the 12 Republicans who voted against the bill

Christakos explains that due to the change in state and local tax deductions, many New Jersey homeowners will see their income tax bill go up. “Many believe they may see a drop in the value in their home,” he adds.

The Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT), Congress’ official tax scorekeeper, projected that the bill would add \$1 trillion to

“Obamacare has been repealed,” Trump said after the bill passed, referring to the repeal of the individual health insurance mandate. However, many aspects of the ACA still remain in tact.

“Because Republican efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act failed, they’re trying to turn this bill into a health care bill by repealing the ACA’s individual mandate,” Sen. Kamala Harris (D-CA) tweeted on Dec. 17, 2017, before the bill passed.

“13 [million] more people will become uninsured in the next decade, and many face premium increases of up to ten [percent.]”

Alexis Borrino, a sophomore primary-education student at Monmouth, is concerned about the decrease in deductions for teachers who buy their own school supplies.

“Even though tax cuts seem like a good idea to a majority of the American population, I think [the bill] fails to take teachers into consideration. A school teacher’s starting salary is not all that high in the first place, so putting aside money for expensive supplies while trying to keep up with bills and a comfortable lifestyle is hard to do,” Borrino says.

“It seems especially unfair because of how important teachers are in shaping our children’s futures. I understand cutting spending it not easy whatsoever to do, but funding for education and educators should not be the [primary] area for funding cuts.”

Lauren Gnowinski, a freshman undeclared student, also worries about how the deduction decrease for teachers will affect her in the future.

“I have friends whose parents are teachers, and they are always talking about how hard it is to build their classroom and still manage to pay for things like food for their families and bills,” Gnowinski says.

“I’m concerned because, as a future teacher, I want to make sure that I can create an environment in which my students will be best able to learn; however, teachers don’t make a high salary to start with and to buy supplies from their own pockets is tough on their own budgets.”

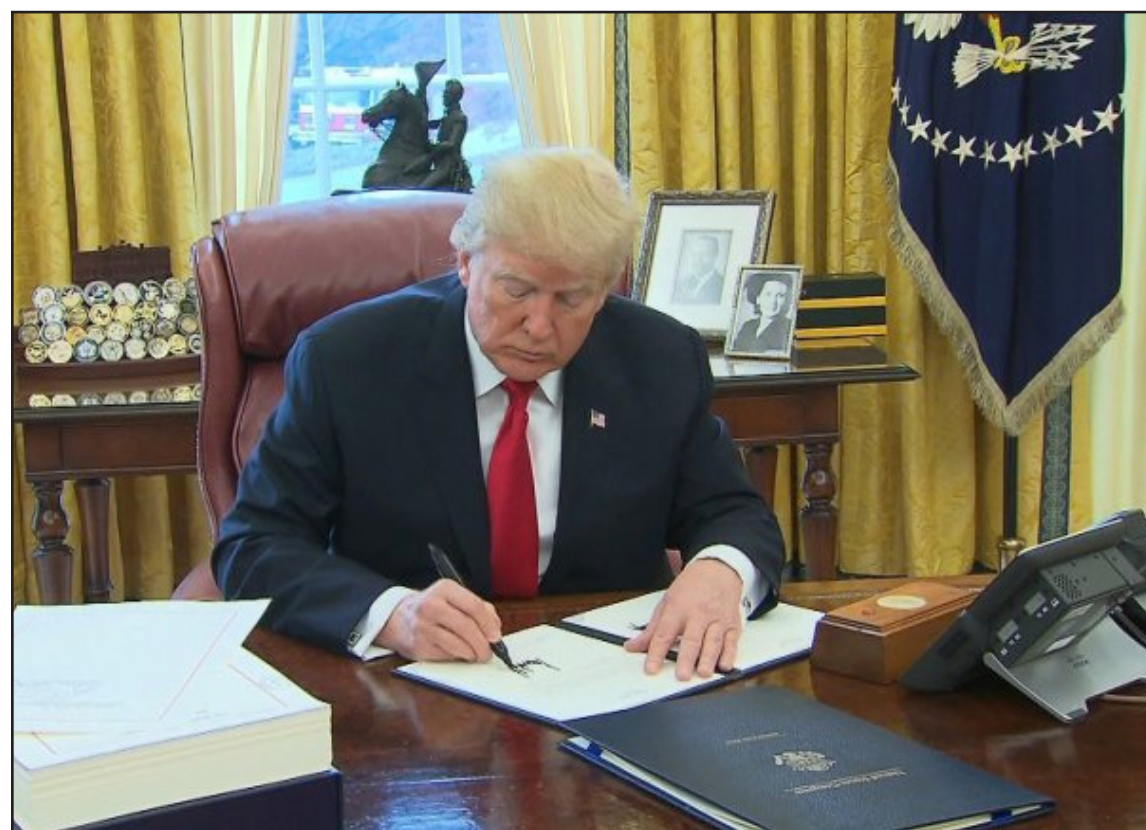


IMAGE TAKEN FROM CNN

President Donald Trump signs the GOP Tax Cuts and Jobs Act into law on December 20, 2017.



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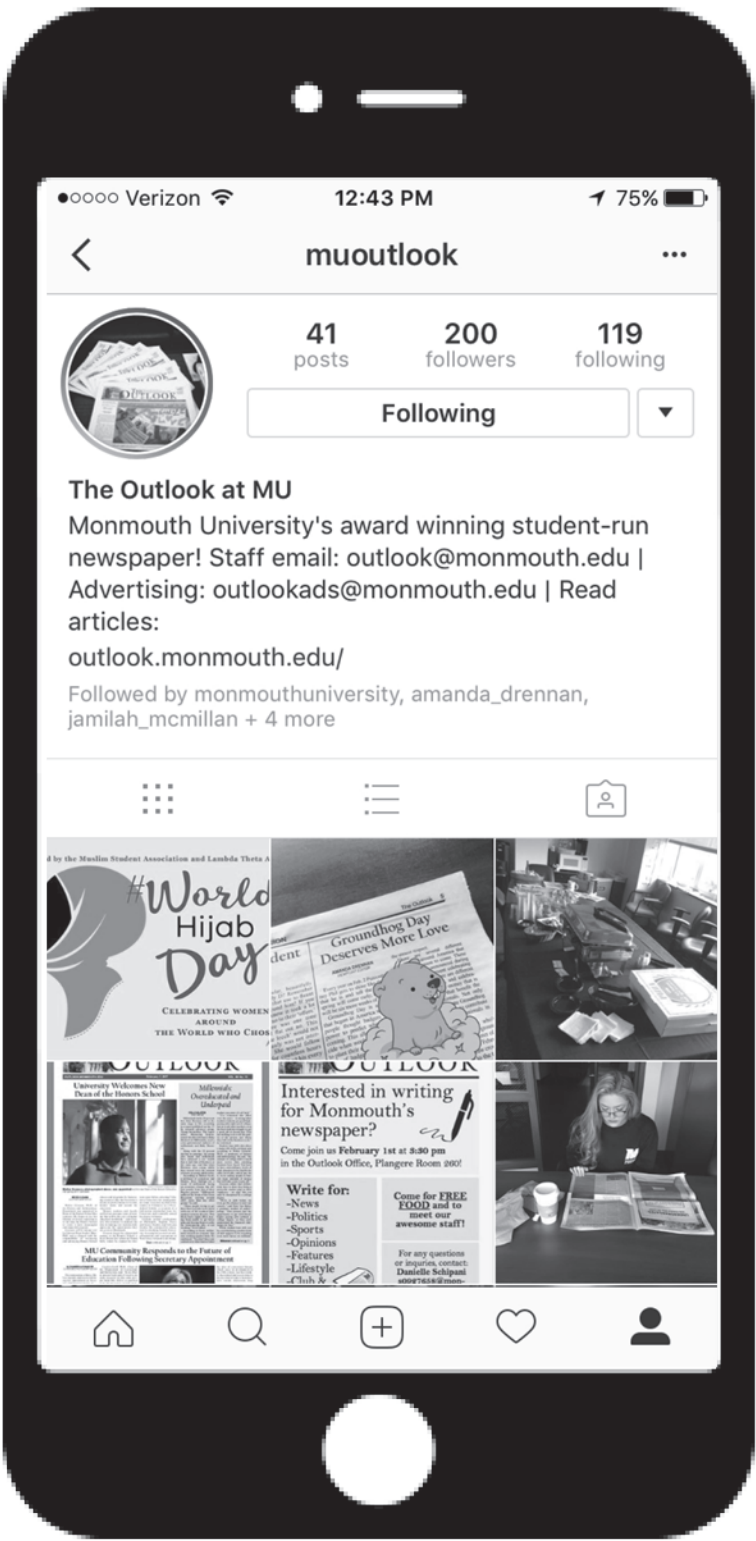
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BACK AND BETTER THAN EVER

CASSANDRA CAPOZZI-SMITH
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Everyone has experienced procrastination before, and everyone knows that it is not a good feeling. Coming back into the spring semester with a long break off is something that might be hard because you're still in vacation mode! How can you get your motivation up for the beginning of the semester? There are many tips you can use to help yourself to get back into the swing of things. The first tip that is so simple, but so helpful is to keep yourself organized. Being organized can be something as easy as writing out lists of your goals. Doing this will make you more likely to complete

them. An organizational system is also a great way to keep track of assignments and due dates. Whether it be a planner or Post It notes scattered everywhere, having due dates written down makes it a lot easier to remember them. Another simple way to keep yourself motivated is to surround yourself with other people that are! Find friends and peers that will study with you and encourage you to complete assignments on time. When talking with junior Marketing student Calie Valore, she said, "I was brought up learning how to balance friends and school and that really helped me throughout college." Besides studying, making time for friends is so important

even if you are stressed because it can keep you grounded, social, and be a distraction when you need it. Other people in your life that can help encourage you to strive for greatness is your family. Sophomore education student Brandon Hilf says, "My parents push me to do my best and I use that as my motivation because I want to make them proud." Although it is good to motivate yourself, it is also beneficial to allow others to motivate you as well. Something that you hear all the time and should actually acknowledge is exercising. Not only is it important for your physical health, but also for your mental health. If you make a schedule that allows you time for going to the gym or taking a walk it can help ease stress and keep you healthy. Exercising is a great way to stimulate the brain, and if you work towards physical goals you can maintain that motivation for other aspects of your life. Another thing that may not seem as important, but is extremely beneficial, is learning when it's okay to give yourself a break. After hours of nonstop studying, it actually helps you retain more if you step away and take a breather. One strategy is to take a break every hour for ten minutes. Adjunct professor in the Department of World Languages and Cultures Miriam Arminio starts her semesters with being kind to her students because "kindness goes a long



PHOTO TAKEN FROM pexels.com

It is important to not get overwhelmed and take breaks.

way", she wants her students to know they are appreciated and validated. She said, "I believe students will get back into the swing of the semester if they slow down, breathe and display kindness to others and most importantly to themselves." This is simple and great advice that someone can give to college students. The end goal is getting through the semester with grades you are proud of, so keep yourself motivated in any way possible. The cold weather can leave us all with excuses to not want to get out

of bed or be productive, but spring will soon be in sight. An important thing to remember is to be flexible; not everything is perfect and things change, but you cannot let this derail you. If you find yourself struggling with things, remember, it is okay to ask for help- we all do it. Look at the big picture and realize that the end of the semester will arrive eventually and summer will be upon us. But for now, keep yourself healthy, happy, and motivated. Give it your all, and best of luck with the semester!

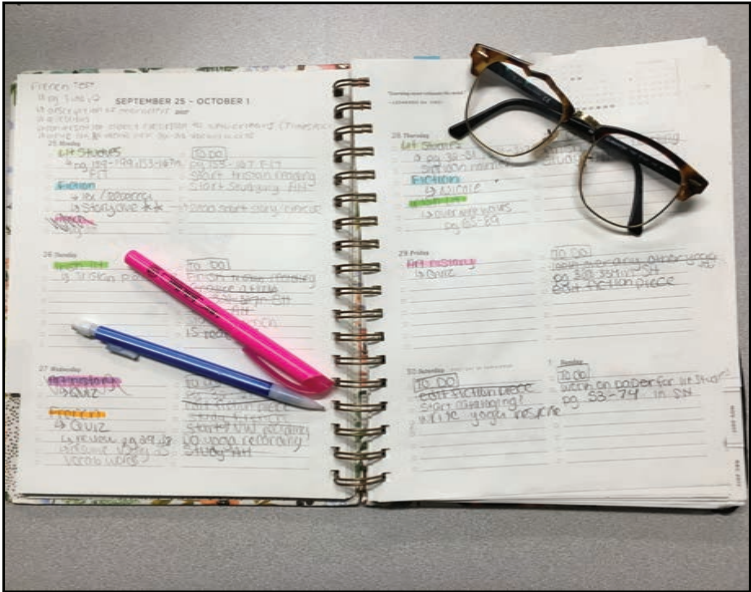


PHOTO TAKEN by Campbell Lee

Staying organized is a great asset in staying motivated.

New Year, New Organizational Strategies

ALEXANDRIA AFANADOR
MANAGING/FEATURES EDITOR

As the new semester rounds out its first week, many of us are already starting to feel overwhelmed just looking at our syllabi, thinking about papers and exams that are only a few weeks away. As younger students, professors and faculty have always drilled into us that we should keep a planner, stay organized, and make sure to be on top of our assignments, readings, etc. There are many ways to stay on your "A" game this semester, and to make sure you have everything you need to get good grades and manage everything you want to do. Director of Off Campus and Commuter Services Dr. Vaughn Clay said, "Since most students seem to take at least five classes per semester, I am a firm believer that using a daily planner/schedule is a great way to keep oneself on track and up to date with all of the different readings, projects, tests, work, meetings with friends, etc. that can come up over the course of a week. Using a daily planner can also help mitigate the amount of stress a student may encounter, especially as a semester progresses and assignments pile up." If you leave everything until the day it's due or until it is too late, your schedule can get jam packed with last minute assignments that can get tedious, time consuming, and even cause burn out in the

end. "Students are so busy with a host of different academic, work, and life related responsibilities, that it only makes sense for the student to keep track of what they need to do, so they don't miss a deadline or overlook their calendar," Clay added. As students, we want to be able to get involved in as many things as we can whether they be passion and hobby based or activities to bulk up our resumé, but the number one thing to keep in mind is that grades and your classes are the most important. Senior health studies student Hayley Bray said, "As a trainer at Monmouth, I'm always needing to be somewhere

at a certain time, sometimes the hours are odd and each day is a little different, so, when I write things down and plan my day out, it makes it easier for me and my clients." Junior biology student Summer Shaheed is a firm believer in trying your best at everything and that studying and writing things down are the key to staying organized. "After each class I write down everything that needs to get done for the next class--something I do it for each class every day. Then, after classes are done, I try to get as much done as I can before exhaustion hits. As for remembering things that are coming up, sometimes profes-

sors don't remind students until the week of that something is due or an exam/paper is coming up; to combat that, in my planner on the monthly page, I make sure to take each of my syllabi and write down all assignment/exam dates," Shaheed said. While writing everything down and having a physical copy of all the necessities throughout the day has been very popular in the past, with the new wave of technology, some students prefer a digital method. Sophomore communication student Michael Fazzino said, "I think the best way to balance everything is to make a schedule and use a calendar. What I do is I use the reminders

app on my phone so that way everything I have to do and everywhere I have to be just pops up on my phone as a text. For me, it's the best way to keep myself updated." Danielle Wolfe, Graduate Student in the Student Affairs and College Counseling program said, "When working with my students, I make sure that they either use a planner or an app to so that they can stay more on top of their coursework for the semester. If you prefer an app format, I highly suggest myHomework Student Planner. You can color code your classes and set the priority of assignments." "The app will remind you of upcoming and/or late assignments and once they're complete you can check them off. You can also put in your professors names, telephone, and their office hours so you know how to contact them. As a student leader, I have used it to keep on top of my classes, my internship, and my work schedule," Wolfe continued. Whether you prefer keeping a daily planner, writing a to-do list, or keeping yourself updated with alarms and reminders throughout the day, it is important to remember that staying organized is one of the most important things to staying on your "A" game throughout the semester and throughout life. In every career, you will need to be organized and be able to effectively time manage, so, now is your time to garner those traits and really hone in on what helps you stay up to date on your daily activities.



PHOTO TAKEN by Alexandria Afanador

Weekly planners are a good way to stay organized and to get a good grade in class.

The Phantom Thread is Beautifully Woven

MARK MARRONE
STAFF WRITER

I'm notorious for my poor fashion choices. As a Resident Assistant in Laurel Hall, many people rag on me when I mosey around the building in flip flops and ankle socks. After many run-ins with the fashion police, I decided to up my game and wear a pair of Philadelphia Eagles moccasins.

They're dubbed as, "extra" by the folks I live with, but at least they're comfortable. Oh, and my mother picked up my first pair of khaki jeans a few months ago, which matches well with my Leonard Cohen embroidered sweater.

Meanwhile, Daniel Day-Lewis's character, Reynolds Woodcock, in *Phantom Thread* can be seen in a green checkered blazer with a light green scarf tucked into his dark brown dress shirt just for getting breakfast.

Set in the 1950s, Reynolds Woodcock is a world-renowned fashion designer who creates elegant dresses.

While on a trip to the country, Woodcock becomes interested in a waitress named Alma, played by Vicky Krieps, and takes her into his world of design.

As a meticulous designer Woodcock has an overbearing work method which frustrates Alma, played by Vicky Krieps. However, Alma petrifies the style genius with her own quirks. With their different mannerisms, their relationship isn't exactly chic.

Surprisingly, Paul Thomas Anderson directs one of his most straightforward films that serves as a fitting end to the incredible career of Daniel Day-Lewis.

There's so much tension throughout, with incredible costume design, a strong leading performance by Day-Lewis, and a breathtaking score. But, the ending might rub viewers the wrong way.

Recently, director Paul Thomas Anderson has released layered stories that may fly over one's head.

2014's *Inherent Vice* was a complete mess and 2012's *The Master* was a strange take on the brainwash of scientology (but in retrospect I like it.) Three years later, Anderson gives a direct story, but takes a chance on the ending.

This leap of faith might divide the audience. For example, as the credits rolled with the graceful orchestral score playing at the theater, one person in a group of elderly ladies yelled, "SO THAT'S IT?"

There was also another lady who sat towards the front with her fingers clasped over her mouth, giving the screen a hard stare while reading the credits all the way down to "catering by."

Despite *Phantom Thread* as one of the most accessible pieces in Anderson's recent filmography, he still finds a way to thread the needle with audiences.

Anderson's film isn't dramatic like an episode of *Project Runway*, but there's enough tension where one would like to run out of Reynold Woodcock's

sight.

On his first date with Alma, Woodcock escorts her to his studio where he takes all her measurements, comments on her appearance, quizzes her on what colors would look best, and even his sister shows up to takes notes. If you step into Alma's dress in that instant, you might yell, "get me out!" However, Alma doesn't feel beautiful until she's in Woodcock's dress.

Imagine wearing Crocs and cargo shorts for years, then a man sweeps you off your Crocs and puts you in a dress that Vanessa Hudgens would be jealous of. It's an incredible feeling to have restored confidence in yourself, along with Crocs staying off your feet.

It's not only his beautiful design, but Woodcock's control is contagious too. In Woodcock's presence, everything must be exact. Cordial greetings, timeliness, oil instead of butter to cook asparagus, and no tea at midnight are only some of Woodcock's demands.

Also, Woodcock gives a stare that'll fill the audience with fear. When someone will ask something of Woodcock, he'll lower his chin and look up as though he's waiting for horns to grow on his head. Woodcock's control and looks creates an environment filled with tension.

Woodcock's dresses are immaculate with seamless design and are works of art. Costume designer Mark Bridges produced over fifty dresses for the film.

From social events to weddings, Bridges provides an arsenal of variety to capture the atmosphere through costumes. Even Randy Fenoli wouldn't mind picking up a few gowns for some episodes of *Say Yes to the Dress*.

The eloquent dress design perfectly matches the cordialness of *Phantom Thread*'s score by Jonny Greenwood.

When the score played through the booming speakers, I felt guilty wearing my Levi jeans and green button sweater. I wanted to rush out and change into a tuxedo with a top hat and monocle. The score consists of a sixty-piece orchestra playing lush melodies.

It's no surprise the Daniel Day-Lewis gives an excellent performance as Reynolds Woodcock.

Day-Lewis doesn't take his role over the top like other characters he's played such as Abraham Lincoln in *Lincoln* or Daniel Plainview in *There Will Be Blood*.

Instead, Day-Lewis plays his character assertively, but not fashionably dramatic. Considering the three-time Oscar winner is supposedly retiring after this film, it's a nice stitch to the incredible career he's woven.

When I came back from the theater, I slipped on my Philadelphia Eagles moccasins, sweatpants and a Hanes white tee. Reynolds Woodcock wouldn't be caught dead in such a pitiful outfit, but the designer's story is an intense drama filled with technical achievements from costume design to the score.

Above all, I took an important lesson away from *Phantom Thread*: don't wear flip flops and socks.



IMAGE TAKEN from Foxmovies

While on a trip to the country, Woodcock becomes interested in a waitress named Alma, played by Vicky Krieps, and takes her into his world of design.



IMAGE TAKEN from Foxmovies

Mark Bridges' work on the film's costumes was nominated for a Costume Design Oscar award on Jan 23.



IMAGE TAKEN from FoxMovies

Daniel Day Lewis stars in his final performance in the film.

The Post: Definitely Newsworthy

MARK MARRONE
STAFF WRITER

The Post...many people hate it because it costs a lot of money each year, takes a while to get through and adds to clutter, but it's right in your hands. The newspaper is a dying medium of mass communication whose end has been making front page headlines for years. In a time where young audiences wish to only receive news through their smartphones and a climate where the press is attacked by the Trump administration, it's important to remember when paper journalism shined in the country's darkest days.

Those dark days overshadowed the United States starting in 1965 when young men were sent into combat for the Vietnam War. Spanning to 1975, the war killed 58,220 young people, but why? Some answers came from the Pentagon Papers, which was a study of the country's involvement in Vietnam conducted by the Department of Defense. The Papers were classified, but their information showed the government's secrets on the United States' true objective in Vietnam.

When the Washington Post obtained the Pentagon Papers in 1971, their executive editor, played by Tom Hanks, and owner of the newspaper, played by Meryl Streep, had to make the crucial decision of publishing the information when the press was targeted by the Nixon administration.

Considering today's com-

municative and political environment, director Steven Spielberg has released a timely film that's initially slow, but intense in its second half.

The first half of Spielberg's film is spent setting up story lines that become crucial down the stretch. Most of the beginning is excitingly spent sitting in board meetings talking about the stock market and Tom Hanks pacing around his office saying in a croaky voice, "the damn New York Times!" If you work a nine to five office job, watching The Post will start to feel like overtime. However, once the Pentagon Papers come into play, the film picks up steam. It's like a kid sifting through the dull first pages of the newspaper filled with bland articles like "President Calls North Korean Dictator 'Rocket Man,'" then finally reaching the sports section.

The Pentagon Papers bring a lot of risk to the Washington Post. For the Post's owner, Kay Graham, she must determine if publishing the story will affect her investors' minds. Both Graham and executive editor Ben Bradlee run the chance of going to jail because of the Nixon administration's aggressive clamp-down on journalism. What drives their decision is the will of the people.

Imagine at 17 you're about to graduate high school, but you receive a military draft notice in the mail informing that you'll be sent to fight in the jungles of Vietnam as soon as possible. At this moment, the world stops. There's

so much ahead, but it could all be cut short. Having a job you enjoy, meeting that special someone, owning your first home or car, all the memories you'll share with friends and your legacy living on through your children hangs in the balance. The future's not only bleak for you, but your parents and loved ones as well. For 17 years your parents or loved ones have been by your side watching you grow to be the incredible person you are today, but they could possibly be spending their last moments with you.

If you were the parents of those 58,220 young people or know one of the 200,000 Vietnam veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), wouldn't you want answers? After decades of the government lying about the involvement in Vietnam, the truth is not only deserved, but vital.

The truth is still hard to come by in today's political environment. President Donald Trump has repeatedly called the press dishonest and has dubbed them as the "enemy of the American people." The President can continue to blast the media, but it won't stop their strides in reporting. We can look back on the tremendous achievements in paper journalism that occurred over forty years ago with the Pentagon Papers, but recognize that history is still in the making.

While we admire the efforts of journalists to nail a story, we can also appreciate the effort that goes into creating a newspaper. As Graham and



IMAGE TAKEN from Foxmovies
Meryl Streep and Tom Hanks star in a new film about the publication of the Pentagon Papers.

Bradlee debate to publish the story, they face a deadline to get the issue out the next morning. It's not like a Facebook status update where we can click a button so the whole world can care for our opinion. Not only does a story have to be well written and accurate for the Washington Post, but it goes through a tedious editing and publishing process as well.

Decades ago, creating and shipping newspapers on time was a strenuous process because of the printing press. Even so, the newspaper you hold in your hands is a labor of love by a group of people who are passionate about journalism. Whether it's a story on the stress of finals week or President Dimmena doing donuts in the commuter parking lot with his Harley on the weekends, we want to broaden your horizons with our stories. The Post gives a behind

the scenes look of how much effort was put into giving the product you hold in your hands.

Tom Hanks' performance portrays the passion of reporters as Ben Bradlee. Bradlee is a stubborn executive editor who is constantly playing catch up with the New York Times. Bradlee is reminiscent of J.K. Simmons' performance as J. Jonah Jameson, but without the cigar and mustache. The editor is always snappy with his superiors and loose with his coworkers. With his vigor, Bradlee is the most exciting character and represents the attitude editors bring to have a successful paper.

The Post feels like a rallying call for journalists today. It tells us that no matter how high the stakes might be, it's important for people to get the facts. However, if one's familiar with the Pentagon Papers story, this isn't breaking news.

2018: The Year Ahead for Film

MARK MARRONE
STAFF WRITER

2017 was an excellent year for film that's set the bar high for 2018. Can this year's upcoming features replicate the same magic as the last? These ten movies are the ones I highly anticipate.

The 15:17 to Paris

Even at 87 years-old, legendary director Clint Eastwood continues to bring spectacle to the screen as he takes a fresh approach to his latest film coming next month. Based on a recent event from August of 2015, two soldiers on a train heading to Paris foiled a sporadic terrorist attack that saved hundreds of lives. To play the two soldiers, Eastwood casted the real-life heroes. Hopefully this ambitious casting choice will keep it on track to be one of the most thrilling experiences of the year.

Best F(r)iends

2017 saw a wave of new fans rally behind the cult classic The Room following the release of director James Franco's The Disaster Artist, which showed how the best-worst movie was made. After

fifteen years, the two main actors of The Room, Tommy Wiseau and Greg Sestero, are reunited in Best F(r)iends expected in March. Although it looks much more artsy than the cult classic, it doesn't look any more intelligent. But that's what we want!

Creed II

Creed was one of 2015's best with its authentic and gritty Philadelphia feel. Director Ryan Coogler exceeded expectations by giving a fresh face to the Rocky franchise. Three years later, the second installment is expected to arrive later in the year. Supposedly the sons of Ivan Drago and Adonis Creed will face off, which is symbolic of today's political climate. Could this be a knockout like the first?

The Girl in the Spider's Web

2010's Swedish Millennium Trilogy is one of the greatest film series of the 21st century. The first installment, The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, particularly grossed very well in the international box office. Eight years later and a fourth installment is supposed-

edly in the works for a release this year. After the unfortunate passing of one of the Trilogy's leading stars, Michael Nyqvist, and with Noomi Rapace not reprising her incredible role as Lisbeth Salander, will a new international continue their legacy?

Hostiles

The film came out last year with a limited run, but the nationwide release is expected this month. Set in 1892, an Army captain escorts a Cheyenne chief and his family through the treacherous landscapes of New Mexico to Montana. The western genre is dying, but there's excitement when someone tries to resurrect it.

It's especially promising when strong actors like Christian Bale and Rosamund Pike make up the leading roles. Another recent western, The Magnificent Seven, made my top ten list in 2016. Hold your horses, maybe Hostiles has a shot at being one of this year's best.

The Irishman

DeNiro. Pacino. Pecci. Scorsese. Need I say more?

Isle of Dogs

It's been four years since director Wes Anderson graced the screen with his quirky The Grand Budapest Hotel. In March, the director returns with his second animated feature since Fantastic Mr. Fox. It still has the quirkiness and stellar cast that's expected with Anderson's films. This will definitely be worth throwing a bone to.

A Quiet Place

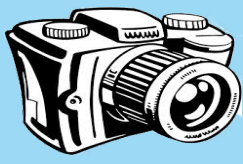
Expected in April, this horror film follows a family who lives alone in silence to hide from an unknown threat. Horror features with no dialogue build a ton of suspense and make for the most intense experiences. Some of my favorite horror films capitalize on the thrill silence can bring like in Wait Until Dark and Don't Breathe. Considering the main characters in A Quiet Place strictly communicate through sign language, along with a strong cast of Emily Blunt, John Krasinski and Millicent Simmonds, hopefully it makes a lot of noise in the concluding moments of the spring box office.

Thoroughbreds

Another film who appeared in 2017 film festivals, but is expected for a national release in March. This centers around two old-time friends, Amanda and Lily, who plot killing Lily's step-father. It looks stylish, funny and exhilarating, with a dash of coming-of-age. It features performances by Anya Taylor Joy, an upcoming actress who has made tremendous strides in her early career by starring in films like Split and The Witch. Additionally, Anton Yelchin shares one of his last roles before his tragic death two years ago.

You Were Never Really Here

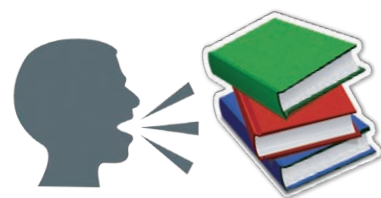
This had a nice run at the Cannes Film Festival last year and is expected for a national release on April 6. A hitman, played by Joaquin Phoenix, attempts to rescue a young girl trapped in a sex ring. This looks action packed and gritty with dark cinematography. In recent years, Phoenix has cozied up to dramatic roles in films such as The Master or Inherent Vice. It's been a while since the actor took on a tough character like this, but we'll see if Phoenix can pack a punch.



MOMENTS AT MONMOUTH



LEFT:
MOCC AND THEIR
FRIENDS MEETING UP
BEFORE CLASSES IN
PLANGERE.
PHOTO COURTESY OF:
PAUL C. HESTER



RIGHT:
MONMOUTH BASKETBALL
CELEBRATES FOOTBALL'S
STUDENT MANAGER
FRANK DELANEY
DURING LAST WEEK'S
BASKETBALL GAME.
PHOTO COURTESY OF:
KARLEE SELL



LEFT:
SORORITY SISTERS OF
ALPHA SIGMA TAU EAGERLY
WAIT FOR NEW RECRUITS
AT MEET THE GREEKS LAST
WEEK.
PHOTO COURTESY OF:
CRISTINA MEDLIN



RIGHT:
DR. MICHELE VAN
VOLKOM, PROFESSOR
OF PSYCHOLOGY,
WITH HER THREE-
YEAR-OLD NEPHEW,
MATTHEW, CELEBRATING
CHRISTMAS.
PHOTO COURTESY OF:
DR. MICHELE
VAN VOLKOM



Don't see your picture this week?
Check back in next week's issue for more Monmouth students' photos!



Do you have any New Year's Resolutions?

COMPILED BY: NICOLE RIDDLE



Charlotte Maiden
Graduate Student

"My New Year's Resolution is to eat healthy."



Emily Marsh
Junior

"I don't believe in them. You can always make a change in the year. You don't need a day to do it."



Colin Larsen
Junior

"My resolution is to get good grades (for the most part)."



Summer Shaheed
Junior

"This year, I want to have a more positive outlook on life. I hope I'm keeping it up."



Professor Dickie Cox
Assistant Professor of Digital Media

"I don't keep New Year's resolutions. I believe that you adapt to things that work and make you a better human being."



ARE YOU PLANNING TO LIVE OFF-CAMPUS NEXT YEAR?

Do you know where or how to begin your rental search? Do you know what to consider when selecting an off-campus rental? Not sure what you need to do?

Before you sign that first or next lease, stop by the **Office of Off-Campus and Commuter Services (OCCS)** to learn more about navigating the process of finding an off-campus rental. OCCS will get you organized and ready to find the rental that is **right for you and your friends.**

OCCS is located on the 2nd floor of the Student Center. You can call OCCS at **732-263-5651** or set up a brief appointment via email: **occs@monmouth.edu**. You can also find a host of online office resources at the following web addresses:

**www.monmouth.edu/commuter and
www.monmouth.och101.com.**



ATTENTION: FINANCIAL AID STUDENTS

If you have had a Federal Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized Loan and will be graduating in **January 2018** and have not yet completed your Exit Loan Counseling please go to:

**[https://
www.studentloans.gov](https://www.studentloans.gov).**

If your graduation date is incorrect,

please contact the Financial Aid Office at (732) 571-3463 or via e-mail at **dorsey@monmouth.edu**, or you may visit us in person in Wilson Hall, Room 108.



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THE REALITY OF BEING RECRUITMENT CHAIR

NICOLE INGRAFFIA
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

People outside of Greek Life or people who never went away to school usually judge or poke fun at the concept of being in a sorority.

In reality, it's an amazing resource to take on leadership roles and learn actual skills for the "real world." Trust me, trying to properly lead and make 75 girls happy all at once is as difficult as "expert" level Guitar Hero; if you press too many wrong buttons, you'll find yourself offbeat for the rest of the song, unlikely to make a comeback.

When I tell people I am the Vice President of Membership Recruitment, or Recruitment Chair, nine times out of ten, they have no idea what I am talking about. So, for those of you who aren't a professional sorority girl, allow me to debrief you.

I ran for this position knowing all the requirements, which are the following: coordinate monthly workshops, two day long recruitment workshops, hold weekly meetings, plan a three-day long formal recruitment, keep in constant contact with recruitment advisor, and it doesn't end there. I was also responsible for attending meetings



IMAGE TAKEN from Monmouth Panhellenic Council

The Greek community looks forward to this year's Bid Day as they welcome new sisters.

and workshops with Panhellenic Council, corresponding with my sorority's headquarters, and managing a large budget.

This upcoming weekend potential new members (PNMs) will un-

dergo the process of becoming a member of one of the six Panhellenic sororities on campus. Along with the other recruitment chairs at Monmouth, our weekends will consist of scouting out girls who share mutual values and would be a good fit for the organization.

Michele Kaplan, Assistant Director of Student Activities for Fraternity and Sorority Life said, "About 20 percent of our undergraduates are members of a fraternity or sorority. Joining a fraternity or sorority is a great way to get involved, grow as an individual, and helps our students connect back to the university once they graduate."

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to craft the way in which Alpha Omicron Pi will be represented this recruitment in efforts to continue the future of my organization.

Sydeny Lasquinha, a senior psychology student and sister of Alpha Omicron Pi said, "As a senior participating in my last recruitment, I am grateful to have the opportunity to pass on this experience. Being a part of a group of women who empower and challenge you has molded me into a confident individual, and I look forward to potential new members experiencing the same growth in their organization."

Many members of the Greek community have worked hard to ensure that this weekend's recruitment will be successful. From the director of Greek life, to sorority members, and recruitment counselors we all share in the common goal to continuing the future of philanthropic service and empowerment of women on campus.

"We start preparing a year before. Once recruitment weekend is over, we take a few weeks to process through the event and see where changes can be made. Immediately, we reserve space for the following year and start recruiting our Recruitment Counselors," said Kaplan.

Alyssa Consentino, a senior psychology student said, "As a recruitment counselor, I hope all the girls going into recruitment are open minded and excited. I'm looking forward to getting to know the women who will be entering the Greek community at Monmouth and helping them find their home."

As my final week as VPMR approaches and the weekend I've awaited since spring 2016 is in sight, I am compelled to look back and realize how much I have grown and how excited I am to witness the growth of my sorority in the wake of new membership. Now all I have to say is: Wake me up when it is Bid Day.

Hang Ten with MU's Surf Club

KAITLIN KORGESKI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Surfs up! That's what students at Monmouth University are saying as they leave their classes for the day and head to the shore to ride some waves. Located only one mile from some of the sandy beaches New Jersey has to offer, surfing has long been a tradition since Monmouth University was founded.

In 2014, the Surf Club and the Surf Team were officially established. The Surf Club is open to any student who shares the passion of surfing or who may also wish to learn how to surf without paying any fee. The Surf Team consists of students who demonstrate excellent skills out on the water and go to competitions. According to surfer.com, Monmouth University was rated number ten as one of the "Best Surf Colleges" in the United States. The article argues that the Monmouth is the best university to attend if someone is looking for a Northeast school with the opportunity to surf daily.

Specialist professor of communication Matthew Harmon and faculty advisor of the club, said, "I think it's fantastic especially when you consider all the schools that could be in the top ten. Being situated right on the Atlantic Ocean is such a great advantage. I would think it is a draw for those that want to go to school and still be able surf. That might sound like a crazy reason to pick a school but surfing and the water is a lifestyle."

Josh Spicer, a freshman computer science student and treasurer of the Surf Club, expressed his joy of the great news.

"I am super stoked that we got ranked in the top ten surf colleges in the country. We have

super fun surf here year round, if you are brave enough to bear the cold winter waters. It's a fantastic school with a short drive right to some good surf spots," said Spicer.

Since the club was first introduced to campus, there has been an increased coastal vibe on campus that the student body has come to embrace. Nicole Gallagher, a senior psychology student said, "As a senior, I have realized the positive atmosphere that the surf team has created at Monmouth and how they have put the university on the map."

Not only has the team been recognized for catching some gnarly waves, but they crafted original videos for the Red Bull Bracket Reel Competition, and earned second place. With thousands of views on YouTube, the faces of the surf team have earned them the top 10 spot on the best surf college list.

In the pursuit of your college degree, take a break and grab your board, zip up your wetsuit, and join in on all the fun of one of the best surf clubs on the East Coast. If you're interested in learning more about surf club, email club president Billy Martin at s1084391@monmouth.edu.



IMAGE TAKEN from Monmouth Surf Club Facebook Page

Monmouth University was voted as one of the top ten surf colleges in the United States.

Club and Greek Announcements

Hawk TV News

Hawk TV News is looking for vibrant and interested students who want to be reporters, writers, anchors, and much more. You do not need to be a communication major to be a part of this organization.

If you are interested e-mail us at s0933548@monmouth.edu or meet us on Wednesdays in JP 138 at 3:15 p.m.

Students Advocating Girls' Education (SAGE)

SAGE is dedicated to equal access to education and the betterment of the campus community through social justice, gender equality, and feminism. SAGE hosts a number of events on campus to raise money and donate to organizations and communities which improve access to quality education for women and girls, both locally and globally. They also increase campus awareness of social issues and current events pertaining to women's rights. If you are interested in joining, please contact the Club President, Kaitlin Allsopp, at s1034953@monmouth.edu.

Model UN Team

The Model UN will be holding an interest meeting tomorrow afternoon, at 3:30 p.m. in Bey Hall 227. There will be an information session related to a Model UN conference to be held at Seton Hall University on March 23-24.

The Outlook

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

If you are interested, please e-mail outlook@monmouth.edu.

GENDER INCLUSIVENESS IN THE CLASSROOM

JANE LAI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In an essay titled, “Towards a Revolutionary Pedagogy,” bell hooks, a renowned author and social activist, proposes the idea of creating a revolutionary feminist pedagogy, or in other words, a method of inclusive teaching in the educational environment. By not supporting the neutrality of ideas and by treating knowledge as a transaction between the teacher and the student, education will be able to move away from an oppressive structure.

In order for or students to understand the definition of intersectionality, questions were posed on how a student’s race, gender, sexuality, socio-economic class, and other factors contribute to how they fit within a society.

This type of intersectional education should be a place where there’s a push and pull; a place of thinking where there is a sense of struggle, questioning and discomfort.

Students should be engaging in theory and practice while the professor works with the student to break away from parochial perspectives. Teachers have the power to enrich their students, provide and lead them through discussion and encourage them to discover their own voice in order to feel empowered.

By bringing the words “gender” and “inclusive” into a classroom in which students are able to respond



PHOTO COURTESY of Jane Lai

Students, faculty and staff have been noticing a transition in the way society addresses one another.

and parse the material effectively requires a methodology different from just teaching the content alone. To teach content that encompasses these two, the professor and student are required to work together and find an outlet that is both engaging and efficient.

Corey Wrenn, Ph.D., Director of the Gender Studies Program said that she attempts to make sure the course content was properly diverse.

She also noted how she would send out an email before the first class asking students for preferred names or pronouns so they wouldn’t be addressed incorrectly.

Further, in her Gender Studies class, Wrenn assigns a project that exposes students to compose their own type of activism. By letting students present on personal experiences that weren’t covered in the course content becomes a way to practice

this type of critical thinking. However, looking at several students, they’ve experienced some varying experiences.

Alexa Haris, a sophomore fine arts student said, “I have this literature class and the professor had us do introductions; but when you say your name, also include your pronouns. She was the first professor who did that, and this is my fourth semester here.”

While Jesse Lee, a sophomore social work student said, “As for gender inclusivity, the [social work field] is kind of lacking. It’s either not mentioned, or when it’s mentioned, it’s never really bought up again.”

Sasha Canan, Ph.D., assistant professor of sexuality and health studies comments on how even in health research methods, she uses real research as examples. “The demographic sections of those articles almost always includes Trans individuals, so I just drop the term in here-and-there like it is normal, because it is,” she said.

“When discussing pregnancy, I say ‘If a person goes into labor...’ instead of ‘If a woman goes into labor...’” Canan said. She also mentions how measures are taken to use neutral terms such as ‘person’ or ‘human’ when describing procedures ubiquitously known to be either male or female.

Cisgender, [a person who identifies with their birth sex] students are going to be working in a world where gender variation is becoming more recognized,” Canan said.

She feels a responsibility as an educator to help prepare students to work in diverse environments and understand a type of inclusive jargon.

In order to turn this inclusive jargon into everyday conversation, it’s especially important to smoothly incorporate these issues into course content to insure that all students are included in the critical conversation.

Travel Tips That Won't Break the Bank: How to Explore on a Budget

DALLY MATOS
STAFF WRITER

We’ve all been there: dreaming about a nice, warm beach vacation while sitting in your 8:30 a.m. class. You go on your phone (after class, of course) and start to look up the quickest flight to the warmest destination, to find that the prices are way too high for your college student budget. This is a dilemma that many students face when the topic of vacationing arise.

While vacationing is a fun and culturally immersive experiment, it may seem like traveling to another destination may be too much for those looking to save. However, there are many tips and tricks that could benefit anyone looking to see the world but not break the bank.

First step in deciding where to travel is establishing budget, and how much you want to allocate for a certain thing. For example, like staying in an AirBNB as opposed to a hotel, going on walking tours instead of expensive private tours, and cooking for yourself instead of eating out for every meal could save you hundreds of dollars.

“Students should travel because it’ll help them realize how immense and different the rest of the world can be. This will make them culturally competent and globally aware, which will help them as people in everyday life, and, practically, will help them as they prepare for the working world. Being more open and well-rounded because of travel will give them an edge when searching for jobs,” office

coordinator for Study Abroad Samantha Falvey said.

Heidi Bludau, Ph.D., a lecturer of history and anthropology offered two places where people can save the most money is on food and accommodations.

“On food, don’t be afraid to eat where the locals eat and even go to a grocery store. Hostels often provide kitchen facilities and you can cook for yourself,” Bludau said. “Also, bring your own food on trains - pick something up from

the grocery store, like sandwiches.”

If staying stay in a hotel, make sure to check if they offer free meals like breakfast or brunch.

Marissa LaSala, a sophomore political science student, is trav-

eling to Hungary for the International Service Seminar with other Monmouth students during spring break of 2018. She says that one way she is preparing to save money on the trip is by planning ahead.

“Taking out your money in the United States and exchanging it here is better than doing it abroad. It costs less to do it in the States and lets you control how much you’re going to spend.”

She also plans on sticking strictly to carrying cash. “Sometimes while traveling abroad, banks will charge you if you use your card in other countries. It is much easier to just use cash and not feel tempted to swipe your card whenever you want something pricey.”

Bludau believes that students’ biggest fear while abroad is losing their money. “I think the biggest concern is getting robbed. Understand how to get the currency you need. If you are traveling in a place with cash machines, that’s great because you don’t need to carry a lot on you. But check your bank fees regarding using foreign ATMs.”

Carrying cash is a great solution, but you have to be careful not to carry too much of it.

Planning ahead for the day and allocating how much money would be needed, as well as keeping the rest in a secure place are all tips to take with you on your next endeavor. There are many international destinations that people can visit that will not cost as much as people assume. So, be sure to keep in mind these tips and explore the world.



PHOTOS TAKEN by Alexandria Afanador

Traveling and exploring is human nature, but can break the bank, believe it or not, it is possible to adventure and not spend too much money.

Monmouth Reacts to YouTuber Logan Paul's Video

ALEXANDRIA AFANADOR
MANAGING/FEATURES EDITOR

KARA D'ANTONI
STAFF WRITER

While the national discourse is able to influence many, the bounds with which social media is confined are nearly limitless. Logan Paul is an infamous YouTuber with over 16 million subscribers and over 5 million video views daily with a fanbase reaching an audience ranging from 6-20 years old. Paul uploaded a video reacting to a man who had just committed suicide in Aokigahara, also known as the Sea of Trees, located in Japan's Mount Fuji. The forest is also known as the "Suicide Forest" to a lesser degree. In the video that was taken down 24 hours after it was originally uploaded on 31 Dec. in 2017, Paul decided to travel to Japan to ring in the new year in a 'non-traditional' way by visiting what he called 'the Japanese Suicide Forest.'

The video featured a feeble attempt at blurring a suicide victim that they stumbled upon in the forest as well as numerous opportunities for Paul to discontinue filming. Other than the weak attempt at telling his followers to 'reach out if you need help,' Paul continued laughing and cracking jokes. "First off, when it comes to his 'disrespect' of the Japanese culture: I find this to be part of a much larger issue at hand and that

revolves around the idea of American ethnocentrism. Simply based on the fact that citizens of the United States often have expectations of other people and places compared the culture and lifestyle of America, the words that come out of his mouth shouldn't be entirely surprising. Our population, from what I've personally observed during my own travels and through my reading, is generally disconnected from the idea that (wait for it.... it's shocking) other countries are *not* the United States in historic or contemporary fashion!" Nicholas Messina, an instructor of communication, said. Messina continued, "Building on this idea, I think to one degree or another, we're talking about a young, white male from (what I can only assume) a financially well-off background. White privilege is alive and well. His clear lack of cognizance to this phenomenon is riddled throughout the video. For crying out loud, he's in Japan for New Years Eve trying to 'disconnect' from the image of an American version which is characterized by glamour and excess - what is more excessive than filming your trip from across the world to throngs of followers and subscribers on the Internet to highlight your attempts at being 'woke?' Frankly, it's pathetic and his 'Gucci jacket' is tacky."

To put this into context, the throngs of young viewers who are flocking to these videos is unthinkable. Children have been seen in



Logan Paul's latest YouTube stunt has caused a ripple effect across the nation.

videos crying because they are unable to really grasp the fact that suicide is *real*, all because 22 year old Paul uploaded this video. Messina said, "...there is definitely the possibility to make an argument that he is being disrespectful to Japanese culture, however what I find even more disturbing is the lack of respect to the dead or to the idea of suicide. One does not make the decision to take their own life calmly or quickly or without a considerable amount of thought, let alone pain and anguish. His attempts to mention that suicide and depression are not jokes are weak at best considering it is coming long after all the joking was going on."

Hayley Gasparine, a junior communication student, said, "The level of disrespect that Logan Paul has

brought to both the cultures of Italy and Japan is disgusting. He should not be a role model for the youth on YouTube." But it doesn't end there, even adults, the same age as Paul are just as appalled at his actions, "I guess it's just disappointing to see someone my age being so disrespectful to another culture after growing up learning to be respectful to others," Freddi Lake commented, a junior English and education student. Eleanor Novek, Ph.D., professor of communication said, "For the sake of views, Logan Paul and his peers contribute to a pretty heartless Internet culture that relies heavily on pranks, mockery, and cultural disrespect. While many people are weighing in on his distasteful video of the Japanese sui-

cide forest, I think his viewers and followers are also responsible, and so are the advertisers and media companies making advertisers and media companies making money from his vlogs. If people weren't willing to see and share this kind of content, it would peter out for lack of interest. Instead, Paul's fame has only increased." Although the video was taken down as well as demonetized in that 24 hours ago, only a few days ago, had YouTube issued a statement saying they were no longer continuing their partnership with Paul. "The fact that this kept going on and on is infuriating and this Logan Paul deserves every piece of criticism thrown his way," Messina added.

House Hunters: College Edition

AMANDA GANGIDINO
CLUB & GREEK EDITOR

House or apartment hunting in West Long Branch, Oakhurst, and Deal can be exciting prospective to student renters, but once the town stipulations and costs of renting are revealed, that enthusiasm wanes. The current Monmouth University housing policies do not guarantee juniors and seniors on-campus housing, which leads to a large population of students that reside in the neighboring towns of the University for the academic school year. After a student's freshman year, the Office of Residential Life utilizes a housing selection system to determine who will receive on-campus housing. According to the University's website, this system randomly assigns upperclassmen who have submitted a housing deposit a number to determine the order of selection. Once on-campus housing op-

tions are at full capacity, a waitlist is then generated for those who wish to live on campus. Students who are not placed in on-campus or university sponsored off-campus housing must begin their search for roommates and an apartment or house to rent for the next year. According to the University website, out of approximately 4,000 full-time undergraduate students, 2,000 students live in the surrounding communities or commute from home. A rental in Monmouth County ranges from \$1,200 to \$3,600 a month depending on how many people will occupy the residence. Students with housemates typically pay individually anywhere between \$450 to \$700 per month without utilities. For gas, water, electric, cable, and ground maintenance each roommate pays approximately \$100 or more each month. The tenant might be responsible for additional expenses to ensure that their land-

lord's property is in accordance with town rules and regulations. The Division of Housing, Code Enforcement and Clean Communities in Monmouth County is responsible for enforcing all ordinances within the town to ensure the quality of life for community residents. The administrative secretary of Code Enforcement, Melissa Laing, refers landlords and tenants to a document that lists ordinances that are frequently violated. Landlords hold renters responsible for maintaining these duties such as: property maintenance, trash disposal, and parking off driveway. According to the document issued by Ocean Township, grass cannot grow over 10 inches and bushes near the sidewalk area cannot be over 4 feet in height. Student renters are expected pay an extra \$70 each month to hire landscapers to cut the grass to follow these regulations. "Once the student signs the leasing contract, the house is theirs and they should responsible for paying to maintain their house for the duration of the nine months," said Joseph Di Bella, a landlord for over 40 years. During her search for an off-campus rental, Lauren Gnoinski, a freshman transfer student, discovered that most landlords reside in New York. Gnoinski reported that a majority of the property-owners in the surrounding areas of the University are not permanent residents of Monmouth County. Gnoinski expressed issues with scheduling times to visit the rentals due to their need to travel a long distance to the property. "I can't imagine how long it would take these landlords to get to their property in the case of an emergency. If I needed something in the house fixed immediately, it would take them hours or days to find time to come and repair the issue," she said. Students who are renting houses or apartments are often neglected by their landlords and left to live in unsafe conditions. Samantha Guido, a senior communication student, has had several

problems with her house this semester that were ignored by her landlord. "For three weeks during the winter my heat was broken. I had to buy a space heater just to stay warm." Guido's landlord fixed the problem a month after she called him. While living on campus at Monmouth University, students can contact Facilities Management and file a work order if they are in need of maintenance for their dormitory. Alyssa Cosentino, one of the few seniors that are currently residing in Maplewood Hall sent in a work order for a broken lock on her bedroom door and within a day the door was fixed. Guido waited two months for her heat to be fixed by her landlord, as opposed to Cosentino, who waited one day for Facilities Management to promptly fix the problem. In some cases, the negligence of property-owner fosters costly and hazardous living conditions for student renters. Allison Perrine, a recent graduate of Monmouth and frequent student renter, said, "A toilet was constantly running and our landlord neglected to fix it. Later that month, our water bill was through the roof, nearly tripled in price due to this issue that he neglected to address. We had to have him split the bill with us and it became a whole ordeal because he originally did not want to pay." Perrine and her roommates also discovered that there was a flood in their basement, which has led to an infestation of black mold. The health effects of black mold include chronic coughing, sneezing, and nausea. Perrine contacted her landlord about the infestation and was ignored. In most of the property leasing contracts, the tenants must agree to maintain and respect the property of the landlord, but in many cases it seems as if the landlord disregards the needs of their tenants. Lorna Gnoinski, Lauren Gnoinski's mother, voiced concerns about the various stipulations outlined in these leases for first-time renters. Some leases hold renters responsible for changing boiler filters, buying

renter's insurance and replacing broken appliances. Seeking and committing to an off-campus rental is a stressful experience for both students and parents. She continued, "Since young adults cannot rent a house or apartment due to their lack of collateral, myself along with the other student's parents are responsible for ensuring that the rent is paid each month even if one roommate decides to not move in," said Mrs. Gnoinski. Living on campus eliminates the concerns of finding a realtor, a safe house, and signing a lease that has many legal stipulations. Amongst balancing assignment deadlines and extracurricular activities, students are also burdened with the pressure of becoming first-time renters. While working with a real estate agent, Buell felt pressured to rent a property quickly. Since most students occupy the limited number of available houses near campus by the spring semester, there is additional stress put on student renters to promptly make a decision and pick a rental. "Every day my realtor would contact me, asking if I made a decision about the house. She told me several times that if I did not get back to her in a few days, the house would no longer be available. This time frame allotted a short amount of time for my roommates and me to discuss finances and contact our parents," she said. Residing on campus ensures that each student will have a safe place to live, free from mold, intrusion, and property liability. Monmouth University's inability to guarantee housing for upperclassmen has burdened students with obstacles that can be detrimental to their health, finances, and academics. Cosentino said, "I enjoy living on campus because I know that I am living in a safe environment. I am free of all distractions that comes with being a renter and can simply focus on the reason I came to Monmouth, which was to focus on my studies."



University sponsored housing is not the only option for students to live off-campus.

Women's Basketball Defeats Iona to End Homestand

MATT DELUCA
STAFF WRITER

After losing the first two games of their home stand, the Monmouth women's basketball team closed it with a 68-56 victory over the Iona Gaels.

Sophomore guard Kayla Shaw led the Hawks with 16 points, including four three-point shots. Sophomore guard Rosa Graham added 12, as she was the only other player in double figures. Sophomore forward Adriana Zelaya scored nine points and grabbed six rebounds.

"We were just tremendous in the second half with defense and rebounding," Monmouth Head Coach Jody Craig said. "The effort level on defense was phenomenal, and I loved our poise down the stretch."

The Hawks opened the game on an 11-6 run, receiving points from four different players, including two baskets from Zelaya. After the media timeout with 4:38 remaining in the first quarter, the Gaels embarked on a 14-6 run to make the score 20-17, forcing Craig to call a timeout with 39 seconds left. Coming out of the timeout, the Hawks were able to beat the buzzer on the final play of the frame, as senior guard Dana Carbone hit a three to make the score 20-20 after ten minutes.

The teams opened the second quarter trading baskets, as no team had a lead larger than two for the



PHOTO COURTESY of Karlee Sell

Sophomore guard Rosa Graham finished with 12 points and three assists in the 68-56 win over Iona on Monday night.

first 5:40 of the second quarter, with the score 28-26 Iona at the media timeout. Monmouth would only score once the remainder of the frame, as it ended the half on a 3:33 scoring drought, as Iona took a 33-28 lead into halftime.

After an Iona basket to open the second half, Monmouth responded

with five straight points on a three from Shaw and a layup from senior guard Rhaiah Spooner-Knight. The Hawks also held Iona scoreless for 2:25, forcing the Gaels to call a timeout with 6:45 remaining in the quarter, up 35-33. A three-point shot from Graham brought the Hawks within one, 37-36, at

the third quarter media timeout. With the score 44-41 Iona with 1:35 remaining in the frame, Zelaya and Shaw each connected on a three-point shot to give the Hawks the 44-41 lead after 30 minutes of play.

The Hawks opened the fourth quarter with a jumper from sopho-

more forward Alexa Middleton and a layup from Shaw to expand their lead to seven, their largest since the first quarter. This run forced the Gaels to call a timeout with 7:53 remaining. Monmouth continued their run, as they were able to expand their lead to 12 with 5:10 remaining on a three-point shot from junior guard McKinzee Barker. The Hawks had a lead as large as 15 in the final minutes, but Iona was able to close the margin slightly, making the final score 68-56.

"This was huge," Zelaya said. "We were so hungry for it. Now that we felt this win, we don't want it to go away. It was a great team win and it is going to help us build chemistry."

The Hawks shot 46 percent from the field and 43 percent from three in the game, while hitting eight of 13 free throws. Monmouth also outrebounded Iona 39-29, and outscored the Gaels in the paint 22-10.

"We needed this badly, because our last two games were tough," Craig said. "It's great to play well and be rewarded."

The team earned their fifth victory on the season, improving their overall record to 5-13, and their Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) record to 3-4. They hope to continue their success Friday night, as they take on HURGLASS rival Saint Peter's. Tip-off from Jersey City is set for 7:00 p.m., with the game being available on WMCX 88.9 FM.

Senior Spotlight: Men's Soccer Midfielder Colin Stripling

EVAN MCMURTRIE
STAFF WRITER

The college soccer career of senior midfielder Colin Stripling came to a close as he and the Monmouth men's soccer team ended their season with a 4-0 win over Niagara at Hesse Field on the Great Lawn on Nov. 1.

Stripling finished his time at Monmouth having played in 71 matches and starting in 67 of them, accumulating 15 goals and nine assists along the way. He also collected a host of individual awards, such as being named in the 2013 Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) All-Rookie Team, the 2016 All-MAAC Second Team, and the 2017 Preseason All-MAAC Team.

In addition, the 2015 season saw Stripling earn MAAC Player of the Week, Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Offensive Player of the Week, and College

Soccer News National Team of the Week recognition for his efforts in Monmouth's 4-1 win over Seton Hall on Sept. 22. This past season, Stripling added a final MAAC Offensive Player of the Week honor to his resume on Sept. 25 for his two goals against Hartford.

However, Stripling's thoughts on his individual accomplishments serve as an excellent summary of who he is as both a National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I soccer player and as a person. "It is always great to be recognized, but I would not have been a recipient of any of those accolades if it wasn't for the other ten players next to me on the pitch," he said.

Stripling's desire to put his teammates before himself was just one of many qualities that attracted Monmouth Head Coach Robert McCourt to recruit the midfielder to join the Monmouth soccer program. "We saw Stripling playing

with his club team that one of my friends was coaching at the time," said McCourt. "We loved his hardworking, blue collar, everyday approach. He is a bit of a throwback in terms of his work ethic and commitment to doing the little things."

While Stripling was initially noticed by McCourt while he was plying his trade with the PDA Harkes Club Team, the New Jersey native played a key role on his team at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. He finished his senior year of high school as a 2012 National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) First Team All-American and as the Star-Ledger New Jersey State Player of the Year. He was included in the 2012 Star-Ledger First Team All-State and led Scotch Plains-Fanwood to a No. 5 ranking in The Star-Ledger Top 20 that year.

"I decided on Monmouth be-

cause of the location. I wanted to be close enough to home so that my parents would be able to watch me play," Stripling said. "The coaching staff here at Monmouth also made it very desirable to continue my soccer career." Stripling's favorite non-soccer related quality about Monmouth is how close it is to Asbury Park.

Stripling's position on the pitch is in the center of midfield. He is what is known as a box-to-box midfielder, a player who has a high work rate and is equally adept in dropping back to help his teammates defend as he is at creating attacking chances on the other end of the field.

"Stripling's style of play is to outwork and outcompete every player that he is playing against," said McCourt. "He is great at going forward, taking players on, and getting into dangerous positions in the attacking third. He is a tremendous ball-winner when he is defending and he is an aerial presence on both sides of the ball."

Stripling's transition from high school/club soccer to Division I college soccer as a freshman was not as tough for him as he initially expected. "However, the competition went from kids my age to grown men. This forced me to have to play quicker," he said.

The midfielder was selected to be in the starting lineup for 18 games during his freshman campaign. Stripling attributed his quick successes to the high level of soccer he experienced while playing for Scotch Plains-Fanwood and PDA while in high school.

During the summer going into his sophomore year of college, Stripling broke a bone in his left foot while playing club soccer in an attempt to keep himself fit ahead of the upcoming fall season at Monmouth. He said, "I did not realize that my foot was in fact broken, so I kept trying to play on it until I realized that I needed rest if I wanted to get better."

Stripling went on to make five

appearances for the Hawks early on that season before he was faced with a big decision. "I was not able to compete at a level that I knew I was able to perform at, so talking with Coach McCourt we made the decision it would be best for me to take the year off," he said. Stripling became a redshirt athlete and watched from the bench as his teammates won the 2014 MAAC Championship Final over Fairfield.

The following season the Hawks, this time with Stripling in their ranks, made it to the MAAC Championship Final once again, but fell in defeat to Rider.

While Stripling's final two seasons did not consist of as much success as the previous few, he was named captain of the team ahead of the 2017 term.

Senior defender Joey Gudzak, who played alongside Stripling for four years, believes that the midfielder displayed all of the essential qualities of a captain. "Strip is always bringing the intensity and holds himself accountable to play at a high level. He plays with that 110 percent attitude that makes you want to go just as hard as him," he said. "Strip knows how to keep us together and focused by not only saying what the team needs to hear but also by playing his heart out."

"Strip was an off-the-radar recruit who came in and earned everything he achieved," said McCourt. "He broke into the lineup as a freshman unexpectedly and became one of the better players we have ever had. He is a fantastic student, which comes first, and a fantastic role model for those looking to make their way in college soccer."

Although Stripling has majored in business finance with a minor in leadership communication during his time at Monmouth, he hopes to take his soccer career beyond college. He said, "I want to be able to wake up every morning to say that I kick a soccer ball for a living."



PHOTO COURTESY of Karlee Sell

Senior midfielder Colin Stripling finished his Monmouth career with 11 goals and seven assists in 54 career games for the blue and white.

Track and Field Posts Good Marks in Two Meets

SOPHIA GALVEZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

After winning their last meet on Jan. 13 at the Angry Birds Challenge in Bethlehem, PA, Monmouth University's track and field team competed in the NYC Gotham Cup at Ocean Breeze Athletic Complex in Staten Island, NY on Friday, Jan. 19. On the same day, some of the Hawks went and competed in the Ramapo College Invitational at the 168th Street Armory in New York, NY.

In the NYC Gotham Cup, the Hawks shone through during the field events. Sophomore Brandon Davis came in first in the men's shot put with a toss of 15.69 meters, and junior Allison Taub placed second in the women's shot put with a toss of 14.07 meters. For weight throwing, fifth year Tim Wilson won the men's with a throw with a mark of 19.71 meters, and seniors Kennisha Okereke and Alicia Hester finished in second and third in women's with matching throws of 16.70 meters.

Although the Hawks did excel in field events while competing in Staten Island, there are also some notable track statistics from this meet. Junior Amber Stratz won the 1000-meter with a time of 2:55:38, qualifying her for the ECAC Championships, and graduate student Chris Marco won the men's 1000 meter run with a time of 2:25:26, qualifying him for his third event at

the IC4A Championships.

The men's 4x400 meter relay team of freshman Tim Jacoutot, fifth years Malcolm Chavis and Dylan Capwell, and Marco finished second with a time of 3:17.76. The women's 4x800 relay team of freshman Kyra Velock, senior Allie Wilson, and juniors Brianna Stratz and Chandi Piiru won the event as well as qualifying for the ECAC Championships.

Junior Bryan Cabral finished fourth in the 800-meter and qualified for the IC4A Championships with a time of 1:54:39.

At the Ramapo College Invitational, a few of our Hawks left the meet with some new personal bests. Senior Bernard Rebecchi, sophomore Henry Sappey, and junior Megan Lindstrom all ran personal bests in their events. Rebecchi ran a 1:59:59 for the men's 1000 meter, Sappey came in second in the men's 5K with a time of 15:16, and Lindstrom placed third in the women's 5K with a time of 19:20.

For the women's pole vault, freshman Savanna Sachar and senior Megan Gambuti tied for third place at a height of 3.05 meters. Sophomore Mariah Hubbard placed third in the triple jump with a leap of 11.33 meters, and junior Chole Angelini placed third in the high jump by clearing 1.60 meters.

Sophomores Pete Guerriero and Emily Schroeffer both placed third when competing in the 60 meter dash. Guerri-



PHOTO COURTESY of B51/Mark Brown

Sophomore thrower Brandon Davis threw for 15.69 meters in shot put, earning first place in the NYC Gotham Cup.

ro finishing with a time of 7.07 and Schroeffer with a time of 8.01.

Dan Maida and Jake Howell placed third as well in their respective events. Maida with a time of 9:05 in the 3000-meter run and Howell with a time of

2:33 in the 1000 meter run.

Head Coach Joe Compagni said, "We were pleased to see some big forward progress for a lot of individuals at both meets today (Jan. 19)."

On Friday, Jan. 26 and Saturday, Jan. 27, the Hawks will

return home to the OceanFirst Bank Center to host the Monmouth Winter Collegiate Invitational, while some of the team will be travelling to the Penn State National Invitational to also compete over the weekend.

Men's Basketball Falls Late to Iona 76-73

ZACH COSENZA
SPORTS EDITOR

Men's Basketball lost to the Iona Gaels 76-73 in a game that featured nine lead changes in on Friday night.

"I want to give Iona a lot of credit tonight," Head Coach King Rice said. "[Iona Head Coach] Tim [Cluess] has challenged me and all the coaches in the league to continue to improve at our craft."

With 1:30 left in the second half, freshman forward Melik Martin completed a three-point play to give the Hawks the 73-70 lead. The Gaels would then go on a 6-0 run to end the game which included a two-point jump shot, a layup, and two free throws. Senior guard Austin Tilghman missed a game-tying three-pointer with three seconds left that ended the game at 76-73 Iona.

In the first half, Iona's lead was as high as 13 with 53 seconds left to go. The Hawks would trim that lead to eight after five straight points from freshman guard Ray Salnave. Salnave led the team with 16 points, ending two points shy of his career-high. He was 5-6 from the field.

"Ray came up huge, and there was a lot of guys that came through in this game," Tilghman said.

For the second half, the blue and white started the half on a 13-5 run to tie the game at 47 all with 13:45 left. Junior guard Micah Seaborn gave Monmouth the lead after a three-pointer to make it 54-52. The last 11:41 of the game featured six lead-changes before Iona was able to secure the win late.



PHOTO COURTESY of Karlee Sell

Freshman guard Ray Salnave scored all of his 16 points in the first half. Salnave was two points off his career-high.

"One thing we've struggled with is finishing games", Tilghman said. "Once we're able to finish games we'll be fine."

"For my kids tonight, I think tonight was our closest to playing 40 minutes," Rice said. "I'm really proud of my kids tonight, I feel like we fought Iona to the end and they made a few extra plays down the stretch."

For the game, freshman guard Deion Hammond finished with 13 points and a

steal, Martin added 12 points, all coming in the second half. Seaborn had nine points and five rebounds in his first game back from injury. The Hawks outshot Iona, shooting 47 percent to the Gael's 46 percent.

The Hawks (5-13, 1-5 MAAC) are experiencing their worst start in conference-play since joining the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) in 2013-14. The blue and white will be off six days before playing three games in

five days. They will host Siena, who defeated Monmouth in last year's MAAC semifinals game on Thursday, Jan. 25 at the OceanFirst Bank Center. Then they travel to the Nassau Coliseum to face Marist on Saturday, Jan. 27. The Hawks will finish the stretch with an hOURglass rivalry game against Rider at the Alumni Gymnasium in Lawrenceville, NJ on Jan. 29. All games will be broadcasted by WMCX 88.9 FM.

UPCOMING GAMES

Thursday, Jan. 25
MBB vs. Siena*
OceanFirst Bank Center
West Long Branch, NJ 7:00 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 26
WBB at St Peters*
Yanitelli Center
Jersey City, NJ 7:00 p.m.

Track & Field
Monmouth Winter Invitational
West Long Branch, NJ TBA

Track & Field
Penn State National Invitational
College Park, PA TBA

Saturday, Jan. 27
Men's Tennis
NJIT Invitational
Newark, NJ 9:00 a.m.

M Swimming at NJIT
Newark, NJ 12:00 p.m.

W Swimming vs. Sacred Heart
Newark, NJ 12:00 p.m.

MBB vs. Marist*
Nassau Coliseum
Uniondale, NY 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 28
WBB at Manhattan*
Draddy Gymnasium
Bronx, NY 2:00 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 29
MBB at Rider*
Alumni Gym
Lawrenceville, NJ 7:00 p.m.

*conference games



SWEEPING THE GAELS



Women's basketball defeated the Iona Gaels 68-56 to sweep the season-series on Monday night. Sophomore guard Kayla Shaw led the way with 16 points and added three steals for the Hawks.