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Students and Faculty Question Study Abroad Practices

COURTNEY BUELL
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

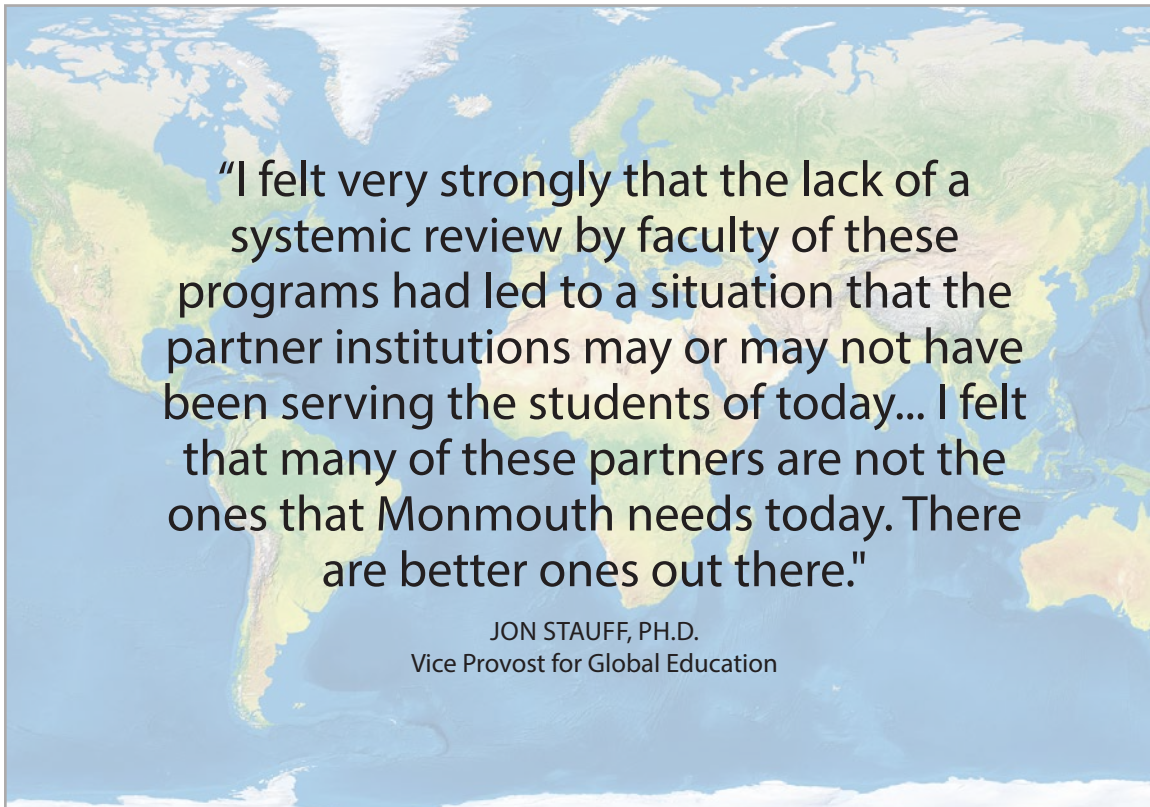
KERRY BREEN
SENIOR/NEWS EDITOR

Studying abroad is an opportunity that some students agree can be life-changing. Students are able to live in another country and take courses at a foreign university. While grateful for the opportunity, some students and faculty believe that the University's study abroad programs should be improved.

Currently, the University offers four undergraduate programs for study abroad in Florence, Italy; London, England; Sydney, Australia; and Cadiz, Spain. Programs starting in the near future will also allow students to study in Buenos Aires, Argentina or Heidelberg, Germany.

According to Jon Stauff, Ph.D., Vice Provost for Global Education, 315 students participated in some form of education abroad, through either a semester or summer study abroad program, a faculty-led program, or a service trip last year. Approximately 100 students specifically studied abroad in the same time frame.

The Global Education Office (GEO) is responsible for these



"I felt very strongly that the lack of a systemic review by faculty of these programs had led to a situation that the partner institutions may or may not have been serving the students of today... I felt that many of these partners are not the ones that Monmouth needs today. There are better ones out there."

JON STAUFF, PH.D.
Vice Provost for Global Education

Students can currently study in one of four locations, with programs in Germany and Argentina to be added soon.

programs. According to their website, the GEO's mission is "to provide curricular and co-curricular opportunity for immersive and transformative experiences for faculty and students to promote

interdisciplinary international education, a compassionate understanding of the world, and global engagement toward creating socially responsible citizenship."

While each of these programs are overseen by the GEO, each location is unique in a variety of areas, including living arrangements, University faculty involvement, language require-

ments, and general program preparation. Students are required to attend a number of pre-departure meetings prior to their time abroad.

Each program is partnered with a university abroad that hosts Monmouth students. Lorenzo de' Medici is responsible for Florence students, Regents University is responsible for London students, University of Cadiz is responsible for Cadiz students, and Macquarie University is responsible for Sydney students.

The differences in these programs have affected the experiences of some students, both positively and negatively. After hearing how some programs are run, those who studied in other locations believe that the site they experienced could be improved.

Faculty, as well as students, have voiced their concerns for the programs, including worries about pre-departure preparations, the living arrangements abroad, the academic rigor of the locations, the presence of University faculty, and the general safety of the program. Some have even offered alternatives and advice on what may help GEO better accommodate their students.

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Tau Kappa Epsilon Kappa-Kappa Chapter Closed

COURTNEY BUELL
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity's Kappa-Kappa chapter closed officially on Friday, Feb. 16.

According to an e-mail sent to members of the campus community on Feb. 23 by Michele Kaplan, Assistant Director of Student Activities for Fraternity and Sorority Life, the University has placed the chapter in the status of "non-operating" with the offices of the Grand Chapter, effective immediately.

Kaplan wrote, "This means the chapter is not permitted to hold any activities, events, chapter operations, recruitment, candidate education classes or conduct any business of the Fraternity."

Mary Anne Nagy, Vice President for Student Life and Leadership Engagement, said,

"We did not make this decision, but we honored Tau Kappa Epsilon Headquarters' decision to close the chapter."

Kaplan also addressed in the email that all collegiate members in good standing will be granted inactive status of membership until graduation, at which time they will be granted alumni status.

The email concluded, "The University supports the decision made by Tau Kappa Epsilon's National Headquarters and will no longer recognize the Kappa-Kappa chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon."

The email also explained that chapter members on record with the Office of Student Activities and Student Center Operations have been notified of this closing. John Hoffman, former President of Tau Kappa Epsilon's Kappa Kappa chapter, declined to comment on the chapter's charter being revoked. The chapter has been on campus since its founding in 1966.

University Mourns Jane Plangere

KERRY BREEN
SENIOR/NEWS EDITOR

Jane Plangere, University supporter and Director of the Jules L. Plangere, Jr., Family Foundation, passed away at age 94 on Friday, Feb. 23.

According to an obituary published in the *Asbury Park Press*, Jane Plangere passed away peacefully following a brief illness.

The wife of Jules L. Plangere, who passed away in 2016, Jane Plangere was a generous supporter of the University. She also had strong family ties to the University. Her late son, Jeffrey Conover, who died in 2006, is a University alumnus, and her other son, Jack Conover, is a member of the University Board of Trustees as of 2013. Conover's wife, Cathy, is a Monmouth alumna as well.

"The Plangere name is synonymous with generosity and support at Monmouth University, but few people know and understand the critical role that Jane Plangere played in cultivating that reputation, since it is so often attributed to her husband," said University President

Grey Dimenna, Esq. "As director of the family foundation, Jane helped steward significant support for so many critical initiatives at Monmouth and was instrumental in establishing the Jeffrey S. Conover Memorial Scholarship in memory of her son, a Monmouth alumnus. She had a genuine kindness about her; she opened the door to her home countless times over the years in support of Monmouth, and she had an infectious smile that all who knew her could appreciate. We are so privileged to have had the opportunity to share our mission with her for so long."

Jane Plangere served as the Director of the Jules L. Plangere, Jr., Family Foundation, established in 1997. Jules Plangere was the namesake of the Jules L. Plangere, Jr., Center for Communication and Instructional Technology; the building was named and dedicated in his honor in 2002 due to his generosity. In the same year, he received the President's Vision Award, the highest award the University bestows.

A reception for family and friends

will be held on Saturday, Mar. 24 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the O'Brien Funeral Home in Brick, NJ, with a memorial service at 3:00 p.m. A private committal will take place at the Monmouth Memorial Park in Tinton Falls.

According to her obituary, the family asks that in lieu of flowers "you kindly consider taking a moment to brighten someone's day, take a walk along the beach... stop and smell the flowers. Time waits for no one, enjoy life."



IMAGE TAKEN from rutgers.com

Jane Plangere passed away on Friday, Feb. 23.

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\$74,000 Raised for Pediatric Brain Tumors at Annual Fundraiser

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Study Abroad: Concerns with Pre-Departure Preparations

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Pre-Departure Preparations

Meetings and Prior Information

While study abroad experiences varied, most students interviewed agreed that the preparation prior to leaving the country was what needed the most work in terms of improvement.

According to Stauff, the pre-departure arrangements were “just overhauled” during the fall 2017 semester.

“We had a four-part pre-departure series of workshops prior to this year,” he said. “Those four workshops were focused on things such as health and safety and site-specific orientations about Italy or England or Australia. They provided specific information about where [students] would be headed, information with parents at a parent workshop, and some group bonding so that the students would get to know each other a bit and have a peer mentor who had studied in that location before.”

According to Stauff, who referred to the former pre-departure preparations as the “old way,” the previous methods revolved around being prepared to be away from home and taking advantage of what the site had to offer, as well as informing students about “do’s and don’ts” for the location. Many of the sessions were panel-based discussions, which Stauff described as very hierarchal.

“I felt that this wasn’t the way that our students were learning in the 21st century,” Stauff said. “I felt it was very 20th century in its approach.”

Students were also concerned about the previous system.

“The meetings were hyped up and not realistic,” said Nicole Ingraffia, a senior communication student who studied in Sydney during the fall of 2016 and came home early because she felt the program had been misrepresented to her. “The student panel is helpful, but none of what they say about the program is negative. The student representatives reflect on their best memories to talk up the program.”

Students also believed that the previous system did not help with group bonding or forming friendships before going abroad.

“Even though we had three meetings, I looked around the room and the faces were familiar, but I didn’t know anybody,” Ingraffia continued. “I spent the semester with them and really only had one person that I was close with. My other friend was left out the whole time.”

The new methods will use two sessions instead of four. According to Stauff, one will be a workshop focused on cultural competence and learning how to evaluate one’s own goals about going abroad, encouraging students to consider their personal and academic reasons for going abroad.

He said that the workshop also begins the process of students understanding that their goals will be achieved in a “very different cultural context,” and that they will be leaving the University for an extended period of time. He felt that the session also covers the tools that will be provided to students by the University.

The second workshop focuses on information about the counseling center, Title IX, risk man-

agement, and how to use insurance while abroad.

“We were not sending [students] to a new place without people on the other side to greet them,” Stauff said.

“That host institution has offices like mine and offices like Student Life and offices of Academic Affairs that they need to use, because those people on the other side are also going to have orientations,” Stauff added. “They’re also going to have information about what to do in London, what to do in Sydney, what not to do in Sydney. They might reinforce some of the things that we said, but it might be something new.”

“Personally, I did not feel very prepared when we landed,” said senior communication student Brianna McGuire, who studied abroad in London in the spring of 2017. “The arrangements made to get our group of students from the airport to Regents University were unclear and it made the arrival day more nerve wracking than it had to be.”

Stauff said that he has also been working with staff and faculty at these institutions, helping ensure that when a Monmouth student goes abroad, they are well-received by the foreign institution and making sure that that institution can help students in the ways that Monmouth regularly would.

“Sometimes the study abroad experience can be so powerful for the student who is sort of looking to see where they fit in the wider world,” Stauff said. “The pre-departure workshops that we have created makes the student aware of the tools she has in her toolbox

“I would say that I got a mixed vibe about the people of Florence... The locals really don’t appreciate Americans screaming in the street. Americans, to Italians, are fat, loud, and annoying, and we felt like we were resented at times.”

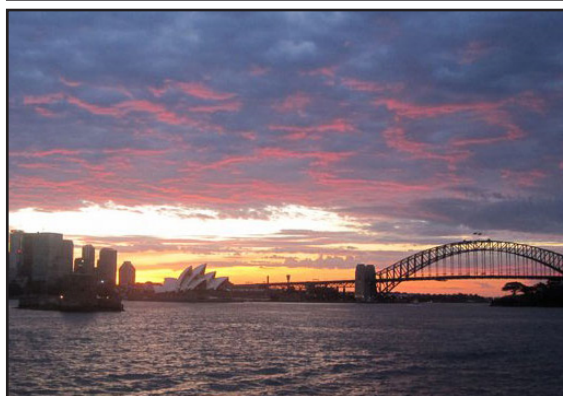
LAUREN MARADAY

Junior graphic design student who studied in Florence fall 2017

to help her achieve those goals, and the people that can help her along the way.”

The program in Cadiz, which is run and was designed by Alison Maginn, Interim Chair of the Department of World Languages and Cultures and the Director of the program in Cadiz, does a six-week summer program. However, Maginn says the program has more thorough pre-departure measures, including general information sessions, PowerPoint presentations, and conversations about graduation and academic goals. She also said that she has students meet with her privately and have a conversation about expectations, behavior, responsibilities, and the code of conduct that students are expected to follow.

“I just make sure students have organized themselves in advance,” Maginn said. “Then the next thing is we have different orientations. There’s a whole set of orientations done by the University itself. They go from general to really, really specific, so my students would do all the general ones and they’d also do a lot of one-on-one with me. Ours is definitely much more personalized and tailored [than the other programs].”



IMAGES TAKEN from monmouth.edu (upper right, lower left)
PHOTOS TAKEN by Kerry Breen (upper left, lower right)

Each program is run uniquely, with differences in faculty presence and oversight and student living arrangements.

Maginn also mentioned that she often sent links about upcoming events and information in Cadiz to students as their departure date nears “to start getting them into the mood” of going abroad.

“Maginn would send us articles, testimonials from past students, and lots of coverage on current events,” Lally said. “The more you know about the state of the country you’re visiting, the more prepared you are. Knowledge is power.”

Stauff stressed the importance

— your relationship with the offices will just be different since you’re away.”

Despite Stauff’s comments saying that students have full access to University resources, the study abroad website advises that “services available abroad may not match the support services offered on Monmouth University’s home campus” and “the Monmouth University Counseling and Psychological Services does not conduct ongoing therapy via phone or videoconferencing.”

“Things on the campus were hard to find overseas,” said Ingraffia. “The campus gym I had to pay for in addition to already paying Monmouth-priced tuition, and I tried to use it as an outlet for my anxiety since I couldn’t talk to someone. I’m paying for that experience so why am I not getting the same things?”

Students going abroad for a semester pay the same price as a student attending Monmouth, even though the foreign institution might be cheaper. They also pay a \$250 study abroad fee.

“I asked Jonathan Kull [the academic advisor of the GEO] why it costs full tuition to go to Lorenzo de’ Medici when the school costs five thousand euro (approximately \$6,150),” said Lauren Maraday, a junior graphic design student who studied in Florence in fall 2017. “And he never got back to me.”

“There are costs involved to the University with study abroad programs, including the staff we hire to run those programs and administer those programs, and the costs of travel for the staff to go over and visit the programs,” said University President Grey Dimenna, Esq. “There are costs associated with the program.”

He pointed out that the University, being a non-profit organization, may have overflow in one area of University operations, but that excess money would be used to help students in another area.

“Everything we do is for the students,” he continued.

Language Requirements and Cultural Values

There are currently no language requirements for studying abroad, even in a country such as Italy or Spain, which are not English-speaking countries.

“I think it’s important that if students are going to do study abroad in a non-English speaking country that students should take a course or two in that language,” said Joseph

Patten, an associate professor of political science, who visited the Florence program last year. “It’s very important when you go to a non-English speaking country not to come across as rude, and when other countries see Americans who make no attempt, or just assume everybody speaks English, I think people are insulted by that.”

According to Patten, who is not affiliated with the GEO but was the Chair of the Undergraduate Studies Committee for six years, as well as previously being the Chair of the Political Science Department, the University used to have set language requirements, but they have since been removed.

“International students from non-English speaking countries study English before coming here,” said Patten, who also believes that cultural values should be studied. “We, too, should study that language before going to a non-English speaking country.”

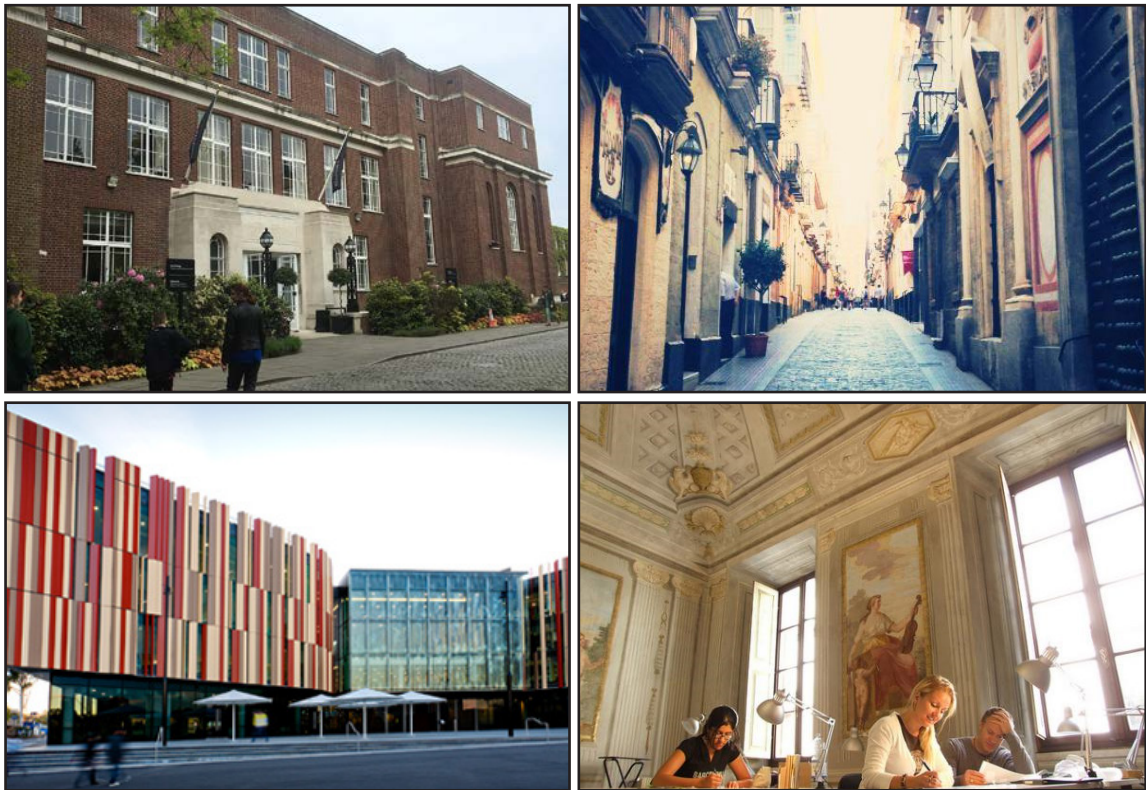
Corey Inzana, an international student advisor, oversees the Global Experience Program, where students participating spend a week in a third-world country doing construction for the community. Inzana believes that having a language proficiency requirement would restrict students from studying abroad, despite instructing Global Experience Program students to learn some of the native language of the country they are visiting.

“I wouldn’t want to bar students from having a great opportunity based on them not being proficient in something,” Inzana said. “I think that would be limiting students from growing.”

“It will restrict the students, but the reason why we need that kind of discussion and conversation is literature shows those students who do have language and know the language, at least a little bit, prior to study abroad - their overall experience is much better,” said Marina Vujnovic, Ph.D., Director of the Corporate and Public Communication (CPC) Program and associate professor of communication. “We also believe it’s a safety concern, especially in areas where not too many people

ABROAD cont. on pg. 3

Study Abroad: Concerns While Abroad



IMAGES TAKEN from monmouth.edu (upper left), komconsultants.com (lower right), and goabroad.com (lower left)
PHOTO TAKEN by Kerry Breen (upper left)

Each school campus offers different courses, levels of difficulty, and housing options. The schools also have varying academic requirements.

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“I’ve heard before, from students ‘Well, I just want to study in Italy, I don’t want to study Italian,’” said Vujnovic, who does not speak English as a first language and researches best practices in global education. “Well, if you don’t want to study Italian, you shouldn’t go to Italy. Italian is an intrinsic part of Italian culture, and it gives you a kind of access into a culture that nothing else really does, other than language.”

According to Mirta Barrea-Marlys, Coordinator/Advisor of Spanish/Education Programs and an associate professor of world languages, students in the semester-long Italy program take two Italian classes while abroad. Students who go during the summer do not take any language courses, something that she hopes changes.

“I only took one Italian course,” said Maraday, who took four classes while abroad. “They tried to convince me to take the second one, but I felt like it would be too much of a course load.”

Maginn said that while she is in Spain, she offers free Spanish tutoring to the students studying abroad, since the classes are all taught in Spanish.

“We can have a variety of programs,” Vujnovic said. “The Spanish program requires more proficiency, and it is such a program in which language is very, very important. We have other programs where courses will be in English, but still, at least one semester of Italian, for instance, prior to going to study abroad shows an intention of wanting to take this trip seriously.”

“Everything is in English when you get there,” said Francesca Moore, a senior business administration student who studied in Florence in summer 2017. “I thought it was going to be harder than it was, but [knowing the language] still would have been really helpful.”

“Taking a language gets you more immersed into the culture, and you can’t separate culture from language,” said Barrea-Marlys. “I’ve seen students that did study the language and ones that didn’t, and the ones that did got so much more out of it. Even

if you’re not in a homestay and you’re studying the language and you’re integrating with the community you can have a fabulous experience.”

Jenna Lally, a University alumna who went to Spain in the summer of 2016, said that having a language barrier made cultural assimilation much harder.

“Being culturally aware before you go is essential,” said Lally. “Read about the cuisine, read about the day-to-day life. With Spain, siestas are to be expected, breakfast is light, lunch is the biggest course of the day, and dinner is just tapas. Be prepared to adjust. And when you get there, do it.”

While Abroad

Living Arrangements

Students abroad have a number of living arrangements, including on-campus dorms, on-and-off campus apartments, and homestays, where students stay off-campus with a family and one other Monmouth student. According to 2014 research in the field of global education, published in the Journal of American College Health, a homestay is considered the best practice, allowing for increased cultural immersion and various other benefits.

“A homestay is the best practice overall because it offers the most support and total cultural integration,” said Maginn. “Students are able to have access to culture, and networks of people who are there for them.”

The Spain program, which was established in 2002, is the only currently operating program that offers the homestay option for students. The families are partnered with the university, and according to Maginn, only two students have ever had to change families, saying the program had “a 99 percent success rate” with their placement.

Students at Regents University in London live in on-campus dorms. However, no local students live in the dorm, only other global education students. In Italy, students live in off-campus apartments with other Monmouth students, and in Australia, students live in on-campus apartments with stu-

dents from other schools.

“From what I see with the apartment option, people stay in their comfort zone, speaking English, staying with their friends, and there is less cultural immersion,” Maginn said.

Students who studied abroad agreed that living in apartments can be both positive and negative.

“It’s nice to live with other Monmouth students, but it is easy to stay just with the people you’re living with, and the

“We’ve had some issues with [the school] not guaranteeing that courses would be available for students to have the exact class that they needed towards graduating... maybe Regents isn’t the right match for us today.”

JON STAUFF, PH.D.
Vice Provost for Global Education

apartments can be spread out,” said Moore.

“Some [of the apartments] are really dated, and some are far from the classes and some are close,” Moore said. “The apartments are also all different. Some are nicer than others. None of them have air conditioning, and I was surprised when I got there how hot it really was, and I feel like I wasn’t told that.”

Jackie O’Dor, a junior business administration student who studied abroad in Florence during the summer 2017 program, said that some students on the trip with her lived in apartments that were more than a 20-minute walk from campus. O’Dor added that these students were not informed that their housing would be as far as it was.

“When I first got there, it was eye-opening,” said Moore. “[The GEO] tell you that you shouldn’t walk alone. Everyone has classes at different times. [Walking alone] was scary, because we usually travelled in groups.”

According to Stauff, the homestay option is not provided in all locations due to cultural differences.

“Hispanic countries are more accepting of a homestay,” he

said. “A homestay in Italy is not a very attractive option to the Italian family in part because there are very few residence halls in Italy; if you went to an Italian university you would be living at home. The typical Italian family has their university-aged children living with them. That’s not as common in Spain. A homestay is fantastic. Unfortunately, some cultures don’t make that available to use in the same degree.”

“A homestay is optimal, but if those are not the goals of the student who wants to go abroad, do we force them to live in a homestay?” Stauff continued. “That’s a question the faculty could raise. The problem is, with the volume of students we sent to Italy and Florence, if we insisted on a homestay for each of those students, there aren’t enough homestays to meet the demand.”

However, according to the housing accommodations page of the Lorenzo de’ Medici website, “students attending LdM have various housing options... they can choose to live in homestays with a local Italian host.” The website elaborates on the benefits of a homestay, as well as stating that students “who are committed to learning the Italian language and deepening their knowledge of Italian culture” should choose this option.

According to Maginn, homestays are also beloved by students. The students engage with the families they are staying with, often staying in touch with them after the program ends.

“The homestays are a great option because you have the support

said that he believes students should wait until at least their fourth semester to go abroad.

Students must also be in good academic standing with no active judicial student conduct probation. According to Stauff, less than ten percent of students are rejected from the program, because the application is “self selecting” — he said that often students that did not reach the criteria often did not apply, leading to fewer rejections.

Courses at the host universities range in difficulty, according to students, with some schools being easier than others. Grades earned abroad, while recorded on a transcript, are not factored into a student’s grade point average (GPA).

“Certainly, the fact that your grades don’t count towards your GPA — you get credit for them, it’s like a transfer credit — I wasn’t aware of that,” said Frederick McKittrick, Ph.D., an associate professor in the history department, noting a potential problem with the academic rigor of the program. “The problem of ‘How do you transfer a B from Australia, what does that mean’ — well, there are agencies that do that, that know what different grades in different places mean. So one would think that would be pretty easy to get straightened out.”

“I don’t think classes [abroad] should factor into the Monmouth University GPA because I personally think study abroad is an escape,” said Christabel Tulashie, a senior political science student who studied abroad in London during the spring 2017 semester. “Study abroad is also a journey and part of that journey means going to new places and experiencing new things; you cannot fully indulge in these experiences if you’re worried about classes or exams.”

Students in Florence felt that their classes were very difficult at times, and were unprepared for the workload. While most courses were taught in English, some students in Florence also felt that their professors could be difficult to understand, and were even unhelpful at times.

“They told me classes were going to be really hard, but I was unprepared for how difficult they really were,” said Maraday. “They tell you that you go abroad for the experience and the academics, but the academics were really hard.”

Stauff also explained that courses and scheduling could sometimes be difficult, especially at Regents University in London.

“We’ve had some issues with [the school] not guaranteeing that courses would be available for students to have the exact class that they needed towards graduating,” said Stauff. “They had been shifting their calendars a bit, so that it’s increasingly difficult to get the classes we need to make the program work.”

Stauff said that in the two years he has been at Monmouth, he has noticed a decline in interest in the London program due to the dif-

Study Abroad: Students and Faculty Express Safety Concerns

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faculty in scheduling, saying that the academic program at Regents changes as the school changes.

“We set up shop with them 20 years ago when we didn’t have so many nursing majors and so many communication majors and so many health studies majors,” he explained. “We don’t have as many history and political science majors to take advantage of all the great things that Regents has. We have students who are looking for nutrition courses and radio production courses, and it’s hard to find those. Maybe Regents isn’t the right match for us today. Maybe the school in Italy isn’t the right match for us academically.”

According to Jonathan Kull, all of the study abroad programs are designed so that students can complete their general education requirements regardless of their program or major. However, in previous years, students did not receive their schedules until their arrival in the new country. Kull says timetables are now being provided in advance and the class modules will be set up the semester prior, hopefully removing some complications.

However, in situations where classes were not available, Kull said that he worked with students to select alternative classes to fall into their audits, and he pointed out that if a student marks a class as “necessary for graduation,” the foreign institution will offer it. Student schedule difficulties are resolved within a week of their reporting, he said.

McGuire, who had a problem with her classes upon arriving at Regents, agreed with the timeframe Kull provided, saying that the issue was “resolved quickly” and saying that Kull cleared up the confusion she had.

Students who studied at other locations also had difficulties with their schedules. According to Moore, all of the students in Florence had one advisor, who “was not helpful at all.”

“The scheduling is really bad because you need to get changes approved by both Monmouth University and the university you’re at,” said O’Dor, who also noted that the advisor at Lorenzo de’ Medici was unsupportive and difficult to get in touch with. “I was trying to switch out of a class and the move wasn’t being approved in time. The head of the department came to help with my schedule because they were having problems with the school [Lorenzo de’ Medici].”

Other students mentioned that their advisers had been more helpful, with Maraday calling her advisor from Florence in the fall of 2017 “delightful” and “very accessible.” Ingraffia said that her Australian adviser was helpful as well.

Maginn noted that summer programs were more popular with some student populations due to the more flexible scheduling – rather than taking a full semester’s worth of courses, students doing a summer session only take two classes.

“You’ve got to make the grades count,” said Maginn. “I have advocated for that ever since the beginning. Students pretty much do well.”

Stauff also remarked that fewer students are going abroad for academic reasons, but more for the cultural immersion and the opportunity to travel and experience other ways of life.

“If [students] are only treating study abroad as a party and vacation, I think that does not fulfill what the intention is, first and foremost: to study abroad,” Vujnovic said. “I think that we need to be balancing better the experience between studying and traveling and having fun. We all understand that we are dealing with [students] who will have fun, and they should have fun! They also should, as much as their budget allows them to, travel, and see different parts of the world. But the first and foremost goal of study abroad is to study, so academics should be as important to them there as they are here.”

“It depends on the person, but I have seen Monmouth students really not care about their courses,” said Maraday. She agreed that many study abroad students don’t take classes there seriously, and are more going abroad to have fun.

“I didn’t go to Florence for school, I went to go explore,” said Moore. “Honestly, especially with Monmouth kids, not so much other schools, Monmouth students didn’t re-

ally care. We just did not go for classes and studying. We wanted to travel.”

Concerns with scheduling and a lack of emphasis on the academics abroad led the GEO to create a new application system which made it mandatory for students to speak to their Monmouth academic advisor about the classes they would take abroad and how they would fit into the academic programs at the University, rather than having the conversation after their application was accepted.

Stauff also said that students needed to write a reflective essay upon returning to Monmouth so that the GEO can read about how the students have been changed by their time abroad. These essays show how students appreciate the experience as transformative both academically and personally.

However, there is currently no way of reviewing programs or possibly changing the schools in which they are based, according to Stauff.

“In the faculty, there’s concern that they haven’t had a voice in the past,” Stauff said. “These programs were created, by the administration, for reasons that may or may not have connected well with the academic project of the University. And at the time, those schools that we partnered with were great matches for Monmouth. But that was then. And you need to have ongoing program review and ongoing site visits, by both the administration and the faculty, to ensure that those sites are serving the University students well in the present day.”

Faculty Presence

Research within the field of global education indicates that having faculty from the home institution present to support students is the best practice, said Maginn.

The majority of the study abroad programs do not have faculty present during the time abroad. However, Stauff mentioned that he has visited each program at least once, and Marlys indicated that a faculty member always went to Italy during the summer program for “at least a week” and said that they also started sending a faculty representative during the

fall program within the past few years.

However, students indicated that they had not seen University faculty visiting the Italy program until the fall 2017 semester. Australia and London students said that their programs had no visits from University faculty.

“My predecessors did not visit programs regularly,” said Stauff. “They would send a faculty member or member of the staff once in a while.”

The Spain program has a University faculty member present for at least half of the six-week duration. According to Maginn, there have been previous years where she has gone the entire time. She emphasized that she “is not a chaperone,” instead serving as a point of support for students seeking help.

Lally agreed that Maginn’s presence, paired with homestays, was extremely helpful.

“Having her there to help gives students peace of mind and living with a family who knows the culture and is looking out for you is really important, and I think a lot of us were comforted having that extra support,” Lally said.

Maginn attributed her desire to go on the trip with the students to her role at the University. “One of the roles of an academic professor is to teach, and we know things. We have experience,” she explained. “I want to guide. I want to guide our students, and it is very good to have a faculty representative from Monmouth there. Students like to know that.”

“It would be really nice to have someone who is both American and knows Monmouth, but then knows the country well, to give advice, because they can understand both sides,” said Ingraffia.

Safety

Location

One major concern among students and faculty was the safety of the locations that they were studying abroad in.

Approximately ten percent of the Florentine population is made up of American study abroad students, according to Maginn, who noted that it was the second-most popular destination for American students. Research from 2014 in the Journal of American College Health indicates that the high population of American students and their seeming disregard for Florentine cultural values has led to high amounts of resentment among the city’s local population.

“I would say that I got a mixed vibe about the people of Florence,” said Maraday. “We keep them employed, because a lot of their economy relies on tourism, so they like having us here. However, the locals really don’t appreciate Americans screaming in the street. Americans, to Italians, are fat, loud, and annoying, and we felt like we were resented by the locals at times.”

“Both the environment of Florence itself, as well as the attitude

“It’s a potentially dangerous situation. Of course, something bad can happen anywhere. It’s a question of ‘Is it more likely to happen under these circumstances?’”

FREDERICK MCKITRICK, PH.D.
Associate professor of history



While studying abroad, students are encouraged to explore the city they are staying in and travel when they can. However, faculty worry this is taking priority over academic focus.

IMAGES TAKEN from monmouth.edu

Study Abroad: Global Oversight Committee Formed

ABROAD cont. from pg. 4

crime rate.”

Lally agreed that the move to Cadiz was better because the new city was more secluded, less touristy, and felt safer. She also said that everything was in one place.

Ingraffia said that despite living in an on-campus apartment in Australia, when an emergency concerning her roommate drinking too much and needing medical attention arose, it took emergency services more than an hour to respond to the incident.

“It was really scary in the moment,” Ingraffia said. “While my roommate was fine, it was worrisome that it took them so long to get there, because who knows what could have happened.”

“Regents University is in central London, which is one of the safest and most affluent areas of London,” said Tulashie. “I felt safe, not to mention that the university had key card doors which ensured that only students and staff with key cards could get into the compound.”

As of the fall 2017 semester, the Office of General Counsel and the GEO have been planning a review of their emergency services, according to Stauff. The protocols are being reviewed “at the cabinet level” and he said that they are likely to be done by spring break.

“I feel very strongly that they are adequate for our needs, and certainly we also have been discussing adding additional protocols,” said Stauff. “This office has been working with the Vice Presidents of Student Life and Administration [Mary Anne Nagy and Patti Swannack], and the Chief of Police [William McElrath], reviewing products that we can add to our existing emergency response system to enhance the response for study abroad students, as well as for international students on our campus.”

Drinking Culture

Safety issues and drinking culture within the study abroad sites were closely related, according to

both students and faculty.

“Most of us tried to have mutual respect for the culture [of Florence], but there are also stupid people who are abroad,” said Maraday. “It’s a mixed bag. The majority of us are respectful. The other percentage [of study abroad students] went to go get drunk and get lit. It’s really easy to go out and drink. The bars in the area know their target audience. They specifically have deals for college students. They create Facebook groups, they have no cover charge for Americans at times, so it’s really hard to escape the drinking culture there.”

McKitrick added that while some students are going for academic and cultural reasons, others may be going abroad to “get smashed out of their minds.”

Both professors and students indicated that it was concerning that students who were underage in the United States were of age abroad, and some of them did not know how to handle their liquor or how to deal with a new drinking culture.

“To be frank, I believe Americans need to get with the program: the other half of the world does not binge-drink the way we do,” Lally said. “They just don’t. Or, if you think they do, you see they eat in between drinks with tapas or nurse their drink. It’s just different.”

Disclosure of Statistics

According to Stauff, students abroad report very few crimes back to the University. However, when they are reported, they are disclosed through the Clery Act, which is a federal statute that requires all colleges and universities that participate in federal financial aid programs to keep and disclose information about crime on and near their respective campuses.

While the Clery Act makes this data readily available to the public, statistics involving crimes reported abroad are combined with crimes committed on Monmouth’s campus, making them indistinguishable from each other.

folks don’t always realize that almost all jobs require some form of communication. Even if the students didn’t get all of their questions answered today, it’s someone they can go back to. It’s a comfortable way of learning.”

Much like the professors, the students found Major Caffeine Buzz to be every effective. “What stuck out to me was how approachable all the faculty there was,” said freshman psychology student Brittany Macaluso. “While speaking with the World Language Department I found out that a study abroad trip to France is in the works for next year and that is something I’d be interested in.”

Macaluso spoke highly of the professors who were representing their respective departments. “Obviously, they tried to sell their program as much as they could but once you started to talk to them about what you are interested in they all knew how to alter the conversation and offer advice of classes to take that would help you achieve what you want,” she said. As a result of the counseling she received, she is scheduled to meet with her

The most current statistics available right now for the 2017-2018 report only have data collected through the 2016 academic year.

“Just as bad things happen at Monmouth, sometimes bad things happen abroad, but we don’t want students to feel that they’re on their own,” Stauff said. “We don’t distribute crime statistics to the students, and there’s very little we can say about one particular incident because of FERPA.”

Global Education Oversight Committee

According to faculty and administrators, a Global Education Oversight Committee is currently being established. The goal of the committee is to give faculty more awareness and input on what is going on academically at the study abroad sites.

“There is an increasing amount of interest in global education,” said Stauff, who said he has been trying to develop a committee like this since he arrived at Monmouth in February 2016. “The faculty are concerned that they haven’t had a voice in the past.”

“I felt very strongly that the lack of a systemic review by faculty of these programs had led to a situation that the partner institutions may or may not have been serving the students of today,” Stauff continued. “They definitely served the students of 20 years ago, but are they serving the students of 2018? I’ve worked in this field for years, and I felt that many of these partners are not the ones that Monmouth needs today. There are better ones out there. However, I wasn’t comfortable making that decision unilaterally. I felt that any changes needed to be vetted by the faculty and their recommendations to the provost would bring about the necessary change.”

While Stauff said he introduced the idea of an oversight committee in February 2016, Eugene Simko, Ph.D., Chair of the Faculty Council and associate business professor, said that the

“It was brought to our attention back in the fall that there may have been some issues regarding the academic oversight, the quality of the academic experience, in not only one given individual area, but in all of the areas. It was enough for us to sit down and meet with the president and the provost to express faculty council’s concerns.”

EUGENE SIMKO, PH.D.,
Chair of the Faculty Council, associate professor

faculty council did not express their concerns until the fall 2017 semester.

“It was brought to our attention back in the fall that there may have been some issues regarding the academic oversight, the quality of the academic experience, in not only one given individual area, but in all of the areas,” Simko said, noting that there had also been some safety concerns that he could not comment on since he was not privileged to any specific details or information. “It was enough for us to sit down and meet with the president and the provost to express faculty council’s concerns.”

Members of the University community might be confused with the idea that Stauff has been trying to develop a committee and it has taken until February 2018 for the Faculty Council to form one. It is unclear what the delay was, and when asked if a specific incident had led to its sudden formation, Dimenna said that he was “not the catalyst behind forming the committee” and “I can’t speculate as to why that committee was formed.”

According to Vujnovic, who will be the chair of the committee, they are currently in the process of searching for candidates. Qualifications necessary include being interested in and knowledgeable in the field of global education. According to Simko, the committee will

include four tenured professors and two professors who may or may not be tenured, all from a variety of schools on campus.

Simko said that the committee would be appointed hopefully by the beginning of spring break. Vujnovic said that once the committee was appointed, they would start to work “immediately.”

“There might be a list of things to prioritize, but that’s going to be discussion in the committee,” Vujnovic said. “Some of these things may be perceived as more urgent than the others, too – for instance, whether we should count the GPA or whether there should be a language requirement, among other things.”

Audrey Conforti, a sophomore health studies student who will be studying abroad in Florence in the summer, hopes that these issues are addressed and that changes are made soon.

“I’m leaving in less than four months, and I hope study abroad and the faculty council will be accountable, and that my study abroad experience will be better than those who have gone before me,” she said. “I want to be certain the University has their students’ best interests in mind.”

“Major Caffeine Buzz” Event Aims to Help Students Choose Between Possible Majors

JERRY TROTTA
STAFF WRITER

University students made their way to Anacon Hall in the Rebecca Stafford Student Center to learn of potential majors in a speed-dating style meeting with faculty on Tuesday, Feb. 20.

This was an open-door event where students were invited to walk in at any time between the hours of 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Major Caffeine Buzz offered an opportunity for undeclared students or those considering a change of major to analyze possible majors and receive career advice from faculty. The event was part of the Transformative 10 series, a set of events that was created based off of student survey data that indicated that University students wanted more career preparation opportunities.

Anthony Urmeý, Director of Transfer Services and Undeclared Students at was responsible for organizing the event.

“It was heavy-lifting, which any new event will be because you’re creating everything from scratch,” Urmeý said, mentioning that there

had been some issues marketing the event to students. “I feel that many of the marketing challenges were not specific to our program. Between classes and extra-curricular activities, work, and family obligations, most students have busy schedules. It’s difficult to find time to attend events.”

Anacon Hall was filled with tables, each labeled for a separate undergraduate department, including career services. According to Urmeý, there was a representative of every undergraduate department, including a representative from career services and two undeclared counselors.

“Faculty are an amazing resource for information and connections in your chosen profession,” Urmeý continued. “Additionally, your classmates today will be your colleagues tomorrow. Start networking now; create a LinkedIn page; develop a personal brand. All these actions will pay dividends.”

Lorna Schmidt, Director of Advising of the Communication Department, said “It was a good way to meet face to face with students to inform them on the major. Most

advisor to switch from a psychology to a social work major and declare a minor in psychology.

Sabina Sheikh, a freshman political science student, was considering a minor in criminal justice, communication, or English. As a result of the event she was seriously considering criminal justice as a double major.

“One of the professors, the Chair of the Criminal Justice Department, helped me pick classes that were related to my major,” said Sheikh.

“We are always looking for ways to provide students critical information in an eye-catching sort of way,” said Mary Anne Nagy, Vice President for Student Life and Leadership Engagement. “It is also important for students to explore all of their areas of interest through learning about majors and I think this accomplished this.”

The education department proved to be one of the more popular of the undergraduate departments that students visited. “I spoke with three students,” said Kathryn Lubniewski, a faculty advisor at the event. “We were talking about the requirements of getting into education and taking the CORE exam early. The CORE is an online exam that comes in 3 parts;

reading, writing and math. Education majors have to take this for entry into education,” Lubniewski added.

“I feel that it is a common misconception that college students don’t need to start career preparation until senior year,” said Urmeý. “In my opinion, this couldn’t be further from the truth. We hope to impart to students that career preparation and exploration should start during their first year. We want them to feel confident that they are choosing a good fit for their career path.”

A future event in the Transformative 10 series is the Locke and Leadership Panel, which will be held later in the semester and help students develop a knowledge base and skills that can translate to numerous professions. According to Urmeý, all students who attend a Transformative 10 event will receive an invitation to the Capstone Dinner on April 23, where featured speaker Susan Vitale will speak about searching for a great career in the current job market.

Annual Kortney Rose Foundation Fundraiser Held by University Students and Former Staff Members

JOY MORGAN
ENVIRONMENTAL/ASSISTANT NEWS
EDITOR

Monmouth students joined efforts to fundraise for pediatric brain cancer research across the tri-state area in collaboration with the Kortney Rose Foundation (KRF) on Saturday, Feb. 24 and Sunday, Feb. 25.

Over the weekend, volunteers partnered with 16 different Turning Point restaurants, including one in Pier Village. The volunteers would raise awareness for the need of funding for pediatric brain tumor/central nervous system research while offering customers the opportunity to support the cause through donations from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm.

This weekend the volunteers successfully raised \$74,000, compared to \$57,300 last year. The fundraiser is an annual event that has been happening since 2010 and has raised about \$325,000 over the years to support research through the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) due to efforts by the KRF.

The KRF is a non-profit organization that was founded by Kristen Gillette, a former secretary of the University's political science and sociology department from 2010-2017 and former assistant to the editor of Monmouth's magazine. Gillette's daughter, Kortney, was diagnosed with a rare brain tumor, brainstem glioma, in 2005 and had been treated at CHOP herself during her battle with the disease.

The KRF was founded in 2006 after Kortney had passed.

It was at this time that Gillette temporarily left Monmouth University, later to return to fill a secretarial position until she left to run the foundation full time in spring of 2017. The organization now has raised

nearly \$2 million for research on pediatric brain and central nervous system tumors with the intention of discovering better treatments and potential cures.

Gillette said, "the vision of the KRF is to create a world

where brain tumors are curable. My personal mission is to raise significant research funding to accelerate treatments and cures."

According to CHOP, central nervous system tumors (tumors of the brain and spine) are the most common solid tumor in children. There are approximately 4,500 new brain tumors each year, and they are the most common of cancer deaths.

"The Turning Point fundraiser is so much fun because we get to go out and interact with people, spread awareness on pediatric brain tumors, and collect donations to fund research in order to find a cure," said volunteer and junior education student, Bryanna Roos. "Too many children and families are affected by this disease so I'm really glad I'm able to help make a change."

Roos teamed with Kathryn Ziegler, another University student, at a Turning Point in Marlton over the weekend in support of the KRF.

Ziegler, a junior business student, said, "I'm so happy to have the opportunity to volunteer this weekend. The KRF funds research for such an important cause and I'm so glad I can help out."

Support for this cause is shared across the Monmouth community, especially in faculty who have known Gillette for the years that she has worked at the University.

Johanna Foster, Ph.D., Director of the Sociology Department and an assistant professor of sociology, said she had developed a strong friendship and positive work relationship with

Gillette while she worked in the department, and the friendship has continued post-Gillette's departure.

"When we first met I was just amazed by her ability to withstand such a tremendous loss and be able to transform that loss into such a wonderful gift for so many families and children. She is really a hero to all of us in the department of political science and sociology," said Foster.

Foster said that Gillette's time at Monmouth educated many of the members of the department of the need for research of pediatric brain tumor research. She was also very supportive of many of the work study students, who in turn have volunteered in local schools, runs, and other fundraising events that Gillette has put together.

Amongst the inspired faculty is Associate Dean in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Nancy Mezey, Ph.D., who is also the associate professor of sociology.

"Supporting the Kortney Rose Foundation is worth my time because childhood brain tumors are such a huge and important issue and so few people know about the devastating consequences of this disease. I want to help the Foundation raise awareness and fund research to end childhood brain tumors," said Mezey.

The Kortney Rose Foundation is currently seeking students to fill social media and various related internship roles for the organization. If interested, contact Kristen Gillette via email at kortenyroseorg@gmail.com

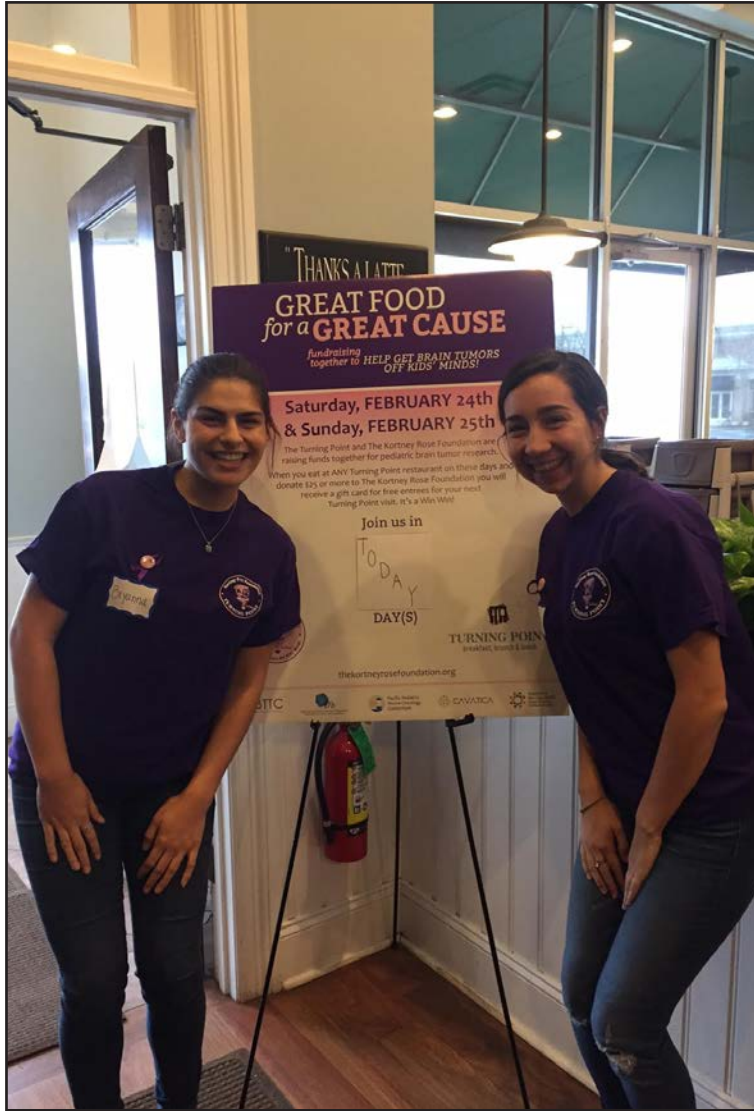


PHOTO COURTESY of Bryanna Roos

Students Bryanna Roos (left) and Katherine Ziegler (right) volunteered at the annual event.

University SGA Presents Workshop at Annual Conference

MEHDI HUSAINI
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

A delegation from the University's Student Government Association (SGA) held a workshop for other leadership organizations from across the country at the annual Conference on Student Government Associations (COSGA) on Feb. 24th in Houston, TX.

The event consisted of three days of workshops and guest speakers for student government delegations in attendance, from the 23rd to the 25th. Seven students represented Monmouth: Karla Almanzar, Jabriel Belhadj, Amalia Giraldo, Mehdi Husaini, Jihad Johnson, Leslie Valdez, and Vincent Welch. The students were accompanied by Director of Off-Campus and Commuter Services and Advisor to SGA, Vaughn Clay, Ed.D.

The presentation given by the University's SGA, entitled "Breaking Through Barriers" was a summary of the obstacles the organization faced this year, with accompanying strategies on how to bring a student leadership organization together to accomplish the year's goals.

"[The purpose of] our presentation was to allow other universities to see how we function as a Senate, and our structure on how we do things," said Jihad Johnson, a senior communication student who represented Monmouth. He described that the presentation was created to address the theme of the conference this year, "Beyond All

Limits," by showing how SGA broke through barriers to accomplish tasks for the year.

For Johnson, getting things accomplished this year started with the creation of a cohesive, close-knit team of Senators. "One of the things we identified that we thought was very important was that you can be your own barrier," he said, "We explained to the other universities that our [annual SGA] retreat, our group bonding, our social events that we do together help us establish a relationship with each other which ultimately transfers over to our work." The delegation's presentation showed that that this was apparent in community involvement initiatives, like the Big Event and hurricane relief efforts, which were made possible with strong relationships between members of SGA.

Clay pointed to the implementation of an interactive segment of the workshop as a main highlight, with its success indicating that it evidences that participants are invested in the content being put forth by the presenters.

"On one side of a popsicle stick, [attendees] write a goal or something they want to accomplish short term or long term, and on the other side they would write a barrier that is preventing them from reaching that goal," said Jabriel Belhadj, junior communications student, describing the nature of the interactive element. The participants are then instructed to break the popsicle

stick, in hopes that they understand that barriers can be overcome in order to achieve their goals.

The event also marked a historic change of scenery from previous events attended by the SGA. Where in earlier years, COSGA was held at Texas A&M University, the event was held in the city of Houston for 2018. According to Clay, the event has been held at Texas A&M since 1981, making this the first change in venue in 37 years. Monmouth has sent delegations every year since the 1990's.

Amanda Brockriede, Senior Director of University Engage-

ment and Advisor to SGA said that the conference important for students to attend because it "Strengthens [students'] network, sharpens professional development and public speaking skills." Ideas like the Big Event and activities promoting school spirit have all been brought back from COSGA, according to her.

"SGA as an organization has a story, and I think it's something that needs to be shared with the other colleges and universities," said Clay, "I think [SGA] also has an obligation as one of the leading organizations at Monmouth University to... contribute something to that learn-

ing experience."

Clay explained that the switch to a Houston conference presents several logistical benefits, in that travel this time around was much easier.

The only downside he sees is that students were not able to see firsthand the drastic differences between the two Division I schools.

"It's a good opportunity for me to learn from other leaders and bring back ideas for me to implement in my organizations on campus," said senior economics and finance major Vincent Welch in regarding attending the conference, "Plus I've never been to Texas before so it's a great way for me to experience something new."

Johnson and Belhadj hope to bring back new ideas to their student government to better involve the freshman class by giving them more ways to take on leadership positions and transition to college life in a more meaningful way, an idea inspired by a presentation from the University of Southern Alabama.

"I've always felt that we might be coming to a conference that has colleges and universities that are in some ways much larger than we are and also in some instances much smaller than we are," said Clay, "We still have a voice and message, and we can be teaching something to a campus of sixty thousand just as much as we can be learning something from a campus of 500."



PHOTO COURTESY of Jabriel Belhadj

SGA delegates represented the University at the annual Conference on Student Government Associations (COSGA)

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Traveling Safely

EDITORIAL STAFF

Spring break is an opportunity for many students to shed the stresses of school and embark on a journey like no other. Leisure time, either at home or away, is often rejuvenating. While some students are going abroad and traveling to far destinations, practicing safe and efficient travel is a common concern.

More often than not, editors felt that practicing safe travel methods didn't hurt, but that it really depends where one was traveling to, and who they were traveling with.

"When traveling with friends or family I'm usually less worried, but when I'm traveling by myself I'm usually much more worried. It's usually minor concerns like theft or pickpocketing or getting lost and winding up in a dangerous area," said one editor.

Another editor added an example. "I was at Atlantis Bahamas and, although the resort is relatively safe, if you go outside the perimeter, you'll probably get mugged. Also, I think Americans are often naive—and natives can totally recognize that. If someone is in a country that doesn't speak English, he/she automatically becomes a target to people who are looking to pick-pocket etc."

Other editors were not so concerned about their safety when with others, but offered concern for women specifically. "I don't have many concerns when traveling, because I'm always with my family and friends. However, if I were traveling by myself, which my parents probably wouldn't let me do, I would definitely be on guard," the editor said.

"As a male, I'm not really a target to rapists/perverts. It's sad that women and girls have to be on heightened guard because perverted men can't act properly; they should be able to go out with their group of friends without the fear of being sexually assaulted/kidnapped. The language and culture barrier definitely complicates things, too," the editor continued.

The editors offered some advice for travel safety based on their own experiences. "Firstly, knowing where you are going will enhance your experience - you'll know good places to go, etc., instead of wasting time researching there. Secondly, it does help with the safety aspect - you know what areas may be dangerous, and you know what to be concerned about. Preparation can't be 100 percent preventative, but it definitely helps," said one editor.

The editor also recommended brushing up on a language when traveling somewhere that doesn't natively speak English.

"You don't have to be fluent but having some knowledge helps. Especially basic phrases - 'hello', 'goodbye', 'thank you', 'where is...'. Those were always the things I learned, and that helped a lot while I was abroad," the editor suggested. "Being able to just say a few words makes people think you're trying, and it usually means you get a warmer reception from local populations."

"It is very important to research a new area when the area is foreign to you. Culture can vary from as near as one hour from where you are from. You want to make sure you know if there are common crimes just as much as fun things to do," an editor added.

Editors also agreed that drinking responsibly is a good idea, especially in a foreign environment.

"When I go out, I make sure that someone knows where I am, that I don't have more than one drink, and not to mention that I am by myself - even if I say I'm with a friend who is back at a hostel or something. I also keep an eye on my surroundings," an editor said.

"My primary focus while traveling is usually to actually travel. I am not much of a drinker, so that was never really a concern of mine. I think drinking culture is definitely super different in other places - America is drinking to get drunk drinking, but in a lot of other countries it's much more chill. However, I think people

don't realize that," the editor continued.

Another piece of advice the editors offered was to stick together when possible. "The buddy system is my go to protection when I am out on the town. If you have good buddies the system works, if you have reckless and unreliable buddies the system is useless and at items puts you at greater risk," the editor said.

Another editor offered an approach for safety when alone. "For me if I am in a questionable area at night, I just try and not look scared or worried. People are good at reading if you are scared or not and people can pray upon those people. If you have confidence, you will be less likely to have any problem," the editor said.

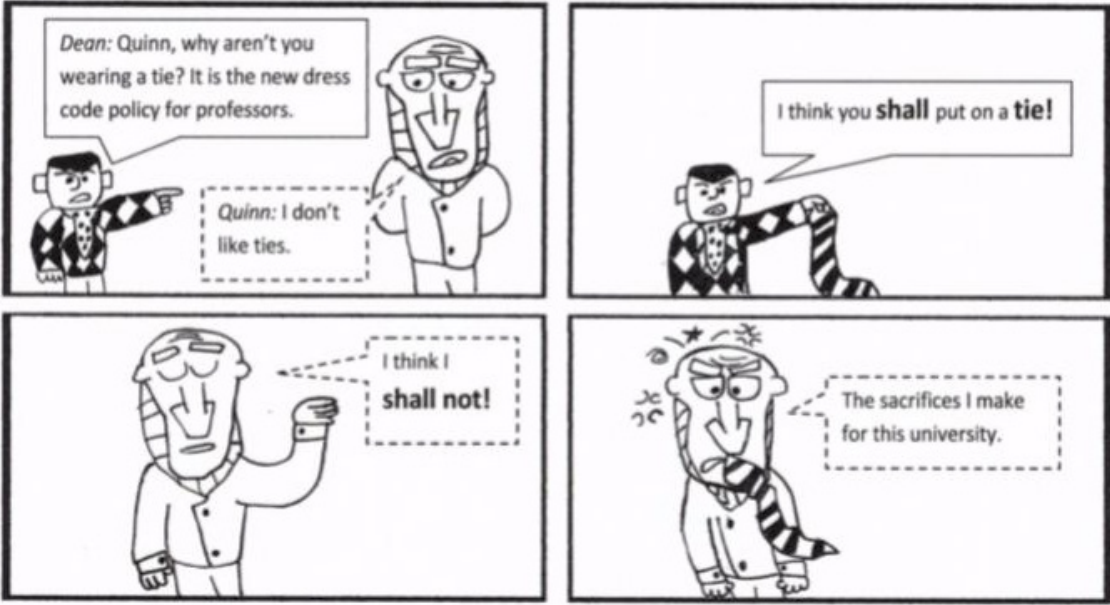
"When traveling I am there to enjoy and be considerate of the company I am visiting or traveling with, my focus is following the heart of the group and enjoying ourselves as a collective. Drinking is not necessarily important to travel, it is a matter of preference and lifestyle,"another editor offered.

"I personally would not want to go to the most beautiful place in the world just to get drunk. If you are going to Vegas however, maybe you would want to focus on partying and drinking. I have heard that other cultures drink more than Americans are used to and they get drunk a lot and uncontrollable, but I honestly not experienced this or many other cultures to provide an educated response," the editor continued.

All of the editors agreed that despite the safety risks, traveling is a great experience, that when done safely, can be life-changing and magical.

An editor said, "I really think that risks should never discourage anyone from going out there and seeing what the world has to offer. I think that just being safe and making smart choices is enough. Risk is everywhere, but the exposure to new and beautiful cultures, people, and experiences is something you won't find here."

Knowledge and Quinn by Brian Turczmanovicz



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SUNS Shoes: Aiming to Make the World a Little Brighter

KARALYN HOOVER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With all of the tragedy happening in recent years, one start-up company called SUNS Shoes is aiming to make the world a brighter and happier place for all.

Launched in the summer of 2017, SUNS Shoes set out the goal to kick-start a movement towards positivity in adults, teens and pre-teens who might not have the resources to do grand gestures for their community. SUNS focuses on encouraging positive thinking, gratitude, empathy, and random Acts of Kindness (AOKs) under their “BE KIND AND SHINE ON” rallying.

Holding open the door for someone, telling a friend how much they appreciate him or her, or even just helping a person in need are only a few ways to perform AOKs. The founders were inspired by research on how the community is affected and positive psychology of performing simple AOKs, and by the invigorating energy of the sun.

Shoes for both women and children, each style of SUNS is uniquely designed to transform when exposed to sunlight, shifting to more vibrant tones and patterns. Changes can occur in the canvas, rubber sidewall and laces of the shoes. The shoes may be completely white inside, but step into the sunlight and the shoes change to blue right before your eyes.



IMAGES TAKEN from sunsshoes.com

SUNS shoe company is promoting the idea of random Acts of Kindness that they term, AOKs. The company has hashtagged on social media #AOKs to reinforce the idea.

Ariana Murdocca, a junior communication student explained, “Just looking at them and watching them change color makes me happy.” However, the product itself is a shoe, the brand focuses significantly on the message behind it.

After the Boston Marathon bombing in 2013, two young Boston locals, Kaya and Maddie wondered if the two bombers had more kindness in their lives maybe they would have never carried out such a heinous act. They remembered reading a news article about the two brothers disliking school and rarely getting along with their classmates. They thought, “Maybe if their formative years had

been a different experience, would the outcome of that fateful day have been any different?”

With that idea in mind, they created a program called The Happy Institute which aimed at teaching children kindness and compassion within the classroom.

Today, it has expanded to anti-bullying as well. “I’m impressed with the brand’s cause-related mission to spread kindness and positivity, especially among children and young adults, a demographic where dealing with peer judgement and bullying is unfortunately prevalent,” specialist professor of communication, Mary Harris commented.

SUNS Shoes has teamed up

with The Happy Institute to continue supporting their program so that this message of kindness may spread to more campuses nationwide.

“We looked around us and saw a lot of negativity in the world. It’s everywhere,” says Jeanette Kearney, one of the founders of SUNS. By influencing everyone to complete just one small act of kindness a day, SUNS will impact the world in an incredible way.

The brand additionally promotes kindness through their #AOKS on Instagram. Every week, their followers have an opportunity to win a free pair of shoes by simply doing something kind and posting about it on their

social media with the hashtag. After hearing about this promotion, Professor Alexis Nulle stated that, “SUNS leads by example with the organization’s marketing strategy to promote acts of kindness. This is a model all organizations should follow to spread good will.”

“SUNS was founded to promote the little things we can all do to make the world a sunnier place. It’s about remembering the sunlight right behind the rain, and feeling empowered to always give kindness and warmth where we can to help make our world brighter each day. SUNS shoes change color in the sun as a reminder of the power of positivity on our lives,” says Karen Dana, General Manager of SUNS Shoes.

Currently being an intern for the brand, seeing the #AOKs our followers post for us to see is really inspiring. Their positive messages have definitely encouraged me to be mindful to do something kind every day because you never realize how a small act of kindness can make someone’s day tremendously better.

SUNS Shoes will continue to spread joy and happiness through their vibrant designs, quality footwear, and culture of kindness and positivity all over campuses nationwide. Perfect for the upcoming spring weather.

They are available online at www.sunsshoes.com. Check them out on Instagram at @SUNSSHoes for more encouragements of kindness!

NOTHING BUT RESPECT FOR OUR [SGA] PRESIDENT: NICK VERZICCO

ALEXA OLAH
STAFF WRITER

It’s true that the energy we have within ourselves, has a direct impact on those around us. For junior business administration/finance student and Student Government President, Nicholas Verzicco, this impact is nothing but positivity and enthusiasm for Monmouth University.

Verzicco recalls, “I decided to come to Monmouth because of the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) program which has helped me tremendously in my Monmouth career. The extra support I was going to receive was very appealing to me. Also, the beauty of this campus really made me feel at home. In the sculpture garden by the Koi pond is where I decided that if I get into the EOF program I would come here.”

It was during the summer of 2015 five week EOF program where Vice President for Student Life and Leadership Engagement, Mary Anne Nagy first met Verzicco. Nagy said of Verzicco, “I’ve been here 32 years and have worked with a lot of student leaders, and I have to say, I think Nick is a pretty amazing young man.”

Nagy recalls her first impressions of Verzicco saying, “He’s funny, outgoing and he makes you feel good because he feels good and that’s important.”

As Student Government President and a Student Ambassador for the University, Verzicco knows he has the ability to influence his peers and other students.

Verzicco said, “Being a student leader on campus means that you

are a familiar face that students can go to for advice or direction. I take pride in being a student leader and I want my fellow peers to take pride in Monmouth.”

Being an Orientation Leader during summer 2016 and summer 2017, Verzicco was able to use his leadership skills not only to welcome incoming freshman, but also the other orientation staff as well.

Mary Fitzgerald, a senior mathematics and education student,

worked side by side with Verzicco as his partner during both summers. Fitzgerald recalls her experience working with Verzicco and said, “Nick is a person that can connect with anyone. He always has positive energy and can make anyone feel comfortable and at ease.”

Fitzgerald says that working with Verzicco taught her to be a better leader by being more confident in herself and staying true to who she is. “One of the greatest aspects of

working with Nick was having a partner that was constantly building me up and seeing our partnership as two equals,” she said.

This confidence and energy that many recognize in Verzicco, he said, comes from his background in martial arts. “I owe a lot of my success to my martial arts background. The confidence, motivation, and discipline that was instilled into me really has made me the person who I am today. Martial arts is where I

got my three E’s from: Energy, Effort, and Enthusiasm. I have lived by this and it’s really taken me far,” Verzicco said.

Verzicco’s leadership experience is not only limited to Monmouth University’s campus. Verzicco took his influence abroad as well when he participated in the Global Education Office’s Alternative Break program to Nicaragua in May 2016 and May 2017 as well as Haiti in January 2018.

A member of the 2017 graduating class, Zachary Bayles has witnessed Verzicco in many of his leadership settings. “After knowing Nick for a few years, I’ve seen how versatile he can be in any situation you put him in. Whether it’s touring the campus with potential students, filming every Monmouth sporting event, or even doing volunteer work in Haiti, he always puts his best foot forward and brings the same energy and enthusiasm everywhere he goes,” Bayles said.

Looking forward to his senior year and beyond, Verzicco reflects on how Monmouth has prepared him for the future.

“Monmouth has given me the skills and confidence that I would have never received anywhere else. I have traveled different places in the country and world gaining different perspectives,” Verzicco said.

“I have held different leadership positions, which have taught me responsibility, and gave me confidence so that I can tackle anything in my path. The diverse administration, faculty, and students that I have interacted with has made me sure I can work with anyone. Monmouth has helped me grow and reach for my full potential,” he said.



PHOTO COURTESY of Nicholas Verzicco

Recalling that he originally came to Monmouth for the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) program, Nicholas Verzicco, has flourished in the number of leadership roles he’s held since his start.

Doing it for the Art: Abstract vs. Traditional

MATTHEW AQUINO
ASSOCIATE GRAPHIC DESIGN EDITOR/
ADVERTISING MANAGER

Slap some color on a canvas, step back, call it a day, and sell it for \$50,000. To an untrained artist, this is the process they believe professionals such as Jackson Pollock, Ad Reinhardt, and Mark Rothko practiced as a means of arriving at a valid statement.

This narrow-minded approach as to how abstract art is observed as opposed to traditional art, is what has haunted abstract artists for decades; artists as such receive a great deal of criticism today from the young urban professionals in museums.

To an artist, nothing is more insulting than a blank canvas. Scott Knauer, Director of Galleries and Collections for the University's Art Department said, "It may take hours or even days to start to see something develop, but time goes by quickly after you get the painting started." The sustained burden of wonder hovers over the artists and demands a specific outcome.

Producing a work of art from the heart and having it rejected is detrimental to the artist's mindset and future creations; they present their work for the purpose of receiving feedback and gratification. The artist relies on the viewers' impressions in order to improve; benefits sometimes include a potential buyer, although, this is not always the case.

Nicki Robibero, a junior fine art student, shared her thought process on how she starts a painting: "My work has always been naturalistic. I think that in the upper level art classes there's definitely more of an opportunity to paint however you want."

Classical or traditional art follows a specific set of rules: the figures represented must be depicted as they are seen in nature, and the subject is defined by its context. Within traditional art are landscapes, portraits, or still-life representations.

Traditional and abstract art are both used as mediums of expression; contributing artists are also involved in countless movements portraying the horrors going on in the world today such as hunger, political differences, and wildlife conservation.

During the *Rare Wildlife Revealed* art exhibition on Feb. 9 in the Pollak art gallery, artist James Fiorentino had over 20 works on display; his hyper realistic watercolor paintings were admired by dozens of connoisseurs, potential buyers, and students.

After his brief introduction and descriptive background involved with the arts, a senior fine art student, Amanda Green said, "The paintings utilized classical techniques of fine art that reflected commonplace subjects and concerns of our community. It would be harder to connect to the viewer of these concerns or message if it [the paintings] were abstract."

Fiorentino sold eight paintings by the end of the night, suggesting that there must be a high demand for naturalism and traditional art. However, the advocacy of this project was a large part of the night's event and its purpose, so this may have been a factor as to why his paintings were so appealing.

Traditional art is straightforward. The viewer does not have much of a choice when it comes to understanding and interpreting

what the artist's intentions were. The traditional artist forces the viewer to see the work in a specific way. When observing something that is of course not as obvious as in traditional art, we are too quick to judge a book by its cover.

"When I'm starting a new painting, I begin by thinking about the overall composition and breaking the image down into basic shapes. From there, I continue adding more details as I see them, working inward," Robibero added.

This visible part is the end result of a concept and a process, which are just as important as what the viewer sees in front of them as well as what they comprehend from it.

Art, in general, is simply not a process of profiting from your work for self-benefit or just creating objects that are pleasing to the eye. Art, in whatever form, is about exploring and giving meanings to existing objects or finding new, creative ways to express ideas.

A junior graphic design student, Lauren Maraday shared, "If I designed or worked for the sole purpose of getting paid, I would have become a doctor. Although I started professionally selling my artwork this year through freelance, I have loved art since I was nine years old and ever since, I have grown a passion for art and design. I feel like it works with my personality."

Something that we may take for granted as humans is our ability to figure out how something works, to disassemble and use our imagination as well as problem solving skills to interpret something. We throw out instructions, determined to figure out how to put the desk together and we have our Chinese food delivered to us for dinner as opposed to driving five minutes away to pick it up.

Our attention span has presumably decreased significantly as a whole over the last decade due to our technological advances and our expectations have risen exponentially. This has been applied to abstract art since the average viewer is more or less confused as to why the artist created in a vague manner.

Our overexposure of advertisements and distractions in the digital media and commercial industry has led us to be an impatient society.

The immediate gratification and the lost ability to step back and appreciate an image for its entirety, has redirected our capability to lean into a work of art and note the fine details. Our eyes are no longer focused on one thing for a careful amount of time.

One example of abstract art is Jackson Pollock's painting, *Alchemy*. The painting in its literal sense includes drips, splashes, and a cigarette butt. However, if one were to review the large canvas from afar, the viewer can decipher Pollock's purpose reflecting his frustrations and anger toward the constraints of the art world.

Unfortunately, some cannot have the same experience with Caravaggio's painting, *Death of a Virgin* from the Renaissance, since what was painted is a story that has already been told. Technique, style, hard work, and context aside, art is meant to be interpreted through the eye of those willing to accept the feeling it gives them.

Erik Hanson, a member of the graduating class of 2017, studied fine art during his years at Monmouth. He added his point of

view on the topic, favoring traditional art, "Existing objects are inherently pleasing or not pleasing. Thus, we keep them the same, abstract them, or alter them to make them attractive. The definition of abstract expressionism is inherently subjective due to the transitive properties of the original definition of the word abstraction."

An overused inconsistency that fuels this argument is how some people favor traditional artwork over abstraction. Within abstraction, nonrepresentational art leaves interpretation up to the viewer; whereas traditional art is a definition of the identifiable.

Abstract art is a way of communicating ideas directed toward a single and passionate expression stressing on the feeling or idea of something rather than a literal representation; traditional art represents the world in familiar images.

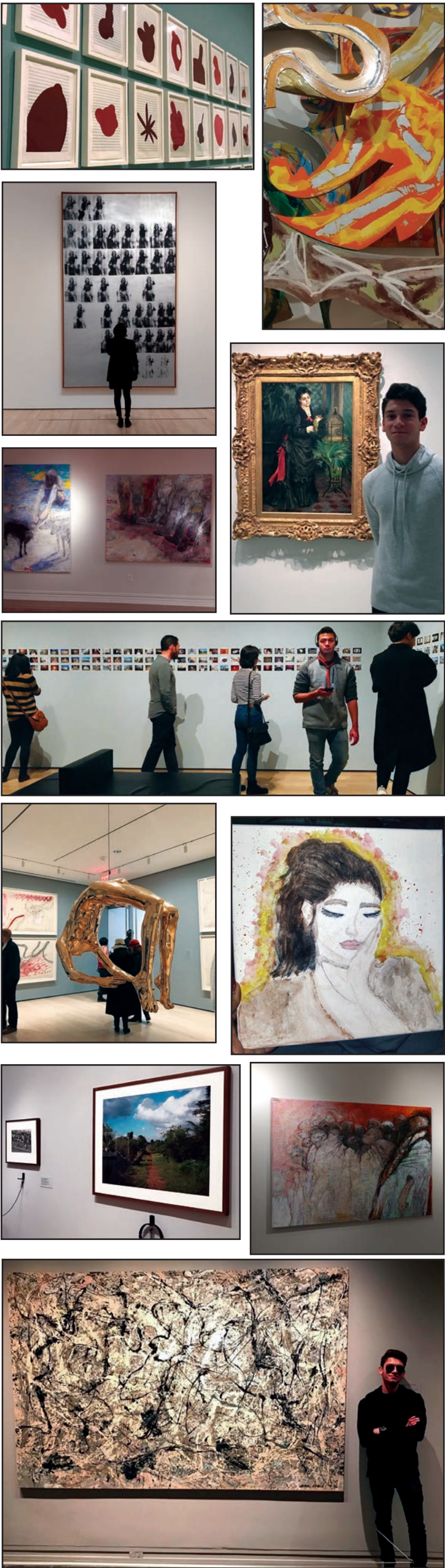
This was prevalent during the Renaissance with artists such as Michelangelo and Raphael painting with photorealism. Whereas Piet Mondrian and Wassily Kandinsky focused on a form's identity in a more conceptually based proposal. The two, although vastly different, incite a contentious debate within the art community—both viewer and artist alike.

Knauer reflected on his own journey as an artist: "For me, I painted realistically with oils early on and then got into acrylics. I started working with landscapes and worked with political and social commentary as well. But rather than going for something more direct or recognizable, the color and shapes are an indication of what I thought was important to me and relayed what I wanted to do."

Knauer is not the only artist to believe this, a sophomore graphic design student, Erin Dolan said, "I took black and white photography as a freshman, and I mainly focused on shadows and how light affects certain textures. We used 35 millimeter film cameras and knowing that you only have one chance to really pay attention and take the shot, opened my eyes to how appreciative I am toward abstract photographers like Paul Strand and Man Ray."

Assistant professor of graphic design, Mike Richison said, "For me, objective work (figurative, landscape, etc.) seems to be more about the subject and less about the material. The artist is trying to get the viewer to think about the story that exists in the 'picture' or 'image.' I think one of the goals of some forms of abstract work is the story behind the actual material."

It is apparent across all mediums: painting, photography, performance, and print, that abstract art searches deep within the viewer and is more of an exploration rather than an experience. When the viewer looks at traditional art, the piece does not leave room for interpretation. The technical aspect of the work is what most are drawn to and this limits their deeper thought processes. To think outside of the viewer's comfort zone is an idea that may seem intimidating or too much of a frightening endeavor for the untrained eye. Although abstract art presents the opportunity and the effect of illusion with images to convey a reality far from the art of traditional, it is important for the viewer to recognize a similarity within traditional art and identify with the forms and with the world they reside.



PHOTOS TAKEN by Matthew Aquino, Nicole Riddle, and Alexandria Afanador
Abstract art and traditional art have been pinned against each other in the art community for their vastly different viewers.

Introverts vs. Extroverts

CARLENE SANTOS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

We all have different personalities, preferences, and feelings. The topic of introversion vs. extroversion is something we all know about on the surface. But do we really know about it in depth? We all know or have met the “very talkative and outgoing” guy or the “quiet and private” girl, or vice versa. The traits we see are not the only thing or backing an introvert or extrovert.

Either of the two find enjoyment in different things or it could even be the way they talk. It could also be more along the lines of tending to curl up in bed and spend time alone, or the complete opposite of going out and be energized by being around others.

Being an introvert or extrovert is nothing to be ashamed about, it’s just simply the traits your carry. It’s said that introversion/extroversion is most strongly found through heredity and genetics. We see the simple givens of pointing out an introvert vs. extrovert.

When we go deeper to find out more about each, extroverts are more open, tend to enjoy large groups, and conversations. While on the other hand introverts are more reserved, enjoy more one-on-one conversations, and tend to listen more.

There are many speculations stating that introverts aren’t as happy as extroverts, which is completely false. Though the qualities of each may not one hundred percent fit your exact personality that you have, and we see many introverts giving off extroverted behaviors, and vice-versa.

Although, it feels like every-

one must belong to one of the two groups, some may not fit into one category and find themselves as being a combination of the two. Having both a mix of introversion and extroversion is called being ambivert. Ambiverts find qualities in both sides that are favorable or some that just come naturally to their personality. It’s said that 68 percent of population is made up of ambiverts.

Being an ambivert, there is a balance between two different sides, somewhat like being in the middle of the road. Personally, I identify as an ambivert. I enjoy conversations, going out, and I find that I am very outgoing. Yet on the other side, I enjoy lying in bed, taking a nap, or reading a book.

I find this alone time very enjoyable. It also helps me distress

and recover mentally. Being a business major, I recall in one of my classes last semester, we were told to take The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI).

The test is a widely-used personality questionnaire that indicates different psychological preferences on how people perceive the world around them and make decisions. There are 16 types of results one can get, ranging from what you answered for the questions. The results gave an accurate depiction of the kind of person you are.

On campus, we see different people every day. Though we can’t make these judgements right off the bat about a person, think about the kind of person you are, whether you are an introvert, extrovert, or even an ambivert.



PHOTO TAKEN by Nicole Riddle

Curling up with a good book might mean that you are an introvert, or an ambivert that just appreciates alone time.

Winter Weekends

KIERSTEN BECHT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If there is one thing I’ve learned so far throughout my three years of college, it is that Loverboy’s “Working for the Weekend” is not only an absolute jam, but that it’s lyrics speak volumes.

Sure, the song is about going out, having fun, and finding love—which may or may not be your cup of tea—but one thing we can all agree on is that the weekend marks a 48-hour window of sweet, sweet freedom.

Each morning the deafening sound of the alarm clock blares through our rooms and after hitting the snooze button one too many times, we manage to drag ourselves out of our Tempurpedic cocoons and face the day ahead of us.

Maybe I’m biased since I am a student, but I give us a whole lot of credit; we’ve got to balance school, work, clubs, a social life and whatever else is going on in our lives and repeat the process day after day.

That is until weekend rolls around and all bets are off as soon as the clock strikes 4:10 p.m. on Thursday afternoons. (Do yourself a favor, avoid Friday classes whenever possible, hello three-day weekend!) Since I know that I will be, “working for the weekend” for years to come, I’ve made a personal vow with myself to truly squeeze out every last ounce of fun and make the most of what little freedom I have.

For me, that has meant hopping in my car straight after class on Thursdays and driving 5 hours to Vermont to ski. This has been my routine each week since the beginning of the semester and I can attest that I have, indeed, enjoyed myself and have created something to look forward to whenever I find myself drowning in homework and priorities.

Sure, my “routine” is hectic; I get on the road by 4:15 p. m. on Thursday, drive straight to Londonderry, VT and arrive by 9:15 p. m. on the dot. I ski all of Friday, and until 4 pm on Saturday, hop in my car, trek back to NJ, then go to work all day Sunday and before I know it, it’s Monday again!

By no means am I saying that you have to follow in my footsteps and take a weekly road trip, but I definitely recommend planning little excursions with yourself or your friends because it creates an element of excitement for the upcoming weekend.

It can act as inspiration to power through the stack of worksheets, readings and all the other priorities you’ve been putting off for so long. (No shame, we’ve all been there.)

Monmouth is situated in a prime location and there is no shortage of weekend activities to partake in both on and off campus! If skiing and snowboarding are your thing, there’s plenty of mountains within a three-hour radius, and an abundance of hiking trails in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania once the temperatures begin to rise.

Heading to the beach is also a no-brainer since we are less than one-mile from the ocean. If you are into the Metropolitan scene, both New York City and Philadelphia are only an hour away, or better yet, Asbury Park is just minutes from campus!

However you choose to spend your weekends, just remember to make the most of them, because Monday will be here sooner than you think.

Global Warming and Alpine Sports Don’t Get Along

JOY MORGAN
ENVIRONMENTAL/ASSISTANT NEWS
EDITOR

Imagine, a bright icy cool morning, on the peak of a tall white mountain, strapped to your skies and ready to ride. All of a sudden, this jerk, named climate change, comes and pisses all over the snow. Now that the snow is melted and the mountain looks like crap, it is totally useless.

The kicker is, climate change claims it was your fault that he melted the snow, because you have been off messing with other beautiful places like forests and streams. He says “why should you care if the snow is melted, you can make more can’t you? Oh wait, resources are limited? Should have thought of that before!”

Climate change claims that your method of cutting trees for ski paths, making snow, and the energy used to maintain your hobbies and sports, are actually the reason why he melted all of your snow.

How rude. You were just trying to enjoy sports mountain top like human nature calls for.

These days it is so hard to maintain our beloved winter sports. With the perpetually warming average global temperature, naturally occurring snow is less frequent than in the past.

Considering water is now a very precious resource, and drought is causing war and death globally today... snow-making

may need to come to an end soon; or we could just live without water.

Winter sports require a lot of massive machines which require a lot of fossil fuel for energy to clear paths through mountains for skiing and snowboarding. Apparently, this process seems to piss off our friend climate change even more because carbon and greenhouse emissions make him “too hot” or something.

Our flawless and thoughtful human made paths affect the soil and water on and around the mountain. It seems that cutting trees and flattening the land and plants is bad for the environment and threatens species existence and biodiversity of local plant and animal wildlife.

That is definitely a bummer because it is always nice to see cute winter critters on my ski trips while on the mountain. Luckily, I would rather have the sight of ski lift wires, tossed cigarette cartons, and muddled ski trails.

Back to the issue of climate change messing everything up. It turns out, that literally in the best case scenario, it is predicted that snow cover will decline by 18 percent by 2030 and by 39 percent by 2070, according to a study done by Bicknell and McManus in the School of Geosciences at the University of Australia. In other words, it is only getting worse. Not to

worry though, in the mean time the resorts will make sure to borrow some water directly from local aquifers and suck em’ dry to make sure there is enough snow for us to play on. Sorry marine life you’re SOL.

Must I even bring up the fact that we have to drill and manufacture piping to suck that water up, and then get some huge machines to permanently embed them into dense soil and rock upon steep inclines. Oops! Was there a family of mountain beavers there? I hope you like playing wack-a-mole because we are ready to force a metal pipe straight into your home!

Machine grading to flatten these habitats out wouldn’t be a big deal if it wasn’t that compact soil leads to a higher volume of water run-off, which can flood local streets and rivers. This actually happened at a place called, Zubska River, according to an Environmental Management study.

It was also found by The British Ecology Society that compact soil also has a lower fertility rate. So plants struggle to grow, erosion and run off continue, and various animal and anthropod species are at risk of endangerment due to habitat quality decline, and resource scarcity.

At this point I can’t decide which makes me more uncomfortable, mass extinction in the animal kingdom, or humans houses being washed away in a

flood. Maybe both are fine, as long as we can keep skiing.

So we now know the reconstruction of the mountain destroys habitats, and causes scarcity in resources, but just for clarification we can check out an impact study done by Springer Science and Business Media. This study showed that ski lifts and wires are responsible for the endangerment of many bird species like Ptarmigans.

Creatures living on these mountains also suffer heightened amounts of stress due the construction, human activity, and machines.

Poor cute babies.

The death of thousands of animals is necessary for a good day on the mountain, and some human death will probably be ok too! We could decide to enforce more sustainable practices at alpine resorts, or we could wait and see what gets us first: unbearable heat from our greenhouse emissions, or death by dehydration! Don’t worry, no matter the global climate, all of us Olympic skiers will always have some fresh pow pow to shred!

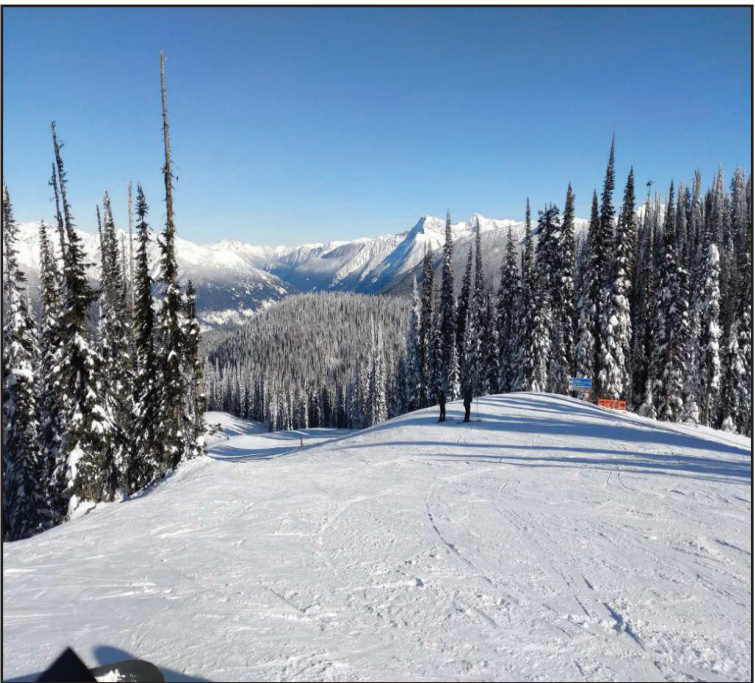


PHOTO TAKEN by Caroline Mattise

Climate change is affecting the snow-covered peaks used for skiing.

Professors Respond to School Shooting

JOHN E HENNING PH.D.
PROFESSOR AND DEAN SCHOOL OF
EDUCATION

ROBIN S. MAMA PH.D.
PROFESSOR AND DEAN SCHOOL OF
SOCIAL WORK

In the 1950’s and ‘60’s, school children across the country learned to defend themselves against a potential nuclear strike by climbing under their desks. Fortunately, that threat never materialized. Today’s school children are not so lucky; they are under attack.

Like their predecessors, today’s children are also taught to hide under their desks in case of attack. Unlike the 50s and 60s, invasions from gun wielding intruders has become an ever-present reality. A *Washington Post* analysis has reported “over 150,000 students attending at least 170 primary or secondary schools have experienced a shooting on campus since the Columbine High School massacre in 1999.”

In the hours and days that follow one of these tragedies, we are unified as a nation in our feelings of outrage, shock, disgust, fear, and intense sorrow for our children, their teachers, and

the school staff. Unfortunately, our shared sense of loss has not led to the prevention of school shootings.

easy access to guns. As Deans of Education and Social Work, we believe a comprehensive approach to the problem is needed.

“In the hours and days that follow one of these tragedies, we are unified as a nation in our feelings of outrage, shock, disgust, fear, and intense sorrow for our children, their teachers, and the school staff.”

This is in stark contrast to the measures taken to stop airline hijackings in the 1970s. After it became clear that terrorists were determined to use hijacking as a political platform, a concerted effort was made to solve the problem, and today airline hijackings are rare occurrences. Schools should be as safe as airports. We owe that to our children.

However, there is widespread disagreement concerning how to prevent school shootings, whether it be through increased school security, addressing mental health issues, or prohibiting

First, schools should continue to step up their efforts to limit access to schools, employ the latest technologies to immediately secure a school when threatened, and to develop the fastest response possible from local law enforcement officials.

Second, every school needs social work services built in to the fabric of the education process. Social workers and teachers must work together to assist children and families in need of additional support. We must provide the resources needed to teach our children, their families, and their communities how

to deal with disappointment, anger, and intense emotion.

Third, we also believe the discourse must include an examination of the increasing evidence regarding the use of guns. According to *The New York Times*, the United States has the highest rate of firearm ownership in the world, with roughly one gun for every citizen. We also have the highest rate of mass shootings.

There is clear evidence that countries who have strengthened their gun laws dramatically reduced their gun mortality at all levels, including domestic violence, suicide, and other homicides. All assault rifles should be banned and a universal background check should be required for the private sale of weapons. In addition, we can work to strengthen and change policy in conjunction with gun mortality related to other issues, like domestic violence.

We must charge our legislative leaders to act immediately on proactive and positive changes to prevent mass shootings. A first step is the March for Our Lives in Washington, D.C. on March 24th. We support this event as a necessary demonstration of the national concern about gun violence in schools.

It is critical that we continue to remain committed to acting on this issue. Legislators must understand that the public will not turn away from this issue until schools are safe again.

It is also important to make decisions based on data rather than belief. The research already draws a strong association between the availability of guns and violence. We must be willing to affirm the effectiveness of future decisions by collecting and analyzing data. More importantly, we must be willing to change our minds based on evidence.

It is within the national character to solve this difficult problem. To do so will require drawing upon the best parts of ourselves, including American ingenuity to employ latest and best technology, a community spirit that embraces neighbors less fortunate than ourselves, and a commitment to hard headed decision-making based on evidence rather than belief. Most of all, it will require our willingness to make sacrifices for the sake of our children.

Siblings By Blood, Friends By Choice

MELISSA BADAMO
STAFF WRITER

Growing up with an older brother meant growing up with a best friend. Although he is two years older, it seems as if we are twins; we have the same mannerisms, the same personality, we understand each other like no one else does, and some even say that we look alike. I even followed his footsteps in becoming a Monmouth Hawk, since we always knew our university would be the perfect fit for the both of us.

We are, however, pursuing different academic majors and focusing on different interests, which helps us constantly learn from each other. Although we exhibit an abundance of similarities, we are polar opposites in some areas; I’m more creative while he’s more logical, and I’m more sensitive while he’s more stoic.

Ever since we were kids, we’ve been notorious for bickering about the most trivial matters and then laughing about a completely

different subject five minutes later. Our childhood consisted of fighting over the TV remote, the leftovers in the fridge, and of course who would use the shower first; things that we still argue about now, especially since we are older. But the number of fights we’ve had just can’t compare to the number of inside jokes.

Growing up, I almost never got bored because I always had someone to play video games with, someone to watch movies with, and someone to play sports outside with. Although he’s my only sibling, there’s never a dull moment in our household. We never fail to make each other laugh, and we can sense when we need it the most. I wouldn’t give up the memories we share together for anything.

I’ve always wondered what it would be like to have another sibling. Would we still be as close as we are now? Now, I realize that my brother is the only one I need, and I would not give that up for anything. Now, I realize to never take my brother for granted because

he’s the only one who will never leave my side. In fifty years, we’ll still be crying of laughter over a frivolous inside joke. It’s the small things like that which makes a sibling relationship so meaningful.

Since he’s the older sibling, he has taught me so much through his own experience. He’s the first person I go to for advice, and he is constantly helping me grow as a person. He’s my role model, and his persistence and dedication in everything he does will never stop inspiring me.

We’re like Ross and Monica from *Friends* or Kevin and Kate from *This Is Us*, because nothing can get in the way of our sibling bond. No matter how much we argue, I know that he will always have my back and I will have his. I’ve had dozens of friends come and go, but he’s the only person who will be there no matter what. I couldn’t imagine life without my teacher, my inspiration, and most importantly, my best friend.

Happy 21st birthday, Justin!



PHOTO TAKEN by Melissa Badamo

No matter how much they bicker, Melissa and her older brother are still extremely close.

Today’s Technology

KIERSTEN BECHT
STAFF WRITER

It’s been 2018 for about two months now and I am in awe of how “futuristic” our everyday lives are becoming. What once was thought as space-age technology is now a reality, and it doesn’t look like it is going to stop any time soon. The other day I was babysitting and the little girl was showing me her new iPhone X (because all 5th graders need one, right?) and how she no longer needs to physically type in a passcode, but rather her phone unlocks based on facial-recognition technology.

My jaw was on the floor, yet this 11 year-old thought nothing of it, now I know how our parents and grandparents must feel each time we show them some new flashy feature that our phones and computers are capable of. At what point does this influx of innovations become too much? Have we surpassed the point of no return?

Throughout this semester, in each one of my classes we have been discussing the effects that technology and the ever-present stream of media has on our environment and society. Each discussion sheds a light on just how addicted our culture has become and how it is changing the very social fabric of humankind. When you think of it, we’ve adopted a whole new language and set of rules on how we communicate with one another.

Ten years ago if you asked someone to “follow” you or “link up” they would look at you like you had ten heads! And let’s not forget how crucial and convenient the introduction of emoji’s have become. As fun as these little text graphics can be, deciphering what they mean can be just as nerve racking as deciding whether someone is angry with you based on their choice of a period over an exclamation in a text.

I know I sound ridiculous, but I know that so many of you have been in the same boat trying to decide how to respond to a cold shouldered “k.”

Even though this new form of communication is rapid and supposed to make our lives easier, would it kill us to pick up the phone for once and have vocal contact? Or an even crazier idea, face-to-face conversation! (And no, Facetime does not count)

I am certainly not hating on technology and our culture’s bizarre new social habits, but I am wary. It seems as if people have become a whole lot more narcissistic, but at the same time, their self-esteem has stooped to a new low.

People post #selfies and we think “Wow, they must be so confident,” or “I wish I looked like that” but let us not forget the world of filters and retouching apps and this whole new marketplace of tools that allow us to alter ourselves far from our true self. Sure, that person might think they look great in their picture and feel confident enough to post it, but what if they don’t receive a certain amount of “likes” within the first five minutes?! (The HORROR!)

All of the sudden that “confidence” they once had is deleted, just like the picture they posted, then took down several minutes later.

Perhaps I sound like a broken record to you, and if that’s the case, don’t worry, you are in no obligation to “follow” or “like” me. But for those of you who this might have struck a cord in you, do me a favor, put down the phone and go say hello someone, talk about your day in real time, post a picture because of how awesome you think it is, not based on how many “likes” you will get.

People survived for thousands of years without technology and I think, if we try really hard, we too may be able to revert back to that mindset, even if just for a minute.

THE WORLD ONLY SPINS FORWARD BOOK REVIEW

KERRY BREEN
SENIOR/NEWS EDITOR

The World Only Spins Forward: The Ascent of Angels in America was released on Feb. 13, and is just as sprawling and emotional as the play it focuses on.

Described as an ‘oral history’ of *Angels in America*, which will be opening on Broadway on March 25 after transferring from the National Theatre in London, it tells the story of the show’s inspiration, creation, and production, as well as describing the societal, historical, and cultural contexts at the time of the show’s creation and following productions.

Co-authored by Isaac Butler and Dan Kois, the book includes stories from playwright Tony Kushner, members of various productions – including the upcoming Broadway production, the original production, and several different versions in between.

Arranged chronologically, it shows how a play can be in flux and constantly be being changed, even though it was first produced 25 years ago.

Described as “a play that redefined what theatre could be” by the *Washington Post*, *Angels in America* tells the story of six characters, including President Donald Trump’s former mentor Roy Cohn, during the AIDS epidemic. Throughout *The World Only Spins Forward*, different actors describe their take on and portrayal of the characters, explaining why they chose to interpret the roles in certain ways.

Also included is commentary from reviewers and journalists who covered the AIDS epidemic, remarking on the evolution and importance of the play.

While the AIDS epidemic was originally raging, the mainstream media did not pay it much attention, as society dismissed it as something that only happened to gay men, and according to some of the journalists cited in the book, *Angels in America* entering the cultural landscape meant that people were forced to acknowledge and confront the reality of the illness.

The two-part play lasts nearly seven hours – something that was constantly mentioned by cast members in the book, especially as they discussed the intricacy of staging and rehearsing the production.

The first part of the play, *Milennium Approaches*, was written years before the second part, *Perestroika*, and in the first half of *The World Only Spins Forward* Kushner details the long, arduous process behind writing and re-writing *Perestroika*, finally finishing it within two weeks in a secluded cabin.

The World Only Spins Forward is full of information like this – snippets of stories that are so far behind-the-scenes that even the cast members involved with the show don’t know about them. While many of the stories are humorous in nature, there are also stories of frustration with the play and the direction of it; some directors talk about working with Kushner as if it were a nightmare experience.

Also mixed in are tragic stories, fitting for a play of such weight.

The play is set during the AIDS epidemic, and it was written at the same time, so it is only sensible that that epidemic is addressed often by the cast and creative team members, especially from earlier

productions.

While most of the stories are larger in scope and scale, addressing the epidemic as it affected the world around them, some have specific stories of friends lost or their own close calls with the illness.

Two stories which are particularly affecting have nothing to do with AIDS. One is that of Kimberly Flynn, a friend of Kushner’s who was described by Kushner and several other friends as being brilliant and genuine.

However, in 1984, before *Angels in America* was produced, she was involved in a serious car crash that left her with cognitive defects and difficulty with speaking, reading, and remembering.

When Kushner speaks about her and her injuries, his sadness is palpable. Later, she did recover enough to become the production dramaturg for *Angels*, but the early pages of *The World Only Spins Forward* and the early stages of *Angels in America* were heavily touched by her injury.

Another story that affected the production of *Angels* severely was that of Sigrid Wurschmidt, who played the Angel in the original version of the show.

According to Kushner, each character was written to suit his actor friends, and the Angel had been specifically tailored to fit Wurschmidt’s acting talents and personality.

However, she was diagnosed with cancer not that long after, and was unable to do the production before her eventual death, meaning that the role was passed on to her best friend, Ellen McLaughlin, who played the role in every United States production from its early workshops to its Broadway

run.

While *Angels in America* has always been a personal and heavy production, it’s stories like this, and hundreds of other tales within the pages of *The World Only Spins Forward*, that really drive the point home.

The book also includes behind-the-scenes photos of the cast and creative team and snippets of the script, which only add to a reader’s understanding of the topic.

Considered one of the most im-

portant plays in the American canon, *The World Only Spins Forward* only increases a reader’s excitement for the upcoming production of “Angels.”

Anyone interested in theatre history, LGBTQ+ history, or just generally fascinating stories would be well-benefited by reading this book, especially if they are planning to see *Angels in America* when it arrives on Broadway.

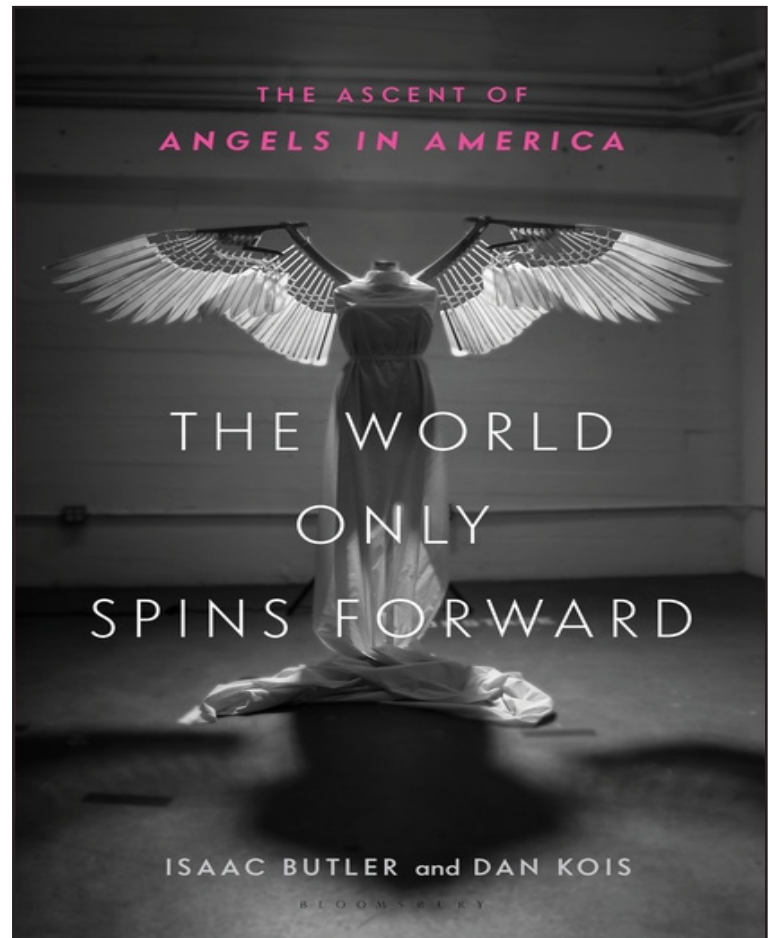


IMAGE TAKEN from Bloomsbury Publishing

Anyone interested in theatre history, LGBTQ+ history, or just generally fascinating stories would be well-benefited by this novel.

Monmouth's World Cinema Series Presents: *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*

MARK MARRONE
STAFF WRITER

On Thursday, Feb. 22 in Pollak Theater, students, faculty and members of the Monmouth community gathered for a screening of *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* as part of the World Cinema Series hosted by Thomas Pearson Ph.D., a professor of History and Anthropology.

The focus of this year’s World Cinema Series is on the roots, ethics and impact of global capitalism, which the film checked all the boxes for.

From Lahore, Pakistan to the United States, Changez Khan, played by Riz Ahmed, is chasing the American dream by working with a consulting firm on Wall Street.

However, with a culmination of events including 9/11 and a hostage crisis, Khan’s dream is put on hold.

Khan’s difficult journey tackles important issues such as corporations’ little care for employees, nationalism and prejudice, but with so much stuff happening it’s difficult to feel the weight of the messages.

The consulting firm Khan works for sends their employ-

ees to different companies to assess how they can better maximize company or shareholder wealth.

If you work at a company and see Khan walk through workplace, you may have to look at the classifieds during your lunch break.

Although Khan is helping companies gain profits by suggesting different approaches to conducting their business, it comes at the price of people losing their jobs.

By the stroke of a pen, Khan has to power send workers out the door, but clearly he did not take Operations Management.

Instead of leaving hundreds of people unemployed, Khan should make suggestions as to how a company can retrain and relocate employees to a different jobs within.

While Khan sends people packing, he finds himself moving up the corporate ladder.

As Bruce Springsteen sings in Jack of All Trades, “The banking man grows fat / Working man grows thin/It’s all happened before / And it will happen again.”

The Khans of the world help companies watch their profits grow, while laid-off workers

watch their livelihoods sink. Until the day consultants put ethics before profit, it’ll happen again.

It may sound like Khan is living the American dream by making tons of cash in his position, but money can’t buy the way you’re treated for the color of your skin.

Following 9/11, America becomes a hostile environment where Middle Eastern citizens are wrongfully detained.

Khan experiences it first hand, when he is stopped at an airport and subjected to a strip search.

While Khan is stripped down to nothing for his country, it’s upsetting to see how xenophobic America was following the terrorist attacks.

Unfortunately, the xenophobia is still prevalent in American society.

For those accustomed to wearing a hijab or any other kind of traditional outfit, they experience regular judgement or injustice because of their backgrounds.

People don’t pick who to be prejudice towards. It doesn’t matter how deep your pockets are or the influence you have in a company; the color of your skin can automatically

change the way people think of you.

Despite the way he is treated in America, Khan is one who still loves the red, white and blue.

However, this presents a problem with nationalism.

Which culture should Khan be more proud of: his Pakistani roots or American success?

There doesn’t seem to be a middle ground. If you don’t have the skin color of a “true American,” you’re not patriotic enough.

Considering all the points director Mira Nair tries to get across, it’s difficult to feel the impact while there’s so much else going on.

While addressing these topics, there’s supposed to be a thrilling aspect where Khan is helping to save a hostage who only has 24-hours to live.

With all the flashbacks, along with a long-winded and dull relationship Khan has with a photographer, played by Kate Hudson, the messages aren’t delivered effectively.

Instead of dedicating a lot of time into Khan’s lackluster romance, the film could’ve focused more on the heavy issues.

Following the film, Pearson as well as Nancy Uddin Ph.D.,

an associate professor of accounting, engaged in a discussion with the audiences about the important topics in *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*.

The host, Dr. Pearson noted, “there are people who have lived in many places who aren’t reduced to one national identity. Following 9/11, culture was polarizing.”

Meanwhile, Dr. Uddin, addressed the, “different levels of fundamentalism in business [which may lead to] a negative experience.” Additionally, Dr. Uddin discussed how the film personally affected her as a Muslim from South Asia living in America.

She appreciated how the film looked at both sides on the issues of capitalism, patriotism and nationalism.

The conversation following the screening was a perfect opportunity for the audience to dissect the lofty topics covered.

The next film in the World Cinema Series is an Asian film, *Mountains May Depart*, which will be screened in Pollak Theater on Tuesday, March 20 at 7:30 p.m.

Oscars 2018: Picks and Predictions

MARK MARRONE
STAFF WRITER

This Sunday, the biggest stars in Hollywood will come together under one roof to celebrate some of the greatest films in the past year.

There's a competitive field stacked with talent, including *The Shape of Water* with 13 nominations and *Dunkirk* at 7.

But which films will take home the coveted gold statue?

My predictions are who I think will win the Oscar and my picks are the ones I would like to see win.

Best Picture:
Call Me by Your Name
Darkest Hour
Dunkirk
Get Out
Lady Bird
Phantom Thread
The Post
The Shape of Water
Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri
Prediction: *Three Billboards*

Pick: *Lady Bird*
It's shocking to see *Three Billboards* gain the amount of press it has, because it doesn't strike me as a film that would be universally known or a box office hit like *Get Out* or *Dunkirk*.

It was one of my favorite films of the year, but I love *Lady Bird* slightly more. I laughed, cried and was heartbroken during *Lady Bird*, but that's what going to the movies is all about.

Lead Actor:
Timothée Chalamet, Call Me by Your Name
Daniel Day-Lewis, Phantom Thread
Daniel Kaluuya, Get Out
Gary Oldman, Darkest Hour
Denzel Washington, Roman J. Israel, Esq.
Prediction: Gary Oldman
Pick: Daniel Day-Lewis

I know that the Academy is not allowed to award Day-Lewis his fourth Oscar because that would be unfair.

Gary Oldman gives an incredible performance as Winston Churchill in *Darkest Hour*, but it feels like Oscar

bait.

On the other hand, Day-Lewis is hypnotizing as Reynolds Woodcock and manages to give an unforgettable performance although he's blown away audiences in so many other roles throughout the decades.

Hats off to Oldman though, it's well deserved.

Lead Actress:
Sally Hawkins, The Shape of Water
Frances McDormand, Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri

Prediction: Sally Hawkins
Pick: Margot Robbie
Sally Hawkins gave an excellent performance as a mute in *The Shape of Water* by conveying so much emotion without uttering a word.

However, Margot Robbie is wired in *I, Tonya* and became a much more serious actress in Hollywood with this role. It's fine if Hawkins takes the gold, but I'd love to see Robbie pull up an upset.

Supporting Actor:
Willem Dafoe, The Florida Project
Woody Harrelson, Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri
Richard Jenkins, The Shape of Water
Christopher Plummer, All the Money in the World
Sam Rockwell, Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri

Prediction: Sam Rockwell
Pick: Willem Dafoe
I'm not sure why Rockwell is getting all the love during awards season.

Sure, he did fine in his role as Officer Dixon in *Three Billboards*, but I don't think anyone saw Dafoe as Bobby in *The Florida Project* because it underperformed at the box office.

Dafoe acts from the heart in his role and stars as one of the most lovable characters in recent memory. Let's go Dafoe!

Supporting Actress:
Mary J. Blige, Mudbound
Allison Janney, I, Tonya

Lesley Manville, Phantom Thread
Laurie Metcalf, Lady Bird
Octavia Spencer, The Shape of Water

Prediction: Allison Janney
Pick: Allison Janney
Allison Janney completely transforms herself into a foul-mouthed old woman with wrinkles, a greasy grayish-brown hairdo and Elton John-sized glasses while wearing a fur coat and tubes in her nose from an oxygen tank in *I, Tonya*; Janney acts hard nosed and packs a punch in this Oscar worthy role.

Director:
Christopher Nolan, Dunkirk
Jordan Peele, Get Out
Greta Gerwig, Lady Bird
Paul Thomas Anderson, Phantom Thread
Guillermo del Toro, The Shape of Water

Prediction: Guillermo del Toro
Pick: Guillermo del Toro
I wasn't blown away by *The Shape of Water*, but I respect the heart and vision del Toro poured into it. Del Toro is a well respected director who deserves the Oscar for his work in this film and his previous pieces.

Best Live Action Short Film:
DeKalb Elementary, Reed Van Dyk
The Eleven O'Clock, Derin Seale, Josh Lawson
My Nephew Emmett, Kevin Wilson, Jr.
The Silent Child, Chris Overton, Rachel Shenton
Watu Wote/All of Us, Katja Benrath, Tobias Rosen

Prediction: DeKalb Elementary
Pick: *The Silent Child*
DeKalb Elementary is a relevant film, considering it touches upon mental illness and school shootings anyone saw Dafoe as Bobby in an emotional way. I loved *The Florida Project* because it's something I never thought of from *The Silent Child*.

There are thousands of children placed in mainstream schools that should instead be learning to communicate through sign language.

This especially hits home, considering I knew someone in that situation who went my

high school.

All the films are excellent in this category and I'm content with whoever brings home the gold.

Cinematography:
Blade Runner 2049, Roger Deakins
Darkest Hour, Bruno Delbonnel
Dunkirk, Hoyte van Hoytema
Mudbound, Rachel Morrison
The Shape of Water, Dan Laustsen

Prediction: Roger Deakins
Pick: Roger Deakins
Roger Deakins is Hollywood's biggest loser. The cinematographer has 14 Oscar nominations and not a single win. His work is great in *Blade Runner 2049* and it's about time he wins an Oscar.

Best Documentary Short Subject:
Edith+Eddie, Laura Checkoway, Thomas Lee Wright

Heaven is a Traffic Jam on the 405, Frank Stiefel

Heroin(e), Elaine McMillion Sheldon, Kerrin Sheldon

Knife Skills, Thomas Lennon

Traffic Stop, Kate Davis, David Heilbroner

Prediction: *Traffic Stop*
Pick: *Heaven is a Traffic Jam on the 405*

Traffic Stop deserves the win because it deals with the tensions between cops and African Americans by eloquently telling the story of a woman who you would think would be the last person involved in an incident with the police.

I love all the films in this category, but *Heaven is a Traffic Jam on the 405* tells an unexpectedly heartwarming story that shows how art can be the cure to our toughest problems.

MARKS REMARKS:

There's a competitive field stacked with talent. Just because some films are predicted to win, doesn't necessarily mean they should win.



IMAGE TAKEN from exostispress.gr

Willem Dafoe is nominated for Best Supporting Actor for his work in *The Florida Project*.

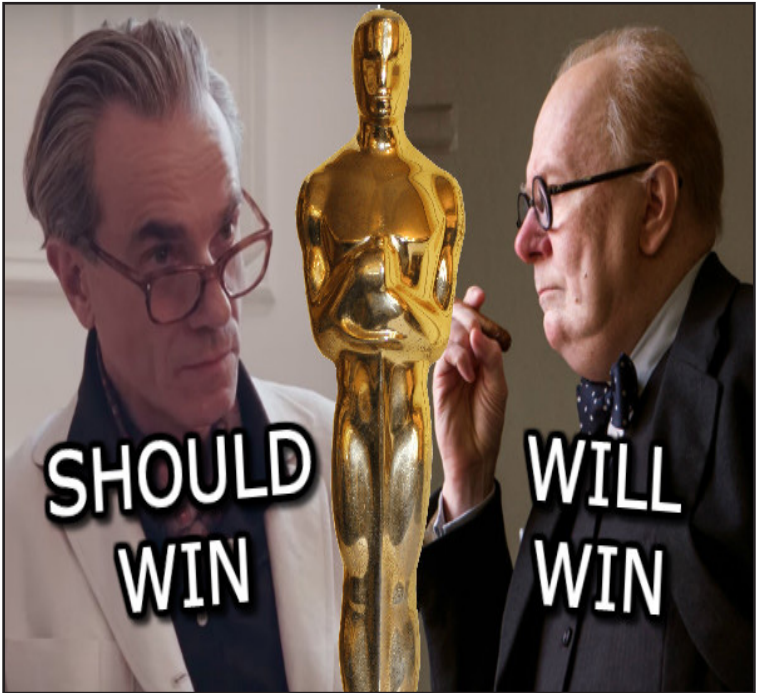


IMAGE TAKEN from Whatculture.com

Marrone predicts that Gary Oldman will win the Oscar for *Best Actor* for his performance in *Darkest Hour*, but feels that Daniel Day-Lewis should win for his work in *Phantom Thread*.



IMAGE TAKEN from thehollywoodreporter.com

The "Best Picture" field is filled with great films and it seems that *Three Billboards* will take home the gold.

TAKE ADVANTAGE BEFORE TIME RUNS OUT

EMILY MASTROCOLA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

“Adulting” is defined as trying to complete tasks in the real-world and being successful in achieving daily rituals of a person with responsibilities. For many seniors thinking about graduation, this concept is approaching quickly. However, there are still two months until graduation and two months to get the help in daily life that so many undergraduates are privileged to.

Being a student at Monmouth University comes with a plethora of on-campus resources to help students achieve while on campus and beyond. Upon graduation, some of the services may still be of access to alumni, but they come at a cost. Weekly events to ease the pressure of the everyday work life, assistance with written applications and engaging workout classes that add ease to any mundane gym routines, will soon come at a premium for seniors. During the final months at Monmouth, seniors should take advantage of these free resources that will soon expire.

Writing a personal statement for graduate school or a cover letter for a job application is unlike any assignment instilled in Monmouth’s courses.

Highlighting your strengths while discussing your goals and life story can be a challenging feat. Although many seniors have sought out the help of Writing Assistants for coursework, the resource is available for help beyond course content.

Director of Writing Services

and supplemental instruction Neva Lozada encourages seniors to utilize the writing center for help prior to graduation. “Writing Services also serves as a resource for students as they prepare to enter the workforce or apply to graduate school. Writing Assistants are available to help seniors write personal statements, cover letters, and application essays,” she said. Regardless of whether one is pursuing a challenging career or continuing their education, some type of writing is typically incorporated in the hiring process. Lozada states, “It’s often helpful to have a second pair of eyes review these types of real-world assignments.” To take advantage of this resource, students can make an appointment on Accudemia or contact Writing Services directly.

Preparing for life beyond graduation can be accompanied with a lot of stress for soon-to-be graduates. Monmouth University also offers multiple outlets to unwind and enjoy the final semester.

Senior marketing/managing student and novelties chair for the Student Activities Board (SAB) Tianna Fougeray said, “SAB works hard each semester to plan events that are free and open to all Monmouth students. With every event, we try to provide a fun giveaway, food, vendor, interactive activity, or another incentive to give students something that they can take home with them.”

These events are offered frequently for students to engage in the campus community in a fun way, at no cost to them. For seniors who may have stopped attending events they went to early

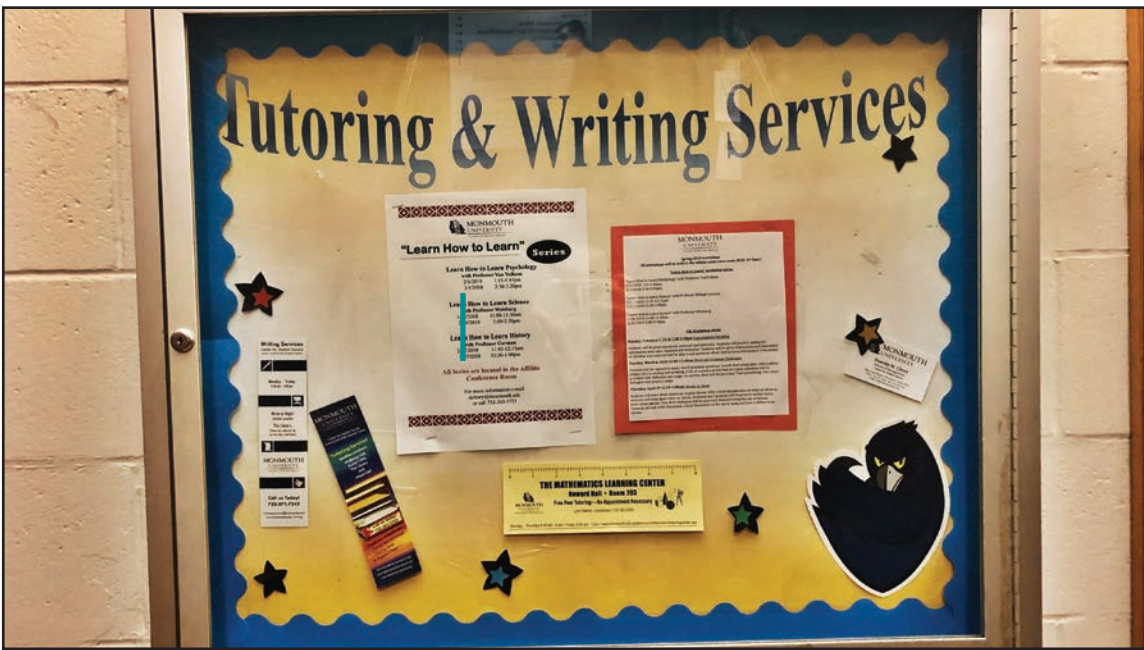


PHOTO TAKEN by Campbell Lee

There are so many great resources that Monmouth provides for its students that seniors should take advantage of before time runs out.

on their Monmouth days, now is a good time to take advantage of events that they do not have to pay for, prior to graduation. “Whether it’s a weekend event or an event in the middle of the school week, SAB’s goal is to give students something to look forward to on campus,” Fougeray offers. To find out more about the events left for this semester, student’s can check bulletin boards around campus, SAB’s weekly events calendar, and social media.

For those students that wish to unwind by sweating it out, the Monmouth University Recreation Center is the place for relief and opportunity. Not only does each student have access to gym facili-

ties, but they are also encouraged to attend weekly workout classes taught by trained University student facilitators. A junior communications student and instructor of Boot Camp and Abs, Butt and Legs in the fitness center Catie Linck tells students, “The classes are designed to be for beginners, people trying to get fit or someone who wants a challenge at the gym.”

Upon graduation, students would need to pay for a gym membership at the University or other local facility in order to partake in similar classes. However, for Monmouth students these resources are open to all.

Whether you are looking to get ready for spring break or take the

pressure off from your job search Linck says, “There are different types of classes for people to find what is most enjoyable for them.” The multitude of classes offered provides each student with something they are comfortable with. In order to find out about the group fitness schedule, students can check their email accounts weekly or download the Monmouth Recreation App.

Unfortunately for some, graduation is approaching quickly and the real-world will soon be upon Monmouth University’s class of 2018. Seniors can get prepared to enter life beyond Monmouth by taking advantage of the school’s resources while there is still time!

Beyond the Physical Benefits of Exercise

CAMPBELL LEE
LIFESTYLES EDITOR

When people think about exercise, they always jump to the physical benefits it provides for you. The more you run, the more weight you will lose. The more weights you lift, the stronger you will be become. Although these points are true, it is also important to remember the mental benefits that come with exercise.

With midterm grades upon us, we find ourselves cramped in our dorms or the library writing papers and studying for seemingly never-ending tests. While doing this, we will usually eat easily accessible food, which is never super healthy. This lack of movement and gross intake of processed food leaves you feeling drained and unmotivated.

Although going out for a run or hitting the gym may be the last thing you feel like doing while drowning in work, it could be the best thing for you. With the weather being as crazy as it is, take advantage of those random warm days and get some fresh air!

Getting out of the stuffiness of a dorm and being able to stretch your legs after hours crammed at a desk is the best feeling. You’ll return feeling refreshed, energized, and ready to take on whatever the rest of the day holds.

Graduate Faculty and De-

partment Chair of the English department Susan Goulding Ph.D. runs every day. “Most weeks, I run 30-60 minutes a day, longer on weekends... I almost always run in the morning after reading the paper, looking at my email and walking the dog. A morning run gives me a chance to organize my day, and sort of take a deep breath before going into work,” she said, “...[running] is a treat, and not a chore, and I feel more

energized and focused after a good run.”

The gym on campus is another great place to go to clear your head and get in a good work out. A junior nursing student Amy Czepak shared her thoughts. “I go to the gym almost every day and do predominately weight lifting with some cardio afterwards. I find it extremely stress relieving and a good way to clear my head and just focus on me,”

she said.

Working out is also a great way to combat anxiety. When you exercise, your body releases endorphins that give you energy and a greater sense of well-being. If anxiety is something you struggle with, going for a run while really focusing instead of zoning out is a very meditative technique that can help you be more mindful.

While you are on your run, notice the breeze hitting you

and how it feels on your skin. Notice the sensation your legs feel when your feet hit the ground, and be aware of the rhythm of your breathing. By focusing on these things in a very mindful and present way, you will be able to block out all the worries and triggers you had when you started feeling anxious.

Another major mental benefit or exercise is the self-esteem boost it provides. When you go to the gym or go for a run, you are actively working to better yourself. By doing this, you will look in the mirror differently; you will see someone you are proud of and someone who cares about themselves. Although it may suck to be sore the next day, it’s a good reminder of all the hard work you did the day before!

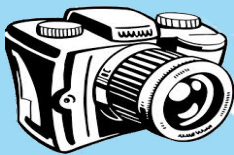
A senior photography student Hunter Cox shared her experience with exercise. “Yoga has been a big game changer for me,” she starts. “I practice every day in my apartment along with various other simple exercises. It keeps me in shape along with helping relieve stress and give me the confidence boost I sometimes need.”

So, whether you run, go to the gym, or go to yoga, exercise does so much for you beyond helping you physically. It boosts your mood, your energy and overall confidence. Put your books down, take a study break, and get out there!



PHOTO TAKEN by Campbell Lee

Exercising is not only great for your physical health, but also for mental purposes such as stress relief.



MOMENTS AT MONMOUTH



LEFT:
MEMBERS OF THE STUDENT
ACTIVITIES BOARD (SAB)
AND FELLOW STUDENTS
ATTENDING THE NEW JERSEY
DEVILS' GAME AT THE
PRUDENTIAL CENTER.
PHOTO TAKEN BY:
ALEXANDRIA AFANADOR



RIGHT:
THE STUDENT
GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION (SGA) AT
THE CONFERENCE ON
STUDENT GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATIONS THIS PAST
WEEKEND.
PHOTO TAKEN FROM: SGA
INSTAGRAM



LEFT:
THE WOMEN'S LACROSSE
TEAM PREPARING TO
WIN AGAINST TEMPLE
UNIVERSITY THIS PAST
TUESDAY.
PHOTO COURTESY OF: B51/
MARK BROWN



RIGHT:
THE OFFICE OF
OFF-CAMPUS AND
COMMUTER SERVICES
REDECORATES THEIR
BULLETIN BOARD IN
THE STUDENT CENTER.
PHOTO TAKEN BY:
ALEXANDRIA
AFANADOR



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



What are your plans for spring break?

COMPILED BY: NICOLE RIDDLE



Giuseppe Licata
Graduate Student

"I want to go snorkeling and swim with sharks in St. Maarten."



Nicole Avenil
Sophomore

"Nothing, just working and chilling out."



Michael McGuigan
Junior

"I'm planning to go to Myrtle Beach to visit my cousin."



Meg Donahue
Senior

"I'm going to Disney World!"



Janet Dustman
Student Life Assistant

"Employees only get off the 16th, so I plan to do something fun that day!"

Parkland Shooting Survivors Call for Gun Control: “Never Again”

JUSCELUCIO DASILVA, JR.
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Surviving students from the Majority Stoneman Douglas (MSD) High School sparked the “Never Again MSD” movement after the mass school shooting in Parkland, FL, on Feb. 14.

The convicted shooter, Nikolas Cruz, opened fire in the high school using an AR-15 semi-automatic rifle.

Cruz is charged with 17 counts of premeditated murder after killing 14 students and 3 staff members, and leaving multiple others injured in the shooting.

“The surviving high school students from [MSD High School] have successfully started a political movement on gun control that we haven’t seen in over 25 years,” said Joseph Patten, Ph.D., an associate professor of political science.

“The kids are battling against the National Rifle Association, which is one of the most powerful lobbying organizations in the country,” Patten said.

“They’re attempting to have legislation enacted that closes the gun show loophole, bans military-style weapons, [like the one used in the Parkland shooting], and raises the age for purchasing some weapons,” he explained.

“They are planning a major demonstration for gun control in Washington D.C. on Saturday, March 24, and many Monmouth students are planning on participating in the demonstration,” Patten said.

Additionally, the University has released a statement on Monday, Feb. 28 to assure prospective students who have applied for admission that their participation in the protest in the capital would not affect their admission decisions.

“Freedom of speech is fundamental to our democracy. Monmouth University wholly supports active citizenship and will not penalize applicants for their participation in a peaceful protest,” the University writes on its twitter account.

After the massacre in Parkland, FL, U.S. President Donald Trump ordered the United States De-

partment of Justice to ban bumpstocks, in an attempt to limit the options of making a semi-automatic rifle fully automatic.

However, Cruz did not use a bumpstock in the Parkland shooting.

The United States is one of the only country that grants a constitutional right to bear arms.

Additionally, when compared to nine other leading countries, it is the only one that does not require safe storage of firearms, preliminary safety training, documented reason for purchase, registration, and, in some cases, a license.

Currently, there are over 300,000,000 firearms in the United States—an average of nearly one firearm per person.

Difficulty arises when considering the regulation of the use and sale of firearms, because the Second Amendment grants a constitution right to bear arms.

Moreover, the National Rifle Association (NRA) has argued that to ban any firearm is unconstitutional and would only penalize lawful gun-owners and licensed hunters.

“Hunting is a huge thing in Pennsylvania [for example], and there are people that do it responsibly,” said Stephen Chapman, Ph.D., an assistant professor of political science.

However, he explains, hunting is a different issue from using an AR-15 semi-automatic weapon.

Additionally, according to the Pew Research Center, a non-partisan American think tank based in Washington, D.C., research has shown that people buying guns for hunting has gone down and people that are buying semi-automatic guns for self-defense are increasing.

“I look at it from the statistical point,” Chapman said, “and this is a good example of why we have to look at other factors.”

Chapman explained that, compared to other countries, factors such as violent video games, violent movies, and mental health issues are as present as they are in the United States.

However, the highest rates of shootings occur in the United States.

MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY

Freedom of speech is fundamental to our democracy.

Monmouth University wholly supports active citizenship and will not penalize applicants for their participation in a peaceful protest.

IMAGE TAKEN from Monmouth University

Monmouth University’s statement tells students their participation in protests will not be penalized.

The United States has the highest number of shootings than any other country, even after adjusting for population size.

According to research published by Politifact, from 2000-2014, the United States has had 133 mass shootings—and has consistently increased since.

“When we realize what the factor that is different is, it goes back to the amount of guns available and the ease of acquiring a gun,” Chapman added.

“I don’t think you can convince me otherwise that there is a greater causal effect of any other variable other than the amount of guns we have in America,” he said.

Brandon Ellis, a junior political science student, said that issues relating to gun violence are a problem in the United States and

“it needs to change.”

“When looking at other nations like Australia, where gun laws were significantly stricter following a mass shooting, we see that a mass shooting has not occurred there [in Australia] since,” Ellis said.

We should follow other nations like Australia in fixing the issue in America,” he suggested.

In the Australian Crime Statistics’ latest report that included 2013-2014, the firearm use in homicides was 32.

In comparison, according to the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) homicide data table, there were over 8,124 homicides involving firearms in 2014 alone.

When adding both the 2013 and 2014 year, there was a total of 16,578 people killed by firearms

In response to the Port Arthur massacre that killed 35 people, Australia passed the National Firearms Agreement, a firearm control law, in 1996.

This law places a strict control on semi-automatic, and fully automatic weapons. It also established a firearm buyback program which, according to the Council on Foreign Relations, bought over 650,000 firearms back to the Australian government.

Kaitlin Allsopp, a junior political science student said that she is not a proponent for bans on guns.

However, she explained that “proactive gun control legislation is necessary to right the wrongs that occurred, over and over again in just these first few months of the year.”

Allsopp said that initiatives such as increased vetting and raising the minimum age for gun ownership could help. “Underage people could still go to gun ranges under the supervision of an of-age, permitted adult,” she explained.

Additionally, Allsopp said that mental illness should be looked into much more than they currently are, and that the “gun show loophole should be closed.”

“Gun control in this day of age has become an extremely contro-

versial topic that needs to be addressed,” said Mitchell Garofalo, a sophomore political science student.

“Over the past year, mass shootings have become a buzz topic that ignites firearm legislation and propaganda to remove firearms,” he added.

Similar to Allsopp, Garofalo said that he does not support an entire gun ban.

“[To ban guns] will not stop individuals from purchasing firearms through illegal matters and only improve the black-market desire for these products,” said Garofalo.

Instead, he said that “legislation should take into consideration how times have changed and create specific laws to ensure that firearms do not enter the wrong hands.”

Security Devices International (SDI), Inc. is a security company that puts effort into designing non-lethal bullets as well as quantifying non-lethal effectiveness and benefits.

For example, instead of using lethal bullets, one could buy rubber bullets, bean bag rounds, or a blunt impact projectile. These bullets are considered non-lethal.

As such, these bullets could be used to disarm, or injure a subject without the consequence of taking a life.

Less lethal weapons like these are used by governments, in instances such as public riots; they are also used by others such as police and corrections officers.

“I am so encouraged that so many young people are speaking up and holding their elected officials accountable for their blatant dependence on the NRA,” said Kenneth Campbell, Ph.D., a professor of history.

“We simply must demand change and bring the gun laws in this country in line with other democratic countries,” Campbell said.



IMAGE TAKEN from CNN

Students from MSD protest the inaction of Congress’ efforts to reform gun laws in the United States.

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BEGINNING
MARCH 5, 2018

Continuing students in good academic standing are invited to register **EARLY** for all the Summer 2018 sessions.

The WEBadvisor online listings of **SUMMER COURSES** are currently available.

Students will be able to self-register using the WEBregistration component of WEBadvisor. Students who have not yet obtained advisor approval will need to register in-person at the Registrar's Office.

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SAB Attends NACA

AMBER GALATI
PHOTOGRAPHER/CONTRIBUTING WRITER

This past week, executive board (e-board) members of the Student Activities Board (SAB) represented Monmouth University at the National Association for Campus Activites (NACA) in Boston, Massachusetts.

The purpose of the National Convention was meant for e-board members to experience many different performers, acts, and vendors to see which would be the best fit for Monmouth University. There were over 100 acts such as singers, magicians, comedians, hypnotists, speakers, illusionists, and bands.

Another component of being at NACA was to attend educational sessions. Lindsay Smith, the Assistant Director of Student Activities, and SAB advisor said, “NACA is a great conference for students and professional staff with engaging educational sessions throughout the day for attendees to peer share and learn about leadership, managing a board, planning an event, marketing, and so much more.” These educational sessions allowed members to understand how to connect with our student body and engage them in our event planning.

An education session that many e-board members were impacted was called “Why Do You Hate Me? - A Look at Bullying and

Self-Hate.” This session was run by Brent Scarpo, who recently became a life coach. Scarpo explained how he was going through a dark time in his life and a dog named Sophie who showed him the light. Sophie became a service dog and traveled everywhere with Scarpo. There was a moment in time when Sophie was missing and feared she was dead due to a car accident they got into.

Sophie was found by a homeless man and it took this man over an hour and a half to reach Scarpo. During that hour and a half, Scarpo thought that since she was gone that his life was over. Scarpo was fighting back the tears when he explained he was going to commit suicide once he left the police station. Miraculously, he received a phone call from the homeless man asking if he owned a dog named Sophie. That moment his life changed.

In his presentation, Scarpo told us he firmly believes that love is the answer to everything. We need to love someone or something that we do not have to love but want to love. After crying three times during his presentation, we sang “Happy Birthday” to Sophie to celebrate her sixth birthday. It was one of the most touching presentations that could quite possibly change the lives of audience members, SAB is hopeful to bring Scarpo to campus in the future.

The convention also featured showcases, where performers and acts had their time to shine.

“There are many great opportunities to see acts and performers; which give students the opportunity to determine what would be a good fit to bring to campus,” said Smith.

We experienced a range of acts at these showcases from a contortionist who was able to fit his whole body through a tennis racket, and a hypnotist who was able to get people in the audience to stand on their chairs pretending they were in a rock band and be terrified of their own belt thinking it was a snake. We never knew what kind of acts we were going to see every night.

After the showcases, we would be able to meet the people we just saw on stage and get the chance to talk to them. One member had a tarot card reading done that left me in tears, a customized pancake that said SAB on it, and someone transferring an ‘x’ drawn on their wrist to someone’s palm with just the tap of someone’s hand. My mind was blown every turn I made.

A memorable moment was when Daniel Franzese tied the strings of the hoodie he gave me, put sunglasses on my face and said the words “Welcome to the House of Coco.” If anyone of you are not understanding my reference, Daniel Franzese played Damien in the hit movie, “Mean Girls.” He even threw out candy canes to us while we were waiting to meet with him.

At the end of every night, we all sat together and discussed who we enjoyed throughout the day and would

want to bring to Monmouth University for an event next year. After deliberating we came up with a list of people we enjoyed, and my advisor took the list and tried to book as many as she could for next year. Emily Marsh, a junior business administration student, also Festivals Chair for SAB shared that, “NACA was an amazing experience and we are all super excited to share the talent there with the rest of campus.”

Looking back at the experience, all e-board members were ecstatic that they attended the National Convention. SAB had the opportunity to build connections with other activities com-

mittees at different universities. Sabina Graziano, a sophomore computer science student, also a general member of SAB said, “NACA was amazing and I’m so grateful to have been given the opportunity to go.”

Keep an eye out for the exciting and unique events that SAB will be brining to campus throughout the semester. Also, if you are interested in getting involved in SAB there are meetings every week at 3:00 p.m. on the third floor of the Rebecca Stafford Student Center.



PHOTO TAKEN by Amber Galati

Members of the Student Activities Board (SAB) attended a national convention to meet new talent to bring to campus.

The Peace Corps Film Festival

JOY MORGAN
ENVIROMENTAL/ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

On Feb. 1, the Peace Corps Prep program held a Peace Corps Film Festival in Wilson Auditorium.

The Peace Corps is a government-run agency that uses U.S. citizen volunteers to help develop and educate disadvantaged countries around the globe, and this Thursday, this agency is working with Monmouth Universities Peace Corps Prep Program, for the second year in a row, to share stories, and short films, of Peace Corps, volunteers from around the world.

“The Peace Corps headquarters is located in Washington D.C, and they asked Monmouth if we would like to host this event. Of course, we said yes,” said Frank Cipriani, Director of the Peace Corps Prep Program, Director of the Major in Spanish and Communication, and specialist professor in the world languages and cultures department.

This evening began with returned Peace Corps volunteers displaying artifacts and information from the countries that they served in. This will provide guests and students the opportunity to directly communicate with volunteers and learn more about their experience abroad.

Returned volunteers include, Linda and Carl Muhlhausen (Uganda

‘71-’72, ‘13-’15), Phil and Reina Levy, (El Salvador ‘74-’76), Lenore Bonilla (Honduras ‘08-’10), John Ramus (Madagascar ‘07-’09), and Maysee Yang (Micronesia ‘00-’02).

Cipriani led the event with opening remarks in the auditorium, followed by Dan Turkel, a regional recruiter for the Peace Corps who served for two years in Albania from 2013-2015, and then Diane Lagattuta, a keynote speaker and returned Peace Corps who served in El Salvador and Honduras from 1980-1981.

The film festival presented sixteen different pieces created by volunteers, many of whom are still serving in other countries and cannot be present. The theme of these films is family and aims to show the unique cultures and hospitality of the families in the communities Peace Corps volunteers assimilate into.

“Home is where the corn grows,” is a saying in Guatemala that represents a cultural aspect of family, according to Cipriani.

The winner of the film festival is pre-determined by the Peace Corps, but Cipriani is organizing a people’s choice award by providing ballots for the audience members to select their favorite video. When the winner is determined, the Peace Corps Prep program will honor the winner by sending a gift to them in the

country they are serving in.

Maya Paco, the student ambassador of the Peace Corps Prep program, and a sophomore communication student, will be serving as the MC for the evening.

“With my strong interest in film and cinema, the film festival is something I am personally excited for. Last year’s short films were so engaging and I was personally inspired to integrate my life with film and travel. It gives people, regardless of whether they are or are not interested in the Peace Corps., the opportunity to see a place and culture that is not their own, in a way that is beyond the usual resort,” said Paco.

Marco Palladino, a member of the Peace Corps Prep program, and a senior political science student said, “The Peace Corps film festival offers a unique, very personally experience into the life of volunteers in the Peace Corps Program. It also talks about Monmouth University’s amazing role in its foundation.”

“Last year we had return volunteers speak about their experiences and the importance of the program not only for the people they serve but as a reminder of human consciousness across national borders and how people can serve their country while building a better future in another. It is a shining example of American character and pride inter-

nationally. The Peace Corps Prep programs hope to push the student in this line of work and to encourage them once they go to bring back cultural traditions that amplify and exemplify our own,” Palladino continued.

After the films are shown, the audience was invited to enter to the hall for refreshments. At this time students who are interested in the Peace Corps are encouraged to ask questions about the returned volunteers’ experience, and parents of these students are invited to do the same.

Cipriani’s daughter is currently volunteering in the Peace Corps living in Mongolia, teaching English and training English teachers. He is very proud, supportive, and impressed by his daughter’s work. Having visited his daughter, Cipriani reflects on the gher, a tent made of felt or skins and the cold weather. While experiencing the program through his daughter, Cipriani encourages students to consider joining.

“When I went to Mongolia to visit my daughter, and when she began to speak fluent Mongolian I was so amazed. The community does a great job at teaching the Peace Corps volunteers so much about their culture, and helping them to learn the language there,” said Cipriani.

Cipriani teaches a Peace Corps Prep class where he asks students, “How many of you have mortgages? How

many have kids?” and then says “this is the last time in your life before you do that you can go out and do something big and meaningful in the world without having to worry about those sort of things.

Plus, Peace Corps service qualifies you to defer many of your loans without interest. Also, after your service, you will be part of a tight-knit network, you will get two years of Civil Service credit toward pay grade and retirement, you qualify for special scholarships, you make a huge difference in the world, you get noncompetitive preference for government jobs, and the unemployment rate among returned volunteers is close to or exactly at zero.”

The Peace Corps Prep program generally meets on Wednesdays and invites the student body to attend. On Saturday, Feb. 24 the program hosted a seal watching event and has many events related to experiencing and learning about cultures.

Any students interested in joining the Peace Corps or the Peace Corps Prep program are encouraged to attend the film festival or can contact Frank Cipriani or Deborah Rothermund via email at fciprian@monmouth.edu or drotherm@monmouth.edu.

Club and Greek Announcements

International Club

Sign up today at 2:45 to attend a Snow Tubing trip on Mar. 3 at Blue Mountain Ski Resort in Pennsylvania. Tickets cost \$10 and includes transportation and three hours of tubing. There is limited space available.

The Verge

The Verge, Monmouth University’s online magazine is holding an open call for submissions. Publishable work includes written articles, podcasts, and multimedia work. If you’re interested, contact Kerry Breen at s0967410@monmouth.edu.

CSM Program

The Commuter Student Mentor (CSM) program is looking for mentors to act as seasoned guides for first-year commuter students.

If you want to apply to become a mentor, contact Amber Galati at s1083807@monmouth.edu.

The Outlook

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

Hawk TV News

Hawk TV News is looking for vibrant and interested students who want to be reporters, writers, anchors, and much more.

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

Baseball Scores Five in Ninth to Defeat Penn State

ANDY STUDNA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Following a three-game sweep at the hands of #11 Dallas Baptist to open the season, the Monmouth University baseball team collected its first two wins of the season during the Penn State Tournament this past weekend in Cary, NC.

Monmouth entered the Penn State Tournament this past weekend with a record of 0-3, facing games against #23 St. John's, Penn State, and the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC). They would go on to pick up back-to-back wins against Penn State and UMBC to wrap up the three-game set.

Monmouth's first win of the season came in a dramatic fashion in a back-and-forth affair with Penn State on Feb. 24. Heading in to the ninth inning, down 8-4 the Hawks rallied back to take a 9-8 lead. The comeback in the ninth started with a one-out single courtesy of junior catcher Clay Koniencki who came in to pinch hit. Junior outfielder Kyle Norman followed with a double and then senior infielder Shaine Hughes drove them both in with a double of his own. The rally was completed when junior catcher J.D. Andreesen hit his first home run as a Hawk and senior infielder Pete Papcun followed with another homer to give the blue and white the lead. The Hawks' first win of the season was secured following a save in the bottom half of the ninth courtesy of sophomore right-handed pitcher Danny Long.

Penn State opened the scor-



Junior catcher J.D. Andreesen hit the game-tying homerun in the top of the ninth against Penn State on Saturday afternoon. The Hawks went into the inning down 8-4.

ing in the game by plating two in second on a single and an error. The Hawks answered with two runs of their own in the third thanks to a run batted in (RBI) ground out by Norman and an RBI double by Andreesen. The Nittany Lions would go back on top again with three runs in the fourth. The Hawks would answer in the sixth to trim the score to 5-4 on a Papcun RBI double but Penn State responded with three more runs to make it 8-4

before the Hawks mounted their comeback.

"First off, what a great comeback and team win. I am really proud of the team today. We have been locking horns with some real good teams and today was no different," said Head Coach Dean Ehehalt. "Our guys really showed a lot of grit and fight this afternoon."

The Hawks followed their first win of the season by routing UMBC 17-5 to conclude the weekend on Feb. 25. Hughes

opened the scoring in the first with a home run followed by a Papcun RBI double to make it 2-0 after one. The scoring continued in the second with an RBI double by Norman, making it 4-0.

The Retrievers answered with a three-run homer in the fourth to bring them within a run, but the Hawks responded shortly after with an RBI single by Norman and an RBI double by Papcun to make the score 7-3 after four.

The scoring was on from there for the Hawks as Norman, Hughes, Papcun, and freshman first baseman Ryan Steckline had RBI hits in the sixth to make it 11-3. The Hawks continued to pour on the offense in the seventh as a run scoring error sandwiched between RBI doubles courtesy of Norman and Steckline made the score 16-5. Norman added an RBI triple in the eighth to cap the scoring at 17 runs.

Freshman right-handed pitcher Dan Klepchick pitched seven strong innings for the Hawks while not walking a single batter. Norman finished the day 5-for-6 with four extra base hits and six RBIs and not far behind him was Papcun who drove in four runs with three doubles.

While the Hawks closed out the weekend with consecutive wins, they dropped a matchup with #23 St. John's on Feb. 23 by a score of 3-0. Senior right-handed pitcher Ricky Dennis struck out five while only allowing one run over six strong innings, but the Hawks' offense could not get on the board as they left ten men on base over the course of the game.

Following the win over UMBC on Sunday, Ehehalt was pleased with the effort over the Retrievers and the weekend as a whole, "The top of our order was extremely productive; Kyle had a big day, Shaine and Pete also got some big RBIs. All in all a very positive weekend."

The Hawks will take the field again on Friday, beginning a three-game series with George Washington University in Arlington, VA.

Men's Lacrosse Falls to Delaware in Home Opener

MARK D'AQUILA
STAFF WRITER

Men's lacrosse bounced back from their heartbreaking double overtime season opener with a huge 17-4 victory on Wednesday at Wagner.

It was a come from behind effort for the Hawks to start

the game as Wagner found the back of the net first striking within the first few minutes. Monmouth responded quickly however, as redshirt senior midfielder Dylan Schulte began a string of eight straight Hawk goals. Schulte and fellow senior Bryce Wasserman led the first half charge with

two goals apiece helping lead Monmouth to a 9-2 advantage at the half.

Junior attack Hunter Jones got the second half scoring going as well with his early transition goal assisted by Wasserman. From here it was more of the same from the Hawks who continued the offensive out-

pour scoring seven more times while only allowing four goals in the game.

"Today was a really good day for our guys," Monmouth Head Coach Brian Fisher said. "We handled the adjustments really well on a short week and that showed today."

The defensive effort was certainly on display in addition as Monmouth senior defender Joe Lucas made his first-career start on defense and his help was surely noticed.

different than Wednesdays as Monmouth began the day's scoring on a Wasserman goal. The lead didn't last long however as Delaware responded with a 6-0 run of their own.

The Blue Hen momentum came to an abrupt stop when Wasserman found the back of the net for his second time of the day, getting the Hawks sideline roaring and on their feet. The goal cut the deficit to four goals, however Delaware was able to tack on two more of their own before the buzzer, heading into the half with an 8-2 lead.



Senior attack Bryce Wasserman tallied two goals and five assists in the 17-4 win over Wagner on Wednesday afternoon.

One of Monmouth's eight second half goals came from none other than Schulte who completed his second career hat trick.

Several young Hawks made their debuts in the game including freshman attack Max Brooks who ended the day's scoring with his first-career goal in the final minute of the game, capping off the victory. Brooks was one of nine players in the game who made their Monmouth debuts against Wagner.

"It was nice to get everyone on the field" Fisher said. "They played with energy and our starters were excited and enthusiastic to see them performing well."

The win was their first of the season and fourth all time against Wagner despite playing on a short week.

A quick turnaround was ahead of the Hawks again as they had their 2018 home-opener on a rainy Saturday afternoon against Delaware.

Saturday's story was much

The defensive effort was certainly on display in addition as Monmouth senior defender Joe Lucas made his first-career start on defense and his help was surely noticed.

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Saturday's story was much

Women's Lacrosse Earns First Win of Season

CHRIS FITZSIMMONS
STAFF WRITER

Women's lacrosse split their two matchups this past week, losing to George Mason 17-14 on Wednesday and defeating George Washington 14-8 on Saturday. With the win, Monmouth snaps their four-game losing streak and now stands at a 1-4 record overall.

Despite the 14-goal performance Monmouth failed to achieve a victory last Wednesday afternoon against George Mason. Both teams had their offensives firing on all cylinders as a total of 31 goals were scored between the two teams. George Mason jumped out to a three-goal advantage before the Hawks scored back-to-back unassisted goals to climb within one.

George Mason quickly responded with two more of their own to go up 5-2, but the Hawks would come within one thanks to senior attacker Alexa Smith who scored her first of the day off an assist from sophomore forward Nicole Ceraso. George Mason then would proceed to score the next five of seven goals to go into the half, up 10-6.

Monmouth's senior midfielder Caroline Corbliss scored first in the second off an assist from junior midfielder Logan Smet to bring the Hawks within three. George Mason quickly put two more on the board to get back to a five-goal advantage with 24 minutes remaining. The Hawks scored seven goals



PHOTO TAKEN by Karlee Sell

Senior midfielder Caroline Corbliss earned the hat trick in the 14-8 win over George Washington on Saturday afternoon.

over the remaining 24 minutes, including four in the final 15 but in the end came up short.

In the loss, the Hawks outshot their opponent to the tune of 39-35 and were positive in the turnover department. Also, junior goalie Riley Brager made ten saves to once again reach the double-digit mark.

"I thought today was much better offensively and defen-

sively in terms of X's and O's. We are really missing consistency on the 50-50 opportunities and the scrap plays. We made significant personnel changes to have more specialty players on both offense and defense and I think that helped the chemistry on both ends of the field," Monmouth Head Coach Jordan Trautman said.

Monmouth's offensive picked up where it left off

on Saturday, ripping off six straight goals to take the early and considerable lead over George Washington. Five different Hawks had multiple goals in the win with Corbliss and junior attacker Jenny Staines both coming away with hat tricks.

Staines had a team high five points in the win and offered her thoughts after the game. "I am really proud of our team, we have been working hard

and it is nice to see our work pay off. We want this energy to carry over into the next game and get another win going forward."

The Hawks took a comfortable 9-2 lead into the break but George Washington did not go down easily. George Washington scored five goals to cut that lead to only five with 14 minutes to play. With momentum starting to shift, Monmouth responded with four straight goals, two of which came back to back from senior attacker Alexa Smith.

Monmouth was exceptionally efficient on their free positioning, going five for seven and keeping George Washington to three of nine. Additionally, Brager continued to impress as she registered her fourth double-digit save performance with a total of ten in the effort.

In the win the Hawks would secure their first victory of the season and with it came the first with Trautman at the helm. Trautman said, "I do not think we did anything differently, I think we executed some of the stuff we have been practicing. I feel that there was a different energy in today's game. From the locker room to the warm ups, I feel that it was the different energy and not so much a different game plan."

The Hawks now have wrapped up their five-game home stretch and will not return home until March 24. They will next take on Delaware on Wednesday Feb. 28.

Women's Basketball Loses to Quinnipiac to End Season

MATT DELUCA
STAFF WRITER

After two tough losses in Buffalo, the Monmouth women's basketball team bounced back with a 73-65 senior night victory over Fairfield at the OceanFirst Bank Center Friday night.

Senior guard Rhaiah Spooner-Knight scored 24 points in 23 minutes, while also grabbing eight rebounds. Junior guard McKinzee Barker was the only other Hawk in double figures scoring, as she had 12.

"Our belief in each other secured this win tonight," Monmouth Head Coach Jody Craig said. "The communication defensively was tremendous, and it was one of our best efforts on that end of the floor."

Fairfield jumped out to an eight-point advantage with 4:02 remaining in the first quarter, but Monmouth was able to cut that lead in half. At the end of ten minutes, the Stags led 18-14. A jumper from Barker with 6:34 left in the second quarter tied the game at 23. Fairfield responded with a 6-0 run, but Spooner-Knight scored four-straight points to counter the Stags' run. Monmouth went into the halftime break down by one, 31-30.

The Hawks took the lead with 7:18 left in the third quarter off of an and-one conversion from Barker. As they two teams traded baskets, senior guard Dana Carbone hit her second three-point shot of the

game with 2:18 in the quarter to give Monmouth a 47-46 lead. They would eventually take a 49-46 advantage into the fourth quarter.

The Hawks expanded their lead to five with 8:46 remaining in the game, but the Stags stormed back once again to take a one-point lead with just over six minutes left. Freshman forward Carol Arfinengo knocked down a three, and junior center Erica Balman converted on a layup to give Monmouth the lead back, as the score was 58-54 with just under five minutes remaining. The run would expand to 9-0, as their lead grew to 62-54 with 4:10 left. Fairfield used one final push to get the game to four points, but a huge three-point shot from sophomore guard Kayla Shaw gave Monmouth a seven-point lead with 46 seconds on the clock. They would not relinquish that lead, closing out Fairfield for their ninth victory of the season.

"We played as a team, got the ball to the right people, and stayed within ourselves as a group," Craig said. "I loved to see our seniors go out on a positive note here and represent the people they are."

Carbone made her first career start, scoring eight points, while senior guard Kayla Quintana grabbed three rebounds in her second career start. Spooner-Knight scored in double-figures for the 18th time this season, which leads the team.

"It was so much fun," Spoon-

er-Knight said. "We came out hyped and wanted to get this win. This is great momentum, and we're peaking at the right time."

Monmouth closed out their regular season by traveling to play league-leading Quinnipiac Sunday afternoon, as they fell 77-57.

Spooner-Knight scored in double figures again with 17 points, and sophomore forward Alexa Middleton added ten points off of the bench.

Sophomore guard Rosa Graham registered eight assists, which were the most by a Hawk since Jamiyah Bethune in December of 2015.

The two teams traded runs throughout the first half, as each team had leads within single digits. With the game tied at 28 late in the first half, Quinnipiac used a 7-0 run to make the halftime score 35-28. They would not look back, outscoring Monmouth in each of the final two quarters to finish

conference play undefeated.

Monmouth ended its season with a 9-20 overall record, and a 7-11 record in Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) play, which ranked them ninth out of 11 teams. Their next game will be Thursday, as they take on the eighth-seeded Canisius in the first round of the 2018 MAAC Basketball Tournament. Tip-off is slated for 9:30 a.m., and the game can be found on ESPN3 and WMCX 88.9 FM.



PHOTO TAKEN by Kalee Sell

Senior guard Rhaiah Spooner-Knight scored 24 points in only 23 minutes in the 73-65 win over Fairfield on Senior Night.

Men’s Basketball Defeats Rider on Senior Day

ZACH COSENZA
SPORTS EDITOR

Men’s basketball defeated the Rider Broncs 91-77 on Senior Night on Thursday. The game was before falling to the Fairfield Stags 69-66 in the regular season finale on Saturday afternoon.

Junior guard Micah Seaborn started off the first half with 11 points while being a perfect 4-4 from the field and 3-3 from behind the arc. The junior would finish the half with 21 points, the most points scored in a half by a Hawk.

“I was feeling good in shoot-around and then when I hit my first one I knew this was going to be a good night,” Seaborn said. “I’m just glad that we got it because I know I’ve never had someone lose on a Senior Night. I always try to make sure the people going out do whatever they can to go out on a good note, no matter how the year went. I just really focused on Austin [Tilghman] and Zac [Tillman] and Dan [Pillari], and of course our team but making sure they went out on the right note.”

“Tonight, on Senior Night, I wanted it for these kids so badly for these seniors,” Head Coach King Rice said.

In the first four minutes, the Hawks would be up 17-3 without a single missed shot going into the first media timeout. Monmouth would control the whole half, going into half time up 50-32. Seaborn was 8-9 from the field while also being 5-6 from three.

In the second half, their lead would be as high as 20 points with 10:37 left after a freshman guard Ray Salnave layup. The Broncs would bring it to within 12 with 5:17 left but the



PHOTO TAKEN by Karlee Sell

Junior guard Micah Seaborn had a career-high 30 points in the 91-77 win over Rider on Thursday night.

Hawks would finish the game, winning 91-77.

Seaborn finished with a career-high 30 points, his most since Dec. 2nd against UConn. “Micah is a basketball guy. When his body is healthy, he is one of the top guys if not the top guy in this league,” Rice said. “He was freshman of the year as a freshman, all-league as a sophomore, and we had plans for a lot of things for him this year and he’s showing you, when healthy, he can do a lot of great things on the court.”

For the game, Tilghman and Salnave finished with 15 points each. Tilghman added seven assists and Salnave grabbed four rebounds. The Hawks shot 55 percent from the field and 57 percent from behind the arc.

On Saturday, Monmouth fell to the Fairfield Stags 69-66.

The blue and white were up by as much as 11 with 5:46 left before the Stags came back to retake the lead with 1:17 left.

“I think we got a little too complacent with the lead and Fairfield stayed positive about it all and they made plays,” Salnave said.

“We just have to get everybody back together and have a better night on Thursday night, that’s all,” Rice said. “We weren’t really playing for seeding, we just wanted to get on a roll.”

The Hawks went into half-time up 36-30, with freshman guard Deion Hammond and Salnave leading the team with nine points each. Hammond was 3-5 from the field while being 2-4 from behind the arc.

In the second, Monmouth would be up by 11 after a pair of sophomore guard Louie Pillari free throws with 5:46 left. Two layups and three-pointers would close the gap to one for the Stags. A dunk and four free throws would give Fairfield their first lead since the two minute mark in the first. Two Hammond free throws would make it 67-66 Fairfield but the Stags would make a layup on the next possession to bring it to the eventual score of 69-66. Salnave would miss a potential game-tying three-pointer with time expiring.

The Hawks (11-19, 7-11 MAAC) will now go into the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) tournament as the eighth seed, going up against ninth seeded St. Peters on Thursday at 5:00 p.m. in the first round. The winner of that matchup will play first seeded Rider in the quarterfinals on Friday night.

Allie Wilson Breaks School Record

SOPHIA GALVEZ
STAFF WRITER

After bringing home two more Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Championship titles to add to the already decorated reputation that the Monmouth University track and field team has, the Hawks brought that same energy to the Fastrack Last Chance meet in Staten Island, N.Y. and Boston, MA this past Saturday and Sunday Feb. 24 & 25.

At the Boston University Last Chance meet, senior Allie Wilson shattered the school record for the 3000-meter-run with a time of 9:37.59, more than 15 seconds faster than the previous record held for this event. At the same meet, fifth year Dylan Capwell ran a 1:47.86 in the 800 meters. This time made Capwell the top collegian finisher in the 800-meter and will soon find out if his time is good enough to qualify for the National Colligate Athletic Association (NCAA) Championships. His time is currently the 13th best time in the country, and if he remains in the top 16 times in this event, he will go on to compete in the NCAA Championships.

Also in Boston, graduate student Chris Marco ran a 4:03.51 in the mile, which is the second best time in this event in school history. Freshman Amanda Dwyer finished second in the 1000 meters with a time of

2:56.09. Dwyer’s time was just .15 seconds below the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) qualifying time of 2:56.24.

The NYC Amory Last Chance meet, the Hawks kept up the momentum. Fifth year Tim Wilson won the weight throwing event with a mark of 66’7”. This mark is the second best in school history, which gives Wilson the top five marks in the event. Junior Ashley McKinnon won the long jump with an ECAC qualifying jump of 18’11” while teammate and junior Patrice Baston finished third with a mark of 18’4. Fifth year Casey Sturts and senior Megan Gambuti finished first and second in the pole vault event with marks of 12’6 and 11’6.75” and junior Dana Lynch won the 60-meter hurdles by finishing in 8.97 seconds. Senior Frank Conforti placed second in the 500 meters, crossing the finish line with a time of 1:07.44 and senior Corey Murphy finished second in the shot put with a throw of 17.69 meter, making him the top collegian for this event.

When interviewed after the Boston University Last Track meet, Head Coach Joe Compagni said, “Our foursome today in Boston all did an excellent job, and we also had a few very nice performances on Friday in New York. We are looking forward to the ECAC/IC4As next weekend and of



PHOTO COURTESY of Tom Connelly

Senior Allie Wilson broke the school record in the 3000-meter run with the time of 9:37:59, 15 seconds faster than the previous record.

course also hoping Dylan did enough to get a spot of NCAA’s again this year.”

The track and field team will be heading back up to Boston for the ECAC/IC4A Championships this weekend, Mar. 2 to the 4th. At this meet last season, the men’s team finished 12th while the women finished third out of a total of 86 teams.

UPCOMING GAMES

Wednesday, Feb. 28
W Lax at Delaware
Newark, DE 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, Mar. 1
WBB vs. #8 Canisius*
MAAC First Round
Albany, NY 9:30 a.m.

MBB vs. #9 St. Peters*
MAAC First Round
Albany, NY 5:00 p.m.

Friday, Mar. 2
WBB vs. #1 Quinnipiac*
MAAC Quarterfinals
Albany, NY 1:00 p.m.
(if necessary)

Baseball at George Washington
Arlington, VA 2:30 p.m.

MBB vs. #1 Rider*
MAAC Quarterfinals
Albany, NY 5:00 p.m.
(if necessary)

Softball vs. Army
Fairfax, VA 6:00 p.m.

Track and Field
ECAC/IC4A Championships
Boston, MA TBA

Bowling vs. TBA
Egg Harbor Twp, NJ TBA

Saturday, Mar. 3
Baseball at George Washington
Arlington, VA 1:00 p.m.

M Lax at UMass Lowell
Lowell, MA 1:00 p.m.

Softball vs. Syracuse
Fairfax, VA 2:30 p.m.

M Tennis at Columbia
New York, NY 4:00 p.m.

Bowling vs. TBA
Egg Harbor Twp, NJ TBA

Track and Field
ECAC/IC4A Championships
Boston, MA TBA

Sunday, Mar. 4
WBB vs. TBD*
MAAC Semifinals
Albany, NY 11:00 a.m.
(if necessary)

MBB vs. TBD*
MAAC Semifinals
Albany, NY 7:00 p.m.
(if necessary)

Bowling vs. TBA
Egg Harbor Twp, NJ TBA

Track and Field
ECAC/IC4A Championships
Boston, MA TBA

Monday, Mar. 5
W Golf
Battle at Boulder Creek
Las Vegas, NV 8:00 a.m.

WBB vs. TBD*
MAAC Finals
Albany, NY 2:30 p.m.
(if necessary)

MBB vs. TBD*
MAAC Finals
Albany, NY 7:00 p.m.
(if necessary)

Tuesday, Mar. 6
W Golf
Battle at Boulder Creek
Las Vegas, NV 8:00 a.m.

*conference games



HOMERUN HERO

Senior infielder Pete Papcun hit the game-winning homerun to defeat Penn State 9-8 on Saturday afternoon. Papcun finished the five-run comeback in the ninth.

SEE STORY ON PAGE 21

PHOTO COURTESY of Andy Mead, YCJ Photos