



# THE OUTLOOK

MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY'S  
STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1933

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## Leahy Highlights Student Success

MATTHEW CUTILLO  
NEWS EDITOR

President Patrick F. Leahy Ed.D., delivered a Spring Convocation in which he addressed the academic and athletic student success of the previous fall semester, in Pollak Theatre Auditorium on Wednesday, Jan. 22.

A brief speech preceding Leahy's address was made by Rekha Datta, Ph.D., Interim Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs and Professor of Political Science.

Noting the recent celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Datta began her remarks with a reflection on one of the civil rights activist's many iconic speeches. "We may have all come in different ships, but we are all in the same boat now," Datta quoted.

Leahy addressed the crowd with a thanks for assembling and the acknowledgment that "... there seems to be no perfect time for us to host the Fall Convocation and the Spring

Convocation, so I'm very grateful for your willingness to join us at this time and to stay with us for a little while to hear about what's on my mind as we go into the Spring semester."

Leahy stressed the importance of holding the convocation regardless of the convenience, as the event is a way to enhance communication on the campus.

After introductions, Leahy transitioned into acknowledg-

ing the plethora of student achievements accomplished in the previous Fall semester. "Every university can, and probably should measure its success by the success of its students, and we had so many examples this fall," Leahy said.

Recalling the success of the Monmouth Debate Hawks, Leahy mentioned the team's

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PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth University  
President Leahy spoke to University faculty and staff at the Spring Convocation, emphasizing student success in and out of the classroom.

## Debate Team Receives Grant from U.S. State Department

NICHOLAS COSCARELLI  
SENIOR/POLITICS EDITOR

Members of the University's Debate Team spent winter break in Mumbai, India, training teachers and students in a policy debate activity as part of a two year grant from the U.S. Department of State, from Jan. 6 to Jan. 16.

The purpose of the grant is to form debate teams at three schools in Mumbai and to work with the teams throughout the year in preparation for a public debate competition at the office of the U.S. Consulate General in Mumbai in January of 2021.

Chyna Walker, a sophomore political science student, and senior political science students Yendeli Bello, Julia Bialy, Madeline Doe, Jon P. Suttile, Alexis Vasquez, and Esther Wellman played a leading role in the debate training program. The Debate Hawks will be traveling back to Mumbai next January to assist the Mumbai debaters in final preparation for the public debate at the office of the U.S. Consulate General in Mumbai.

The U.S. Department of State grant was secured by Rekha Datta, Ph.D., Interim Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs and Professor of Political Science; and Joe Patten, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Political Science and faculty advisor to the Monmouth Debate Team, with assistance from Anthony Lazore, the University's Director of Grants and Contacts.

According to Datta, Lazore sent information about a call for proposals from the U.S. State Department for a Debate Workshop Grant to help establish debate clubs for three schools serving underprivileged youth in Mumbai, India.

Given that the Monmouth Debate Hawks had already been engaged in debate mentoring for students in Asbury Park and other urban school districts, Patten and Datta explained that they became very interested in exploring and applying for the grant.

"We worked with Tony Lazore and with his help and the finance office, submitted the proposal, more as a long shot," said Datta. "Several months later, to our delightful surprise,

we found out that Monmouth was selected for the State Department grant."

After months of work, collaborating with the U.S. Consulate in Mumbai, and identifying and working with three schools in Mumbai, under a more than 9 hour time difference between India and the U.S., the team secured the grant to travel to the schools to offer the debate workshops.

"We were over the moon excited to have our Mumbai debate grant application accepted by the U.S. State Department," said Patten. "Working with the three schools in Mumbai alongside Provost Datta and Monmouth debaters was one of the greatest experiences of my life. And I can't wait to continue working with our Indian debate team partners over the year and return to Mumbai next January for the big public debate in the U.S. Consulate's Office."

The crew of Monmouth's students and faculty brought debate to underprivileged youth, bridging language and cultural barriers, and empowering the Mumbai students to use communication skills to succeed in life—working to build trust and friendship along the way. Students introduced policy debate techniques, using the topic of gender equality as a broad topic and gender quotas in Indian Parliament as a specific proposal.

"Mumbai was an unforgettable experience. It was amazing seeing the students pick up the debate material so quickly and add their own touch to it, as well as create friendships with them," said Bello. "It was a beautiful cultural exchange and I am so grateful to have been given the opportunity to go."

Walker agreed, and said, "I loved seeing all the bright colors throughout the city of Mumbai, and I especially loved working with all the students and learning just as much from them as they learned from me. I am deeply humbled and grateful that I was able to be a part of this trip and I can't wait to see what our friends in Mumbai will do in their bright futures."

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## Nursing School Ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> Best in State

LOWELL KELLY-GAMBLE  
STAFF WRITER

The Marjorie K. Unterberg School of Nursing and Health Studies has been ranked the third best nursing school in New Jersey, according to the 2019 Nursing Schools Almanac report. Monmouth has also been nationally recognized

as a Top 100 school, ranking at No.91 in the United States, and No.38 for elite nursing schools in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

Janet Mahoney, Ph.D., RN, Dean of the School of Nursing and Health Studies and a Professor of Nursing said, "I felt overwhelmed and very proud when I saw the rankings. Knowing that Monmouth University's nursing programs

are the best as we continuously strive for excellence and provide the best learning environment for our students to learn is one thing—but I feel very appreciated when others recognize it."

The factors that determined a certain nursing programs academic prestige and value were graduates capability of paying student debt in opportune time, professional designations and grant funding received for nursing research from the National Institutes of Health, and the amount of years maintaining a graduate nursing education level.

Depth of nursing programs were weighted by undergraduate and graduate programs, consisting of their degrees, diplomas, and certifications offered. Graduate programs were heavily in terms of program enrollment size.

According to the report, data was collected from over 3,000 institutions in the United States. The research team assessed each nursing schools

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PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth University  
Students in the nursing program get hands-on experience.

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Professors Present Data on Local Striped Bass Population

Dr. Phifer-Rixey's project uses DNA analysis to identify the origin of the Striped Bass.

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A Peek Inside our Little Free Libraries

A new take on the library system that has been popping up around the country.

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Your Guide to the Oscars

Read through Mark's top picks and predictions for the upcoming award show.

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# 2020 Library Research Awards Offer Prize Money

MATTHEW CUTILLO  
NEWS EDITOR

The Guggenheim Memorial Library has announced the 2020 Library Research Awards, in which any undergraduate or graduate student can submit a completed research project for a chance to win \$250.

Submitted projects must fulfill the requirements of a Monmouth University course, according to the official submission instructions. Research papers must exceed 10 pages and include a works cited page. Applications must also include a cover sheet, a 100 word abstract or summary, and 500-750 word essay describing the different research strategies and application of library tools the student used to complete their project.

Eleonora I. Dubicki, professor librarian, detailed the contest's expectations of students looking to apply.

"It's really just the essay that's additional," Dubicki said. "We're asking students to write about sources they've used. The essay is only 750 words, which is about 2 pages or so, but it really is meant to explain what [resources] you used."

Starting back in 2008, the awards came as inspiration from other institutions with similar student evaluation contests.

"The Dean got behind it right away and said it was great," Dubicki explained.

A panel of 3 librarians view the submissions, utilizing the rubric to evaluate individually before coming together for a final decision, Dubicki explained. Originally, faculty needed to nominate any submitted papers, but now students are free to submit their work regardless of professor approval.

"The first few years it was moreso history and english [majors], as their traditionally the ones to write a lot of papers. We've gotten a whole range in recent years, however," Dubicki said. "Now we're getting a lot from the psychology [students], but we've also had

nursing and health studies [submissions], as well as biology."

Besides the 10 page paper, students can also submit other forms of work such as posters, presentations, performances, artwork, and multimedia, according to Dubicki. The inclusion of extra submission options comes as an effort to better diversify the competition.

Devon Kelly, a junior year criminal justice major, explained the different types of projects he has considered submitting for the awards.

"Once I found out I could submit something that wasn't a paper, my options really opened up,"

Kelly said. "I'll most likely do some type of multimedia project, since I feel like that works best for the type of information I want to get across."

The essay evaluation rubric considers the process, search strategies, and research use of the submitted work. Individual's papers can be considered "developing," "competent," or "exemplary".

In order to receive exemplary status on their submitted work, students must commit to a process that "explains or recreates the search process with clear detail and offers in-depth insights on how the project contributed to overall growth as a scholar," according to the rubric.

Students must also have a "research topic or thesis [that is] focused and clearly stated" during their search strategies, as well as having utilized a "[wide-range] of research tools/services with clear explanation of the impact on their project."

Jerry Meyer, a senior year english major, discussed his plan to submit work within the confines of the rubric.

"I think the best way to meet the criteria of the rubric will be to speak with different professors," Meyer said. "I could even go speak to different librarians and see their opinions on it. As long as I have a decent pool of resources to receive critique from, I'm confident I'll be able to create something that's still true to myself but also hits the different requirements to have an excellent submission."

"We want students to be proud of the work they've done and all the effort that's gone into it," Dubicki said. "Hopefully as they're writing papers they'll consider their next one, and the resources that they can use [at the library]. I would like to encourage students to come and speak to a librarian. If you're doing a major paper, you can make appointments with any of the librarians and talk about the research that you're going to conduct and then we can help you identify some of the databases."



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth University

The Guggenheim Memorial Library is offering \$250 to any undergraduate or graduate winner of their competition.

## Nursing Program Comments on Ranking

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to pass the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX). Scores were merged and placed in order from highest to lowest.

Some of the degree programs include two Bachelor of Science in nursing (BSN) pathways, two Master of Science in nursing pathways (MSN), and a 36-credit online Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP). The school also offers graduate certificates in forensic nursing and school nursing, as well as post-master's certificates in nursing education, and practitioner fields consisting of adult-gerontology, family, and psychiatric-mental health.

Final criteria evaluated first-time success rates of the NCLEX licensure exam, as well as accreditations from the American Nurses Credentialing Center and the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.

Mahoney praised the faculty for the supervision, care, and compassion they give to their students. He explained that over 90 percent of faculty hold doctoral degrees, and stressed the importance of having a faculty with broad knowledge and experience. "Advanced degrees in nursing open even more opportunities for our students as they care for their patients and our society," he said.

Each nursing student is a

member of the Monmouth University Professional Nurses Association. Top BSN and MSN students can become prospects for membership in the Lambda Delta chapter of the Sigma Theta Tau nursing honor society.

Antonia Prestine, a sophomore nursing student, enjoys the nursing program because of the small faculty to student ratio. "It's only 30 kids in the program each year so you get to know your teachers and classmates on a personal level. It's direct admission and you start clinicals your first year in the spring semester," she said.

Prestine also believes nursing is a great occupation and always has opportunities.

Graduate student nurse liaison and Sigma Theta Tau Honors society member, Kimberly Reda, believes that Monmouth University should be ranked first. "I actually transferred from another graduate nursing program in New Jersey and can honestly say that Monmouth University supports its students immensely and I could not be happier with my choice to transfer to Monmouth University. Dr. Knapp and Dean Mahoney are kind, supportive, dedicated and are amazing role models," said Reda.

When Reda applied to nursing school, Monmouth

did not offer an undergraduate program. Therefore, she decided to attend Fairfield University.

Upon graduating Fairfield with a BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing), she began her nursing career in ER and trauma working in North Jersey, then eventually transferring to the cardiac catheterization lab. She currently works in the cath lab at Hackensack Meridian Health Jersey Shore University Medical Center and is enrolled in the MSN-FNP program.

"High school students should apply to Monmouth University because the staff is extremely dedicated, caring and supportive. Nursing is a tough major and students need to be able to contact their professors and easily seek support. Monmouth University prepares the students to take their boards and pass them which is an impressive statistic," she said.

Reda hopes the ranking encourages more nursing students to apply to Monmouth University.

The full 2019 Nursing Schools Almanac report is available at <https://www.nursingschoolsalmanac.com/rankings>. For more information about the nursing school please visit <https://www.monmouth.edu/school-of-nursing-health/departments/nursing/bachelor-of-science-in-nursing/>

## Leahy Praises Extracurricular Achievements

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three separate competitions across multiple different locations, and their first place victories in two of the three meetings.

"The Debate Hawks went out to a competition at the University of Rochester and competed with [that school], West Point, NYU and others," Leahy said. "Not only did our team finish first, but they finished first and second at that competition. I'm so grateful for the work of our colleague, [Chair of the Department of Political Science and coach of the University Debate team] Joe Patten."

Leahy highlighted the Model UN team's "best delegation" distinction during a competition in Washington D.C. this past Fall, as well as mused over the group's trip to the United Kingdom.

"[The Model UN team] competed against some universities that maybe you've heard of, such as Oxford, Cambridge, and the London School of Economics," Leahy recalled. "They beat those schools in the competition. I'm so proud of our students engaged in this, and I want to thank [Model UN Team advisors] Ken Mitchell and Kevin Dooley."

The Kislak Real Estate Institute from the Leon Hess School of Business hosted a competition on campus this previous Fall, Leahy mentioned.

"[They] invited some schools such as Villanova, Lehigh University, Rutgers University and others," Leahy said. "Our students won that competition as

well. I understand [specialist professor] Irene Z. McFarland was most responsible for preparing those students for that competition."

Leahy went on to mention the field hockey program's "incredible Fall," as they joined the American East Conference and competed against the likes of the University of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and others.

"Our field hockey team ran the table in the American East Conference," Leahy said. "They ended the year with a national ranking."

"First of all, we knew they were going to have a good year," Leahy said when speaking of the women's soccer team. "They traveled out to Austin, Texas to play early in the year and beat the University of Texas, one of the great athletic programs in the country. The women's soccer team once again ran the table in the MAC Conference hosted here on campus. The two best teams in the conference ended up in the finals, Fairfield [University] and Monmouth. We won 6 to nothing, suggesting what a gap there is between our university team and all the others."

Leahy also noted the women's soccer team accomplished the highest group GPA of any team at Monmouth University. "3.63 [GPA] for their efforts both on the field and in the classroom," Leahy said.

He went on to mention the football team's Big South Championship victory.



# Professor Phifer-Rixey Presents Research at National Conference

**MEGAN RUGGLES**  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Megan Phifer-Rixey, Ph.D., an evolutionary biologist and Assistant Professor in the Biology department, presented as part of the Evolution Symposium at the 2019 National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT) Conference, on Nov. 14-17 in Chicago.

Phifer-Rixey presented her research, including a collaboration with John Tiedemann, Assistant Dean of the School of Science, to an assembly of biology teachers. Her talk focused on the use of genetic markers to identify the source populations of the migratory Striped Bass, from both off-shore and near-shore areas. The project used DNA analysis to identify the stock-specific origin of Striped Bass in Ocean County, to determine the contribution of individual stocks. Tiedemann started the project and worked with the Berkley Stripers Club, a local fishing club, that is focused on fishing along the beaches of Ocean County, which inspired his decision to research where the Striped Bass that are harvested in the fall originate. The club supported the research and contributed fin clips. Tiedemann explained that “The fin clips are brought back to the lab to extract the DNA. We can analyze the DNA isolated from the fish to match it to a library of DNA fingerprints

that identify the spawning grounds.” Phifer-Rixey said, “We started doing the work in my lab in 2018 through the Summer Research Program. I thought this was a good fit because students were able to learn how to do molecular genetics.” The project allowed for collaborative research within the Biology department. Tiedemann said, “It was a cool project because my students in the Marine and Environmental Policy Program are interested in the fisheries side of it, and Phifer-Rixey’s students are learning all these laboratory techniques to do DNA analysis.” My students worked with

the club to get the fin clips and delivered them to [Phifer-Rixey and her students] to do the analysis,” he continued. Phifer-Rixey explained that the most powerful aspect of this research is the use of genetic information to better inform management. “When the Federal Government makes decisions about catch limits and size limits, research like this helps [policymakers] determine what strategies are going to be.” “The key with a fishery like this is because it involves so many locations there needs to be engagement across the region,” Phifer-Rixey said. Spawning grounds are all over the place with the most common being the Chesa-

peake Bay, Delaware River and Hudson River. Through the National Science Foundation (NSF), which has a program where they pay a stipend for high school teachers to come into research labs, with the goal of bringing research skills back to their students, two high school teachers were able to work with Phifer-Rixey in the summers of 2018 and 2019. Phifer-Rixey’s research is part of Tiedemann’s broader research agenda. His program, “Stripers for the Future,” a research and education campaign, is designed to educate Striped Bass anglers about biology, ecology and conservation.



John Tiedemann, Assistant Dean of the School of Science, and colleagues conducting research for the “Stripers for the Future,” project.

# Changes to 2020 Commencement

**MATTHEW CUTILLO**  
NEWS EDITOR

This spring’s upcoming undergraduate commencement ceremonies will return to campus as a result of renovation issues at their previous location, PNC Bank Arts Center, on May 14. Morning ceremonies will begin at 10 a.m. with the Leon Hess Business School ceremony taking place at the OceanFirst Bank Center, the School of Social Work at Pollak Theatre, and the Marjorie K. Unterberg School of Nursing and Health Studies under a specialized thousand-person tent on Shadow Lawn. Mary Anne Nagy, Vice President for Student Life and Leadership Engagement, detailed the issues surrounding PNC Bank Arts Center’s renovations in concerns to hosting upcoming commencement gatherings. “I learned from the head of the PNC Bank Arts Center that they were going to undergo a major renovation to buildings that were necessary for us to do commencement,” Nagy said. “Restrooms, concessions, ticket areas, things like that.” PNC Bank Arts Center soon determined the commencement could not be held until June, which Monmouth found unacceptable, Nagy claims. Other locations such as the Prudential Center and Atlantic City Convention Center were once considered, but ultimately the decision was chosen to attempt a commencement on campus due to the logistics of student’s families preferring to drive as short a distance as possible.

# Debate Established Internationally

**DEBATE** cont. from pg. 1

“My favorite parts of the trip were meeting many of the students from the two different NGOs and the school,” Wellman added. “All the students were very excited to learn about policy debate and interact with us; one of the students was so impressive with how quickly she picked up the debate skills and how passionate she was about the issue of gender inequality.” In addition to their hard work with the Mumbai youth, the team also enjoyed their time with one another in the city. “Whether we were traveling around Mumbai on rickshaws, shopping or out to eat, the trip was filled with endless laughs,” said Suttle. “Being

able to experience the culture of another country and getting the chance to work with bright and engaged students of various age groups was such a humbling experience.” “I was especially proud of our students. They gave their time, mentored the students in India, often navigating language barriers, and served as true cultural ambassadors,” said Datta. “I am equally proud of the children in India who we worked with. They rose up to the challenge, did the research, absorbed the training well, and were able to put up a mock debate within three short days of training.” The entire team expressed their gratitude for all the support they received from

various schools, individuals, and offices at Monmouth: the School of Humanities and Social Sciences; the Business School; the Honors School; the Department of Political Science and Sociology; the Global Education Office, Grants Office, and Finance Office; and the Office of the Provost. Datta concluded, “I want to acknowledge the support of President Leahy. When we applied for the grant, I was not serving in the role of Interim Provost. But given my responsibilities, I hesitated to take the days off in January. President Leahy encouraged me to go and be with students; he said being with students is important. We thank him and the university community for all the support.”



Monmouth’s Debate Team worked with students in three schools throughout Mumbai, India to coach them on policy debating and speaking skills. Their work is part of a two-year grant from the U.S. State Department.

# Story Time at Library

**MATTHEW CUTILLO**  
NEWS EDITOR

The Guggenheim Memorial Library has begun their weekly Story Time series, in which students from Education, Business, Psychology and Social Work spend time with K-2 children and their parents. Alex Rodriguez, a senior year social work major, explained the different operations of the weekly meetings. “We pick a theme, such as today’s ‘pajama day’ theme, and we’ll pick a correlating book,” Rodriguez explained. “We’ll do an arts and crafts project as well that goes hand in hand with the theme. That’s the basis of it.” The Story Time series has

been around for 4 years, according to Rodriguez. “We started off pretty small, with 5 or 6 kids our first year,” Rodriguez said. “Now that we’ve been growing a little bit, we have more co-workers and we probably average up to about 9 or 10 kids.” Often the same children will come weekly, according to the students involved in the meetings. “Usually we have a lot of the same kids,” Rodriguez mentioned. “Some of the kids that come are family with Monmouth employees, so it’s convenient for them. We think the kids enjoy it, they always seem to be having a good time and they especially love the arts and crafts portion.”



Monmouth students read a book to children during the story-time portion of their weekly meetings at the Guggenheim.



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Censorship...No Comment

EDITORIAL STAFF

Classes are back in session, and *The Outlook* is back in pursuit of upholding the ideals of Freedom of Speech. In our Nov. 20, 2019 issue, our editorial brought to light an attempt to censor *The Outlook*. Before Homecoming weekend and President Patrick Leahy's Installation, *The Outlook* was removed from its dedicated stands in the Student Center and was replaced with copies of *Monmouth Magazine*, in what appeared to be an apparent attempt to censor the paper. Subsequent to an *Outlook* editorial, on this very page, exposing the incident featuring a photo of the newsstand, the paper did not receive a single response from administration, faculty, staff, or students.

One would think that at an educational institution that values the students and claims to hold the First Amendment in high regard, someone, anyone, might have commented on this incident...

One would think that at an educational institution that values the students and claims to hold the First Amendment in high regard, someone, anyone, might have commented on this incident; perhaps, with a letter to the editor. In fact, it's not outrageous to think that whoever perpetrated this deed, might have also responded with a letter to the editor explaining why they felt they alone were entitled and empowered to silence one of the University's most important voices. We at *The Outlook* are perplexed and disappointed with the absence of any reaction to an incident like this. We invited our editors to fill the void left by those who

saw no need to comment. Our staff described various actions that they might have taken had they not been associated with the newspaper. "If I worked for the university (and were involved in the situation), I would probably only speak up if it were a misunderstanding so that I would be able to explain the real reason for removing the newspapers. Silence implies fault," said one editor. Another editor pointed out that the removal of the newspapers diminished the general readership and exposure that the paper might get from those who pick it up in the Student Center. This publication is a product that the members of the newspaper are proud of as student journalists. Our paper publishes information that is pertinent to the student body and the University community. Maybe

there is a story about a new minor that is being offered, a new career club that is coming to campus, or even an explanation as to why tuition rose. But, the paper is not just about educational opportunities. Stories about where and why to get a flu shot or healthy dining options directly impact readers' wellbeing. How some misguided person at the University would deny them that, is unconscionable. The editors agreed that they were surprised that nothing was said of the editorial. But most of all, *The Outlook* staff wished that faculty members had shown support for us as student journalists. "I would have liked the faculty and administrators to vocalize their support of *The*

*Outlook* on this issue," another editor said. I think that it also would have been good to have heard from the President about the issue, especially since he has expressed his support for *The Outlook*," added the editor. "The newspaper is an official way for students to speak their minds and opinions and removing the newspapers is removing the voices of the students," said an editor. Another editor added that, "Although it limited the voice of us as students, it limited the voice of the entire University, which is something much bigger." It is our hope that this situation never arises again on our campus, or campuses across the country and world. The voices of students and young professionals deserve respect and deserve to be read. If you did respond to our editorial and we failed to recognize it, or you wish to submit a response at this time, please do so and we will do our best to publish it, if that is the will of the writer. Below is the link to our original editorial on the attempted censorship of *The Outlook*. <https://outlook.monmouth.edu/opinion/editorial>



PHOTO TAKEN by *The Outlook*  
Newspaper copies were taken from a stand in the Student Center and replaced with *Monmouth Magazine*.

HOW TO SUBMIT ARTICLES OR LETTERS:

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# Start the Semester On a High Note

LAUREN DEMARCO  
STAFF WRITER

Starting the semester on a high note will make you feel refreshed and ready to take on hardwork. There are some things that you can do at the beginning of the semester to help you get ahead.

You first will have to get adjusted to your schedule by using a calendar to help guide you. It is also a good start to purchase your textbooks early in the semester.

Buying or renting textbooks is a big factor for us college students, such as Chegg or Amazon. There are a lot of good online sites to buy or rent from. These websites are a good opportunity for you to save a little bit of money instead of purchasing books that you may not need after the semester. We can all relate to how much textbooks cost nowadays.

Another thing to prepare for the start of a new semester is to get organized early. Being organized will help you manage stress a little bit better as well as helping your academic responsibilities.

Getting organized is the number one way to start off the new semester on a positive note. By being organized, you will be able to plan ahead and get all your work done.

Even though it is the start of the semester and there might not be a lot of work for classes, try and get ahead by starting assignments or readings while things are still slow.

Having a chance to get ahead in the semester, will make you feel more prepared

and on top of assignments that will come up on a later date.

Getting ahead during the semester will help yourself manage stress a little better by starting a habit of getting your classwork done early. Being able to manage your stress earlier in the semester will make your life easier in the long run.

As college students, we all have some sort of stress that we go through, but it is how we handle it that makes us better. By developing a plan each week of the semester, you will stay on top of your classes as well as other obligations you may have.

Having a plan to achieve your academic responsibilities during the semester will provide you

with a greater outcome.

Another thing I know some people like to do is getting involved such as in a club or sport. Getting involved at the beginning of the semester, sometimes helps people manage their time a little bit better.

I know that for me, that having an extracurricular activity helps me focus better with my classes and work. It also looks great to join a club or organization on campus, as well as being a full-time student. So, get out there and get involved!

All of these things can help you get off on the right foot during the first few weeks of the semester. Having and following a plan this semester will lead you to greater outcomes at the end.

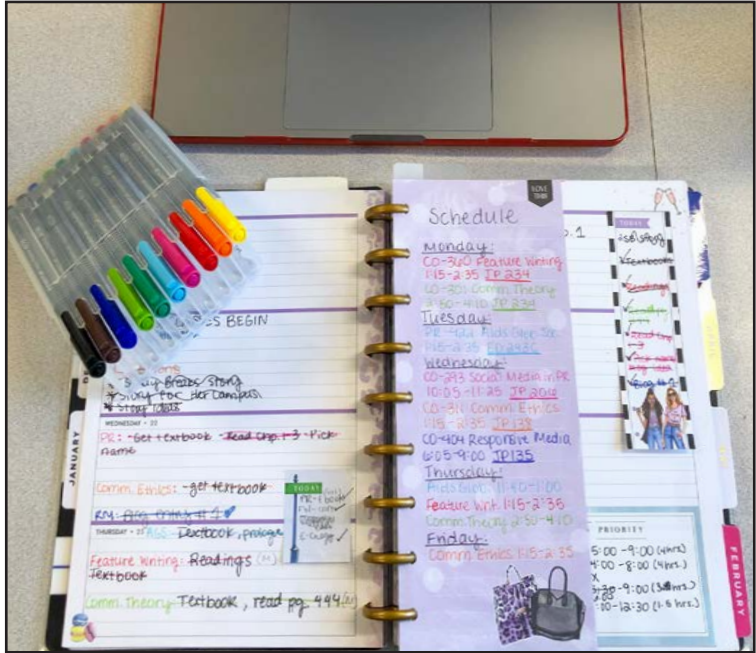


PHOTO TAKEN by Lauren Salois  
Get adjusted to your new schedule by using a calendar to help guide you through your first week of classes.

# Another Gen Ed

HUNTER GOLDBERG  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Should the general education requirement be eliminated or expanded in universities? This question has created much controversy for many years. Many students are getting aggravated and bored of the same topic being taught to them over and over again. From elementary school up until high school, the main focus was general education: science, math, English, and history. How many more years are colleges and universities expecting students to focus on these same topics?

The general education requirement is way too in-depth because of the number of courses a student needs to fulfill in order to graduate. For students, college creates a large workload with major and general education requirements.

To be considered a full-time student at Monmouth University, a student needs to take a minimum of 12 credits per semester. So let's break that down. At Monmouth University every undergraduate student is forced to take 16 general education courses throughout a student's college career. These courses are three credits or more which is a minimum of 48 credits. 16 courses or 48 credits are just about four semesters, two years, worth of general education classes.

An undergraduate at Monmouth University tends to take eight semesters in order to graduate. Hypothetically four out of the eight semesters are focused strictly on general education. For example, in semester one an average student takes five classes, four of which are general education. Continuing this pattern for the next three semesters leaves

the student with having 16 general education requirements and only four classes focused on their field of focus.

These general education courses are three or more credit courses so they are in-depth and have a workload that typically sits on the heavier side. For a Communication Major at Monmouth University, there are 20 major required courses. That is only four classes more than the general education requirement. This is where many students see a problem with general education requirements. Not to mention, these credits are usually courses that have been forced upon in high school.

If a Monmouth University student takes 48 general education credits out of the 128 credits that the student needs to graduate, that means over 37.5 percent of their college career is spent learning information that has already been taught at the high school level.

For upperclassmen, general education tends to have been taken care of within the first two years of school, leaving the majority of major required courses for junior and senior year. These major classes need to be taken starting at the freshman level. If the student realizes they do not like the major he or she picked by the time they are a junior or senior then it is too late for them to switch their major and graduate on time.

The major required classes should be one of the first and the majority of classes a student takes to ensure the student is going to like the major they selected. If the student does not like that major intended class(es) as a freshman then it is not too late to change their major.



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# A Peek Inside Our Little Free Libraries

MELISSA BADAMO  
FEATURES EDITOR

Open the blue wooden box outside the Guggenheim Memorial Library by the parking lot, and you will find nearly two dozen books waiting for a new home.

If you happened to look inside the box on the brisk morning of Thursday, Jan. 23, here is what you would have seen: several James Patterson novels, a publication manual, a historical fiction novel set in the era of the Great Depression, and a contemporary young adult novel, among many more. It's like a library, but it's little and free. It's called...the Little Free Library.

Little Free Library is a non-profit book exchange created with the intent for people to "take a book, share a book". Founded in 2009, these mini libraries have grown in prevalence over the years. There are more than 90,000 Libraries internationally, and two of them reside right here on campus: not only is there one outside the library, but there is also one on the first floor of the Plangere Center for Communication.

The University's Little Free Libraries were placed in memory of Margaret Checton, who worked as the library's administrative assistant for six years before passing away in May 2018. Checton was also a student in the Masters Program in English here at Monmouth.

"One of her passions was to get a Little Free Library," said University Specialist Librarian

Susan Bucks.

These libraries offer a beautiful opportunity to donate books on your shelf while picking up books you never would have come across elsewhere.

"Exposing children to books in the household really gives them an advantage academically," said Bucks. "From the perspective on a college campus, leisure reading has been shown to promote academic success."

She explained that reading outside of assigned textbook material has several benefits such as improving writing skills, critical thinking skills, and empathy.

Bucks said, "Research shows that health studies students, for example, display more empathy and sensitivity when they are novel readers. In our multicultural world, it is really an important life skill whether we're dealing with coworkers, clients, patients, friends, or just people in the community in general. Having exposure through literature and novels really helps us broaden our ability to relate to people."

There are no fines or deadlines when it comes to Little Free Libraries; readers can take a book for as long as they like, or they can return it to share with anyone else who has the fortune of coming across it. It's like a treasure chest for books.

University Librarian Kurt Wagner said, "We put a variety of things into our Little Free Library: some books that we receive as donations, but that are not chosen to add to our collection. Some of us at the library

bring in books from our own collections that we no longer want, and wish to share."

These public bookcases inspire a new way of sharing books with members of a reading community. In fact, many students have never seen a Little Free Library before coming to Monmouth.

Those who are inspired by the Little Free Libraries here on campus can place one in their own hometown. The process is easy; once you purchase a wooden box from LittleFreeLibrary.org or build one yourself, you can register it on their website so that others can discover their community's newest library and begin exchanging books right away.

Amanda Graves, a senior English creative writing student, book lover, and future librarian, finds her way to Monmouth's Little Free Libraries quite often.

She said, "I took a book a couple days ago. It was a first edition of *Slaughterhouse-Five*. I always find neat ones and drop other ones off." Not only does Graves exchange books at Monmouth, but she also donates books to the Little Free Library at the Upper Shores Branch of the Ocean County Library where she works.

She continued, "A lot of people who are unable to get library cards love the Little Free Libraries because they don't have to return the books, they can just take them."

Next time you visit the library or step into Plangere, take a



PHOTO TAKEN by Melissa Badamo

The two Little Free Libraries on campus offer a place for MU students to donate and take books.

peek inside a Little Free Library to grab a book, leave a book, or both. Find the books that await you. It's a great way to catch up on leisure reading and get lost in the world of literature.

Bucks shared, "I walk into the library every morning and I kind of glance in, and there's always a change in collection. People are pulling things out, they're dropping things off—it is a revolving collection, so that's nice to see."

Millions of books are exchanged each year through Little Free Libraries, according to their official website.

"The libraries tend to reflect their location and whoever sets them up, so I think that makes

each one pretty unique," Bucks continued.

There is even a Little Free Library mounted on someone's pickup truck. Registered on the website's official map as "The Wanderer," the description states, "It's mounted on my F-150, so it can be anywhere from Philly to NYC to Work... Mostly in front of the lobby at the Ocean 7 Motel in Ocean City, NJ from April through October. But, keep an eye out, I do leave occasionally..."

Be sure to check out the Little Free Library World Map to find your next favorite book. You never really know where a Little Free Library is going to pop up.

## Glaze of Glory: How Donut-Making Fills My Creativity

CAMERON OAKLEY  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Donuts, seemingly overnight, have become a bigger part of my life than most would imagine. Since I've started working at Broad Street Dough Co., donuts have become a creative outlet, and much more than a snack.

There is so much more that goes into donut-making than most would assume. From mixing the dough to box, the multi-step process ensues.

Donut dough comes in many shapes and forms, but I have become most familiar with a cake donut. This means there is no yeast, and so there is no extreme rising. The dough itself has a completely different process.

After the water is measured and the dough is mixed, each donut plops into the fryer and is pushed along a conveyor as it cooks and takes its perfect shape. A fresh donut is guaranteed, as this process is never-ending from open to close. With over five different dough flavors, 14 different glazes, and endless toppings, the possibilities are never-ending for any donut lover.

With each golden donut falling from the fryer comes a blank slate—a canvas for frosting and toppings. Each and every order is completed in the present time with the utmost freshness. Customers get to ex-

perience a selection of over 35 regular menu items and countless specials with the most creative combinations. Each donut has its own personality.

Every topping offers a different experience and mouth feel. Glazes are smooth and soft with good flavor. Rainbow sprinkles add a slight crunch but flow well with each bite. Peanuts, pretzels, cereals, and toasted coconut easily add crunch every bite. Caramel with sea salt, Bavarian cream, and cannoli cream offer some ways to satisfy the sweet tooth that many come for.

Katiana Methfessel, a junior fine arts student, hopes to bring her artistry to the realm of donuts. Having just applied to Broad Street Dough Co., she said, "I'm a very hands-on person, so being able to engage with people and have the ability to produce what we sell is incredibly important to me."

Working at this donut shop, I create a new experience for those who relish in this delicious dessert. Donuts often get a bad rap for not being the healthiest of food options. However, the inclusivity of donuts range from gluten free to vegan options. I have given countless customers their first donut due to their allergies and dietary restrictions.

Alyssa Bogan, a junior health studies student, said, "It just makes it more accessible for people with restrictions be-

cause desserts are usually the first thing to go when you get diagnosed with an intolerance or allergy. I've never been able to have donuts before I heard about this place."

The best part of making donuts is getting to share them with friends. Custom donuts have become a huge part of holiday dinners, weddings, baby showers, birthdays, and more. When custom colors are involved, there is no shortage of creative freedom. It's a form of expression for me with endless possibilities.

Glazes and sprinkles are more than just toppings. They are what tie in a theme—whether it's pink hearts for Valentine's Day or team colors for the Superbowl. No matter the theme, the vibrant decorations have a way of complementing the flow and ambiance of a room. Donuts create a community and bring people together, which is a very special thing. They take the cake at every event.

Donuts aren't the only dessert that offers impeccable creative freedom. For example, the Magill Commons Dining Hall features a cake of the day adorned with cute, unique themes.

When you walk into Broad Street Dough Co., you are hit with the smell of sugar immediately. There is music blaring, and you see a wall full of pictures of every menu item.

When you turn around, you'll see a counter of specials. Be-

hind that counter is employees who have mastered the craft of donut-making, working their hardest to deliver an experience of the senses.

Located in Oakhurst, just a little more than two miles from campus, it has become a place for Monmouth students to revel in the sweetness of the best dessert.

Upon walking into the store,

an employee will say to you, "Hi, how are you? Have you ever been here before? Do you have any questions? Please let me know if there is anything I can do for you!"

And with that, your nerves will lessen. There will be more ease with ordering, and the big menu that once seemed scary becomes a playground of flavors where the fun begins.



PHOTO TAKEN by Cameron Oakley

Donut-making serves as a creative outlet and a unique way of expressing art.



# Commercials: The Super Bowl’s Main Event

CHLOE BARONE  
LIFESTYLES EDITOR

Three words. Super Bowl Sunday. Whether you just rolled your eyes after reading that, or are heavily anticipating the upcoming showdown between the San-Francisco 49ers and the Kansas City Chiefs, there is one thing that most viewers of the event agree on; the commercials have become a phenomenon that put the “super” in Super Bowl.

For many Americans the Super Bowl has become an honorary holiday since it was first established, according to the NFL, in 1966 when it was called the ‘AFL-NFL World Championship Game.’

Now 54 years later, the game is a long-established tradition. According to *USA Today* the most-watched Super Bowl was February of 2015 with 114 million viewers, a close second being February 2018 with 103 million viewers.

Although recently, “Super Bowl viewership has been in decline since reaching its high in 2015. Last year’s Super Bowl reached 98.2 million, the lowest figure since 2007,” said Professor Andrew Pederson of the Marketing Department at Monmouth University.

“It is interesting to note that this year viewership for both the NFC (the late game) and AFC championship games was down 20 percent and 7 percent respectively from last year. In part this is explained by the fact that both games were never

close at the end, although the Chiefs game saw an amazing comeback and then a route,” further explained Pederson.

The good news is the advertisements were what kept the event buzzing. *Forbes* estimated that on the Thursday and Friday before last year’s Super Bowl, the ads had already been found and

duce in a really funny way their most famous character.”

Now more than ever, there is a detachment felt between pro-football and millennials. In a 2016 study done by YouGov, 26 percent of young Americans (18-24 years old ) said the “best part” of the broadcast is the ads.

represent, and the insanely expensive, movie-like commercials that make 30-seconds the most important part of the night.

“This year’s networking hosting the Super Bowl ,FOX, is asking \$5.6 million dollars for a 30 second commercial spot. That is up from \$5.25 million from last years network, CBS.”

With a world saturated in ads, young people invested in social media and influencer culture, want to know, and go, where the next big trend is.

From social, the Super Bowl is an event for young college students to gather and celebrate. At Super Bowl parties although fans are clad with NFL apparel, the conversation on everyone’s tongues often is how amazing, or disappointing

the new ad campaigns are for their favorite brands.

Sobrano added, “As far as social media goes, I know every year a big movie studio like Disney or Fox releases their biggest movie of the year trailers during the game so movie/entertainment fans are waiting through hundreds of commercials to see the big release of that.”

Pederson said at this year’s Super Bowl, “you will also see political ads from both President Trump and Mike Bloomberg and companies such as Budweiser (who will run four ads), Audi, Frito Lay, Coke, Discover Card, Facebook (a newcomer), Hienz, Hyundai, Proctor & Gamble, New York Life, Pepsi, Pringles, Snickers, Squarespace, Tide, Toyota, WeatherTech, Verizon and a host of others.”



IMAGE COMPILED by Chloe Barone  
Battling it out in the 2020 Super Bowl are the San Francisco 49ers, and the Kansas City Chiefs.

streamed more than 105 million times across several platforms.

Professor John Inzero of the Marketing and International Business Department, explained the immense opportunity this presents for businesses.

“To have that many people at one time see your ad is an incredible opportunity for businesses to introduce themselves or a new product, to more deeply brand themselves, or to remind people about a product they loved for so many years,” said Inzero.

Inzero added to, “watch for the Mr.Peanut funeral ad in the upcoming game. It is Planters chance to re-intro-

Founder and Former President of the Sports Industry Club, Max Sobrano, has taken note of this shift. “I think this is something that is constantly being talked about...The craziest part of this NFL Super Bowl commercial phenomenon is the fact that commercials use to be a time when TV viewers would take bathroom breaks.

Now-a-days I see non-football fans almost more excited for this year’s big million dollar commercial,” said Sobrano.

But Why? Simply put, the game is no longer the most intriguing part of the event. It’s the connections that young people feel for the players, the brands they



IMAGE COMPILED by Chloe Barone  
Advertisements broadcasted during this years Super Bowl will include Audi, Coke, Facebook, Hyundai, and Pringles among many others. .

# Adorable Adoptables



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# Rollin' the Dice: How Artists Game Their Music to the Top Spots

GRACE ENRIGHT  
STAFF WRITER

When Justin Bieber's 'Yummy' was released on Jan. 3, fans and critics formed differing opinions on the song. Since this was Bieber's first solo single in three years, he aimed to get the song to the number 1 spot on streaming charts.

It's no secret that dedicated fans take over social media when their favorite artists release new material. They aim to stream songs on repeat and buy songs multiple times in order to push the tracks higher up on charts. Yet, it is rare to see the artists encouraging this type of behavior.

Not only did Bieber encourage his fans to listen on repeat, but he reposted Instagram stories that one of his fan pages made that read, "Create a playlist with 'Yummy' on repeat and stream it."

"Don't Mute it, Play at a Low Volume, Let it Play While You Sleep," "Buy the Song on iTunes," "Buy the Song Multiple Times on Justin's Website." The question we all must ask: Is this fair for artists to do?

When thinking about the situation, it doesn't seem wrong for artists to legally promote their own material. However, when you dive deeper and look at the facts, it can be difficult to believe it's morally right.

Bieber's case is not the first incident of this kind to occur in the music industry,



IMAGES TAKEN from casino.org (background), PNG Image (dice), pinterest.com (table above), Upscale (Scott above, left), PNGKey (DJ Khaled, middle), Weheardit (Bieber, right)

Rapper Travis Scott (left), producer DJ Khaled (middle) and pop star Justin Bieber (right) have gamed the music sales and streams industry in their own ways.

as numerous artists have done similar things. DJ Khaled was guilty of bundling, a common practice of providing album downloads with purchases of merch or other sales. DJ Khaled was providing a digital download of his album *Father of Ashad* with the purchase of the energy drink Awake Energy Shot. Billboard disqualified sales of his album, preventing it from reaching the number one spot.

Travis Scott was also wrapped up in a similar scandal. He released merch every 24 hours, switching up the apparel each time. One day he released graphic hoodies, the next it was dad caps and T-shirts. Every purchase came with a digital download of his album *Astroworld*.

This stirred up problems with

his competitor, Nicki Minaj. Her album, *Queen*, came second on the Billboard charts to Scott's. She claimed the strategy was wrong, and that Scott knows his album shouldn't have beaten hers.

These tactics are honestly smart of artists to perpetrate, yet they come at the price of knowing they bought the number one spot rather than earning it. I see these tactics as ways of playing the system and cheating those who work hard to get their music out to the public and put on the charts. This is not to say that artists like Justin Bieber and Travis Scott do not work equally hard on their music, but that they probably only gained top spots on charts because of it.

The biggest concern for me

when it comes to cheating the system like this is that the artists who sold their albums fairly might not get the recognition they deserve. And while some would argue that the artists are smart for playing the system, we all should know what is right and wrong.

Buying streams does not equate to your music being the best. And since charts like Billboard go off of how many streams a song or album gets, undeserving music could be placed on top.

Jonathan McElroy, M.M., Professor of American Music Tradition, noted that this is nothing new in the music world.

"The practice of 'inflating' a song or album numbers has been a common practice since tracking sales. As it relates to

streaming, fans promoting such a practice is common, with the artist not getting involved," McElroy said.

He continued, "What seems to be the issue is Justin Bieber promoting his practice himself. Simply put, the artist is involving themselves with what is traditionally a fan only practice. While promotion is important for an artist, unfortunately for Bieber, his attempt created the opposite effect of what he most likely wanted."

It's out of the artist's control when fans go out of their way to buy or stream up their music. However, when the artist actually promotes that behavior, it may do even more harm than imagined.

To contradict myself, I think that when fans go to live concerts and shows and buy merchandise, it is not wrong for those items to come with a free copy of the artist's album. This is only because it benefits fans in a clean way, since they will actually listen to and appreciate the music; whereas Justin Bieber and DJ Khaled bought their streams and promoted corrupt behavior.

These artists are role models for younger generations and are looked up to, and the message that they are conveying to their fans is that cheating the system is okay.

Instead of buying streams to ensure an undeserving song gets a number one spot, artists should just stick to releasing the music they want and hoping the public likes it too.

## GOLIATH VS. GOLIATH: Theaters Battle Against Netflix at the Oscars

MARK MARRONE  
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

This means war. No, I'm not talking about the Best Picture nominee *1917* (it's overrated by the way), but the ongoing battle between theater chains and streaming services.

The battleground is set at this year's Oscars. The side with a great deal of fire power is *Netflix*, which has taken control of 24 nominations, including Best Picture for *The Irishman* and *Marriage Story*.

Meanwhile, the theaters have strength on their side. The other six Best Picture nominations have been screened in cinemas and will stick around until the big showdown in February.

Leading up to the ceremony, AMC Theaters hosts a Best Picture showcase, which spans two days and shows all the Best Picture

nominees. But this year, AMC has a sneak attack up their sleeve. In an effort to boycott *Netflix*'s growing dominance, AMC is not screening *The Irishman* and *Marriage Story*.

You may look at the Academy's ratio and go, "Hey, that's not too bad! The theaters have seven nominations compared to *Netflix*'s two, so they're in the lead." While it may seem like this on the surface, theaters like AMC are shaking in their trench boots.

Last year, *Netflix* only had one nomination for Best Picture: *Roma*. Although the Alfonso Cuarón directed film was a big success with ten nominations and three wins, cinemas still had seven of the eight nominations playing in their theaters. Plus, they screened the Best Picture winner, *Green Book*.

But now, a trend is catching on.

Last year, it was one movie that made a splash, while this year it's two. As more big time actors and directors gravitate toward *Netflix*, that number will grow. Along with that growth, we could see fewer people going to the cinema.

Outside the Oscar season, we're seeing this trend crush theaters throughout the year. We know cinemas are the best place to see big budget action flicks, but *Netflix* released director Michael Bay's *6 Underground*. Although I'm glad to not see Michael Bay's trash wash up at theaters, there's no denying how his filmography is meant for the big screen.

Today, people don't even have to go out of their way to watch a movie like Bay's or the Oscar nominations on a big screen because many have giant televisions with incredible picture quality and

sound in their living rooms. Why overpay and put up with loud patrons when folks can watch movies in the comfort of their own home?

Even worse for theaters, the problem doesn't stop at *Netflix*. While the Oscars is an important battle for theaters against *Netflix*, there's a bigger fight against all the streaming services. At the end of last year, we saw major streaming services pop up like *Apple TV* and *Disney+*, along with more on the horizon like *HBO Max* and *NBC's Peacock*.

Who knows? This battle between services may eventually spill over to the Oscars. Associate Professor of Communication Chad Dell, Ph.D., thinks it could happen.

"*Netflix* has been at the leading edge in attracting Oscar attention, but *Amazon* is not far behind, and *Disney+* and the other streaming services will all be seeking awards attention," Dell said. One year, we may see three nominations for *Netflix*, two from *Apple TV*, one from *Disney+*, and only one in theaters.

It seems impossible, but we're seeing the signs today. Last year was a record year for the box office, but AMC reported a loss.

Look at their stock: it went from \$34 at the start of 2017 to \$7.3 at the start of this year. Theater chains are too dependent on big blockbusters, but movies like *Avengers: Endgame* or *Star Wars* only come out here and there throughout the year.

It's not enough to keep them alive for long, especially when streaming services are stealing big budget and Oscar films from the-

aters.

This is why theaters are starting a rebrand for an experience that's more than just sitting in a movie. Nowadays, theaters have nice reclining seats, a wider variety of concessions, and offer different viewing experiences, like in IMAX or Dolby theaters.

It's even a problem for the areas around theaters, as pointed out by Dell. "Movie multiplexes are often located in shopping malls, which are also under threat right now, and some are transitioning to offering 'experiences' that go far beyond shopping, such as water parks, circuses, expanded public spaces, and elaborate VR and AR installations," he said. "Movie makers and theaters may have to entirely rethink the exhibition experience."

An even better idea? Studios can try to make better movies. Professor of Journalism John Morano said it's on theaters as well to show films worth seeing.

"While the convenience of streaming certainly seems to be a factor that contributes to people staying home to watch movies, the onus is on the theaters to feature films that are good enough to bring people in," stated Morano.

It's quite hard to picture a world without the movies. Cinemas are a part of the world's DNA and a place where I've made some of the best memories. However, as streaming services put out Oscar worthy material, we may make more memories on our couch.

With each Oscar season, let's keep monitoring the situation on the battlefield.



IMAGES TAKEN from thoangsaigon.com (banner), The Cary Theater.com (background), Axios (Netflix, left), pngim.com (Oscar, center), freepngimg (popcorn, right), fxfitnesscenter (muscles left and right for popcorn)

Netflix and theaters are going head-to-head at this year's Oscars and probably more in the future.



# Your Guide to The Oscars

## Commentary, Picks, and Predictions

MARK MARRONE  
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Ah, here we go again! Hollywood will be the center of the world for this year's Oscars ceremony on Sunday, Feb. 9 at 8 p.m. on ABC. There are some great films up for nominations, but what would an Oscars ceremony be without any controversy?

If you recall last year, the Academy Awards did well with inclusion, as many hailed the ceremony's biggest winner as diversity. Films like *BlackKkklansman*, *Black Panther*, and *Roma* lead with nominations in major categories. While *Roma* swept the floor with three wins in significant categories (Director, Foreign Language Film, and Cinematography), *Green Book* left with the grand prize of Best Picture.

It was a divisive choice because some thought *Green Book* was a white savior movie, while others believed it as a lesson in breaking down barriers. Regardless, I enjoyed it much more than *Roma* and found it worthy of the award.

Although last year looked like a step in the right direction for inclusion at the Oscars, the Academy has taken a thousand steps back. Across all the major categories of acting and directing, the Academy has only chosen two people who are not white. This includes Cynthia Erivo of *Harriet* for Best Actress and Bong Joon-ho of *Parasite* for Best Director.

On top of this, films driven by white male stories have dominated Best Picture and other important categories. Those flicks are *1917*, *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*, *The Irishman*, *Ford v Ferrari*, *Jojo Rabbit*, and *Joker*, which leads with 11 nominations. This move by the Academy comes as such a shock, where there were plenty of films that could've been included to diversify the field.

Some of the most notable diverse movies that were snubbed involve the Asian family drama *The Farewell* (for Best Picture, Best Director for Lulu Wang and Best Actress for Awkwafina), death row justice drama *Just Mercy* (for Best Picture and Best Actor for Michael B. Jordan), the Rudy Ray Moore inspired comedy *Dolemite is My Name* (for Best Picture and Actor for Eddie Murphy), and the Jordan Peele directed horror *Us* (for Best Picture, Actress for Lupita Nyong'o, and Director for Peele).

Other outcry worthy snubs included Best Actress for Jennifer

Lopez's role in *Hustlers*, Best Director for Greta Gerwig's work in *Little Women*, and Best Original Song for Beyoncé's 'Spirit' from *The Lion King*.

Considering all the possibilities they had, you can't help but just take a step back and think, "Wow; how'd they screw that up?"

The Academy could've easily had diversity across the board, but they rolled up the red carpet on that.

This sends a bad message out to Hollywood again. With such a great melting pot of talent in so many strong films, shutting the door on inclusion is archaic today. As a place that's liberal and tends to be forward thinking, it's incredible how backwards they can be.

As for the nominations we got, it's a mixed bag. There are some great films up for nominations like director Martin Scorsese's mob drama *The Irishman*, director Bong Joon-ho's wild rollercoaster ride *Parasite*, the Jonathan Pryce and Anthony Hopkins led drama *The Two Popes*, the sincere yet heartbreaking *Marriage Story* directed by Noah Baumbach, and the exhilarating Christain Bale led race movie *Ford v Ferrari*. Those are all the films worth checking

where I'm enthralled by every film nominated. However, if some of the previously mentioned snubbed were nominated, the Oscars could've been a big splash.

Outside the nominations, the Academy chose to go hostless again for the ceremony. If you recall last year, comedian Kevin Hart was controversially ousted as host when his homophobic tweets resurfaced from years ago. Instead of trying to find a replacement for Hart, they boldly chose to go hostless.

The move was a great success, as the ceremony moved quickly and finished at a decent time, compared to the sluggish four hour event we were all too familiar with. It's great how they just cut the mumbo jumbo and got right on with the show.

What will be presented? Below is the list of nominees for major categories in acting and Best Picture.

After the list, I'll give my pick of who or what I'd like to see win, then the prediction of who or what will most likely win the award.



Some of the Best Picture nominees include *1917* (left) *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood* (center) and *Parasite* (right).

out ahead of the show.

Then there are the overrated picks that the Academy loves for some reason. The Nazi comedy *Jojo Rabbit* couldn't get a smirk out of me, *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood* is only nominated because it strokes Hollywood's ego, *1917* was a one shot gimmick, *Joker* was fine but downright depressing, and *Little Women* was just okay. So while there are plenty of strong choices, there are also some poor ones.

Unfortunately, it's not a year

### Best Picture:

*1917*  
*Ford v Ferrari*  
*Joker*  
*Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*  
*Parasite*  
*The Irishman*  
*Little Women*  
*Jojo Rabbit*  
*Marriage Story*  
**Pick:** *Parasite*  
**Prediction:** *1917*

*Parasite* was one where you walk out of the theater with your eyes still wide and say, "Wow, that was amazing." The Korean film has a story that digs the family deeper into a hole and their way out is full of twists and turns.

If *Parasite* were to win Best Picture, it would be unprecedented. There's never been an international film to win Best Picture, but *Parasite* is worthy. Usually Best Picture goes to the most popular film and many people have seen *Parasite* in this case. It's grossed over \$143 million worldwide and nearly \$30 million in the U.S.

However, the Best Picture category is completely wide open. It's filled with films many have seen and enjoyed, yet not one has been a runaway favorite at award ceremonies leading up to the Oscars.

I don't think the Academy will pick something from Netflix in



IMAGES TAKEN from Wallpaperplay (banner), pngimg.com (Oscars above), freepngimg (triangles, above), Pixers (background), PNG Arts (Phoenix, left), WSJ (Zellweger, middle), Deadline (Dern, right) Joaquin Phoenix (left), Renée Zellweger (center), and Laura Dern (right) are likely to win in acting categories.

protest (as good as those films are), which knocks off two. They could choose *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood* because they're full of themselves, but I think ultimately they may pick *1917*.

It won Best Drama at the Golden Globes and a lot of critics like it (even though it's one of the most boring and safest movies I've seen recently). Plus, it's a movie out in theaters, which will get people to the cinema.

Al Pacino, *The Irishman*  
Tom Hanks, *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*

**Pick:** Joe Pesci

**Prediction:** Brad Pitt

For Pesci to be out of the game for nearly 20 years and give such a powerful performance in *The Irishman* was incredible. Throughout his whole performance, he acted cool and tough. Even acting as an old man (which he already is), was powerful, as he was shaking his hands or stuttering on some words. It's as though Pesci never left.

So to give the award to Pitt would be pitiful but we know it's going to happen. For some reason, Hollywood has fallen in love with Pitt all over again. Maybe it was because his role mostly consisted of him wandering around with his shirt off? I could see a *GQ* award but an Oscar? Malarky!

### Best Actress

Charlize Theron, *Bombshell*  
Renée Zellweger, *Judy*  
Cynthia Erivo, *Harriet*  
Scarlett Johansson, *Marriage Story*  
Saoirse Ronan, *Little Women*  
**Pick:** Cynthia Erivo  
**Prediction:** Renée Zellweger

*Harriet* wasn't as good as it should've been, but Erivo was superb. She put a lot of care into being Tubman and carried the film.

There's no knocking Zellweger though. She felt like a clone of Judy Garland, from the mannerisms down to the singing voice. Hollywood loves Garland, so it's the perfect combination for Zellweger to take the award 'Over the Rainbow.'

### Best Supporting Actress

Kathy Bates, *Richard Jewell*  
Margot Robbie, *Bombshell*  
Scarlett Johansson, *Jojo Rabbit*  
Florence Pugh, *Little Women*  
Laura Dern, *Marriage Story*  
**Pick:** Laura Dern  
**Prediction:** Laura Dern

Frankly, most of these performances were forgettable except for Dern's. Sure, they were fine, but I wasn't blown away by them.

Dern's portrayal of a ferocious divorce attorney served as the spark for *Marriage Story*. She makes you want to think, "Dang, I better get my marriage together before an attorney like that gets involved!" She's ruthless yet sophisticated in the role, which will get her the Oscar, case closed.



IMAGES TAKEN from redbubble (background), Us Weekly (Lopez, center), One News Page (Murphy, left), vox.com (Awkwafina, right)

Some snubs were Eddie Murphy in *Dolemite is My Name* (left), Jennifer Lopez in *Hustlers* (center), and Awkwafina in *The Farewell* (right).



# Democratic Candidates Shifting in Presidential Primary

MATT ENGEL  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With just over a week remaining before the Iowa Democratic caucuses, the Monmouth University Polling Institute released its latest political poll, showing that former Vice President Joe Biden continues to lead the field of candidates, as of Jan. 22.

According to the poll, which took information from voters that were either registered Democrats or said they tended to lean Democrat, Biden currently has support from 30 percent, followed by Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders (23 percent) and Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren (14 percent). Other candidates included businessman and former New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg (9 percent), former South Bend, Indiana, mayor Pete Buttigieg (6 percent), Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar (5 percent), and businessman Andrew Yang (3 percent). No other candidate registered more than 1 percent in the University poll.

Of the candidates with double-digit support, Biden and Sanders saw their polls numbers increase by 4 percent and 2 percent, respectively. Meanwhile, Warren, who has dropped to third place in the race for the Democratic national, saw her poll numbers decrease by 3 percent.

Stephen Chapman, Ph.D., an Assistant Professor of Political Science, said that he believed Biden's rise in the polls was due to his status as the front-runner of the race, with more voters getting behind Biden as other candidates have recently dropped out.

"He is pretty much the one that most mainstream Democrats who are involved on a day-to-day basis will put their weight behind," Chapman said of Biden. "In general, you are going to see a thinning of the field at this point."

As for Warren, who in a Monmouth poll from August was locked in a three-way tie with Biden and Sanders for the top spot in the Democratic field, Chapman stated that the Massachusetts Senator's drop in poll numbers was "more interesting." He attributed her polling to her being in the middle of the different ideologies in the Democratic Party, having been considered both more progressive than Biden and more moderate than Sanders.

"Warren's not a full-fledged supporter of some of the more progressive policies by Sanders," Chapman said, giving Warren's slightly more moderate stance on abolishing student loan debt as an example. "Bernie has built allegiances from his previous run for President."

The question over whether Warren could defeat President Donald Trump in an election has become widely discussed, particularly after a *CNN* report that Sanders claimed in a private meeting that a woman could not win a presidential election. However, the Monmouth poll showed that approximately 74 percent of Democratic voters said they did not consider gender an important part of a candidate's qualification for the nomination.

"It might make for great TV, but most Democrats seem immune to the 'he said, he didn't say' dust-up between Sand-

ers and Warren," said Patrick Murray, the Director of the Monmouth Polling Institute. "Or, at least, they say that gender doesn't matter."

The poll also addressed concerns by Democratic voters that Iowa and New Hampshire, by having their primary elections first, have an unfair amount of influence in deciding the Democratic nominee. An additional concern is that the mostly white states of Iowa and New Hampshire do not accurately represent the Democratic base, 39 percent of which are people of color, as stated by the most recent survey by the Pew Research Center. According to the Monmouth poll, 58 percent of Democrats supported a national primary, where all states would hold primary elections on the same day. Just eleven percent believed that the cur-

rent primary system, where elections are spread out over a period of several months, should remain the same.

"Most Democratic voters would like to see an overhaul of the primary calendar," said Murray. "This view appears to be more out of a sense of fairness to the party's diverse electorate than concerns they might have about the ability of Iowa and New Hampshire voters to properly vet the field."

All primary election dates are decided by each respective political party, with Iowa and New Hampshire having historically been given the right to have primary elections before other states. Meanwhile, New Jersey's Democratic primary election is not until June 2, where they will be among the final states to vote in the primaries. In recent years, however, the race for the Democratic

nomination has already been decided by the time people in New Jersey have the chance to vote for the candidate of their choice.

"Since Iowa and New Hampshire have the advantage of going first, they're going to set the tone for the rest of the primaries, even if they aren't an accurate reflection of the demographics," Chapman said. "The media coverage of what happens in Iowa and New Hampshire is going to permeate a little bit more than it would in a primary down the road."

Perry Merse, a first-year communication student, said that while he did not believe that all primaries should be held on a same day, he also felt that voters and the media paid too much attention to the results in Iowa and New Hampshire.

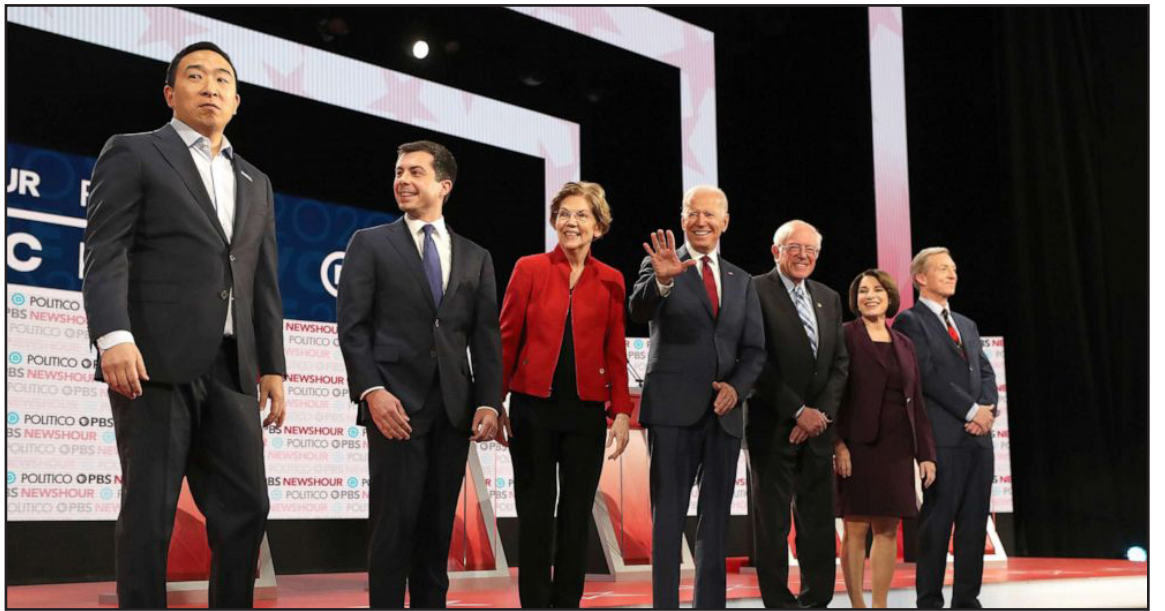


IMAGE TAKEN from Getty Images

Monmouth Poll shows Biden and Sanders as top two candidates, with Warren in a slight decline.

# New Jersey Bans Controversional "Gay Panic" Defense in Courts, Becomes Ninth State in the Nation

NICHOLAS COSCARELLI  
SENIOR/POLITICS EDITOR

New Jersey became the ninth state to ban the "gay panic defense" and "trans panic defense" for charges of criminal homicide from its courts, on Tuesday, Jan. 21.

The statue, A1796, was introduced in the New Jersey Assembly in January 2018, passing the Judiciary Committee and full floor vote

unanimously last December. After resolving Senate amendments, the bill passed both houses on Jan. 13, and was signed by Governor Phil Murphy last Tuesday.

Under previous law, a homicide which would otherwise be murder could be reduced to manslaughter if the jury finds that the homicide was committed "in the heat of passion resulting from a reasonable provocation." The

new prohibition is intended to prevent a defendant from seeking the reduction of a murder charge to a charge of manslaughter committed in the heat of passion, allegedly provoked by the discovery of, knowledge about, or potential disclosure of the homicide victim's sexual orientation or gender identity.

According to the LGBT Bar, a legal nonprofit that has been on the forefront of get-

ting the gay and Trans panic defenses banned nationwide, the controversial practice is defined as: "a legal strategy that asks a jury to find that a victim's sexual orientation or gender identity/expression is to blame for a defendant's violent reaction, including murder."

Katherine Parkin, Ph.D., a Professor of History and the Jules Plangere, Jr. Endowed Chair in American Social History, said, "Historically, the position for a defense was to entice the jurors into imagining themselves in an uncomfortable or threatening scenario, whereby the victim's sexual orientation or gender identity as a LGBTQ+ person was purported, by their very existence, to be a provocation."

One of the most known uses of the tactic was in the murder trials for the 1998 killing of Matthew Shepard, a college student at the University of Wyoming who was killed and brutalized by two men.

The lawyers for Aaron McKinney, one of two men charged, argued that McKinney was driven to a temporary state of insanity after Shepard allegedly made an unwanted sexual advance on him. The jury found him guilty and sentenced him to

two consecutive life sentences nonetheless.

"It's taken a tragically long time to outlaw this shameful defense and is an important part of changing a social and legal culture that protects the right of all New Jerseyans to live lives of freedom and respect," Parkin explained. "New Jersey's leadership in outlawing these bogus victim-blaming defenses is vital. Outlawing of a defense predicated on blaming a crime or murder on a victim's sexual orientation or gender identity/expression is a triumph for a justice system that aspires to be just."

In a joint-statement to their constituents in Monmouth County, State Representatives Joann Downey and Eric Houghtaling, and Senator Vin Gopal said, "Members of the LGBTQ community deserve protection from bigotry and hate - period. This bill might not solve every problem this community faces - but with this new law, we're one step closer to permanently closing this dark chapter in New Jersey legal history."

Currently, only eight other states prohibit the legal strategy in their courts: California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Nevada, New York, and Rhode Island.



IMAGE TAKEN from Patch.com

On Twitter, Governor Phil Murphy said, "I just signed a bill banning the gay and trans panic defenses for charges of criminal homicide. We will always stand with our LGBTQ+ community and promote full equality for all our residents."



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2019 Student Employee of the Year Reception

(L-R) Aimee Parks, Assist Dir HR for Student Employment , Heather Bradley, Honorable Mention, Athletics Marketing, Patti Swannack Vice President, Admin Services, Emily Blaser, Student Employee of the Year, Undergraduate Admission, Nicole Jaconski, Federal Work Study Community Service Award Winner, George Catrambone School, David Tsang, Student Employment Supervisor of the Year



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# Monmouth Students Attend APAP Conference

Three Monmouth students had the opportunity to represent the university at the annual Association of Performing Arts Professionals (APAP) Conference in New York City from Jan. 9-14.

APAP is the largest international organization of performing arts professionals in the world. Agents, managers, presenters, bookers, venue operators, and talent of all kinds gather in the Midtown Hilton for almost a week of professional development sessions and keynote speakers. The Expo Hall is also opened with hundreds of agency booths of booking literature.

This year's conference theme was Risk and Resilience, and many of the professional development sessions discussed themes of self-promotion, perseverance, curiosity, and exploration of new avenues in the industry.

The closing keynote speaker was multi-platinum singer/songwriter Ben Folds. He could not be reached for comment.

Jenna Hawryluk and Rachel Disipio, senior music industry students, and myself, were sent to the conference courtesy of the Monmouth University Center for the Arts to see a side of the entertainment industry many do not. To attend,

however, there was a catch: We would have to register for the conference as student volunteers. We would be working it.

Vaune Peck, the Director for the Center for the Arts, said, "It's so rewarding for me to take students to this conference and watch them revel in the experience. It's such a wonderful opportunity for music industry majors and others interested in the industry."

Other student volunteers were high school and college aged from across the globe; California, China, Nicaragua. The volunteers were tasked with running the registration booths, monitoring the exposition hall, distributing surveys, scanning attendees into various portions of the conference, and running around to complete tasks.

Mario Garcia Durham, CEO and President of APAP, said, "Many people help make our conference a success, but our volunteers are perhaps the most significant. With a wide array of duties to provide for over 3,600 attendees, crucial tasks would go incomplete without your hard work. From the complexity of registration to simply helping someone find their way, you provided our attendees with a world-class experience."

Another pivotal aspect of the APAP conference are the showcases. A showcase is a 15 minute to hour long



Monmouth students pose with singer/songwriter Eleanor Dubinsky after seeing her showcase.

demonstration of a performer's show. The intention is to give agents, venue executives, and arts presenters a taste of what their show would look like, and hopefully get booked. These showcases begin as early as 9 a.m. and usually don't end until 2 a.m. Many are held within the hosting hotel, but they are also spread out at hundreds of venues across NYC. At check-in, the program details about 600 pages of showcases over the week's time.

Celebrities such as members of the Zak Brown Band, the King of the Twist Chubby Checker, and many more can also be found exploring the conference and/or performing. Dance troupes, magicians, thespians, prodigies, comedians, poets, and a list of other performers converge and wander.

Another big reason these industry professionals attend APAP is the Networking Lounge, where they can connect with others and talk business.

Disipo said, "The conference provided several opportunities for us to meet industry professionals and other students, allowing us to expand our networks in the entertainment field."

Hawryluk said, "We were able to experience how booking agents and other performing arts industry professionals find the best talent for possible shows in the future. We were able to see a diverse amount of performers that could poten-

tially come to our University in the upcoming years."

Hawryluk continued, "It was an experience I've never had before. And it was so much fun to see the talent I wouldn't have been able to see if I didn't go."

A conference of this size is not without minor setbacks, however. A registrant's badge costs about \$900 to attend the conference. There were a few scammers who attended previous years and made photo copies of that year's badge and tried to sell it to desperate shut-outs. Others would say they "forgot" their badge and try to enter restricted areas. The volunteers and staff caught multiple people engaging in unethical practices, and referred them to the authorities.

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Announcements

WMCX

WMCX is a student-run radio station, and we've been Rockin' the Shore since '74. Learn how to operate the studio's machinery, make connections, and host your own show! Meetings are held every other Wednesday in Plangere 236 at 3:15 p.m. If you're interested in joining, contact us at wmcxpd@monmouth.edu.

Hawk TV

Hawk TV is looking for vibrant and interested students who want to be reporters, writers, camera operators, anchors, and much more. You do not need to be a communication major to be a part of this organization. If you are interested e-mail us at hawktv@monmouth.edu or meet us on Wednesdays in JP 138 at 3:15 p.m.

The Catholic Campus Ministry

The Catholic Campus Ministry hosts Catholic Mass at the Catholic Center 7:00 p.m. every Sunday night, except the third Sunday of the month. Dinner and Discussions are hosted on Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. If you have any questions, contact David Fasolino at s1211744@monmouth.edu.

The Monmouth Review

The Monmouth Review is an annual collaborative publication that showcases students' work and we would love to have yours! The deadline for the Monmouth Review has been extended. Art submissions can be sent to monmouthreview@gmail.com. Written submission can be sent to Melissa Lauria at s1152499@monmouth.edu.



# Men’s Basketball Stays Hot at Home

MARK D’AQUILA  
SPORTS EDITOR

Men’s basketball remained atop the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) after back-to-back wins this past weekend against conference opponents Niagara and Iona led by junior guard Deion Hammond’s 47 combined points.

The Hawks made it a perfect 7-0 home record at the Ocean-First Bank Center on Friday night against the Purple Eagles of Niagara behind Hammond’s game-high 22 points leading to the 82-71 victory.

“This one feels great, especially when your teammates get you involved and get you the ball,” said Hammond. “I feel like everyone was clicking today and it was a great team effort for a win.”

Monmouth was in control from the very beginning of Friday night’s affair as they quickly got out to a 20-5 lead with Hammond scoring nine of those points. It appeared as though the blue and white would run away with this one until Niagara put together a run of their own and eventually took the lead towards the end of the first half.

“We’ve been trying to play for 40 minutes and the way we started the game, I thought we were about to do it tonight,” said Head Coach King Rice. “But we’re still young in areas and probably started to think they had this already.”

However, all momentum seemed to sway in favor of the Hawks in the final moments of the half as Hammond finished



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics  
Junior guard Ray Salnave registered his first career double-double with 16 points and 11 rebounds in Friday’s victory against Niagara before scoring 15 more in Sunday’s contest against Iona.

“Every Iona-Monmouth game is going to be an exciting game.”

KING RICE  
Head Coach

home an alley-oop in dramatic fashion going into the locker room with a 34-33 advantage.

In a tight game, the story of the second half was the three-point shooting from the boys of Long Branch which allowed them to pull away after making

seven from beyond the arc in the half. Monmouth rebounded by shooting 7-16 or 44 percent from range after a first half that saw them make only 2-10 or 20 percent from behind the three-point line.

Junior guard Ray Salnave

was also a huge piece of the Hawks’ triumph after calculating his first career double-double with 16 points and 11 rebounds. Fellow junior guard Marcus McClary tacked on a double-double of his own for the second time in three

games with ten points and 11 rebounds.

The Hawks traveled from here to the Hynes Center in New Rochelle, New York for a matchup on Sunday with conference rival Iona.

The usual suspects led the way for the Monmouth squad as Hammond and Salnave combined for 40 total points and seven three pointers in the 94-88 narrow, road victory.

“Every Iona-Monmouth game is going to be an exciting game,” said Coach Rice. “Someone might get their doors blown off or it could go back and forth.”

The 94-point performance for the Hawks was their highest total for the season so far as the team shot 44 percent from both the field and three-point range. MU notched a season high with 14 made threes, which is the most since making 16 in 2017 against Ole Miss.

Hammond’s 25 points on 7-14 shooting were the most points scored by a Hawk this season as he has now scored 20 plus points 11 times in his career and seven times this year alone.

“I just try to come out every day and do what I do,” said Hammond. “My teammates do a good job of finding me. It’s always good to get a win, especially against Iona, they’re a tough team. We tried to key in late on defense, I know in the first half they hit a lot of shots so in the second half that was a focus for us.”

The 12-7 Hawks will now travel to Saint Peter’s on Wednesday night for a matchup with the Peacocks as tipoff is slated for 7:00 p.m.

# Women’s Basketball Falls With a Fight

CARLY STEAKIN  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Women’s basketball failed to get a win in two games last week with a 39-51 loss against Siena on Thursday night and a 53-74 loss at home against Marist on Saturday afternoon.

In Thursday’s contest the blue and white missed their first 11 shots of the game, but back to back layups by senior forward Alexa Middleton, brought the score to 9-4, with the Hawks’ trailing behind. At the end of the first quarter, the Saints led the game 16-5. Monmouth shot 2-19 in the first quarter and had six shots blocked.

In the second quarter, Monmouth went on a 7-0 run. At halftime, Siena led 26-16, but the closing points of the half came from another Middleton layup. Middleton led the first half with ten points.

In the middle of the third quarter, Monmouth went on a 9-0 run, bringing the score to 31-27, with the Saints still leading. To close out the quarter, sophomore forward Lucy Thomas put up four points.

The Hawks scored their first points in the fourth quarter with only 4:17 on the clock, which ended a 9-0 Siena run. Monmouth scored 23 points in the second half. Seven of those points came from Middleton, while eight of them came from Thomas.

Overall, the Hawks shot 16-67 or 23.9 percent from the field and 1-21 or 4.8 percent from three-point range.

Middleton had her sixth double-double in the last 11 games. She had 17 points and 11 rebounds on the night. Thomas also had her fourth double-double for the season and had 10 points and 11 rebounds.

Following Thursday’s loss, Monmouth went on to host Marist on Saturday afternoon. The first points for Monmouth in Saturday’s matchup came from Middleton, who had 14 points for the day, going 5-of-9 from the floor.

The Hawks had 30 points in the first half of the game. 11 of those points came from Thomas, while eight of them also came from Middleton.

In the second quarter of the game, Thomas made three straight baskets, bringing to score to 25-21, Monmouth trailing. She then went on to score five more points and four free throws. At halftime, the teams were tied at 30.

Thomas leading the team, put up 16 points for the day and six rebounds. She scored in double-figures for the seventh time in the Hawks’ last nine games. She has averaged 14.2 points and 8.5 rebounds per game in ten conference games.

“I thought we did a better

job with shot selection in the first half. It was the best half we’ve shot percentage-wise in a while,” said Head Coach Jody Craig. “In the second half, Marist stepped up. They read screens better and made

us pay for how we were playing defensively. They took it to another level, and we didn’t respond to that in terms of our technique or energy. I felt better about our overall play compared to the last couple of

games.”

The pair of losses brings the Hawk’s record to 5-14 and 2-8 in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC).

Monmouth will now travel to take on Rider on Saturday,

“I felt better about our overall play compared to the last couple of games.”

JODY CRAIG  
Head Coach



PHOTO TAKEN by Karlee Sell  
Sophomore forward Lucy Thomas earned 16 points and six rebounds in Saturday’s game against Marist, marking Thomas’ seventh double-double in the Hawk’s last nine games.



# Swimming Victorious on Senior Day

JACK MURPHY  
STAFF WRITER

Both men and women’s swimming secured victories in their meets this weekend as the men’s team defeated NJIT in the Steadman Natatorium on Friday by a score of 169-93 while the women’s team defeated Sacred Heart by a final score of 155-107 this past Saturday.

Men’s swimming held their Senior Day in their meet against NJIT. Prior to the event Monmouth honored Austin D’Angelo, Frank Nicola and Nate Lardieri, who represents the Hawks senior class.

Sophomore Callen Smith was a big contribution to the blue and white’s win. Smith contributed

three individual victories in the 1000 free, 100-yard backstroke and the 500-yard free with times of 10:06.48, 52.80 and 4:55.53 respectively. After Friday’s performance, Smith now has 20 first place finishes for the 2019-20 season as well as 51 for his career.

Freshman Blake Reynolds also had two first place finishes in the contest as he won the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 21.39 and a 100-yard butterfly where he swam a 51.17. Reynolds now has 16 first-place finishes on the season.

Junior Trevor Askew won the 100-yard breaststroke as well as the 200-yard breaststroke. Askew finished the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 58.66 and

the 200-yard-breakstroke with a 2:10.62. This gives him 15 first place finishes for the year and 21 for his career.

Other Hawks that recorded first place finishes were freshman Dylan Edge in the 200-yard backstroke as well as junior Hunter Klingener who won the 200-yard Individual Medley. With their performances, Edge and Klingener secured their 11th and first victories of the season respectively.

Monmouth also won the 200-yard medley with a time of 1:33.47. Contributing to the victory were Askew, Reynolds, and sophomores Valance Washington and Kevin Del Giorno. The Hawks also won the 200-yard freestyle

relay with a time of 1:27.06 with Reynolds, Washington, Del Giorno and Smith combining for the win.

“Our team was sharp right from the start, from the first relay and that is a positive sign heading into the MAAC Championships,” said Head Coach Matt Nunnally. “I think the big thing this year is every time we’ve face a challenge with teams, we have been close with, we’ve stepped up and I am excited with where we can be.”

The women’s swim team held their Senior Day on Saturday as they honored their senior class prior to the meet. The seniors that were recognized were Mary Emich, Toniann Feigel, Jaclyn Greening, Bradie Keelen and Brooke Weber.

Sophomore Camryn McHugh and freshman Tahlia Botha were able to secure three individual victories for the Hawks. McHugh won the 100-yard backstroke, 100-yard butterfly, and 200-yard backstroke. Her times for the events were 1:00.75, 58.58 and 2:10.26 respectively. McHugh now has 16 first place finishes this season as well as 40 for her career. Botha won the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:08.99, 200-yard IM finishing at 2:15.45 and 200-yard breaststroke with a time of 2:28.91. After Saturday’s performance, Botha has 21 first-place finishes in her freshman season.

Sophomore Sarah Brennan also earned two first place finishes in the as she won the 1000-yard free and the 500-yard free. Brennan now has three first place finishes for the season as well as seven for



Sophomore Camryn McHugh claimed three individual victories to make it 16 for her on the season and 40 for her career.

PHOTO TAKEN by Karlee Sell

# Indoor Track Breaks Records

SOPHIA GALVEZ  
STAFF WRITER

The Monmouth University men’s and women’s track & field teams competed at the Dr. Sander Invitational, hosted by Columbia University as well as the Boston Terrier Classic, hosted by Boston University this past weekend [Jan. 24 & 25].

The teams had multiple outstanding performances, most notable being fifth year Kyle Mueller breaking his own school record for the 5000-meter race at the Boston Terrier Classic. Coming in fourth with a time of 14:09.47, he surpassed his previous mark by 15 seconds. Mueller’s previous record was a time of 14:24.37 which he achieved at the 2019 ICA4 indoor championships.

Coming off of a Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Track & Field Performer of the Week, senior Khalid Slocum continued to bring the heat at the Dr. Sander Invitational. Slocum finished second overall in the long jump event with a mark of 7.42m, right behind Jason Schrage of UCLA (7.51m). Sophomore teammate Dorian (DJ) Jackson also placed in the men’s long jump with a mark of 7.21m, awarding him seventh place.

“As a team, this was a good meet for us to use as a measuring stick as we pursue another MAAC Championship. Overall, we had several good performances and posted some great times and distances,” said Slocum. “Being named MAAC Performer of the Week [Week of Jan. 20] was icing on the cake for our program.”

In the men’s weight throwing event, Monmouth had three



Fifth-Year Kyle Mueller broke his own school record for the 5000-meter race by a full 15 seconds with a time of 14:09:47.

PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

members place in the top 20: fifth year Andrew Tummino (15.74m) placing 11th, senior Daniel Gilligan (15.45m) coming in at 13th, and senior Brandon Davis (15.15m) at 15th.

As for the women who competed at the Invitational, junior Chibuzo Amonu finished ninth in the weight throwing event with a throw measuring 17.19m and senior Jordan Wildermuth came in 12th place in the shot-put event with a throw of 13.21m. In the triple jump event, senior Mariah Hubbard placed 15th with a distance of 11.50m.

At the Boston Terrier Classic, there were other noteworthy achievements alongside Mueller breaking his own school record. Freshman Ian Moore

finished first among collegiate runners and third overall in the 1000-meter race with a time of 2:26.29. Another freshman teammate, Mike Cannon Jr. finished the 60-meter dash with a time of 7.10, landing him in third place behind Justin Yazdi from Yale University (7.09) and Elizah Gordon of St. Thomas Aquinas College (7.08). For the field portion of the Classic, junior Andrew Huisman finished fourth with a throw of 15.39m.

“It was another successful weekend for the Hawks track & field program,” said Monmouth Head Coach Mike Nelson. “We had a split squad with most athletes competing at the Boston University Terrier Classic and a smaller group at the Dr. Sanders

Columbia Challenge. Overall, I think we made some progress this weekend. We had a school record, a freshman record and multiple top ten all-time performances. I’ve always considered the month of January to be somewhat like the pre-season and then things really heat up in February. We’re moving in the right direction and we know the things we need to work on to be at our best. We’re looking forward to staying close to home over the next several weekends.”

The momentum will be continuing next weekend on Feb. 1 as the blue and white travel to Staten Island, New York to compete in the Villanova Invitational with the event set to begin at 4:00 p.m.

## WEEKLY RECAP

Sunday, Jan. 26

**Kobe Bryant and his 13 year old daughter Gianna Bryant, tragically passed away in a helicopter crash in Calabasas, California.**

*At the time he was drafted straight out of high school in 1996, Bryant was selected 13th overall and would become the youngest player to enter the NBA. Throughout his career with the Los Angeles Lakers, Bryant became a five-time NBA champion as well as an 18-time All-Star. The Lakers game scheduled for Tuesday night was postponed out of respect for the Bryant family and to honor Kobe’s legacy. Gianna was an aspiring basketball player in her own right. She was honored by the UCONN Women’s Basketball team on Monday night.*

her collegiate career. Freshman Alexnadra Ho also recorded her 14th win on the season after winning the 50-yard freestyle.

Monmouth also won the 400-yard medley relay with a time of 4:03.49. McHugh, Botha, Ho and Keelan helped contribute to the win.

After securing wins on both their senior days, both the men and women’s team turn their attention towards the MAAC Championships which are set to start on February 12th in Buffalo, New York.

## UPCOMING GAMES

- Wednesday, Jan. 29**  
*Men’s Basketball at Saint Peter’s Jersey City, NJ 7:00 p.m.*
- Saturday, Feb. 1**  
*Women’s Basketball at Rider Lawrenceville, NJ 2:00 p.m.*
- Men’s Tennis vs LaSalle  
West Long Branch, NJ 3:00 p.m.
- Men’s and Women’s Track  
Villanova Invitational  
Staten Island, NY 4:00 p.m.
- Men’s Tennis vs Wagner  
West Long Branch, NJ 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Feb. 2**  
*Men’s Basketball vs Rider West Long Branch, NJ 1:00 p.m.*
- Tuesday, Feb 4**  
*Men’s Basketball at Fairfield Bridgeport, Connecticut 7:00 p.m.*

*\*conference games*





# MAAC ATTACK



Men's basketball won their third and fourth consecutive games with victories against conference opponents Niagara and Iona led by junior guard Deion Hammond's 47 combined points and are now first in the MAAC.

SEE STORY ON PAGE 14

PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics