



# THE OUTLOOK

MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY'S  
STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1933

OUTLOOK.MONMOUTH.EDU

February 12, 2020

VOL. 92 No. 13

## Blood Drive Supports Professor's Son

MELISSA BADAMO  
FEATURES EDITOR

The School of Science, School of Social Work, and School of Nursing and Health Studies sponsored a blood drive to honor Monmouth's own Ollie Daneshgar on Monday, Feb. 10.

Ollie, the four-year-old son of Pedram Daneshgar Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biology, was diagnosed with Leukemia on Nov. 7. All donations were sent to Robert Wood Johnson hospital in New Brunswick, where Ollie is currently receiving treatment.

"I never really gave blood drives that much attention until my son got Leukemia," said Daneshgar. "And then I saw him get several blood transfusions in the last three months. He would not be alive without them, so it really hit home."

Hosted in the Edison Science Building, the blood drive drew 137 registered donors with 104 whole blood donations, five platelet donations, and one plasma dona-

tion.

Koorleen Minton, Assistant to the Dean of the School of Science, said, "Every year I assemble a group of students comprised of honor societies, clubs, and others that just volunteer to help." These organizations include Eta Sigma Gamma, the National Health Education Honor Society, Beta Beta Beta, the Biological Honor Society, the Next Generation Science Club, and the School of Science Peer Mentors. The drive offered an

opportunity for student members to fulfill the service requirement for these honor societies.

Minton has been organizing campus blood drives since 2014. Since then, the University has donated over 1300 pints of blood in total. The University hosts three blood drives per school year.

Minton said that this was the first year that Robert Wood

DRIVE cont. on pg. 3



PHOTO TAKEN by Melissa Badamo

Blood donors left get-well-wishes Ollie Daneshgar after their donations.

## What is the Development Team?

SOPHIA GALVEZ  
STAFF WRITER

University Advancement accomplished a lot in the past fiscal year. Between June 30, 2018 and July 1, 2019 the Donor Impact Report states that the University received more than \$15.4 million in gifts, pledges, and planned gifts. This is an over 65 percent increase compared to the previous year in which \$9.3 million was committed.

According to Monmouth's website, University Advancement is a division responsible for "working with alumni and friends, we raise much-needed scholarship funds and support the key initiatives that draw students from all over the world to Monmouth University's vibrant coastal campus." University Advancement is the larger umbrella term that encapsulates the four different departments: Development Team, their largest department, Alumni Engagement and Annual Giving, Donor Relations and Stewardship, and Advancement Services.

Jonathan Meer, the Vice President of University Advancement oversees all of these departments and also works toward making those relationships with possible donors in order to cultivate gifts for the university. The Development Team focuses mainly on fundraising, "We go out and meet with donors, generally donors that have the capacity to make major gifts

\$10,000 or above," says Meer.

Alumni Engagement and Annual Giving "do a little bit of fundraising, but mostly it's [planning] reunions [and] events." Meer also stated that they are responsible for Annual Giving, or "low level giving" as he referred to it. An example of this would be the

TEAM cont. on pg. 3



PHOTO COURTESY by Monmouth University

The School of Science is supported by Karen Keene, one of the four Directors of Development.

## The Story of a Banished Family

MEGAN RUGGLES  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The University hosted a documentary play entitled *Banished: A Family on the Sex Offender Registry*, to discuss issues with the sex offender registry, on Monday, Feb. 9 in Woods Theatre.

*Banished* is an oral history project, telling the story of harms caused by the sex offender registry. It follows the story of one family through the criminal proceedings and changes they endure while preparing for the registry.

The play also features interviews with Elizabeth Letourneau, Director of the Moore Center for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse at Johns Hopkins University; and, Patty Wetterling, a national children's safety advocate, whose son's disappearance led to the Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act. The contained works are co-written by Elizabeth Weill-Greenberg, a staff writer for *The Appeal*, and coLAB Arts producing director, Dan Swern.

The names of the family are altered for confidentiality purposes.

Kiefer Swanson, played by actor David Seamon, pled guilty to indecency with a child in December of 2015, years after the incident transpired. In a series of interviews, Kiefer and his family provided insight into the aftermath of the sentencing.

Kiefer's career in the air force was on track, when he received a text from his father that they needed to talk. His father explained that there was an open investigation regarding what happened when he was 11 years old.

To provide context, Kiefer described his exposure to sex at a young age. When Kiefer was five, he was forced by a teenage girl to French kiss while she touched him intimately. Kiefer never talked about his experience.

However, at age 11, Kiefer tucked his four-year-old sister in one night and proceeded to dry hump her. His parents were made aware of the event directly after it transpired by the sister, and Zane Swanson, played by actor Robert Carr, proceeded to beat his son. Kristen Swanson, actor Meridith Grundei, told her son and daughter to never go into each other's room.

A friend of the sister had reported the incident to the police years later, when Kiefer was home to visit. Meridith and Zane had to speak with the police and were told to keep it secret from Kiefer, which Zane did not because Kiefer is his son.

During the trial, Kiefer's lawyer admitted to not having looked at his case in over six months and that his best chance was to accept a plea deal and register as a sex offender. He has been discharged from the military.

Meridith said, "I cried every day for four years," and Zane explained his son can't come home due to the location of their house. Kiefer has not seen his sister in years despite her their previously close relationship.

Letourneau, played by actor Helen Farmer, said, "Recidivism is low in kids that get caught, and [no studies] predict a future of re-offending," she continues "[These incidents] are absolutely developmentally appropriate ignorance."

Child offenders are going through puberty and are not properly educated on who an appropriate sexual partner is. A survey on children ages 12-17 with problem sexual behavior showed that a third were subject to sex offender registration and those children were four times more likely to experience thoughts of suicide, Letourneau said.

The play was followed by a panel moderated by Deanna Shoemaker, Ph.D., Graduate Director of MA in Communication, Associate Professor of Communication and Performance Studies, and Advisor to CommWorks. Panelists included Fletcher Dudley, Deputy Public Defender and Director of the Special Hearings Unit for the NJ Office of the Public Defender; Michael C. Woyce, Assistant Deputy Public Defender, Special Hearings Unit in Asbury Park for the NJ Office of the Public Defender; and, Eleanor Novek, Ph.D., a Professor of Communication at Monmouth University.

Shoemaker said, "I think that students are being exposed to a kind of performance work that requires a lot of extensive research, interviewing of community members—a particular targeted community, and their getting to witness how performance can be a form of social change and even social justice.

BANISHED cont. on pg. 3

## INSIDE:

### NEWS

Blood Drive in Honor of Ollie Daneshgar

Blood Drive dedicated to 4 year old battling cancer at Robert Wood Johnson in New Brunswick.

Pg. 3

### FEATURES

Tips for Managing Your Student Loans

American students manage an average of \$35, 570 in educational debt. Here are some tips to help.

Pg. 6

### ENTERTAINMENT

*Black Like Me:* An Exploration

Dancer Jade Soloman performed in Pollak Theatre during Black History Month.

Pg. 8



@muoutlook



@muoutlook



@theoutlook



# Guardians Club Welcomes NJ State Police Captain

LOWELL KELLY-GAMBLE  
STAFF WRITER

The Monmouth University Guardians club hosted and welcomed NJ State Police Captain Michael Zimmerman, to discuss careers in law enforcement to students this past Wednesday in Bey Hall, Room 133.

Zimmerman is an experienced member of the NJ State Police force who currently serves as the Deputy Troop Commander in NJSP Troop C. Some of his notable experiences include conducting relief efforts in Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria and helping to innovate the NJSP Regional Operations and Intelligence Center (ROIC). He has acted as Incident Commander and supervised major multi-county sides, Assistant Bureau Chief of NJSP's Intelligence and Criminal Enterprise section, and the Executive officer at the NJ State Police Academy.

Guardians Club President and senior criminal justice student, Dally Matos, hopes to pursue a career in criminal justice, and she believes that events like these can give students perspective on law enforcement officers. "In today's world, most students gain opinions from law enforcement based on what is on the news. Students can meet with officers face to face and get answers to their questions and see both sides of the new criminal justice debate," she said.

Criminal Justice Department Chair and Professor, Nicholas Sewitch, explained that it is an obligation to expose students to different careers through real life experiences in order to understand what their desired job requires. "Some students have an idea of what they want to do, but they really don't know what the career field is. We try to expose our students to a deeper look into a particular field."

Anybody can just go on the state police website and read about what it likes to be an officer, but to actually meet an individual and people who have worked in

all agencies of the state police force is a fantastic opportunity."

Junior criminal justice student, Mike Warren, believed the success of Captain Zimmerman places a direct impact on the success of criminal justice students at Monmouth. "Captain Zimmerman talked about a multitude of career paths an individual may have while pursuing a career in law enforcement. He pointed out the variety of units the state police have, and if there is a crime committed, no matter what it is they will have a task force for it. The most prominent aspect of infor-

mation he shared was that law enforcement doesn't have to require you to wear a gun, uniform, and/or badge based on the numerous jobs available," Warren said.

Warren was inspired by Zimmerman based on his desired career path. "I have always wanted to be a state trooper, and have been to multiple career events learning the variety of units. Zimmerman helped aid me in understanding what the process may look like to apply to these units once I have gathered seniority on the job. Another way he impacted me was how he mentioned that he teaches classes at

Monmouth which I never knew about and now I intend on taking his class because of how well-mannered and kind he was," he said.

The Guardians Club is a student run club that aims to help students meet and connect professionals in the criminal justice field. During bi-weekly meetings, students have the chance to learn about different career paths that can be obtained with a Criminal Justice or Homeland Security degree, as well as ask questions that can help clarify what their career goals are. It is also an opportunity for alumni to come back and talk about their career paths.

"The Guardians Club events are beneficial for students on campus because it gives them a chance to meet with professionals in careers they are interested in. Students can come with questions and comments and be met with knowledgeable professionals ready with answers and career advice. We also don't just serve those interested in law enforcement, we bring people from all different types of criminal justice careers, not just 'gun and badge' jobs. It also serves as a great tool for networking," said Matos.

The Guardians Club has hosted other criminal justice related guests in the past, most prominently FBI agent Greg Thomas and Wall Township Police Officer Orin McKay Jr.



PHOTO TAKEN by Anthony DePrimo

Police Captain Michael Zimmerman engaged with students interested in the world of criminal justice.

## Monmouth Reacts to Trump's State of the Union Address

GEORGEANNE NIGRO  
STAFF WRITER

President Donald Trump gave the 2020 State of the Union address on Capitol Hill, last Tuesday, Feb. 4.

"Three years ago, we launched the great American comeback. Tonight, I stand before you to share these incredible results," Trump said as the opening line of his speech. "The years of economic decay are over," he continued, adding that the state of the Union is "stronger than ever before."

Much of the address focused on the nation's economic accomplishments: the unemployment rate at the lowest in over 50 years; seven million people off food stamps; 10 million people off welfare; and 3.5

million people joining the workforce over the past three years. "This is a blue-collar boom," said Trump.

Matthew Lifson, an Instructor of Economics, discussed how he thinks the president should get some credit for the economy for reaching new heights. "The unemployment rate has always been a misleading figure, since it only includes those looking for work at the present time," he said. "That being said, the number at such a low level gives more evidence to an improving economy. The quickest way to prove that an economy is improving is by the amount of jobs created."

Lifson also explained how there needs to be more civility between the two political parties.

"The shame of the event was the breakdown in relations has gotten so bad between the Republican and Democratic parties, and the State of the Union was actually embarrassing," he said, blaming both the president and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA).

Joseph Patten, Ph.D., an Associate Professor of Political Science agreed that the partisanship in America has reached a new height. "I think things now are so dysfunctional," he said. "However, it seemed blatantly clear to some people that there was a huge divide between the two parties during the address."

On what he thinks should be done to help with this hostile tension between the two parties,

Patten said, "I think what has to happen is you have to have leadership that is genuinely interested in bringing people together... I think right now in American politics, with political populism whether it's liberal or conservative, there's a tendency to appeal to your supporters while attacking non-supporters."

"There's a nastiness to politics where you're almost intentionally trying to make certain groups angry in order to make you more popular with your group," said Patten, explaining how polarized the political culture has gotten in the United States.

Celine Powell, President of the Monmouth University College Republicans and a junior communication student, said that she thought Trump did "really well" discussing the economy in his State of the Union. "He dedicated at least 20 minutes and gave solid evidence," she said.

Powell also mentioned Pelosi, calling her behavior at the address "childish." She said, "I also think that she allowed her hatred for Trump to get in the way. When she ripped up the speech, she basically ripped up honoring a black Tuskegee airman. She ripped up reuniting a service member with his family, and she ripped up a 9-year old receiving a scholarship. It's a shame to the Democrat party."

Nick Gibson, President of the Monmouth University College Democrats and a senior political science student, had a different opinion of the address. "The biggest issue I had with the State of the Union Address would be Trump awarding Rush Limbaugh

with the Presidential Medal of Freedom," he said.

"[Limbaugh] has said some of the most offensive things on radio," Gibson explained. "I won't quote them all because the list is extensive but just as an example, 'Feminism was established so as to allow unattractive women access to the mainstream of society'... While not surprised by this considering the presidents' own behavior and past comments it still disgusts me that behavior such as that is awarded."

In contrast to Powell, Gibson said that he had no issues with Pelosi's actions at the State of the Union, that she has the right to do what she wants, and he will continue to support her.

On how Trump spoke at the State of the Union address, Matthew Harmon, Specialist Professor of Communication, said it was, "Such a unique situation because of the issues between the president and the Democratic Party and walking into a somewhat hostile audience, I would say he was able to focus on his main points of emphasis. Intentional or not, eye-contact was directed toward half the room."

Harmon admitted it was hard to answer whether or not the president is a good public speaker in general, explaining that Trump ad-libs more than other presidents have done in the past, which may lead to a more off-the-track speech that it normally would be. "Some of it depends on his audience as well," said Harmon. "His base is pretty intense when it comes to him delivering his message so that can help him feed off the energy to the crowd."



IMAGE TAKEN from TheEpoTimes.com

Students and faculty addressed the polarized partisanship during the State of the Union.



# Thousands of Donors Shape Monmouth Landscape

TEAM cont. from pg. 1

Philanthropy Chord Project, part of the Senior Giving Campaign, in which graduating seniors make a donation and receive a philanthropy chord to wear for commencement. The class of 2019 set a record with over 400 gifts toward the Philanthropy Chord Project, and all of this money goes towards student scholarships.

The department of Donor Relations and Stewardship is “what we do to thank donors on a regular basis so they will stay donors and they’ll think well of the University,” says Meer.

Advancement Services is related to fundraising, but they do not actively attempt to raise money. “You make a gift, that gift comes in and is processed through Advancement Services,” explains Meer. “Say you changed jobs or you moved, you would send us that information and we would change it in our database.”

This majority of this success is a direct result of the Together We Can: The Campaign for Scholarship. The Donor Impact Report says that over 2,000 donors helped exceed Monmouth’s \$15 million goal by more than 30 percent. In the Report, campaign co-chairs Carol Stillwell and Valerie Montecalvo thanked all the generous donors who contributed to the impressive \$19,644,297.

The co-chairs outwardly thank some of the larger donations made to the campaign including OceanFirst Foundation, who committed a \$200,000 challenge grant and the members of the University community who committed almost \$700,000. A majority of this accomplishment is thanks to alumnus Don Bressler (’61) and his wife, Hedy for an ample trust commitment of \$4 million which the Donor Impact Report says “made an emphatic conclusion to the campaign.”

A gift of that amount is considered a major gift in the division of University Advancement. Major Gifts have a mini-

mum of \$10,000 and can go all the way up to \$10 million, says Meer. “Roughly 2000 of our alumni, our parents, our friends, our neighbors, corporations and foundations are considered major donor prospects. They’re prospects for big gifts.”

Although Meer oversees the Advancement division, prospects for larger donations are assigned to University President Patrick Leahy, “[He’s] not only our president, but he’s a great fundraiser. He was VP of fundraising at the University of Scranton. He has a ton of experience,” says Meer. The people at the top end of the gift pyramid, those \$1 million, \$5 million, \$10 million are assigned to him. The ones just below there, are assigned to me and then, maybe the donors in the 10k to 250k range are assigned out to our Directors of Development who are nested in our six schools.”

The six schools are divided between four Directors of Development: Chuck Gerdon, David Howell, Karen Keene, and Beth Brody. Gerdon supports the Wayne D. McMurray School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Howell is responsible for the Leon Hess Business School, Keene manages the School of Science and the Marjorie K. Unterberg School of Nursing and Health Studies, and Brody oversees the School of Education and the School of Social Work.

“We like this philosophy, we call them dedicated gift officers, or nested gift officers, because they are actually located in the units that they support,” says Meer. “Dave Howell, his office is right next to the Dean’s so there are faculty walking through there all the time, he develops relationships with them. Those relationships are often what give rise to leads. No one has a better relationships with ongoing alumni than faculty.”

However, according to Meer, alumni participation is sinking nationally. Out of about 50,000 Monmouth alumni, approximately 2,000 made a gift last year, which is only 4 percent. US News and World Report uses alumni participation as a way to

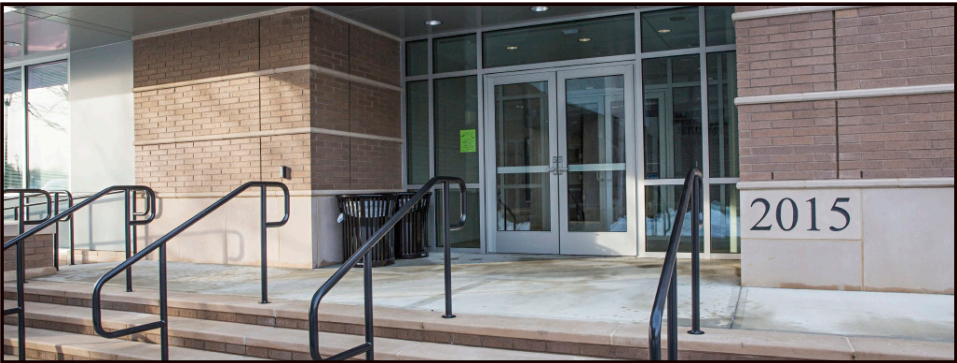


PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth University

The Leon Hess Business School is supported by David Howell, one of the four Directors of Development.

rank colleges nationally, Monmouth was ranked 28th. Other factors are taken into consideration such as retention and graduation rates, SAT scores, student to faculty ratio, percentages of classes under 20 or over 50, and peer assessment, what our peer Universities think of us. The 4 percent that do give back to their alma mater is “not indicative with what our alumni say when we ask them about their experience,” says Meer. In order to improve that percentage by just one percent, 500 more Monmouth graduates must participate in giving back to the University.

According to Meer most of the gifts to Monmouth come from non-graduates. Two-thirds of last year’s gifts came from non-Monmouth graduates, “they come from people who are friends, or who are parents of students, or parents of alumni, or season ticket holders.”

Meer and his team have a few idea in how they can raise the alumni participation percentage, one of the main ones being Giving Day taking place on Wednesday, March 25. “We have coincided with the 25th anniversary of Monmouth becoming a University. We are using a new crowdfunding platform to run a day of giving... [We are] Going to encourage our alumni, parents, friends, staff, trustees to make gifts on that day.”

In correspondence with the efforts to increase alumni participation, there is a plan

in the works right now that will map our goals, figures, and steps to achieve them. This will serve as Monmouth’s roadmap for the next five years and will be delivered to the Board of Trustees by May or June, says Meer. Monmouth’s current goal for the fiscal year of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 is \$10 million, and we currently are at \$8.2. The strategic plan will have a reasonably ambitious goal, “a number of our peer institutions are raising \$80 [million], \$100 [million], \$150 million over a five to seven year time horizon. I would be surprised if our goal for our campaign is not in that range, it’ll be more money than we’ve ever raised before in our history and it’ll hopefully make Monmouth a much stronger and compelling institution that’s attractive for new and coming students and a point of pride for alumni students,” says Meer.

“We work for you,” Meer says. Everything we’re doing, we’re doing to make Monmouth a stronger institution. If I could leave your readers with one thought it’s there are probably lots of reason why not to give, but think about the reasons to give. There are very few ways students or graduates can vote for your alma mater, your college, your university. They only way you can vote for Monmouth is to make a gift. Consider giving back to provide opportunities for the next generation of Monmouth students.”

## Sex Offender Registry Panel

BANISHED cont. from pg. 1

The topic is looking critically at the sex offender registry in our larger criminal justice system.”

Duddy explained that community notification and registration of sex offenders was passed federally under Megan’s Law in 1996. The legislation required a public registry and other components of notification. Since then, Duddy’s office has seen some of the consequences the actors discussed.

“Some of the measurable outcomes of the impact of the registration and notification are not just on the sex offenders but on families and the community as a whole... constitutional protections are removed from convicted sex offenders,” Duddy said.

He continued, “[The play is] an amazing snapshot that we all got

through this presentation of all of the aspects of impact of these notification and registration systems.”

Currently, a three-tier notification system is in place to determine the risk offenders. The lowest level means law enforcement is informed, and the highest risk means door-to-door notifications and posters. This results in homelessness and joblessness, and the risk assessment system has never been clinically validated, Duddy explained.

Novek, who has volunteered in prisons since 2001, said, “Offenders need supervision but also social support... We’re voting members of the public, one way we can push back is to be educated.”

Brittany Macaluso, a junior social work student, who helped orchestrate the event, said, “As a

society we hear a lot about sexual abuse, but we neglect to think of the abuse that the abuser has to go through from registering on a sex offender list. This limits housing options, occupations, and even access to education”

Woyce said of public defenders, “Most of our clients don’t have funds to pay for representation of challenge some of these laws even when it’s being applied to them. So, for a much cheaper rate, we provide them representation that they don’t otherwise have access to.”

Duddy concluded that this system isn’t always what’s best for the victim. “Often, bridges between the offenders and victims need to be built,” he said. “We see this when Kiefer is talking about not being able to see his sister. What if forgiveness is important to her?”

Banished is Co-Sponsored by the New Jersey Office of the Public Defender; NeighborCorps Re-Entry Services; National Religious Campaign Against Torture in New Jersey; Town Clock Community Development Corporation; Brady Project of Middlesex County; and, Anti-Poverty Network of New Jersey.

The special event is co-sponsored by the Monmouth University Center for the Arts; ComWorks; the Department of Criminal Justice; the Department of Political Science and Sociology; the Department of Communication; the Helen McMurray Bennett Endowment for Social Ethics; the MU Honors School; the School of Social Work; and, the NJ Alternatives to Violence Project.



PHOTO TAKEN by Olivia Monahan

Panelists discuss the sex offender registry following the documentary screening.

## Historic Dononations

DRIVE cont. from pg. 1

Johnson has done platelet donations. She explained, “A platelet is almost like a centrifuge where you’re hooked up to a machine and it will put your blood back in but it will pull the platelets out of your blood. Platelet donations take about an hour and a half.” According to Minton, cancer patients like Ollie have the most need for platelets.

“This was a way for the Monmouth family to help out one of their own,” said Steven Bachrach Ph.D., Dean of the School of Science and Professor of Chemistry. “It was a tremendously successful drive.”

Before partnering with Robert Wood Johnson for the past two years, the University partnered with the Central Jersey Blood Center in Shrewsbury until the company went out of business. During the five-year partnership, Monmouth won five annual awards for donating the most pints of blood of any other university. The University holds a record of 237 pints of blood donated in one drive.

“That’s what blood drives are for—to make sure there are reserves available for hospitals to ensure that they can deliver the medical care necessary,” Bachrach said. “Modern medicine really depends on us being able to have this supply available.”

Lilia Crew, a freshman biol-

ogy student with a concentration in molecular cell physiology, was one of the 137 students to register for Monday’s blood drive. She said, “It’s crazy that we’re creating something that can help others. It’s our bodies that are able to provide this for other people. You know you’re making an impact. [Blood] technically expires, so you really need it constantly.”

The blood drive featured a poster for blood donors to sign a message to Ollie. “I’m excited that people actually see a face and recognize a name and that gets them to come out,” said Daneshgar. “When you get a diagnosis like Leukemia, you don’t really know how to feel about it. We have been humbled by the Monmouth community and how supportive everyone has been. There’s a family vibe with the faculty and the students.”

The University will be hosting another blood drive on April 13. Bachrach said, “We’re going to see a long-lasting effect here, that we will have a hundred volunteers again for the next drive. You may not know who is getting your blood, but you do know that it is saving somebody’s life.”

Minton said, “We are always amazed at the continued outpour of love and generosity for Ollie and his family. We just hope he gets better soon.”



THE OUTLOOK

Caroline Mattise	EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Nicole Riddle	MANAGING/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Nicholas Coscarelli	SENIOR/POLITICS EDITOR
Matthew Cutillo	NEWS EDITOR
Megan Ruggles	ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR
Sophia Galvez	ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR
Professor John Morano	FACULTY ADVISOR
Tarra Emery	OFFICE COORDINATOR
Danielle Schipani	GRADUATE ASSISTANT
Mark D'Aquila	SPORTS EDITOR
Carly Steakin	ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR
Mark Marrone	ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR
Ray Romanski	CLUB & GREEK EDITOR
Chloe Barone	LIFESTYLES EDITOR
Melissa Badamo	FEATURES EDITOR
Lauren Salois	OPINION EDITOR
Angela Mascia	ADVERTISMENT MANAGER
Kathryn Schauer	ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER

TECHNOLOGY MANAGERS

Davina Matadin	Alex Sheriff
----------------	--------------

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Amanda Smith	Karlee Sell
--------------	-------------

DELIVERY ASSISTANTS

Joseph Falzini	Caroline Mattise
----------------	------------------

STAFF WRITERS

Matt Engel	Dally Matos
Amanda Balestrieri	Anthony Rossics
Sophia Galvez	Samantha Losurdo
Nick Manduley	Erin Mulligan
Gabriella Pisacane	Katherine Rivera
Jenna Puglisi	Lowell Kelly-Gamble

Monmouth University's  
Student-Run Newspaper  
Since 1933

Plangere Center 2nd Floor, Room 260

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

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

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

The Impact of Blood Drives

EDITORIAL STAFF

When you think of giving blood, what do you associate with the experience? Doing good for others? Saving lives? How about, giving back to those who need it the most? These may be all things you connect with blood donation. But, what about controversy?

According to the American Red Cross, only an estimated 38 percent of the U.S. population is eligible to donate blood, and less than 10 percent of this group actually donates each year. Did you ever wonder why your high school or local town community always organized blood drives? For this very reason.

Although donating blood is encouraged by many, there is gender specific criteria that most don't know about which makes donating blood for some an arduous process.

On the American Red Cross' website page detailing eligibility requirements for blood donors, there are explicit stipulations in place for gay and bi-sexual men to donate blood, or as the American Red Cross' references the "MSM" (men who have sex with men) community.

The current FDA "Revised Recommendations for Reducing the Risk of Human Immunodeficiency Virus Transmission by Blood and Blood Products" states that a man who has had sex with another man should defer for 12 months from their most recent sexual encounter before giving blood.

As the Red Cross states, all U.S. blood collection organizations must follow this policy.

Some editors feel that this policy should be revised and is a thing of the past.

One editor said. "The rules in place are clearly dated, and unfair because they come from a time

when the HIV/AIDS outbreak rocked the world..."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The FDA first introduced their plan in 1985, which was originally to indefinitely ban male donors who have had sex

Another editor considered the MSM stipulations to be unfair and said, "They're centered around an outdated fear-mongering stereotype of gay/bisexual men. It's been clearly shown that anyone, regardless of sex or gender can contract HIV/AIDS, it's ridiculous to alienate certain groups from donating blood."

"The MSM rule is really archaic," said another editor.

Other editors feel the policy is fair but needs updating.

"I think the MSM restrictions are fair, but a little outdated. The restrictions exist to prevent the contaminated blood from spreading, but after donating, your blood is tested and might be rejected if it's 'bad'," said one editor.

Another editor said, "I believe this waiting period should be applied to everyone for it to be fair... the deferral period should be whichever scientifically makes sense and is safe for the population and should be applied to all who are sexually active."

The Red Cross recognized the hurt this policy has caused to many in the LGBTQ+ community, and put a statement on their website which reads The Red Cross, "believes blood donation eligibility should not be determined by methods that are based upon sexual orientation. We are committed to working toward achieving this goal."

The Red Cross is encouraging the FDA to reduce its deferral time for "MSM" from 12 months to three months since

their last sexual encounter. The Red Cross said the three-month period has a scientific rationale behind it and corresponds to the period of risk when tests cannot detect early infection. According to The Red Cross Canada (as of 2019) and Great Britain (as of 2017) have changed their policies to this as well.

Most editors feel that if there are enough statistics, and scientific evidence the deferral period should be changed.

"If the three-month waiting period does indeed have a scientific rationale behind it, as The Red Cross claims, then it would make sense to...update the plan accordingly," said one editor.

One editor explained why a deferral program is important.

"I have been deferred twice: once for low iron, and another not too long ago after getting a tattoo. These limitations need to be present to mitigate the amount of "bad blood" that gets donated," said the editor.

Our own Monmouth University campus has been involved with enforcing these stipulations.

Two years ago on campus, "An openly gay man was turned down from donating blood, even though he hadn't had sex for over a year (well beyond the 12 month stipulation)," said one editor.

In regard to transgender donors the FDA guidance allows blood donors to register with the gender they identify with. There is no deferral associated with being transgender, and eligibility is based on the gender the person reports with.

Although the Red Cross acknowledges the hurt these policies have caused, it is ultimately up to the FDA to change their policies. Unfortunately, until this change occurs, the policy will remain in place.

Editor's Note:

After publishing a revised version of a response to our editorial highlighting censorship in last week's issue, we now publish the original, unedited version of the response. There is indeed a difference in the articles and we apologize to Dr. Furgason. For the complete response, please visit the editorial page of our website at <https://outlook.monmouth.edu/opinion/editorial>

The Outlook  
SUBSCRIPTION FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ \$25 NON-ALUMNI SUBSCRIBER ☐ \$15 MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY ALUMNI

Mail this subscription to and payment to:  
The Outlook Monmouth University

400 Cedar Ave. West Long Branch 07764  
Or Call 732-571-3481 for Credit Card Payment

Serving the Monmouth  
community  
since 1933

THE OUTLOOK  
<http://outlook.monmouth.edu/>

Follow us on:



**DISCLAIMER:** All articles appearing in the Op/Ed section of *The Outlook* are solely the opinions of the authors and do not reflect the views of *The Outlook's* editors (unless otherwise noted) or any and all advertisers. Opinion articles are run unedited and the content is the sole responsibility of their authors. All students and faculty are welcome to respond to any opinion piece that appears on these pages, and everyone is encouraged to submit an article for consideration. *The Outlook* reserves the right to withhold any articles deemed inappropriate or otherwise unfit to print in the Op/Ed section. Due to legalities, *The Outlook* will no longer print anonymous articles.



# A True Response To *The Outlook*

AARON FURGASON  
COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT CHAIR

I am writing this note to *The Outlook* Editors from a classroom in Plangere where the digital clock says half of the number 7 part of number 5 and an entire 8, which I guess means 7:58, or maybe 9:58, but more on that later, as the Chair of the Department of Communication I want to apologize to the editors and the staff of the newspaper for their disappointment in lack of reaction to the removed newspapers.

When the incident occurred, I did verbalize my support and willingness to aid the staff and editors whatever way they wanted to move forward with investigating the incident. However, I should have put that support in writing, in-print, in the school's newspaper. So, this letter serves to do that and to also enlighten the staff and editors to my experience as an Alum of Monmouth College; as a former writer and editor for *The Outlook*; as a faculty member and now as the Chair of the Department of Communication.

A free press, without censorship is the lifeblood of any community. *The Outlook* has a long history of covering topics that impact not only its core community-Monmouth students- but also national stories. Sadly, this is not the first time that unknown perpetrator(s) on-campus have decided that they would serve as de-facto editors and/or censors and remove *The Outlook* from areas where the paper might be accessible to visitors or potential new students. In fact, I have been told by several former students that before *The Outlook* is added to goodie bags for Accepted Students at Monmouth Day, the paper is vetted for any content deemed negative to the University. The likelihood that a student would initiate this is unlikely, that would only leave staff, faculty and administrators as the likely perpetrators for both acts.

While this lack of response or acknowledgement is not shocking to me as a Chair which I will discuss later, it is unfortunately a missed educational opportunity that used to be commonplace on the Monmouth College campus when I was student. The old copies of *The Outlook* I have in my office have numerous responses to articles and opinions from staff, administrators and faculty in response to campus coverage, reporting and opinions of students. A real debate would take place across the pages of *The Outlook*, about everything from staff overtime, Feminism, and HIV/Aids, offering students, staff, faculty and administrators the chance to speak their points of view, debate, and allow readers to form their own opinions on the matter- that is so novel.

The community as a whole was willing to debate, discuss and find common ground on matters that impacted the whole community. Sadly, I doubt that the perpetrator(s) will have the wherewithal in themselves to come forward and identify themselves or discuss why they felt that particular edition of *The Outlook* was so egregious that visitors to the University should not read material within its pages. An opportunity to have a real discussion about the matter is lost forever. And those discussions matter! They matter tremendously. Why? Two reasons that work hand-in-hand with one another: time and communication. What do I mean by time? Well, take for example Freshman Sally. She enters Monmouth University one September weekend and if all goes well, four years later Freshman Sally walks across a stage with a diploma in hand. A specific set of time that Freshman Sally will have to embrace all of the wonderful educational and civic opportunities, as well as valuable skills to be employable upon graduation- a Liberal Arts education. The reality for Freshman Sally is that she is racing against the clock to engage with as many opportunities as possible before the clock runs out upon graduation. This returns us to the beginning and the clocks. I can report to *The Outlook* staff and editors that as Chair I am also often in the dark on matters related to administrative support of the educational mission of the department. For example, how many Monmouth University students know that we have a TV studio on the first floor of the Plangere Center? Most do because it can clearly be seen when entering the Plangere Center. How many know that we have a first class Interactive Digital Media Lab with virtual and augment realty capabilities, 3-d printers and video game technology? Few. Why?

*For the remainder of the letter, please head to the editorial page of our website: <https://outlook.monmouth.edu/opinion/editorial>*

# Defense of Student Journalism

MARINA VUJNOVIC  
ASSOCIATE COMM. PROFESSOR

In the early 1990s, I was a young burgeoning journalist in the war-torn Croatia lead by, democratic on paper, but in all other way's autocratic government. Right from the start, in 1991 Croatian Democratic Party and its leadership lead a public campaign against free and independent journalism. My home was a small local newspaper "Otok Ivanic" (Island Ivanic), that covered about 20, 000 inhabitants, in mostly rural areas. We covered local politics and occasionally commented on national politics when they affected the lives of people in our area.

Croatia inherited a communist model of state-controlled system of newspaper printing and distribution. This meant that every newspaper and periodical was printed and distributed by the same company. One day, after a particularly critical report of the then-president of Croatia Franjo Tudjman we were informed that our printing and distribution service was terminated. After the initial shock, we decided to fight back. We applied for Soros grant to fund our own printing press which we luckily won soon thereafter. We folded each newspaper biweekly on Friday nights. Each one of 5,000 copies. And as far as distribution went? Well, on Saturday mornings we'd load several cars and went door to door, shop to shop, and distributed the newspaper ourselves. If the government intended to shut our voices down, they were in for a surprise.

And why am I telling you this story?

A previous editorial about the sudden "disappearance" of *The Outlook* student newspaper from the distribution stand in the Student Center shocked me into remembering what it is like to work in the environment without the protection of the First Amendment. I've read that editorial with a sense of outrage that something like that is possible on our campus. Even more outrageous is the sense that the community seems to not care that it is not only possible but that it actually happened.

I feel a moral responsibility as a journalist, educator, and the Chair of the Faculty Council to speak in support of *The Outlook's* right to not only publish but more importantly to be distributed to their audiences without fear of being removed before those same audiences have had a chance to enjoy the benefits of being informed. Although, private universities, unlike their state counterparts are not directly bound by the First Amendment in their policies, any university as such, is morally bound to provide an environment for expression of free thought, and by the same token, provide free avenues for distribution of the same. Indeed, the Supreme Court since the 1965 Tinker vs. Des Moines Community District has given many protections to student speech, more recently including online speech. I am truly proud of our *Outlook* student-journalists who have a clear dedication to their calling reflected in the fact that every Wednesday we have the paper! It is possible that most of us who enjoy the pages of *Outlook* every week don't contemplate the amount of work that goes into the production of a weekly paper. To support this level of student involvement is imperative. To then condemn those who felt that they have the right to remove the evidence of that hard work because they might have not liked what the paper had to say is equally, an imperative.

I wholly hope that no one person's action on this campus should ever have to remind me again, of what it was like to live in the world without the protections of the First Amendment.



# Jersey Shore Rescue Mission THRIFT STORE



**Open Monday - Saturday**  
**9:30am - 5:30pm**  
*Closed Sunday*

**SHOP • DONATE • USED CARS**



*Proceeds from our store support the programs of the Jersey Shore Rescue Mission.*

**Conveniently located!**  
701 Memorial Drive  
Asbury Park, NJ



[www.jsrescue.org](http://www.jsrescue.org)





# Answering the Demands of the PA Profession

ALEXA LAVERE  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Known for its mobility across different fields, autonomous role, competitive salary, and ability to provide a work-life balance, the Physician Assistant (PA) profession has become increasingly desirable throughout the years.

PAs are dependent health care providers licensed to practice medicine under physician supervision. Though they are considered dependent providers, they independently obtain medical histories, order diagnostic testing, conduct medical examinations, develop diagnoses, and formulate treatment plans.

As the interest in the profession rises, so does the level of competition surrounding matriculation into PA educational programs. Expectations are set at a high standard in regards to requirements such as GPA, GRE, and prior pertinent experience.

Bernadette Dunphy Ph.D., Specialist Professor and Director of Monmouth's pre-health advising agrees, "A successful applicant has many, many clinical hands-on experience hours. Sometimes these hours are in the thousands. The best type of experience is EMT, nurse's side, scribe positions, and other jobs that the student works directly with patients."

The application process consists of meeting the required prerequisites, developing the application, sharing an interview with the admissions committee and hopefully, being matriculated into the program.

A large majority of PA programs accept applications online via a system termed the Centralized Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA). This system

was developed in order for applicants to easily apply online to multiple programs at once.

An important component of the CASPA application is an obligatory essay. To write this essay, be yourself—let your voice be heard through your narrative. Be sure to proofread, provide evidence to support your claims, organize your essay into a unique structure or theme, and get a second opinion before submitting.

It is highly recommended that applications be submitted well before their deadline, since many programs carry out rolling admissions. Rolling admissions cease the admissions process as soon as the program has reached their desired number of applicant interviews.

Dunphy said, "Be prepared to apply when the application service CASPA opens...look at the prerequisites of the schools early to

make sure you have all the classes necessary because they vary from school to school."

She continued, "Make sure you have your letters of recommendation set up early and they are faculty and clinicians that know you best and they are willing to write you a strong positive letter."

Monmouth University's PA program begins in September and spans for 36 months. It includes a 42-week didactic phase during which students gain classroom and clinical laboratory instruction as well as experiences within hospitals and clinics.

Following the didactic phase is a 64-week clinical phase during which students are assigned to preceptors within several hospitals and physician offices to participate in clinical clerkships. While programs may offer up to 125 seats, Monmouth has a class size of 30 students enrolled for

three years.

Stephanie Lynch PA-C, a Specialist Professor of the PA program, explained, "The students form close relationships with each other and the faculty. Because of the small class size, students at our PA Program don't feel like just a number in a cohort. Most students feel very supported by the faculty."

The team-based approach to medical care is represented by the collaborative atmosphere found within Monmouth's PA program. Another perk of the program is the inclusion of two summer breaks.

"The students find these breaks to be very restorative after completion of the rigorous didactic year and the extended first year of clinical rotations," Lynch explains.

The Monmouth University Physician Assistant Student Society (MUPASS) aims to promote

academic and clinical excellence while simultaneously emphasizing the importance of the PA as a component of the health care delivery team.

Lynch explained, "MUPASS is also involved in multiple outreach programs benefiting the local community, including: making dinner for the families at the Ronald McDonald House at Monmouth Medical Center, participating in "Trunk or Treat" which offers area children a safe place to trick or treat on Halloween, working at a local food bank in Asbury Park, and donating Christmas presents to families in need through Operation Sleighbells."

Throughout the next decade, the PA profession has an excellent projected job outlook of 31 percent. PAs typically do not struggle to find job placements, given their high demand.

Monmouth alumna Francesca Cuttaia (PA-C) earned a Bachelor of Science in Health Studies in 2010 and currently works at Children's Hospital of Los Angeles in Neonatology (NiCu).

Cuttaia said, "Students typically find jobs after school by recruiters, job boards for PAs or advanced practice providers, from clinical rotations they've been on, hospital job listings, or by networking."

In fact, Monmouth's PA program has shown a promising 100 percent employment rate after graduation.

Lynch added, "Upon graduation, the majority of students choose to work in Emergency Medicine or Surgical Subspecialties, such as Orthopedic Surgery, but we also have graduates working in Critical Care Medicine, Psychiatry, Dermatology, Pediatrics, and Urology."



PHOTO COURTESY of @mu\_pass Instagram

Second-year PA students received their white coats on Oct. 19, 2019.

## How to Manage Student Loans

NICHOLAS COSCARELLI  
SENIOR/POLITICS EDITOR

According to the Institute for College Access and Success, 44.7 million American students and graduates shared a collective \$1.59 trillion in educational debt in 2019.

Managing these loans may seem daunting, and understandably so. Here are some tips that might help.

First, take stock of how much in loans you'll actually need. You don't want to take out more debt if it might not be necessary. There are other forms of aid that don't require you to pay back, like grants and scholarships. If you figure you can manage the tuition bill with less loans, do it.

"Look for easy scholarships from organizations in town, online, or someone you know," said Marissa LaSala, a senior political science student. "Getting \$250 to write an essay can cover a semester of books or your dorm bedding, or a month's car payment if you decide to commute."

Interest rates on your loans are important too. "Shop around and don't assume that the first rate given is the best one," said Robert Scott, Ph.D., Professor of Economics and Finance, who specializes in debt and credit markets and financial literacy. "It's important to remember that your student loans are an

investment in future income."

Before your loans get disbursed, you sign a promissory note and complete an entrance counselling session, which will explain what you're getting yourself into. You'll also eventually need to complete an exit counselling session, which will discuss your responsibilities and options for repayment.

For students who transfer to another school, make sure that your lender knows that you have re-enrolled elsewhere, otherwise you will be expected to make repayments. For students continuing in graduate or professional school, repayment is often postponed while still enrolled; although some private lenders might expect in-school repayments.

Once you've entered a contract with your lender, which you should always read in full, it's important to keep track of your loans and who your servicer is.

Claire Alasio, Associate Vice President for Enrollment and Director of Financial Aid, explained that this information can be found at the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS). "When you file the FAFSA, you get an FSA ID. This FSA ID can also be used to monitor your student loan account activity," she said.

By checking your student loan activity, you can ensure that your loans have been prop-

erly credited to your student account and that the information on your NSLDS matches the amount of loan money you accepted.

Alasio suggests checking your account at the end of each semester, and to confirm your servicer has your updated current contact information.

With an average \$35,570 debt, the average monthly student loan payment will be about \$296 over ten years. However, there is a six-month grace period before you are expected to make repayments. It is assumed that you will be employed by that time, something that may become easier if you've secured internships as a student.

"If you plan to work after college, then getting at least one internship in your field is critical," said Scott. "The number one predictor of early employment after college graduation is whether someone had an internship or not."

Once you enter repayment, it is imperative that you make your payments in full and on-time, or risk damaging your credit score or even defaulting if a habit of delinquent payment continues.

"If you fall behind or are having trouble in making your payments, DO NOT ignore it," Alasio warned. "Contact your loan servicer, as there are options (deferment, forbearance, a revised repayment plan) that

they may be able to help with."

Scott advised to establish budgets, to pay off high-interest loans first, and to avoid delay; it's never a bad idea to even get ahead on payments while still enrolled, if you can.

"You need to pay your bills, debts, etc., but you also need to think of your future," he said. "Everyone's financial situation is unique, so you have to consider about what makes sense to you."

If you find yourself meeting your monthly repayments and have some extra money, Scott recommended several ways to make good investments.

"You may benefit in the long-run to pay off your student loan debt early...however, you can also choose to double-down on your retirement income and setup a Roth IRA and start contributing and investing." He also said matching with an employer-sponsored 401k is a great investment, too.

If you ever become behind on your loans, though, or just need some guidance, contact the Financial Aid Office.

"We can't solve the problem or pay the loan for you, but we can help to point you in the right direction," Alasio says with assurance.

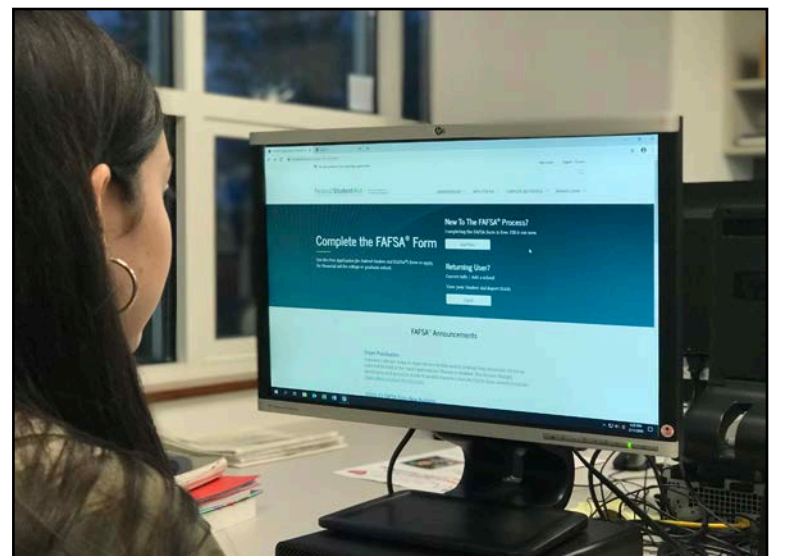


PHOTO TAKEN by Nicole Riddle

Scholarships and grants can help reduce the weight of student loan debt.



# For Valentine’s Day, Try Being Realistic

JESSICA PAK  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Ah February, the month of love. A time to display tenderness, and affection, to the ones we admire most.

February can be an exciting month for both single and taken people, however if there’s one month that has the power to stress everybody out, it’s this one.

In fact, a study conducted at Arizona State University found that relationships are 2.5 times more likely to end between the week leading up to Valentine’s Day and the week after Valentine’s Day.

So how does this two week period increase the chances of you breaking up with your partner? The results of the study from Arizona State University further concluded that Valentine’s Day can magnify, or even exacerbate existing issues. The pressure of creating the “perfect” Valentine’s Day can cause partners to question whether or not they actually have the “perfect” relationship.

Gary W. Lewandowski Jr., Ph.D., Professor of Psychology who specializes in studying the psychology of romantic relationships, explained the impact Valentine’s Day can have on relationships.

“For healthy strong relationships, Valentine’s Day presents an opportunity to celebrate how wonderful everything is and how happy you are together. However, for underperforming relationships, V-day can highlight the

problems and make it more clear that people are better off without the relationship,” said Lewandowski.

Another study published in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* by an Ohio State professor of psychology, reported that Valentine’s Day can end relationships, because of the heightened expectations for jaw-dropping romantic gestures.

For many, Valentine’s Day is known as a day to give over-the-top presents, go to special dinners, and profess your undying love for your partner. In a perfect world all of these things seem ideal, but sometimes setting the bar high can leave lovers disappointed if reality doesn’t reflect upon these expectations.

Furthermore, the study published in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, found that couples who set high expectations for their relationships are more likely to face disappointment, and relationship dysfunction than couples who are more realistic expectations.

No matter what, relationships require a meticulous amount of maintenance and communication to flourish. Don’t worry, despite the studies there are many ways to preserve the health of your relationship if you are in one. At the end of the day what is better than healthy love?

Lewandowski recently read a study that focuses on different activities partners can do to maintain a healthy relationship (and they are surprisingly simple).

“Writing a letter of gratitude to your partner, identifying your partner’s strengths, and

strengths overall as a couple, and identifying what about the relationship makes them happy with a pie chart,” are small steps in the right direction, said Lewandowski.

After creating a pie chart of what makes you happy couples can then create, “a desired happiness chart discussing what small changes can help make these “desires” a reality,” said Lewandowski.

When researchers followed up with the couples one month later in the study Lewandowski referenced, the ones who took these small steps were performing better than those who had not.

Emily Vasquez, a sophomore Biology student, has been in a relationship for almost a year, and has learned many lessons on how to cultivate her relationship.

“Sacrifice your pride and listen. Listen for the purpose to listen, not to just wait for a chance to talk. Take what the other person says seriously, and if they care about you they will do the same,” said Vasquez.

Despite the pressure of work and school commitments, social or familial obligations, actions as simple as communicating regularly and checking up on one another can make all of the difference.

Sophomore communication student, Anna Maida, is appreciative of the healthy communication skills she and her partner use in their relationship.

“I love when my boyfriend sends me good morning texts, or when we take the time to talk about each other’s days.

It makes me feel like he cares enough, and that even though we’re busy, we make time to check up on one another,” said Maida.

With Valentine’s Day approaching keep in mind that what’s most important is not making plans for a holiday, but keeping constantly aware of the condition, and security, of your relationship. When you nourish the relationship you are in, everyday can be Valentine’s Day.

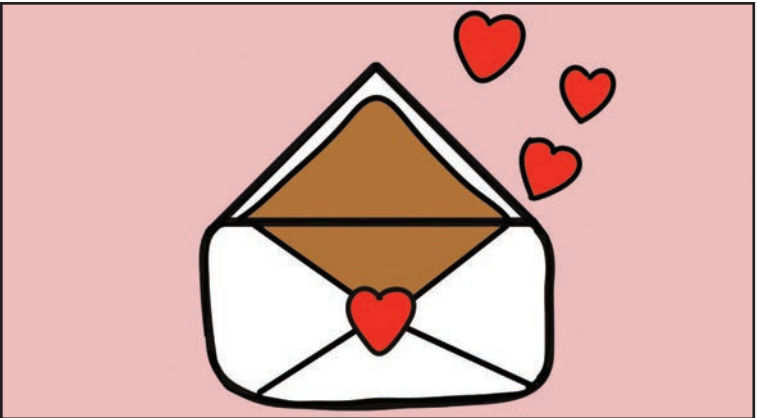


IMAGE COMPILED by Chloe Barone

Writing a letter to your partner for Valentine's Day can be a romantic gesture, and also a creative outlet for you to express your feelings.

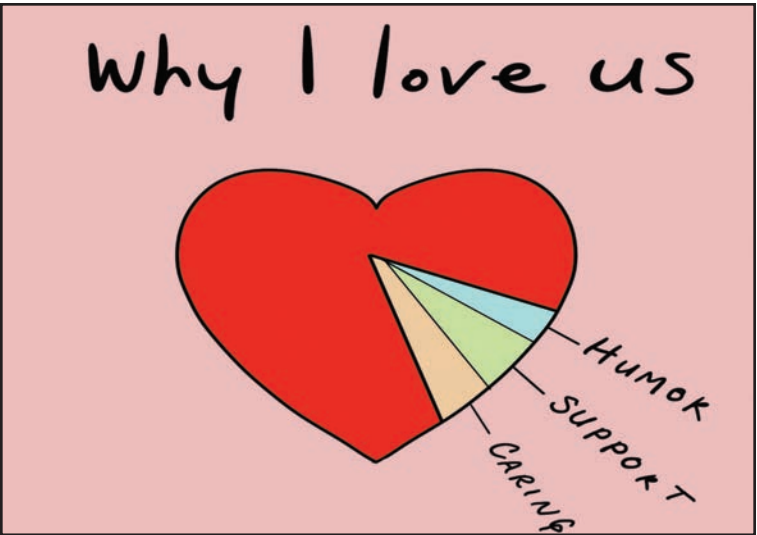


IMAGE COMPILED by Chloe Barone

Creating a pie chart of what you love about your relationship can help to bring you clarity on the important qualities you see in your partner, rather than highlighting the negatives.

## Valentine’s Day

EMILY CONDRON  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Valentine’s Day is known for being the most romantic day of the year. Overpriced fancy dinners, dressing in red or pink, and making sure that you find a special someone to spend the hours with. But have you ever considered that this day can be so much more than that?

Movie and books centered around Valentine’s Day usually portray women without a special someone eating ice cream while watching sappy love movies and men going out with their buddies to hit on women. These messages form the opinion of “needing” someone to be with, even if you don’t actually like them.

I find this horrible because it leaves so many upset and pressured to seek this toxic vision. Instead of crying and feeling horrible this year, here are some other ways to view the day of love without romance that are even better than those \$100+ dates!

When thinking of love, young adults automatically put their significant other’s first. However, what about your family members? If you are unfortunate enough to say you don’t have a family to lean on, why not think of those in your same situation who have no one and are sitting in nursing homes or retirement centers all alone?

During this time of love, go take flowers to someone who is lonely in a nursing home or bring your brother a box of chocolates because, even though he is annoying, he loves you.

Another way to spread your love is through volunteer work. During holiday seasons, struggling people also want to feel embraced. Working at

a soup kitchen allows you to show devotion to others rather than yourself, giving you an even better feeling than steak or ice cream would. Kindness and showing appreciation are worth so much more than stressing over having a date to see a movie with (it lasts longer, too).

Love is broad; you love family, friends, partners, but you should also love yourself. On Valentine’s Day, that shouldn’t change. Rather than worry about who you will be with tonight, focus on self-care. Get a mani-pedi (yes, even you men out there). If that doesn’t float your boat, enjoy a cheat day with an overload of carbs and binge *Nefflix*.

Put in time and care for yourself, even if your celebration of love is not what your *Instagram* is full of, you can still be happy and enjoy your holiday because you were able to relax and enjoy it.

Once Valentine’s Day has passed, grab your best friend or a family member and take yourselves out for a day filled with fun. Go see that romantic comedy together or take a trip to the store and stock up on the discount chocolate or any other candy your heart desires. Not only will you preserve your bank account, but you will also get the chance to make memories that last forever with those that will most likely be around a lot longer than that date you found last week.

Valentine’s Day is about love, yes, but it does not have to be about the generalized idea that society has constructed. Hopefully, it is clearer that love can be shown to so many different people through so many different ways. Just take the time to find how you enjoy expressing that love. Happy Valentine’s Day!

## Top 5 Rom-Coms

NICOLE BENWELL  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

- For Valentine’s Day, we are all looking for ways to “get in the feels,” whether we are single or not. For some, this might mean a candlelit dinner for two and a trip to the movies to see the latest “love-dovey” movie. Others might just want to kick back at home, curl up under a blanket, and watch a romantic comedy. There is a growing list of amazing rom-com movies that are worth checking out if you are planning on having a cozy night in. Listed, are five movies worth watching this V-Day.
- 1. *Ten Things I Hate About You* (1999)**

An adaptation of William Shakespeare’s *Taming of the Shrew* based in a high school in the 1990s. It contains a well-written script that is filled with bits of nostalgia and wit. We are able to witness the early talents of Julie Stiles, Heath Ledger, and Joseph Gordon-Levitt.
  - 2. *Crazy, Stupid, Love* (2011)**

In this film, we see three different variations of love stories, middle-aged, young adults, and of a boy’s first love along with all the various shades of gray that connect all the characters together. The movie is sweet, hilarious and has something for everyone. It includes an all-star cast that includes Steve Carrell, Ryan Gosling, and Emma Stone along with several other big-name actors.
  - 3. *Harold and Maude* (1971)**

It would be crazy to count this, almost, 50-year-old film out for your Valentine’s Day movie night. It is a dark romantic comedy that still holds a devoted cult-style fan base. The audience gets to witness grim minded Harold fall in love with a much older Maude. The story shows themes of life and romance, which is sure to keep you thinking long after the movie has ended.
  - 4. *Forgetting Sarah Marshall* (2008)**

A post-breakup story that is written by and star’s Jason Segel as Peter Bretter. Produced by famed Apatow Productions. Peter goes to Hawaii to mourn the loss of his relationship with actress Sarah Marshall (Kristen Bell) only to find her staying at the same resort with her new boyfriend. The movie presents in a similar comedy style to other Apatow films such as *40-Year-Old Virgin* and *Knocked Up*. It has many outrageously funny moments along with a heartwarming plot about love and forgiveness.
  - 5. *How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days* (2003)**

Advice columnist Andi (Kate Hudson) purposely sabotages a new relationship with Ben (Matthew McConaughey) for the sake of writing an article on the common mistakes women make in relationships. It is a classic golden age rom-com that pokes fun of the stereotypes between men and women’s dating behaviors. We even get to cringe watch the song battle between the two leads as they perform “You’re So Vain” by Carly Simon.



PHOTO TAKEN from IMDB



PHOTO TAKEN from IMDB

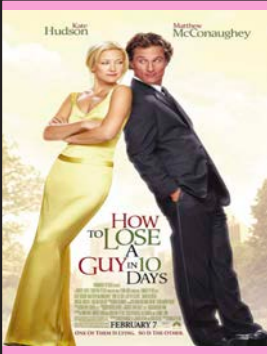


PHOTO TAKEN from IMDB



# Black Like Me: An Exploration of the Word N—

GRACE ENRIGHT  
STAFF WRITER

When I walked into Pollak Theatre, my generation’s hip-hop and rap songs were playing over the sound system. I sat down and was subtly grooving to the music and mouthing the lyrics, except the “N” word, which was said repeatedly and not censored out. I thought “Ooh this is gonna be good, they have a good playlist to start out with.” Little did I know that people like me, sitting there and singing along to the songs, were the reason the performers chose that playlist.

After the music stopped and the stage went black, a video slideshow of African Americans’ lynchings was presented to the audience. Everyone went silent. You could physically feel the switch in the mood and energy of the room.

Then, a video of Jade Solo-

man Curtis, a dancer and choreographer and the mind behind *Black Like Me*, came onto the screen. She was talking to a man who was explaining the pain inflicted on slaves.

He discussed how for their first offense they would be branded on one shoulder, and their ears would be cut. For their second offense, their other shoulder would be branded and their hamstrings would be cut. These dark images stuck with me throughout the rest of the night.

Following the video slideshow, the screen projected grass waving in the wind. Jade laid on a box center-stage, in a beautiful, yet distressed white dress. Oddly, trap music was playing overhead, but it painted the scene that she intended: slavery.

Her dance movements reflected that of a woman in pain, calling for help. It was a

little creepy, because no one in the audience really knew what was going on, but it was also powerful.

After her dance performance, the stage went black again. It was relit with a video of police attacking an unarmed, innocent black man. The next video shown was of Sandra Bland in her car, being hounded by a police officer. She was doing nothing wrong, sitting in her car, stating her rights as the officer was trying to drag her out.

It was so disturbing to see, especially as I’m surrounded by African Americans who may or may not have dealt with similar situations. It really is heartbreaking to watch, and I just wanted to jump out of my seat and scream about how wrong it is, but that was the point of showing these horrible videos: to get people to realize.

Curtis took stage once again to perform another dance solo, wearing neon green shorts and a matching sweatshirt. Her energetic moves covered the whole space of the stage. When she was finished, a panelist of three African Americans took the stage; Gail Boyd, Walter Beach, and Arif Gursel.

Boyd started by asking Beach, who is 87 years old, when the first time that someone called him the “N” word was. He said he was nine, and a white boy called him the word after Beach beat him in a running race. Beach beat the kid up, and eventually had the Ku Klux Klan at his door looking for him. After all those years,



PHOTO COURTESY of Kelly N. Grant (above) and IMAGE TAKEN Sam Mobile (banner) Jade Soloman Curtis danced in her performance.



PHOTO COURTESY of Kelly N. Grant A panel discussion followed the performance to talk about the gravity of the “N” word.

## Robbie Soars In Birds of Prey

MARK MARRONE  
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

We can all agree that *Suicide Squad* may have been one of the worst superhero movies in recent memory. The choppy editing, lazy script, ugly cinematography, and Jared Leto’s Joker made for two hours we’re still trying to get back. But out of this mess, the character Harley Quinn was born and her own spinoff film, *Birds of Prey*.

In the film, Quinn, played by Margot Robbie, is dumped by the Joker. Without his protection, all the people who were wronged by Quinn are out for her head (similar to *John Wick Chapter 2*). When deranged mobster Black Mask, played by Ewan McGregor, captures Quinn, he will let her go if she can get him a diamond. However, that diamond has been swallowed by pickpocket Cassandra and there are many others after it too.

Usually comic book movies are filled with fake CGI action and cheesy lines, but *Prey* turns the genre upside down. For the first time ever, I finally saw real stunts and hand-to-hand

combat in a superhero movie. Throughout, Robbie puts her body on the line for crazy fist fights and she really gives it to the bad guys. Normally I sleep through typical Marvel action, but in this case I was saying, “Oh! Ah! Ouch! Yikes!” People might be annoyed around me, yet it means the action is doing its job.

On top of the action, it’s loud, obnoxious, and a lot of fun. Director Cathy Yan’s style is bold, as colors pop off the screen and captions fly in and out of shots. Just by looking at Quinn, it’s clear that all the characters wear funky clothing like their outfits were too obnoxious to get into a disco. There are also moments where Quinn blows up a chemical plant with gorgeous rainbow fireworks and when she uses a paintball canon that’s loaded with confetti bullets. It’s like a Picasso painting threw up on the screen, but it’s strangely beautiful to look at.

Although there are many instances where you could shake your head, the film is just too fun. Usually I rip on comic book movies, but *Birds of Prey* managed to swoop my heart (and brain) away.

IMAGES TAKEN from Devian Art and WallpaperSite (background)

# Parasite Wins Best Picture: What it Means for World Cinema

MARK MARRONE  
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

In his acceptance speech for *Parasite*’s Best Foreign Language Film win at this year’s Golden Globes a month ago, director Bong Joon Ho told the Hollywood Foreign Press and Americans watching at home, “Once you overcome the 1-inch-tall barrier of subtitles, you will be introduced to so many more amazing films.”

After *Parasite*’s shockingly historic Best Picture win at the Oscars along with others victories in directing, foreign film, and screenplay, it seems as though we have finally overcome that tiny barrier.

Since its inception 92 years ago, the Oscars has been known for mainly recognizing Hollywood’s most popular films or other

domestic releases in their major categories. There have been times when international films squeezed their way into the Best Picture category (*Amor* in 2012 and last year’s *Roma*), but none had a shot going up against Hollywood’s most powerful films and people.

Plus, mainstream audiences typically shut out the entire international film genre. Many don’t want to “read a movie” with subtitles, nor do they care for anything without star power or a big production. Despite having all these qualities, *Parasite* managed to break the glass ceiling.

So what does this mean for world cinema? Host of the University’s World Cinema Series, History and Anthropology Professor Thomas Pearson, Ph.D. thought it was, “A historic event not only for Korean films and world cinema generally,

but also for Hollywood in moving from a more insular view of cinema to a more diverse, global perspective.”

*Parasite*’s journey to victory also included wins at other award ceremonies too. “The fact that it won the Palme d’Or at Cannes and the Best Picture Oscar (two quite different audiences) speaks to how original and captivating the film is. I hope that the Best Picture Oscar for *Parasite* will encourage many Americans to put aside their reluctance to watch subtitled films and discover the richness of international features and documentary films because as a country we need that broader, more open human perspective,” Pearson said.

Considering *Parasite* bridged the two opposite audiences together, we wish that the foundation strengthens. Now that mainstream audiences are becoming exposed to international films like *Parasite*, maybe they’ll feel a new door of cinema open.

Throughout middle and high school, I would always go with my father to Montgomery Cinemas near Princeton on the weekends, which showed international films. When I’d see my peers on Monday, I’d share what I saw, but many would scratch their heads and usually ask, “Why would you see something nobody cares about?” Fast-forward a few years later and hopefully those people are now sitting at the movies watching *Parasite* stroking their chins rather than scratching their heads.



IMAGE TAKEN from Vanity Fair Director Bong Joon Ho deserved a drink after winning four Oscars including the coveted Best Picture.



# Hayley Williams Releases Para(more) Solo Music

MELISSA BADAMO  
FEATURES EDITOR

Many artists in bands make the decision to embark on a solo career, and Hayley Williams is not ‘The Only Exception.’ Once again, she’s in the business of misery and taking it from the top—but this time, she’s doing it under a new brand.

On Jan. 22, Williams dropped her debut single called ‘Simmer.’ The gloomy instrumentals, eerie vocals, and emotional lyrics took a few listens to grow on me. I can’t help but drum along to the beat each listen, as they remind me of the drums in ‘Let the Flames Begin’ and ‘Part II’ right from Paramore’s discography. In fact, all of her songs are extremely drum and bass driven.

She has released four more songs since then—‘Cinnamon,’ ‘Leave it Alone,’ ‘Creepin,’ and ‘Sudden Desire.’ They all fall under the first half of her album called *Petals for Armor Part I*, with the rest of the album to be released on May 8. Each rage-filled song gnaws at her ex-husband, guitarist Chad Gilbert from the band New Found Glory. They also illustrate the very-real themes of guilt, grief, and vulnerability.

For the most part, I found Williams’ music to sound clumsily experimental, with her odd music videos following suit by resembling mini horror movies. Her music strays far from Paramore’s emo, alternative rock sound that pulled in their fans. Her new music can be described as “dark pop,” almost like Paramore meets Billie Eilish.

Hayley has promised fans in the past that she would never go solo, but she seems incredibly proud to slip out of the Paramore mold for a while and experiment with her own individual sound. And I give her props for that.

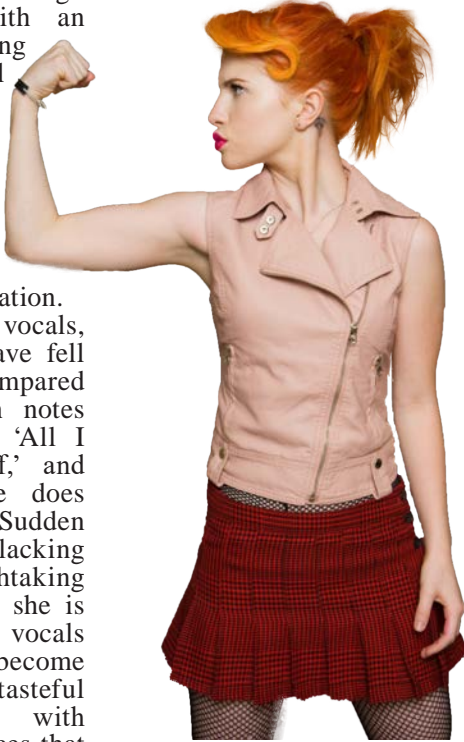
However, there will always be a little part of Paramore in anything Williams does or releases. They’re still a band, after all! Taylor York, the band’s lead guitarist, co-wrote and produced a large portion of Williams’ music.

Unfortunately, Taylor York and drummer Zac Farro will not be joining their bandmate on stage as she strides through her solo journey with an upcoming tour following *Petal for Armor*’s full release. This album comes three years after Paramore’s fifth album *After Laughter* was released in 2017.

Williams is undoubtedly the best vocalist of our generation. No one can match her vocals, but I’m afraid they have fell short on her album compared to the powerful high notes that bless Paramore’s ‘All I wanted,’ ‘Turn it Off,’ and ‘Still into You.’ She does belt in the chorus of ‘Sudden Desire,’ but it’s lacking the beautiful, breathtaking performance we know she is capable of. Williams’ vocals on *Petals for Armor* become tarnished by distasteful effects, harmonizing with deep computerized voices that sound like demons, and being accompanied by awkward, off-putting whispers.

Out of all five songs, I’d have to say that ‘Simmer’ takes the blue ribbon so far, with ‘Creepin’ at a close second with a melody that falls more on the groovy side. However, Williams’ solo songs are not ones that could give me the thrill of jamming out to on the guitar like Paramore’s songs can, being that they are my favorite band of all time.

Nevertheless, I retain an appreciation for the rawness of each song, and I will be looking forward to the full album when it drops in a few months. It is safe to say that Paramore fans are ‘Born for This.’



IMAGES TAKEN from PNG River (above) and besthwallpapers.com (background). Williams flexes her solo talents in *Petals for Armor Part I*.

# CRJ Gets Sassy In ‘Let’s Be Friends’

MARK MARRONE  
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Ah, it’s that time of the year where love is in the air as lovers exchange roses, teddy bears, and chocolate covered strawberries (or raisins if you want to be a little extra romantic). Meanwhile, the Queen of Pop Carly Rae Jepsen is out here cancelling Valentine’s Day with her new single ‘Let’s Be Friends.’

The single’s title may send shivers up your spine, because you know the only time you hear those cringey words are when it’s time to break up. Sometimes being friends might be the most civil solution at the end of the day, but Jepsen smashes those words with a sledge hammer.

Throughout, the Queen points out the telling signs that the end is near, for it’s a, “Black dress occasion/ Nobody’s dying/ It’s a dinner not a date.” Then when it’s time to ask for the check, Jepsen launches into the chorus with, “Let’s be friends/ And never speak again/ It’s cool/ We can just pretend we’re friends.”

It’s like every line is dripping with sarcasm and a little giggle behind it. Usually people cry or try to make it work when they hear those words, but Jepsen lays the sauce on thick and acknowledges that she ain’t gonna put in a lick of

effort. She even adds spice into the backing vocals of the chorus with, “See you never.”

For someone who has written a slew of breakup songs, the Queen’s ‘Let’s Be Friends’ takes the heart-shaped box of chocolates. Jepsen has the gift of taking words that hurt and putting them into a hip shaking bop that even has the backing of an acoustic guitar, a new sound for her.

Although Jepsen sings of the end in ‘Friends,’ it could mark the beginning of a new album. Last May, CRJ released her hit album *Dedicated*, and this might be one of the hundreds of b-sides left over. Considering she released a collection of b-sides from her other album *Emotion*, we may get a *Dedicated Side-B*.

So, Jepsen, let’s hope we speak again.



IMAGES TAKEN from @CarlyRaeJepsen Twitter (Above) and DLPNG.com (background). Jepsen steps on hearts during the Valentine’s Day season.

# Aurora Robson: Inquire Within

NICK MANDULEY  
STAFF WRITER

Canadian-American artist Aurora Robson gave a lecture on her experiences cultivating works for her exhibit *Inquire Within* at the Wilson Hall Auditorium last Friday night, Feb. 7. The exhibit is being hosted at DiMattio Gallery in Rehnitz Hall until March 13.

Robson creates sculptures, paintings, and collages focusing on themes relating to the environment and humanity’s impact on it. She uses junk mail, plastic bottles, and other single-use everyday items as a medium. Robson’s work calls attention to the vast amounts of plastic pollution that is taking place on our planet, but she does not necessarily view the climate denial movement as something that has influenced her to make a statement in her work: “I don’t know that it has

[influenced me]. I think it’s like when people want to say negative or derogatory or inflammatory things; if you focus on that, it will derail you,” said Robson. “I don’t know if I’d call [climate denial] a movement. I feel like I would call it the opposite; it’s like a wrench in the gears.”

According to Robson, her work is a part of a “love-based” fight, which is a narrative she values having in her current Hudson Valley residence, where she feels most of her fellow community members, “do not really understand why I do what I do.” The goal of this “fight,” according to Robson, is to convince “people to do things that are kinder and better for themselves and each other.”

The Toronto-born artist grew up in Hawaii, where she struggled with a rough home life throughout her childhood. “It was this beautiful paradise, with a wonderful

landscape that I got to exist in while my father was in and out of jail, and my personal home life was very frightening,” said Robson.

Robson struggled with recurring nightmares during this time; though these nightmares have also fueled some of her work, she would later learn they were commonplace amongst children living in traumatic households.

“I had discovered this in 2012, when I was doing a series of lectures with kids in a poor neighborhood of Columbus, Ohio. About a third of each classroom would go, ‘Oh my gosh, I had that dream last night!’ and it was this incredible ‘ah-ha’ moment in my career where I realized it wasn’t just me,” recalled Robson.

Robson wants children living in traumatic home settings to understand that unfortunate times are always temporary. “What I wish I had known [growing up], is that everything changes on a dime in terms of fortune; in both directions,” said Robson. “If things are really terrible one day, you can have stellar day the next day.”

Robson’s artistic process is just as much fueled by the plastic available in everyday life as it is by the experiences that have made her who she is today. “It is the wild west of the plastics industry still. It’s astounding to me how much variety there is; it’s like fractals. It’s continuous,” said Robson. “You’ve got this proliferation of plastic packaging constantly morphing; it gives it this lifelike qual-



PHOTO TAKEN by Nick Manduley and IMAGE TAKEN from VectorStock (background). *Tryhards in Love* is currently on display at DiMattio Gallery.



PHOTO TAKEN by Nick Manduley. Robson’s *Fermi* caught eyes at the gallery’s opening reception.

ity that keeps me interested and engaged because it’s like interacting with an organism. It’s always growing new limbs and sprouting new colors and shapes.”

A plethora of Robson’s collage and sculpture work was on display at the DiMattio gallery. A collage titled *Tryhards in Love* exploded with the color red and carved labels from all sorts of commercial packaging. Labels from a box of Tylenol Extra Strength and half of Mr. Clean’s face were quite visible. A sculpture made from plastic debris, titled *Fermi*, attracted many eyes as it bloomed off the wall like a floral display. It is clear that Robson’s work portrays a lot of movement, with focal points generally taking the viewer’s eye throughout each piece.

Robson’s work has taken her and her family to many different corners of the world, which include but are not limited to Den-

mark, China, and the United Arab Emirates. “Knowing that [Aurora]’s relevant everywhere is exciting, I think, for our kids,” said Marshall Coles, Robson’s husband. “She definitely has made us all feel like it’s worth it, wherever we have to go. And wherever we do go, we’re welcome, usually with open arms.”

Coles hopes that the message behind his wife’s work continues to make a positive impact on the world in the long run. “It is challenging. Not just the distance, but preparing for the distance, and also preparing for the return. At the end of one of these experiences, we go back to our house and life as usual, which for most people is not playing by our rules or what we’re hoping people would listen to,” said Coles. “It’s sort of like the way you hope karma works. It’s not direct; it comes back to you at a much later date.”



# Join PRSSA as Big Brothers Big Sisters

ERICA BARBARA  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With Valentine’s Day fast approaching, many will be showing they care with flowers, chocolates, stuffed animals, and other lavish expressions. Despite the barrage of hearts and cards around us, spreading love can go beyond romance.

Love can manifest in helping others and volunteering towards changing someone’s life for the better.

Serving solely non-profit clients, Monmouth University’s PRSSA and Shadow PR Firm has established a community presence that continues to grow stronger in its eighth year and seeks to build upon the core values of promotion, planning, and prosperity for clients and students.

One non-profit with a heart that Shadow PR promotes is Big Brothers Big Sisters of Coastal & Northern New Jersey (BBBS), serving children facing adversity, especially between ages 6-15, by providing mentorship programs.

Have you ever thought about becoming a mentor?

For the past 44 years, BBBS of Monmouth & Middlesex Counties has been helping children realize their potential and build their futures. Based in Asbury Park, the non-profit is the closest volunteer organization to Monmouth University’s campus that provides mentorship services.

Anthony Varlese, a Monmouth graduate student completing an MA in Communication with a certificate in Strategic Public Relations and Social Media, commented on the benefits of having a mentor, regardless of age, “You get to learn so much from someone who has the experience and dedication to help you achieve your goals. Mentors provide insight

into helping you see your true potential, and the more knowledge you can apply, the more you will gain to pay forward.”

BBBS provides one-on-one mentoring with positive guidance and support to enhance a child’s ability to become a confident, competent, and caring adult. Also offered is a College Mentoring program, in which college students can volunteer to advise a high school student. This relationship developed provides high-schoolers the opportunity to experience working within a major, college life, and the importance of never losing sight of their dreams.

The bonds mentors and mentees form have the power to change the lives of both volunteers and children, even in as little as four to six hours a month.

William Salcedo, BBBS Coastal and Northern New Jersey Executive Director, stated, “Doing simple activities with your [mentee] can open up a world of possibilities for their future.”

So, what are some mentor activities? How can one be a mentor on the daily? There are always means to help others in need of guidance on campus, at work, and at home.

For starters, set goals by writing lists and setting reminders. This can be academically or professionally and can motivate someone to study harder, volunteer more, or continue a hobby that they love. Every victory is a step towards big success, so try to accomplish one small goal a week (for example, finishing a painting, learning a new dance, solving a difficult math problem, or beating a personal record in a sport of choice).

Be honest with your mentee and give constructive criticism when necessary. This does not mean being harsh or dismissive, but it means helping to improve struggles while celebrating successes.

Another crucial aspect of mentoring is listening. Regardless of your age and skill-set, listen to those who ask for your help before assessing a situation. Listen to their likes, dislikes, living situations, and how they would like to achieve their ultimate goals. Listening can establish a personal connection and boost understanding between a mentor and a mentee (or, as BBBS would say, a Big and a Little).

One last tip is to show your mentee how to achieve success and not just tell them. Embody a mentor in positive and reaffirming ways: volunteer, be kind to others and support the aspirations of those around you.

Veronica Lane, a Monmouth alumna from the Class of 2019 with a degree in Communication (PR and Journalism), spoke on her time mentoring during college, “What I loved about being a mentor was seeing how your past can affect someone’s future. For me, being a mentor means providing positive outlooks on situations, pushing mentees to go out of their comfort zone and most importantly being a friend!”

Becoming a mentor is one of the most enjoyable things you can do to contribute to someone’s future and empower younger generations. When you consider how you want to give love to your community, a great way is to share the knowledge you have as a student and an ally.

Be sure to join the PRSSA and Shadow PR Firm in their Palentine’s Day Bake Sale supporting BBBS of Monmouth & Middlesex Counties on February 20th, 2020. There will be some sweet treats at the Rebecca Stafford Student Center from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, all of which go towards a great cause. If you are interested in becoming a Big Brother or a Big Sister with BBBS in New Jersey, please visit <http://www.mentornj.org/>.

# Multicultural Greek Council adds New Organizations

ANNA NICOLE MAIDA  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

RAY ROMANSKI  
CLUB AND GREEK EDITOR

The Multicultural Greek Council (MCGC) is the governing council over the culturally-based fraternities and sororities here on campus. There were three sororities and two fraternities, but the University has recently added a couple of new Multicultural Greek Organizations on campus.

Tara Fuller, Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life, said, “One exciting update we have this semester is the addition of three organizations to our community.” The new added organizations are Lambda Sigma Upsilon Latino Fraternity, Inc. (returning to campus), Omega Phi Chi Multicultural Sorority, Inc., and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

These new organizations join Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity, Inc., Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Chi Upsilon Sigma National Latin Sorority, Inc., and Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc. There are now eight organizations in MCGC, nearly as much as traditional Greek Senate’s member organizations with nine. The number of organizations in MCGC is now eight, almost as large as University recognized organizations in Greek Senate with nine.

One of the many things the MCGC and its chapters provide are spaces for men and women to come together around diversity and celebrate the range of racial and ethnic identities represented in our campus community. The growth of the MCGC will continue to expand and develop those opportunities.

The MCGC serves as a board of culturally based fraternal groups. It strives to address the importance of cultural and ethnic awareness and a

place for people who hold the same values to be a part of a community here on campus. It also enhances the opportunity to express the values and opinions of those related to by minority fraternal organizations.

Each organization within MCGC has its own unique purposes and values. Culturally based fraternities and sororities were founded to give experiences to those of color during times when fraternities and sororities were excluding students of color.

“The process of the fraternities and sororities coming to campus this year varied by each organization. Lambda Sigma Upsilon was ready to come back to campus as they had a chapter here once before. We had an interest group of women who wanted to pursue Omega Phi Chi Multicultural Sorority, Inc., and we had a similar situation with the men of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.,” said Fuller.

The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life spoke to representatives regionally and nationally to come up with agreements about expanding to Monmouth. At this moment, they are not looking to expand MCGC any further to allow these organizations to grow.

The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life has four requirements for students looking to join a culturally-based fraternity or sorority (CBFS). The requirements for prospective students are earn at least 12 credits at an institution of higher education. This means 12 credits at Monmouth or, for transfer students, 12 credits from their previous institution. AP credits do not count toward this requirement. This means first-year students in their first semester are not eligible to join a fraternity or sorority; have at least a 2.75 cumulative GPA, complete a registration form on the office’s website, attend a FSL101 session to learn more about recruitment.



**OPEN AND DELIVERING  
11AM - 4AM**

**NOW HIRING**

**Close to Campus**

**Apply in person or online**

**JRSDELIVERS.COM**

**732-229-9600**  
75 D Brighton Avenue  
Long Branch, NJ 07740

**732-345-0100**  
17 West Front Street  
Red Bank, NJ 07701



TAX WORK\$HOP

Your W2's are on the way, now what?

DOUGLAS STIVES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19th

BEY HALL 228 @ 3:00PM

Professor of Accounting presents  
“ What you need to know before you  
file this year ”

Professor Stives is a CPA with many  
years in tax preparation and planning  
experience. He teaches all of the  
income tax courses here at Monmouth.



Have questions about your W-2 or  
other forms? Bring them with you!

RSVP to [sbrown@monmouth.edu](mailto:sbrown@monmouth.edu)  
Office of Student Employment  
Bey Hall 127

Light refreshments will be served!

COMING SOON!

MU's STUDENT EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION WEEK 2020 March 29-April 4th

NOMINATE YOUR STUDENT  
FOR STUDENT EMPLOYEE  
OF THE YEAR!

DOES YOUR STUDENT EMPLOYEE GO ABOVE AND  
BEYOND YOUR EXPECTATIONS ?

DO THEY HAVE EXCELLENT LEADERSHIP SKILLS ?

HAVE THEY MADE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON YOUR  
DEPARTMENT ?

TO REQUEST A NOMINATION FORM EMAIL  
[AEDMUNDS@MONMOUTH.EDU](mailto:AEDMUNDS@MONMOUTH.EDU)

Nominations due by Monday, February 24th by 9:00 AM.

NOMINATE YOUR SUPERVISOR  
FOR SUPERVISOR  
OF THE YEAR!

DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOUR SUPERVISOR?  
ENCOURAGES INITIATIVE ?

PROVIDES QUALITY AND CHALLENGING WORK  
ENVIRONMENT ?

MAKES YOU FEEL LIKE PART OF A TEAM ?

TO REQUEST A NOMINATION FORM EMAIL  
[SBROWN@MONMOUTH.EDU](mailto:SBROWN@MONMOUTH.EDU)

Nominations due by Monday, February 24th by 9:00 AM.



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



MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY | GRADUATE STUDIES

# YOUR FUTURE: MASTERED

Continue your studies by pursuing a graduate degree at Monmouth University. Programs include:

- Addiction Studies
- Anthropology
- Clinical Mental Health Counseling
- Communication
- Computer Science
- Creative Writing (MA to MFA)
- Criminal Justice
- Education
  - Teaching, MEd, MEd, and EdD options
- English
- History
- Information Systems
- MBA
- Nursing (MSN, DNP)
- Physician Assistant
- Social Work
- Software Engineering
- Speech-Language Pathology

Graduate scholarships available for eligible students.

LEARN MORE:  
[INFO.MONMOUTH.EDU/GRAD](http://INFO.MONMOUTH.EDU/GRAD)

NEW PROGRAM:  
• MS in Athletic Training



Career Services Presents Interns of Monmouth University

Tom Caruso Jr.

**Major:**  
Business Administration  
with a concentration in  
Finance  
**Anticipated Graduation Date:**  
December 2020

**Internship Title:**  
Financial Planning &  
Analysis Intern

**Employer Name:**  
Commvault

**Employer Location:**  
Tinton Falls, NJ

**Internship Dates:**  
Oct 15 – Dec 15, 2020



**Describe your role or a typical day.**  
I was an intern on the Financial Planning & Analysis team. My role involved working closely with Commvault’s income statement to develop a proper budget. A typical day would involve meeting with team members to review and plan an approach to various analytical reports and tasks, building forecast models using historical data. This is done to provide an accurate and detailed analysis of each department’s budget. After the reports were made, we presented them to the department heads and walked them through the data. I also assisted other members of the team with larger projects when needed.

**How did you hear about or obtain this role?**  
Mr. William Hill from Career Services brought this opportunity to my attention via Hawks Career Link. I submitted my resume and interviewed for the position.

**What were your major responsibilities at the internship?**  
My major responsibilities involved handling and working with the team on the profit and loss reports for the following departments: Development, Product & Pricing, Solutions Group, Talent & Equipment, and Customer Support.

**What interested you about it?**  
Commvault is a great company to gain real life exposure and experience in the finance industry. Commvault is a very hands on company, and I was able to begin helping to analyze reports from the day I first started. The mindset of Commvault is very community based and offers chances to volunteer in local soup kitchens and participate in fundraisers. The company was also very accommodating by working around my full-time class schedule.

**What did you learn through your experience? How can you relate this to your future career goals?**  
Interning at Commvault provided me with hands-on experience in many aspects of the financial industry. My internship taught me a number of skills including time management on projects, expanding my knowledge of building reports to clearly and concisely show data, along with presenting those reports to my superiors and interacting with other professionals on a higher level. All of the skills I have gained will benefit me greatly in my future career goals.

**What advice would you give to other students about the internship experience?**  
The internship experience is something everyone should look into. It helps to build upon the concepts you learn in class and teaches you how the react to real world issues. It’s also a great way to find out if a career choice is correct and to see if this is something you like to do. An internship reveals the real-life scenarios to you, and it helps you develop critical thinking needed to handle each situation under a mentoring atmosphere. I would recommend that every student try to obtain an internship during their college career to better prepare them for life after Monmouth.

**For more information on how to obtain an intership, please contact [careerservices@monmouth.edu](mailto:careerservices@monmouth.edu) in order to schedule an appointment.**



# Men's Lacrosse Shines in Season Opener

KYLE SUTA  
STAFF WRITER

The men's lacrosse team started their 2020 season with an 11-8 win against the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) Highlanders at Kessler Stadium on Saturday.

Monmouth got out to a quick 3-0 lead in the opening 15 minutes. The lead was 5-2 at halftime, before the Hawks scored four more goals in the third quarter to extend their lead to 9-3 going into the last quarter.

Monmouth continued to score in the fourth, with two more goals. NJIT added the final goals of the game, which resulted in the final score of 11-8.

The Hawks had a balanced attack with four different players finding the net. Red-shirt sophomore Cade Stratton, junior Brock Anderson, sophomore Mike McIntyre, and junior David Cormack each scored two goals.

Junior captain Chris Hervada was pleased to see multiple Hawks contribute. "We don't like to play selfish lacrosse," said Hervada. "So it is really important to have different guys step up when their number is called."

Junior goalkeeper Noah Lode recorded 12 saves on the afternoon, which allowed the Hawks to maintain a sizable lead throughout the game.

"We played hot-and-cold throughout today's game, but Noah Lode stepped up big and bailed us out a number of times," said Hervada. "He was tremendous in goal for us. It is always great to defend



PHOTO TAKEN by Karlee Sell

Sophomore Cade Stratton led the Hawks in both points and shots in their season-opening 11-8 victory against NJIT with two goals, an assist, and seven shots.

our home turf and pick up our first win at Kessler Stadium in 2020."

Head Coach Brian Fisher was pleased with his team's opening win of the season,

especially against a familiar opponent.

"It was really good to see our guys persevere through some tough times and get a win," said Fisher. "NJIT

Coach Travis Johnson is a good friend of mine and a really good coach and they put pressure on us in some different areas of the game."

Wearing their blue chrome

helmets with white jerseys and shorts, the Hawks moved to an impressive 5-1 all-time record against NJIT. They are also undefeated at home, with a 3-0 record against the Highlanders.

Monmouth's success at Kessler Stadium dates back to last season. They've now won three straight home games and four consecutive games at Kessler.

"You never know what you're going to get in the first game of a season," said Fisher. "We had to make some adjustments and I'm really happy for our guys to earn a victory on opening day at home."

On the defensive side, senior Dillon Smart picked up a career-high eight ground balls. He also tied a career-best with three caused turnovers and recorded his first-career assist in the win. Smart set up Eamon Campbell's eventual game-winning goal. This performance was enough to earn him MAAC Co-Defensive Player of the Week honors.

Sophomore Scooter White-side added five ground balls and forced two turnovers, both career highs. Freshman Matt Soutar collected six ground balls and was 5-for-11 in faceoffs.

Senior Anthony Sardo scored his 25th career goal. Sophomore Ethan Masucci and 5th year Eamon Campbell notched a goal apiece.

Monmouth seeks their second win when they hit the road this Saturday at 1:00 p.m. to face off against the Princeton Tigers.

# Women's Basketball Breaks Losing Streak

CARLY STEAKIN  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Women's basketball split at home this past week with a 45-52 loss to Quinnipiac Thursday morning and a 59-57 victory over Saint Peter's Saturday afternoon.

With over 2,500 fans in attendance, mostly made up of local elementary and middle school students because of Monmouth University's annual "Kids Day", the Hawks' struggled to get a win over the Bobcats in Thursday's contest.

Quinnipiac started strong with an 8-0 lead over Monmouth, making their first four shots. To end the first quarter, they went on a 6-0 run and forced 11 Monmouth turnovers as they went into the second quarter with a 14-4 lead.

With a layup from senior forward Alexa Middleton and two successful free throws from sophomore forward Lucy Thomas, the Hawks' cut the deficit to ten in the second half. Quinnipiac answered quickly, scoring twice in the last minute of the quarter and took a 31-17 lead going into halftime.

Monmouth came out into the third quarter focused, scoring the first five points and outscoring the Bobcats 14-10 for the quarter. This run cut the deficit to ten going into the fourth quarter.

In the fourth, the Hawks trailed by as little as seven points and refused to allow a Quinnipiac point for the first 5:00. Thomas had a successful three-pointer with 3:42 remaining, which cut Quinnipiac's lead to 43-37.

With 37 seconds remaining in the matchup, a Middleton layup made it a six-point game. Quinnipiac held on in the final seconds and were able to get the win.

Following Thursday's game, Middleton moved to second all-time in career rebounds with 818. In 12 Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) games, she is averaging 11.8 points and 9.8 rebounds per game.

Thomas scored in double digits for the sixth time in seven games. She is averaging 13.2 points and 7.8 rebounds per game.

"It was good to see us battle back after a terrible start, turning it over on our first four possessions and going down eight," said Head Coach Jody Craig. "We ultimately won the game from there, but obviously have a lot to work on. In particular, we got outthustled on the boards and made some crucial mistakes down the stretch in our offensive decisions. It's frustrating to keep losing the same way."

Following Thursday's loss, the Hawks went on to host Saint Peter's Saturday night.

Halfway through the first quarter, Monmouth led 10-4, but Saint Peter's quickly took over with a three-pointer and a four-point play. By the end of the first, the Peacock's led slightly 15-14.

Monmouth took a four-point lead in the second, but going into halftime, Saint Peter's led 27-26.

Middleton secured a three-point play to close the third quarter, putting Monmouth ahead 43-42 going into the fourth.

Monmouth went on a 6-0 run in the fourth, but Saint Peter's tied the game with 1:23 left on the clock. Senior guard Sierra Green made a layup with 1:09 remaining, but Saint Peter's did the same tying the game again.

Thomas made two free throws, one with 28 and one with 12 seconds left to put Monmouth ahead

59-57 and to secure the win.

"Right now, our highest shooting percentage is in the paint, so we have to play the odds and take advantage of matchups," said Craig. "We calmed down, took better care of the ball, and were poised down the stretch. I would've liked to see us make some more free throws to make it easier on ourselves, but

outside of that it was a good finish. Defense is something we really focus on, and I was proud that we came through late in a couple situations. We need to continue to rely on that."

Monmouth improved to 6-16 (3-10 MAAC) as the Hawks will face Iona on Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 7:00 p.m.

"Defense is something we really focus on, and I was proud that we came through late in a couple situations."

JODY CRAIG  
Head Coach



PHOTO TAKEN by Karlee Sell

Sophomore forward Lucy Thomas registered a double-double with her game-high 18 points and 11 rebounds in Saturday's 59-57 victory against Saint Peter's at the OceanFirst Bank Center.



# Track's Big Performances in NY Meets

JACK MURPHY  
STAFF WRITER

The men's and women's track and field team competed on Friday at the UAlbany Winter Classic held in Staten Island, New York. Four throws representing Monmouth were also sent to New York City on Thursday for the 113th Millrose Games at the Armory.

The highlight of Friday's meet was when fifth year senior Kyle Mueller broke the school record in the 3000-meter with a time of 8:12.79, winning the race by eight seconds. This was the second indoor record Mueller broke this season. The performance earned him Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Performer of the Week honors. Mueller also qualified for IC4As/ECACs in the 3000-meters, 5000-meters, and the mile.

Senior Mariah Hubbard won the long jump with a winning distance of 5.72 meters which won by a mere .02 meters

While these were the only two Hawks to take first place finishes on Friday, there were still many impressive performances for Monmouth. Freshman Sammi Ragenklint ran a time of 10:00:09 in the 3000-meter which was good enough for third place. Sophomore Louis DiLaurenzio finished fifth in the 800-meter with a time of 1:53.00.

In the women's pole vault, sophomore Lauren Saifi took home second place with a



PHOTO COURTESY of Lilybelle Morris

Fifth year senior Kyle Mueller was named Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Performer of the Week after breaking the school record in the 3000-meter race with a time of 8:12.79.

jump of 3.50m. In the men's competition of the event, sophomore Randy Showmaker also took home third place jumping a height of 4.65m. Sophomore D.J. Jackson earned second in the long jump with a distance of 7.24m

In the men's shotput, the Hawks received spots two through five. Fifth year senior Andrew Tumino was the second-place finisher on Friday with a toss of 16.31m. He was followed by senior Daniel Gilligan who threw the shot a distance of 16.11m. Finishing fourth was senior Brandon Davis who had a throw of 16.07m and junior Andrew Huisman finished fifth with a throw of 15.55m.

"Mixed bag of results today for both teams. We had some stellar performances and some learning experiences," said Head Coach Mike Nelson. "Kyle Mueller's performance in the 3k was definitely a highlight. He rolled to a new 3k indoor school record."

The Hawks also had some impressive performances at the 113th Millrose Games. Junior Montel Johnson finished the meet with a best throw of 18.79 in the men's weight throw. This was good enough to notch him third place. Senior Daniel Gilligan threw a distance of 17.77 meters in the same event which was good enough for seventh place.

In the women's weight

throw, Chibuzo Amonu also secured a second place finish with a toss of 17.75m. Sophomore Alexis Uzuro notched herself a fourth-place finish with a throw of 16.06m.

"As a team, we have some things to work on this week as we continue our march towards the championship portion of our season," said Nelson. "Our next meet is our home meet. We'll look to sharpen up as the MAAC Championship will be coming up next."

The Hawks will be returning to action on Friday going into Saturday as they will be hosting the Monmouth Winter Collegiate Invitational at the Ocean First Bank Center.

# Men's B-Ball Suffers First Home Loss

MARK D'AQUILA  
SPORTS EDITOR

Following Tuesday's heart-breaking two-point loss to Fairfield 53-55, Monmouth returned home falling short to Saint Peter's 81-69 on Sunday afternoon at the OceanFirst Bank Center in West Long Branch.

The dismantling was Monmouth's first home loss of the season and second of the year to Saint Peter's who they lost to on the road 66-63 on Jan. 29.

Despite the defeat, junior guard Deion Hammond put to-

gether a performance of epic proportions scoring a career-high 30 points on 9-of-16 shooting and a career-best 6-of-9 from three-point range. The 30-point outburst was the first of its kind by any Monmouth player in almost two years since Micah Seaborn on Feb. 22, 2018 against Rider.

Monmouth was certainly in the game throughout as they even held a five-point lead in the second half and were tied with less than ten minutes to play. However, 8-0 and 6-0 runs by the Peacocks stretched

out their lead enough to gain them a double-digit victory.

"All the credit to Saint Peter's. They are a much tougher team than us right now and they're a much more together team than us right now," said Head Coach King Rice. "Today it really showed that they are very hungry. We're not hungry enough right now. We just haven't been as sharp lately."

The game kept a very slow pace throughout due to the immense number of fouls from the very beginning as both teams combined for 61 free throws

and 47 fouls.

Junior forward Melik Martin led the team in free throw attempts shooting 5-of-8 from the line. Martin also played strong on the board for the Hawks with five rebounds and contributed both a steal and a block on the defensive end.

The blue and white had their own share of fouls on the defensive side as senior forward Mustapha Traore led the team in personal fouls with four and five other Monmouth players had three.

The Hawks were also out-shot significantly in Sunday's contest with SPU shooting 44.6 percent from the field while MU was at just 36.2 percent.

The only other Monmouth player in double figures besides Hammond was junior guard Ray Salnave who contributed 13 points, adding five rebounds and three assists while turning the ball over a game-high five times. Salnave was also honored during the pregame ceremonies with a game ball presented by Coach Rice for the 1,000-point milestone he reached in last week's game.

Monmouth will now travel for three consecutive road games in Western New York which is a road trip they take every season around this time.

"This week is going to be an extremely important week for us coming off of these losses," said Hammond. "We have a big road trip coming up, so we are going to take these off days and get into the gym to do what we do."

The road swing will begin on Friday night when the Hawks take on Canisius at 7:00 p.m. with the game airing on ESPN3.



PHOTO TAKEN by Karlee Sell

Junior guard Deion Hammond became the first Monmouth player to score 30 points in a single game since Micah Seaborn in 2018 after scoring a game-high 30 on 9-of-16 shooting in Sunday's loss.

## WEEKLY RECAP

Saturday, Feb. 8

**Men's Tennis Defeats Bucknell**

Men's tennis was victorious against Bucknell, 6-1. The Hawks have not lost a regular season match in 364 days. Their last loss was on February 9, 2019 against Navy.

Sunday, Feb. 9

**Men's Tennis Falls to Drexel**

Men's tennis lost to Drexel, 6-1. Monmouth drops to 3-1 for the season.

Tuesday, Feb. 11

**Men's Baseball Preseason Poll**

Men's baseball was selected as fifth in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Preseason Poll.

The meet will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Friday and then again at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday. This will be Monmouth's last team meet before the MAAC Championships.

"I kept telling my guys to grab a hold of this game and eventually we made a couple plays in a row and were able to get the win on our home floor," said Rice.

Following Tuesday night's matchup at Fairfield, Monmouth will return home Sunday to redeem themselves and continue their unbeaten home record against Saint Peter's with tip-off slated for 2:00 p.m.

## UPCOMING GAMES

Wednesday, Feb. 12

M/W Swimming  
MAAC Championships  
Buffalo, NY

Thursday, Feb. 13

Women's Basketball vs Fairfield  
West Long Branch, NJ 7:00 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 14

M/W Track  
MU Winter Collegiate Invitational  
West Long Branch, NJ 6:00 p.m.

Baseball vs NJIT  
Cary, North Carolina 2:30 p.m.

Softball vs Mercer  
Madeira Beach Invitational  
Madeira Beach, Florida 4:00 p.m.

Softball vs Presbyterian  
Madeira Beach Invitational  
Madeira Beach, Florida 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 15

Softball vs Purdue  
Madeira Beach Invitational  
Madeira Beach, Florida 11:00 a.m.

Baseball vs Bucknell  
Cary, North Carolina 12:30 p.m.

Men's Lacrosse vs Princeton  
Princeton, NJ 1:00 p.m.

Women's Lacrosse vs Sacred Heart  
West Long Branch, NJ 1:00 p.m.

Softball vs Southern Illinois  
Madeira Beach Invitational  
Madeira Beach, Florida 1:30 p.m.

Baseball vs Bucknell  
Cary, North Carolina 3:30 p.m.

\*conference games





# ***MEN'S LAX RACKS FIRST WIN***



Men's lacrosse was victorious 11-8 in their season opener at Kessler Stadium on Saturday against NJIT led by four different two-goal scorers.