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Climate Change Discussion

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Monmouth University's Department of History and Anthropology invited students and faculty to discuss their concerns regarding climate change in observance of National Anthropology Day on Wednesday, Feb. 19.

Heidi Bludau, Ph.D., Lecturer of Applied Anthropology, hosted the school's second annual themed event, on behalf of Monmouth's History and Anthropology Department and the American Anthropological Association. During the event attendees were asked for their insights on climate change.

Often perceived to be one of the most imminent threats to humanity, climate change consistently ranks among the issues concerning college students the most. For the 2017 World Economic Forum Global Shapers Survey, responses were recorded from over 31,000 people

aged 18-35 in 186 countries; of these, 48.8 percent listed "climate change" or "environmental destruction" as the most serious issue impacting the world.

The discussion, which took place in Edison Science Hall, began with an interactive poll which asked faculty and students: "What worries you the most about climate change?" By answering via their devices, attendees were able to anonymously add their

responses to a word cloud projected at the front of the room, which would grow in correspondence with the frequency of key terms. Among the dominant concerns included "biodiversity," "sustainability," "ethics," and "extinction."

Bludau then presented a short slide show breaking down the components of climate change. "Global warming

CLIMATE cont. on pg. 2



PHOTO TAKEN by Alex Dyer

The Department of History and Anthropology offers their insights on climate change solutions.

NJ Gang Expert Speaks with Guardians Club

MATTHEW CUTILLO
NEWS EDITOR

President of the East Coast Gang Investigators Association Edwin Torres spoke with members of the Guardians Club regarding organized gang activity within the state of New Jersey as well as nationwide in Bay Hall, on Feb. 19.

Torres is also a special agent for the NJ Commission of Investigation, as well as a former lieutenant with the NJ Juvenile Justice Commission where he commanded the Gang Management Unit.

Serving 33 years in law enforcement, Torres began his career as a housing unit officer at The New Jersey Training School (NCTS), the largest single correctional facility for young men in the state of New Jersey, according to Torres, where he also founded a specialized gang unit.

"I started a gang unit be-

cause right in the middle of the 1990's, our facility got crushed by the Bloods [street gang]," Torres said. "The Bloods started exploding all over New Jersey."

1990's era law enforcement officers did not believe in the existence of "real" Blood street gang members operating in the state of New Jersey, according to Torres. Convinced the juveniles were not legitimate and merely faking their gang affiliation, less focus was placed around their rise.

"Fast forward from 1993 to now, gangs account for at least 15 percent of all the homicides in the state of New Jersey," Torres said. "We fell asleep at the switch."

Torres explained the methods in which street gangs will attempt to rally their communities behind their illegal activity, capitalizing

EXPERT cont. on pg. 3

Traveling Museum Makes a Stop at Monmouth

MATTHEW CUTILLO
NEWS EDITOR

"A Tribute to The African-American Journey," a traveling museum which displays artifacts from significant moments in African American history and culture, made a stop in the Rebecca Stafford Student Center, Anacon B, on Feb. 21.

Displayed artifacts ranged from many culturally important civilizations in Africa, as well as through the Transatlantic Slave Trade, Slavery, The Civil War, Reconstruction, The Jim Crow Era, The Civil Rights and Black Power Movements, and through to the modern day. The collection also celebrates and highlights contributions of African Americans in the arts, sciences, sports, entertainment, politics and education.

Fred Saffold, Community Outreach Coordinator for The True Black History Museum, explained the personal connection he feels with all artifacts of the traveling collection.

"I don't have one particular favorite piece, because everything is of significant importance," Saffold said. "However, I'd say the Jim Crow [section] is important because I feel like that area of history and time has had the most impact. That false narrative of African Americans still resonates in the world to this day."

Artifacts contained within the

Jim Crow era collection included self-addressed mailing envelopes of Thelma "Butterfly" McQueen, an African American actress who was best known for her starring role in the 1939 film "Gone With The Wind" as Prissy, a maid, as well as paraphernalia from the Ku Klux Klan, a U.S. white supremacist hate group whose primary target was African Americans.

"It makes me feel empowered," Saffold said. "It makes me feel like we're doing this work for a reason. Our goal here is to bring back value to people of African descent, so seeing this false narrative, living through it, surviving it, protesting against it and seeing some progression, it's amazing. The mission is to restore value to people of African

descent, in the black community and outside."

Zaneta Rago-Craft, Director of the University Intercultural Center, explained her love for the political components of the traveling museum's collection.

"I really like the Shirley Chisholm piece because I think that her history, specifically as a potential candidate for president, is lost in history a lot," Rago-Craft said. "She was just such a powerhouse and I think it's cool for people to be able to experience a lot of her story, especially with the presidential election coming up."

Rago-Craft was referring to a signed article by Shirley Chisholm, the first African American woman elected to the U.S. Congress, as well as becoming the first woman to run for Democratic presidential nomination in 1972. This item sits alongside a signed photo of President Barack Obama.

Jany Craft, Director of

MUSEUM cont. on pg. 3



The True Black History Museum features over 150 artifacts and original documents from historic figures.

NEWS

Grad Student Fights for Her Degree

Graduate student Nicole Tierney advocates for the education of nonviolent offenders at Monmouth and beyond.

Pg. 3

ENTERTAINMENT

'Top of the Pops': A Conversation with The Smithereens

The 80's rock group are getting back to their roots with performances along the Jersey Shore.

Pg. 10

FEATURES

Fighting Food waste on Campus

Get to know the students behind the Food Recovery Network and their goal at Monmouth.

Pg. 14



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INSIDE:

Monmouth Competes at Harvard Model United Nations Contest

MATTHEW CUTILLO
NEWS EDITOR

The University's United Nations (MUN) Team recently sent a delegation of 31 students to compete at the 66th session of the Harvard National Model United Nations, Feb. 13-16.

Kenneth Mitchell, Ph.D., Chair of the Department of Political Science and Sociology and an associate professor of political science, served as the faculty advisor on this trip.

"[The event] is the oldest and most competitive MUN contest in the world, and this year it attracted universities from 39 separate countries as well as 70 [more] from across the USA," Mitchell said. "MU's delegation represented the countries of Brazil, Australia and Mexico. MUN contests model the actual United Nations system, and students compete on different committees – UN Economic & Financial Committee, UN Human Rights Council, UN Commission on the Status of Women, UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, World Health Organization, World Trade Organization, etc."

Committees tackle specific world policy challenges, according to Mitchell. Students represent their respective countries while committees operate dependent on the roles of the United Nations system.

"The goal is to write policy resolutions that bring together

different countries and balance national interests to the benefit of the world," Mitchell said. "The contest started Thursday evening and ended Sunday afternoon."

MU's Head Delegates (also known as Team Captains), were Nicholas Boice, a senior political science major, and Payton Collander, a junior political science and criminal justice major.

"[London International Model United Nations] is for sure one of the harder conferences we compete at, being [it's] one of the largest ones in Europe," Collander said. "You are surrounded by the most intelligent

people from all across the world, all of whom are competing for one spot. I did not think I was going to win but it's all about preparation and dedication. [The experience was] definitely a highlight in my life and an achievement I will never forget."

The University's MUN team continued its four-contest winning streak, as the team had previously never won an individual or team award at the Harvard contest. MU team members won three individual speaker or "delegate" awards.

Paula Echeverria, criminal justice major and team participant, detailed her

time at the event.

"Boston was a great experience and it was incredible to see new MUN team members bring home awards."

Nick Yalch, freshman business major and member of the Honors School, represented Brazil on the World Trade Organization (WTO). The policy's challenge before the WTO was to "... construct global trade rules that help to combat climate change," Mitchell said. "Currently, the WTO does not encourage action on climate change."

Yalch wrote two critical contributions to the committee's final resolution, according to Mitchell, as the first

detailed trade rules pertaining to ethanol and the second regarded trade rules focused upon measuring carbon, specifically, helping to encourage the WTO to recognize the carbon captures by rainforests.

Madison Hanrahan, junior political science major and James Goldbeck, senior biology major, represented Australia on the UN General Assembly Legal Committee that was tasked with designing legal architecture around the topic of Exploring the Rights and Limitations of Digital Citizenship.

"MU's Model UN team and club wish to thank the Provost Office, the Honors School, the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Hess Business School, the Department of Political Science & Sociology, and SGA for their financial support that made this trip and experience possible," Mitchell said.

MU Model UN Team's most recent contest was this past weekend, in London, United Kingdom. 15 students along with Kenneth Mitchell, Ph.D., and professor Sam L. Maynard traveled to compete at the largest MUN contest outside of the United States.

"The MU MUN Team and Club are open to all undergraduate students and majors," Mitchell said. "London [has been] the fourth contest that our group has competed in this academic year."



The University's United Nations Team continued their four-contest winning streak, taking home three individual awards.

PHOTO COURTESY of Harvard University

Faculty and Students Attend Climate Change Event

CLIMATE cont. from pg. 1

is just one part of climate change," she said. "There are natural causes, like disasters and other organisms," she explained, "but much of climate change is anthropogenic—caused by human activity. That's how this all relates to anthropology, and why climate change is becoming an important part of the field." The interactive presentation also noted effects of climate change over time, including extreme weather and increases in physical injuries, animal-borne diseases, and undrinkable water. One attendee noted that sea levels are projected to rise up to six

feet by 2100.

The dozens of students and faculty attending the event then gathered into small groups to discuss the core issues of climate change and personal opinions. Additionally, the groups were supplied with a list of questions to serve as jumping-off points. The groups shared their personal extreme weather experiences, with multiple stories focusing on Hurricane Sandy, a large cyclone which caused severe damage to New Jersey and the rest of the mid-Atlantic in 2012.

Groups also discussed the topic of what governments can do and have been doing

to combat climate change. Tony MacDonald, Director of Monmouth University's Urban Coast Institute, said, "The United States is now the world's largest producer of oil and gas; however, we've recently taken steps in the wrong direction when it comes to reducing our emissions," referring in part to the American withdrawal from the Paris Agreement to shrink each country's individual carbon footprint.

"Governor Phil Murphy has taken multiple steps toward renewable energy in our state," MacDonald said regarding New Jersey's efforts to combat climate change. "New Jersey has

begun implementing an aggressive offshore wind farm program."

Students had their chance to explain their stances on climate change in the smaller groups as well. Trinity Caratenuto, a freshman majoring in marine and environmental biology and policy, said, "Climate change affects us in all ways, even ways we don't notice in our everyday lives." She also shared her idea for increasing public understanding of climate change. "I think there should be classes on the subject taught in schools, so the general public are all basically aware of it. Everyone should care."

However, not everyone believes that climate change is an imminent danger. "Since it hasn't really been affecting me, I rarely pay much attention to it," said Jake Collins, a senior accounting student. Jake is not alone in his take on climate change; in the 2019 Yale Climate Opinion Maps, an estimated 40 percent of Americans are "not worried" about global warming.

The smaller groups then reconvened for the conclusion of the event, during which the main ideas of the small group discussions were summarized. Many of the ideas matched up with ideas making up the word cloud presented earlier in the evening like renewable energy, rising sea levels, extinction, and volatile weather patterns.

The final topic of the event

had to do with individual contributions to be made in the fight against climate change. Bludau quoted anthropologist Margaret Mead in order to put the individual small contributions into perspective: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

"Climate change really is an issue that at its core has to do with humans," explained Bludau. "A small group can change our future for the better, but those same people also have the power to affect it negatively, so we have to be responsible."

The Department of History and Anthropology is one of Monmouth University's "largest and most vibrant departments," according to the History and Anthropology department page. "We offer eleven different majors including, of course, history and anthropology as well as dual majors with education, special education, and an interdisciplinary major with political science."

"We are also particularly proud of our students," the informational page states, as "... many of them have gone on to careers in teaching, law, museum studies, cultural resource management, forensics, government service, law enforcement, and many other fields. Others have pursued further graduate level education."



PHOTO TAKEN by Alex Dyer

Students and faculty discuss the ways in which governments can combat climate change.

Graduate Student Fights for NJ Expungement Reform

MEGAN RUGGLES
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Nicole Tierney, a clinical mental health counseling graduate student and disbarred attorney, is one of many nonviolent offenders facing difficulties with New Jersey expungement laws.

Expungement refers to the court-ordered procedure through which the legal record of an arrest or conviction is erased from an individual's criminal record, according to New Jersey Expungement Lawyer, Katherine O'Brien, Esq.

Tierney pled guilty to a child endangerment charge involving her youngest son in 2007; she lost custody of her children and was sent to drug court, from 2008 to 2011.

In 2010, Tierney tried to obtain a property and casualty insurance license since private employment did not appear to be an option. She was denied the license because she was a felon and in drug court.

After graduating drug court in 2011, Tierney tried to obtain a title insurance license. She passed her exam in Aug. 2013 but had to contest and appeal her initial denial for months before receiving her license. Tierney specified that because it was difficult to find private employment, she pursued a Certificate of Rehabilitation: designed to help rehabilitated offenders find employment and prevents the state from denying a former offender licensure solely based on their criminal conviction.

However, even after being granted the Certificate of Rehabilitation, Tierney did not receive written consent to be employed in the insurance

business until Dec. 2013. Despite her license, Tierney was unable to find work as an agent at a title insurance company due to her criminal record. She was able to work as a sales agent, making 25 percent of commission, compared to the 80 percent commissions on premiums that appointed agents make. "Again, my potential and earning capacity were reduced because of my past," Tierney said.

In 2017, Tierney became aware of a change in the law which allowed drug court graduates to get an expungement. She filed her petition for expungement and applied to Monmouth University and Seton Hall to pursue her dream

of becoming a licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselor. Three days prior to her hearing, Tierney was advised that the Prosecutor's Office was objecting, and ultimately denied her expungement. She appealed to the Appellate Division who denied the appeal as well.

Tierney said, "The law allowing drug court graduates to automatically expunge all of their criminal histories was passed in 2016. However, after three years, only 22 percent of all eligible drug court graduates had received an expungement. This same snag with endangering the welfare of a child that

has resulted in me not receiving an expungement has led to many others not receiving an expungement as well."

According to the brief, The Case for Comprehensive Expungement Law Reform, "New Jersey law limits the types of offenses eligible to expungement in ways that also seem counter to the policy goal of removing unnecessary barriers for a successful fresh start. For example, while an individual with a non-violent felony conviction may be eligible for an expungement of their record, a person convicted of a DUI in New Jersey is not." It was authored by Johanna Foster, Ph.D., Director of the Sociology Program and an Associate Professor of Sociology; Joseph Patten, Ph.D., an Associate Professor of Political Science; and, Molly Greenberg, M.S.W., Milano School of Policy, Management and Environment, The New School and Monmouth alum.

Foster said of Tierney's case, "It certainly seems that the statutory language has excluded Tierney from expungement; personally, I fully support folks that have completed drug court... In movement towards better understanding restorative justice, we shouldn't exclude steps to address expanding expungement."

In response to this issue, New Jersey Senator Troy Singleton (D-Moorestown) introduced a Bill (S241) in to remove the cross reference in the drug court expungement statute to the list of prohibited crimes which cannot be expunged (like childhood endangerment) but it expired at the end of the 2019 session, Tierney explained. "Once the bill expired and I lost my case at the Appellate Division, I became very active in reaching out to legislators to change

EXPUNGEMENT cont. on pg. 17



PHOTO COURTESY of Jerry Carino, USA Today
Graduate student Nikki Tierney has been facing difficulties regarding NJ expungement laws.

Museum

MUSEUM cont. from pg. 1

Operations for True Black History Museum, expressed interest in adding more modern items to the collection.

"I definitely would like to add more modern stuff, as there are activists and people that are making history right now," Craft said. "With Kobe Bryant's recent passing, I would love to get some artifacts of his. There's so many artifacts you could collect, but off the top of my head it would be more modern things that are happening now, and the legendary Kobe Bryant."

A sports related table includes a signed pamphlet by African American boxer, activist and philanthropist Muhammad Ali, as well as a signed jersey by Martin Briscoe, the first starting African American quarterback in professional football. A signed card by Kareem Abdul Jabbar, an activist

and retired hall of fame basketball player who played 20 seasons in the NBA, is also included in the collection.

Jihad Johnson, student advising mentor and representative of the Intercultural Center, reflected on the American educational system's inability to properly convey African American history.

"As a student, to realize how much you weren't taught as a kid, and then to come in [to the traveling museum] and see so much, you feel robbed almost," Johnson said. "You're like 'wow, this is so much history with so much to know, and so many interesting things that people like me have done,' and I was never taught it. I have to learn all this information through museums and things like that. This information should be in textbooks; it's something I should be learning and taking exams on growing up as a kid, especially as a black man."



PHOTO TAKEN BY Matthew Cutillo

Expert Details Street Gangs

EXPERT cont. from pg. 1

on the misconduct of police officers to propose their gang operations as a better alternative for neighborhood protection.

"They say, 'look at this, we told you we're here to defend the community, we told you the government is bad,' and they use that to recruit more members," Torres said. "It's definitely an issue with the communities that law enforcement serves, and I want to stress the word serve, as we're not serving the way we're supposed to. We have to do more, we have to do better, and gangs have capitalized on that."

The transition from street gangs straying away from focusing their efforts on drug enterprises has left law enforcement officers uneasy, Torres explained, as drug related enterprises had at least left behind a consistent sense of predictability in their actions.

"The problem is when you have a drug dealing organization, it's something that law enforcement knows how to work with and deal with," Torres said. "When you have an organization that doesn't have a drug model, then how do you get famous in [your community] if you're not dealing drugs or making money? How do I strike fear into the

heart and get a reputation, if I'm not dealing and making money that way? The only way to get famous is by violence, usually through robbing, mugging and shooting. That violence is 100 percent unpredictable."

Violence is often attached to territory and can hinder the selling of narcotics, according to Torres. "Violence is bad for drug dealing, no one buys dope if people are shooting at each other on the corner. I'm not coming to your neighborhood, I'm buying somewhere else."

Street gangs which, operate through drug enterprises, will attempt to put down violence in their areas of operation as it also helps to lessen attention from law enforcement as well, according to Torres. However, if you are part of a street gang who is simply trying to acquire attention and notoriety, "... then violence is all you need," Torres said. "That's what we see from a lot of these cliques and crews that aren't involved in the drug trade."

Shore towns consistently have issues during their peak tourism visitation months due to gang activity, as members from locations such as New York, Pennsylvania, and even Connecticut converge on those areas, according to Torres.

"A lot of the fights they see

is what we call "G-Checking" in the gangster world," Torres said. G-Checking refers to when a gang member asks a suspected fellow gang member questions only one within their organization would be aware of, exposing any illegitimate members.

"If I'm a Blood [gang member] from New York City, or a Crip [member] or a Latin King [member], and I see you wearing my [gang affiliated] colors, I'm going to approach you and ask you some questions," Torres said. "If you don't have the right answers, I'm going to [beat] you up, it's my responsibility, in my gang which I've sworn allegiance to, to protect my colors. We've had situations where people have walked that walk, talked that talk, and gotten shot for looking like a gang member."

Lauren Deinhardt, junior criminal justice student and Guardians Club Social Media Chair, expressed her gratitude in Torres' Guardians Club appearance.

"I thought it was very informative and necessary," Deinhardt said. "Gang culture is something that our society unfortunately has to deal with all the time, and having Torres come in was definitely great for our criminal justice students as well as the whole community."

Good Professors

ANNA MAIDA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Think about your favorite class you have taken here at Monmouth University. Now think about the person who taught that class? Was he/she the reason you loved it? Did they make the class what it was? The question we find is what makes a professor a *good* professor?

A professor is there to use the knowledge they have acquired throughout their career to teach students about that specific topic. But what makes a professor a good one? I think that a good professor is one who loves what they are doing, truly cares about their students, wants everyone to succeed, and forms a connection with their students.

A professor who loves what they're doing is a great one. You can genuinely see it while they are teaching. The course does not feel like it is dragging, or the material is just being read to you from a screen but instead it is interesting and gets everyone involved. You can see when a professor truly loves teaching and loves what they are teaching about.

I am taking Intercultural Communication this semester with Professor Jennifer Shamrock. She is hands down one of the best professors I have ever had. What stands out the most about her is how you can tell that she loves teaching us and is passionate about the topic. Professors who also care truly about their students are a big component of what makes them great.

Caring about their students allows students to feel a lot more

comfortable about coming to class and inspires them to put their all into the course.

When I took Introduction to Communication during my first semester of college, I had Professor Shannon Hokanson. She was excellent because she made the class comfortable, connected to all of us, and if there was ever an issue she was very approachable.

In high school when I thought about a college class, I pictured a huge lecture hall with one professor and two hundred students. When I got to Monmouth and learned that the class sizes were smaller it made me feel so much more comfortable because it was not a drastic change from high school.

In high school, teachers typically had connections with students and cared about them on a personal level. I truly feel that the small class sizes are how professors are able to connect and care about their students on a deeper level.

A professor who does everything to make sure all of their students succeed is a great professor. I'm not saying this is a professor who gives students the easy way out and just gives everyone an A but it is a professor who helps students out and gives them all the tools in order to succeed.

I think that being passionate about what they do and caring about their students is what elevates just a professor to an excellent one.

As F. Sionil Jose once said, "The influence of teachers extends beyond the classroom, well into the future."

Regular, Hybrid, Online or 3-Hour Class?

HUNTER GOLDBERG
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Registering for classes is coming up and students need to decide what type of classes they are going to register for. Monmouth offers a variety of class forms: regular, hybrid, online, and three-hours.

The first type of class is a regular one-hour 20-minute class that meets twice a week. Meeting your professor twice a week tends to be more efficient for the student and the professor. The student-professor connection and relationship here at Monmouth are particularly important and tend to occur often since the class sizes are small. Twice a week meetings keep students active and engaged compared to different types of classes.

I believe a couple of cons of this type of class is not enough time in between classes to get assignments and studying done. An effective class schedule is Monday and Thursday or Tuesday and Friday. This gives the student enough time in between classes to get assignments done.

The second type is a hybrid, classes that meet for an hour and 20 minutes once a week and the other "class period" is online. It allows students to stay engaged for one class session a week. The student may have time to get an extra shift of work where that other class time would have been. This also allows the student to do the second part of class anywhere at their own convenience.

On the other hand, a student may miss some important information

that the professor could have said in-person. Limiting the student-professor meetings to only once a week may cause students to not fully understand the information being taught.

The third type of class is strictly online. This does not meet in class ever and all course materials and assignments are completed online. Some students prefer this because it allows them to have a more open schedule for their job and their own personal life.

These types of classes are offered more often in the summer sessions. Online classes in the summer are more beneficial because students can secure an internship or a full-time job and also take courses.

On the downside, one may not get the right amount of information just taking a course online. Sometimes it is more beneficial for the student to listen, see, and talk to a professor in-person compared to behind a screen.



PHOTO TAKEN by Hunter Goldberg

Many students like hybrid classes because they meet both in person and online.

Unplug and Unwind

NICOLE BENWELL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Technology has taken our society by storm and it is highly unlikely that it hasn't influenced some aspect of our lives. We rely on devices so much more than we ever did in the past. Currently, our cell phones have become our GPS, music players, communication devices, and gaming devices all in one. It is no wonder why we spend so much time on them.

However, there are some drawbacks that make us want to cut the cord and unplug from time to time. We have scaled back on face to face interactions and experience a great deal of anxiety due to our usage of social media.

It's a different time in terms of face to face communication. It's hard not to notice the numerous amounts of people that sit on their phones while they are out to eat that are not even speaking to the person right in front of them. Even before we start our 8:30 a.m. class many people are texting on their phones with Airpods stuck in their ears. People are choosing not to socialize and instead isolate themselves on their devices.

As a society, we tend to spend more time at home streaming *Netflix* and *Hulu* than out with friends. It makes one sit back and wonder what it would be like just to take a hiatus and re-shift our focus on something more productive. You would have much more time for joking with friends or working on that art project you have been procrastinating for months. Your free time is much freer without the constant usage of technology.

keep letting this drag us down?

The short answer is *no*, we do not. We need to muster up the courage to say, "I need headspace back and technology is not benefiting me." Unplugging is basically a reset for our brains. The way we use technology has become an addiction, so cutting back usage might have to happen in small doses for some people. Maybe you can cut back an hour a day watching YouTube videos or only avoid using Instagram.

Luckily, there are applications that can monitor your use on all these platforms to make this easier to track. You could, also, go the extreme route of cutting everything out cold turkey. This would mean only using your cell phone for emergency calls.

Either way, we will gain a new perspective on our current media usage and how we want to use it moving forward. It is a scary yet rewarding form of self-care that we can all benefit from.



PHOTOS TAKEN by Lauren Salois and Hunter Goldberg

We need to unplug from our devices to unwind from the stress and anxieties the internet creates.

An Inspiring Professor

LAUREN DEMARCO
STAFF WRITER

There have been many times that a professor has motivated me and been extremely helpful. I am a senior communication major in journalism and public relations. I have enjoyed all the professors I have had the chance to have at Monmouth.

My journey at Monmouth has been great as well as constructive for myself because of my professors. There has been an abundance of helpful professors for me throughout my four years.

One professor of mine stands out among them all because of how helpful he has been to me over the course of this year.

John Morano is a Professor of Journalism here at Monmouth and I have had the pleasure of having him for a couple of my classes. Professor Morano is one of those teachers that you are going to look back and remember for years to come.

All of his inspirational, tough love speeches are ingrained in my brain. Throughout my many class times with Morano, I have learned so much from him.

I learned that if you want something really badly you have to go after it and give it your all. Professor Morano has definitely motivated me to go after what I want after I graduate college.

Professor Morano has influenced me to work harder than I ever have in order to do what it takes to get to where I would like to be. His inspirational lectures have lead me to vigorously search for a summer in-

ternship.

When I first had a class with Professor Morano, he described his whole life's story of his successful career in journalism. I found his backstory so inspirational and it really motivated me to strive harder for my goals in life.

Professor Morano even discussed all of the tough times he had to go through to get to where he is today. Whether Professor Morano was on the job reviewing a film or meeting Hollywood's celebrities, he has been through a lot and seen it all.

Morano wants his students to succeed and do the best they can. One thing that stands out about Professor Morano, is that he always tries to go the extra mile for his students and engage their learning.

I believe professors should influence their students to become better every day so by the time they graduate they have become the best version of themselves. Good professors, like Professor Morano, are there for their students and help them in and out of the classroom.

I believe that professors are the ones to help get students to achieve their goals as well as challenging their limits.

I can clearly say that there are so many wonderful professors here at Monmouth. A lot of professors have helped me tremendously to become a better student and also to take pride in my work.

John Morano is a professor that wants to see his students move onto bigger and better things.

Presidential Candidates Propose Financial Transaction Taxes, Efforts to Regulate Wall Street Speculation

NICHOLAS COSCARELLI
SENIOR/POLITICS EDITOR

During the 2016 presidential election both Democratic candidates, former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), supported a financial transaction tax on Wall Street speculation. Four years later, most every Democratic presidential candidate supports such a measure in 2020.

Sanders introduced a bill (S. 1371) that would direct the proceeds to funding tuition-free public colleges and universities. Senator Elizabeth Warren, former Vice President Joe Biden, Mayor of South Bend, Indiana Pete Buttigieg, and former Mayor of New York City Mike Bloomberg all support some variation of a financial transaction tax, in an effort to resolve wealth inequality and fund additional programs such as Medicare expansion.

According to Jeffrey Christakos, Chair of the Department of Accounting and Specialist Professor, The Wall Street Tax Act would impose a tax of 0.1 percent (or 10 basis points) on the sale of all three types of trades, whereas the Inclusive Prosperity Act would impose a 0.5 percent tax on stock trades, a 0.1 percent tax on bond sales, and a 0.005 percent tax on the sale of derivatives.

Some worry, however, that the tax could end up hitting average Americans who have 401(k) plans, health savings accounts, and 529 college savings plans. The Tax Foundation says that the tax would have both a direct and indirect effect on lower and middle-income people, not just the wealthy to whom the tax is

directed.

Robert Scott, Ph.D., Professor of Finance and Economics, said that he supports the tax, citing studies by the Urban Institute and Brookings that dispel this notion. "Hong Kong and the UK have had financial transactions taxes (roughly 0.1 percent) for many years with no problematic effects and many positive effects," he explained. "The tax is small enough not to affect the large majority of people. The argument that a 0.1 percent will hurt everyday people is fictional propaganda from the financial industry."

"It's only the heavy-trading firms and their active clients that are affected. In fact, if the tax is high enough it would actually reduce most high-frequency trading, which would likely create greater financial market stability," Scott explained. "Not to mention using the tax revenue for social policies that benefit many people."

Scott quoted British economist John Maynard Keynes, who argues in his book *The General Theory of Employment, Interest, and Money* (1936) that buying investment securities should be more like a marriage: a long-term commitment that takes considerable effort to dissolve. "Keynes was using an extreme example, but many studies show that the more people trade, the lower their returns. Active trading by all but the most skilled traders is a losing proposition," said Scott.

A study done by a group of professors at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst argue the tax could reduce trading and liquidity, predicting that trading could drop 50 percent if the pro-

posal were to be adopted.

The tax could also cost investors each time they rebalance their account, as well as from asset managers, especially those who trade often and then pass the tax cost along to investors.

Christakos, who is a passive investor along with his work at the University, explained that he has a limited amount of trades in his accounts and in that of his clients. "Many people have done the same through their investments in their 401k plans. I don't think that it would have a significant financial impact on the lives of most Americans," he said.

In breaking down the assessment of a potential rebalance fee under the Wall Street Tax Act, he said that \$250 would be owed on a portfolio worth \$250,000 per year, assuming half the portfolio is sold and another fund is bought.

"Actively traded mutual funds would have different results," he explained. "There would be more fees because the portfolios turn over more times during the year. I believe that it would add another burden to overcome when considering actively managed portfolios or funds."

The U.S. has previously imposed taxes on stock transactions under the Revenue Act of 1914, which was later repealed in 1966 under President John F. Kennedy. A 1934 study concluded that it didn't raise a lot of revenue and didn't check the speculative activity it claimed it would check.

Many other countries have variations of a financial transaction tax. Sweden had one from 1984 to 1991, but it was repealed because so much trading moved offshore, a similar consequence that led to Germany abolishing

its own.

Though proponents believe the tax could be used to fund plans such as Medicare for all, paid family leave, a higher minimum wage, and the forgiveness of student debt, revenue raised may be overstated.

Since 2012, Italy has levied a 0.1 percent tax on bonds, stock, and derivative trades executed on a regulated exchange; which has raised about 159 million euros, short of the expected 1 billion euros.

France introduced a tax in 2013, which was initially predicted to raise 1.5 billion euros, but has raised less than half that amount.

Candidates have also proposed other tax plans targeting the rich to raise money, such as increasing income tax, capital gains, and estate tax rates.



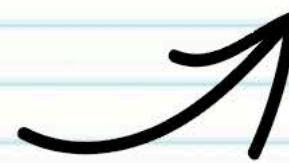
IMAGE TAKEN from Financial Times

After the 2008 Financial Crisis, increased scrutiny of the financial industry has increased in the U.S.

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The Resurgence of Astrology

LILY HOFFMAN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

From a life and style magazine like *Cosmopolitan*, to a newspaper such as *The New York Times*, more often than not you will come across weekly articles about astrology and horoscopes. Horoscopes are not only a hot topic among youth, but astrological signs are becoming staples in fashion and jewelry. Popular companies like Urban Outfitters, Alex and Ani, and Nordstrom have created collections revolving around zodiac symbols.

According to an article by *The Atlantic*, in 2018 traffic on horoscope websites increased 150 percent more than the year before.

But why? What is the deeper meaning behind that necklace that says "Scorpio", or graphic tee with the symbol for an Aquarius on it?

Astrological and divination practices date back to the ancient times. According to New World Encyclopedia, divination is a mystical practice similar to astrology, but instead of analyzing patterns in the stars, anything can be analyzed as a way to seek truth. Early forms of divination included the use of oracles and even feng-shui. However, the first people to use astrology as a way of telling fortune were the Greeks. According to Khan Academy, scientist, Claudius Ptolemy is credited with creating the 12 zodiac signs, all with names that correspond

to the time and place of their constellation in space.

However, this concept is slightly different than the modern day zodiac model. Today, the zodiac sign is determined based on the position of the planets and sun rather than the stars. As per New World Encyclopedia, zodiac signs can be representative of one of four elements: fire, earth, air and water. Regardless of what your zodiac sign may be, people use them as a way to seek clarity, and guidance in their everyday lives. In today's culture, astrology books and websites are used as a way to better understand yourself, your personality traits, and provide a common thread with those who have the same sign as you.

Popular lifestyle magazines like *Allure*, *Cosmopolitan*, and *Buzzfeed* use zodiac signs as a way to test compatibility with your partner, or potential romantic interests.

For example, a person who has the sign of a Pisces would have trouble connecting with an Aries. According to smartphone app, "Astrology- Zodiac- Signs" a Pisces is a water sign, who tends to be compassionate, intuitive, wise, and fearful. Aries tends to be courageous, artistic, passionate and confident, with a ruling planet of Mars.

One particular astrological app, has taken the universe by storm. Its name is Co-Star and through using

personal information such as your date, time, and place of birth, can generate a personal birth-chart. Based off of this birth chart, daily horoscopes are created that users can compare with their friends, to test the alignment of their personality, moods, and relationships.

Senior biology major, Shevaitha Shyamalan, has used Co-Star and despite its popularity finds it "inaccurate". The app, "told me to go out while during a blizzard," said Shyamalan. Julia Currie, a college student from Long Island, NY, feels the same about the app's inaccuracy as well.

"I love Co-Star, I think it's so much fun to look at every day. Despite this, I don't think it's too accurate because it is an app. I still like to read everything it says, and to see compatibility of my birth chart with my friends."

Mobile applications, such as Snapchat, include daily horoscopes for users to read. Sophomore, marketing student, Brian Pelonero, has had experience with reading horoscopes in the past. "I do check mine every once in a while, but I believe that there are some generalities to each sign that can apply to everyone," said Pelonero.

The presence of zodiac has been evolving from the time of its creation by Greeks, centuries ago. Modern day technology has adapted this practice, to become an interactive experience with

users to explain the trials and tribulations of their everyday lives. If you are planning to delve into the world of astrology, it is best to read about the topic first. Popular books such as, "Star Power:

A simple Guide to Astrology for the Modern Mystic" by Vanessa Montgomery, and "The Astrology of You and Me" by Gary Goldschneider can help you navigate the dynamic world of zodiac.

Zodiac Signs	
	ARIES 3/21-4/20
	LIBRA 9/24- 10/23
	TAURUS 4/21-5/21
	SCORPIO 10/24- 11/22
	GEMINI 5/22- 6/21
	SAGITTARIUS 11/23- 12/22
	CANCER 6/22-7/22
	CAPRICORN 12/23- 1/20
	LEO 7/23-8/21
	AQUARIUS 1/21-2/19
	VIRGO 8/22-9/23
	PISCES 2/20-3/20

IMAGE COMPILED by Chloe Barone

When researching your own astrological sign, it can be helpful to follow along charts to view what sign your birthday is aligned with.

Is Mercury in Retrograde a Fallacy?

CHLOE BARONE
LIFESTYLES EDITOR

"Nothing is going right for me lately, and on top of it Mercury is in retrograde." Odds are if you follow the practices of astrology, you have heard of the term "mercury in retrograde".

Retrograde motion, when observed from Earth, is a planet that appears to be moving in the reverse direction, according to *Time* magazine.

"If you were positioned far above the plane of the Earth's orbit (called the ecliptic), and could look down on our solar system from that vantage point, you'd see all the planets going in elliptically shaped orbits around the Sun (i.e., the orbits are like circles that have been squashed a bit). From this perspective, none of the planets go backward in their orbits," said Kayla C. Lewis, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Physics.

Viewing this movement from the perspective of a planet that is moving itself through space, those other planets can seem like they are moving backward. "Hence, the retrograde motion is illusory; this fact confused ancient astronomers, because they believed the Earth to be stationary and at the center of the universe. The planets are too far away from the Earth for their gravity to affect anything on Earth's surface appreciably (although the Moon and the Sun cause Earth's tides, because the Moon is close and the Sun, although far away, is huge)," said Lewis.

Aware that retrograde is an il-

lusion, senior education student Cristina Medlin, believes that Mercury in retrograde is what you make of it. "If you tell yourself you're going to have a bad couple of weeks, you probably will. If you truly believe in the order of the universe, you know there will be good times and not, regardless of this illusion," said Medlin.

According to ancient astrology, Mercury is the planet that is said to rule communication. *Time* magazine cited that those who follow astrology feel that there are frequent misunderstandings and disagreements that can occur with friends, family, and relationships during this "retrograde".

According to NASA, Mercury is the fastest planet of the solar system, and travels through space at 29 milers per second. Due to this fast rotation, Mercury can appear to be in retrograde around three to four times a year, sometimes at three weeks a time, according to *Time* magazine.

Cosmopolitan's weekly horoscopes, explained that Mercury entered retrograde Feb. 16 and will continue through March 29.

So you may be wondering how Mercury in Retrograde can effect everyday lives? According to *In Style* magazine expect technological glitches, miscommunication with your partner, losing valuable items, and ordinary traffic patterns. Due to the "retrograde", delays and setbacks are cited to occur because of the backward motion.

Furthermore, an article by *In Style*, reported that if you are Gemini or Virgo you are likely to be more effected by retrograde.

Hannah Burke, senior social work student, is a double Gemini (meaning her sun and rising sign of a Gemini, are ruled by mercury). "I don't feel like anything is ever extremely out of whack, but I do like to take the time during retrograde to be more mindful. Especially when it comes to communication with my loved ones," said Burke.

If situations seem to be highly tense, or if frequent misunderstandings are occurring, "I try to step back, defuse the situation, and not take things so personal or make rash decisions," said Burke.

With the upcoming month of March, Mercury will be entering Pisces. According to *Cosmopolitan's* astrologer, Jake Register, in Pisces, Mercury is incapable to operate at full capacity. In general Pisces, a water sign, according to Register have a sensitive nature. The retrograde in Pisces will cause you to be more in tune with your emotion, and at times may get the best of you. Depending how you view it, Mercury in Pisces can be a time to educate yourself on your emotions, and work on your communication skills.

Although Mercury in Retrograde is proven to be a pseudoscience, if you decide to practice astrology, it will be a belief system you need to become educated on. If you are unaware on where to start, popular books on the subject include: "The Mercury in Retrograde Book" by Kim Farnell, and Yasmin Boland, and "How to Survive Mercury Retrograde: And Venus and Mars, Too" by Bernie Ashman.

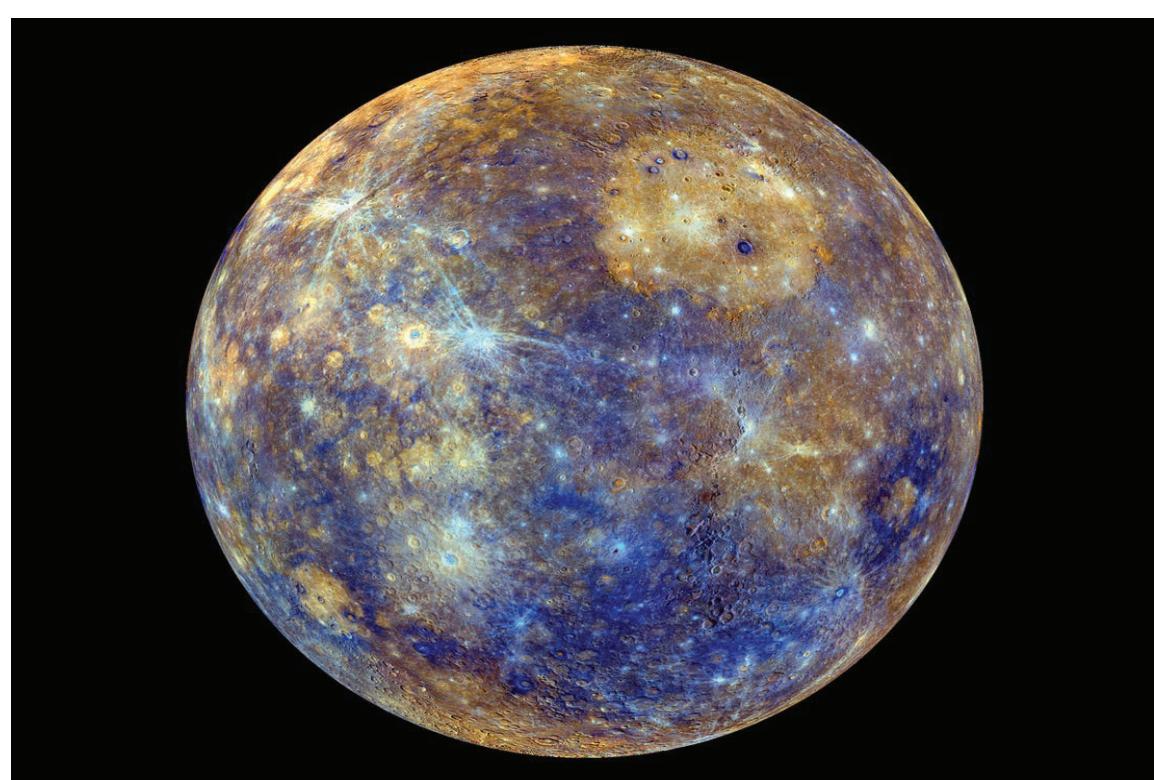


IMAGE TAKEN from Business Insider

‘TOP OF THE POPS’: A Conversation with The Smithereens

GRACE ENRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

The Smithereens are an iconic American rock band that formed in the 1980s, with founding members Pat DiNizio, Jim Babjak, Mike Mesaros, and Dennis Diken. They are from Carteret, New Jersey and have played around the Jersey Shore throughout their ongoing career, so it's only fitting that they stop by West Long Branch.

The Smithereens are performing with guest vocalist Marshall Crenshaw at Monmouth University on Saturday, March 7 at 8 p.m. in Pollak Theatre.

They earned a large following with their single ‘Blood and Roses’ from their first album, 1986’s *Especially You*. The song was also featured in an episode of the hit 80s TV show *Miami Vice*. The band’s most notable hits include ‘Beauty and Sadness,’ ‘Behind the Wall of Sleep,’ ‘Strangers When We Meet,’ ‘Only a Memory,’ ‘Too Much Passion,’ and so much more.

Their alternative/punk energy mixed with the “teenage symphonies” of some of their heroes Brian Wilson and The Beatles, makes them stand out as a music group.

After the passing of lead vocalist Pat DiNizio in 2017, founding members Babjak, Mesaros, and Diken decided to do the only thing they knew how to honor their friend and bandmate: by playing one last live show. However, to continue his legacy, the band has

gone on with touring.

The Smithereens have performed at famous places along the Jersey Shore. From the Stone Pony to the Wonder Bar, and Green Parrot, they are rock kings of the Shore.

Dennis Diken, the founding drummer of The Smithereens, shared his favorite memories of playing the Jersey Shore music scene. “For us, playing ‘down the shore,’ we’ve always had great audiences and people are always programmed to have a good time,” Diken said. “We always look forward to playing down the shore and we’ve always got great support. We have wonderful memories of all the shows we’ve done in those towns, so yeah it’s a great time.”

The Jersey Shore is known for producing music greats like Bruce Springsteen and Jon Bon Jovi, but is the scene still alive? To Diken, there’s still talent coming from Monmouth’s backyard.

“Oh very much so, there’s all kinds of pockets of music going on in New Jersey. Too many bands to mention, certainly the Asbury Park scene. New Jersey has been so vital throughout the years,” Diken pointed out.

As they continue to tour throughout the Jersey Shore area, founding guitarist Jim Babjak recognizes that it’s quite a different experience without DiNizio on stage with them. “It’s been bittersweet, the audiences have been so wonderful. We’re just moving forward and working on some new material,” Babjak said.

When the band decided to get back on the road in 2018, they had to find a lead singer. However, they found much more than a singer, because guest vocalist Marshall Crenshaw is a headline act in his own right. He is a singer, songwriter, guitarist, and radio host. He has joined The Smithereens on a road that has extended from the Hoboken Arts & Music Festival, to a West Coast tour in early 2019.

To Babjak, the addition of Crenshaw still preserves the rocking sound of The Smithereens. He said, “Well we go way back with Marshall, we’re old friends. He actually played keyboards on our first album.

[He brings] his work ethic, his pop sensibilities, we have the same taste in music, and it seems like we always come up with something new and fresh. He’s great to work with.”

Even with adjusting toward a new vocalist, Babjak said that it’s not hard getting back on the road. “It’s like riding a bike. This is our 40th year anniversary and not only that, but Dennis and I have been playing together since 1971, when we were 14 years old. And Mike has been playing with us since 1975 so the three of us have been together for years,” Babjak mentioned.

The band is very excited to perform at Monmouth Univer-

sity, which Diken doesn’t recall performing at before. There aren’t as many up and coming rock bands in today’s era as there were in the 80s when The Smithereens got their start, so it is important for the students of Monmouth to listen to and appreciate a legendary Jersey Shore rock band. Maybe they can get inspired and continue to rattle the Jersey Shore with awesome music, people, and energy.

Tickets for the show are between \$35 and \$50, with a Gold circle seating option priced at \$60. Tickets can be reserved through the Monmouth University Performing Arts Box Office.



IMAGES TAKEN from Goldmine Magazine (above) and Creative Market (banner)
The Smithereens are playing at Monmouth’s Pollak Theatre on March 7. Tickets are on sale now.

Tokyo Twilight: The Films of Yasujirō Ozu

MARK MARRONE
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

In *Tokyo Story*, an aging mother and father from a small village go to Tokyo to visit their adult children, but when they arrive, their children don’t have any time for them. In *Late Spring*, Noriko is a beautiful young lady who would like to marry, but she doesn’t want to leave her father all by himself. In *Equinox Flower*, a daughter refuses an arranged marriage to choose her own spouse, but her stern father has a difficult time accepting her decision.

It’s these simple stories that Japanese director Yasujirō Ozu told so eloquently during his 35-year-long career. Ozu (1903-1963) saw a time where films transitioned from silent to talkie, even from black-and-white to color, and the director successfully made those transitions. A lot of Ozu’s work is free on YouTube, but some of his best films are a part of his Criterion Collection set, *Late Ozu*. Most of the director’s films, which he also wrote the screenplays for, centered around family, along with understanding the different perspectives from older and younger generations.

The way he told his stories was unlike any other director. While the subjects are simple, Ozu made the audience think a little bit by throwing them right into the conflict. There was never any formal introduction



IMAGES TAKEN from The Tokyo File Archives (background), No Film School (Ozu), and The Playlist (Ozu backdrop)

Yasujirō Ozu directed and wrote films throughout his incredible 35-year-long career.

to the characters or backstory, Ozu just got right on with it.

When I began watching Ozu’s films, I was a little flustered and confused when he’d dive right into the story without any context. However, you learn to accept it because you realize that after a half hour, the film will come to you. Twenty minutes ago you had no clue who Noriko was, but suddenly you’re wrapped up in her situation.

Another aspect of Ozu’s craft is how intimate he paints his pictures of families. In Japanese culture, a lot of conversations happen while sitting on the floor. When Ozu’s characters come down, he positions the camera right with them. This puts the characters in the dead center of

the frame, as if you’re on the floor talking with them.

You can always point out these Ozu-isms with each flick. For music, he started every movie with a lush orchestral song, sprinkled in between some scenes, then when the film came to a close, the orchestra played out the end title card.

A favorite setting of Ozu’s were the little empty bars, where characters enjoyed kicking back on sake and shooting the breeze. Ozu even exposed audiences to Japanese customs like the wife picking up her husband’s clothes from the floor when he came home, group singing at special events, or people bringing up that classic line, “It’s time to find yourself a husband/wife!” It

sounds crazy today, but that was 1950’s Japan.

Speaking of the characters, Ozu casted practically the same cast for each film to play nearly identical roles every time. In every movie, I always find myself saying “Oh God, this guy again!” For example, one of Ozu’s veterans actors, Chishū Ryū, appeared in 14 of Ozu’s films. And in each one, he typically played the dad or older wise man.

Another actress, Setsuko Hara, appeared in six of Ozu’s films. She went from playing a daughter in *Late Spring* to maturing into a mother role in *Late Autumn*. Of course, Ozu always had a fine lineup of actors that helped each story hit closer to home.

While Ozu was masterful with

simplicity, he wasn’t afraid to dabble in controversy. My favorite Ozu feature is the heartbreakingly powerful *Tokyo Twilight*. In the film, Ozu explores a young woman’s difficult choice to get an abortion and the brutal impact it has on her life. For 1957, Ozu was ahead of his time on sympathizing with a young woman going through this issue. Few openly talked about abortion in Japan, but *Tokyo Twilight* showed how much Ozu was willing to understand the perspective of the younger generation.

Although Ozu’s messages came from over 50 years ago, they still stand the test of time because they’re about things we often overlook in our life. *Record of a Tenement Gentlemen* exhibits the blessing children can bring. *Tokyo Story* reminds us to not forget our parents or loved ones, even if we get caught up in life. And *Equinox Flower* shows how even though it can be difficult to understand a younger generation, there will always be differences we have to accept. It’s a cycle.

For these reasons, Ozu is my favorite director. His films remind us of the simplicity in life we tend to forget. From his choice of actors to his style, Ozu kept his films simple, and we should do the same with our lives. It can always get a little hectic, but in the moments you can, think about how lucky you got it, one way or another.

50/50 by 2020: Sweden Emphasizes Gender Equality in Film

KATHERINE RIVERA
STAFF WRITER

In 2012, the Swedish Film Institute began an initiative called 50/50 by 2020. The following year there was a plan put in place to achieve the goals by having equal representation for female film directors. There was a program put in place called Movient so women in the industry could have mentors, as well as resources, to hopefully encourage women to be part of the film industry.

By 2016, there would be 50 percent funding delegated to female-produced films and 50 percent funding for male-produced films. The next year, there was a report put out by the Swedish Film Institute touching on gender equality.



IMAGE TAKEN from NewsBreezer
Anna Serner is the CEO of the Swedish Film Institute.

in the film industry and then on a larger scale in everyday life.

For the remainder of this year, the goals of this initiative to continuously move towards equal representation of men and women in the film industry include women in more key roles for larger films, increased visibility, and continuous education on gender equality and other kinds of diversity.

The CEO of the Swedish Film Institution, Anna Serner, is a huge advocate for this initiative and speaks often about her opinions.

She wants to spread the word about gender inequality, what she has been doing to help and what she believes can still be done to help. In an interview with Rebecca Martin of *Cinema Femme*, she stated, "We have a responsibility to find the equality in the industry. We want to

work with gender equality and diversity, and we want to take all of the talent in consideration... it's just ridiculous to believe that you leave half of the population out."

Her message is very clear: no matter your gender, race or anything else that might make you "different" you have so much to offer the world and can get your voice out there, especially through art. Opportunities should be given to people across the board regardless of differences, because every single person has something to offer.

Associate Professor of Sociology Johanna Foster, Ph.D., agreed with Serner's initiative and thought the program is fantastic. "They have made such important inroads in closing the gap in gender inequality in the film industry by using the tools of social research, so that is especially inspiring to me as someone who went into feminist sociology to do the same," Foster said.

She continued, "I think many people can get overwhelmed with the scope of the problems and wrongly believe there is nothing they can do to really change things, but this project shows how a small group of women asking the right questions who are not afraid to ask the right questions, and do the work of digging up the answers, can have a huge impact.

There have been other film institutes that are beginning similar initiatives to spread awareness of gender inequality and make a more equal industry for men and women. The British Film Institute and Eurimages are two examples of film institutes in different countries following along.



IMAGE TAKEN from City Map Art (background) and Phoenix Critics Circle
Hopefully Sweden will inspire the Academy.

However, a huge number of film festivals have signed the 50/50 by 2020 pledge, including Cannes, Sundance, Toronto, Berlin and Venice.

Arguably more important though, there has been a conversation started about the inequalities in the film industry, among other arts and throughout society around the globe.

Foster thought the program will encourage film industries around the world to reflect on gender equality. "[The Swedish Film Institute's] work raises up the reality that gender and racial inequality manifest themselves in both obvious and not so obvious ways in the film industry, and it's important to look closely and critically at what's going on. I'm glad we have a resource like this out there and I'm sure it will have an impact beyond Sweden," Foster concluded.

There has been extensive press about Sweden and other countries which is getting people to talk about what is going on. Education is huge in initiatives like this, so the public understands why film industries are making these changes.

Women like Anna Serner who choose to openly speak about their experience and actively try to make changes in any part of inequalities in the world are the reason there are new conversations about these things and more people spread awareness and will make changes. Hopefully there will be more companies taking steps towards equal funding and representation for people all of genders, races and everyone else who hasn't felt like they have a voice.

Let's push to give everyone a voice.

Don't Answer The Call of the Wild

MARK MARRONE
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

They say a dog is a man's best friend, but Buck has a different calling. Based on the famous 1903 novel *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London, Buck is captured and sold as a dog sled pusher for a mail carrier. After the carrier is forced to sell his dogs, Buck eventually finds a new home with John, played by Harrison Ford.

The adaptation has the makings of a good film: a compelling story with a beautiful Alaskan backdrop. The problem? That Disney touch weighs this sled down.

The film is marketed as Ford's film, as the actor is featured prominently in the trailer and poster. However, Ford doesn't come into play until around the 45 minute mark. And by then, we're already down to an hour left.

Maybe it's because I'm ignorant and don't remember the book being dog centric, but when something promises one of Hollywood's legends, I'd rather see him more rather than a silly CGI dog.

While Ford's late entrance is a doggone outrage, so are the effects. There are no real dogs, nor real sets. Buck is actually played by a man, choreographer Terry Notary. So while Ford is

rubbing the dog's belly, it's a little unsettling to think that's some dude rolling around on the floor in a green skin suit pretending to be an animal.

Moreover, the sets look completely green screened. None of the film was shot on location, but instead entirely in Hollywood. You can tell, as every tree and blade of grass looks like something out of a Pixar movie.

The Call could've been worth answering if there was something real about it. Everything feels fake and more like an animated film.

But the script by Michael Green doesn't help, because half of the movie is full of people yelling, "BUCK!" Talk about no room for error on that script.

Similar to last week's *Sonic*, *Wild* is another film that's suitable for five-year-olds only. It's worth throwing a bone to a kid to see it, yet for adults, there's plenty to bark about.

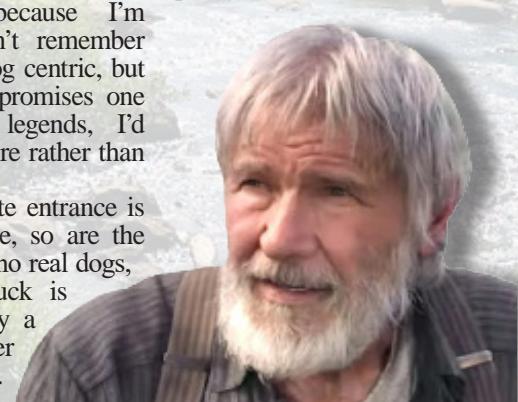


IMAGE TAKEN from Flikr (background) and Cosmic Book News (above)
Harrison Ford is barely in *The Call of the Wild*.

Local Band Spotlight:

About a Year Ago

NICK MANDULEY
STAFF WRITER

Newly-formed Ocean County melodic hardcore band About a Year Ago independently released their debut EP *Borrowed Time* on Feb. 4. Rising from the ashes of the now-defunct Toms River-based easycore band Sick on Sunday, About a Year Ago pushes into the new decade with a sound that embodies the raw D.I.Y. essence of the New Jersey local music scene.

Borrowed Time is an emotional, three-track release which thematically revolves around relationships, both romantic and platonic. "The album deals a lot with heartbreak," said bassist Alex Fischer. "Whether it's with friends or relationships that have ended; it's a coping mechanism for us."

Borrowed Time comes out of the gate with the catchy tune 'Rewind.' The introductory lead guitar, courtesy of guitarist Mike Vecchio, is reminiscent of something that wouldn't sound too out of place on Neck Deep's *Life's Not Out to Get You*. 'Rewind' has an infectious call-and-response chorus, as well as a pounding beatdown that allows drummer Doug Miller to let his double-bass chops shine.

'Rewind' is followed up with 'Chain of Memories,' which opens with a pounding drum beat and vocalist John D'Antona shouting a powerful refrain. 'Chain of Memories' offers some great classic easycore riffage courtesy of Vecchio and rhythm guitarist Robbie Gaffney. The bouncing

chorus indicates that 'Chain of Memories' is unfiltered, fun, mud pit material.

The third and final track on *Borrowed Time* is 'Divisions.' A mid-tempo rock and roll jam, 'Divisions' is the emotional powerhouse on *Borrowed Time*. It's the only track on the record that offers a somber piano melody. "All I create are divisions between my family and friends," sings D'Antona, signifying that this track is a letter written straight from the heart.

The catchy lead guitar captures the listener as the song transitions between the verses and choruses; the bridge and closing chorus of 'Divisions' is easily the most emotional moment on this release. D'Antona's grizzly punk voice over the distorted, melancholy guitars makes for some powerful final seconds, but as the song

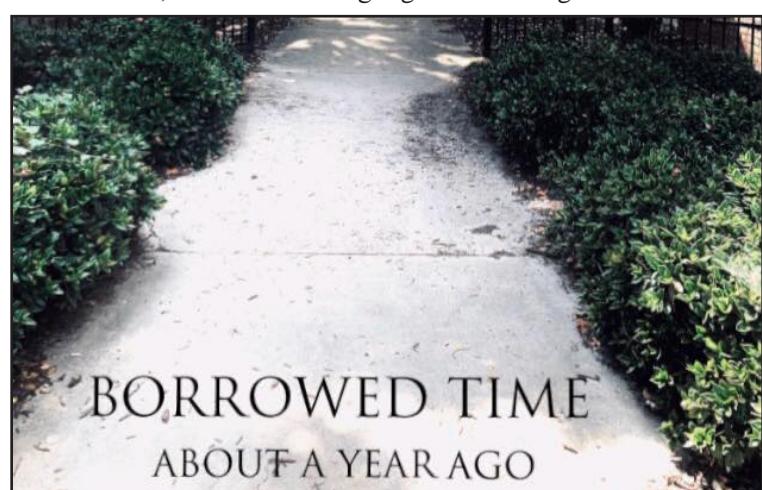


IMAGE TAKEN from About a Year Ago Facebook
Borrowed Time was released on all major streaming platforms.

Wrestlers Want to Wrestle, and They Will!

RAY ROMANSKI
CLUB AND GREEK EDITOR

The referee's whistle blows, and the match is underway. Two men, starting with intensity, vying to take the other down to the ground. Or, that's what would happen, but Monmouth currently doesn't have a Wrestling Team.

That's partially the reason for the newly formed Wrestling Club, a group of about 12 men who believe the deep history of wrestling in New Jersey should be preserved.

Kyle Wavro, a junior political science student and the second President of the club, said, "The overall

goal of this club is spread the wrestling culture of New Jersey...It's crazy that an area such as Monmouth with interest so high, that we've never had a team or even a club before."

He's not wrong. From 1928 to 2011, New Jersey had 142 All American Individuals and 42 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) titles. New Jersey universities have remained in contention nationally throughout the past 10 years. New Jersey also had the first women's collegiate team form last year, and also had the first all-female bout in a tournament earlier this year.

The Wrestling Club was formed in May 2019 by

sophomore business student Soso Chakiashvili, who started the club out of passion for the sport. Chakiashvili said, "I formed this club because I wanted to give Monmouth University students a chance to be part of this incredible sport. A wrestling club was something that I wanted to be part of when I was a freshman."

The Wrestling Club currently has a partnership with Triumph Wrestling Club in Ocean, where they meet every Friday at 3:15 p.m. Triumph is owned by trainer Nick Roy, a former two-time New Jersey state champion and NCAA Division All-American. Triumph has also trained eight high school state champions, and numerous place-winners.

The club aims to set up matches recreationally and intramurally, but hopes to participate in local tournaments. Wavro said, "We've had plenty of interest shown (in competition). We've had county colleges express interest in wrestling us, other notable like college clubs, but we don't have a sure enough roster yet. As soon as we build up, we could start doing matches like that. For the imminent future, we're looking to do open tournaments to get our experience up, but as soon as we get a solid roster up, it's off to the races."

One competition the club is looking towards is the Mid Atlantic Wrestling Association (MAWA) tournament. Primarily a high school tournament, there is also an open division to col-



New Members Welcome!

If interested, please contact:

Club President: Kyle Wavro
s1163184@monmouth.edu
 or
Advisor: Maureen Slendor
mslendor@monmouth.edu

IMAGE COURTESY of Maureen Slendor
 The Wrestling Club meets weekly at Triumph Wrestling Club in Ocean. All are welcome to join.

there is a high interest in college wrestling in New Jersey where it's available and we have to keep creating opportunities to showcase that."

Andres Camacho, a junior communications and political science student and Vice President of the club, hopes to see the club grow more than just a recreational club. He said, "Over the past five years, it's become a trend for talented high school wrestlers to choose to stay in state for their collegiate campaigns. Guys have been gravitating towards Rutgers, Rider, and Princeton. That's important when considering the goal of wrestling club which is understating that

Camacho said, "With that said, Monmouth Wrestling club has attracted both experienced wrestlers and first time guys seeking to take advantage of a club that can develop their skills while catering to their pace."

Be sure to follow the Wrestling Club on Instagram @Monmouthwrestling for practice footage, match updates, and more! With your interest and support, maybe this group of passionate wrestlers will become a team.



IMAGE TAKEN From @Monmouthwrestling
 Some members of the Wrestling Club pose after a practice.

Blue Hawk Records Announces New Stars!

BENJAMIN DAVIS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

ALYSSA CARDENAS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Monmouth University's *Blue Hawk Records* recently held auditions for their 16th compilation album on February 3rd and 5th in Woods Theater. There was a great turn out for auditions with many talented students, which made the decision process cutthroat. However, those that made it onto the album are exceptional artists, and as a result this semester's compilation will be one of the best.

Blue Hawk Records has an

exciting lineup for this album, including two featured artists. The artists come from a variety of majors and brought their own styles and individuality. The genres on this album range from R&B soul to 80s glam pop.

Currently, the *Blue Hawks* team is booking studio time for the new artists to perfect their songs. *Blue Hawk Records* compilation albums are released at the end of every semester and can be heard through all major platforms such as, Apple Music, Spotify, and iTunes.

Blue Hawk Records is happy to announce their artists who will be featured on

this album: Bruce Davis Ft. Janae Louis-Jacques, Nicole Totland, Mikey Sanchez, Drew Fournier, and Shadiyah ft. Double G (Gabe Garza), with a bonus track by alumni group WellWish.

Featured artist Bruce Davis, who is a senior Homeland Security major, spoke on his excitement for being a part of this album. Davis said, "I think every person that has ever written a song has a dream about people liking it and wanting to help it reach its full potential, and I am glad that I am getting that chance."

The Music Industry program and artists are getting the album prepared and ready for the release show on April 22, 2020. This album is sure to cement itself in *Blue Hawks'* history, so keep an eye out for the release of the 16th compilation album and get an ear full of new talent from students at Monmouth University. *Blue Hawk Records* is the student run record label at Monmouth University.

Since Professor Joe Rapolia began at Monmouth, they have been releasing an album every semester, featuring the top talent that the institution had to offer. If you would like to get involved with *Blue Hawk Records* in any capacity, please contact them at bluehawkrecords@gmail.com. Be sure to follow *Blue Hawk Records* on Instagram @bluehawkrecordsofficial!



IMAGE COURTESY of Blue Hawk Records
 One of the new additions to the Blue Hawk Records upcoming compilation: Drew Fournier playing the keytar.

Club and Greek Announcements

WMCX

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

Hawk TV

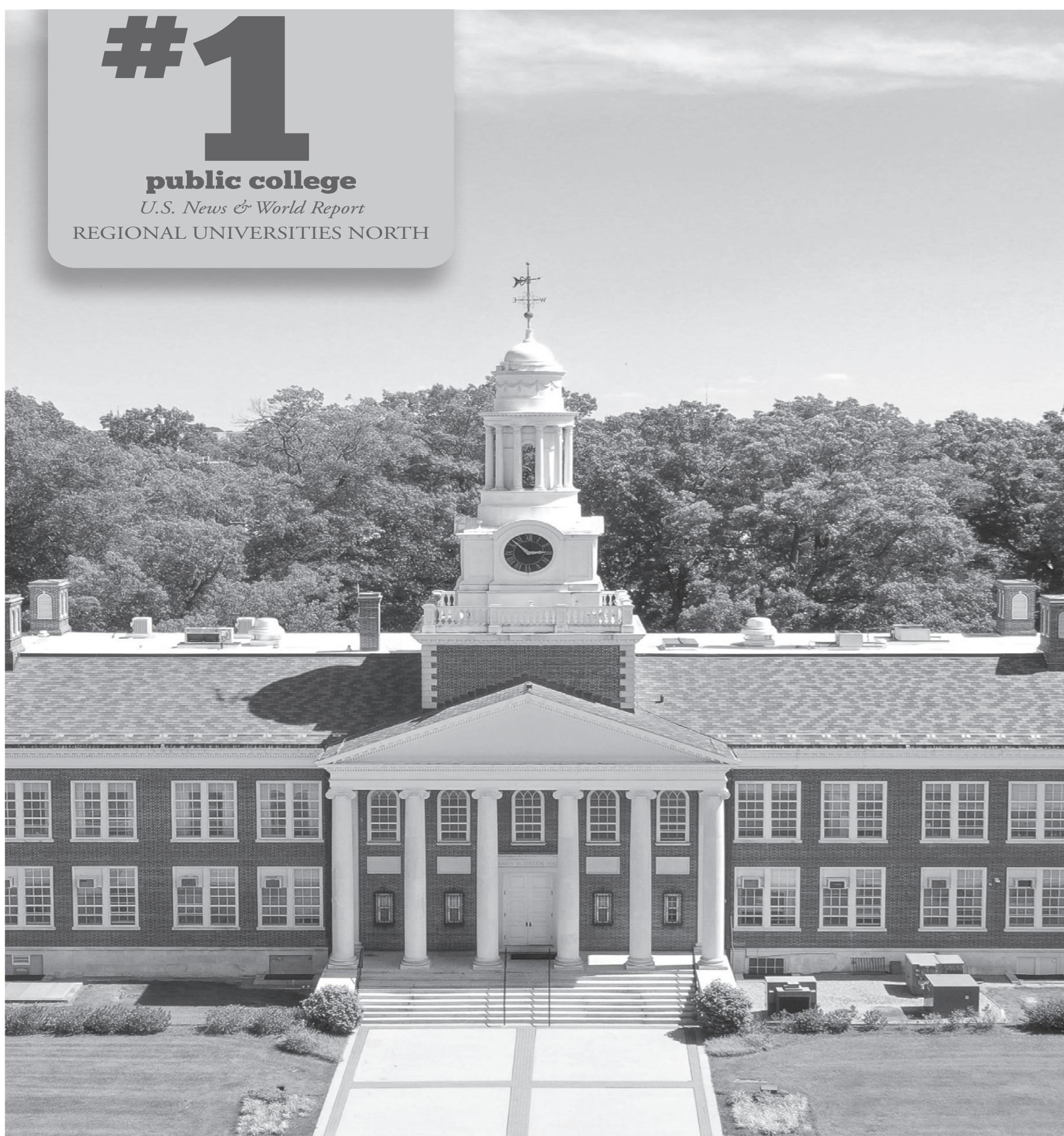
Hawk TV is looking for vibrant and interested students who want to be reporters, writers, camera operators, anchors, and much more. You do not need to be a communication major to be a part of this organization. If you are interested e-mail us at hawktv@monmouth.edu or meet us on Wednesdays in JP 138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

The Catholic Campus Ministry

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

The Monmouth Review

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

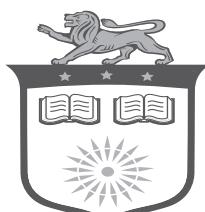


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New Members Welcome!

If interested, please contact:

Club President: Kyle Wavro

s1163184@monmouth.edu

or

Advisor: Maureen Slendorn

mslendor@monmouth.edu

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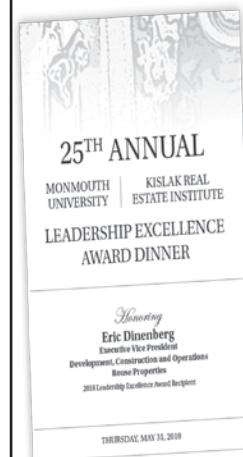
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Fighting Food Waste on Campus

MELISSA BADAMO
FEATURES EDITOR

Have you ever wondered what happens to all the leftover food at the dining hall and student center? What happens when the lights turn off and everyone begins settling in their dorms, getting ready for nightfall? Well, the answer lies in three words: Food Recovery Network.

Food Recovery Network (FRN) is a nationwide, non-profit organization that has been fighting food waste and hunger while promoting sustainability on Monmouth's campus since 2016.

Aneri Shah, Vice President of the University's Food Recovery Network and senior business administration student, explained the food-recovering process. She said, "We go down to the student center and dining hall and package all of the leftover food that would have gone to waste. Once we're done packaging it, the next morning we deliver it to two local churches that hand it out to the community."

Members and volunteers of FRN bring the leftovers to the Lutheran Church of the Reformation on Thursdays and to Second Baptist Church on Saturdays. Both churches are located in Long Branch.

The Second Baptist Church hosts a "Meal at Noon" program, in which the recovered food is heated up and served to the community. The food is packaged on Wednesday and Friday nights, and leftovers from the other days of the week are saved for subsequent packaging days.

Monmouth's chapter of FRN has recovered 20,705 pounds of food in total and 682 pounds this semester so far.

"We could go one night having about 280 pounds to another night having 580," said Shah.

"There's a really wide range," added Diana Erascu,

a senior health studies student and, President of FRN. "It really depends on the week and if there's a lot of events happening on campus."

Bryon Griffin, the Director of Meal at Noon at Second Baptist Church, explained that once the food is delivered on Saturdays at 10 a.m., the cooks decide whether to serve the University's recovered food (in addition to the food already planned) or to freeze it for another time. Either way, the food you see remaining at the student center or dining hall is going in the hands of community members in need of a meal.

Griffin said, "Through the efforts of MU, Gourmet Dining, and the terrific, dedicated FRN students we are able to provide to our guests high quality, nutritious and delicious free meals. We appreciate it. Our guests appreciate it." Griffin said that Meal at Noon provides over 6,000 free meals annually to our neighbors in need since 1997.

Erascu and Shah have been a part of the club since their freshman year. Now, as seniors, they have already been leaving a lasting imprint on food recovery at Monmouth. The duo has expanded the club just this year alone.

"It started with two of us in September and now we have 70 people trying to volunteer," said Shah. "Everyone's so interested in this. Once they figure out what it is, they want to find out more."

Shah explained that around 10-11 students volunteer each session, all working towards making this campus a site for food recovery. Packaging time is usually around 40 minutes, depending on how many helping hands are available.

In fact, students work with the Gourmet Dining staff to ensure efficient packaging each week.

"They're so nice about everything," said Shah. "When we go to the student center,



PHOTO COURTESY of Aneri Shah
The Food Recovery Network's goal is to package leftover food from the Rebecca Stafford Student Center, Dunkin' Donuts, and the Magill Commons Dining Hall two times a week.

they'll start helping us package the pizza, they'll make jokes with us, and they'll help us with anything we need."

Debbie Avery, Food Court Supervisor of Gourmet Dining Services, said, "[Food recovery] is something I'm very interested in and passionate about. I hate waste. To know that there's somebody that's going to come and has the plan to repurpose [food], I think that's a great thing."

Avery continued, "I've worked in food my whole life. I've worked at 7/11, I've worked at Starbucks. When they throw food out, I could cry. Here, we do something much better with the food than throw it out."

Recovering perishables that are cooked but not served touches the lives of less fortunate folks in the surrounding area.

"All of this food would have been going to waste, yet now

it's feeding so many people who don't know where their next meal is coming from," said Erascu. "That's what motivates me."

FRN would not be opposed to a collaboration with the Student Government Association (SGA), who created The Nest food pantry for students without a meal plan. The Nest strives to eliminate food insecurity, which the United States Department of Agriculture defines as an economic condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food.

Mehdi Husaini, a senior biology student, President Pro-Tempore of SGA, and manager of The Nest, said, "The Food Recovery Network engages more with off-campus entities and deals with perishable products, so I'm not sure how we would mesh right now especially in the developing stages of our own efforts. However, I would definitely not rule out any sort of collaboration in the future since our purposes and guiding principles are so similar."

"We have the same goal at the end of the day," said Shah.

According to Monmouth's website, 30 percent of students who attend a US college or university struggle with food insecurity.

"It's important for people to be aware of food insecurity because it's a really big issue all over the United States," said Erascu. "If we start with a small community like this, maybe people can later on contribute in more impactful ways."

Here is some food for thought: according to the US Department of Agriculture, about 30-40 percent of the food supply is wasted.

"America has such a high food waste epidemic," said Shah, before mentioning that she has become more food conscious since becoming a part of FRN.

FRN also builds a sense of community on campus and in the surrounding West Long Branch area. The club collaborates with other campus organizations including Youth Activists, Beta Gamma Sigma (the Business Honor Society),

Alpha Omicron Pi, Alpha Xi Delta, and Lambda Theta Phi. Volunteering with FRN provides philanthropic opportunities for fraternities and sororities.

Erascu, Shah, and their dedicated team of volunteers ensure that the remaining food at Monmouth isn't going to end up in the trash at the end of the day.

On Saturday, Feb. 29, the food waste-fighting duo and their team will be serving food at the Second Baptist Church's Meal at Noon program for the first time.

"We want to know who we're actually serving and who we're bringing food to," said Erascu. "I'm most looking forward to the reaction on people's faces and the happiness they will experience. We don't really see that side of it."

"We at Meal at Noon are truly blessed by the FRN program at MU," said Griffin. "If every school, hospital, etc. had an FRN program, it would go a long way towards eliminating hunger in our country."

The free lunch program relies on charitable donations to operate, which is being fostered by the selfless deeds of FRN members and volunteers.

"I've been able to contribute so much to this," concluded Erascu. "This is something that I definitely want to continue through my whole life. Even going to my local food shelter and start volunteering there."

The first Food Recovery Network originated at the University of Maryland in 2011, according to their official website. Since then, there are currently 230 chapters nationwide with a collective 3 million pounds of food recovered. MU students have been able to contribute to that growing number while giving back to the community over the past four years.

Other New Jersey universities with their own chapter of FRN include Montclair State, Rowan, Rutgers Newark, and Seton Hall.

If you have ever worried about food going to waste on campus, rest assured. The Food Recovery Network has it handled.



PHOTO COURTESY of Aneri Shah

The nonprofit organization works closely with Gourmet Dining Services to ensure that no food goes to waste at Monmouth.

How to Be Successful in the Workplace

LOWELL KELLY-GAMBLE
STAFF WRITER

A college education is one of the main factors that can be a determination of an individual's success not in the workforce, but in the future. One method that helps current collegiate students discover their career path is networking with professionals, especially in their desired field of study.

According to Assistant Dean of Career Services William Hill, over 1,000 students made appointments to meet with their staff last year to help plan their career path upon graduation. Hill believes the connections you make in the work force can determine how quickly and far you succeed, and that you have to find ways to distinguish yourself from other applicants.

Hill advised, "Understand the employers' needs and challenges, and present yourself to the employer as a solution to their challenges." Hill said that a student who is polite, has a killer resume, dresses professionally, is always on time, avoids checking their phone in conversations, and takes a consistent approach to contacting employers will ultimately impress recruiters.

"It's mostly simple stuff but easily overlooked," he said.

Hill also believes that the expansion of technology leaves an impact on employment op-

portunities throughout the job market. He said, "Finding a job is both harder and easier. Technology allows you to contact employers so much easier now, but it makes it easier for everyone, so that increases competition, which can make it more difficult to get noticed."

Because of this, it is vital for students to amp up their networking while still in college.

A graduate of Saint Peter's University in Jersey City, Hill's first job out of college was as a high school teacher which he found through a friend. He shortly realized that he lost a passion for teaching, which led him on the path to administration.

Monmouth alum and current Graduate Assistant of Career Services, Max Sobrano ('19), believes that networking is probably the most important aspect of not only business, but life in general.

He said, "You will meet countless people in your life and first impressions mean so much. I was fortunate enough to help start the MU Sports Industry Club that connects students with sports industry executives, thus helping students get jobs in pro sports. With all the competition out there for jobs nowadays, you just need a way to get your foot in the door and then it is up to you to show your worth."

Sobrano explained that research and knowledge of an

organization prior to meeting with employers or recruiters are attractive, and that you should never stop seeking advice for the best career path.

He said, "Recruiters meet hundreds of people all year and if you are able to show that you want to work for a specific company you can really prove that you can be the right choice for them over others." Sobrano recommends finding a mentor or someone to shadow while still in college because it prepares you for the field, shows you what to expect, and teaches you how to succeed.

Sobrano concluded, "I personally know how many students can overlook many of Monmouth University's wide variety of services like Career Services, since personally I really never used it much as an undergrad (and I really should have). Not only can students have career services help them with resumes and the very important LinkedIn Profile, but also we can give students tips on what to expect on their internship or full time job search."

Career Services helps students prepare for life after Monmouth, Sobrano mentioned.

Meanwhile, senior business student Kyle Butts will be continuing his education in pursuit of an MBA on a full athletic scholarship at Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania. Upon graduating Slip-

pery Rock, Butts will begin his coaching career on the staff in spring 2021.

"I am an aspiring football coach, specifically as a Special Teams Coordinator," he said. "Networking is important in a career field like this because jobs open up all the time in this profession and it's crucial to know plenty of people that can speak on my character."

Building connections at Monmouth allows faculty to get to know students and their career goals while teaching them just how to get that dream job.

Hill concluded by explaining that being an excellent writer is an attractive attribute, and that employment services should be used at all times when achieving your desired career.

Writing Services is an on-campus resource dedicated to amplifying the writing skills of MU students.

Hill said, "Write well. Writing is a tough skill to master and most people are poor writers. If you can write well-crafted, persuasive, and concise cover letters and resumes, you will be way ahead of the pack."



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth University
The Communication Career Event gives students the opportunity to meet recruiters in their desired field.

Grad Student Talks Consequences of the Label "Felon"

EXPUNGEMENT cont. from pg. 3

the law. I had been emailing and calling since 2018 but was ignored. That is when I began the 'media campaign' to try to draw attention so legislators would stop ignoring me," she said.

Former New Jersey Senator Raymond Lesniak (D-Elizabeth), said, "Expungement is a significant benefit for rehabilitation as it would reduce the more than 1000 impediments on former offenders as they re-enter society to live a law abiding, productive life."

Lesniak continued, "Senator Sandra Cunningham sponsored a law last legislative session that prohibits employers from asking or determining a prior criminal offense until giving a prospective hire an interview however that's not as helpful as an expungement."

The Case for Comprehensive Expungement Law Reform explained that "Recent legislative changes in New Jersey, and elsewhere are a step in the right direction, they still do not go far enough to fully address the unjust impact of the stigma of a criminal conviction that will continue to impede thousands in our state."

Tierney said of the law Cunningham's sponsored, "That law was a great step, but sadly, I have found that if at any point an employer discovers I am a felon, it is game over, pencils down... At any process, if an employer hears 'felon,' my grades, my lived experiences, my credentials, my intelligence, my cre-

ativity, are all completely irrelevant."

Tierney has worked as an administrative assistant and lifeguard for approximately \$12 an hour. "I was grateful for each opportunity, but neither position is my highest and best use. There has to be a point where a person's past becomes their past, inaccessible to anybody," she said.

Owen Harper, a sophomore criminal justice student, said, "The 'felon' label is an incredibly damaging one. Persons labelled felons by their state are often denied many services and opportunities that are imperative to contributing positively to society, or simply

living a decent life. Felons can be denied employment, access to public housing, food stamps, and even the right to vote in some states depending on their place in the corrections system."

Tierney's life has been impacted in every aspect by her label. When she applies for loans, car leases, and life insurance, the applications ask about arrest and felony.

"I was unable to secure loans for the triplets for college and so we had to borrow all the money against the equity in the house and my parents' assets," she said.

Also, Tierney explained that finding housing was a struggle, "Private landlords do back-

ground checks, and felons are not a protected class and therefore private landlords can discriminate against felons. Obtaining a rental with no income and felonies was impossible."

She continued, "My parents co-signed a lease and we got a one-bedroom house. The next year, we had to leave. We visited a house and the kids loved it. My arrest was published in the paper and the landlord said, 'I know who she is, and I am not renting to her.' I had to disappoint my children."

Brittany Macaluso, a junior social work student, said, "By not allowing these records to be expunged, we're furthering a cycle of recidivism. If we limit

peoples' opportunities and continue to label them after they've served their time, they are likely to reoffend because of limited resources due to the term 'felon'."

The Case for Comprehensive Law Expungement Reform holds that irrespective of the type of conviction, people with a criminal history in the U.S. face a host of lifelong formal and informal barriers to societal participation, including restrictions on employment access, housing, education, social services, and voting.

Foster said, "Overall, the rates of recidivism are high, and 66 percent of [former offenders] are reincarcerated after three years due to the obstacles they face."

Tierney said, "While these are many of the practical issues of being a felon, the worst impacts are the unseen impacts. The humiliation, the helplessness, the embarrassment, and the dehumanizing feeling of being different from everybody else. Being ashamed. Being reminded of all the terrible things I did. No matter what I do to change, I can never escape this label."

She continued, "Most troubling, what about the felons who do not have access to the educational opportunities I do or maybe did not even graduate high school and may not have the work experience I do? How in the world can they make it? These collateral consequences and the label of felon actually increases recidivism by placing barriers to the most essential human needs, employment and housing."



PHOTO COURTESY of Jerry Carino, USA Today
Graduate student Nikki Tierney, pictured here with her children, speaks on the connotations of the word "felon" and how it has impacted her life, career, and education.

Track & Field Earns MAAC Championship

JACK MURPHY
STAFF WRITER

Men's Track and field were crowned the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Champions after their performance at the Conference Indoor Meet held in New York. The Women's Track and Field team finished third in the MAAC Championships.

The Hawks scored 220 points and were crowned MAAC champions for the third consecutive year and also won six out of the last seven. They dominated the competition as the second-place team were still 69 points behind.

"The men's team had a dominating performance scoring in every event to rack up 220 points," said Head Coach Mike Nelson. "We had numerous event champions and tons of PRs and season bests. I'd also like to thank the coaching staff for all their hard work. They got their athletes ready to perform when it mattered." Nelson also was named the Men's Track and Field Coach of the Year, in only his first season as coach.

The Hawks totaled ten event champions, including five in the second day of the meet. Senior Kyle Mueller ran a 14:07.39 in the 5000 which was good for a new conference and school record. Mueller was also named the Men's Co-Most Outstanding Performer of the meet.

The blue and white took the top two spots in the 800m as freshman Ian Moore finished in first with a time of 1:54.96 and sophomore Louis DiLorenzo placed second with a



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Sophomore Lauren Saifi became a MAAC Champion in women's pole vault after jumping a collegiate best of 3.75 meters.

time of 1:54.99. Monmouth also took home first place in the 400m as sophomore Jalen Jones ran a time of 48.38. The 4x400 team also received gold medals for their efforts this

past weekend.

The shot-put team put together an impressive performance as took home the second, third, fourth and fifth place spots. They were led by

fifth year Andrew Tummino's second place toss of 16.90m and senior Brandon Davis with a throw of 16.15 for third place. Junior Montel Johnson also took first place in the

weight throw with a toss of 61'8.50".

Sophomore Randy Showmaker won the pole event for the men with a vault of 15'9.25" while Mohamed Diagourga claimed gold in the triple jump with a distance of 48'4.75.

The Men's Track and Field team are now 3-0 to start the season for the second consecutive season.

The Women's team finished with 124.5 points, falling behind Rider and Quinnipiac. This is the first time the women's team did not win the indoor championship ever since joining the MAAC prior to the 2013-2014 season.

Senior Mariah Hubbard won the triple jump for the third consecutive year. She jumped a distance of 39'1.25" in order to earn her gold medal. Sophomore Lauren Saifi won the pole vault for the Hawks with a vault of 12'3.50". Finishing behind her was junior Taylor Clark with a height of 3.05m.

Senior Iyanna Jenkins took home silver in the 60m dash with a time of 7.80. A pair of relay teams for the Hawks finished in third place this weekend as the 4x800 clocked in at 9:15.42 and the 4x400 team finished with a time of 3:58.11.

The blue and white had a total of 52 athletes that were names to the MAAC Academic Honor Roll.

The Hawks will next compete at the Fastrack Last Chance and the Boston University meets as they prepare for the ECAC/IC4A Championships that are held beginning on Mar. 7.

Women's Lacrosse Lights Up Scoreboard

SOPHIA GALVEZ
STAFF WRITER

The Monmouth University women's lacrosse team reigned victorious over Long Island University (1-3) and Central Connecticut State University (0-4), making them undefeated in the 2020 season.

On Wednesday afternoon Feb. 19 the Hawks welcomed the Long Island University (LIU) Sharks and came out on top with a 20-13 win. Junior attacker Caroline Bleck scored seven goals throughout the duration of the match, which is a career-high for her. The performance earned her Offensive Player of the Week honors.

"She was really strong today and had a nose for the cage in an aggressive way," said Head Coach Jordan Trautman. "She is somebody that we have wanted to elevate her game and have pushed her and she has been responding. Today was evidence of her stepping up and taking responsibility for some of the things she has been working on and producing in a game."

Along with Bleck's offensive performance, senior midfielder Rachel Mills and senior attacker Nicole Ceraso both executed hat tricks during the game. This is Ceraso's second consecutive game scoring seven points, as well as accumulating four assists on other

goals. Senior attacker Allison Turturro scored four goals against the Sharks, bringing her career total up to 99 goals.

Ceraso scored the first goal for the Hawks about thirty seconds into the first half. LIU responded with three consecutive goals, two of which were free position shots accomplished by senior midfielder Alyssa Mallory and junior attacker Rachel Masullo.

In a span of less than four minutes, Monmouth scored five goals, two by Bleck, one by Ceraso, a free position goal by Mills, and one by senior attacker Sarah Gillogly. After a back and forth of goal scoring by both teams, the first half ended with the Hawks up on the Sharks 11-8.

Going into the second half of the match senior midfielder Chloe Novak scored a free position goal less than six minutes into the half, to advance the Hawks 12-8 over the Sharks. LIU responded with a goal less than thirty seconds later and the rest of the match was a slew of goals from both teams, but the Sharks couldn't hold Monmouth and the match ended 20-13 in the Hawks favor.

"I thought we played as a team today," said Bleck. "We worked on cleaning up our stick work and the offense really pulled through. We work the best as a unit and everyone played their part today."

Monmouth's second game this week was away at Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) against the Blue Devils.

Bleck finished with seven points again and Turturro scored twice, one of them being her 100th career goal. The Hawks had ten different players score goals and a strong defense, only allowing the Blue Devils to score only once in the second half.

"Defensively we stayed focus for the entire 60 minutes even when our offense held long possessions," said Traut-

man. "Everyone stayed dialed in and executed the game plan."

Sophomore attacker Taylor Emmell opened up with Monmouth's first goal less than a minute into the first half. CCSU replied with a goal about two minutes later, and then the Hawks went on a run scoring five goals in six minutes. By the end of the first half, the Hawks were up 10-3 over the Blue Devils.

Turturro scored the first goal for Monmouth less than ten minutes into the second

half, which CCSU replied with their own a few minutes later, scoring their one and only goal of the half. Monmouth went on to score seven goals during the rest of the half, ending the match with an 18-4 victory.

"Today was a fun day for our entire team and great momentum builder as we go into the next two weeks of tough play," said Trautman.

The Hawks will return home next week to welcome Army West Point to Kessler Field on Wednesday Feb. 26 at 2:00 p.m.



Junior attack Caroline Bleck earned Offensive Player of the Week honors, compiling 14 points and tying the Hawks record for goals in a single game with seven.

Men's B-Ball Surges Down Stretch

MARK D'AQUILA
SPORTS EDITOR

Monmouth men's basketball shined down the stretch in Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) play this past week with back-to-back victories over Marist on the road and Quinnipiac at home.

Friday's nail-biter against the Red Foxes was the first overtime game of the season for the Hawks as they barely pulled out the defensive affair 65-61. It was the junior guard Ray Salnave who led the troops with a team-high 13 points on a perfect 9-of-9 from the free throw line as well as six rebounds.

Some of those free throws came in the clutch late in the second half to force overtime after drawing the foul on a pump fake.

"It was obvious that we needed a three to tie and I think the other player knew I was going to shoot a three," said Salnave. "I knew I had him on his heels because I was driving at him and once he started backing up, I knew he thought I figured I would have enough room to shoot so I gave him a fake, leaned in and got the call."

It was a very well-rounded performance for the blue and white who had two other scorers in double-figures, junior guard George Papas and junior forward Melik Martin. Papas contributed 12 points, adding five assists and three



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics
Junior guard Ray Salnave led Monmouth in scoring in both victories this past week with 13 points against Marist, 14 points against Quinnipiac, and a season-high four steals.

rebounds while Martin tacked on ten points and four rebounds. This was Martin's second straight game scoring double digit points as he has been picking up his play down the stretch in the conference schedule.

The Monmouth defense kept Marist under wraps all game long allowing them to shoot only 32.7 percent from the field with only four two-point field goals in the entire game.

"Just another MAAC game," said head coach King Rice. "The tournaments going to be wild in Atlantic City, everybody should go out and get their tickets be-

cause every game goes like this. There are no blowouts, everyone can win on any given night."

The Hawks went out on Sunday and continued to roll against Quinnipiac with a rare, double digit MAAC victory in a conference that is truly coming down to the wire in one of the closest races in the nation.

Salnave was at the very top of the box score yet again with a team-high 14 points on 5-of-11 shooting, adding four rebounds, six assists, and a season-high four steals.

The Hawks really did a phenomenal job of playing together as a team which

Coach Rice had been stressing in the games previously. MU had five different players who scored in double figures including 12-point efforts from Martin, junior guard Deion Hammond, and senior guard Louie Pillari off the bench. Pillari drilled a season-high 4-of-6 three pointers while Papas added two of his own to become the fifth player in double figures with ten.

"You see what can happen when we do what we're supposed to do, and communicate out there," said Salnave. "We talked a lot early, and our voices helped initiate our defense. We make plays off

WEEKLY RECAP

Thursday, Feb. 20
Women's Basketball vs Niagara
L 61-62

Friday, Feb. 21
Women's Tennis vs Merrimack
L 1-6

Saturday, Feb. 22
Women's Basketball vs Canisius
L 53-54

Monday, Feb. 24
Bowling
Bowling finished fourth in the MEAC event. Sophomore Saige Yamada led the Hawks with a series score of 925 across five games.

our defense."

They certainly shared the wealth which showed in the stat line as Monmouth pieced together just the seventh 20 plus assist game in history under Coach Rice.

At one point the Hawks' 22-point second half lead was the largest point differential they have had all season over a conference opponent.

"I was so proud of the fight my kids showed right from the beginning," said Rice. "They hit some threes early, but our defense took care of business the rest of the way."

With just four regular season games left to play before they head to Atlantic City, Monmouth will travel to Rider on Friday night for a rematch beginning at 9:00 p.m. on ESPNU.

Softball Pitches Their Way to Win

CARLY STEAKIN
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Monmouth softball participated in Georgia Southern's Eagle Round Robin in Statesboro, Georgia winning three and losing one.

The Hawks were able to secure a win against Furman on Friday afternoon, 6-1.

Furman took a quick lead, but junior pitcher Alyssa Irons struck out the next three batters. In the bottom of the first, Monmouth went on a hot streak with three consecutive hits.

The Hawks secured the win in the bottom of the sixth inning with a two-run home run from senior first basemen Kayla Rosado.

Rosado went 3-for-4 with two RBI singles and the home run.

She leads the team with a .500 batting average and nine RBIs this season.

"Today was a solid team win," said Head Coach Shannon Salsburg. "Alyssa threw well and the offense did a solid job with our game plan. I was happy with the consistent effort and energy and look forward to continuing to grow tomorrow."

Monmouth went on to split during Saturday's matchups. The Hawks pulled off a win against Maryland Saturday afternoon, 2-1.

Junior outfielder Morgan Mazziar had a two-RBI single in the second inning, which ended up being the game-winner.

Irons pitched all seven innings, while giving up no earned runs and striking out five batters.

Monmouth fell to the Georgia

Southern Eagles in game two on Saturday, 13-2.

Georgia Southern took a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the third with an RBI single.

Junior catcher Erika Coreth took the lead for the Hawks with a two-run single in the top of the fourth. The Eagles came back with 12 runs in the bottom of the fourth in order to get the win.

"I was pleased with how we came out in game one," said Salsburg. "Alyssa threw well, and our hitters found ways to push runs early. We kept pressure on their defense the entire game. In game two, Georgia Southern caught fire in the fourth. We need to continue to work to compete together when our opponent is pushing hard. Tomorrow is a new day. We'll be ready to finish strong."

Monmouth went on to close out

the weekend in Statesboro with a win against Evansville on Sunday morning.

The Hawks went ahead early in the top of the first. Sophomore utility player Lindsey Baron led off with a walk and senior infielder Sam Tomasetti moved her to third with a single before Baron scored on a double steal.

Utility player Amanda Hopeck singled to bring Tomasetti home making the score, 2-0.

In the top of the third, Hopeck led off with a single and a stolen base. She then scored off a fielding error.

Hopeck went 3-for-4 in Sunday's win with an RBI single and two runs. In ten games this season, Rosado is batting .457 (16-for-35) with 11 RBIs.

Hopeck is the second on the team with a .375 batting average this season.

Irons has 41 complete games in 43 starts over her last two seasons. She's gone 34-14 with a 1.58 ERA in that span.

"What a great way to end the weekend," said Salsburg. "From start to finish, we played well as a team. I loved how Alyssa and [catcher] Erika [Coreth] attacked their batters. Overall, we learned a lot, fixed some things from last week, and showed continued growth towards who we want to become May."

The Hawks move to 5-5 for the season after this weekend's games.

Monmouth will participate in the Coastal Carolina Invitational next weekend in Conway, South Carolina. They will face Maryland Eastern Shore and Coastal Carolina on Friday, Ohio and USC Upstate on Saturday, and will go up against Maryland Eastern Shore once again on Sunday.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics
Junior pitcher Alyssa Irons was named MAAC Pitcher of the Week after going 3-0 with a 0.67 ERA in 21 innings of work.

UPCOMING GAMES

Wednesday, Feb. 26
WLacrosse vs Army West Point
West Long Branch, NJ 2:00 p.m.

MTennis vs Fairleigh Dickinson
West Long Branch, NJ 9:00 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 20
Women's Basketball at Siena
West Long Branch, NJ 7:00 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 21
Softball vs Maryland Eastern Shore
Coastal Carolina Invitational
Conway, SC 10:30 a.m.

Softball at Coastal Carolina
Coastal Carolina Invitational
Conway, SC 3:00 p.m.

M/W Track
Fastrack Last Chance
Staten Island, NY 4:00 p.m.

Baseball at San Diego
San Diego, CA 6:00 p.m.

*Men's Basketball at Rider
Lawrenceville, NJ 9:00 p.m.*

Bowling at Hawk Flight Invite
Hamilton Lanes
Hamilton, NJ TBA

Saturday, Feb. 22
Softball vs Ohio
Coastal Carolina Invitational
Conway, SC 9:30 a.m.

Women's Lacrosse at Lehigh
Bethlehem, PA 12:00 p.m.

MLax vs Saint Joseph's
West Long Branch, NJ 1:00 p.m.

Baseball at San Diego
San Diego, CA 4:00 p.m.

*conference games

THE OUTLOOK



SPORTS MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY

TRACK OWNS THE MAAC

MONMOUTH



Monmouth's men's track and field were crowned Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Champions for the third consecutive year this past weekend.

SEE STORY ON PAGE 18

PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics