



THE OUTLOOK

MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY'S
STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1933

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Monmouth Ranked Among the Top 25 Colleges

MEGAN RUGGLES
SENIOR/POLITICS/ASSOCIATE NEWS
EDITOR

Monmouth University received its highest ranking on U.S. News & World Report's Best Colleges roster, as No. 23 in the Regional Universities North category. It is the first time the University has ranked in the top 25, rising five spots since the 2020 issue.

Parents and students' reference "U.S. News & World Report's Best Colleges" list when evaluating their options.

"In my experience, the U.S. News & World Report's Best Colleges report is one of the most recognized resource guides for parents and students seeking the best college fit for their circumstances," said Lisa Allocco, the Director and Owner of Inspire Communication, a college advising company, and an Adjunct Professor of Communication.

The 2021 edition assesses 1,452 universities with undergraduate programs nationwide on 17 measures of academic quality,

with graduation and retention rates, academic reputation, and faculty resources accounting for 82 percent of the rankings.

"Monmouth has seen steady improvement in many of the key elements that are measured by U.S. News & World Report's methodology," said Monmouth University President Patrick F. Leahy. "The rankings provide a shorthand

way to communicate our trajectory of success, which is something we can all take pride in."

During the past year, Monmouth has seen an increase in its peer score which evaluates the University's reputation among other institutions in the region. The peer score accounts for 20 percent of the total ranking, and peer schools are

noticing of Monmouth's strengths, Leahy explained.

"Our peer score, other institutions that know of us and think highly of us, has improved and that's a significant factor we can be proud of," said Mary Anne Nagy, Vice President for Student Life and Leadership Engagement. "We've continued to progress and it's resultant of hard work and bringing in wonderful students."

Leahy has "mixed feelings" about the ranking, calling it an "imperfect scorecard" of the wide array of academic curriculum Monmouth offers, since the measurements are not all-encompassing, but he acknowledges the benefits of being recognized. "[The ranking] is influential among prospective students and parents, current students, alumni, and prospective employers."

Still, Allocco remarked, "The system used by U.S. News & World Report utilizes ranking criteria that has been identified through



PHOTO COURTESY of Anthony DePrimo

Monmouth demonstrated excellence in a variety of measures used by the U.S. News and World Reports ranking system for universities.

UNIVERSITY cont. on pg. 2

WMCX Ranked 18th Best College Radio

ALEX DYER
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

WMCX, Monmouth's student-run radio station, was recently named the number 18 Best College Radio Station by *The Princeton Review* in their 2021 guidebook *The 386 Best Colleges*.

Based on student surveys, WMCX was ranked at number 18 of the 20 best college radio stations in the country. *The Princeton Review* is an annual publication which ranks the best colleges in America in different categories. Unlike other publications of similar nature, *The Princeton Review* solely bases its rankings on student responses to positive or negative questions about their schools.

Aaron Furgason, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Chair of the Communication Department and Adviser of WMCX, said of the process, "The poll is based on Monmouth University students' responses. Students are asked to judge the popularity of the campus radio station at their own college. That means that a significant number of students that attend Monmouth think highly of WMCX."

WMCX normally operates within an alternative rock format, but has since grown to be known for its sports, variety, and news content as well. Additionally, specialty music shows hosted by students also air frequently, with many of them being dedicated to a particular genre of music.

"We offer students the chance to play other genres of music through specialty shows such as hip hop, metal, and pop," said Furgason. "Whatever the student is interested in is possible at WMCX."

"For example," Furgason continued, "WMCX's Sports Director, Sean Gerhard, just started a new show based all on Star Wars music. You're not going to hear that at a commercial radio station."

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COVID-19's Impact on Students' Mental Health

MELISSA BADAMO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF/FEATURES EDITOR

The unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic is negatively affecting the well-being of young adults, according to a recent study by the University of Chicago.

According to their COVID Response Tracking Study, 56 percent of Americans aged 18-34 have sometimes felt isolated in the past month, compared to about 40 percent of older Americans. Meanwhile, 25 percent of young adults rate their mental health as fair or poor, compared to 13 percent of older adults. 39 percent of young adults rate their mental health as very good or excellent, compared to 56 percent of older adults.

Monmouth students are no exception when it comes to COVID-19's impact on young adults. Many find their mental health declining under the weight of the coronavirus.

"I am paranoid and anxious every time I go somewhere with large groups of people. The anxiety worsens when I notice they are not following health guidelines," said Mercedes Concepcion, a junior business administration student.

Not only have students been apprehensive about the vi-

rus itself, but the demands of schoolwork adds new layers of concern.

"Online classes are really bad especially living on campus," said Samantha Gagnon, a sophomore psychology student. "I feel like professors aren't really aware of how much they are expecting of

students, especially in asynchronous classes where there is really no way to provide feedback."

"As a grad student, COVID really took a toll on my focus for classwork when we went online," said Nicholas Morris, a second-year graduate student of English. His three classes are all being conducted online this semester. "It was a hard shift in March but I'm honestly glad they stayed online once we all got a handle on it."

Students have also noted the social barriers created by the pandemic, citing struggles with isolation and social interaction.

"The isolation of quarantine and now online classes has really made me feel lonely and depressed," said Katherine Rivera, a senior health studies student. "As someone who already struggles with mental health, it has been extremely hard to



GRAPHIC MADE by Angela Mascia

COVID-19 is taking a toll on students' mental health, especially coupled with the demands of schoolwork assigned in online courses.

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University Polling Institute Details Rise in COVID-19 Concerns

MATTHEW CUTILLO
MANAGING/NEWS/LIFESTYLES EDITOR

Concerns related to the COVID-19 virus have risen in recent months as President Trump “continues to receive poor marks in response to the coronavirus outbreak,” along with low confidence he can guide the country to recovery, according to a recent poll published by the University’s Polling Institute on Sep. 9.

In response to campus concerns over COVID-19, University President Patrick F. Leahy Ed.D., implemented additional safety procedures including limiting dining services to take-out and socially distanced outdoor seating, moving clubs, organizations, and intramural/recreational activities online, and temporarily closing the University pool, fitness center and restricting athletic team activities to supervised individual and small group training, in an email addressed to the University community.

“To date, we have still not seen evidence of transmission from students to faculty or staff, and based on contact tracing, transmission appears to be limited to student social interactions,” Leahy wrote. “Since the majority of our staff members are already working remotely, there will be no immediate change to staffing levels. If you have questions regarding work schedules, please be in direct contact

with your supervisor or area vice president, as usual.”

Most Americans, 55 percent of which, say the coronavirus outbreak has had a major impact on their daily lives, according to the poll. Almost half, being 47 percent, of the public say they are very concerned in regards to someone in their family becoming seriously ill from COVID-19. This level of concern has increased from 41 percent in August.

The general public remains cautious about re-opening the country in the midst of the pandemic, the poll states. Nearly 6 in 10 Americans are concerned their states are lifting restrictions too quickly, whereas 32 percent are considered their state is not

opening quickly enough.

Only 36 percent say the federal government has provided enough support, whereas 57 percent say it has not. 58 percent of Republicans say the federal government has done enough for schools, to 37 percent of independents and 13 percent of Democrats.

“The federal-state divide is where we see partisanship raise its head. Governors and state officials tend to generate some cross-aisle support, but opinion of the federal government is filtered almost entirely through a partisan lens,” said Murray.

President Leahy has vowed to increase University testing, as appropriate. “Properly worn masks will be required at all times on

the campus – indoors and outdoors – except when eating and when sitting in your private residence hall room or in your private office,” Leahy wrote.

Since the majority of the University’s academic delivery is already online, there will be no immediate change to academic delivery as a result of these temporary restrictions, Leahy added. “We will continue discussions with faculty members in the days ahead as we monitor closely the impact of COVID-19 cases on our campus. During this period, computer labs and the Guggenheim Library will remain open and available to students, subject to existing capacity limitations and social distancing guidelines. If modifications to our academic delivery are

deemed necessary, we will notify the campus community immediately.”

The University poll touches on a multitude of questions, including asking participants if the country is going in the right direction or has gone down the wrong track in regards to COVID-19. In August, 72 percent of poll participants considered the country to be going down the wrong track, but the number has softened slightly to 66 percent by September.

In relation to how concerned one may be when thinking of someone in their family becoming seriously ill from the Coronavirus outbreak, 47 percent considered themselves very concerned in the month of September, an increase of 6 percent from August.

“It is my sincere hope that these actions will help to slow the spread of infection so that we may all continue to enjoy a safe and healthy fall semester here on campus,” Leahy wrote. “I will continue to keep you informed and share updates, as they become available. I encourage parents and family members to join the Monmouth Family Connection and visit our COVID-19 website for the most current and comprehensive campus information. If you have questions, please feel free to direct them to FallRestart@monmouth.edu. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and flexibility during this challenging time.”



PHOTO TAKEN by Melissa Badamo

The general public remains cautious over the re-opening of their states.

Mental Health

HEALTH cont. from pg. 1

cope.”

“Being inside pretty much all day is really hard on all my suitmates and I, especially with no windows in the common room,” Gagnon said. “We’re spiraling.”

To combat spikes in anxiety and depression symptoms, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends taking breaks from watching or reading news stories about the pandemic, connecting with others, finding time to unwind and relax, and taking care of your body by eating healthy meals, exercising regularly, and getting adequate sleep.

“Daily exposure to news, information, and physical reminders about COVID-19 can produce a range of responses,” states Monmouth University’s Counseling and Psychological Services (CPS) on their website. “Reactions can be complicated for students with loved ones in affected areas of the world, friends and family in the health professions, and dear ones experiencing health emergencies. Students might experience emotional, somatic, or behavioral changes and can impact physical, mental, and emotional health.”

CPS also offers resources and support on areas such as anxiety and stress management, guided meditation, mindfulness, and living with mental illness during COVID.

Top Colleges

UNIVERSITY cont. from pg. 1

research studies as essential to determining the value and quality of education provided by a college.”

From a methods standpoint, the ranking system is trusted as both valid and reliability, and it is considered by many as the “unofficial ‘gold standard’ in terms of rating colleges,” Allocco concluded.

Christopher Chen, a senior computer science student, explained that the University provides a multitude of resources for students to use and its “elevated status should allow many students to gain an advantage when looking for jobs.”

However, Chen does not believe the school is entirely deserving of making the list. “[Monmouth] has come under scrutiny regarding its lack of diversity. The students are predominantly white, albeit the school has worked to include many students of other nationalities,” he said. “I hope the school strives to be better.”

Monmouth aims to improve by making the University as accessible as possible to a wider and more diverse student body, Leahy explained. “Only a few [universities] in our category integrate excellence and access like we do, as measured by our strong rankings coupled with our commitment to first-generation students and Pell Grant recipients.”

As for the improvement in retention rates, Monmouth is

working to increase those numbers, yearly, Nagy explained. To achieve this, the University utilizes data from student satisfaction and campus climate surveys to determine what they are doing well and put together plans that focus on those things. “There’s no driving force behind our improved retention rates, it’s a combination,” she said.

That combination of factors is defined as the “total student experience,” Nagy described. The administration knows that students are not in the classroom every day, and so, it’s important to include a wide variety of activities that are not only fun but compliment the academic experience. “We work very hard to attract students and transition them appropriately and we need to work hard to keep them,” she said.

Leahy reflected on the graduating class of 2020: 120 graduates ready to enter the health-care sector, seven graduates pursuing their doctorates or enrolled in medical school, three headed to the London School of Economics, many employed at Fortune 500 companies, and graduates teaching in over 40 school districts across New Jersey.

“I am incredibly proud of our students and our recent graduates, who are terrific ambassadors for our University. The steady rise in our rankings is a tribute to their success, and to the steadfast commitment of our faculty and staff who provided them with an outstanding education and student experience at Monmouth,” Leahy said.

Athlete Charged In Robbery

MATTHEW CUTILLO
MANAGING/NEWS/LIFESTYLES EDITOR

A player of the University varsity baseball team has been charged with robbery, accused of a pre-dawn break-in and scuffle at an Ocean Township family’s home, on Sunday Sep. 13.

“The University is aware of the situation,” Mary Anne Nagy, Vice President for Student Life said in a statement to *The Outlook*. “The University follows its established practices with regard to any allegation of student misconduct. Under the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, I cannot comment any student matter.”

The homeowner, his wife and their two children were asleep when the burglary occurred, Kim Gilhooly, an assistant Monmouth County prosecutor, said at a virtual detention hearing, before Superior Court Judge Paul X. Escandon.

Gilhooly asked Escandon to order the University ath-

lete held without bail at the Monmouth County Jail, awaiting trial on charges of burglary, robbery, theft and possession of drug paraphernalia, more specifically two glass marijuana pipes found in the baseball player’s car.

The University athlete was released from jail on the judge’s conditions that the player must “report to a probation officer, refrain from the use of alcohol or illegal drugs and undergo a substance evaluation.”

Gilhooly alleged the athlete tried to leave the victim’s residence, carrying a backpack belonging to the homeowner’s son, containing a pair of \$500 sneakers and a controller for an Xbox.

The athlete’s attorney, Richard Incremona, questioned the robbery charge, stating that his client did not use or threaten force or inflict any injury during the incident, an element that must be required to prove a robbery allegation. The homeowner’s statement to police “contradicts the state’s fact pattern,” Incremona said.



PHOTO COURTESY of Anthony DePrimo

The University cannot comment on the matter due to legal obligation.

University Polling Institute Explains Voter Doubts Over Election Outcome

MATTHEW CUTILLO
MANAGING/NEWS/LIFESTYLES EDITOR

Americans have observed the growth of voter distrust in the outcome of the November presidential election, including the prospect of foreign meddling, the possibility of campaign cheating, and a belief in the existence of “secret voters” who will materialize on Election Day, according to a recent poll published by the University’s Polling Institute on Sep. 10.

The poll’s findings suggest a small but sizable number of voters could be suspicious of the election result, regardless of winner. About 6 in 10 voters are confident the November election will be conducted fairly and accurately, yet another 24 percent are not too confident and 13 percent consider themselves not confident at all in the integrity of the election.

“Of course, most voters believed that Clinton was going to win four years ago and they accepted the different outcome,” The University Polling Institute’s Director Patrick Murray said. “But the reasons why voters think Trump will win again suggest that some may not accept this year’s result if he loses.”

U.S. President Donald Trump recently declined to commit to a peaceful transfer of power if he loses the Nov. 3 election and said he expected the election battle to end up before the Supreme Court.

“We’re going to have to see what happens,” Trump told reporters at the White House when asked whether he would commit to transferring power.

President Trump has repeatedly cast doubt on the legitimacy of the election, claiming without evidence that mail-in voting would lead to widespread fraud and a “rigged” outcome.

The Biden campaign has prepared for any “shenanigans” from the Trump administration, and restated comments from July that “the United States government is perfectly capable of escorting trespassers out of

the White House.”

Eleanor M. Novek, Ph.D., professor in the Department of Communications, considers “a steady diet of disparaging comments from the president and social media trolls” regarding mail-in ballots to be the root of public distrust during the election process.

“Disinformation campaigns use that tactic around the world to undermine faith in voting in general,” Novek said. “What worries me the most is not that the election itself will be meddled with. My fear is that people will come to believe that their votes will not be counted and so they will not even bother

to vote. An outcome like that would disenfranchise many voters and serve the incumbent more than the challenger.”

The results of the November election are anybody’s guess, Novek admitted. “The president isn’t known for making truthful statements, so I think his comments about refusing to accept the election results work mainly as a distraction,” Novek said. “While his outrageous remarks can always be counted on to light up social media and send reporters scrambling to get reactions, his administration is quietly overturn-

ing decades of public policy that protects the environment, preserves reproductive rights, provides health care, and much more.”

The poll also suggests Joe Biden as being seen as more respectful to American troops than President Trump, yet recent news stories regarding this issue have not impacted the overall race for president.

A report in The Atlantic said the president called troops killed in combat “losers” and “suckers,” an allegation he has denied.

“Biden has an edge on the question of respecting those who serve in our armed forces, but it doesn’t really look like recent allegations of Trump allegedly disparaging them have created any notable change in the campaign’s trajectory,” said Murray.

Regarding a “secret vote” coming to light in the 2020 election, Murray says there exists “plenty of evidence” there was no measurable secret vote in the 2016 election or this year, either.

“However, voters’ belief that a secret Trump vote does exist is a very real phenomenon we need to acknowledge,” Murray said. “If this expected vote does not materialize on Election Day, some Democrats will be pleasantly surprised and some Republicans will be shocked. The question is how many in this latter group will go one step further and reject the validity of the result.”



IMAGE TAKEN from Associated Press

Americans believe in the existence of “secret voters” who will materialize on Election Day.

WMCX Ranked 18th Best College Radio by Princeton Review

WMCX cont. from pg. 1

It is this variety in content that Furgason believes sets WMCX and other college stations off from commercial radio stations. “College radio is a venue where listeners get to deep dive into genres of music not normally available on commercial radio,” he said. “For example, most commercial stations’ music libraries are 200 songs or less. Our main format, alternative/punk/new wave, features a mu-

sic library with over 50,000 songs.”

In addition to music, WMCX features broadcasts in talk format. “Students not interested in playing music can broadcast a talk show covering topics like sports, politics, or popular culture,” said Furgason. “We even have a dedicated podcasting room for anyone interested in long-form audio production.”

Like many commercial radio stations, WMCX also

covers live events; however, many of these are local to Monmouth County and surrounding areas. “The radio station broadcasts all of Monmouth University athletic events, Shore Regional High School’s football and girls Field Hockey games,” explained Furgason.

“We also host live music events in-studio and Classroom Concerts from Plan-gere 235 and live broadcasts on-campus, as well as at such locations as Jack’s Bar & Grill in West End,” he

added.

According to Lauren Abreu, junior communications student and General Manager of WMCX, “WMCX really has worked hard to become such an established radio station.”

Abreu also praised the members of the WMCX team, adding, “Our DJs are some of the most determined and welcoming people on campus. The WMCX community is one of the many reasons I love the radio station so dearly.”

“Years of hard work and dedication from many staff members and executive board leaders led to this ranking,” Furgason added regarding the community. “WMCX has always been open and accessible to all Monmouth students, employees and alums.”

“It is such an honor to be a part of a radio station that is so highly acclaimed,” Abreu remarked. “Hopefully, we will be able to climb to the top of the Princeton Review in years to come.”

MUPD Crime Log

MUPD: 732-571-4444

Date Occurred	Time Occurred	Location	Crime Reported	Case
9/16/2020	1103	Tennis Court	Trespassing	20MU05913
9/16/2020	1850	OFBC	Student Misconduct	20MU05922
9/16/2020	1630	On Line (Social Media)	Harassment	20MU05939
9/17/2020	2252	Dining Hall	Student Misconduct	20MU05952
9/18/2020	1900	Lot 1	Criminal Mischief	20MU05975
9/22/2020	1505	Lot 23A	Criminal Mischief	20MU06071
9/23/2020	1937	Ped. Tunnel	Suspicious Person	20MU06105
9/23/2020	1151	Monmouth Email	Fraud	20MU06069
9/23/2020	Unk.	MU Purchasing	Fraud	20MU06094
9/25/2020	2312	Hesse Hall	Student Misconduct / Trespassing	20MU06157
9/27/2020	1952	Lot 12	Student Misconduct	20MU06203
9/28/2020	1630	Monmouth Email	Fraud	20MU06233

Ways to Spice Up the Fall Season

SHANNON MCGORTY
STAFF WRITER

Fall is usually a festive time with the leaves changing colors, pumpkin spice everything, sweater weather and the crisp smell in the air. However, with COVID-19 not many people are feeling festive. Not to worry, there is still plenty to do.

Personally, one of my favorite things to do is to cuddle up next to a fire with a good book or make delicious s'mores when I am tired of doing schoolwork.

Another fun thing that is easily accomplished while social distancing is apple and pumpkin picking. Grab all of your friends and head to one of the many orchards near

Monmouth, you can get cute little pumpkins to decorate your dorm or house and take cute fall pictures.

People might be excited about Halloween but curious as to what direction this year will take us. At this point, haunted houses are not allowed, but corn mazes and pumpkin patches are. In New York, there is a wonderful exhibit called The Great Jack O'Lantern Blaze. This exhibit contains a walkthrough of different structures and pathways created entirely of pumpkins and lights.

Another unique opportunity that is available this year is a drive-thru at Skyland stadium. This is also a Jack O'Lantern exhibit, only filled with different themes. The difference

between the Skyland exhibit and the one in New York is that Skyland is more than just a drive-thru. One can walk around the field where you can get food, drinks, play carnival games, paint pumpkins and go on rides.

For my friends' 21 and over, there is a nice little winery right here in Colts Neck, NJ. 4JG's Winery, has wine tasting for only \$15 per person. You can sample three wines and get a full glass of wine in a gorgeous glass cup you get to keep. You can also walk the grounds, which has many opportunities for amazing pictures.

If you happen to go to the winery there is an amazing shop and bakery called Delicious Orchards right next



PHOTO TAKEN by James Tierney

Gather your friends and head to the nearest apple orchard and pumpkin patch for a fun day and make sure to take cute fall pictures.



PHOTOS TAKEN by Gina Urbanik

While at the pumpkin patch do not forget to pick up some pumpkins and squashes for small touches of fall in your home or for some fun fall recipes.

door. Their baked goods are outstanding and a must-have if you are in New Jersey. They have apple cider donuts that are to die for and pies that are wonderfully fresh. They also have cookies that are both soft and crispy that makes your mouth water just thinking about them.

Another classic fall tradition that always ensures a good time is watching "fall" movies. Some movies that I consider a must-see are *Hocus Pocus*, all of the *Halloween Town* series, *Casper* and *The Little Vampire*. If you like scary movies I would recommend *Insidious*, *The Conjuring*, *Annabelle*, *Strangers* and *When a Stranger Calls*.

Another fun activity you

can do that is visiting six flags' Fright Fest, which is now called Hallowfest. There you get the joys of an amusement park, all while feeling the crisp air against your skin and slipping back into some normalcy. They decorated the entire park for Halloween and created Hallowmazes. Some parts of the park are designated for the scary side of Halloween and other parts are more for fall fun so there is something for everyone.

This year is obviously going to be different, but if you try hard enough you can have a good time, as well as gain some sense of a social life during these difficult times. Let us all celebrate the fall season!

Letter to the Editor:

Dear Staff of *The Outlook*:

Congratulations on your recent commendation from the American Scholastic Press Association! I'm so proud that *The Outlook* has been recognized on a national level, for the fifth year, as University Newspaper of the Year.

It is important for serious colleges and universities to have strong, independent student newspapers. Since 1933, has been covering important and topical news for the Monmouth community with notable professionalism. It's incredibly satisfying that others are recognizing what we already know—that is, that we here at Monmouth have one of the best around.

I offer my sincere thanks and praise to all of our student journalists, and to your faculty advisor, Professor Morano, for your hard work, professionalism, and continued commitment to delivering fair and impartial news at Monmouth.

Congratulations on this well-deserved honor.

Dr. Patrick F. Leahy

President

Dr. Ken Womack Publishes Latest Beatles Book

MELISSA BADAMO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF / FEATURES EDITOR

Kenneth Womack Ph.D., Professor of English and Popular Music, published his latest book, *John Lennon 1980: The Last Days in the Life*, on Sept. 15.

"It's about this amazing comeback at the end of John Lennon's life where he comes back from a five-year self-imposed retirement and begins making music again," said Womack, a Beatles fan of 43 years.

He continued, "There was no book that demonstrated and detailed how he had come back, why he came back, how he composed the 10-30 songs that he recorded in the fall of 1980, and how long they were in gestation. I wanted a book to exist that told the story of that incredible comeback of this guy deciding to make a go of it again in a very competitive industry and pulling it off."

Research for the book included interviews with Lennon's friends and associates, as well as producers and engineers who worked on his recordings.

"I'm very interested in the process in which art is made," said Womack. "I want to learn about how someone takes an idea, a ragged idea, and turns it into something in this case that will endure for all time."

Since beginning his professional writing career in the mid-1990s, Womack has covered all things Beatles, including *Long and Winding Roads: The Evolving Artistry of the Beatles* (2007), *The Cambridge Com-*

panion to the Beatles (2009), and *The Beatles Encyclopedia: Everything Fab Four* (2014).

This semester marks his third time teaching the music course "Introducing the Beatles" after initially teaching it at Penn State beginning in 2002. The class analyzes the music from perhaps the most influential band of all time, their impact on music history, and their upward trajectory from their origins in 1960, their unwavering success in 1969, and until their split one year later.

"Theirs is a very instructive story for students," said Womack. "What we can learn from them is how they went at their industry. They didn't just go through channels and try to

be like everybody else. They came in and knocked over an entire establishment with a smile on their faces."

Womack is also no stranger to the fiction genre—his four published novels include *John Doe No. 2* and *the Dreamland Motel* (2010), an FBI thriller, *The Restaurant at the End of the World* (2012), a fictional retelling of the restaurant on the top floors of the Twin Tower's North Tower, the suspenseful *Playing the Angel* (2013), and his most recent one, *I Am Lemonade Lucy!* (2019), about a Muslim girl who moves to an unfamiliar town for college and the friendships that ensue.

"When it comes to the writing, I like to do it very quickly

because I want to feel the energy of the story," said Womack of his writing process. "I've always been fascinated by books and words. [Writing] is just a remarkable way to experience the world."

He continued, "[*I am Lemonade Lucy!*] was my attempt at young adult fiction, and I'm proud of it. I think it's like the John Lennon book in the sense that I wanted to put a certain level of energy in it so that it has a forward momentum. Those are the kinds of books that I want to read."

"It's head-spinning how prolific he is," said Joe Rapolla, Specialist Professor and Chair of the Music and Theatre Arts Department. "Between book

projects, articles and interviews, Womack maintains a constant stream of scholarly output. He manages all this while developing programs that create opportunities for students, colleagues and the entire Monmouth University community. His personable manner is engaging to all audiences, and with the shifting of events online, that audience has grown boundlessly."

"After knowing him as a teacher and friend for many years, I can say without a doubt he is one of the brightest minds I've come across in my academic journey," said Mark Rodriguez, a Monmouth alum who was a student of Womack's before becoming a teaching assistant for his Beatles course.

He continued, "His sharp wit and extensive knowledge combine to create a fun, lively, and engaging academic setting in his classroom. I've read several of his books, and his ability to write both creatively and informatively is unmatched. Not to mention, he has personally guided me through many academic and life decisions; he is my most trusted confidant and mentor."

Womack's next project consists of co-writing another music-related biography about the making of two legendary albums from the 1970s—George Harrison's *All Things Must Pass* and Eric Clapton's *Layla*.

"I love music in the same way we disappear into a beautiful novel," said Womack. "It's just a different kind of world. I like being in those places."

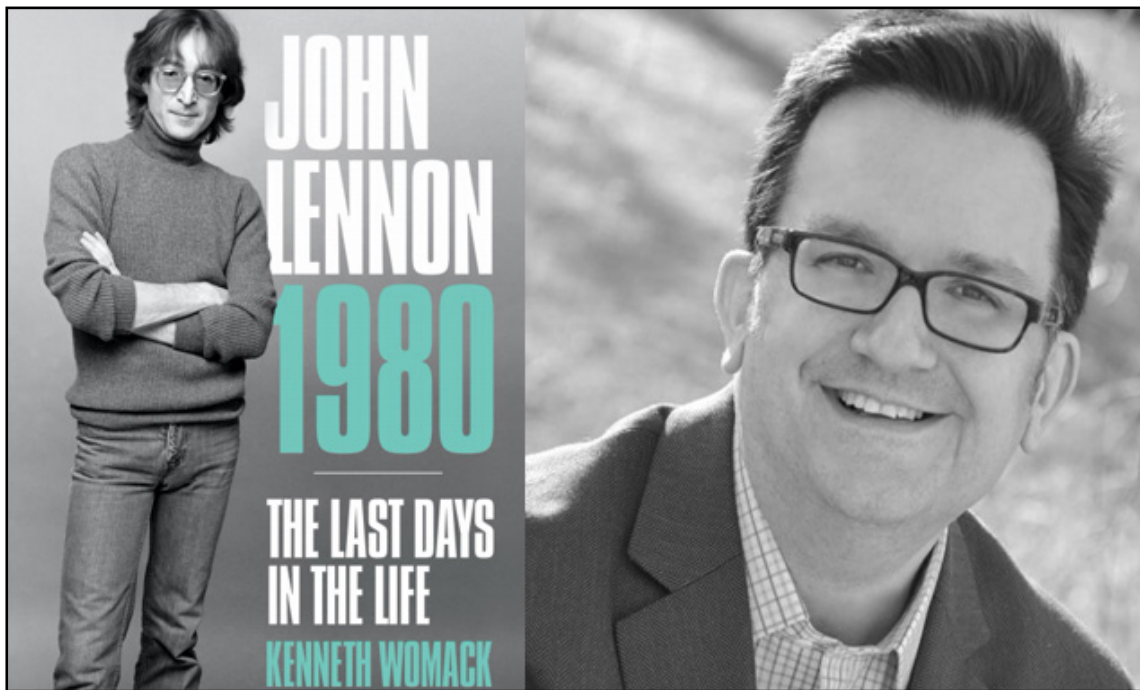


PHOTO COURTESY of Ken Womack

PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth University

Professor, writer, and Beatles connoisseur Ken Womack Ph.D. published a new book on John Lennon's comeback from his self-imposed retirement the months before his death in 1980.



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Safe Campus Living During COVID-19

MATTHEW CUTILLO
MANAGING/ NEWS/ LIFESTYLES EDITOR

When the University announced its plan to reopen and allow for students to return to the dorms, naturally, questions arose as to the safety of doing so. Traditionally starting semesters in the fall, New Jersey has had the luxury of observing how other schools handled the global pandemic, on campus and off. The Tampa Bay Times recently reported the University of Tampa had drawn big COVID-19 numbers amongst its residential students, despite being a small private school like Monmouth University.

When a student makes the decision to return to campus living, it comes with a multitude of issues and concerns that must be addressed. For one, how at risk can you actually become? For this answer, we can turn to the Monmouth COVID-19 Dashboard. Updated daily by 4 p.m., the dashboard tracks confirmed COVID-19 cases among employees working on campus, residential students and non-residential students, as well as the amount of University-sponsored beds occupied by students currently in isolation or quarantine.

“Based on the most recent test results, including self-reported and university-conducted testing, today we are reporting 36 new confirmed cases,” President Leahy stated to the Monmouth community in an email sent on Monday, Sep. 28. “While the overall numbers are still small relative to our campus population, it is a notable increase over the 39 total confirmed cases reported on Friday, September 25. While we continue to monitor the situa-

tion closely, we are fortunate that none of the confirmed cases has resulted in hospitalization. Moreover, we have seen no evidence of transmission of the virus from students to faculty or staff members. As of today, we have not identified any confirmed cases among graduate students.”

In response to the rise in cases, the University has “immediately” expanded its contact tracking efforts and have increased the use of strategic surveillance testing, Leahy said. The implementation of additional health and safety measures are to be expected soon, following the conversation Leahy had with the public health official from the Monmouth Regional Health Commission, as well as faculty, staff and student leadership on campus.

In order to wade the waters of the COVID-19 pandemic during your time living on the University campus, it is important to establish a relationship of mutual trust and respect between

you and your roommates. For starters, establish the strangers you are comfortable interacting with on a daily basis. Who can and cannot enter your vicinity, whether or not they have permission from your roommate? If your roommate is the type to go out to bars and restaurants, have a discussion regarding risks and concerns related to the subject. If your roommate acts in a way that makes you feel uneasy or unsafe, speak your mind about it, and hopefully enough mutual respect has been established that they won’t endanger the integrity of the house you two share.

Not being afraid to share responsibilities during the pandemic is important to a healthy roommate relationship as well. “I strongly urge all members of the campus community to reaffirm their commitment to personal health and safety practices in order to keep Monmouth Strong,” Leahy said in his email to the University community. Estab-

lishing a frequent cleaning routine of common surfaces utilized by all members of the house is a good practice, not only for the immediate benefits of having a more healthy home, but it helps to remind the person cleaning about the severity of the pandemic.

You should also attempt to minimize the amount of time spent in the same room as your roommate. Common areas such as the living room and kitchen should be used more sparingly than before the pandemic in order to maximize the odds of not contracting the virus.

As new cases rise in and around campus, it is also important to have some type of contingency plan in place, should a time come in which you must move to a new location. Share the COVID-Dashboard with friends and family members you could possibly move in with if the University were to transition fully remote. However, even if the University were not to cancel, you could still

leave the dorm for a variety of other reasons.

“Right now we have over 1350 students who are living with us on campus, which is about 66 percent of our housing being utilized for the fall semester,” Mary Anne Nagy, Vice President for Student Life said in an open call aimed to help students understand the University’s fall reopening plan. “We do have students who have deferred their housing contracts to the spring, but many of them have decided to defer, not to cancel those contracts.”

Any students who are dissatisfied “...at any point in the semester” with their on-campus housing experience will be allowed to leave housing and receive a refund on a “prorated basis” for any unused portion of room and board from that point until the end of the semester, Nagy said.

“If a student does not decide to start with us and instead wants to defer their housing to the spring, we will guarantee that their room, their building, and their roommate will remain intact for them to come to us in the spring,” Nagy said.

Damian Warchol, a sophomore communications major who lives in on-campus housing, feels as though he has established a good sense of mutual understanding and respect between him and his roommate.

“At the end of the day, he understands what he does will also affect me, and I feel the same way towards him,” Warchol said. “We both agreed not to go to any parties, bars, or anything like that. We weren’t the type of people to do that in the first place, but now with [the Coronavirus], we’re doubly not doing it.”



Over 1350 students live on campus this semester.

PHOTO COURTESY of Anthony DePrimo

Adorable Adoptables

Betty Blep



Female!

Eleven years old & very affectionate!

Hannah



Female!

Three years old & loves long walks!

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Artists vs. Spotify: CEO Encourages More Music from Artists

GRACE ENRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Spotify has been in the spotlight continually this month. From employees trying to get complete editorial control over podcasts to CEO's angering artists, there has been quite some backlash toward the company as a whole. Is said backlash justified? You decide.

Daniel Ek, co-founder and CEO the music streaming service Spotify, stirred up the discussion of changing the pay formula for artists. He gave an interview with the website Music Ally, discussing the impact COVID-19 has had on the music industry. With a large portion of incomes coming from live touring and shows, there has obviously been a decrease in the money being brought in, especially for artists themselves.

Because of this lack of revenue, artists have had to turn almost entirely to streaming services to profit off their music.

Ek states in his interview, "I feel, really, that the ones that aren't doing well in streaming are predominantly people who want to release music the way it used to be released." He goes on to say, "You can't record music once every three to four years and think that's going to be enough."

Professor of music and theatre arts Professor Mike Flannery said about Daniel Ek's comment, "A quote like that is very revealing about how music is viewed by the companies that profit from it. What Ek is saying here is that it's not the fault of the streaming royalties that Spotify doles out (.0035 cents per stream on average) to its artists that keeps them from making a living with their music, it's that they're not churning out enough material to constantly engage their fans in the current music marketplace. In other words, 'It's not me, it's you.'"

Flannery continued, "It feels like an insult to the care, work, and money that indie artists put into the creation of their music and also feels very out of touch from the way that I've seen users interact with the music that I've personally made available on the service."

Like Flannery said, this comment angered a lot of artists who feel they are putting in the work and just not seeing results. Artists are now questioning how much Spotify pays artists.

Spotify doesn't pay artists per stream. Instead, the company takes all the money earned from subscriptions and advertising and puts it into one pie. It uses some formula to di-



IMAGE TAKEN from CNBC
Spotify CEO Daniel Ek stated that artists need to release more music instead of increasing revenue percentage.

vide that pie up between artists. Those who get the most streams earn more money.

Popular artists including Adele, Prince, Taylor Swift, Coldplay, and more are staunchly against the streaming service. Prince famously said, "No musician got rich off digital sales."

NPR.org interviewed Tim Ingham, founder of Music Business Worldwide, a global music industry analysis site and David Macias, president of Thirty Tigers, a company that provides music marketing, distribution, and management services to independent artists.

While discussing the comments made by Ek, the

topic of redistribution of money came up. Macias offered a possible solution: "Perhaps splitting up the pie where our \$10/month goes proportionately out to the artists that we've listened to might help even the playing field."

Similar to waiters and waitresses pooling tips, it doesn't seem fair that the money being made off an individual's music isn't going directly to that individual.

Flannery relates to artists who are struggling to live off the money made from streaming, stating, "Consider my highest streaming song, 'Tuck Me In.' It's a kid's song off of my album *Love Songs For Silly Things* that has about 130,000

streams (that's about \$450 of revenue split up over a few years) now, for some reason, even though that song gets played a lot, our next most popular song has 11,000 streams (\$38.50 in Spotify money) and it isn't even on the same album as 'Tuck Me In.'"

130,000 streams, and the payout Flannery received is \$450. That is \$0.00346/stream. It would take about 300 streams of 'Tuck Me in' to equal \$1. However, that money is split between all the personnel who own rights to the music, the producers, and after Spotify takes its cut.

Not only are streaming services important in a world of technology, but seeming as though we may be stuck with COVID-19 for a while, it is crucial that artists can find some sort of income from their music.

Daniel Ek may be right that only putting out music out every couple of years isn't going to do the trick, however, the debate over how much artists make from services like Spotify is a continuing conversation.

Flannery's advice for songwriters: "Focus on making great content that people fall in love with and want to listen to over and over again with song titles that come up often in common searches."

Eighty Sixing The Kardashians

SAMUEL CIOCIOLA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Keeping Up With The Kardashians is officially wrapping up after 14 years on the air.

Kim Kardashian announced through Instagram earlier this month that her family has decided to end their extremely successful reality television series. The final episodes are to air in 2021, concluding the series after 20 seasons.

A source told *Entertainment Tonight* that there is no particular reason for the show ending. The family is continuously growing, with each sister (besides supermodel Kendall Jenner) having families of their own. It is becoming increasingly

difficult for the family to film as a whole or get enough footage separately.

Kris Jenner recently sat down with Ellen DeGeneres, being one of the first guests to appear on *The Ellen Show* following the controversy behind Ellen mistreating her staff.

Jenner revealed, "It was kind of sudden. I think we were talking about signing up for another couple of years with our network, and suddenly just all came to the decision as a group that the whole family felt it was just time. It just sort of came to us, and we thought, 20 seasons, 14 years, hundreds of episodes and lots of spinoffs."

After years in the public eye, it makes sense as to why the family seems like it is time to cancel the



IMAGE TAKEN from CNBC
Some of the Kardashian clique from the first season to now, 20 seasons later.

show. Jenner continues by saying thanks to the series, she has incredible home videos, and the family is forever thankful for the endless opportunities the show has provided them with.

When the show first aired back in 2007, the family was a lot simpler; none of the Kardashian/Jenner siblings were married or divorced, there were no grandchildren, etc. As life for the famous family becomes more complex, it becomes more difficult to stay such dominant public figures, eliminating a camera crew following their every move makes for

a much calmer lifestyle.

Since the start of the show, the Kardashians have had their share of ups and downs; plenty of weddings, divorces, new additions, luxurious vacations, fights, and earrings lost to the ocean.

At its most popular point, *KUWTK* had 4.8 million viewers according to Nielsen. That was at the end of season 4. At the end of last season, *KUWTK* was only averaging 810,000 weekly viewers.

Family friend Paris Hilton sat down with *Entertainment Tonight* and gave her insight to the show ending, stating that the

family has built an empire that is much larger than a television show. They want to spend time with their families and focus on their individual multi-million dollar businesses (in Kylie's case, billion dollar).

Hilton went on to say that she can relate to the family wanting to get off camera because she felt the same way when she decided to wrap up her reality show *The Simple Life* back in 2007, the same year season one of *Keeping Up With The Kardashians* aired.

Altogether, The Kardashian/Jenner Family impacted pop culture to the point of no return. The cancellation of their reality television series won't harm their celebrity status or their financial incomes as they concur social media platforms and continue to build billion dollar brands.

As a fan of the show, I am going to miss getting an inside look at their day-to-day lives, but I am happy they are taking the time to focus on other opportunities and their families. Canceling such a successful television series goes to show that major celebrities are only human, and taking a break from constant camera coverage is essential for sanity.



IMAGE TAKEN from Amazon
After 20 seasons, the weekly glimpse into the Kardashian family will end in 2021.

Are Livestreams the New Concert Experience?

KATHERINE RIVERA
STAFF WRITER

Since March of this year, the whole world has been turned upside down. So many of the things we love to do are now changed, maybe forever. Restaurants were only allowing people to eat outside. This was great in the summer, but now as we reach fall and winter, it may not be as desirable.

Concerts were all canceled and small venues were closed. Another option for concerts has been the livestreaming option. Artists can use social media or other streaming services to broadcast their shows to a big audience, but everyone can stay right in their homes—maybe even in their pajamas. Will this become the new “normal?” Do people even have interest in watching livestreams of concerts, let alone paying for these?

The New York Times wrote a story in July, examining the changing world of concerts. At this time, there were many examples of artists who had used the Instagram platform and the “live” feature to broadcast some music to their fans. It was a more casual feel, where artists were just strumming a guitar and singing. After more casual broadcasts, though, there is the question of concerts in a more traditional way—big stage, lots of lights, back up dancers, the works.

There are some services providing more realistic concert experiences, such as Topeka, who allowed 150 fans an interactive, front-



IMAGE TAKEN from SweetWater

The livestream concert has ranged from acoustic guitar strum-

row seat experience for \$150. The same article calls the experience for performers “disorienting” because they can’t hear the crowd cheering or singing along. Even though the experience for both artists and fans is not the conventional one everyone is used to, there are technological advances that may help the experience, especially if this becomes our

new normal.

An *Insider* article discusses a similar issue where artists want to connect with fans through their music, as they have been able to in the past. There are even examples of artists using these technologies to host fundraising concerts over streaming. Most of these proceeds now are going to different COVID-19 relief funds.



IMAGE TAKEN from Rolling Stone

David Guetta held two livestreams for COVID-19 relief efforts.

David Guetta held one on May 30 broadcast from New York City, raising over \$128 million for charities. He also held a second one broadcast from Miami. These events are now up on YouTube for those to watch if they missed it.

Billboard has provided a list of artists who will be doing live-streamed concerts in the upcoming days and weeks for anyone interested in seeing them. The list will be updated as more continue to be announced.

Lollapalooza, one of the largest music festivals in the world, offered a free four-day livestream on their website. Using archival footage from previous years, over 150 sets from popular artists were able to be watched. Lollapalooza co-founder Marc Geiger has estimated in-person concerts won’t return until 2022. The livestream might be here to stay for awhile.

This has allowed artists to get creative with livestreaming. The Dropkick Murphys held one back in May, broadcast from Fenway Park in Boston, MA. This concert featured Bruce Springsteen as a guest. Free to attend, viewers were invited to donate to two charities: Habitat for Humanity and The Boston Resiliency Fund.

Apps like Discord and Twitch have become prominent leaders in the livestream market. According to *StreamElements*, 9.3 billion hours of gaming were streamed on Twitch in 2018-2019. YouTube, Facebook, Instagram Live, Zoom, and Livestream are other nota-

ble websites make streaming easy for artists.

With all of that said, are livestreams worth it? And how do you monetize it?

Asking students for their opinions on the topic yielded some very interesting answers. 61 percent of people who answered said they would not be interested in live streaming a concert or paying for some kind of broadcast. Most of the reasons were related to *The New York Times* article, where fans felt like they would have no real connection to the artist. One respondent said, “Energy is in the crowd. If there’s no crowd, it’s pretty much watching a music video.”

Another respondent said, “I pay for a concert for the in-person feeling.” A third who voted they would not go to a broadcasted concert said, “There’s so much free content on YouTube. Part of the fun of a concert is going to see it live.”

Generally, people around college age seem to like the actual concert feel—the crowd’s energy, connections with other fans, and the artist and the atmosphere.

Hopefully, if we continue to have social distancing regulations, there will be technology that can give fans this experience. Maybe concerts in small groups, or something else that will give off the energy that people are looking for.

Personally, at-home concerts sound great to me. I can wear my pajamas and eat as much pizza as I want. But I do understand the positive concert atmosphere and connection.

Bella and Edward Return In Midnight Sun

KRYSTA DONNELLY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The year of 2005 created a divide between who was Team Edward and who was Team Jacob, thanks to Stephanie Meyer’s *Twilight* series. The borderline between teen romance and obsession was tested. The fandom around a vampire-human love story blossomed.

Now, 15 years later, Stephanie Meyer has returned, publishing the fifth novel of the *Twilight* saga, coined *Midnight Sun*.

However, this book has a little twist that many

die-hard fans may not be expecting.

Despite the four previous books in the series, *Midnight Sun* is now told from Edward’s perspective rather than Bella’s. Meyer did an incredible job of retelling a story that fans have been encapsulated with, without making it seem drawn-out or overdone.

Readers and fans see a more intimate side of Edward and his infatuation with Bella than they ever have before. From first glance, to the first words spoken to one another, Edward’s internal feelings are both invigo-

rating and unnerving, all same time.

This book, in many ways, is darker than the others. Meyer added to Edward’s story by involving a storyline fans were deprived of from the past series; the challenges from his past upbringing as a vampire faced, as well as his inner demons attempting to accept what is.

Readers will now understand some of the past experiences of his family through the centuries of their immortality, and more of what it meant to be a vampire, and less of the life of portraying a high-school aged teen who is desperate for normality, but no detail of why. This novel is deeper than the cliché vampire meets girl, vampire wants to bite girl, and, you know the rest.

The *Twilight* books were made into a film franchise with our favorite human and vampire lovers. Starring Robert Pattinson as Edward Cullen and Kristen Stewart as Bella Swan, five movies were spawned, unraveling the love story of our young lovers.

Meyer also captured the immediate adoration Edward had for Bella. Fans always knew, and some



IMAGE TAKEN from Polygon

The vampire/human love story returns, but with a twist.

yearned to have somewhat of admiration that deep, but having his own feelings told from his own mind and perspective, well, that just filled in the gaps ten times more.

The immense protectiveness Edward felt committed towards Bella is expressed through a whole new light. This is the furthest thing from a normal love story.

He grapples with the conflict of either loving her and putting her life in danger from both himself and outside threats, or letting her go, making them both miserable. Deep down, he knows which

option is impossible. But, is the other option permanently obtainable? Meyer does a remarkable job of enveloping the struggle Edward is pinned against, and explaining his side through the most honest and raw of ways.

This saga is nothing short of empowering, relatable, and allowing your imagination to run wild. Whether you loved *Twilight* or not, whether you read it or not, you will not want to put *Midnight Sun* down.

Relive the drama and suspense, just in time for Halloween. Enjoy sinking your teeth into this one the first chance you get!

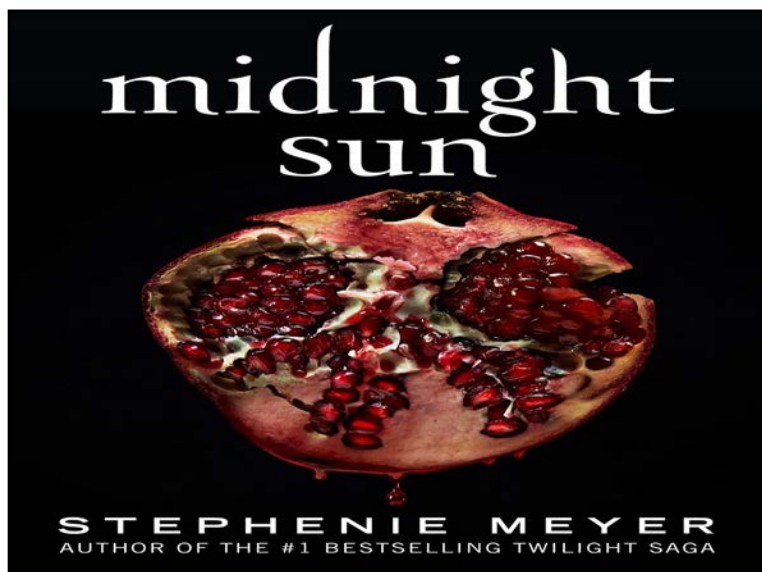


IMAGE TAKEN from Amazon

Edward and Bella return in Stephanie Meyers’ new book.

Is TikTok a Threat to National Security?

GEORGEANNE NIGRO
ASSOCIATE POLITICS EDITOR

President Donald Trump has been trying to make a deal to either ban the extremely popular app TikTok from the United States or remove the app from the control of the Chinese Government, since July.

Donna Dolphin, an Associate Professor of Communication, explained that the official justification of the Trump Administration for blocking or controlling the TikTok app is that it is owned and operated by the Chinese government, which is hostile to the United States.

"Because of the way the app functions, it is easily possible for the operator to access additional personal data. In other words, it is possible for the TikTok app to be used as an instrument for espionage," said Dolphin.

Using TikTok on a personal device is not a threat to national security, but accessing the app on a device that also stores secure or classified communication might pose a threat. "The solution seems pretty simple, don't use TikTok on a device that is also used for secure communication," Dolphin said.

Agreeably, Randall S. Abate, Professor of Political Science and Sociology, explained that there are genuine privacy and security concerns at stake in Trump's effort to ban TikTok. "These concerns aren't 'traditional' national security concerns but focus rather on data security and data privacy."

Like other social

media platforms, TikTok collects data on its users, so "the national security issue here is premised on a fear that the Chinese government may be able to access this data and potentially leverage it to engage in espionage or spread damaging misinformation," Abate said.

However, Dolphin cited a potential ulterior motive for the Trump Administration's desired TikTok ban. When Trump held his first, in-person rally, after the pandemic limited gatherings, attendance was sparse although the expectation was the event had sold out. The rumor is that young people used TikTok to start a movement to reserve all the tickets so the event would not succeed, Dolphin explained, although she is unsure of the rumor's validity.

"The theory related to this rumor is that young people effectively demonstrated their political power and did so in a way that used the power of being digital natives and part of a youth movement. In this vein of thought, the Administration is attempting to shut down the line of communication to undermine the power of politically aware young people," Dolphin concluded.

Abate said that Trump was motivated to ban the app simply because of national security and privacy concerns. "[Trump's] Executive Order last month on this matter sought to ban TikTok based on his concern that the app 'potentially allows China to track the locations of federal

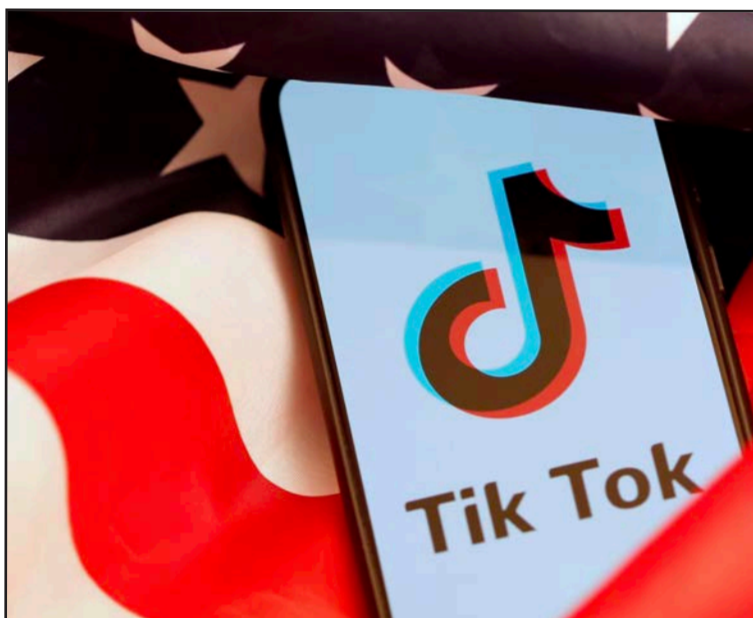


IMAGE TAKEN from CGTN

District Judge Carl Nichols granted a temporary injunction allowing TikTok to remain available for download in U.S.

employees and contractors, build dossiers of personal information for blackmail, and conduct corporate espionage," said Abate.

He further explained that Trump's authority for this response is grounded in the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, which grants the president authority to ban transactions between U.S. and foreign entities. This legal authority also provides the president with significant discretion to determine and declare "national emergencies."

Robert Scott, Specialist Professor of Communication, explained that since people are more reliant on technologies and its services for a wide range of applications, so "Big

Tech" is rapidly gaining power, bringing scrutiny on tech giants like Apple, Facebook, Google, and Twitter, globally, leading to antitrust issues and privacy and security concerns about user data.

Social media platforms and telecommunications companies in particular, have played a major role in this equation, bolstering concerns about espionage, the expansion of misinformation, political sabotage, and hate speech, Scott clarified. There are numerous outside nations and organizations that are closely monitored by U.S. security agencies, including the Kremlin-backed Internet Research Agency in Russia and Chinese tech powerhouses such as ByteDance, Tencent Holdings, and Huawei.

"The Trump administration's concerns regarding these Chinese companies are said to primarily involve national security but are also related to ongoing strained trade relations between the two nations. There are concerns that mobile hardware from Huawei, and social apps such as ByteDance's TikTok and Tencent's WeChat could be used by the Chinese government to track U.S. citizens and government officials," said Scott.

He concluded that they could also potentially be used by agencies seeking to manipulate political elections through disinformation campaigns and hackers looking to collect personal user data, proprietary corporate secrets, and classified government or military information.

Kristen Kane, a Senior Criminal Justice and Homeland Security student, agrees with the ban on TikTok. "I agree with [Scott's] view to ban TikTok as it creates an international risk to the country's national security. However, I am someone who loves the app and enjoys using TikTok," she said.

"I feel there are other ways to minimize these vulnerabilities, without banning the app. One of these ways is having an ally or nationally owned company partner in TikTok ownership, which has happened," said Kane.

The ban on TikTok could promote safety as it will disallow ByteDance access into American users' personal information, Kane acknowledged.

The Implications of Justice Ginsburg's Death

ALEX DYER
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

MEGAN RUGGLES
SENIOR POLITICS/ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg died from complications of pancreatic cancer on Friday, Sept. 18, just six weeks before the presidential election. A replacement for the liberal justice will have serious implications for an array of cases the Supreme Court will hear in the near future.

Ginsburg's death afforded President Trump the opportunity to nominate a third conservative justice to the Supreme Court, Amy Coney Barrett from the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, affecting the way the Court will rule for decades to come.

The addition of a sixth conservative justice could tip the scales on some particularly hot-button issues, namely the Affordable Care Act, discrimination laws, and women's rights. Chief Justice John Roberts would no longer hold the controlling vote in cases often split along partisan lines.

Joseph Patten, Ph.D., an Associate Professor of Political Science, remarked, "Ginsburg really kept the conservative-majority court balanced for a long time."

Ginsburg served the Court since her appointment by President Bill Clinton (D-AR) in 1993. Throughout her tenure, she contributed to decisions that supported and furthered women's rights, civil rights, and the termination of unlawful search and seizure.

"It is important to understand that Ginsburg was for human rights, not just women's rights," said Jennifer McGovern, Ph.D., an Assistant Professor of Sociology.

Some of the first cases Ginsburg fought were for men; she argued that property tax laws for widows and widowers should apply equally.

"She is most known for women's rights because during her time as a lawyer and in the Court, women were still being excluded in large numbers from many institutions. Many of the cases she was involved with opened up new opportunities to women, such as in the military," McGovern said.



IMAGE TAKEN from NPR

Ginsburg's death provides an opportunity to appoint another conservative justice, securing the Courts leaning for decades.

The filling of Ginsburg's seat with a conservative justice would likely have far-reaching effects regarding the very same issues for which she was a proponent, like women's rights and civil rights. "If it's brought up before the Supreme Court for review, the decision of *Roe v. Wade* would very likely be overturned by the 6-3 conservative majority," said Patten, "even if Chief Justice Roberts were to rule against it, it would still be 5-4."

Kailey Monteiro, a senior social work student, cited the first clause in the bill of rights, that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion," so Barrett's nomination is a "dangerous one."

There is nothing wrong with having personal, religious beliefs but Barrett brings those beliefs into politics, threatening reproductive healthcare. "In her position, she holds power that can drastically effect women's access to contraceptives, safe abortions, and more," Monteiro said.

Patten believes Barrett will end up being confirmed before the election, and that it could possibly have unintended positive and negative effects for Trump's reelection campaign. "Trump's pick of Amy Coney Barrett could end up doing one of

two things," he explained. "It could end up energizing his current voter base. Or, on the other hand, something I'm not sure was considered by [Trump], the controversy with Barrett's nomination might alienate more moderate Trump voters and cause them to shift their vote."

From a historical perspective, Ryan Tetro, a Lecturer of Political Science, finds the nomination process fascinating, as it is taking place at a historical speed.

Several Democratic Senators have refused to meet with Barrett, and only two Republican Senators have publicly stated they want to wait until after the election to confirm a new justice. "Absent the existence of a currently-silent opposition among the other 51 Republicans in the Senate, Judge Barrett has a very good chance of being confirmed before the election," Tetro said.

"If Barrett is appointed," said Patten, "the composition of the Court would change for years to come."

McGovern also commented on the open spot. "Given the way that the vacancy has turned into a political battle, I hope that Ginsburg's passing inspires politicians to work towards finding a solution that has clear rules for nominating justices with respect to election timelines."

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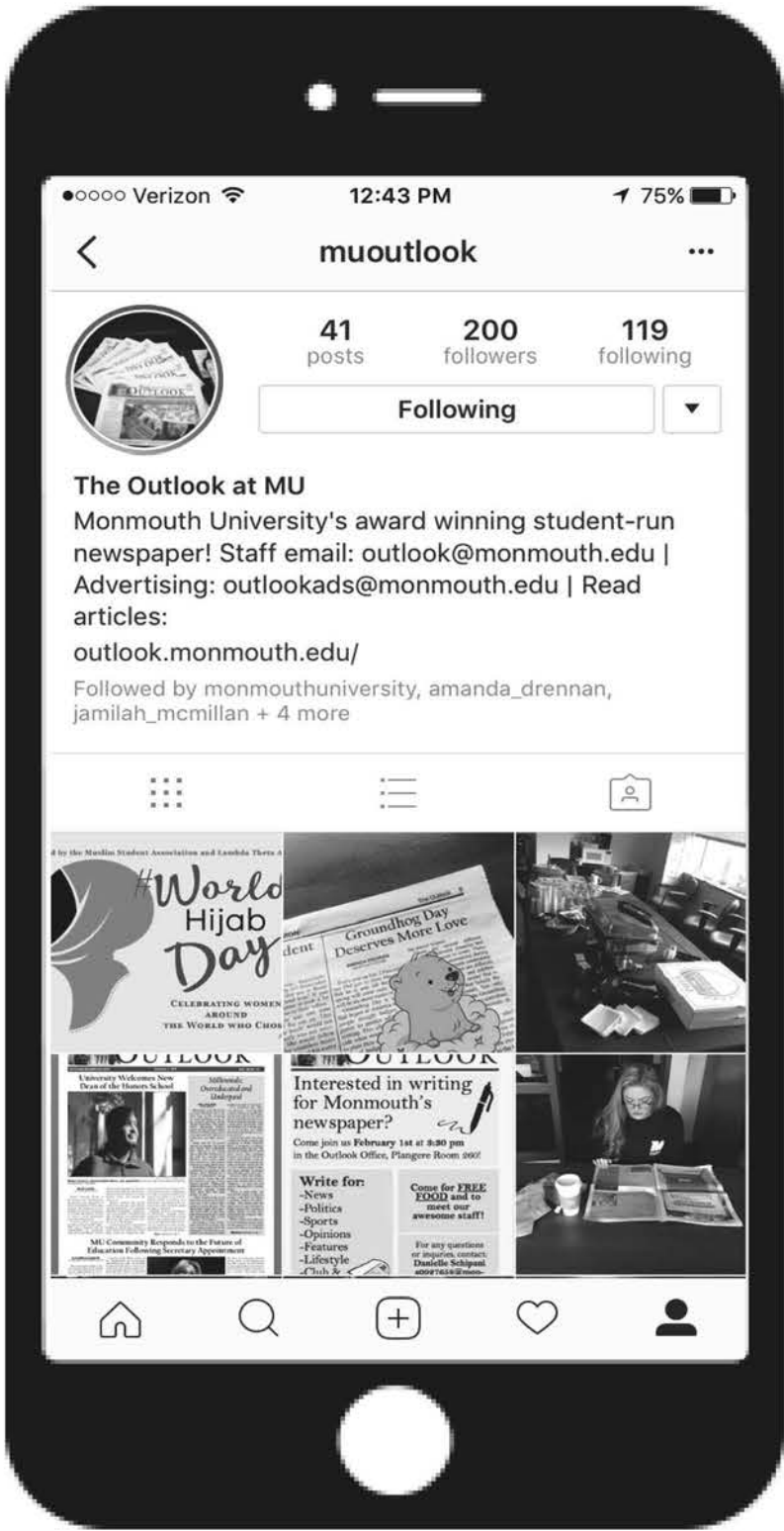
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MAAC Announces Winter Basketball Schedules

JACK MURPHY
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

The Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) has announced both the men's and women's basketball schedules for the 2020-21 season. Both programs will compete in 20 regular season games against their conference opponents.

The men's basketball team finished last season with a

break, the fate of that match-up in unknown.

The men's team will open their season on December 8th on the road against Niagara. They then face off against Canisius for to cap off their two-game road trip to end the season.

It is not until December 15th that the blue and white will host their home opener

Bank Center. After this long stretch of home games however Monmouth will play four of six games on the road to finish off the season.

In case games need to be postponed due to the coronavirus, there are no games scheduled in the last week of February. The MAAC tournament is scheduled to be hosted in Atlantic City from

March 9th to the 13th.

Women's basketball will also be playing 20 games against conference opponents this season, as they play each of their conference rivals twice, both home and away. All of the Women's Basketball games will played on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Women's basketball finished last season with a 5-15

conference record which earned them the ten seed in the MAAC tournament. They defeated Iona in the first round of the tournament but would go on to fall to the No. 2 seed Marist in the quarterfinals.

Women's basketball will start off their season in Connecticut against Quinnipiac. The following game, the Hawks make their home opener against Canisius which is the first of a three-game home stand that also features Iona and Saint Peters before going on the road against Siena, wtheir final game of 2020.

The Lady Hawks open up 2021 on January 2nd when they go up against Niagara at the Ocean First Bank Center. Their next four games alternate from home to away until they begin a two-game road trip against Rider and Saint Peters.

Their final eight games of the regular season will be four at home and four on the road. However, three of their last four games are all on the road. Monmouth's regular season will conclude on March 6th as they will host Rider.

Similarly, to men's basketball, the last week of February will be reserved for any make up games that may need to happen in case COVID-19 suspends them.

Both teams look to start the 2020-21 season on a high note after the previous year did not go as planned.



Monmouth Men's Basketball look to avenge their 2019-20 campaign which ended pre-maturely due to the coranvirus pandemic sweeping through the nation.

12-8 conference record which earned them third place in the regular season. Due to the outbreak of the coronavirus, the MAAC tournament never got underway and the Hawks season came to a pre-mature end.

All games this season will be played on Tuesdays and Fridays and the Hawks will play each of their conference rivals twice this season. The Hawks had a highly anticipated matchup against North Carolina scheduled for the upcoming season, however due to the changes made as a result of the COVID-19 out-

against Siena for their first matchup of the season. After their home opener, the Hawks head back on the road to face Manhattan on December 29th for what will be their last game of the calendar year.

Men's basketball picks up right where they left off in 2020 as they play Fairfield at home on New Year's Day to open up a two-game home stretch. On January 8th, they head back on the road.

From January 19th to February 2nd the Hawks have five games, with four of them being at the Monmouth's home arena, the Ocean First



Junior Forward Lucy Thomas finished last season thrird on the team in points per game and second on the team in rebounds per game.



Senior Guard Deion Hammond will look to further improve on his junior year where he was named All-MAAC first team.



The Monmouth Women's Basketball Team look to improve this year after falling to Marist in the quarterfinals a season ago.

Monmouth Soccer Teams Earn Academic Honors

MARK D'AQUILA
SPORTS EDITOR

The Monmouth University women's soccer team was named United Soccer Coaches Team Academic Award winner for the 23rd consecutive season on Thursday, September 24 while the men's team earned the award as well. This makes Monmouth one of 183 schools in the country to earn the award in both programs.

"We are so proud of the continued commitment our team puts toward their academic performance," said head coach Dr. Krissy Turner. "This recognition is a credit to the players and our academic support staff who help them reach their potential as student-athletes."

All of the teams for both men's and women's who totaled a team grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher were granted the award for the 2019-2020 school year. This resulted in a total of 903 collegiate award winners across the country with 562 going to women's teams and 341 to men's.

The four-consecutive reigning Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) champion Lady Hawks combined for a phenomenal 3.72 overall GPA last season. Even better than that was their record-breaking spring semester which saw a 3.82 GPA in their off-season, the highest mark in program history.

"As cliché as it sounds, Monmouth women's soccer prides itself on being student-athletes and not just athletes," said senior defender Sarina Jones who has been a part of three-straight conference titles and national academic awards. "We take our work in the classroom seriously and are honored to receive this award every year. Our program has a long his-

tory of academic success and we are glad to continue that tradition."

Despite not quite mimicking the same women's success on the field, the Monmouth men's soccer team has remained just as successful in the classroom being honored with the United Soccer Coaches Team Academic Award as well.

"I am really proud of the team for achieving this prestigious award," said head coach Robert McCourt. "This year has been a difficult time for everyone in the world. It is great to see the team get recognized for digging in and achieving such tremendous success in the classroom."

This makes it an impressive ten of the last 12 years that the men's soccer team has brought this prestigious award back to Monmouth campus. Of the 341 men's teams to win the award in the 2019-2020 season few have done it for as long as the Hawks.

Junior goalkeeper Sean Murray has been a part of several of these academically successful teams already and has led them on the field as well as the team's starting goalie.

"It's important to get all the details right both on and off the field and our academics is the most important component," said Murray. "It's something our staff stresses from day one and something we talk about often as a team. We're humbled to be recognized yet again among other programs nationally for our academic success."

Both of these programs will continue to dominate the classrooms as they wait for their chance to get back to dominating on the field. With MAAC play suspended until further notice, the Monmouth soccer teams will continue to prepare for whenever that return to play date may be.



Men's soccer earned their tenth United Soccer Coaches Team Academic Award in the last 12 years as one of 341 men's teams in the nation to win the award in the difficult 2019-2020 season.



Women's soccer was awarded their 23rd consecutive United Soccer Coaches Team Academic Award posting a 3.72 GPA for the 2019-2020 school year.

Monmouth Baseball Alumn TJ Hunt Starts New Journey

ERIN MULLIGAN
STAFF WRITER

Monmouth alumn TJ Hunt was once a young baseball player being recruited and now, he is the one in charge of that very same process.

TJ Hunt is the Director of Scouting and Operations of New Jersey for Prep Baseball Report (PBR), one of America's biggest scouting services and top resource for amateur baseball. With PBR, Hunt is in charge of the scouting process of New Jersey amateur baseball players. As a 2015 graduate of Monmouth University his relation to the Hawks still hits close to home.

Hunt is also the grandson of Jim Hunt, a hall of fame high school coach, the son of Mickey Hunt, long-time head varsity coach of the Ramapo High School Baseball team, the younger brother of former MLB player and PBR National Crosschecker, Shooter Hunt, and the older brother of current Mississippi pitcher, K.C Hunt. Speaking of his early exposure to the sport, Hunt said, "It's just through osmosis you just get involved in it and it was great!"

During his college recruiting process in high school, was the first time he had ever heard of Monmouth and is glad that he ended up here. "It's just kind of a jewel of the state that many people don't know about and it's

right next to the beach," said Hunt. "You're going to college at the Jersey Shore."

While at Monmouth, Hunt earned Conference Pitcher of the Week honors, and was named Second Team All-Conference. His senior year, Hunt threw a no-hitter becoming the second pitcher (after Mets pitcher, Brad Brach) in Monmouth history to do so. He was then awarded the ESPN Capital One Impact Performance player of the week and Louisville Slugger National Player of the week.

After graduating in 2015, Hunt went on to sign a short contract with the Rockland Boulders saying, "It was fun. It was just kind of getting the experience of what professional baseball's all about."

After Hunt's time with the Boulders, he was introduced to the Prep Baseball Report by two of his former Monmouth coaches, George Brown and Rick Oliveri. "I really hadn't heard of it before and the one guy that they were actually good friends with was running it in New Jersey and I literally cold called the guy," said Hunt. "I never really met him before and he kind of took me under his wing."

Hunt eventually landed his current position in 2016, and has been there ever since in addition to being a teacher in Oakland, New Jersey as well.

When asked about his favorite part of attending

Monmouth, Hunt said, "Just interacting with the different people. Just being exposed to different guys from different parts of the state, and even different states all together and kind of learn about how they grew up."

Being from North Jersey and a big Mariano Rivera fan, Hunt added that while at Monmouth, he was able to see what a real Philadelphia sports fan was like, "It's just a different animal for sure but it was great."

TJ Hunt certainly has not given up on his roots as he still follows Monmouth sports. He looked back on his athletic experience praising Coaches Eehalt and Collazo and adding, "Coach E definitely gave me an opportunity to play and I'm forever grateful for that and I'm still here in the game a little bit, I like to say."

Hunt emphasized how grateful he is to have been a Hawk and that the school shaped his future just like it has for so many other graduates of Monmouth Athletics.



Monmouth baseball alumn TJ Hunt was the first Hawk pitcher since current New York Met Brad Brach to throw a no-hitter during his time here.

"Coach Eehalt definitely gave me an opportunity to play and I'm forever grateful for that and I'm still here in the game a little bit, I like to say."

TJ HUNT
Monmouth Baseball Alumn



Men's and women's basketball announced their conference schedule for the 2020-2021 season slated for early December start dates.