



THE OUTLOOK

MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY'S
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Campus Event Sparks Political Debate

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A campus event, titled “Make Abortion Illegal Again,” has sparked a political debate and controversy about free speech on campus in a mass email chain sent to the University community.

The event was hosted virtually by the Catholic Campus Ministry on Tuesday, Oct. 6, and featured a presentation by Kristan Hawkins, founder of the non-profit, anti-abortion organization Students for Life of America.

In response to the event, The Gender Studies and Intersectionality Club sent an email to Monmouth students, faculty, and staff on Friday, Oct. 9.

The email, sent on behalf of club president Alisse Aquino, stated, “We, the Gender Studies and Intersectionality Club along with other students, faculty, and alumni dedicated to women’s and trans+ rights, are alarmed that The Catholic Campus Ministry hosted a virtual event titled ‘Make Abortion Illegal Again’ this week. We strongly condemn this event. Reproductive rights

are imperative to all people who may become pregnant and should not be up for debate.”

The email said that students who attended the event reported the guest speaker shared misinformation and was unwilling to have an open dialogue on the topic of abortion and reproductive rights.

“The event was insensitive and degrading to our students who have needed abortions and to those who may need them in the future,” Aquino wrote. “We assert that

this program fails to align with Monmouth University’s mission of promoting diversity, inclusion and equity for all campus members.”

The email prompted a thread of replies from students and faculty who shared both opposing or concurring perspectives on the topic of Tuesday’s event.

“The Monmouth University College Republicans are proud

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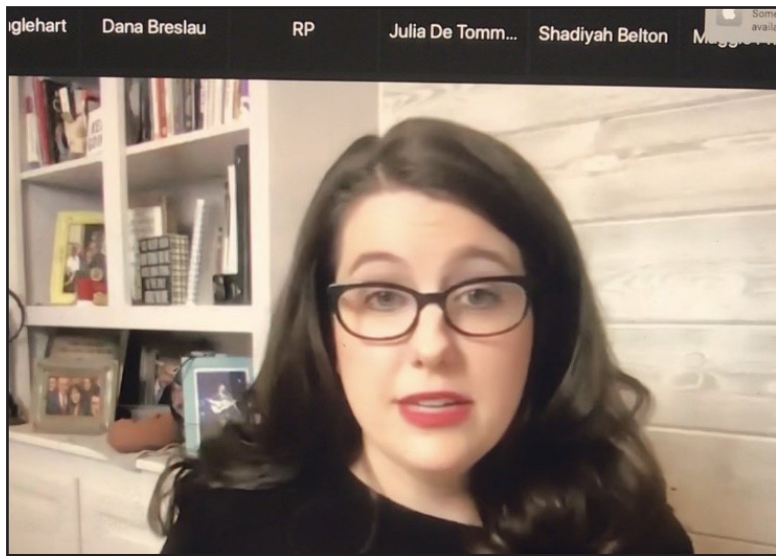


PHOTO TAKEN by Megan Ruggles

The virtual event featured Kristan Hawkins, founder of the non-profit, anti-abortion organization Students for Life of America.

Climate Change Lecture Held Virtually

MEGAN RUGGLES
SENIOR/ POLITICS/ ASSOCIATE NEWS
EDITOR

Will Burns, Ph.D., Co-Executive Director of the Institute for Carbon Removal Law and Policy at American University, delivered a lecture, titled “Antacids for the Sea: The Potential Role of Ocean Alkalinization Enhancement in Combating Climate Change,” that explored the potential role of the ocean in mitigating climate change, on Monday, Oct. 12.

The talk was held virtually, co-sponsored by the Monmouth University Institute for Global Understanding (IGU) and Urban Coast Institute (UCI) to launch their 2020 Global Ocean Governance Lecture Series.

“It’s really exciting to have Will here to help us kick off this series,” said Tony McDonald, Director of the UCI. “It’s an exciting time to think about the oceans; we hear about the

problems like acidification and pollution. But I think we fail to fully appreciate the role oceans play in everything we do, oceans are the lungs of our planet, and incredibly important to our future.”

Burns began by reviewing the aim of the Paris Agreement: to keep the global temperature rise below two degrees Celsius. “However, if you look at the pledges, we are not on track for these temperatures and now project temperatures could rise from 3.2 to five degrees Celsius by the end of the century,” he said.

These temperatures could damage human institutions and ecosystems. A three to four degree increase in temperatures could cause the coral reefs that provide sustenance for a third of the ocean’s fish to disappear by the end of the century, endanger 60 percent of the world’s

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The Resilient Generation: Millennials Bore The Burden of The Financial Crisis, Now Grads Are Greeted by COVID-19

MATTHEW CUTILLO
MANAGING/ NEWS/ LIFESTYLES EDITOR

Millennials, the generation defined by Nielson Media Research as adults between the ages of 22 and 38 years old, have faced two significant setbacks in their already short lives: the COVID-19 Pandemic and the 2008 Financial Crisis.

Few members of the millennial generation succeeded in making economic gains during the recovery after the The Great Recession of 2008, *CNBC* said, and the group had tapped into their retirement savings, began to rely on high-interest loans and racked up student debt to compensate.

Now, with the COVID-19 pandemic looming for the

foreseeable future, the U.S. economy is not expected to fully recover until 2029, according to a report by the *Wall Street Journal*. For the second time in their short lives, a consistent millennial future has been stunted.

“A large proportion of the public remains bullish on their financial outlook despite any hit they may have taken during the outbreak,” Patrick Murray, Director of the independent Monmouth Polling Institute said in regards to a June poll concerning life returning to a “new-normal” post-covid. “That seems to be based on the expectation that they will quickly bounce back.”

As of Oct. 12, at least 214,000 people have died in the United States due to Coronavirus, with more than 7,728,000 cases reported.

Many fields and general ways of life have made the

move online during the COVID-19 pandemic, including the University’s own teaching methods. Employers have begun to offer learning sessions over Zoom in order to better indoctrinate the soon-to-be millennial graduates to a contemporary on-line workplace.

Rekha Datta, Ph.D., Interim Provost & Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, joined President Patrick F. Leahy Ed.D., in an open call to students at the start of the fall semester that detailed the University’s transition online.

“Since the [last] spring semester we have been spending a lot of time reflecting how we can [have] online classes, adding more quality, adding more communication and looking at it from the student perspective,” Datta

MILLENNIALS cont. on pg. 3

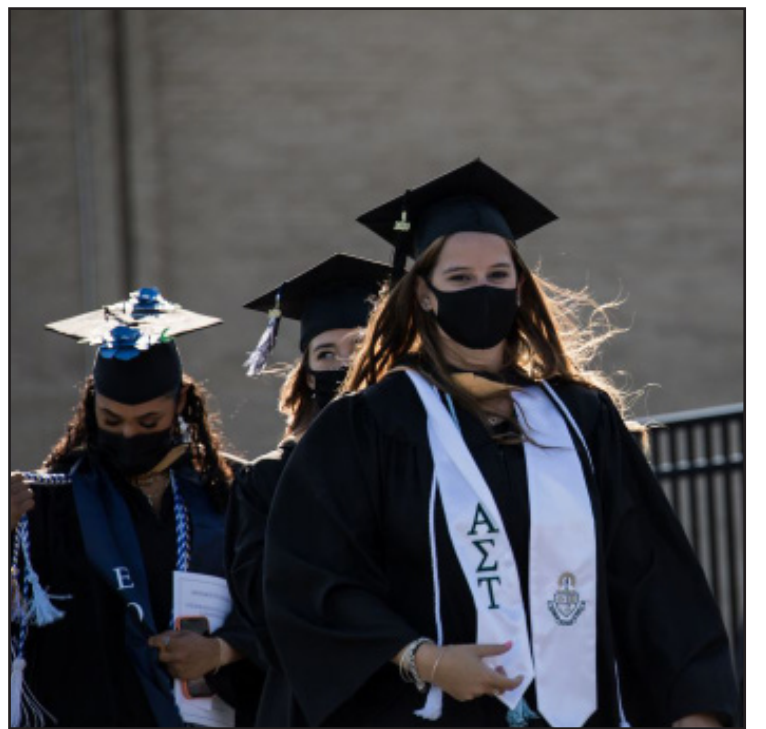


PHOTO COURTESY of Anthony DePrimo

The University held nine in-person graduation ceremonies during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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University Community Reacts to Changes in Job Market

ALEX DYER
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects, members of the University community and beyond are reacting to changes within the job market.

In the current job market, which has seen a shift largely to online formats, students and educators are attempting to navigate the unique situations created by the coronavirus crisis.

According to a report by the National Association of Colleges and Employers in April, 42 percent of employers plan to shift to some degree of virtual recruitment. Additionally, 23 percent of

college career centers plan on going exclusively virtual for “[facilitating] employer recruiting interviews.”

William Hill, M.A., Director of Career Services, spoke to *The Outlook* about how his job has changed since the beginning of the pandemic.

“The services of my office have gone 100 percent virtual due to social distancing rules and other COVID protocols,” Hill explained. “Fortunately, we have been able to continue to deliver quality services and programming, one-on-one counseling and career advising to students, just as before. While I miss being on campus and seeing students face-to-face, the important thing is we are able to fulfill

our mission of delivering the help students need when they need it.”

Kristine Simoes, APR, Specialist Professor of Public Relations, said, “It’s all harder for everyone—grads and those with experience—because of the economic downturn. The first six months of the pandemic were uncertain. Job searches were put on hold or redirected as businesses moved to online; that makes it all different.”

Simoes, a member of the Department of Communication, also explained how students in the field have unique advantages when it comes to the adjusted interview processes.

“The interview process

requires connections to leadership and a well-polished online presence,” she said. “It also commands outstanding communication skills, like recognizable verbal ease. Communication minors will be key to helping every student’s major transition to a career.”

“Most interviews are being conducted via Zoom,” Simoes said, referencing the video-chatting app which has become ubiquitous in the job market. “Zoom interviews require today’s grads to know public speaking and have all the answers to all the questions. They are difficult and most jobs require three to four interviews for each job opening. Students need the

ability to answer questions in well-stated, concise sound bites, which requires communication. Hiring on the spot is rare.”

Hill remains optimistic about his advisees’ prospects. “People are still getting jobs during COVID. In fact, over 600,000 jobs were added to the economy last month, and unemployment dropped to 7.9 percent, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Of course that is still high compared to pre-COVID times,” he conceded, “but we seem to be heading in the right direction.”

“Fortunately,” Hill said, “we live in a very employer-dense part of the country, with northern New Jersey, New York City, and Philadelphia all close by. This helps anyone looking for a job in this area.”

Simoes echoed Hill’s sentiment, saying, “There’s a lot of opportunity for communication grads who want to pursue positions with IT, coding, and digital content backgrounds.”

“It also means cleaning up your social media and focusing on professional transitions to the new fields,” Simoes advised. “Graduates need references from professors or bosses, fantastic online resumes, impeccable writing skills and samples, relentless positive attitude, and presence.”

“I’m hoping for a return to something approaching normalcy should an effective vaccine be developed in the coming months,” Hill said. “In the meantime, we must stay safe, socially distanced, and supportive of each other.”

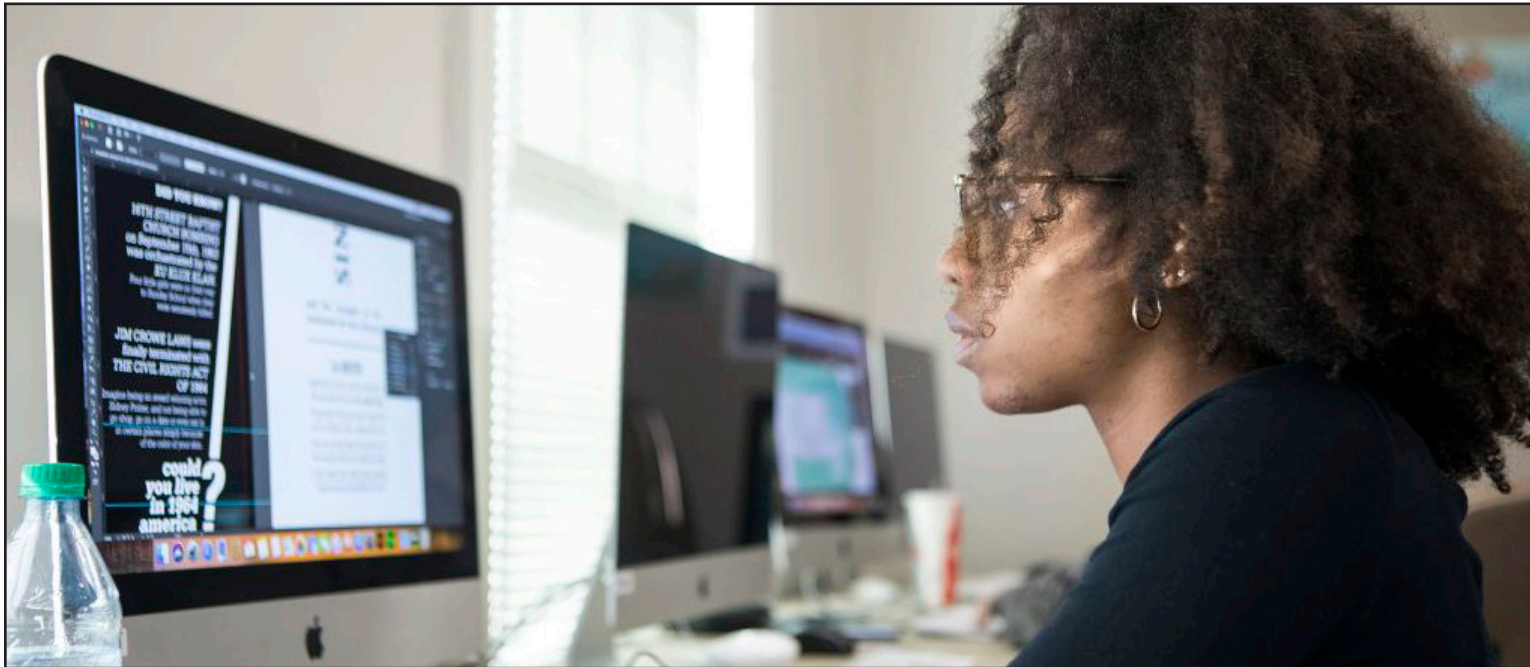


PHOTO COURTESY of Anthony DePrimo
Forty-two percent of employers plan to shift to some degree of virtual employment as the COVID-19 pandemic continues.

Free Speech Discussion On Campus Following Email Chain

DEBATE cont. from pg. 1

to step up and support the Catholic Campus Ministry’s ‘Make Abortion Illegal Again’ event hosted on [Tuesday] evening,” wrote Daniel Quimby, President of the Monmouth University College Republicans, in the thread. “As a campus club with diversity of thought surrounding the issue of abortion and one that promotes free speech, we believe that everyone should take issue regarding the current debate on abortion.”

Quimby continued, “I attended the event to show my support for the efforts against abortion. I found it extremely hypocritical for the Gender Studies and Intersectionality Club, among other campus organizations and students, to say they support free speech yet ‘condemn’ the event and attempt to shut it down via the University.”

The Catholic Campus Ministry promoted this event on their Instagram page (@ccm_mu) on Sept. 24. “We encourage anyone who is interested in learning more, whether you are pro-life, pro-choice, or undecided, to register. We welcome all opinions and want to see you,” the caption reads.

Abigail Miller, President of The Catholic Campus Ministry, said in a statement to *The Outlook* that as a Catholic community, the organization believes life must be protected from conception to natural death.

“We are grateful that Students for Life of America and their President, Kristan Hawkins, provided our students with a factual presentation, that explained in-depth, what an abortion is in

each trimester of pregnancy, what a post-Roe America will look like, and how we can help women and their families post-Roe,” Miller said. “Free speech on college campuses must be protected and we look forward to hosting more Pro-Life events in the future as well as supporting women in crisis pregnancy situations.”

Gerard Scharfenberger Ph.D., Instructor of Anthropology, replied to the chain, “Am I missing something, or do we have first amendment rights in this country? Just because a particular person or organization holds a different view than another group does not mean they do not have the right to express those views, or worse, need that right to be restricted in any way.”

He continued, “I have always felt at Monmouth University that we are champions of diversity. That diversity must include diversity of thought.”

University President Patrick F. Leahy commented on the email exchange, “As the president of a private, non-sectarian university, I support—indeed, welcome—the free exchange of differing viewpoints among our students, faculty, and staff.”

“While the pro-life contingent has a right to host a speaker ‘on campus’ advocating its position, I equally support the pro-choice contingent’s right to demonstrate against it, thereby also exercising their own freedom of speech,” Leahy said.

He does not believe the University should take a stance on a topic

like this, but rather use its position, as an institution of higher learning, to create opportunities for “serious, intellectual, and respectful dialogue around sensitive issues.”

Similarly, Johanna Foster, Ph.D., the Helen McMurray Bennett Endowed Chair in Social Ethics and an Associate Professor of Sociology, explained that “students on all sides of any political debate have the right to hold events on campus, and invite speakers to address the university community on issues of concern to them.” She agrees with the idea that “a university is the place where all ideas, however abhorrent or offensive to some, can and should be fiercely debated.”

Still, there are limits to free speech, like threats of violence

while engaged in heated debates. But not even impolite disagreement is a violation of First Amendment rights, Foster noted. “What we need now is actually more genuine speech about these fundamental issues, which are almost always about power, not less speech,” she said. “Frankly, I rarely see members of the MU community engage together, and publicly, in the challenging debates of our times. We could use a little more of that, if you ask me.”

Quimby believes the Gender Studies and Intersectionality Club’s email raises questions about free speech, specifically their condemnation of the event and statement that reproductive rights should not be up for debate. He stated, “Isn’t a university supposed to be where we share and learn new ideas?”

He also questions the use of the word “misinformation,” citing reports from students who were at the event. Still, he appreciates the resources provided in Gender Studies and Intersectionality Club email, even though he does not agree with them. “I will stay consistent with the fact that the Gender Studies and Intersectionality Club is using their free speech and platform to promote resources, which is a good thing, no matter their position on the issue,” Quimby said.

Aquino provided an official statement on behalf of her club. “The Gender Studies and Intersectionality Club are proponents of freedom of speech. These freedoms include our rights to criticize and condemn the perspective shared in the event.

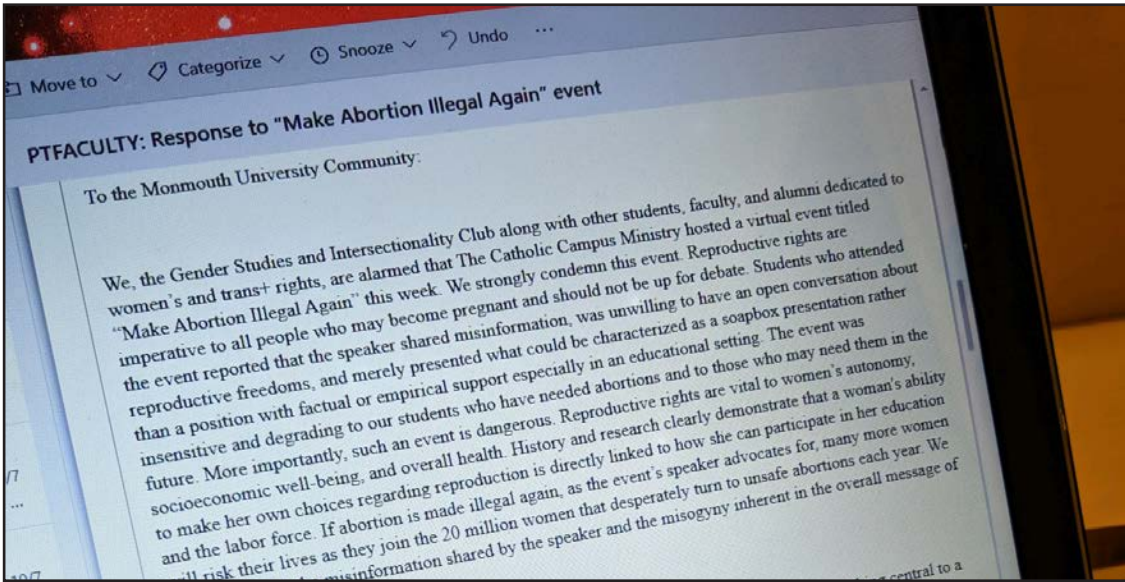


PHOTO TAKEN by Melissa Badamo
President Leahy stated the University should not take a stance on the topic of abortion.

Lecture Delivered on Combating Climate Change Effects

CLIMATE cont. from pg. 1

species, result in a reduction of crops, especially in the global south, and cause disease, Burns explained.

To mitigate these consequences, scientists have begun looking at ways to lessen carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels after reaching predicted temperature thresholds through climate geoengineering, defined by the Oxford Geoengineering Program as the large-scale intervention in Earth's natural systems to offset climate change.

A broad overview of approaches was presented, including solar radiation management, microbubbles, ocean iron fertilization, and ocean alkalinity enhancement. The solutions were largely theoretical, with some studied by way of localized field experiments. Each had benefits and risks associated with it, but the procedure of ocean alkalinity enhancement emerged as a more promising solution.

"Chemical weathering is a natural process that continuously erodes away rocks in our landscapes and sequesters [isolates] all the world's carbon dioxide over the course of millions of years," Burns said. "Enhanced ocean alkalization is a process that's intended to accelerate this by adding alkaline substances to seawater to enhance the ocean's natural carbon sink."

Basically, ocean alkalinity enhancement seeks to increase the ability of the world's oceans to

store CO₂ and can be done in two ways.

First, adding alkalinity to the ocean, using silicate rich minerals like olivine, removes CO₂ from the atmosphere through a series of reactions that converts and dissolves CO₂ into stable bicarbonate and carbonate molecules, Burns explained. "This causes the ocean to absorb more carbon dioxide from the air to restore equilibrium."

Another way to increase ocean alkalinity is to accelerate the weathering of limestone by dissolving limestone in a reactor with sea water of CO₂ rich gases and reintroducing the water into the ocean, Burns suggested.

A beneficial byproduct of enhancing ocean alkalization is that it might address ocean acidification occurring as a result of rising sea levels, but the extent to which it would occur is uncertain, Burns added.

Similarly, studies differ on how much sequestration of CO₂ would occur using this solution. "They have different methodologies, assumptions of the scales at which we might be able to deploy this, and as a consequence, conclusions vary widely," Burns clarified. "One study found we could draw down

CO₂ by 30 parts per million and others have indicated that by 2100 we could reduce levels by 160 to 450 parts per million."

On top of lacking concrete results, ocean alkalization enhancement might disadvantage organisms that couldn't process the alkalinity and it could cause spontaneous precipitation of calcium hydroxide, damaging coral reefs and contaminating food by releasing minerals like nickel and iron, Burns assessed.

For years, solutions were focused on carbon capture used for energy and de-forestation and re-forestation, but they are thought

to be unsustainable large-scale. These issues have led scientists to consider the potential role oceans play in climate geoengineering.

Randal Abate, Director of the IGU and professor of political science, described Burns as having the "expertise perfectly situated to kick off the series."

Burns is regarded as a national and global expert in climate geo-engineering, pursuing cutting-edge initiatives, explained Abate. Burns's research agenda includes climate geoengineering, climate damage, and the effectiveness of the European Union Emissions Trading System.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth University

Will Burns, Ph.D., gave a lecture titled "Antacids for the Sea: The Potential Role of Ocean Alkalization Enhancement in Combating Climate Change."

Millennial Students Worry About Job Prospects

MILLENNIALS cont. from pg. 1

said.

Travis Greenberg, a senior anthropology major, expressed concerns over breaking into a career post-graduation.

"My major is not sought after that much to begin with, and with people losing jobs in all fields, why would I be more likely to get a job [during the pandemic]," Greenberg questioned. "People who have lost their jobs are looking with more experience than me, and with businesses downsizing, they have less employees."

According to the 2020 Deloitte Global Millennial Survey, close to half of respondents consider themselves stressed all or most of the time. This stress stems from a combination of job market anxiety, climate change nihilism and a stronger sense of individual responsibility.

Robert Meyers, a junior computer science student, detailed some of the pressure his generation faces.

"It's always a bad feeling when you're put into a situation that's not your fault," Meyers said. "I'm not saying [our generation] is perfect, but when it comes to topics such as climate change and the economy, we catch the short end of the stick for situations we didn't create."

When historians assess

the aftermath of the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic on society, the response of millennials and Generation Z will be notable, said the 2020 Deloitte Global Millennial Survey.

"Battlehardened by the trying circumstances that have shaped their generations from the beginning, these younger generations are remaining steadfast, refusing to compromise their values—and that attitude may ultimately help change society."

Sixty-nine percent of millennials consider having the option to work from home in the future a stepping stone to relieve stress, the survey stated. Sixty-seven percent

believe working from home enables a better worklife balance, and 61 percent of respondents would prefer to use videoconferencing more in the future instead of traveling for work.

"Obviously, not every job can be done from home," the survey said. "But a fair number can, and to no one's surprise, that number jumped significantly during the COVID-19 crisis."

In the pulse survey, roughly a third of all employed respondents said they worked from home (or remotely) all or most of the time prior to the pandemic. During the peak of the pandemic, that percentage climbed to just more than half."



PHOTO COURTESY of Anthony DePrimo

Half of survey respondents say they are consistently stressed.

Pass/Fail Grading System

SOLOMON MANNING
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Pass/Fail grading system, introduced in the spring semester after the University shifted to remote learning, will continue into this semester.

Lynn Reynolds, Monmouth's Registrar, reported that the majority of the grades that were requested to be switched to a pass last semester were C grades ranging from C- through C+ with 775 pass requests. There were 26 pass requests for grades A- and above, 471 requests for grades B- through B+, and 323 requests for grades D- through D+.

Due to online learning, students have had to face new obstacles. Eleanor Novek, Professor of Communication, said, "Right now some students are having a lot of difficulties managing the stresses in their lives, while others are feeling inconvenienced but not really struggling. Faculty are trying to support and care for our students through these strange times, and the Pass/Fail option is one avenue available to help with that."

Novek continued, "It is too soon for me to say whether that particular option is affecting performance."

Student athletes have found that the Pass/Fail system is a reliable option to ensure they are eligible to play, since they are required to meet academic requirements to participate in competition.

Thomas Bieber, Associate Athletics Director for Academic Support Athletics said, "The pass/fail grading option is a great safety net for our student-athletes who struggle with online course delivery. In terms of athletic eligibility, the pass/fail option may save someone from falling below the minimum GPA requirements for either the University or the NCAA that would render a student-athlete ineligible to travel or compete with their team."

He continued, "The pass/fail option also does not hurt a student-athlete's progress towards their degree, as the same amount of credits are earned in a pass/fail scenario compared to an actual letter grade. Each student-athlete must complete a certain percentage of a degree at the end of each year to remain eligible to travel and compete. However, if a certain course has a minimum letter grade requirement, such as a C- or higher, then that course cannot count towards their percentage towards degree even if it is pass/failed."

Giavonna White, a junior psychology student, agrees that the Pass/Fail system was a reliable option. She said, "I liked the Pass/Fail system because it did not damage my GPA, which was my main concern throughout taking online courses, and the ability to keep some of my grades."

THE OUTLOOK

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Virtual Club Involvement

EDITORIAL STAFF

The University's new COVID-19 protocols, which says that clubs must function virtually until Oct. 20, raises questions about club involvement on campus. Are students more or less inclined to join a club if all meetings are held virtually via Zoom meetings? The Outlook editors reflected on this question.

Many editors point out the difficulty of meeting virtually. "I think it is difficult for members to collaborate well over Zoom," one editor pointed out. "I am always afraid I am going to talk over or interrupt someone else, so I am hesitant to speak up on Zoom."

online. I think it is counterintuitive since most of the cases formed in residences."

However, another editor agreed with the University's decision, because they believe it is the safest option. The editor said, "Students need to be keeping their distance from others and clubs should not have the ability to meet in person for everyone's safety."

"If we stayed in person cases would have increased even more," another editor concurred.

Most editors said that they are less likely to join a club this semester if they only hold virtual meetings, but this may also depend on each stu-

friends and forming direct bonds with the club.

Another editor agreed, saying that they are, "Less likely [to join] because I feel like I won't get the full [club] experience. It really is so sad how the pandemic ruined that for us."

Clubs, organizations, and student involvement are significant aspects of the college experience. Club meetings are a great way to meet new people with similar majors and interests. If students are less likely to join virtual clubs, it may have a negative effect on their college experience. However, undergrads may be more willing to join virtual club meetings than seniors who

"...I feel like I won't get the full [club] experience. It really is so sad how the pandemic ruined that for us."

Another editor agreed, "I do not like virtual club meetings because I do not feel like I am as connected or involved when it is virtual." However, this editor said that they will attend virtual meetings if it is the only option being offered, in order to stay involved on campus.

"I am a little ambivalent towards virtual club meetings since I do enjoy in person contact," another editor shared. "Although hosting virtual club meetings is safer, I feel more united in a room full of people."

The editorial board has mixed opinions on the new protocols regarding club meetings.

One editor said, "I do not agree with the University's protocols to shift clubs to

dent's class year.

For example, one editor said that they are less likely to join a club this year as senior, because, "I am already involved in the ones I want to be and because of the virtual meetings."

Another editor agreed, "This is my last semester of school, so I am pretty reluctant to join any new clubs, especially since they are all virtual." However, this editor believes that clubs should continue to implement some virtual meetings, as it allows more students to join and participate with their busy schedules.

One editor said that they feel less inclined to join a new club because virtual meetings restrict students from making

may already have established an executive role in a particular club.

Even if students are reluctant to join a club that gathers through Zoom, online meetings still have their advantages. Students with busy schedules may find that it is easier to attend an online meeting rather than driving to campus to sit in a classroom.

Generally, the editorial team would like to see in-person club meetings return this semester. For now, clubs and organizations may have to put more effort into increasing student involvement—not only to ensure that their club thrives, but also to foster a rich college experience during the pandemic.

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Contributions must be submitted (email outlook@monmouth.edu) by 12:00 p.m. Sundays to The Outlook office, 2nd floor, room 260, Plangere Center.

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Campus Updates

JOHN PAPAGNI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Many students and I believe that Monmouth University is doing their absolute best to keep students and faculty safe during this pandemic by enforcing mask wearing, social distancing and restricting visitation within the dorms.

Monmouth also provides a testing area where you will be notified within one to two days of your test results. This is very effective so that people know quickly if they have contracted the virus and if they need to begin quarantining. President Leahy has also reinforced new procedures since the spike of COVID-19 cases began.

These procedures include the shutdown of the gym, swimming pool, indoor dining, no more than five people within a group, and all classes are now online for a two-week period. The President also does not want any parents or visitors to come onto campus in fear of spreading the coronavirus further outside the school itself.

After the upcoming fall break, President Leahy plans to inform students, faculty and parents on what the second half of the fall semester will look like, and people have varying speculations on what that may be. The student body's main concern is that all classes will return to an all-online setting with no more hybrid courses. While many students wish for in-person classes, myself included, students must think of the bigger picture. Online classes may not foster the best learning environment, but it

is the best way of preventing spikes in COVID-19 cases.

While the school is trying its hardest to limit the number of cases on and off-campus by creating new guidelines and rules, the school also needs co-operation from the students to not gather in large masses. The primary reason that the spike happened two weeks ago was because of large gatherings with one or two people who had COVID-19 and unknowingly spread it to others.

Many students feel that some of the rules that Monmouth has set in place are unreasonable and should be reconsidered. One of those rules being every time you step foot outside your room you have to wear a mask. Students feel that when they enter their dorms, that they should be allowed to take their masks off as if they were entering their house.

Another rule that students want the school to reconsider is the access to lounges in their residence halls. Students wish to hang out with their roommates in the comfort of their own building and not be watched or told that they are doing something wrong. I think the school should allow the opening of the lounges but still enforce social distancing.

We all need to do our part and wear our masks, keep a social distance from others, and get tested if we feel sick or come in contact with someone who has tested positive. To get back to our normal campus operations and have normal classes we must all play it safe and look out for others until the pandemic has passed.

Megan's Recovery from COVID-19

SAMUEL CIOCIOLA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As temperatures begin to drop and flu season creeps up on us, many are concerned about the rise of coronavirus cases. Monmouth University is currently operating entirely remotely as cases within our community continue to rise. With the recent spike in cases in Monmouth and Ocean County, many are anxious about what is to come for the remainder of the cold and flu season.

Former Monmouth University student Megan Corbet attended a graduation party just a few weeks ago to celebrate a friend's graduation achievement. Just a few days later, she got a text from the host that someone at the event tested positive for COVID-19. Megan and the friends she drove to the party with all ended up testing positive for COVID-19.

I spoke with Megan about her experience with this controversial and deadly virus. She said, "To be honest, I would have never known I even had it until my friend told me someone tested positive at her graduation party. However, I had been really tired ever since her party but I figured I was just having a long hangover."

This is very common for young adults as they fail to differentiate COVID-19 symptoms with the common cold, allergies, or even a hangover.

Megan went on to say, "The day after I got tested

I had a slight fever and was still pretty tired. My results came back positive and the hardest part was staying isolated for the next ten days because I really felt fine."

Megan's story with coronavirus is very similar to other 20-something-year-olds' stories. Young healthy adults tend to have minimal symptoms from the virus, causing them to think that COVID-19 is nothing to be scared.

It is important to acknowledge that not everyone is as healthy as people in their twenties, and coronavirus still brings a huge risk for people who are older.

It is vital to communicate positive results to people you have been around in order to prevent the spread of the virus to our elders or to those with underlying health risks.

As Megan said, she would have never even thought to get tested without the heads up from her friend. This virus is very tricky to comprehend, but we all must do our part to get out of this pandemic.

Some may be embarrassed or scared to tell friends about positive results, but it is mandatory to do so.

Imagine if Megan's friend never texted her or anyone at the party about the positive case? Multiple asymptomatic coronavirus carriers would have been walking around with no clue at all that they were spreading the virus. During these scary times, communication about health complications is crucial.

Luckily, everyone else in



IMAGE COURTESY of Megan Corbet
Pictured is Megan Corbet, a recent graduate from Monmouth University, who attended a graduation party and came into contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19.

Megan's household tested negative for the virus. She took the time to catch up on Netflix shows, prepare for her upcoming job as an accountant, and spent some quality time with her dog.

This is why it is so important for Monmouth students to be careful about hanging out in large groups or going to parties because you never know who has been exposed to the virus. We all want to be out having fun right now socializing with others but we need to play it safe.

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Dr. Gac-Artigas Publishes Article on the Implications of Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s Death

DENISSE QUINTANILLA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Priscilla Gac-Artigas, Ph.D., Professor of Spanish and Latin American Literature in the Department of World Languages and Cultures, recently published an article in *ViceVersa* Magazine about late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. The article, titled “Our Pledge to Ruth Bader Ginsburg,” begins with a personal anecdote, includes a discussion as to how the Judge’s death became politicized, and explains the impact Ginsburg’s seat in the Supreme Court can have on future generations.

She concludes the piece with a call to action for readers to fight for justice and equality to honor Ginsburg’s memory. She dedicated the article to her daughter, granddaughters and daughter-in-law.

“It was not only a desire, but a need, to write the piece,” said Gac-Artigas. “What inspired me to write this piece was the desire to protect and to advocate for the selection of a Judge that will apply justice the way [Ruth Bader Ginsburg] did it—a color, class, gender blind, unbiased justice with the interest of the ‘less fortunate’ in mind, and not think-

ing of political gains”.

She continued, “What prompted me to write it was the indignation for what Democrats and Republicans made of it, each one trying to gain political benefit from it, not really thinking on what a Judge of the Supreme Court should be.”

Gac-Artigas wrote the piece in both Spanish and English, since her message was intended for both communities. “The impact that RBG’s death can have in our society will affect all of us not only a particular group and the only thing that can help us will be to present a united front,” she said. “It is a matter of pride to write in Spanish and to show younger generations of Hispanics the importance of being bilingual, of keeping alive your heritage language and culture.”

Not only is it a sense of pride, but, “The Hispanic population represents 18 percent of the population of the US,” she said. “Nevertheless, its degree of representation in the economic, social and political life does not correspond to that percentage.”

She continued, “If we want things to change, we need to present a unified front with a clear agenda—and that agenda needs to include the demand of rights for the

DREAMERS, and for the 11 million undocumented immigrants, most of them living, working and paying taxes in the US for more than 20 or 30 years.”

Gac-Artigas believes that Americans need to support the election of local, regional and national officials with values like Ginsburg’s in order to create change.

“As a woman and committed advocate for all human rights, I knew that I should speak out; not doing it would have been cowardice,” she said.

Gac-Artigas has contributed to *ViceVersa* Magazine since 2017, which is a publication that promotes Latin American talent and excellence, according to the magazine’s LinkedIn page.

Other articles she has written for the magazine cover literature, politics and culture, which relates to the courses she teaches at Monmouth University.

“I always try to instill in my students the respect of others and the importance of speaking against racism, discrimination, or any kind of injustice, and standing for their rights,” she said.

Alumna Michelle Iannelli ’20, who majored in Spanish, took various courses with Gac-Artigas. “She is one of the most provoking professors and she is so passion-



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth University

Dr. Gac-Artigas, Professor of Spanish and Latin American Literature, found inspiration for the article from her passion for advocating for justice and equality.

ate about what she teaches, in hopes that it will rub off on her students,” said Iannelli. “I feel like I became a more well-rounded, better individual who elaborately thinks about the problems of other people in the world.”

Another former student of Gac-Artigas who majored in Spanish, Karla Avila ’20, felt honored to learn from her. Avila said, “For me, Dr. Gac-Artigas represents hard work, dedication, respect, and passion for her work... [she] encourages future generations like myself and the ones that will come after to

create change.”

This semester, Gac-Artigas is on sabbatical working on two different projects. The first one is a comprehensive journal article and the second one focuses on literature.

The message Gac-Artigas wants to convey is the need to stay alert and be ready to defend human rights for future generations. “That is what RBG would expect from us,” she said. “That is what we should do not only to honor her memory if we really cared for her, but for the sake of humanity.”

Alumna Esosa Ruffin Secures Fellowship

LOWELL KELLY-GAMBLE
DIVERSITY/GRADUATE EDITOR

Political science graduate, Esosa Ruffin ’20, has recently secured a graduate fellowship at the New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE).

Ruffin, who accepted the position in September, said, “I wanted to become a member of the OSHE team because I am really passionate about the policy and issues that this office addresses. I wanted to learn more about how I can make a positive impact for students like myself and give them a voice.”

A native of East Orange, NJ, Ruffin chose to attend Monmouth because of the connection she made with the Educational Opportunity Fund Program (EOF) staff, as well as the benefits of the program.

She said, “While I’ll certainly advocate for the Educational Opportunity Fund Program until my last breath, I am not sure I dawn the title of ‘EOF Advocate’ just yet, as there are many individuals who have rightly earned this title for their extensive lobbying efforts for the program throughout the years...I just try to do my best to explain to people what an amazing access tool EOF is and how it has shaped my life and the lives of countless others.”

During her time at Monmouth, Ruffin was a

Summer Intern for Congressman Frank Pallone Jr., Public Policy Intern for the Council for Opportunity in Education, Lead Organizer for Monmouth Pell Recipients for CARES Aid (MPRCA), Senator for the Student Government Association (SGA), and President of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Tau Eta Chapter.

After declaring her major sophomore year, Ruffin completed an independent study as a junior with Stephan Chapman Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Political Science, on the “Politics of Higher Education.” This influenced her to develop a deeper understanding of this particular field.

She came across the graduate fellowship opportunity while doing research for her honors thesis and believes that education is an asset for all individuals regardless of their background.

She said, “It is often said that ‘Knowledge is Power,’ but perhaps this is even an understatement. In our current social and political climate, knowledge can be the difference between social mobility and social stagnation. The more information and tools an individual has access to, the better situated they will be to improve their circumstance. This is not to say it is the duty of any one individual to pull themselves up by their bootstraps, but rather it is the

responsibility of our policymakers to make educational attainment a priority in order to make social mobility possible for vulnerable student populations.”

Johanna Foster, Ph.D., the Helen McMurray Bennett Endowed Chair in Social Ethics and an Associate Professor of Sociology, believes that Ruffin has a level of maturity, drive, moral, and a distinguishable skill set that really sets her apart.

She said, “[Ruffin] has a tremendous mind for analyses of power, and a real skill at policy and program analysis that makes folks in the Department of Political Science and Sociology proud. She knows more about the politics of higher education than almost any student I’ve met in 25 years of teaching. To tell you the truth, she has insights already that many of us higher education veterans have yet to grasp.”

Foster also believes that citizens who advocate for separation and inequality prevent society from moving forward and coming together. She said, “Inequalities generate inexcusable harm on a massive scale, and included in those harms is what happens to all of us, no matter who we are, when the kind of talent and promise that students like Esosa bring is overlooked.”

Foster continued, “I’m so glad Monmouth didn’t make that mistake here, as it is clear that if she weren’t a member

of the MU community, both as a student and now as an alum, we would have lost an enormous asset to our classrooms, an inspired student leader, and just the chance to get to know a really fantastic person.”

Ruffin offered motivation for students to become engaged in community involvement and take interest in their own education, “I would say you have already begun to do the work. By taking an interest in your own education, you have become involved in higher education. Colleges campuses, and really higher education in general, is just a hub that is reflective of everything going on in the world around you. The more you begin to ask questions about why certain things are happening on your campus, the more involved you will become.”

Ruffin said that higher education specifically has become increasingly unattainable to underrepresented minorities, low-income students, and students with disabilities.

She said, “Overall, quality education needs to be accessible to all— not just the white, wealthy, or able-bodied. OSHE has already begun to address a number of changes that need to be made in its Higher Education State Plan.”

Ruffin explained that these changes reflect Governor Murphy’s economic plan for a ‘Stronger and Fairer Econo-



PHOTO COURTESY of Esosa Ruffin

Esosa Ruffin ’20 yearns to make a positive impact for students in higher education.

my in New Jersey’ as well as New Jersey’s figurative ‘Student Bill of Rights,’ which covers early exposure to college, affordable and predictable education costs, and creating safe, supportive, and inclusive college campuses.

Ruffin is currently working remotely for the office and hopes to learn a lot from higher education experienced professionals. This will prepare her for an aspiring career as an attorney while still working in higher education to enhance opportunities for students who face challenges in attaining post-secondary education.

Misconceptions of Happiness—How to Rewire Your Smile

ADRIANA ZEFUTIE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As we find ourselves adjusting to a new lifestyle everyday from the everchanging COVID-19 stipulations, it becomes harder to focus on the positives (not in reference to the test results) and the idea of keeping a positive mindset. You may find yourself saddened by not having access to a full college experience at Monmouth, but don't fret, there are ways to make the best out of the situation.

In 2012, former President of the American Psychological Association, Martin Seligman, published the novel *Flourish: A Visionary New Understanding of Happiness and Well-being* to promote methods of becoming your best self. Seligman explains how many are prone to fall into a habit of negativity, claiming, "When you're in a bad mood, you're better at 'what's wrong here?'" as opposed to making a conscious effort to highlight the good in life.

By concretely observing the small things to be gracious for, whether it be a favorite snack, a meaningful encounter with a friend, or the completion of an assignment, you will be amazed at the results.

That extra second of gratitude will make a remarkable difference for your overall mood. I know, it is easier said than done—I could testify to that statement, but it is worth the effort. Avoiding social media or limiting media consumption is also linked to an increase in positive emotion, according to Laurie Santos, Professor of Psychology and cognitive scientist at Yale.

Similar to Seligman, Santos found comfort in providing information on positivity, and she

gained immense popularity for The Science of Well-Being course in 2018 on Coursera.com. The course amplifies the psychological principle of hedonic adaptation being a major limitation to our happiness.

Hedonic adaptation is the tendency of humans to quickly return to a relatively stable level of happiness despite major positive or negative events or life changes. Hedonic adaptation is prevalent within social media, through people constantly absorbing posts and comments, creating new reference points in which to compare themselves to, or even feed their ego with by thinking they're somehow better.

Social media is also a threat to happiness because of its contribution to materialism. Edgar Pierce Professor of Psychology at Harvard University, Dan Gilbert, writes on materialism, "Part of us believes the new car is better because it lasts longer. But in fact, that's the worst thing about the new car...It will stay around to disappoint you." Distracting yourself from wanting the next best thing is another method of appreciating what you already have.

Realizing what is already positive in your environment and acknowledging existing character strengths are helpful in promoting a sense of happiness. Martin Seligman introduces the idea of determining your character strengths, which are empowering skills that a person exhibits, that are sometimes unfortunately either unused or unnoticed. For example, my character strengths are creativity, curiosity, and the ability to change perspective.

You can find your character strength through Seligman's fas-

inating tests on ppc.sas.upenn.edu, where additional information regarding the Positive Psychology phenomenon is updated daily. The insight provided through the test is often surprising and helpful to take note of.

Humor, wisdom, leadership, kindness, and hope are also notable character strengths that might apply to you. If you find that one of your character strengths is creativity, have a paint night, sketch a bit, or remind yourself of a time when you made something amazing. Grasp onto your strengths and utilize them as often as possible.

By possessing a mindset of growth and by setting small achievable goals with your character strengths for a minimum of one week, as suggested by Seligman, you will feel an improvement. As someone who has done so since March, I can confidently tell you it makes an astounding difference in the way you perceive life. Striving for the best version of yourself is a necessary habit to integrate into your life.

Positive Psychologist Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi has supported this effort, remarking "The best moments in our lives are not the passive, receptive, relaxing times. The best moments usually occur if a person's body or mind is stretched to its limits in a voluntary effort to accomplish something difficult and worthwhile." So, while you're walking through the campus in this beautiful fall weather, or you're at home drinking a coffee, take a moment to reassess what could be done to better yourself, as minor as the changes may be. We've made it this far during the volatility of COVID-19, so why not strive for a constantly improving mentality of positivity?

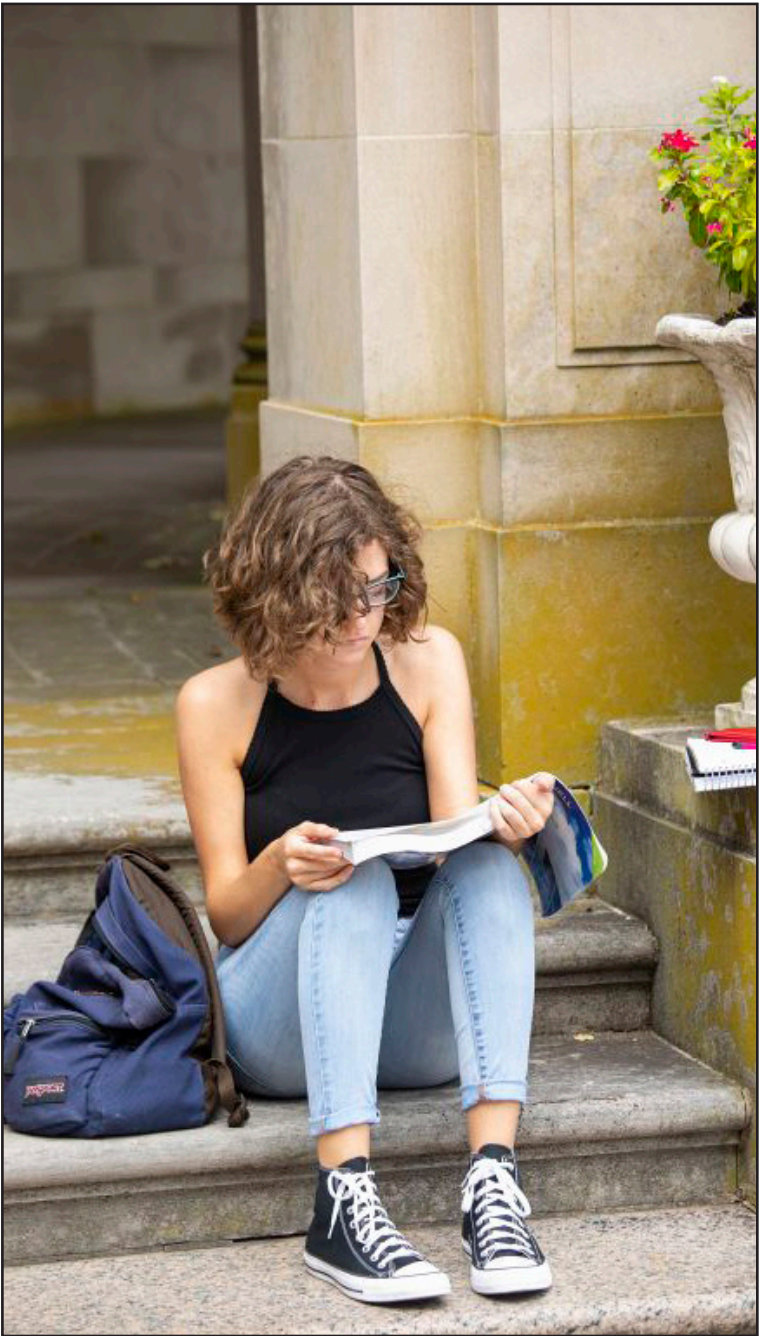


PHOTO COURTESY of Anthony DePrimo

Distracting yourself is key to appreciating what you already have.



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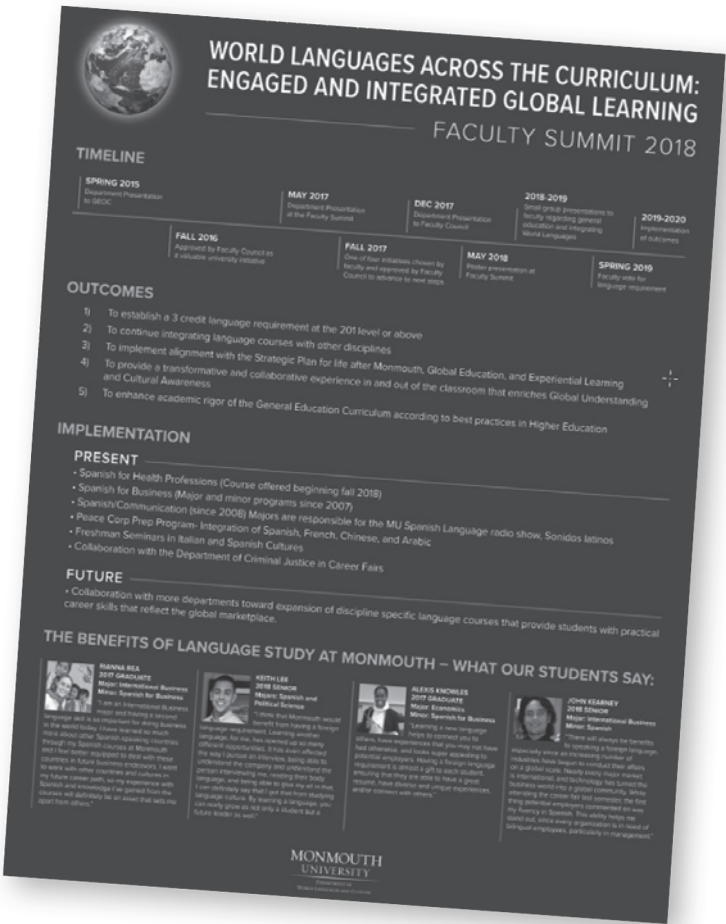
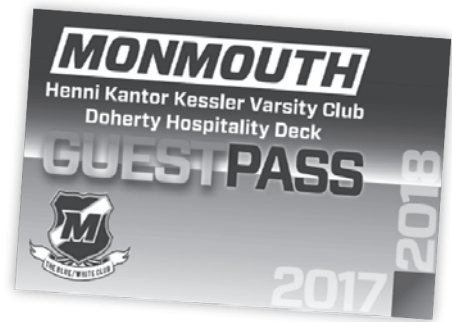
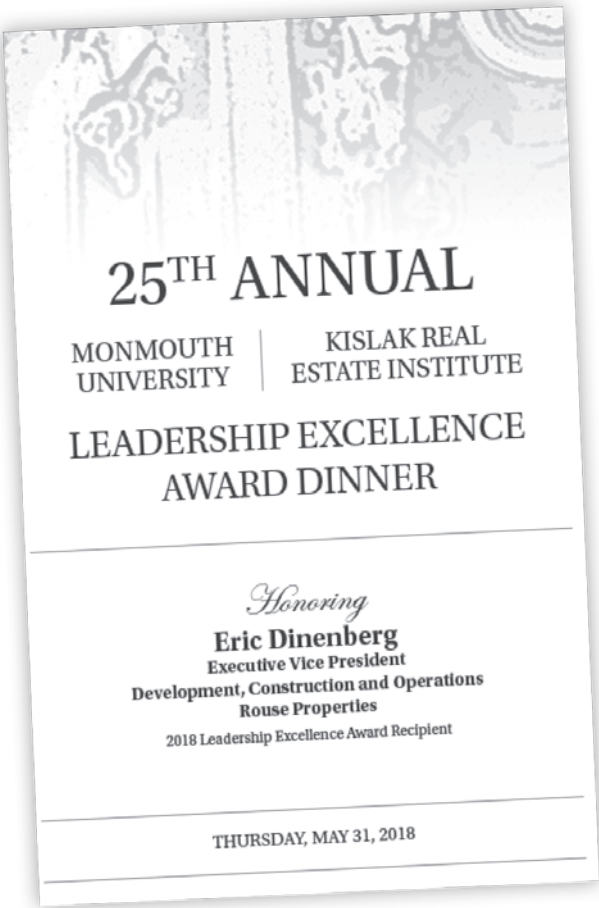
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Books That Will Get You in the SPOOKY Spirit

MELISSA BADAMO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF/FEATURES EDITOR

With Halloween just around the corner, we could all use some great horror reads to get us in the spooky spirit. Here are a selection of novels I've read that are the perfect combination of eerie and suspenseful.

Extremities: Stories of Death, Murder, and Revenge by David Lubar: This collection of short stories is a hidden gem in the horror department. This page-turner includes 13 thrilling tales: there's the story of a tragic train ride, one about a group of students who get revenge on their cruel gym teacher, and one about a group of kids who stay in a haunted house overnight for a cash prize (we all know nothing good can come out of this).

The beauty of this collection is that each story begins seemingly normal, but soon takes a dark twist. It's such a quick, chilling read that you can breeze through all 197 pages in one day. The most frightening part of this book is the quote, "The pain you can feel in your flesh is nothing compared to the pain that rises from a horror you can't escape."

R.L. Stine's Fear Street Series: The author of the

popular *Goosebumps* series we all loved as children also publishes a series of young adult horror novels for older audiences. Each book centers around the same eerie setting, Fear Street, the hub for paranormal activity in the fictionalized town of Shadyside.

There's *The Dead Boyfriend*, about a girl whose boyfriend keeps dying and then coming back to life; there's *Give Me a K-I-L-L*, about cheerleading tryouts that end in murder; and there's *Can You Keep a Secret*, about a couple who goes on a camping trip that ends in—you've guessed it—murder. Stine has been publishing these novels since 1989, so you'll never run out of *Fear Street* novels to enjoy this October.

Gwendy's Button Box by Stephen King and Richard Chizmar: King is a classic in the horror genre, with famous publications like *It*, *The Shining*, and *Carrie* adapted into theatrical films. This time, he teams up with fellow horror writer Richard Chizmar to bring fans a 171-page novella that follows twelve-year-old protagonist Gwendy Peterson.

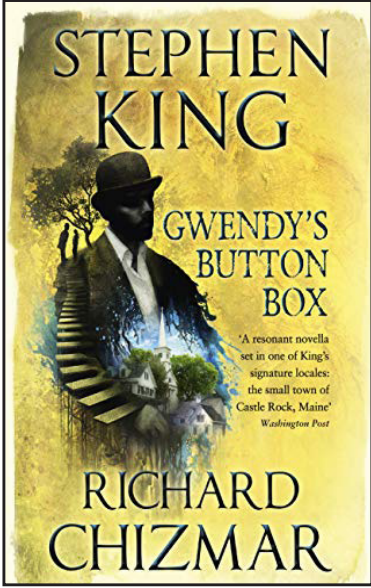
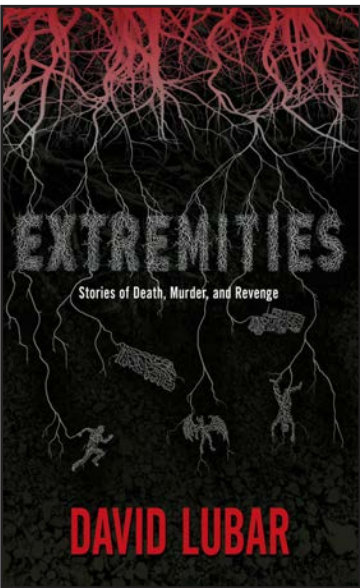
Gwendy encounters an

ominous man in a black coat and a black hat who offers her an odd gift—a "button box"—and soon discovers the mystery of the box and what each lever inside of it does. Similar to R.L. Stine's *Fear Street* series, many of King's books center around a specific town called Castle Rock and the odd misfortunes that occur in it.

Sneaking Out by Chuck Vance: This novel's more on the mystery and suspense side rather than the horror side, but it's still one that will keep you up at night. The plot follows protagonist Luke Chase, a boarding school student who gets entangled in a murder mystery after a teacher is spotted dead in the woods, where he and his friends snuck out to one night.

When his roommate is accused of the murder, Luke grapples with this strange death, which becomes a dark intruder into his prep school life. He brings readers on a journey to solve the mystery and find the true killer—and it's not who you'd expect.

Reserve Oct. 31 for a night of chilling reads with some candy and some apple cider, and, if you dare—dim the lights.



IMAGES TAKEN from Amazon
Reading a horror novel is a great way to spend the night of Oct. 31.

Book Review: *Before I Fall*

KRYSTA DONNELLY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Have you ever made a mistake one day that haunts you when you go to bed that night? You think to yourself, "Why would I say that" or "I should've chosen to go somewhere else" or even "That wasn't the right decision and I knew that."

The thought of a decision you made aches in the back of your head, unable to shut off the persistent and lingering judgment you're giving to yourself. Or may-

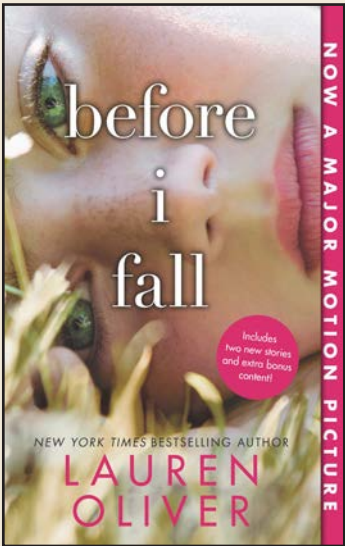


IMAGE TAKEN from Amazon
The young adult novel tells the story of a teenage girl who relives the day of her death every day for a week.

be you didn't even realize the impact of what you had done or said to outside parties.

Déjà vu is defined as a feeling of having already experienced the present situation. It is the internal motion that one has lived through the specific situation and has "already seen" what is currently occurring. Popular high school senior Samantha Kingston knows this surreal experience all too well in Lauren Oliver's young adult novel, *Before I Fall*.

Feb. 12, "Cupid Day," was supposed to be a day of partying, roses and privilege for the ranking queen of the social pyramid, Samantha. However, that is until she dies that very night in a devastating accident. Darkness. Until the sound of the rhythmic alarm tone is heard in the background. She wakes up the next morning. And it's Cupid Day. Again.

It continues to be this same day seven times over again, forcing Kingston to relive her last day until she realizes the faults she's putting out into the world around her, the worth she didn't know she embodied and the wrongs that she has the potential to make right, at her very fingertips.

Oliver did an amazing job contrasting between Kingston's morals and the choices

she makes. As the reader, you will begin to make your own assumptions about her character, but you will soon feel extremely conflicted. Through her wrongs, the feeling of empathy you instill upon her is impossible to ignore. Every morning she opens her eyes is a new chapter to understand who Kingston is and why she does what she does.

As a young adult, you already know how difficult it can be to find your true self. Attempting to navigate through your peers, not wanting to be the "odd man out" on decisions you may instinctively know are wrong. For most of Kingston's life, she's been the girl to light up the room she walks into. The "queen-bee" of the hallways in school. She's been the girl shadowing the attitudes and bullying of her friend group.

Oliver centers her novel around just one question: If you had just one day to do over and make better choices, would you? Would you let go of the immature and disrespectful boyfriend you've latched on too for sake of popularity, and instead acknowledge and show interest in the nice guy who you've written off for so long?

Would you treat the quiet, timid girl sitting in the back of art class a little nicer?



IMAGE TAKEN from IndieWire
Before I Fall by Lauren Oliver was adapted into a 2017 teen drama film, following the novel's publication in 2010.

Maybe ask her how her day was, or what her favorite season is. Would you really see the beauty of life for what it really is? Would you appreciate your little sister who draws you pictures every morning and not treat your mom like she's beneath you? These are all questions and actions Oliver raises in Kingston's last day on Earth.

It's truly breathtaking the way Oliver relives the same day seven times without an ounce of the story becoming redundant to the reader. Each day spent and each lesson learned is engaging and insightful to say the least.

Before I Fall isn't just a story. It is 480 pages of thought-provoking observa-

tion and examination. It acknowledges the significant, life-altering consequences of miniscule actions, built up. Will Kingston get a second chance at life? Will she realize her wrongs, or continue down the same ugly path? Or is it all too late to reverse? I can assure you, you will not be expecting the ending until the very last chapter.

Before I Fall is now a major motion picture starring Zoey Deutch. The novel, named to numerous state reading lists, was recognized as Best Book of the Year by Amazon, Barnes & Noble, *The Daily Beast*, *National Public Radio* (NPR), and *Publishers Weekly*.

Monmouth Poll: Law and Order Seen As Major Problem

SUMMER CLARK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

MATT FILOSA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The 2020 Election is taking place during a challenging time in America. Currently, the United States is facing three coinciding existential crises: a pandemic that has stretched to every corner of the globe, the worst economy since the Great Depression, and a reckoning of racial injustice that has led to a polarizing perception of the issue of law and order.

To gain a better understanding of American's feelings regarding the topic of law and order, the Monmouth University Polling Institute conducted a nationwide survey of 867 adults in an effort to analyze differing sentiments across a variety of demographics.

The data concluded that 65 percent of Americans view law and order as a major problem, compared to the 25 percent that see it as a minor one, and the remaining 8 percent that feel there is no issue at all.

According to the Polling Institute, neither candidate has a clear edge on the issue. The results show that 52 percent of Americans are confident in Democratic nominee Joe Biden's ability to maintain law and order, and 48 percent of Americans are confident in President Donald Trump's abilities.

Trump has made his commitment to law and order a primary component of his platform, painting the Blacks Lives Mat-

ter movement as a radical, anti-American, group of anarchists.

Director of Monmouth Polling, Patrick Murray, spoke to the electoral implications of the data, saying, "We've seen law and order rise as a concern among voters in this election. Not just because of the scenes of protests that have turned violent themselves, but also because of how the Trump campaign has used this as one of their messages."

According to Trump, law and order is on the ballot as he has positioned himself as an unwavering ally to the police and accuses Biden for not being tough enough on crime. How-

ever, Biden has pushed back by pointing out that the current state of unrest is a direct result of the President's leadership.

Conversely, Democrats are calling for reforms to policing through a variety of ways, whether it is through racial sensitivity training or redirecting some of the police's funding to social services, while Republicans argue that the actions of police are often justified due to the difficult situations' officers are faced with.

Associate Professor of Political Science Joseph Patten, Ph.D., weighed in, "[It's a] similar time, take 1968 with street demonstrations, which benefit-

ed Richard Nixon who ran on a law and order platform, which Donald Trump is now playing in to. What is interesting is that our culture has changed since 1968, and you could make the case to say that it is working to the benefit of Biden because Trump is putting gasoline on the fire."

Murray agreed, "In key places, like Pennsylvania, more voters are saying they trust Biden over Trump on maintaining law and order. While these messages are playing well with Trump's base, other voters seem to be saying the reason we are having law and order problems is in part due to underlying issues of racial injustice that need to be addressed."

It is evident that the issue is on voters' minds. Erica DelGenio, a senior music industry student, shared her opinion on the candidates' handlings, expressing her discontent with the Trump administration's decisions and attitudes regarding the state of the justice system, and remarked "if Biden is elected, I would want to see the reforms in policing that he's been campaigning on, because Trump has clearly ignored these calls for change."

Both candidates have made their pitch to voters on who will do a better job at keeping Americans safe.

Trump and Biden have denounced the violence that has resulted from the escalating tensions, however their opinions as to why this violence has occurred are vastly different. Whereas the Biden campaign has made an effort to acknowl-

edge the systemic racism that pervades the United States criminal justice system, the Trump campaign has pushed back on these assertions, going so far as to deny the existence of such flaws.

The Polling Institute's numbers do not come without variations in respect to the multitude of demographics that were questioned.

Along partisan lines, the sense of urgency to maintain law and order differs greatly, with 77 percent of Republicans and right-leaning Independents, and 58 percent of Democrats viewing it as a major problem.

Amongst racial lines, the law and order data is not nearly as divisive: 63 percent of White Americans, 61 percent of Black Americans as well, and 71 percent of voters who are Hispanic, Asian, or other find it problematic

Ultimately, this polling data is a reflection of American society today. The vast majority of citizens want law and order, and safe communities to live in, but there are clear divisions as to how to achieve that.

"The possible consequences of the upcoming election will not just be of policy, but also of culture; voters this November will be faced with how to reckon with the long withstanding issues of race and justice that have brought us to this point, Murray said of the data.. "Americans want a leader who will address the issues with proper solutions and can rise to the occasion during this time of strife."



IMAGE TAKEN from *The Virginian-Pilot*
Monmouth University's Polling Institute found that Americans disagree on how to handle issues of law and order.

United Arab Emirates and Israel Sign Peace Agreements

JOHN SPINELLI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The leaders of Israel, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates met at the White House on Sep. 15 to sign a treaty recognizing Israel's sovereignty and normalizing their relations with it. The treaty known as the Abraham Accords (after the Biblical/Koranic patriarch), marks the first time in decades that two Arab countries officially established diplomatic ties with Israel.

There were many positive reactions to the ceremony. Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the United Arab Emirates' minister of foreign affairs, publicly stated, "I stand here today to extend a hand of peace and receive a hand of peace."

In addition, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said, "This is not only a peace between leaders. It's a peace between peoples. Israelis, Emiratis, and Bahrainis are already embracing one another." Since Bahrain and the UAE signed the treaty, Israel promised to end establishing settlements in the West Bank.

"The signing of the Abraham Accords at the White House was important but not a great surprise" noted Saliba Sarsar, Ph.D., a Professor in Political Science whose expertise is in Middle Eastern politics and Palestinian-Israeli relations. "It resulted from a three-year effort by the United States and facilitated by years of silent cooperation between the

State of Israel on one hand and some Arab states, such as the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, on the other."

"What must be pointed out is that the Abraham Accords does not equate to a peace treaty. Israel on one side and UAE and Bahrain on the other have never directly warred against each other. The treaty does not end other ongoing conflicts in the region," he explained. "What it does is realign relations and the balance of power in the region in order to outdo Iran and occasionally Turkey to halt their interference in

Middle East affairs."

Critics of the deal have said representatives from the State of Palestine should have been involved in the treaty. Professor Sarsar believes that the deal could possibly weaken the idea of a two-state solution and slow compromises between Israel and Palestine.

Rabbi Yaakov Greenberg, an Adjunct Professor in Religious Studies and Advisor to the Chabad club, said he was pleased to see peace in the region. He said, "Anytime there is peace between two countries is an amaz-

ing thing, especially countries that never had a relationship before." He added, "It shows other Muslim countries that peace and relationships can be made with Israel."

Greenberg said he has heard positive feedback from the treaty. "Yes, for the Jewish community this is big news, and many are very happy about it. This is, of course, what I hear from Jews that care a lot about Israel."

Shalom Shaffer, a sophomore biology student with a concentration in biomedical sciences, also thinks this is a large step for Israel's future. He said, "I believe

that both Israel and the Arab world has much to gain from this deal. By acknowledging that Israel is here to stay and not going anywhere, they have come to the table to make a deal as the idea of destroying Israel fades."

President Donald J. Trump is being considered as a Nobel Peace Prize nominee due to his policy decisions in the Middle East and Kosovo. Shaffer responded, "What most people do not talk about is the foreign policy of the Trump Administration. This is the first modern-day administration that has not started any wars, just for that he deserves to win. I certainly think Trump deserves this award."

Shaffer added, "I believe another reason why many Arab countries want to make peace with Israel is because of the failed foreign policy of the Obama Administration. The Obama Administration made a deal with Iran, giving them \$1.6 billion. Many Arab countries looked to join up with Israel for cooperative security. This is another reason why the deal was able to be made."

Professor Sarsar hopes following this agreement, Israel and Palestine will continue to resolve current issues and arrive at peace. He pleaded, "Mediation and negotiation would fulfill the spirit of the Abraham Accords and contribute to the actualization of its vision, mainly advancing 'peace, security, and prosperity in the Middle East and around the world.'"



IMAGE TAKEN from *USA Today*
The Abraham Accords was released as a joint statement of Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and USA this August. It marks the first time since 1994 an Arab country has normalized ties with Israel.

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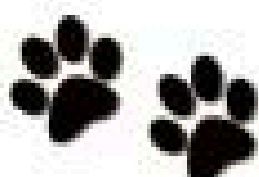
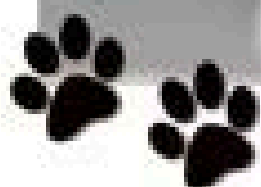
Adorable Adoptables



Betty Blep

Female!

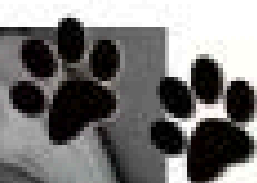
Eleven years old &
very affectionate!



Mocha

Female!

Eight years old &
loves long walks!



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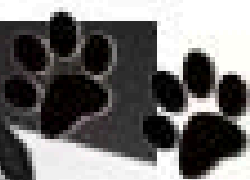
Adorable Adoptables



Freddy
Kreuger

Male!

Two years old &
loves to play!



Pebbles

Female!

One year old &
loves bellyrups!

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Former Hawk Earns National Scholar Honors

MARK D'AQUILA
SPORTS EDITOR

The former Monmouth women's basketball star Alexa Middleton was recently awarded incredible off the court honors when she named to the 2020-21 Sport Changes Life Foundation (SCLF) Victory Scholar Program in late September.

"We are proud and honored that Alexa has been chosen as part of the Sport Changes Life program," said Monmouth women's basketball head coach Jody Craig. "She was a great leader for us at Monmouth, and I'm sure she will be a tremendous mentor in these challenging times."

As a senior last season, Middleton was second on the team in scoring averaging 9.3 points per game. She also led the team in rebounds with 8.1 per game, blocks with 32 and double-doubles with eight. She finished off her senior season earning remarkable All-Conference honors as a member of the 2019-2020 MAAC All-Tournament Team.

Middleton joins fellow Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) athletes D'Jhai Patterson-Ricks of Canisius, Taylor Herd of Quinnipiac and Quinn Taylor of Saint Peter's. There was a total of 17 athletes selected with six males and 11 females from 16 different schools.

MAAC commissioner Rich Ensor commented on these honors that four MAAC student-athletes received. "The MAAC is proud to continue its partnership with Sport Changes Life and would like to congratulate D'Jhai, Alexa, Taylor and Quinn," said Ensor. "The Victory Scholars Program selected four very deserving student-athletes, and the MAAC wishes them nothing but the best as they complete their graduate studies and teach young people the value of sports and academics."

Middleton will now continue her strong leadership qualities transi-



Former Monmouth Hawks forward Alexa Middleton earned 2020-21 Sport Changes Life Foundation (SCLF) Victory Scholar Program honors as one of four athletes selected in the MAAC Conference.

"She was a great leader for us at Monmouth, and I'm sure she will be a tremendous mentor in these challenging times."

JODY CRAIG
Monmouth Women's Basketball Head Coach

tioning from on the court to off of it as a member of the Victory Scholar Program.

"I am grateful to have the opportunity to be a Victory Scholar for the upcoming school year," said Middleton. "I can't be more appreciative to Monmouth for challenging me to be a better player, student, and person overall."

The program will allow scholars to continue to play and develop their sport with a community of youth players who gain work experience through internships and mentorship with local businesses. Middleton specifically will be heading to Ireland to study International Business at the Cork Institute of Technology.

"Monmouth was a great experience in my life," said Middleton. "From the different professors, teammates, and coaches that I encountered during my four years, I've been shaped into a young woman who can persevere through the upcoming challenges that life has to offer."

The experience Middleton had at Monmouth University will prepare her for a bright future of leadership and character that reflects her honor with the Sports Changes Life Foundation. These student-athletes who were selected will spend 10 months in Ireland developing these skills through a business experience with a global view of the world.

The founder and CEO of the foundation Gareth Maguire was quoted speaking about the program and what they hope to achieve during this difficult time. "Amidst the uncertainty of COVID-19, we feel young people need direction and leadership now more than ever, and we are immensely proud to welcome such a unique group to our SCL family," said Maguire.

Middleton will now endure her journey as a role model towards her postgraduate degree along with the rest of the 2021 SCLF class with the help of outreach programs.



Alexa Middleton averaged 9.3 points per game her senior year and led the team in rebounds with 8.1 per game, blocks with 32 and double-doubles with eight.



Head Coach Jody Craig hugs Alexa Middleton on Senior Night last season in one of the final games Middleton played as a Monmouth Hawk.

Women’s Bowling Placed Fourth in Preseason Poll

ERIN MULLIGAN
STAFF WRITER

On Oct. 8, the Monmouth women’s bowling team placed fourth in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) Preseason Poll and junior, Saige Yamada was named to the Preseason All-MEAC Team.

The Hawks are coming off of a great 2019 season. After closing their season at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) Hawk Classic, the team finished with a 54-43 overall record and achieved nine top-25 wins

throughout their entire season.

This year, the Hawks are expected to excel in their 2020 season placing fourth in the MEAC Preseason Poll. Head Coach, Karen Grygiel, spoke on the upcoming season saying, “We are excited for the season to get underway and look forward to any and all opportunities we have to compete.”

The Hawks are adding freshmen, Maria Fernanda Aguiluz, Jenna Lehrer, Madison McFadden, and redshirt freshman, Jamie Phelan. Coach Grygiel spoke on the newcomers saying, “We have made some great additions to our

roster for this season and look forward to competing for a MEAC title.”

Standout, Saige Yamada, was named to the Preseason All-MEAC Team after earning tons of achievements last season. “I feel very honored to be a part of the Preseason All-MEAC Team,” said Yamada. “My love for this sport has brought me amazing opportunities and I am very grateful to be recognized in this way.”

The humble Hawaii native was quick to thank her coaches and teammates saying, “Although this was an individual acknowledge-

ment, I would not be the bowler I am today without the love and support of my coaches and teammates. I will continue to work hard for this team and I look forward to getting back on the lanes very soon.”

Last season, Yamada was named to the Second Team All-MEAC and earned Team Most-Valuable Athlete Award. She has a positive and determined outlook on the polls and the upcoming season. “Pre-season polls are definitely worth taking into consideration, but it is not necessarily something we need to heavily rely on to deter-

mine the outcome of our season,” said Yamada. “No matter where we are ranked, our team will always strive to be at the top of that list.”

Yamada added that she has full confidence in her team saying, “I have no doubt that our team will stay motivated and determined so that we may perform to the best of our abilities.”

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many teams and athletes have been worrying about their seasons but Saige Yamada has continued to have a positive state of mind. She said, “Although we may be in difficult times, I truly am looking forward to what this season has to offer. I believe that the challenges we have faced thus far will only make us stronger when going into competitions.”

The bowler who was named to the MEAC All-Academic Team last season spoke on the comradery of her team and their sense of togetherness saying, “In addition, the chemistry that this team has built over the past few months is incredible and I couldn’t be happier to be on a team with such amazing women.”

Back in July, the bowling team ranked No. 22 in the final coaches poll of the 2019-20 season and earned their fifth consecutive National Ten Pin Coaches Association (NTCA) All-Academic Team Award.

Now, with the poll predicting them coming in fourth place of the MEAC, Saige Yamada and her team are ready to take on their upcoming season no matter what it may look like.



Women’s Bowling was named 4th in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Preseason Poll after a season where they finished with an overall record of 54-43.

PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Former Hawk Vincent Sasso Turned Principal

JACK MURPHY
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Many students have come and gone throughout the years at Monmouth University and have went on to do some great things in their lives. Monmouth alum and former football player Vincent Sasso stepped away from his football days to enter the next chapter of his life.

Dr. Sasso is a member of the class of 1998 and graduated with a Special Education Degree. During his time at Monmouth University, he was also part of the Monmouth football team where he played free safety.

While Sasso attended Monmouth as undergraduate from 1994 to 1998 that was not the end of his educational journey at Monmouth University, “I also attended from 2018 to 2020 and just graduated in August with my Doctoral Degree in Education Leadership,” said Sasso.

In 2002, Sasso also received his Master of Arts in Urban Education from New Jersey City University and later on went to receive his Master of Arts in Administration and Supervision in 2005 from New Jersey City University as well.

Sasso became the Vice Principal of Old Bridge High School in 2006 all the way until 2012. He remained Old Bridge’s Vice Principal until 2013 where he was promoted to be the principal of the school where he still currently works. This year marks Sasso’s ninth year as the principal of Old Bridge High School.

When asked what he liked most about Monmouth, Sasso talked about some of the relationships he made, something

you seldomly see at big state universities. “I always enjoyed the personal touch Monmouth University had with each student. I never felt alone and always had someone to go to if I needed something,” said Sasso. “It felt like I was part of one big family.”

Sasso also had some advice for the current students looking to break their way into the world. His advice was to find something their passionate about and strive for it. They should follow that passion all the way through. In the words of the famous John Wooden, “make each day your

masterpiece.”

Sasso also attributed his professors for helping him get to where he is today, “The professors at Monmouth prepared me for the future by challenging me and providing opportunities for real-life experiences.”

As a football player, there are so many memories Sasso has from his collegiate career. It is natural to have so many memories spending so much time wearing the blue and white but his fondest memory had to be his last home game against Wagner. “Wagner was starting to be-

come a big rival for us and to walk off Kessler Stadium for the last time after beating Wagner 51-7 was a moment I’ll never forget,” said Sasso.

Since he was a student athlete, Sasso got an opportunity not all students have by forming relationships with his teammates and coaches. He did not waste that opportunity.

“My favorite part of being a student athlete was the relationship and lifelong friendships that I made with my teammates,” said Sasso.

Sasso than credited head coach

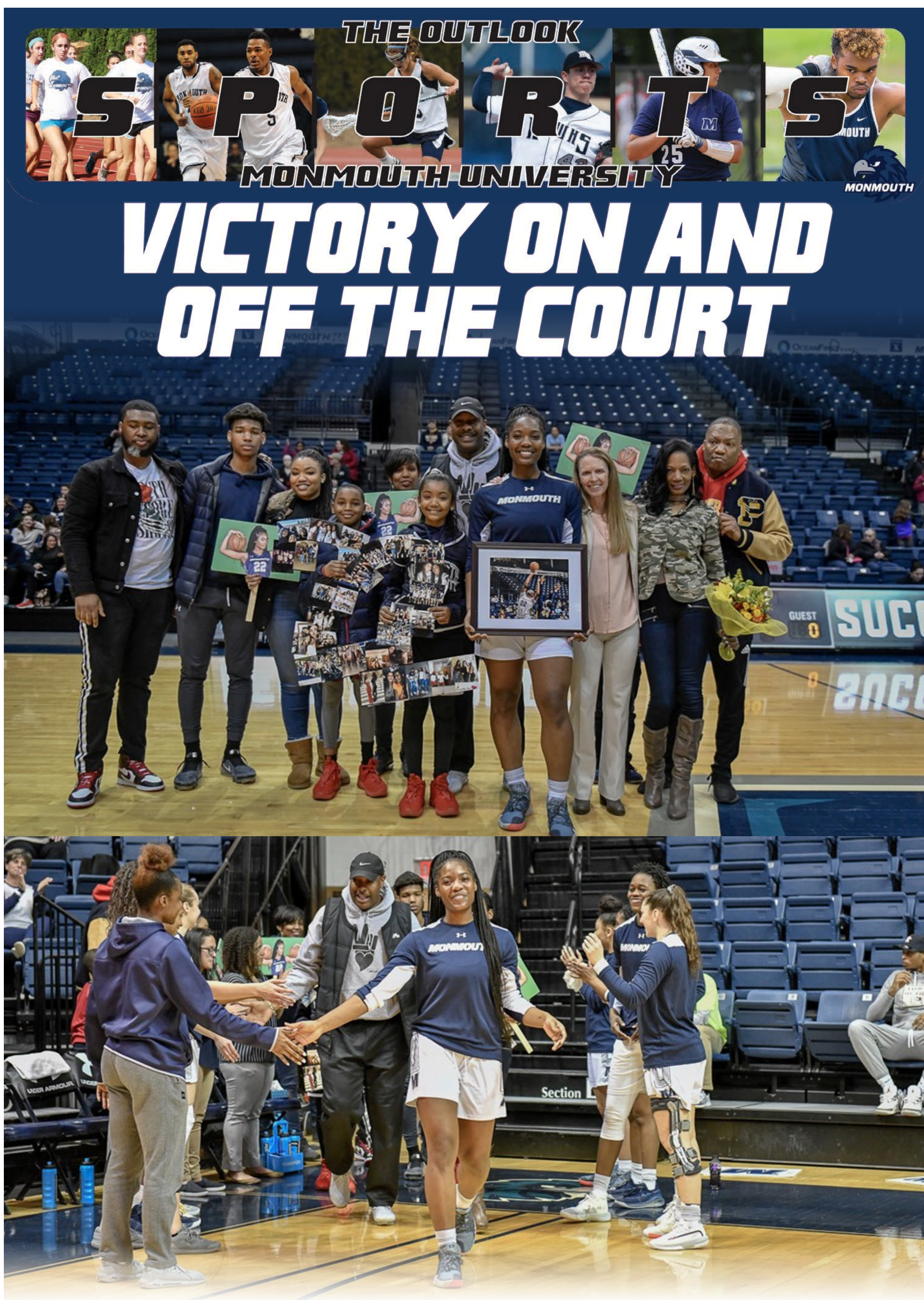
Kevin Callahan for being much more than just a coach to him during his time at Monmouth, “Coach Callahan was so much more than a coach and his leadership support and guidance created a family of winners,” said Sasso. “It is no surprise that 25 years later, coach Callahan is still leading the Monmouth University football program to greatness.”

Dr. Vincent Sasso made the most of his time at Monmouth University and continued to be a leader as the principal of Old Bridge High School.



Head Coach Kevin Callahan was praised by one of his former athletes in Dr. Vincent Sasso who played from 1994 to 1998. Sasso credited Callahan for being so much more than a coach when playing in his system.

PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics



Former Monmouth women's basketball player Alexa Middleton was named to the 2020-21 Sport Changes Life Foundation (SCLF) Victory Scholar Program.