



THE OUTLOOK

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Super-Spreader Event Leads to a Rise in COVID Cases

MATTHEW CUTILLO
MANAGING/NEWS/LIFESTYLES EDITOR

An off-campus “super-spreader event” resulted in more than 100 positive COVID-19 cases and required an additional 200 students to quarantine, University contact tracers concluded.

President Patrick F. Leahy, Ed.D. addressed the sudden rise in cases in an email to the University community

on Friday, Oct. 9. Through “extensive” contract tracing efforts, additional details of the super-spreader’s likely origin were identified.

“It appears that this increase in cases among students was tied to an off-campus event hosted two weeks ago,” Leahy wrote. “An overwhelming majority of the recent cases we have seen can be traced back to this isolated super-spreader event.”

Students’ symptoms in isolation and quarantine “have been mild,” but will be monitored closely for the remainder of the 14-day period, Leahy wrote.

Since the super-spreader event, the University has increased testing capacity and will now provide free testing for students and employees.

SPREADER cont. on pg. 2

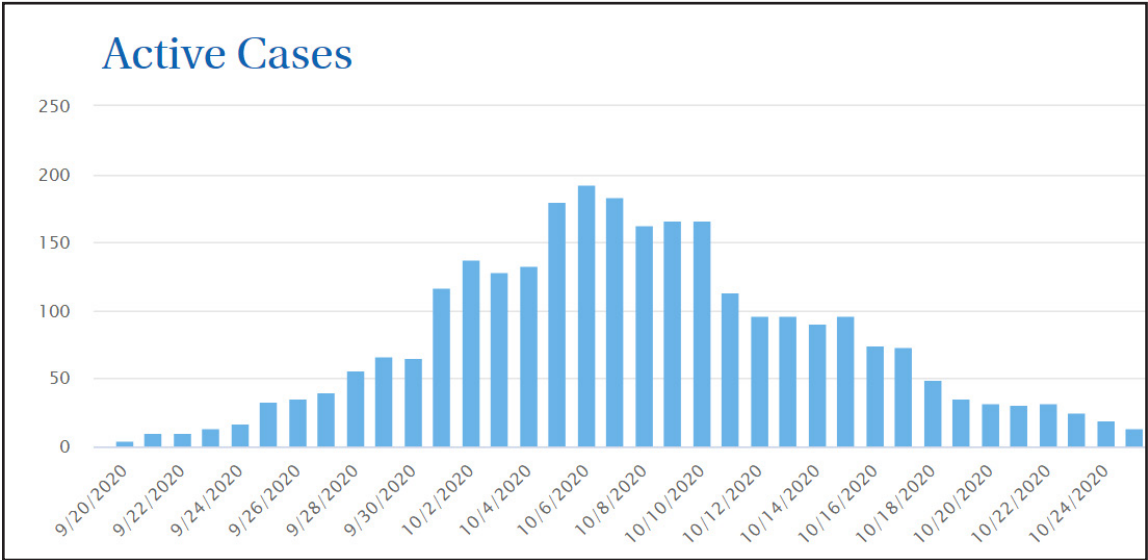


IMAGE TAKEN from Monmouth.edu

The University’s COVID-19 Dashboard reported a peak of 193 active cases on Oct. 6.

Debate Team Wins Four Awards at First Virtual Competition

MELISSA BADAMO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF/ FEATURES EDITOR

The Monmouth Debate Team won four awards at the Phyllis Schatz Invitational, hosted on Zoom by SUNY Binghamton from Oct 16-18.

Four teams of Monmouth University students competed at the tournament. The team of Madison Hanrahan and Eric Machnicki made it into the playoff round on Sunday, Oct. 18 after competing in six rounds. They went on to defeat a team from the University of Rochester in the first playoff round, which advanced them into the semi-final rounds.

Three Monmouth debaters also won top 10 speaking awards—Hanrahan (4th place), Danielle Dempsey (6th place), and Machnicki (7th place).

Each year, a topic is chosen to be debated at every tournament. This year’s topic is whether the U.S. should reduce its commitment to the NATO alliance.

“I honestly didn’t even expect to win a single round, let alone get to the playoffs, make a run and win an award. I was more surprised than anything else, but it definitely felt gratifying to hear my name called out for an award,” said Machnicki.

As the team’s first virtual debate, Hanrahan thought that it was a unique experience. She said, “Nobody knew what to expect going into the tournament. But luckily we encountered very few technological issues.”

Machnicki said that it was challenging to debate in a virtual format due to issues like audio reverb and strain on his computer. He said, “It felt detached and robotic, being able to see and hear but not really interact with

anyone.”

Hanrahan said that her experience participating in Zoom classes and an online format helped her feel more comfortable participating in a virtual debate. However, she also noted that due to the virtual format, it did not feel like she had accomplished anything. She said, “Nothing felt different after winning the awards...Through an online format, there is a limited sense of comradery and teamwork that would typically stir up excitement.”

Both Machnicki and Hanrahan said that Joseph Patten Ph.D., Professor of Political Science and Faculty Advisor of the Debate Team, helped students prepare for the competition with mock debates and virtual scrimmages, and by teaching

DEBATE cont. on pg. 2

On-Campus COVID Testing

MATTHEW CUTILLO
MANAGING/NEWS/LIFESTYLES EDITOR

The University is providing free COVID-19 testing to students and employees, in collaboration with the NJ Department of Health, Monmouth County Regional Health Commission No. 1 and the Monmouth County Health Department.

On Tuesday, Oct. 27, the testing location moved from a tent outside the Health Center to the OceanFirst Bank Center Lobby, said Kathy Maloney, Director of Health Services, in an email. Testing is available Monday to Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. No appointment is necessary.

“Health Services has moved to a model where we are doing 90 percent COVID testing and 10 percent other medical services,” Maloney wrote. Approximately 100-125 people are tested daily.

She continued, “We have bolstered our staff through use of per diems and utilizing other university-trained personnel for testing. In addition, we have received support from other areas of campus to assist with organizing and communicating lab results to students.”

Testing is conducted

using a PCR nasal swab which is sent to an NJ State lab in Trenton for analysis, with the result turnaround within the 24-72 hour range. Students and employees tested are contacted via email once test results are obtained, and all are encouraged to be tested.

University priority testing is for those who are symptomatic or who have had direct contact with a COVID-positive person, Mary Anne Nagy, Vice President for Student Life and Leadership Engagement, wrote. “We now have a limited supply of rapid tests which will be reserved for symptomatic cases only. All rapid tests will be further confirmed with a PCR nasal swab,” Nagy said.

She continued, “Upon return from fall break, we will restart the surveillance testing program. Each week there will be random testing of at least 14 percent of residential students in addition to 25 percent of both the on and off-campus athletic population. We will also be reaching out to different off-campus groups for voluntary participation in the community COVID-19 testing effort.”

TESTING cont. on pg. 2



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth University

Free COVID-19 testing is available in the OceanFirst Bank Center lobby Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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“Moments at Monmouth” Series Presents Climate Survey Results

MEGAN RUGGLES
SENIOR/ POLITICS/ ASSOCIATE NEWS
EDITOR

A presentation of the campus climate survey results was held on Friday, Oct. 23 to kick off a series of forums titled Moments at Monmouth.

Held virtually this semester, Moments at Monmouth aims to continue campus discussions about anti-racism by affording students and faculty the opportunity to share their experiences, views, and suggestions on Monmouth’s culture of diversity and inclusion, to help the University community become as safe and welcoming as possible.

The campus climate survey was conducted last spring, when President Patrick F. Leahy assigned the President’s Advisory Council on Diversity and Inclusion and the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness to conduct a study of our campus culture using national assessment tools.

Leahy sent an email to students inviting them to attend one of the forums as well as the campus climate presentation. “I also invite everyone to attend an open presentation of the student results prior to the Moments at Monmouth sessions,” he wrote. “The candid results of the climate survey show areas where we are doing well, and areas where the need for improvement is clear, but it’s also critically important that everyone in our community is provided the opportunity to share their experiences directly.”

Zaneta Rago-Craft, Ed.D., the Director of the Intercultural Center, introduced the presenta-

tion. “We’re just getting into the analysis [of the surveys] and are excited to share with the community what we’ve learned.”

Campus climate was defined in the study as employee and student attitudes, actions, and expectations of racism and inclusion as well as institutional policies and procedures. It was then measured by instances of bias and discrimination that students experienced on campus, and their interactions, feelings, and opinions of Monmouth’s commitment to equality and inclusion.

Radek A. Ostrowski, the Director of Assessment for Institutional Research and Effectiveness, briefly went through the initial findings and how to evaluate them in the larger report, which was made available to the Monmouth community in Leahy’s e-vite to the series.

The overall response rate was 15.3 percent, which Ostrowski explained was very good given the length of the survey, on average taking 30 minutes to complete because it was very comprehensive. “The response rate was largely on par with other surveys we’ve seen of this type,” Ostrowski said.

The data should be representative of students’ experiences across the board in terms of class year and the University population in terms of race and ethnicity percentages. However, the results show that first generation students were underrepresented which is important to consider moving forward, Ostrowski noted.

In terms of findings, a sense of belonging is an issue on campus.

Overall, 24.8 percent of students do not agree with feeling a sense of belonging on campus and 48.1 percent of respondents have witnessed discrimination but only 10.2 percent have reported it. “We have about two-thirds of our respondents report that they’ve heard insensitive or disparaging remarks, but we have an issue with underreporting of those incidents. This is consistent across all our campus communities, and it’s something we need to look at as an institution,” Ostrowski said.

Retention also strongly correlates to belonging. Out of nearly 50 percent of respondents who considered transferring to another university, nearly a quarter were not registered for the fall semester. This was also seen for the 21.5 percent of students who responded that they may have to choose between financially sup-

porting their family or going to college. “This is a piece that ties into increasing access and affordability at Monmouth,” Ostrowski said. “We’re seeing again that belonging and financial support really play a role in students’ experience and whether they choose to stay at Monmouth.”

In terms of the classroom and learning environment students reported having a consistently positive experience. But, first- and second-year students reported lower scores of curriculum inclusion: the courses that address issues of diversity. “These years are really foundational and if our students are saying that they’re not getting as much access to the types of courses that address these issues, we need to consider that as an institution in how we move forward,” Ostrowski said.

Ostrowski explained that students of color reported higher lev-

els of being singled out in class, feeling they had to work harder than other students, or hearing faculty express stereotypes based on social identity. “These are all things we need to be aware of and areas that we can make a considerable difference in with better understanding of what students are experiencing in the classroom,” he said.

The implications of this survey are to mandate anti-bias training for incoming students, including information on reporting bias. There are also steps that can be taken to improve access to need-based aid for low-income students.

Lastly, to improve classroom climate the core-curriculum requirements can be reexamined to extend cultural diversity and global understanding, as well as create professional opportunities for anti-racism training.

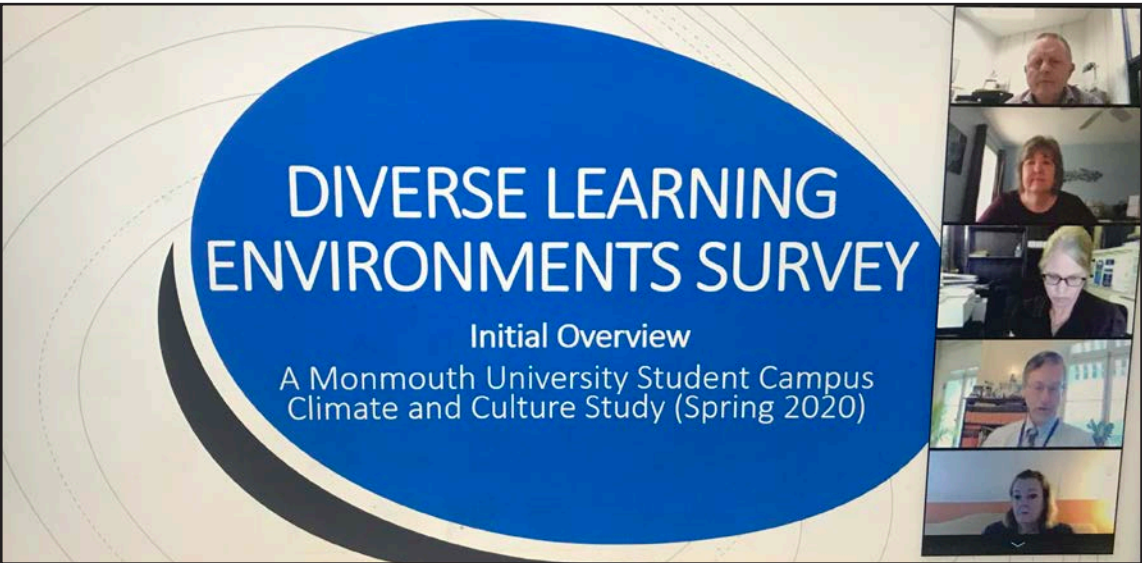


PHOTO TAKEN by Megan Ruggles
The campus climate survey was conducted last spring, with an overall response rate of 15.3 percent.

Super-Spreader’s National Attention

SPREADER cont. from pg. 1

When a student is identified as COVID-19 positive, Maloney, Director of Health Services, reaches out to that student and explains they must enter isolation for a period of time, Mary Anne Nagy, Vice President for Student Life and Leadership Engagement, explained.

The student’s name is then turned over to the COVID Response Team to begin faculty outreach, and the Contract Tracing Team works to determine the student’s direct contacts. “Direct contacts would be people like your roommate or your teammates,” Nagy said.

Contact tracers began to notice a pattern which led to a particular event the third week of September. The tracing results revealed those testing positive to have attended the event, Nagy said. “We ultimately found out the location, and we also found out who were the students that actually live at that house,” Nagy said. “It’s really some detective work.”

University employees make up the contact tracers, Nagy explained.

Once the University learned the specifics of the super-spreader location, it was likely too late to begin any student disciplinary action, Nagy said.

“I’m not so much worried about taking action against

students under the Code of Conduct as I am worried about intervening and stopping these events from happening again,” Nagy said. “We can’t afford another super-spreader event, that’s the reality.”

The off-campus super-spreader event received national attention, with publications such as *NBC*, *ABC*, and *CBS News* covering the topic.

“[Negative University attention] is not fair to all the students who are doing the right thing and are being very careful,” Nagy said. “I know that the broader Monmouth community is trying to do the right thing.”

The University resumed in-person instruction on Wednesday, Oct. 21. The

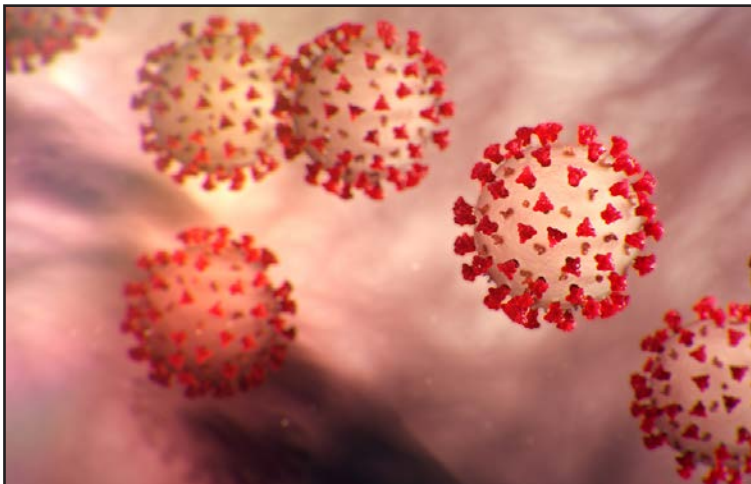


IMAGE TAKEN from CDC
After the off-campus “super spreader” caused an increase in COVID-19 cases, the University has seen a decline in cases over the past few weeks.

temporary move to remote instruction was “...necessitated by the dramatic increase in case activity that our campus community experienced earlier this month,” Leahy wrote. The University has since had only 3 positive tests out of 180 administered last week, according to Nagy.

“We are able to go back to our pre-break course modalities in large part because our positive cases are on the decline,” Leahy said in a video message addressed to the University community. “They’ve been going down dramatically over the last couple of weeks, and that’s a good thing, but we’re going to need everyone to redouble their efforts over the next few weeks in order to keep our fall semester intact.”

COVID Testing

TESTING cont. from pg. 1

Those who test positive and have mild to moderate, or even asymptomatic disease, must isolate for 10 days during the infectious period, Nagy wrote. The Response and Contact Tracing Teams are notified once a COVID-positive person is entered into the University database. “On-campus students will be expeditiously moved into isolation housing unless they choose to go home,” Nagy wrote.

If a student no longer has symptoms, they may be released from isolation as long as 10 days have passed from either the first day of symptoms or date of test. “Students should not be required to produce a negative COVID test prior to returning to the classroom or clinical setting,” Nagy said. “Both [the Center For Disease Control and NJ Department of Health] do not endorse retesting after testing positive because recovered people can continue to shed viral COVID RNA for up to 8-12 weeks even though they are no longer contagious.”

Students will receive an email from Health Services upon the completion of their isolation, releasing them. The student may resume normal activities, including return to the classroom and clinical work, if applicable.

Debate Awards

DEBATE cont. from pg. 1

students how to create effective speeches and refute the opposing side’s claims.

“I’m inspired by our debaters, and especially admire their toughness and resiliency to continue competing through this crazy semester,” said Patten. “The ability to persevere through challenging times is the key to living a meaningful and successful life.”

The four teams of Monmouth students who competed at the tournament included Hanrahan and Machnicki, Danielle Dempsey and Gianna Barwald, Haleigh DiMuzio and Marc Starling, and William Dailey and Erica Santos-Re, who competed in the Varsity division.

The tournament consisted of students from seven other universities, including Cornell University, New York University, the U.S. Military Academy (West Point), University of Houston, SUNY Binghamton, University of Rochester, and the New School.

The next competition will take place on Zoom the week-end of Oct. 31, hosted by Gonzaga University in Washington.

“With how well my team and others performed, I think more awards and potential tournament wins are in store for the future,” said Machnicki. “I hope in-person debating can resume in the spring, but that remains to be seen.”

COVID-19 Pandemic Disrupts Circulation of U.S. Coins

ABBY BROOKS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a disruption in the circulation of coins due to unforeseen bank and business closures. As a result, the U.S. is in the midst of a coin shortage with no foreseeable end.

Restaurants, grocery stores, and other businesses alike are asking customers to pay with credit card, debit card, or exact change. “As someone who normally pays for things in cash, I’ve had to start using my credit card more frequently. A lot of places aren’t accepting cash or require exact change that I don’t have,” said sophomore Sarabeth Nemetz. “There was one time when I was using self-checkout at Target and didn’t realize that none of the machines were accepting cash, which is how I was planning to pay. If I didn’t have a card, I wouldn’t have been able to purchase the things I had in my cart.”

“The U.S. Mint makes all of the coins, but with the pandemic they had to curtail their operations and are shut down in some locations,” explained Douglas Stives, Specialist Professor of Accounting. “They aren’t producing as many coins and to make the situation worse, many Americans are hoarding coins because they’re not going out.”

Stives noted that between a lack of production and a lack of

circulation, coins have gradually become harder and harder to find. He explained that as a result, stores are often unable to give change to customers who pay in cash. “If you go to the bank and ask for a roll of quarters, they aren’t going to give them to you because there’s a tremendous shortage. They’re not making as many and they’re not having as many turned in,” said Stives. “Stores that go to the bank for change can’t get it, which is why you see a lot of signs asking you to pay with [credit] card or exact change because they have little to no change to give you.”

Zack Malecki, partner in several local Bubakoo’s Burrito chains, offered further insight regarding this issue. “It used to be fairly easy to get coins at any bank on a daily basis, in any amount. Although it has subsided a bit, most banks set restrictions on how much change you could receive at one time,” Malecki explained. “Luckily, cash transactions in our restaurant have dropped significantly as mobile app orders have taken off.”

“This would be a wonderful opportunity for the U.S. government to stop producing pennies and nickels since they’re already behind in production,” said Stives. “It sounds easy, but it would take an act of Congress to take this action.”

Jeff Christakos, Specialist Accounting Professor and Chair

of the Accounting Department, offered a different perspective to this proposed approach. “In lower income areas, there’s less of a tendency to actually have banking relationships,” he said. “A lot of transactions take place with debit cards, credit cards, things like that, but if you don’t have that and don’t have a banking relationship, now you’re relying on cash. Aside from being a financial issue, that’s also a cultural issue. The negative effects of the coin shortage are biased toward lower income people.”

Christakos also explained that similar to how the coin shortage has a greater effect on low income communities, it also has a more

notable impact on businesses with smaller profit margins. “When you’re trying to break a dollar and don’t have coins, that’s a problem. Even if you have coins, you might not have pennies, so now you have to round things up to ten cents or quarters and now your margins are negative, and so you’re going to lose money,” said Christakos. “For lower priced items, you have to be able to get down to as specific of a price as possible. If we were to get rid of these lower value currencies, the prices for these products would be raised. There’s a wide range between a dollar and two dollars.”

Conversely, Sales Manager

and Vice President of Ocean-First Bank Mike Frankovich explained how his field sees very little of this issue. “I don’t really interact with the part of the market that is most affected by the coin shortage. I deal with mortgages and residential loans, so all of our funds come from the bank’s money. We don’t have to deal with coins, so this shortage doesn’t really bother us,” explained Frankovich.

“The Mint needs to increase production and banks need to reopen and function as normal for this shortage to begin to resolve itself,” said Stives. “Right now, banks are making a large amount of their profits from people using their credit cards, so they want people to continue using cards instead of cash. I don’t want to say it’s a conspiracy, but I think there’s no quick fix for the shortage because the government and the banks aren’t anxious to fix it.”

Similarly, Christakos also believed that the U.S. government might not be in much of a rush to confront this issue. “It helps the government if we use less currency because the reporting is automatic in credit cards and leaves behind retrievable data. It becomes a full data set for the IRS to figure out how much people should be reporting on their tax returns,” said Christakos. “I’m not so sure that the government isn’t intentionally slowing it down.”



IMAGE TAKEN by Pexels.com
Customers are being asked to use credit cards due to the coin shortage.

Tents Installed Outside Student Center and Edison Hall

RIYA AJMERA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The University has implemented tents with sitting areas throughout campus to help combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

The operation of ordering and administering the installation of the tents was conducted by Patti Swannack, Vice President for Administrative Services, and her division. The two most prominent tents are located in front of the Student Center and at the lawn in front of Edison Hall.

The idea for getting these tents arose through the collaboration of various task forces, including the Crisis Management Team and Fall Task Force, who are “responsible for reopening the campus in the most efficient, compliant, and safe way,” said Swannack. The installation of tents were a direct impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Members of various task forces came to the same conclusion that tents were a necessary means of providing more options for classroom space, dining, and student gathering areas that were compliant with current state health guidelines that limit the use of indoor space,” said Swannack.

Several professors at Monmouth have moved their teaching outdoors, implementing the new tents as a way of holding in-person classes during the circumstances of

the pandemic. Courses such as Anthropological Theory, Environmental Field Methods Lab, and General Microbiology Lab, as well as others, are currently taught outdoors under one of the new tents at the Edison building.

“It takes some creativity to adapt instruction as an instructor to move your classroom away from smartboards and computer hookups to outdoor spaces; but with some adaptability, it can be done in a lot of cases,” said Megan Delaney, Assistant Professor of the courses Ecotherapy and Research Methods which are taught outdoors at Monmouth University’s Graduate Center. She is also the author of the article, “Outdoor Learning” in *Psychology Today*.

Although Delaney does not teach beneath one of the new tents in Monmouth University, she encourages and partakes in outdoor teaching with her classes.

Similarly, Jason Adolf, Ph.D., Endowed Associate Professor of Marine Science, teaches his Marine Biology class outdoors at the beach near campus. Dr. Adolf said that he and his class continue to wear masks at the beach and that outdoor teaching encouraged by the tents is a sensible concept. Yet, Adolf also has concerns.

“I believe it is important that while providing options, administrators give faculty the choice in how they deliver their classes. I feel safe teaching outdoors; but that might

not be the case for everyone, particularly those with underlying conditions making them more susceptible to COVID-19. These are tough, unprecedented times for all and we need to balance safety and academics carefully and thoughtfully,” said Adolf.

Millineyz DeCastro, a junior health studies student, has been attending her microbiology lab class outdoors under the tent at Edison Hall. In terms of safety, she said, “The students are safely distanced, and you can’t be in the tent without a mask,” enforcing the health guidelines. As for the experience of outdoor learning, De Castro said, “When the weather is nice, it makes lab feel a bit motivating. But when the wind gets stronger and it starts to get cold or when it’s raining, it’s not the best place to be.”

Other students have used the seating areas under the tents for leisure and doing their work. Ariana Valencia, a sophomore elementary education student, is concerned with using the tent areas for working. “I think they’re a great addition, but with people sitting and eating without their masks on, I think they should be more spaced out,” she said.

Maria Monzon, a sophomore business student, has used the tents for eating. She said, “I think being outdoors can be so helpful, especially since we’re in our dorm rooms almost the entire day.” However, Monzon also added, “I

wish there were more and that they would get cleaned more often. I also would really love to see the school come up with an idea so we can continue to use them during the colder months.”

The issue of the tents being ineffective during the colder seasons is spoken of by other students as well. Dustin Ho, a sophomore economics and finance student, is concerned with the tents being ineffective during the winter months. “I do not think it is resourceful if we put more funding for outdoor learning because the largest chunk of the school year is during the fall and winter,” said Ho.

Mixed opinions exist on the topic of increasing the number and funding for tents and seating areas for the future. Some, such as Ho, do not support additional funding; whereas others, including Delaney, Monzon, and Valencia, want to see further expansion. “I would love the university to invest in outdoor classroom spaces, even with smartboards and computer access. Students can BYOC (bring your own chair),” suggested Delaney.

There are also those who support a future investment in more outdoor tents and education, but only with the issue of weather being addressed and resolved. “I would like to see Monmouth expand in this sense, but weather has to be a big consideration when making that decision,” said DeCastro.



PHOTO TAKEN by Melissa Badamo
Tents are located outside the Student Center and Edison Hall.

THE OUTLOOK

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Voting in the Pandemic Election

EDITORIAL STAFF

With the COVID-19 pandemic still in full force, it is safe to say that Nov. 3 is not going to be your typical Election Day.

Voting will look a little different this year. Every registered voter in New Jersey received a mail-in paper ballot with specific instructions that must be followed in order for the vote to count. New Jersey has eliminated in-person voting booths this year, except for people with disabilities, due to COVID-19 concerns. There have been many concerns about the possibilities of fraud in respect to mail-in ballots, as well.

With Election Day less

received in time for the election. I don't want to vote by mail outside of my state."

Another editor said that they would have preferred going to a voting booth to cast their ballot this election.

The editors have also discussed the issue of voter fraud concerns for the 2020 election. While some editors believe that voter fraud can occur with mail-in ballots, they still think that they are an effective, safe way to cast their vote this year.

"The pros outweigh the cons," said one editor. "Mail-in voting allows for so many people to vote who are scared about staying healthy and safe right

safe way to vote during the pandemic."

As NJ.com reported, about 7,000 people in Bergen County received the wrong mail-in ballots sent to them the first week of October, rushing officials to send the correct ballots in under 24 hours.

"This is a huge issue because if these people mail back these incorrect ballots they will be tossed out as inaccurate and those people's votes will not count," one editor said.

Another editor said, "I think that these are uncharted territories that we as a nation are navigating right now in terms of mail-in voting on such a large scale. There is human error involved in everything,

"Mail-in voting allows for so many people to vote who are scared about staying healthy and safe right now..."

than a week away, *The Outlook* editors shared their opinion on voting methods.

Most editors believe that mail-in ballots are convenient and efficient. One editor said, "I think mail-in ballots make a lot of sense for the situation we are in with the pandemic still going on and trying to be as safe as possible by avoiding large crowds."

Editors who live out-of-state have said that mail-in ballots have given them the opportunity to cast their vote for their home state.

However, one editor is skeptical of casting a vote through a mail-in ballot. They said, "If I have the chance to vote in person, I will. I would feel more secure voting in person, to be sure my vote is counted and

now and who are not currently living in their country like me."

One editor said, "It's hard to say whether or not mail-in voter fraud is as problematic as some people are saying... I think it should be up to the voter to decide how they want to cast their ballot."

Another editor agreed, "There is no evidence of wide-spread voter fraud occurring in U.S. elections, only isolated incidents. The overall rate of voter fraud in the US is between .00004 percent and .0009 percent, according to the Brennan Center for Justice. In fact, most instances of alleged voter fraud are due to mistakes made by either voters or administrators. Mail-in ballots are an essential and

however, with something as fragile as voting for the leader of our country, there should be a system that makes it hard to make errors."

All New Jersey ballots must be postmarked for Nov. 3 and must be received by the Board of Elections by Nov. 10. Most editors, both in-state and out-of-state, have already casted their vote. And, as NorthJersey.com reported on Tuesday, Oct. 27, more than two million people have already voted in the state.

One editor emphasized the importance of voting, "I believe that everyone should vote if they are eligible. The fate of society is incredibly volatile, but with the power of voting, it doesn't have to be like that."

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The Outlook provides the Monmouth University community with information concerning issues in and around the University while serving as a forum for expression of the ideas of its readers.

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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Can You Have A COVID Safe Halloween?

SAMUEL CIOCIOLA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The spooky season is in full effect as we approach Halloween this week. Halloween has always been a favorite celebration for college students. Dressing up in crazy costumes with your best friends, binge watching your favorite Halloween movies, indulging in candy and the list goes on! Sadly, this year we have to take into consideration the safety of our friends and family as we celebrate Halloween in the midst of a global pandemic. Can we celebrate Halloween safely?

College students are eager to put on a fun costume and party with their friends this upcoming weekend, but it is very important to remember coronavirus is still here. Our campus is just coming out of a two-week shut down due to rising cases; we must all do our part to maintain a healthy campus community. Even if that means saying no to a Halloween party.

This Halloween season, it is strongly suggested to celebrate in small groups and obey the pandemic guidelines. Instead of attending a Halloween rager, try something more low key. Carve pumpkins with your roomies, binge watch the *Halloweentown* series, decorate Halloween cookies or check out a haunted house. One local haunted house to check out is Nightmare at Gravity Hill in Jackson, NJ.

Located at 1005 Farmingdale Road in Jackson, Night-



Stay home this Halloween and host a cookie decorating contest with your roommates; it is the safest way to protect ourselves and others from the spread of the virus.



Channel your inner *Cake Boss* and purchase cookie decorating kits from Target which are perfect for those living in the dorms.

mare at Gravity Hill features over a dozen different spooky scenes and settings that are spread out over five acres. Thirty-five minutes of terrifying walkable haunted trails, as well as creepy themes and adventures. Children under the age of fourteen are not permitted without an adult, making this attraction great for college students looking to be genuinely scared.

Their amazing haunted walkthrough will change the way you sleep at night... or make sure you never sleep again! In addition, Nightmare at Gravity Hill enforces COVID safety measures such as wearing masks at all times. This is a perfect attraction for those looking for some safe but scary Halloween fun.

Nightmare at Gravity Hill is just one of the local haunted attractions that are operat-

ing during COVID-19. Many safe Halloween activities are in full operation, making it easy to celebrate safely. Do not be a fool and party recklessly; there are so many other options to celebrate the spooky holiday without putting yourself, and others, at risk. This Halloween season seek COVID friendly activities and ditch the large Halloween gatherings.

The CDC recommends that people incorporate masks into their costumes. Which may seem hard but get clever with your costume and find the perfect mask-friendly costume. The CDC also suggests carving pumpkins, going to an orchard or corn maze and hosting a treat hunt or a movie night.

But of course, do all these activities with your family or roommates and if you do invite others make sure to host your activities outside, wear masks and wash your hands and sanitize frequently. You can still have a good time this Halloween you just need to be cautious and make sure you are following guidelines. For more information on how to stay safe this Saturday visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).

I know that I will be doing my part this Halloween by finding a safe way to celebrate by wearing my mask and keeping my distance from others while still embracing the spooky holiday. I know it will be hard not to go out but we all must make sacrifices to keep ourselves and others safe. We can have a safe Halloween if we all do our part.

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Long Distance Relationships During a Pandemic

SHANNON MCGORTY
STAFF WRITER

Relationships can be hard at any time. This year, they are more difficult than anyone could have ever predicted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Relationships, especially those that are long distance, require work and dedication. Usually this is a hard task, but add in a global pandemic, and it might just feel impossible.

In the past, students could easily travel on the weekends to see their significant other if they were in another state, but today we face travel restrictions and quarantine procedures.

Living in the same state can be considered a challenge now as well. Although it may be easier to get to each other, your options when together are limited. It might be nice to go out to dinner with your significant other, but when that's done, you might not be able to do other things like catch a movie at the theater.

Senior biology student Jesse Bragger has found it tough to spend time with her boyfriend, who lives about an hour away. From seeing him every day before the pandemic, now, she does not know when she will see him next. She said, "One of the hardest things is finding time for each other in our never-ending schedules."

Not all long distance rela-

tionships are romantic, however. Some students who live far away from their friends, parents, and/or siblings are struggling with the difficulty of being unable to see them during the pandemic.

Heather Papa, a senior communication student, said, "I handle long distance relationships with lots of check-ins. I feel that with this pandemic, it is important to remember that with many things being remote, people's schedules are busier than before. Even though

there might not be time to chat regularly throughout the day, I check in with my friends and family on a weekly basis. This can be in the form of a phone call, text, or voicemail."

As Papa pointed out, check-ins are important. Especially now. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), mental health conditions and suicide rates have risen in the midst of the pandemic.

The CDC states, "Younger adults, racial/ethnic minori-

ties, essential workers, and unpaid adult caregivers reported having experienced disproportionately worse mental health outcomes, increased substance use, and elevated suicidal ideation." By checking in with friends and family, you can be a shoulder to cry on, making sure that all of your loved ones are cared for.

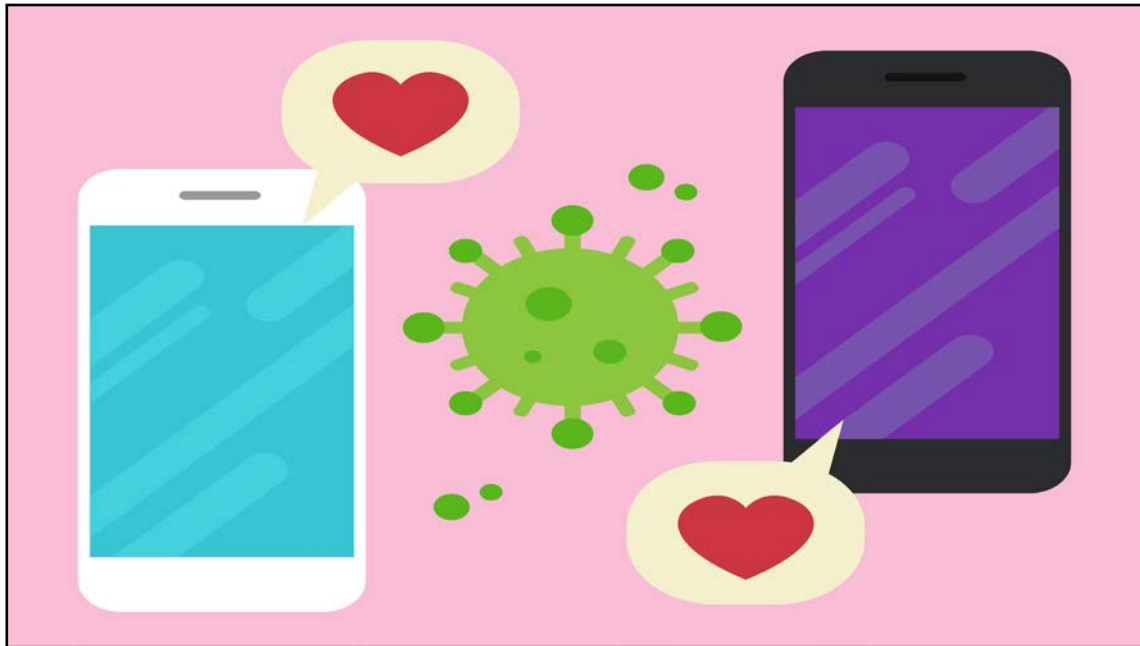
Kaylee Buduria, a senior criminology and sociology student, is a native of Hawaii. She must travel to and from New Jersey multiple times a year

to attend Monmouth. She said, "This pandemic makes it harder for me to want to go back and visit my family in Hawaii. I do not want to risk exposing my family to anything...My preference this year is to stay in New Jersey."

She continued, "On the other hand, I think about how short life really is and that I should take every opportunity I can to be with them. What makes it especially hard during this pandemic and being so far away is the thought that either one of my parents or my sister could become sick and I am not there to take care of them."

Students living on campus said goodbye to their families in the beginning of the fall semester, knowing they were taking a risk of getting sick and not seeing them for a long time. Meanwhile, students at home have to sacrifice seeing their friends due to health and safety concerns. Living at home and continuing to attend school online can be a challenge. Although they might have their family around, they have less opportunities to interact with peers, which can feel isolating.

Being alone might heighten the negative effects of this pandemic. However, long distance is not always a bad thing even in this situation, because finally seeing your friends, family, or significant other can give you something to look forward to.



GRAPHIC MADE by Angela Mascia

Students in long distance relationships have found it to be more difficult during COVID-19 due to factors like travel restrictions and health risks.

Virtual Fitness Classes

DENISSE QUINTANILLA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Working out in the middle of a global pandemic is probably not at the top of your list right now. However, a pandemic is no excuse to stop exercising and maintaining healthy habits. With fitness centers at limited capacity, many people have started to turn their homes into a personal gym.

Monmouth University's Athletic Department has been working non-stop to offer students various opportunities to get fit from the comfort of their own home. With a little help from Zoom and Instagram Live, there are many virtual classes to get the University community moving. Two popular classes are "Abs, Legs, and Butt" and "Humans for Yoga."

Jon Cascone, Associate Athletics Director for Recreation, Intramural and Club Sports, said that the most difficult part about coordinating virtual fitness class is the technology. However, the department had already been looking to incorporate virtual classes before COVID-19, so they were ahead of the game when the pandemic forced everyone to go virtual.

Cascone said that the student response to virtual classes have been mixed ever since students returned for the fall semester. "There have been some that prefer it online because they don't have to leave their room, but there are some that prefer it in person getting that instruction," he said. "It is just hard to find the right time that fits for students and the instructors as well."

Skylar Paletta, a senior health studies student with a concentration in exercise science, is the instructor for "Abs, Legs, and Butt." Paletta finds this class difficult to teach over Zoom because not everyone has the same access to equipment. She has to, "Think on the spot and tell different people to do different variations of a similar exercise based on the equipment they had on hand (if any)."

Other challenges Paletta has faced while teaching virtual fitness classes include keeping her students motivated and the difficulty of assessing their form through a computer screen. The number of students looking to work out has decreased since the beginning of the pandemic, but Paletta has received a lot more support than she expected. She attributes this decline in participation to a lack of motivation some students may be experiencing during the pandemic.

She said, "While I am not sure if others lost motivation due to the same reason as me, I wouldn't doubt that a lot of people lost motivation due to the fact that they needed someone to get them to the gym on a lazy day or needed a trainer or class to teach them exercises and hold them accountable, or simply just not having equipment or space at home."

Some tips Paletta offers for those who may not be comfortable going to a gym (or if their gym isn't open) is to get moving, setting specific goals, and finding a fitness friend.

Roman Vai, a senior business marketing student, teaches "Yoga

for Humans" via Instagram Live (@roman_vai_). Practicing yoga may be uncomfortable to some people, but to Vai, yoga is a very personal activity.

Instagram Live also provides anonymity during the workout. Vai said, "There are no names involved. You hop in, you hop out, and it's like a therapy session. If I am on Instagram, I like not knowing how many people are doing it, so I just pretend that the entire world is doing it."

Yoga in particular is a great way to help students navigate these stressful times. "At the beginning of my yoga classes, I ask everybody to set an intention for the flow and then at the end, your intention is just part of your thought-process and it helps answer questions about your day," said Vai. "It's just helpful for your mind and physicality, and it's just something very unique about yoga."

By the end of his class, he hopes that students "Feel like they did something healthy and mindful at the end of [the session]."

Jamie Pigman Ph.D., Lecturer of the Department of Health and Physical Education, said that to make the most of these virtual fitness classes, students should ask questions and participate as much as possible. He said, "Try your best to participate and interact as if the class was face-to-face. Additionally, perform the physical tasks with integrity, intent and intensity."

However, Pigman does recognize that this pandemic has caused many people to feel less motivated to work out. "Focus your attention

as well as your physical and mental effort towards things you can control," he suggested. "Dedicating time and performing regular exercise will increase your feeling of control and likely result in an increase in your motivation to exercise."

One last tip Pigman recommends is listening to specific music that will get you pumped before and during the exercise routine.

Paletta recommends that everyone check out the Monmouth Recreation Instagram Page, @monmouth_rec, which includes live stories of fitness classes as well as class schedules. Dates and times for virtual classes can also be found on the Experience Monmouth app.

Paletta said, "[I encourage] everyone to try classes with us and let's keep the momentum building."



IMAGE TAKEN from @monmouth_rec Instagram

Senior Roman Vai offers live yoga instruction on Instagram, one of the Athletic Department's virtual fitness classes.

“FOMO” During COVID-19

MATTHEW CUTILLO
MANAGING/NEWS/LIFESTYLES EDITOR

The fear of missing out, often shortened to “FOMO,” is defined by the Oxford Dictionary as “anxiety that an exciting or interesting event may currently be happening elsewhere, often aroused by posts seen on social media.” During the modern landscape of the COVID-19 pandemic and the quarantines that remain in place, it’s become increasingly more tempting to cave into temptation and meet up with friends, especially as they post about going out on social media.

In this situation, it’s best to be objective and look at

the risks and consequences of caving into that type of peer pressure.

Mary Anne Nagy, Vice President for Student Life and Leadership Engagement, explained how quickly a seemingly safe situation can spiral out of control.

“Let’s say there’s an event at a house where you’ve got people who are coming that you don’t know,” Nagy said. “Friends are bringing friends from someplace else, and you think you’re having a small group but then 100 people show up, 50 of them you have no idea about.”

The best thing you can do to resist the temptation is separate yourself from the source of the temptation. If seeing people on their Snap- chat or Instagram stories is making you feel left out, mute them from appearing on your feed. Work to estab- lish better relationships with the people within arms reach who you completely trust, such as a family or room- mates, and work towards finding ways to spend time with them.

You may be surprised over time to find out how much you enjoy spending time with those in your closest vicinity, and how completely unnecessary it is to surround yourself with strangers just for the sake of it. Resisting is hard, but the pay off of a clean bill of health will ulti- mately be worth it.



IMAGE TAKEN from Pexels.com
Muting social media can be beneficial to reducing the chances of caving into peer pressure.



IMAGE TAKEN from Pexels.com
More and more locations have begun to open their doors around the United States.



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Alumni Perform at the Center for the Arts’ Virtual Concert Series

MELISSA BADAMO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF / FEATURES EDITOR

Monmouth University’s Center for the Arts premiered a special alumni edition of the Virtual Living Room Concert Series on YouTube on Friday, Oct. 23, as a part of Homecoming weekend. In conjunction with the University’s Office of Alumni Engagement and Annual Giving, the concert included pre-recorded performances by Taylor Hope ‘16, Carlos Morales ‘10, Gianna Cusanelli ‘17, Zach Gindi ‘19, Sharon Laster ‘81, Kellie Shane ‘09, Zack Sandler ‘20, and Natalie Imani ‘04.

“As soon as we knew we weren’t going to be able to host a traditional

in-person Homecoming event, the staff on the Alumni Engagement and Annual Giving team put our heads together to brainstorm ways to engage our alumni and friends from the comfort of their homes,” said Laura MacDonald, Director Of Alumni Engagement. “We put a call out to alumni via social media and email and collected submissions.”

“We were thrilled to partner with eight talented alumni artists to put on this virtual showcase,” added Kristin Waring, Assistant Director of Recent Alumni and Student Programs.

Each of the artists performed either covers of hit songs or original music. Natalie Imani, the headliner artist, has performed with Grammy

award-winning artists such as John Legend and Cardi B, Waring said.

Taylor Hope ‘16 kicked off the concert with a violin rendition of “Home” by Phillip Phillips. Regarding virtual performances, she said, “It is different when not performing to an audience, but you always have them in mind. I try to select songs that will resonate with most people. I do love and miss performing in person and feeding off the energy of the crowd.”

As a Monmouth student, Hope double majored in math and music performance, served as Concertmaster of the Music and Theatre Department’s Chamber Orchestra, and had solo performances on campus.



IMAGE TAKEN from MU Center for the Arts YouTube

Alumna Taylor Hope ‘16 performed a violin cover of “Home.”



IMAGE TAKEN from MU Center for the Arts YouTube

Alumna Natalie Imani ‘04 performed her original song “Butterflies” at the virtual concert series.

She said, “Since graduating, I have been an actively involved alum. I’ve attended different events, have spoken on various panels, and last summer I performed at the Alumni Rooftop Event. I was asked to be a part of the virtual concert series and I immediately said yes.”

“So many of our alumni are doing amazing things, not just in the arts, but in every industry,” said MacDonald. “This was a way to showcase the talented musicians in our alumni family, as well as shine a spotlight on the Center for the Arts to our larger alumni community, since they do such fantastic programming throughout the year.”

Vaune Peck, Director of the Center for the Arts, added, “It made perfect sense to feature alumni artists for homecoming this year, since that’s what it’s all

about.” Peck said that she hopes to spearhead a live version of the concert series alumni edition once public performances can resume.

She also mentioned that both virtual and in-person concerts come with their own challenges. Regarding virtual performances, she said, “Some artists have to learn how to capture themselves performing according to our video requirements, be cognizant of their backgrounds and sound, and adhere to rules in the artist agreement that address the avoidance of promoting drug and alcohol use, racism, sexism and other unwanted subject matter in their lyrics. So, artists have to be very thoughtful about

the material they choose.”

Peck also said that online concerts have to be video and sound mastered by technicians before the finished product is prepped and ready to air on YouTube. “There are a lot of steps involved in the finishing process,” she said.

The Center for the Arts also hosts Tuesday Night Record Club, Tuesday Night Book Club, and Nightly Met Opera Streams, all conducted virtually this semester. Peck said that she hopes to continue including alumni in future installments.

The full concert is available to watch on their YouTube channel (MUCenterfortheArts).

Best Halloween Flicks FOR A SPOOKY NIGHT IN

SHANNON MCGORTY
STAFF WRITER

It’s that time of year again—Thirty-one nights of Halloween. There are many options for TV shows and movies to watch for a spooky night in the weekend of Oct. 31.

First, there are the classic Halloween movies that I consider a must watch. There’s *Hocus Pocus*, a movie full of surprise, comedy and drama. The audience gets to watch as Max and his sister Dani who just moved to Salem, explore the legend of the town witches with Allison, a local girl, and what happens when they learn that the legend is actually true.

Another classic, the *Halloweentown* series, is one that we all remember from when we were kids. The four films were released on Disney Channel in the late 90s and early 2000s, so we were able to grow up with the Cromwell siblings we watched through our TV screens.

In the first *Halloweentown* movie, we are introduced to the main characters and are taken on a journey of discovering their powers. These powers are then used to save Halloweentown, an alternate realm for creatures like vampires, werewolves, ghosts, etc.

In the second film, *Halloweentown 2: Kalabar’s Revenge*, Kal tries to destroy Halloweentown out of vengeance and

try to manipulate her and her journey for justice.

Some of the best scary movies you could ever watch is *An-nabel*, about a haunted doll. There’s also *It*, the Stephen King classic about a killer clown who thrives on children’s fear in the fictional town of Derry. There’s *Insidious*, a movie series about possessions and hauntings.

The most appealing and in-

teresting scary movies are the ones that mess with your mind and make you think. One of these moves is *Split*, a psychological thriller about a man suffering from Multiple Personality Disorder. Another one is *The Forest*, about a forest in Japan that messes with your mind.

There are also two stand-out supernatural series streaming on Netflix right now—*The Haunting of Hill House* and

The Haunting of Bly Manor. Both share the same producers and are a part of *The Haunting* anthology series, but the stories are not connected and they do not need to be watched together.

The Haunting of Hill House follows five adult siblings who are haunted by the paranormal experiences they witness in Hill House. Meanwhile, *The Haunting of Bly Manor* follows Dani, an American au-pair who moves to Bly Manor in England and finds a job caring for two orphans, unaware of the apparitions that haunt the estate.

Speaking of Netflix, there are a bunch of Halloween movies to watch on the streaming service as well. If you’re not a fan of horror movies but would still like to watch something to celebrate Halloween, one good option would be Adam Sandler’s *Hubie Halloween*.

This comedy was just added to Netflix this month. Sandler plays a character who is mocked by the whole town of Salem, but becomes a hero once he steps in to save the victims of a murder mystery.

Movies are great, but sometimes Disney shows are the best at Halloween specials. If you put on *The Suite life of Zack and Cody*, *That’s So Raven*, *Hannah Montana*, *Wizards of Waverly Place*, or *ANT Farm* and watch their Halloween episodes, you’re set for a nostalgia-filled good time.



IMAGE TAKEN from OregonLive

Take a trip to Halloweentown this weekend with the Cromwells through your TV screen.

Book Review: The Couple Next Door

KRYSTA DONNELLY
STAFF WRITER

With Halloween comes spooky ghost stories, and suspenseful, mystery thrillers that will make your stomach churn or teeth grit. This year is a little different. Instead of going out to parties or handing out candy on your front porch, you may find yourself stuck inside, looking for a way to pass some time. Interested in a book that will have you on the edge of your seat until the very last page? Sunday Times Bestseller, *The Couple Next Door*, by Shari Lapena, was labeled as, “The most talked-about thriller of the year [2016]”, and it was for her ingenious array of motives stemming from each character within the heart-wrenching reality. Fundamentally, the novel follows a loving relationship between couple Marco and Anne Conti. They have a wholesome bond,

wonderful home, and a beautiful baby, Cora. One night, when the couple is at a dinner party next door, grief-stricken panic sets in when their baby is kidnapped. Detective Rasbach is a key factor in the case; setting suspicion upon every party involved, not leaving even the most innocent out. The main characters of Lapena’s story grapple with the continuously-revealed secrets among the pair, and the magnitude of one decision. Leaving their baby home alone has now unraveled their family. Lapena’s tale is a one of chilling turns of events, deception, unfaithfulness, and incredibly unexpected moments you need to read to believe. The gripping narrative is told from the third-person point of view and alternates between the experiences of Anne, Marco, Detective Rasbach, Anne’s parents, and the couple’s next-

door neighbor, Cynthia. Lapena’s narration dispenses a thorough analysis of each person of interest, and each moment that has built up to this terrible crime. Lapena allows so much detail of each character that you easily find yourself able to identify with one of them. Readers get a sense of the personal and psychological issues and tensions Anne has been struggling to overcome since giving birth. Lapena’s words allow you to feel the colossal guilt and fear Anne feels since the disappearance. She also wrestles with a few secrets of her past. Marco is another character you will most likely feel conflicted with. Some major mistakes become uncovered through his confessions and discoveries, but he is also a loving father who is willing to do anything to find his baby girl and have her back in his arms. The twists and turns get deeper and darker with every turn of the page. The attention to detail within this novel is extremely important, and you’re not going to want to miss a single word on the page. This novel is ultimately highly recommended for any domestic thrill-seeking reader that enjoys multi-layered plots within the story. The characters are assembled perfectly. By the end, you will feel as if you identify with some, yearn to have the mindset of others, and above all, understand each person’s personal story remarkably well. Enjoy being your own detective while reading, and putting together your own assumptions and pieces of the puzzle until the very end. Lapena completed a novel with a stunning turn of events and killer twists. Think you’ve got this story figured out? Grab this book and let your inner detective run wild.

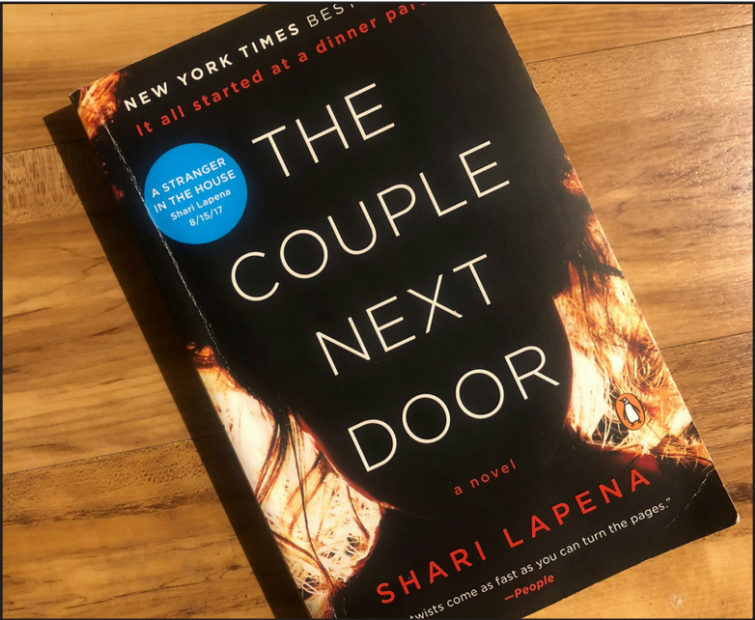


IMAGE TAKEN from CrazyRunningGirl.com
The Couple Next Door by Shari Lapena takes readers on a suspenseful journey when a couple's baby is stolen from their home.

Adele Says “Hello” to SNL

KATHERINE RIVERA
STAFF WRITER

“Hello” from 2015. After five years since Adele’s last album, *25*, she has recently announced the release of a new album (finally). She hosted *Saturday Night Live* on Oct. 24, speaking about her weight loss and hinting at her new music. *NME* quotes Adele’s monologue, saying, “[It was] the show that broke my career here in America, 12 very long years ago. See, I was the musical guest back in 2008 when Sarah Palin came on with Miss Tina Fey and so obviously a few million people tuned in to watch it and now the rest is history.” Here, she indicated how much *SNL* helped her career. So, it was only right to return to the late-night show when she felt ready to be back in the spotlight. There is no set release day or title yet for the album (basically we don’t know much), but we do know something is in progress and we could not be more excited. *NME* also reports the album is being worked on by Raphael Saadiq, a producer, as well as John Legend. Unfortunately, it doesn’t seem like Adele will be able to save 2020, as her album is not expected to be released until early 2021. I mean, with the pandemic and everything, did we expect anything less? On the bright side, after an almost five-year hiatus, Adele is back in the spotlight and she seems to want to appear on different talk shows and return to the public eye. After such an iconic release of *25*, it is exciting to see how her new album will compare, especially if she is collaborating with different artists. *Billboard* reports that *25* made music sales history. It became the top selling album of 2015 in just one week after its release. Even though we don’t have many details, we are excited to see Adele again. She seems happier and healthier than ever. Mark your calendars when we know the release date!



IMAGE TAKEN from Entertainment Weekly
Adele hosted last Saturday’s *SNL* episode and teased the production of her fourth album after five years.

The Sims 4 Hits the Slopes

MELISSA BADAMO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF/ FEATURES EDITOR

It’s that time again for another *Sims 4* expansion pack. The franchise just announced “*The Sims 4: Snowy Escape*,” which is expected for a Nov. 13 release date. As the 9th expansion pack, it features snow-based activities for your sims to enjoy like snowboarding, skiing, sledding, and rock climbing. The Japanese-inspired snowy mountain town, called Mt. Komorebi, incorporates many elements of Japanese culture like new food items (sushi and shabu-shabu, a hotpot dish), kimonos, tatami mats, and even the vending machines seen all over Japan. The expansion pack also introduces hot springs and bath houses, more important aspects of Japanese culture. It’s the perfect getaway for both you and your sims at a time when traveling in real life is at a halt due to COVID-19. However, the most notable element missing from this pack are hotels and resorts for your sims to either stay in or manage while at Mt. Komore-

bi, a feature fans loved in *The Sims 3: Island Paradise*. If the game developers wanted to add this feature in *The Sims 4*, this pack would have been the perfect opportunity to do so. At first glance, *Snowy Escape* seemed to me like a re-brand of other DLCs like *Seasons*, *Outdoor Retreat*, and *Spa Day*, with hints of cultural elements from *City Living*. However, one unique feature is the introduction of “*Lifestyles and Sentiments*,” which will add more depth to sims’ personalities and relationships. Between the new world, new winter vacation activities, and new ways for your sims to build relationships, it seems like a pretty well-rounded pack. This year, the *Sims* team also released the “*Eco Lifestyle*” expansion pack in June, the “*Star Wars: Journey to Batuu*” game pack in September, and the “*Nifty Knitting*” stuff pack in July. The *Sims* team also added more content through patch updates this year, like improvements on darker skin tones and a customizable platforms build feature, two elements that will greatly enhance Simmers’ freedom when

it comes to creating sims and building lots. From now on, the franchise has to step up their game because they have competition—*Paralives*, an upcoming simulation game that was revealed in 2019 but has not yet landed on a release date. *Snowy Escape* makes a lot of sense as the next installment to the *Sims 4* series—it’s what fans of the game have been craving for a while, along with a farm-themed pack that will hopefully be the next announced pack. With *Sims 5* already in development (although it won’t be released for another few years), *Sims 4* still has a long shelf life, especially since fans are still waiting for much more content and gameplay to be added to the game. Along with a country living pack, I would love to see the addition of bands and musical instruments into the game, just like we saw in *The Sims 3: Late Night*. Overall, *Snowy Escape* seems like a fun diversion to your sims’ everyday lifestyle. Like all other DLCs, it will be available on PC, Mac, Xbox, and PlayStation 4. I’m not sure

if it’s worth the full retail price of \$39.99, especially since it will include gameplay and items that should have been released with *Seasons* back in 2018. Like every other pack, I’ll wait a few months until the price is marked down by 50 percent before adding it to my game collection.



IMAGE TAKEN from Electronic Arts
The next expansion pack for *The Sims 4* will be released on Nov. 13, just in time for the winter months.

Marijuana Is on the Ballot in New Jersey

ALEX DYER
ENTERTAINMENT/ASSISTANT NEWS
EDITOR

This election, as the country casts their votes for President, New Jerseyans are also flipping over their ballots to decide the fate of marijuana legalization in their state—and the numbers are trending toward the referendum being passed.

After a lengthy and unsuccessful campaign to legalize recreational pot at the level of the state legislature, the decision is being left up to voters in New Jersey as Public Question 1, the “Marijuana Legalization Amendment.” The ballot asks New Jerseyans to answer “yes” or “no” to this question: “Do you approve amending the Constitution to legalize a controlled form of marijuana called ‘cannabis?’”

An April 2020 Monmouth University poll found that 61 percent of New Jersey adults would, at the time of the poll, vote for legalization, with 34 percent saying they would vote against it. Additionally, 62 percent think a legal cannabis industry would help the economy, whereas only 10 percent think it would hurt the economy.

A more recent October 2020 Fairleigh Dickinson University poll shows these numbers have remained essentially the same: 61 percent will vote for legal weed while 29 percent will not.

Patrick Murray, Director of the

Monmouth University Polling Institute, said that sentiments toward marijuana have changed in New Jersey over the past few years.

“When I first started polling in New Jersey six years ago, very few thought that recreational marijuana legalization was viable here,” said Murray. “Only a third of the people thought New Jersey should go through with it.”

“Now,” he said, “As we see more and more states going through with this, people in illegal states are starting to change their minds. Fifty percent of people are advo-

cates for legalization, while another 10 percent don’t mind if it passes and are voting ‘yes.’”

Joseph Patten, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Political Science, explained that New Jersey’s public worker pension fund, the least-funded in the country, could benefit from legalization.

“New Jersey isn’t allowed to run deficits, so to get around that the state runs them through the pension system,” Patten said. “We’re having trouble paying our bills. One solution that’s been put forward is using taxes from the sale of legal

pot to add to the fund.”

“It’s kind of like looking under the couch cushions for change,” Patten continued. “The government essentially regulates morality with a sin tax on things like alcohol, cigarettes, and gambling. What proponents of legalization are proposing is the same thing, but with marijuana.”

Patten also explained arguments from the other side. “A lot of people think that the government has a responsibility to protect the morals of kids, too,” he said. “And that means not exposing them to things that are potentially harmful.”

During his campaign in 2017, Gov. Phil Murphy (D) made recreational marijuana a large part of his platform, calling for its legalization within his first 100 days in office. However, opponents in the state legislature repeatedly rejected the proposal, where it stagnated until the ballot initiative was introduced.

Socially, legal weed has been a point of contention when it comes to criminal justice. “Historically there’s evidence of selective enforcement of marijuana laws,” Patten said. “Blacks and whites use pot at about the same rate, but blacks get arrested for it much more frequently.”

Similarly, in an Oct. 20 article for The Star-Ledger, Robert H. Scott III, Professor of Economics, said, “Roughly one-third of those in prison in New Jersey are incarcerated for non-violent drug-related crimes...Ignoring the deeply concerning sociological implications of marijuana crime enforcement, the state spends considerable amounts of money policing, trying and imprisoning people who are recreational marijuana users.”

“What we’re seeing going into the 2020 elections is a pretty consistent six to ten majority,” Murray said. “Since all the referendum needs to pass is a simple 50/50 majority, if we go with what the polls are saying it’s probably going to pass.”



IMAGE TAKEN from Norml.org

The majority of New Jersey adults think that legalizing cannabis would boost the economy. Also, taxes from the sale of marijuana could help the government with its deficits.

Biden’s Plan for Climate Change, Explained

SUMMER CLARK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

MATT FILOSA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With the 2020 election underway, the climate crisis has proven itself to be a primary concern for many voters. As it stands, the world is on track to pass its “carbon budget” of 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming, according to the IPCC’s 2018 Special Report on climate change.

The key takeaway from the report was the daunting reality that we have just a decade to reduce our carbon emissions by at least 50 percent, in order to avoid irreversible, damage.

What made the report so significant was its illustrations of the vast discrepancies between how the crisis is being felt by different communities, in respect to wealth, geographic placement, and public health.

According to most progressive advocates of environmental policy, Democratic nominee Joe Biden’s plan to combat the climate crisis is the strongest of any Democratic presidential candidate. But prior to securing the nomination, Biden’s climate plan was the subject of immense criticism from the same groups. It was not until he appointed both former Secretary of State John Kerry and Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY 14) to his “climate task force” that he openly championed key components of the much discussed Green New Deal, the comprehensive resolu-

tion to combat climate change at a structural level.

This has been a vital aspect of bridging the divide between progressive and moderate Democrats. Biden has stated on day one of his presidency that he will rejoin the Paris Climate Accord, that the United States is slated to officially withdraw from on Nov. 4th, 2020, just one day after the election.

It should be noted that Joe Biden does not endorse the entirety of the Green New Deal, despite what the President has claimed. In fact, President Donald Trump has made a habit of making false claims regarding the former Vice President’s plan to combat climate change.

At the first Presidential debate, Trump claimed that Biden would not only implement the Green New Deal, but also ban fracking, as well as “take out the cows,” all of which Biden has clarified as being categorically false.

The climate policy Joe Biden has brought forward has suggested a few strategies the U.S. needs to implement if it wants the edge on the battle with climate change. A major aspect of this is to ensure the U.S. achieves a net-zero, clean energy economy by the year 2050. This means that the U.S. will be generating emissions equal to the amount removed in Earth’s atmosphere. Biden has also acknowledged that climate change does not impact all equally—stressing the need for environmental justice, or, the fair distribution of environmental benefits and bur-

dens. Echoing the demands laid out in the IPCC report, those in the scientific community agree that ensuring environmental justice is paramount to rectifying the climate crisis.

Randall Abate, J.D., environmental lawyer and professor at Monmouth University, reiterated these concerns, stating, “Climate change disproportionately impacts minority and low-income communities. As such, legal measures need to be in place to account for those disparities. Climate change is not just an environmental problem. It is a product of the failures of capitalism on many levels in the U.S. and overseas.” Abate also addresses his concerns regarding the plan, stating, “Biden’s climate policy has limitations. Politics is a game of compromise and Biden’s plan is no exception. His plan is not as ambitious as it should be, largely in an effort to secure support from centrist voters.

For example, his plan would not ban fracking, even though it should if his administration claims to be serious about the goal to transition to renewables by 2050 and respond to the environmental injustices to vulnerable communities that accompany fracking. Second, his plan does not adequately address the need to target consumer behavior to effectively regulate climate change within the 12-year time frame that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change tells us is necessary. For example, his plan should but does not target significant

drivers of climate change such as industrial animal agriculture and individual transportation choices.”

To further clarify, Biden’s climate plan also includes a number of executive actions to ensure that the U.S. meets IPCC standards. The most notable examples include aggressively regulating methane pollution for oil and gas operations, implementing renewable energy sources in government facilities, investing in clean public transportation, and requiring that companies disclose the risks to the environment regarding their greenhouse gas emissions. It should be noted that conversely, the President has rolled back ninety-nine Obama-era environmental regulations: 72 have been completed, while the remaining 27 are still in progress, as per *The New York Times*.

Part of why climate change policy is so polarizing is the potential cost of implementing these actions. Mitchell Hendricks, a political science student, said, “I think it’s great that Biden is willing to take input from those who know more about the issue, and wants to develop a comprehensive plan that is both effective and amicable to both parties.”

“In the first debate, [Biden] said ‘I do not support the Green New Deal’ and went on to clarify that that’s because he is working on creating a new plan that would take the best parts of the Green New Deal and improve on what he didn’t agree with. Cooperation is extremely important right now, so I’m really glad to see that from

him,” Hendricks added.

Also, during the debate, Trump has cited his economic concerns, claiming that Biden implementing the Green New Deal would cost taxpayers \$100 trillion. This is a patently false claim for two reasons: one, Biden has made it abundantly clear that he is pursuing his own plan to combat climate change as opposed to the resolution put out by Senator Markey (D-MA) and Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez. Secondly, according to Biden’s website, his plan would cost \$2 trillion, most of which would be funded by repealing the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, which benefited mostly wealthy individuals and cost taxpayers approximately \$1.3 trillion.

From the perspective of environmental consultant and adjunct professor, Daniel Feinberg, Ph.D., the costs of doing nothing to mitigate the climate crisis will be astronomically worse than the costs of taking bold, preventative measures now. Feinberg stated, “Investing in mitigation can feel distant and abstract, but if we don’t address emissions and warming, science tells us that many communities will experience more severe extreme weather events, which will require investments in adaptation. As a nearby example, Atlantic City, NJ, spent \$40 million in government funds to rebuild from Hurricane Sandy and to protect the city from future storms. By increasing the likelihood of events like Sandy, climate change ends up costing taxpayers one way or another.”

HawkTV Adapts to a New Production Model

SOFIA DOMINGUEZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

HawkTV began production in September with new setups for their programming that include Open Broadcaster Software (OBS) and Discord. Show producers and *HawkTV* e-board members are learning new ways of ensuring that general members can still crew shows and participate in production, despite not being able to be in the studio.

Billy O'Neill, a junior communication student and *HawkTV* Station Manager, explains that the club's priority is to keep people safe while keeping the creativity flowing. Therefore, they have switched to an online format that requires members to use specific softwares to produce their shows. The programs are free to download and available to all members.

"A lot of what we are doing for the year is based on trying to keep people safe and look at new ways to explore production. A lot of that means opening ourselves up to doing things in an online format. We are using online technology called OBS and Discord. They work together as broadcasting partners to send video footage

directly to a program and we are able to build a show entirely from scratch. It gives us a lot of creative freedom and opens people up to a lot of new ideas and that is one of the reasons we are excited about using it," O'Neill said.

HawkTV News will soon be developing into an online discussion format, similar to *The Daily Show*, according to producers Josh Miller and Josh Chanley. The news show is the most professional show on *HawkTV*, Chanley said. The production of this show mimics the real-life production process of a live-news show, with the difference being that *HawkTV News* is pre-recorded and shot on a weekly basis, rather than daily. The production process requires a team of ten or more people to build the readers for the script, the commentaries, and run the production in the studio, Chanley explained.

"Basically, we are thinking of completely changing the format so we can still have an opportunity to have as many people as possible take part in the show. Instead of doing our typical readers, we want to have an educated discussion about what's going on in the world around us," Miller said. This new online format is what professional shows are doing and it still allows

members to get the hands-on experience for producing a news show.

OBS and Discord have been working well with the other shows on *HawkTV*, Miller explained, and he is sure that news can be shot perfectly on these softwares. OBS allows creators to create layers so that the show logo, animations, videos, and other graphics can appear all at once on one scene. The software allows for users to map their keyboard to resemble the switcher in a control room to allow the technical director to switch between camera feeds, scenes, and other assets. This is a key skill for anyone wanting to get into television production, said Miller.

Although *HawkTV* does not plan on creating new programming this semester, *G.O.A.T Talk*, a sports show produced by senior communication student Sean Gerhard, will still be broadcasting live on *HawkTV's* YouTube channel every Thursday at 8 p.m., O'Neill said. Other fan favorites, such as *Triple Scoop* and *The Extra Point* will be uploading hour long episodes onto YouTube within the next few weeks. *HawkTV* is looking to keep the community involved with upcoming engagement events that will be broadcasted live on

the station's YouTube channel, he explained. These events include a Trivia Night hosted by e-board members of *HawkTV*.

"We will try to go live with different professors, faculty members, and alumni across the Monmouth community to try to get people engaged and involved. We will be going live on YouTube so viewers can play along live in-chat. This is something I have been looking forward to," O'Neill said.

Specialist Professor Robert Scott, Media Studies & Production Program Director and *HawkTV* Faculty Advisor, explains that the pandemic has provided students with the ability to gain new skill sets and experiences that can benefit students in their future

careers. Working at a university student-run television station allows members to experiment with new technology and make mistakes that they would not be able to make in a professional setting, he feels.

"While we miss our face-to-face time with students, and we're contending with many of the same challenges and frustrations of others, the production model developed and executed by *HawkTV* is actually a reflection of what's currently taking place across professional broadcast and cable television," Scott said.

You can follow the station on Instagram @hawkvtv12 and find them on YouTube at HawkTV MU for future events and new episodes every week.



IMAGE TAKEN from *HawkTV* YouTube
G.O.A.T Talk is a *HawkTV* sports broadcast hosted by senior communication student Sean Gerhard.

CommWorks Hosts Virtual Open-Mic Night

LILY HOFFMANN
CLUB & GREEK EDITOR

On Thursday, Oct. 22, Monmouth University's CommWorks held a virtual open mic night. In this touching, two hour event, members of both the club and the greater campus community performed works of music, poetry, and even stand-up comedy.

Major themes of the night included growth. Hannah Cohen, a communication student, performed her own poem, entitled "A Changing World." This poem beautifully touched on changes in perspective as one grows from child to adult.

Like Cohen, Jeff Dicken, a member of both CommWorks and *HawkTV*, performed a song called "Story of My Life." Accompanied by his guitar, his lyrics encouraged listeners to enjoy every single moment, because life passes you by. Dicken also read a poem on the same topic, called "Growing Up."

What made this event so unique was the strong sense of community and connectedness, despite not being face-to-face. Participants felt comfortable to express raw emotion through their works of art, while being supported and encouraged by others. Attendees were urged to keep their microphones on for applause, and the chat box was flooding with words of praise for the duration of the event.

For Fabian Howe, an attendee of the event, the support was overwhelming. Howe, a local insurance agent and patron of the arts, came to the open-mic to read an original poem entitled, "Not Only." In this poem, he opened up about how having an absent father while growing up inspired him to go above and

beyond for his own children

Though some performances like Howe's were tear-jerkers, Edward Mullane's stand-up comedy bit had people crying of laughter. Mullane's first skit touched on humility, while poking fun at the wealthy members of a country club he works at. The second part of his act satirized Zoom classes, which was very timely.

This event was a success, as many members left with smiles on their faces. Professor of Communication Claude Taylor expressed his appreciation for the event. He said, "Notice right now in this virtual space, the interwovenness of all of our imaginations...this is amazing. What's so incredible is that there's a group of 15 to 20 people here staring at tiles on a screen and all of our imaginations, our lived experience, our messages, the way we've

encoded and decoded messages through our lives, are all colliding here in this really fabulous experience of the art and artistic expression."

CommWorks President, Penelope Elliot, expanded on Taylor's thoughts by adding, "I'm so moved by every single one of you, and I'm sitting alone in my kitchen." She noted how special it was that everyone could connect on a deeper level and appreciate each other's performances despite the event being virtual.

All in all, the event was a tremendous success and proved that virtual events don't necessarily diminish value or connection. The club hopes to get one more open-mic night accomplished before the end of the semester.

For more information, be sure to follow @mucommworks on Instagram.



PHOTO COURTESY of Hannah Cohen
Attendee's of CommWork's Open-Mic Night pose for a virtual photograph.

Lacing Up Against Cystic Fibrosis with Shadow PR

LILY HOFFMANN
CLUB & GREEK EDITOR

Get your sneakers laced up! From Nov. 15-20, Monmouth University's Shadow PR firm will be hosting a Virtual 5K to raise money for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation defines the disease as a genetic condition that affects the lungs' ability to breathe over time and causes frequent lung infections. These infections take rise from the build-up of thick, sticky mucus in the lungs. This is a rare and incurable condition. People with Cystic Fibrosis typically will live into their 40s or 50s, especially since medicine and treatments are advancing.

This is a cause that is near to the hearts of those involved in PRSSA. Rowan University created this event for each Public Relations Student Society of America chapter of New Jersey in order to raise funds for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. "This is their first year holding this campaign because one of their past presidents passed away from Cystic Fibrosis," said Courtney Ur, a senior communication student and President of PRSSA.

Ur and the rest of the team at Shadow PR are hoping for a great turnout. Leah Frain, who serves as the Vice President of PRSSA said, "We hope to

generate a lot of participation in order to spread awareness and raise funds for an amazing cause. These funds will go towards research to fight this disease and to help hopefully find a cure one day."

Nicole Benwell, Director of Events for PRSSA, said, "Even through social distancing protocols, we are happy to still have an event that can get the Monmouth community involved."

For students and community members looking to participate, registration information will be sent out this week. Ur noted that although there is a \$5 minimum donation to register, anyone can contribute more to the foundation.

Ur said that students and staff can find information about the event on the Experience Monmouth app. However, this event will be spreading far beyond the borders of West Long Branch. "We opened it up to people outside Monmouth as well, and since it's virtual we have people all over the country who want to sign up," said Ur.

Being that this event is taking place over a period of several days, participants can take part on their own time. Participants will be emailed running bibs to wear while running or walking. They are encouraged to post a picture using the hashtag #5kRunForCF when finished.

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Weekly Virtual Drop-in Hours:



Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
9AM - 12PM and 1:30PM - 4:00pm EST

Wednesday
9AM - 12PM EST

In accordance with FERPA, we will virtually meet with one student at a time and have enabled a waiting room for this purpose.

Weekly In-Person Hours

Monday: 1:00PM - 4:00 PM
Tuesday: 12:30PM - 5:00PM
Wednesday: 8:45AM - 11:45AM
Thursday: 12:30PM - 5:00PM
Friday: 8:45AM - 11:45AM

Location

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remotely with limited in-
person availability.*

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Long Branch, New Jersey,
07764

Main Office #: (732) 923-4768
E-mail: GEO@monmouth.edu

Virtual Drop-in Zoom Link:

[https://monmouth.zoom.us/j/94349415794?](https://monmouth.zoom.us/j/94349415794?pwd=WVIMTDNvMEo1cUJldHBZSGILNFhGdz09)
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Monmouth Hawks Flock to Vote

MARK D'AQUILA
SPORTS EDITOR

Monmouth Athletics has taken a voting initiative, along with the rest of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC), reaching 100 percent voter participation among 20 Monmouth sports teams.

The MAAC's Student Athlete Advisory Committee began this initiative as a way of getting eligible student-athletes and staff to lead the campus charge in voting this election season.

"I am proud of the effort made by our MSAAC representatives and our student-athletes who have made registering to vote a priority," said Vice President and Director of Athletics at Monmouth University Marilyn McNeil, Ph.D. "Their insistence on having a voice in the election process and with the issues our society faces are an encouraging sign for the future of our country. It is our responsibility as educators to provide the necessary resources to help our student-athletes make informed decisions in elections at the national, state and local level."

McNeil has led the initiative in a major way as nearly every Monmouth team has reached full voter participation. These teams include men's sports such as baseball, basketball, cross country, golf, lacrosse, soccer, swimming, tennis, track & field, and football. Meanwhile on the women's side there is basketball, golf, lacrosse, soccer, swimming, tennis, bowling, and field hockey.

Head Coach of the nationally respected and dominant women's soccer team, Krissy Turner, Ph.D. spoke on the important issues facing this country and why it is so important to express your right to vote.

"Being part of the voting process is your right as a citizen," said Coach Turner. "As a team we created a plan to educate ourselves on the current events in our country and Black Lives Matter. One of the initiatives our program took on was that all of us would register to vote. One vote can make a difference and each one of us has a voice that matters."

Despite this being a MAAC initiative through their Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, several of the Monmouth teams who are in

"It is our responsibility as educators to provide the necessary resources to help our student-athletes make informed decisions in elections at the national, state and local level."

MARILYN MCNEIL, PH.D.
Vice President and Director of Athletics at Monmouth University



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics
Monmouth head football coach Kevin Callahan and Director of Athletics Marilyn McNeil lead the Monmouth Hawks charge in exercising their right to vote in this year's election.

"With the state of our country going through a pandemic, social injustice, voter suppression and a plethora of other issues, it is extremely important that everyone gets out and vote this year."

KAHARI SCARLETT
Monmouth Football Defensive Lineman

different conferences still decided to take part in the voting initiative. This includes the women's bowling team who is in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC), field hockey who is in the America East, and football who is in the Big South.

"I am proud of the fact that the entire football team has registered to vote," said head coach Kevin Callahan. "By registering to vote and then voting, our players are saying that they are here and that their vote matters. They want their voice to be heard."

As one of the leading organizations on campus, the Monmouth football team has certainly stood their ground regarding the voting process and trying to influence the rest of campus to register their right to vote. Both players and coaches from top to bottom on their roster have spoken up and expressed how much all of this means to them personally. This includes star players and team leaders such as senior wide receiver Lonnie Moore and fifth year defensive lineman Kahari Scarlett.

"Growing up I never fully understood the importance of being able to vote," said Moore IV. "Now more than ever there is room for so much change. It's a privilege to be able to have a voice and create change. Monmouth football has not taken this for granted while the full team is registered to have a voice in this year's election."

Scarlett added on speaking about the current state of this country and how athletes at every level have the unique opportunity and platform to create social change.

"With the state of our country going through a pandemic, social injustice, voter suppression and a plethora of other issues, it is extremely important that everyone gets out and vote this year," urged Scarlett. "Lebron James and other black athletes created an initiative called 'More than a Vote' whose mission is to combat racist voter suppression by educating people about this major issue people of color have faced. They have been able to help recruit over 40,000 poll workers across the country. Even though our team's outreach may not be that big, we want to let everyone know that we are standing together to help make a change in our country by registering and getting out to vote."



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics
Women's soccer head coach Krissy Turner spoke about the importance of educating ourselves on the issues currently going on in this country.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics
Fifth year defensive lineman Kahari Scarlett speaks up about the responsibility of athletes to use their platform to discuss social issues and make a change.

Looking Through the Lens of Karlee Sell

JACK MURPHY
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

While athletes are usually the ones that share the spotlight amongst themselves, many others contribute to athletics without directly competing. Even though they might not get the same recognition as the players, these people are equally as important for athletics to stay afloat.

Karlee Sell has been working for athletics since January of 2017 as a photographer. Sell is graduating from Monmouth University this December with her BA in com-

munication and a minor in photography.

Sell has been involved in sports ever since she was in high school at ConVal Regional High School in Peterborough, New Hampshire. “I was a member of and president of our Student Athletic Leadership Team, I played various sports, and I interned with my high school’s athletic director which got me involved with sports that I didn’t have the opportunity to play,” she said.

Sell first got into photography when she got a camera as an eighth grade graduation gift from

her parents. “I brought it with me everywhere. It was through teaching myself how to take photos and finding my own style that I fell in love with it,” said Sell.

While she has loved photography ever since she got her first camera, pursuing a career in the field of photography was not always her goal, as she originally wanted to become a zoologist. “I continued to practice my photography in my travels, knowing I wanted to make that my career,” she said.

“I realized [zoology] wasn’t as fulfilling as I hoped it would be,”

she continued. “My brain had a hard time understanding science and I began to dread going to school. I began to take more art courses and was able to practice photography in and out of school.”

Knowing she still wanted to work with animals after graduating high school, Sell took a gap semester and did volunteer work in New Zealand. She slept in a doghouse where she took care of 32 dogs, and from there, went on to Ireland where she would help take care of horses.

She did not really even know she was going to pursue a career in Ath-

letics until she came to Monmouth. Sell noticed there was a work-study available as a Sports Photographer and she emailed her now supervisor Mark Mohrman. He responded right away and asked to interview her. He then hired her on the spot and asked her to come to the Men’s basketball game. “That Men’s Basketball game was the first and last game I attended where I was simply a spectator. The next day I photographed a Women’s Basketball game and was the photographer ever since,” said Sell.

Sell’s favorite sports to cover at Monmouth are baseball and football. Baseball is Sell’s favorite sport and she has a good relationship with the coaches and players of the baseball team. She also loves football due to the “indescribable” energy at Kessler Field.

Sell has put a lot of dedication into her time as the Sports Photographer of Monmouth Athletics. Gregory Viscomi, Associate Athletics Director for New Media and Communications, said, “Karlee has been an integral part of our team since joining us a few years ago. She has attended hundreds of events, in all kinds of weather and all times of day and night. In today’s world of multimedia, having top-notch images for our website and social media accounts is key, and Karlee has been a huge part of that.”

After her time at Monmouth, Karlee has an internship lined up with the Cape Cod Baseball League in 2021. She is also actively looking for a more permanent position.



Karlee Sell has been working with Monmouth Athletics since January of 2017 and has worked hundred of events during her time here.

Former Hawk Chris Hogan’s NFL Journey

ERIN MULLIGAN
STAFF WRITER

New York Jets wide receiver, Super Bowl champion, and Monmouth alum, Chris Hogan, is back in New Jersey following his signing with the New York Jets this past summer.

Hogan has not had the normal National Football League journey. Some might even say that it is an unheard of path.

Hogan grew up in Wyckoff, New Jersey and attended Ramapo High School as a stand-out athlete in both football and lacrosse. Looking to go to a big school, he fell in love with Penn State and took an opportunity to play lacrosse there that he “couldn’t pass up.”

Choosing lacrosse over football was “a pretty tough decision,” said Hogan. The former Nittany Lion enjoyed his time at the school but said, “Throughout the course of my four years, it never really left me whether or not I wanted to play football in college.”

Hogan decided to play football in his one year of eligibility that he had left. He said, “I knew for myself, personally, if I didn’t try to play football, I would’ve regretted it.”

He received guidance from his high school coach, Drew Gibbs, and soon Monmouth was eager to welcome him for his fifth year. “Monmouth was such an enticing option for me because it was so close to home,” said Hogan. “The coaches worked with me and the school worked with me to figure out the transfer year and everything ended up working out.”

Hogan stated how thankful he

was for the Monmouth coaches who helped him live out “that dream of mine to play college football in the year of eligibility that I had.”

Reflecting on his time at Monmouth, Hogan said, “My overall experience at Monmouth was great. It was fun for me to live that small school experience. It was different but I really enjoyed it a lot.”

Like many Monmouth students and alum, Hogan developed a love for Brennan’s, where he ate “all the time” and Jack’s, where he would go with his teammates to watch football

games and eat wings. “It was a lot of fun. I really enjoyed all of the things that Monmouth had to offer.”

After Monmouth, in 2011, Hogan was an undrafted free agent and was soon signed to the San Francisco 49ers practice squad. Hogan spoke about that experience, saying, “Once I got there, I knew I could play and I just needed an opportunity.”

After time with the Niners, Hogan played on the practice squads of the New York Giants and Miami Dolphins. He then went to the practice squad of the Buffalo Bills where he eventu-

ally made their active roster.

In 2016, Hogan signed with the New England Patriots. He won two Super Bowls with the team, saying, “I was so fortunate to be on that team. It’s something that I won’t forget for the rest of my life.”

Hogan signed with the Jets after spending time with the Carolina Panthers. The wide receiver spoke on his time with the Jets so far and being close to his wife and kids who he is usually apart from during the season. “It’s been good. Obviously, there’s no fans allowed but it’s nice for me to be back home and close to my

family.”

Talking about the beginning of his career, Hogan said, “When you tell someone that you haven’t really played any college football, and you’re gonna try and make it to the NFL, they kind of look at you like you’ve got ten heads.”

He derived all motivation from his family, saying, “They all believed in what I was doing and never really second guessed it.”

Hogan is currently out with an ankle injury but is set to return soon. The Jets face the Kansas City Chiefs this Sunday, Nov. 1 at 1:00 p.m.



Monmouth Alum Chris Hogan is still on his NFL journey as he is currently a member of the New York Jets and has played for the Carolina Panthers and the New England Patriots, where he won a Super Bowl.



Monmouth Athletics has taken a voting initiative, along with the rest of the MAAC, reaching 100 percent voter participation among 20 Monmouth teams.