



THE OUTLOOK

MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY'S
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President Leahy Updates Protocols as Cases Soar

MATTHEW CUTILLO
MANAGING/NEWS/LIFESTYLES EDITOR

President Patrick F. Leahy Ed.D., outlined a series of changes to campus operations and health protocols in response to a rise in confirmed University cases, in a video message on Friday, Oct. 5.

"Over the last week, we've seen a concerning increase in the number of cases, which led... to a whole series of protocols that would help to restrict the amount of activity on campus and hopefully mitigate the spread of this terrible virus," Leahy said.

These protocols, detailed in an email sent to the campus community on Friday, Oct. 2, require all courses other than labs and clinical experiences to be delivered remotely until Friday, Oct. 16. Clubs, organizations, and intramural/recreational activities must also be conducted virtually.

"At the end of that two week period, we'll roll right into the fall break," Leahy said. "We have decided that we will keep

our fall break this year. We feel it's important to give you students that opportunity to restore and to re-energize for the second half of the semester."

During this time, Leahy "urges" students not to travel in any way over the fall break. Students who are living in residence halls, off campus homes, apartments

and commuting should stay home during this period, Leahy said.

"We have to do everything we can to limit the amount of movement on and off the campus, not only over the next two weeks, but also over that important fall break period at the middle part of the month," Leahy said.



PHOTO COURTESY of Anthony DePrimo
All courses other than labs and clinical experiences will be delivered remotely as a result of the rise in COVID-19 cases.

Masks will be required on campus at all times, indoor and outdoor. Gatherings of any kind with greater than 5 people will be prohibited, and dining services will be limited to takeout and socially distanced outdoor seating only, with zero indoor seating.

Other restrictions include the closure of the campus pool and fitness center, as well as University athletic team activities only being permitted to individual and small group training of 5 or fewer people. University-sponsored athletic practices or competition will not be permitted during this period.

The University will also be temporarily closed to all visitors, including prospective students and their families hoping to tour the campus.

"We, as an administration, will continue to ramp up our testing as required in order to try to stay ahead of the curve on this

PROTOCOLS cont. on pg. 2

University Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

DENISSE QUINTANILLA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Hispanic Heritage month is celebrated at Monmouth University from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, and due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all of the events have been conducted virtually.

The Hispanic Heritage Month planning committee has worked to create events that help students understand and support the Hispanic community—not just at the University, but everywhere. Past events include "Urban Bachata: The Black History of Bachata Dance", "Racism and Colorism within the Latinx Community", and "But I Am Both: An Afro-Latinx Dialogue."

One figure behind the planning of Hispanic Heritage Month is Zaneta Rago-Craft, Ph.D., Director of the Intercultural Center. Rago-Craft, along with students, faculty and staff began outlining the month's events in early August. This year, the committee faced the difficult task of transitioning all the events to a virtual experience, but Rago-Craft did not view it this way. She viewed the planning process as "an exercise in creative thinking."

The COVID-19 pandemic did not slow Rago-Craft's interest in hosting events, including closing keynote addresses by Dolores Huerta, an activist and labor leader who co-founded what would become the United Farm Workers. Rago-Craft credited social media with playing a huge role in the promotion of events, allowing "[them]

to have greater reach than what we may have experienced with just a print campaign."

Since the events are virtual, attendance this year has risen because more individuals "are able to tune in a bit more conveniently from the comfort of their own homes or residence halls," Rago-Craft said.

She continued, "We are in essence uplifting and recognizing the incredible contributions of those within Hispanic and Latinx communities, both to our campus and to the world at large."

Brayan Loja, Chapter President of Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity, was in charge of coordinating two Hispanic Heritage Month events: "Urban Bachata: The Black History of Bachata Dance," in which students had the opportunity to learn more about this genre and



PHOTO COURTESY of Anthony DePrimo (2018)
Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated annually at Monmouth University through various events such as salsa dancing and Latinx Trivia Night.

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University Among Top Peace Corps Prep Schools

ALEX DYER
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The University has been named the fifth-best Peace Corps Prep school, according to the organization's 2020 list of the top schools that issue certificates.

On Sept. 30, the Peace Corps ranked Monmouth the number-five Peace Corps Prep institution in the country, along with Mercer University in Macon, GA. According to the Peace Corps, Prep certificates are received in programs designed specifically around the Peace Corps experience, preparing the candidate for deployment. In 2020, Monmouth awarded 28 Prep certificates.

Deborah Rothermund, Assistant to the Peace Corps Prep Program, said, "The goal of the program is to give students experiences that will enhance their Peace Corps applications." By making their applications more competitive, students are more likely to be accepted into a deployment program. However, the PeaceCorps.gov website notes that a certificate is not mandatory to be accepted.

"The program is also meant to provide opportunities for like-minded students to develop relationships and ultimately earn the Peace Corps Prep Certificate," said Rothermund.

Frank Cipriani, Director of the Peace Corps Prep Program said, "One aspect of our program that is important to note is that our Board consists of people studying multiple disciplines. When I talk about 'relevant' majors to the Peace Corps program, I mean some you wouldn't necessarily think of, like art."

Regarding what sets Monmouth's program apart from other schools, Rothermund said, "The Peace Corps Prep Program at Monmouth University is the only Peace Corps Prep Program at a New Jersey college."

Rothermund added, "We offer opportunities to gain experience in a variety of sectors as well as cultural

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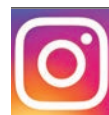
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University Clubs Explain Virtual Operations as Cases Rise

MEGAN RUGGLES
ASSOCIATE NEWS/POLITICS EDITOR

University clubs and organizations will function virtually through Tuesday, Oct. 20 as part of a series of measures enacted to increase safety and mitigate virus spread in the campus community, Leahy announced via an email update on Friday, Oct. 2.

Leahy implemented the operational changes on Tuesday, Sept. 29, but the timeline for virtual meetings was extended by a week in response to an increase in confirmed cases and students in quarantine, over the course of the week.

In Tuesday’s email, Leahy

wrote, “It is imperative that our students take needed precautions in their social interactions both on and off campus to prevent the spread of this virus.”

Many campus organizations have plans in motion to conduct tasks virtually and recognize the added safety measures as necessary.

Brittany Macaluso, Co-President of the Social Work Society, believes that the precautions in place are absolutely warranted, and present the Social Work Society with a unique opportunity to extend their reach.

Each year, Social Work Society hosts an annual teaching in with the aim of gathering

the larger Monmouth community to discuss a current social issue. This year, the event will be held virtually, through zoom, providing club members the chance to gain technical skills and connect with social work departments across the country, Macaluso explained. “There will even be a professor attending from Hawaii,” she said.

Similarly, Tameah Young, Treasurer of Monmouth Gamers United, does not think the new procedures are too difficult to accommodate. “The transition has been pretty easy for us since we can do virtual games like Minecraft,” she said.

To communicate, mem-

bers utilize an application called Discord where they can join a server and use a voice channel to talk. “A lot of the gamers are introverted, and meeting this way allows people to be less shy,” Young said. “However, poor connection can be an issue and causes members to get kicked out of the server, or people talk over each other and some feel ignored.”

Christopher Chen, President of the Dungeons and Dragons Club, believes that Leahy made the right call to reduce the possibility of virus spread, but managing clubs solely online is challenging. “Dungeons and Dragons is a mix of mind theater and physical props,

now we have to translate the physical aspect through a difference medium,” he said.

Nick Mitterando, President of Sigma Tau Gamma, explained that the fraternity is strictly following all of Leahy’s orders as they are in the “best interest” of the entire school, as well as local orders. “Obviously with COVID and the updated procedures it is hard for us to operate as normal,” he said.

“One of our more difficult tasks is keeping brothers involved and active while still staying safe. We are continuing to work through this issue and are confident that we are keeping brothers safe as well as keeping the social aspect of our frat alive,” Mitterando added.

Mitterando is not alone in finding it difficult to establish a sense of community through exclusively online activities. Young remarked, “I miss the group setting and being able to interact with everyone. It was a lot more fun and felt like more of a community.”

Social Work Society is also trying to come up with ways to retain a sense of community through zoom, especially ways to engage freshman, Macaluso explained. “I think these guidelines are presenting challenges for every organization on campus.”

“It’s a very difficult time to be running a fraternity because of the deep social aspect, but we will continue to follow [the orders] and stay safe moving forward,” Mitternado said.

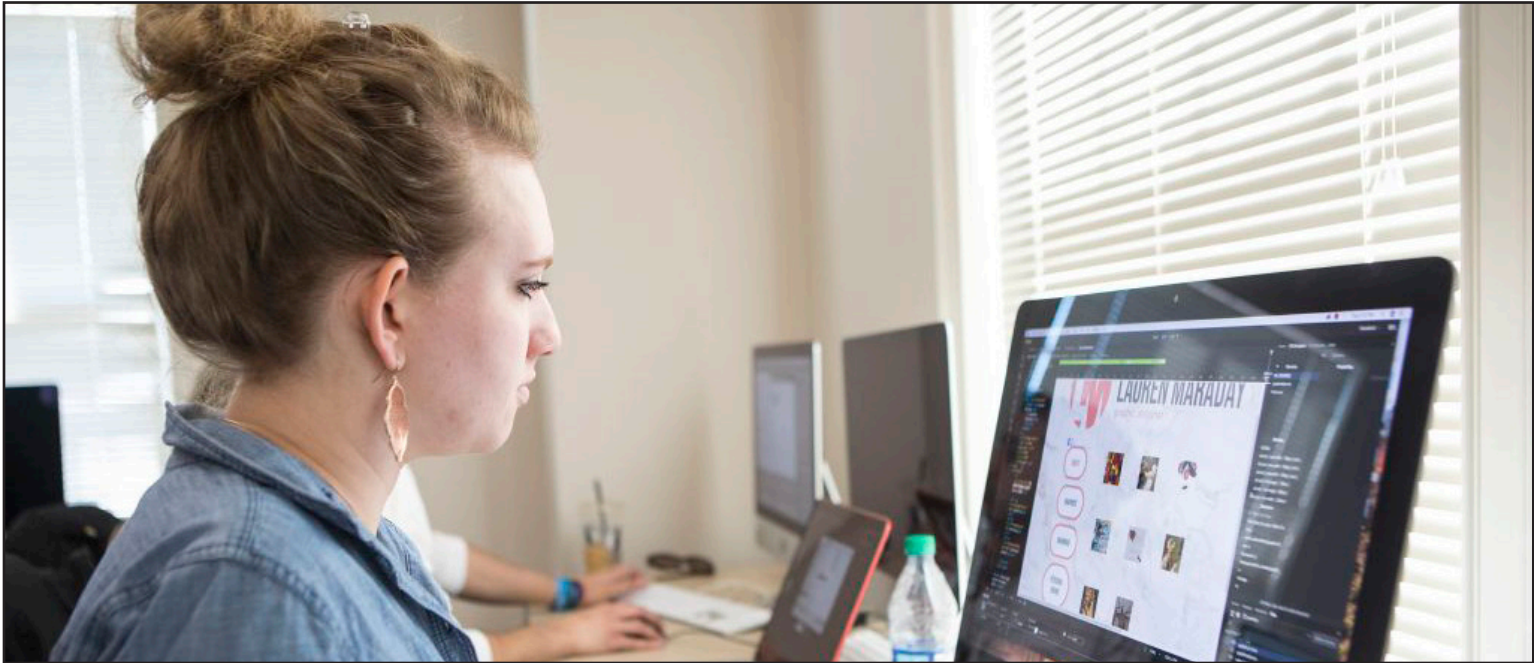


PHOTO COURTESY of Anthony DePrimo
University clubs and organizations must be conducted remotely until Oct. 20 due to an increase in COVID-19 cases.

Cases Rise Exponentially Due to Off-Campus Gatherings

PROTOCOLS cont. from pg. 1

coronavirus,” Leahy said.

Mary Anne Nagy, Vice President for Student Life and Leadership Engagement, revealed cases rose after University contact tracers discovered two groups of students holding off campus gatherings. Students who lived on campus were part of these gatherings, and returned to campus after COVID-19 exposure.

“When [the students] came back to campus, [the cases] began to rise exponentially,” Nagy said. “We were pretty good for awhile, as the COVID Dashboard had shown, but we are now at the point where we have to take a break socially.”

The spread of the virus does not appear to necessarily occur in classrooms, Nagy explained. Desks are socially distant from one another, students and faculty are wearing masks correctly, and surfaces are being wiped down.

“I think it shows that if we follow those very simple rules, we can be safe,” Nagy explained. “What has to stop is gatherings off campus that students attend and then come back to campus, as they may be sick and it starts to spread.”

Nagy urges students to consider the health, safety and personal time of their peers when making a decision to attend an off campus

gathering. “For students who are saying, ‘I’m doing as much as I can,’ at some point those students need to get to their peers and express they’re ruining it for the rest of us.”

Nagy says in theory, the first time the University could begin to consider lessening restrictions would be Oct. 21, when students return from fall break. Administration will review case numbers and COVID-19 positivity projections to determine steps

moving forward.

A return to indoor dining, opening the fitness center and having in person classes are ideas that will be considered over the next few weeks as case numbers are watched. “Hopefully we’ll see these numbers, both in terms of cases and people in quarantine, start to go down because we’ve broken the chain a little bit here,” Nagy said.

Students living on campus are not allowed to visit other residence halls “un-

der the COVID-19 environment we’re in,” and visitors are only allowed from a student’s own residence hall.

“Whenever you have two people sharing the same space, whether it’s a residence hall room, an apartment, or even an office, there has to be a mutual respect and understanding for where each other are coming from,” Nagy said.

Nagy stressed the University administration wants students to be on campus, as “we are a better campus

when we’re all here and we are able to participate,” Nagy said.

Properly worn masks must be worn at all times on campus, indoor or outdoor, Leahy’s new protocols said.

“Before, you would see students walking by themselves on campus, and they would not have a mask on,” Nagy said. “That is no longer going to be acceptable. We continue to try to talk to students and remind them about the importance of constantly wearing a mask, which is why we’ve now asked students to wear a mask no matter where you are, unless you are in your private bedroom or private office.”

Leahy hopes these actions will help to slow the spread of infection and allow the University to resume our fall semester as planned, he said in his email addressed to the campus community.

“I will continue to keep you informed by sharing updates as they become available,” Leahy said. “Please remember to visit our COVID-19 website for the most current and comprehensive campus information. And, if you have questions, please feel free to direct them to FallRestart@monmouth.edu. Staff members are standing by to answer your questions as quickly as possible. Thank you in advance for your continued cooperation and flexibility during this challenging time.”



PHOTO COURTESY of Anthony DePrimo
248 cases have been reported among the University community as of Tuesday, Oct. 6.

University Health Services Emphasizes Flu Season Safety

MELISSA BADAMO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF/ FEATURES EDITOR

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues into flu season, health officials are emphasizing safety precautions to reduce the spread of both respiratory diseases.

“It is extremely important to be protected against flu this year as influenza can greatly impact your immune system, making you more vulnerable to other viral illnesses such as COVID,” wrote Director of Health Services, Kathy Maloney, in an email.

“It is definitely more important than ever with COVID-19 around to get a flu vaccine,” said Jeffrey Weisburg Ph.D., Specialist Professor of Biology. “Being infected with both viruses could be catastrophic to an individual’s immune system and health.” Weisburg said that the only members of the community who should not receive a flu vaccine are those who experience an allergic reaction from it.

While the influenza circulates all year, flu season occurs in the fall and winter, peaks between December and February, and can last until May, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CDC recommends that people receive their flu vaccine in September or October.

“I do not think that COVID-19 is going anywhere for the foreseeable future and will be here throughout the entire flu season,” said Weisburg. “I am hopeful since everyone should be wearing a mask, social distancing, and washing his/her hands constantly that the flu season will not be as bad as usual, but the way this year has gone, it probably will be a horrible flu season.”

Both respiratory viruses are spread through infected droplets and particles in the air, according to John Hopkins

Medicine. Since both viruses have similar symptoms such as fever, cough, and congestion, it might be difficult to discern between the two unless a test is administered. It is also possible to contract both viruses at the same time.

According to John Hopkins Medicine, it is difficult to predict how severe a flu season will be, since there are several different flu viruses around that mutate from year to year. Their website also states that while more research is needed, experts believe that the death rate

of COVID-19 could be 10 or more times higher than most flu strains.

Weisburg said that for students and faculty to protect themselves from both the flu virus and COVID-19 this fall and winter, they should receive seven or more hours of sleep, exercise, and eat healthily, which all contribute to a strong and healthy immune system.

“I cannot stress the importance of wearing a mask and social distancing especially around people you are not 100

percent sure do not have COVID-19 even when outside,” he said. “You can see why when you look at Monmouth University’s dashboard. Those numbers went from six to 199 in less than two weeks.”

Alyssa Bogan, a senior health studies student, has had experience testing COVID-19 patients while working at a primary care physician’s office as a certified medical assistant for the past four months. She said, “I see patients every day who are scared to come in for fear of catching it, and it is part of my job to do intake and vitals on potential COVID patients.”

She continued, “I am definitely concerned because if it makes a resurgence our hospital systems will be easily overwhelmed between COVID and flu patients. The rise in cases at Monmouth is concerning as well because it shows we as a campus are not doing enough.”

Weisburg commented on the increase in cases at Monmouth, saying, “...Parties are such a terrible idea even if they are with the legal amount of people. You are eating or drinking, not wearing a mask, and probably yelling over the noise or singing with the music. Not to mention, doing all of this inside. All of these are a bad recipe to spread the infection quite easily.”



The flu virus can greatly impact the effectiveness of your immune system.

PHOTO TAKEN by Polina Tankilevitch

Peace Corps Ranks Monmouth Number 5 Prep Institution in Nation

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events. For example, we have a relationship with Little Hawk, a Native American. Students and friends of Peace Corps Prep assist him in building and maintaining keyhole gardens in his community. In exchange, Little Hawk enlightens the participants with his professional storytelling skills.”

Monmouth is also a Coverdell Fellowship Partner School. According to the Peace Corps website, Paul D. Coverdell Fellows are returned Peace Corps Volunteers who attend graduate school to pursue Master’s degrees at reduced cost. As PeaceCorps.gov states, “All fellows complete internships in un-

derserved communities in the United States, allowing them to bring home, and expand upon, the skills they learned as Volunteers.”

“Leila Ali, a Coverdell Fellow at Monmouth, has worked incredibly hard recruiting new Peace Corps Volunteer Prep Program students,” said Cipriani. “As you can see, in her case, the whole experience has come full circle in a way; she’s helping students whose position she was in before, so one day they might be where she is now.”

The Coverdell Fellowship is offered through Monmouth’s M.A. in Social Work Program via the School of Social Work.

Cipriani noted that parents are often wary of their children going to serve in the

Peace Corps. “My daughter served in the Peace Corps for over a year,” he said. “She lived in a yurt in Mongolia for months; every day she had to walk to a well to get water. So, I definitely understand what parents go through.”

“But,” Cipriani said, “the kind of life experience my daughter gained is something I think every parent would appreciate their child having. So I use my own personal experience to sort of ‘talk them down,’ away from that fear.”

Rothermund echoed Cipriani’s sentiment. “Whenever I talk to a returned Peace Corps Volunteer,” she said, “I soon learn that their service is not just something they did; it’s become a part of who they are.”



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth University

Peace Corps certificates are recieved in programs designed specifically around the Peace Corps experience.

MUPD Crime Log

2020 MUPD Crime Log				
MUPD: 732-571-4444				
Date Occurred	Time Occurred	Location	Crime Reported	Case
9/26/2020	1728	On Line (Social Media)	Fraud	20MU06177

The Pandemic Election

JOHN PAPAGNI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The election is looking more uncertain than ever. On Oct. 2, President Trump posted a Tweet saying that he and his wife Melania Trump both tested positive for coronavirus and are showing mild symptoms. It has also been revealed that candidate Biden has tested negative for the coronavirus.

The internet has been very controversial concerning this topic. Many people showed sympathy to Donald Trump and his wife while others are glad that he contracted the coronavirus and are hoping for his retirement in office and life. People are now assuming that if Trump does not make a recovery soon that it could be fatal for him and Biden will become president in the November election.

There has never been an instance where a president has died before an election. If the president did die before the election, the most likely occurrence would be that the vice president simply takes his place. However, it could also be postponed due to complications regarding the change of leadership in such a short time frame.

Although, if Trump did make a full recovery, then the election would still be held in November; and yet, people are still uncertain due to coronavirus whether an election should be held in the first place. The biggest reason why people have mixed feelings about this election



IMAGE TAKEN from @whenweallvote on Instagram

For more information on voting, go to vote.org or visit your state or county's website.

is because of how voting will work. I feel that we should have an election during these times of uncertainty because people need a leader to look up to and help guide others.

However, others believe that this election will be highly inaccurate due to the controversy over mail-in ballots and in-person ballots. People are also worried about their vote getting lost in the mail or just being returned to their address.

Many people want to vote regularly and go to the polls to cast their votes so it can be as accurate as possible. However, due to the coronavirus, people believe that the number of cases will spike if there is a mass amount of people. And, if there are any elderly citizens voting in person, they might contract

COVID-19 due to their weakened immune systems.

Although there are many viewpoints on whether to vote in person or by mail, there is one thing that people are encouraging everyone to do, and that is to vote. Popular influencers and artists today are stressing that young people should vote in this year's election and to simply believe that their vote matters.

Artists such as Snoop Dogg and Tyler, the Creator who never believed that their vote mattered registered this year and are going to vote because they now see the importance of voting.

Your vote could mean the change in our country. Make sure you are registered to vote and have requested your absentee ballot if needed.

Is Campus Safe?

JULIAN REBELO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On the top of everyone's minds is keeping themselves and others safe amid the coronavirus pandemic. As many have come to see, numerous limitations have been placed everywhere in order to allow us to continue along with our daily lives while mitigating the spread.

As fall approached, one questioned how our educational system would handle this. Some schools had reasoned, due to their size and complications, to go fully online for the semester; others, like ours, had developed a program of both hybrid and online classes. Now the question comes, "Do you feel safe coming to campus right now?"

Currently, I am a sophomore Biochemistry major and a commuter; therefore, I have a wide mix of both online and hybrid classes. With my current situation, I only drive up to campus a few days a week, but otherwise, I work from home.

Coming to campus, I do feel mostly safe, and the campus has assembled numerous precautions and services in order to moderate the virus' impact on the student and faculty populations. Most major halls have temperature check systems; prior to entering an in-person class, depending on the building, they will check your temperature in order to allow entrance.

In addition to that, we have the CampusClear app to self-check one's symptoms on a daily basis, as well as daily updates on the Monmouth website in regards to the number of cases that are present within the campus com-

munity. There is also sanitizer and wipes found in each classroom and laboratory.

Monmouth has also achieved engagement from students to help fight against the virus. For example, they gave out masks with the school's logo on it, encouraging students to wear their masks on campus grounds. Through being observed personally in the course of the semester thus far, this system of monitoring and information developed by Monmouth has worked quite progressively so far.

However, with the coronavirus, there is always a slight risk when going anywhere that you will interact with a larger, outside body of people. College settings are notorious and the perfect social environments for larger populations that can allow, if not monitored properly, for a virus to spread quickly.

At Monmouth currently, despite the limitations and guidelines in place, cases are starting to rise in number. Of course, these risks were calculated and precautions are in place for said situations. For me personally, as a commuter student especially, I do question whether going to the campus in person is truly safe at times due to this associated risk and having that slight possibility of catching it.

For the most part, I feel that the campus community is a safe place for students to be as long as proper health and safety protocols are followed, such as wearing masks or getting tested when suspected. If we are aware of the slight risks that are possible, then we can still have a great educational experience despite the newly adopted everyday precautions.

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Students and Professors Adapt to Multiple Roles During Remote Learning

SHANNON MCGORTY
STAFF WRITER

Normal is not a term that can be used to describe the year 2020, nor the lives of the people living in it. Any other year, parents would be working in offices, students would be learning in classrooms, and socializing with others in person would be simple.

Today, one is encouraged to stay in their homes and avoid staying within six feet of others. Rather than coming to campus every day and hosting or attending classes, the majority of students are learning remotely. And, while professors are at home, so are their children.

These trying times have professors fulfilling multiple roles. While trying to teach, class might be interrupted because a professor's child may need help with schoolwork or they may be hungry. If your professor's child is in a Zoom class at home, and they get hurt or their nose starts bleeding, their teacher will send them to the parent because there is no nurse's office in virtual school. This means that class might be interrupted or ended early. For now, this is the new normal and professors are still learning to adjust to it.

Liz O'Brien, Director of the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Program, said, "The hard part of remote work is not separating work from home, having babies cry in the other

room while on a phone/Zoom call, and trying to have babies understand that mommy can't play right now. The hardest role isn't a role... it is finding a balance...getting my job done while being a more present mom."

Professors, counselors, and faculty are all wearing multiple hats during this pandemic—educator, parent, spouse, caretaker, nurse, and lunch person. While these may be normal roles for one to fulfill, they are not usually being done at the same time.

"When working in the office you can keep these roles separate, but when in the same space you have to find ways to create new boundaries and expectations for everyone," O'Brien said.

Maintaining various roles is difficult, but finding a balance is the key to helping individuals keep their sanity when they have much on their plate.

Much like professors, students are familiar with the struggles of taking on many roles at once. Students often use excuses as to why their work is late or are constantly asking for an extension on deadlines. In today's world, there is no telling if their "excuses" are the truth or a way of getting out of the work.

Kathryn Lubniewski Ph.D., an Associate Professor of Special Education, said, "With everything that's currently going on, I try to be there and listen to



PHOTO COURTESY of Anthony DePrimo

The shift to virtual learning has forced students and faculty to balance several roles at once, adding to the difficulties stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

students and their variety of needs. It's so important to take the time to understand each person's situation and I adjust my teaching accordingly."

More so now than ever, students need to feel that their professors are there for them. If professors don't communicate with their students and vice versa, it will be hard for everyone's needs to be met. With many classes operating remotely this semester, it may be difficult to obtain that one-on-one connection with profes-

sors.

Elizabeth Muller, a senior psychology student, said, "Working with a new professor online is a lot different than working with a new professor in person because it is harder to get a sense of who they are."

There are many discrepancies when it comes to in-person and online classes. In person, you may be able to tell that a professor is just trying to keep the class enjoyable with sarcasm, but when class is being conducted online, it may come

off as rude.

Students should also note that it might take professors additional time to grade assignments due to the multiple responsibilities that come with remote teaching.

Tabitha Rahman, a senior English student, said, "I believe we need to be more understanding now than ever of our professors. Personally, I feel this way because I understand how crazy things are right now and just as it is an adjustment for us it is an adjustment for them."

Hispanic Heritage Month Festivities Continue Virtually



IMAGE TAKEN from Monmouth Intercultural Center Instagram

Held on Tuesday, the event "But I Am Both: An Afro-Latinx Dialogue" discussed the experiences and politics within Afro-Latinx communities.

HERITAGE cont. from pg. 1

included live dance instruction. He also is coordinating an event titled "I Stand with Immigrants: Social Media Campaign and Dialogue" which will be held all day on Oct. 15 via Instagram, in which students are able to express and discuss the reasons they support immigrants.

He hopes that this month serves as a point of exposure for the Hispanic community at Monmouth University and that "[this] community is here to teach other students about our culture, not just about one country but of every single one."

Another student leader, Yarlyny Mejia, President of Chi Upsilon Sigma National Latin Sorority Inc., was able to collaborate and coordinate various events including "But I Am Both: An Afro-Latinx Dialogue," "Racism and Colorism within the Latinx Community" and "Urban Bachata: The Black History of Bachata."

Mejia found that making the programs as interactive

as possible has been difficult, yet she remained surprised and happy with the support the many events have had. She believes it is important for Hispanic Heritage Month to be celebrated because, "it will always be beneficial to educate students about the Latinx communities, especially since Monmouth is a PWI and the social climate of today."

Another member that helped planned events for this month is Frank Cipriani, Professor of the Department of the World Languages and Culture who contacted screenwriters, the Carmona Sisters, to do a virtual version of their off-Broadway show "Elvira: The Immigration Play." Cipriani hopes that this month can serve as a way for "our country to continue to welcome immigrants, to embrace cultural diversity" and "to acknowledge the rich heritage of Latinidad."

Tashir Hampton, Assistant Director of the Office Student Activities helped plan Latinx Trivia Night and Salsa Magic. In his perspective, social media has been super important in

the promotion of this month and the number one priority was to "make it as easy and accessible for students to be able to join these events."

Although there has been high attendance for certain events, he "keeps encouraging students to show up and support as much as they can." He hopes what other students take away from this month "... is that they have learned a little bit more in terms of the history, if they are part of the community they have felt seen and celebrated and lifted up, and continue to feel encouraged and supported."

Senior Paola Sosa attended the "Elvira: The Immigration Play and Workshop" event and was very impressed by the play's message getting across despite viewings being held via Zoom. She enjoyed the workshop after the play in which the actors interacted with the audience by answering questions, as it provided a space for everyone to share their own personal immigration stories or Hispanic traditions.

Sosa thought that the second part of the workshop was a "nice way to bring

everybody together and realize that we have a lot of things in common no matter where you are from, but we also have differences that are just as fascinating to learn and understand."

There are still many events left for students to attend during the remainder of Hispanic Heritage Month. The closing keynote speaker will be Dolores Huerta, President and Founder of the Dolores Huerta Foundation.

This event will be held Oct. 14 at 3:30 p.m. via Zoom and registration is required. The list of remaining events can be found on The Intercultural Center's website or their Instagram page @monmouthintercultural.

The message is clear: the Latinx community at Monmouth University are proud of their culture and are here to stay. To celebrate the Hispanic culture is a step towards highlighting the positive contributions they make to this country. Through events like the ones hosted at Monmouth, others understand, tolerate, and respect this community.

Campus Dating During COVID-19: Is it Impossible?

MATTHEW CUTILLO
MANAGING/NEWS/LIFESTYLES EDITOR

The COVID-19 pandemic has put a halt to a lot of people’s plans, to say the least. It’s become increasingly more difficult to meet up with friends and family in a responsible manner, and the rules and stipulations surrounding the University campus and world at large are always changing. It seems trivial at this point in time to try to take someone out on a date, but there’s more safe and responsible ideas than one may think.

Meeting someone outside is actually relatively safe, at least when you and the other person’s mask are worn correctly. Mary Anne Nagy, Vice President for Student Life and Leadership Engagement, stressed the importance of not only wearing a mask, but doing so correctly.

“At some point, students need to get to their peers and say, ‘you are ruining it for the rest of us,’” Nagy said in a response to the rise of COVID-19 cases on campus. “When you wear your mask wrong, you’re hurting the campus.”

You may be thinking there is not much to do outside that’s fun... let alone romantic. I actually beg to differ. Sure, date ideas can’t be as cut and dry as taking someone out to a nice restaurant, but there’s more to do during this COVID-19 world than you think.

For starters, taking someone to a park is a classic,

foolproof idea. Don’t be afraid to put yourself in an environment with a person where you have little to do besides walk and talk. Strolling through a park is a nice backdrop for conversation, and you can even pretend you’re the outdoorsy type which could prove impressive.

Maybe walking around isn’t your thing and you’d like to do something a little bit more stationary. There’s plenty of spots on campus just to stop and think for a moment, such as the Great Hall steps or benches outside the residential area tunnel. You could think of a few spots in advance and do a tour of campus.

It’s important to understand and acknowledge the limitations of attempting to date someone on campus during the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the current set of rules and protocols on campus, residents are not allowed to enter residence halls they don’t live in, so it’s required to meet people outside.

There’s also plenty of things you can do virtually for dates as well. During this pandemic, my girlfriend and I have screenshared different films and TV shows to watch together. If you want to take someone on a date but don’t feel comfortable meeting them in person, may that be because of romantic nerves or COVID-nerves, ask if there’s any entertainment the two of you could watch together over

Zoom. Once you speak to one another over Zoom and establish a level of trust and comfort, you can move on to meeting in person. Outside, of course, you can plan to meet a specific location such as the eating area outside the Student Center.

Take a walk through the different corridors and avenues of campus. You might actually notice how good looking the Monmouth campus is, and maybe have a realization as to where your tuition money is being spent.

Ask about the other person’s major and their aspirations after graduation. You might be surprised to find out their path in life isn’t too different to yours, and the COVID-19-mass-life-derailment has actually aligned us all to a more centered point.

When it’s all said and done, you may go on a second date. And third. And maybe even fourth, but it’s important to keep expectations in check during the COVID-pandemic. Keep thinking of creative ways to stay in each other’s lives, as meeting each other in the dorms is not allowed.

As long as your Zoom movie viewing went well, and your walk around campus proved enjoyable, you’ll find dating during the pandemic is not at all impossible. Different does not have to mean difficult, and the other person will be flexible so long as you choose someone that’s compatible.



PHOTO TAKEN by Anthony DePrimo
Walking and talking is a great and simplistic idea for a date.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth University
Try to think of outside spots in advance of your date.



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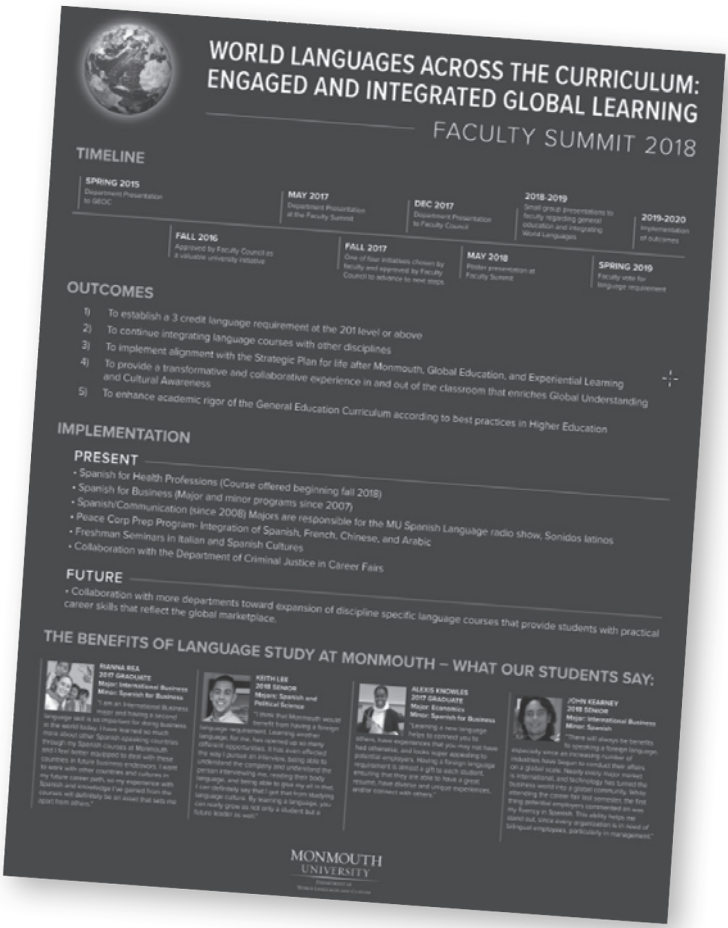
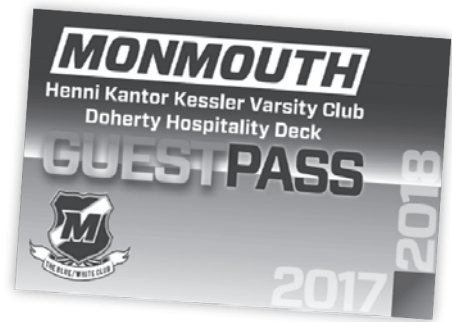
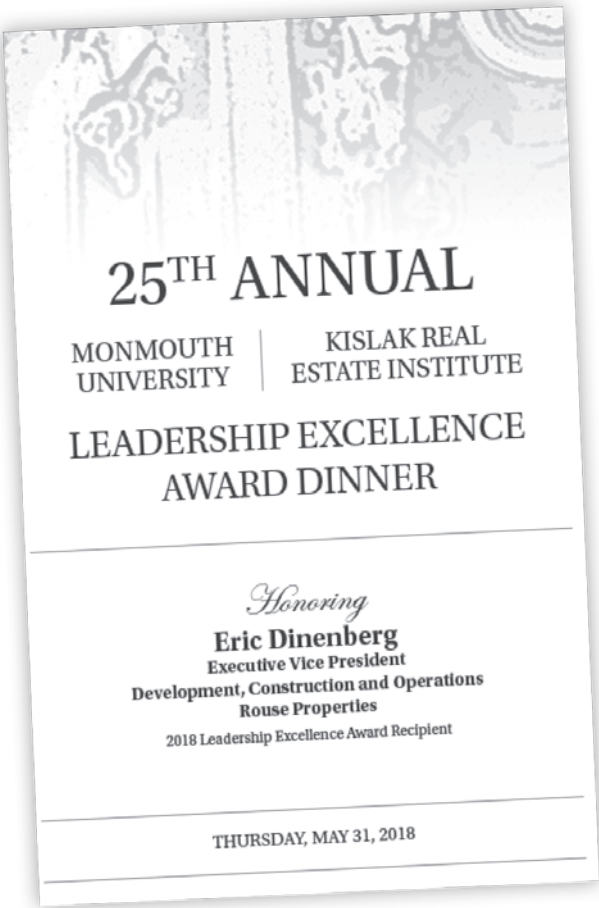
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Blue Hawk Records Prepare 17th Compilation Album

GRACE ENRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Even though the outside world is anything but normal these days, the show must still go on. Monmouth University's Blue Hawks Records is hard at work creating their 17th compilation album. Being a part of this year's team, I can tell you first hand that it is going to be a good one.

We have assembled artists who vary widely in genres. We have a few full bands, solo singers, and rappers, so be prepared to switch up your vibe while listening to this album.

Last week, we hosted virtual and socially distanced auditions. Our students presented us with an abundance of talent and it was hard to narrow down to just six. Allow me to introduce you to our artists this semester: Nick Garrecht, Abby Garcia, Justine Ume, Hasan Chambers, Charlie Krause, and Gabe Garza.

Nick Garrecht has been playing guitar for five years and piano for three. Having been influenced by Led Zeppelin, Simon and Garfunkel, the Beatles, and Harry Styles, Nick and his band White Wing have written over 40 songs. Writing and playing professionally is their dream, and they aim to aid as many of their listeners as they can through their music.

Abby Garcia is a first year music industry student, and has connected with music ever since she was a little girl. She began taking voice lessons in 2010, and was involved in chorus and her school's musicals. She is excited to be making music in

Asbury Park where one of her influences, Bruce Springsteen, made his name.

Justin Ume is a rapper, songwriter, editor, content creator, and public speaker, who appears under the stage name UME. He considers his content to be empathetic, "mood music." Through his music he is looking to empower those who feel powerless, serve as a voice for younger generations, and encourage everyone to tap into their real feelings and emotions.

Charlie Krause is mostly a singer and pianist these days, but before getting into either he was an electric bassist and studied jazz performance at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia.

He learned that that was no longer his passion, and went on to worship acts like Neil Young, Jackson Brown, Elton John, and Bruce Springsteen. Most of Charlie's music aims to tell a story, an art he believes to be lacking in some of today's popular music.

Gabe Garza, otherwise known as "Double G," is from a small town in New Jersey and has been writing music since his sophomore year of high school. He has dropped two singles and one EP so far and is looking forward to creating more music.

We are just getting started on this project, and I'm very excited to see how it turns out.

The album will be released on Dec. 9 for a virtual live event starting at 8 p.m. on Instagram (bluehawkrecordsofficial) and Facebook Live.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth University

A trip down memory lane: Blue Hawk Records releases a compilation album every semester, kicked off by live release performances that showcase each artist's talent.

Book Review: *Pillow Thoughts*

KRYSTA DONNELLY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

We are all humans, and we all feel a variety of emotions depending on what life is throwing at us at different times. Whether it is excruciating lows or sky-rocketing highs, we've all been there. And sometimes, it's comforting to know someone else understands the pain or joy, the excitement or depression, you feel as well.

Courtney Peppernell, the Australian, LGBT author of *Pillow Thoughts*, captures the raw truth behind human emotions.

Pillow Thoughts is a collection of poetry and prose about heartbreak, love, loss, and self worth. Peppernell divided this into ten sections, making it so simple to skip to the parts where you want to feel the most.

She submerges her words into all the aspects that come along when falling in love with somebody. She acknowledges the butterflies you may feel at first glance, the comfortableness and safety you feel within the companionship, the heart-wrenching sadness when things deteriorate, and the aching sadness when you can't let go of memories you once clutched on to.

Electronic musical duo The Chainsmokers said, "As songwriters, poetry has always played a special role in our lives. We discovered *Pillow Thoughts*, and it has been one of the most enjoyable books we have read in a long time".

No matter how many times you read through the pages, each poem continues to resonate with a significant aspect or moment occurring in your daily life.

Through her writing, Peppernell confesses blatantly honest struggles and emotions individuals grapple with at some point in their lives. Some examples include self-esteem issues and the importance of self-worth.

Her words are simple and to the point, but in the same breath, relatable and transparent. Peppernell has an amazing writing ability to capture such intensity and release it onto the page in a light-hearted and comforting way.

Her talent is manifested throughout the 256 pages of *Pillow Thoughts*. Each section was written with the intention to be read when the reader is in a specific frame of mind. The table of thoughts include if you are dreaming of someone, are

in love, heartbroken, lonely, sad, or missing someone.

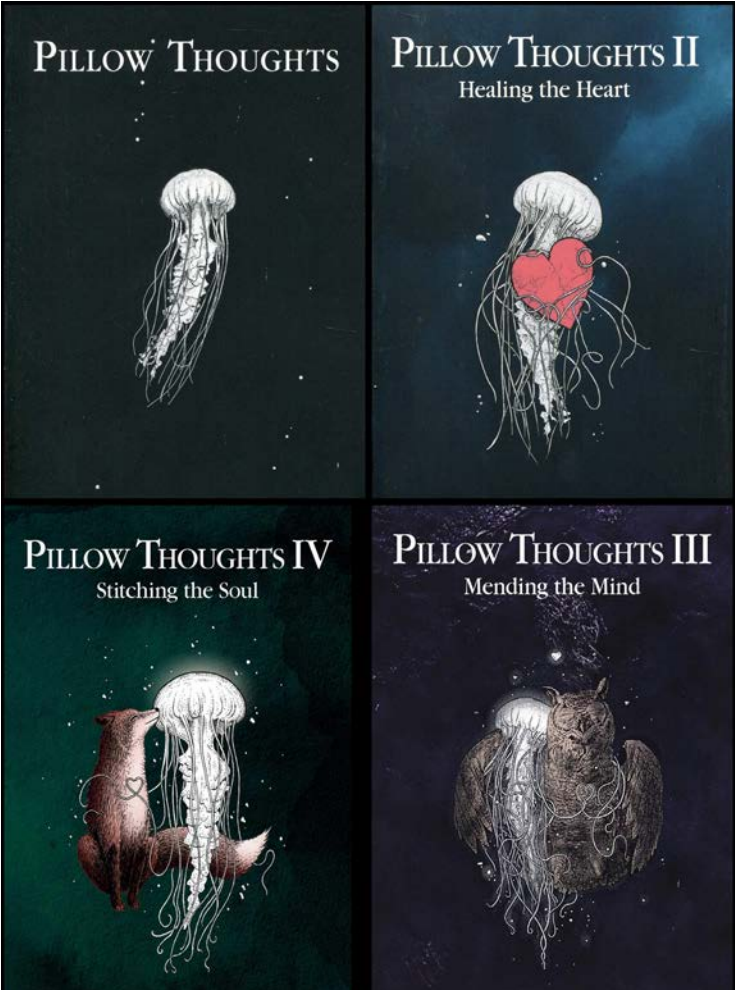
The others include if you are missing someone, need encouragement, soul-searching, or need a reason to stay. The last one is dedicated to her partner, Rhian. This final touch strings it all together. She allowed her readers to understand she is just like them. She is not portraying some exaggerated sentiments that she has no experience with. She understands the sensations that feelings leave you with, and her empathy is recognizable. Her feelings are prevalent, and utterly impossible to ignore.

Peppernell is not to be underestimated or underrecognized. Her words don't disappear from your life the moment you flip the page. They have a way of resonating with you and what is occurring in your life; internally, emotionally, and physically.

Since its publication in 2017, there has been three more *Pillow Thoughts* books released as part of a series; *Healing the Heart* in 2018, *Mending the Mind* in 2019, and the most recent *Stitching the Soul* in August of 2020.

Whether you are a poetry fan or not, this is a must

read that will have little sticky notes on so many of the pages. To be able to flip back and forth, knowing her solacing words are there, is a true talent.



IMAGES TAKEN from Amazon

Pillow Thoughts is a powerful book of poetry for readers that like various genres and quick poems that realistically speak to them.

An Analysis of the First 2020 Presidential Debate

MEGAN RUGGLES
SENIOR/ POLITICS/ ASSOCIATE NEWS
EDITOR

President Donald Trump and Democratic nominee Joe Biden engaged in the first of three scheduled presidential debates on Tuesday, Oct. 3. Faculty speculate that the frequent interruptions by Trump were a strategy to derail the debate and draw media attention, but it may not have worked in his favor.

Fox news anchor Chris Wallace moderated the debate and struggled to keep the candidates from interrupting each other during their fixed speaking time. Wallace appealed to Trump to respect the debate format his campaign agreed to, and he declared a segment over when Trump would not stop talking.

“Trump is a handful to his advisers because he refuses to prepare, saying he’s been preparing during his four years in the White House, which is a cavalier statement as presidential debates require practice,” explained Joseph Patten, Ph.D., an Associate Professor of Political Science.

“Trump’s interruptions and turning the debate into a train wreck were due to a lack of preparation, so he did not want to debate,” he said.

Michael Phillips-Anderson, Ph.D., an Associate Professor of Communication, added that Trump’s behavior

violates norms in ways that earn him “significant media attention.” “Whether it was strategy or instinct that led Trump to interrupt so frequently, it may not have the effect that he wanted,” he said.

Trump’s base might appreciate his aggressive persona, but he is behind in the polls and needs to appeal to more people, so if undecided voters tuned out early on, they are not likely to vote for him, or maybe even at all, Phillips-Anderson explained.

Most political communication research argues that the debates hold little sway over how people vote.

However, “Debates are the

single most viewed part of a presidential campaign... there are many voters who don’t pay much attention until the debates. It is often the first time that some people are hearing the candidates,” Phillips-Anderson said.

Patten added that “[Trump] didn’t really do anything in that debate to expand his base, and his base isn’t big enough to win.” He would need to sway independents, college-educated white men, and uneducated white women, but Biden is eating into that white base.

Trump attempted to paint Biden as weak by pushing him around, so Biden needed to match that. He has

the experience and knows policy, so his primary challenge was convincing people he has enough “gas in the tank,” Patten remarked. “Biden was off to a slow start but after the first 20 minutes he regrouped.”

Trump had a clear strategy: to prevent Biden from speaking as much as possible, explained Eric Schwartz, a senior political science student.

“The Trump campaign’s biggest fear is Biden appearing as a coherent and well-spoken candidate, so the constant interruptions helped to prevent that,” he continued.

“Having said that, Biden’s overall performance was still

weak. He was very low energy and didn’t hammer on any specific policy points,” Schwartz concluded.

Biden employed the challenger strategy, mixed with a successor strategy, clarified Phillips-Anderson. He is trying to take credit for positive things that happened while he was in an office close to the presidency, but most vice presidents who later ran for president failed.

Conversely, “Trump only plays the challenger role. It is not an unusual strategy as even politicians who have served for a long time will run ‘against Washington.’ Still, Trump’s strategy of pointing out current problems and arguing that they are reflective of Joe Biden’s America is unusual,” Phillips-Anderson said.

Patten does not believe Trump resembles the candidate he was in 2016. “In 2016, he looked like he was having more fun, even if he wasn’t laying out serious policy proposals, he was enjoying being the rogue candidate,” he said. “The Republican establishment did not back Trump in 2016, and so his election was this fluke that happened that caught the country by surprise, and I think he was shocked that he won.”

“This is the first time Trump is running behind expectations, he has something to lose now,” Patten said.



President Donald Trump was scolded by moderator Chris Wallace for continually interrupting former Vice President Joe Biden.

IMAGE TAKEN from The Atlantic

Amy Barrett’s Nomination Fuels Partisan Disputes

GEORGEANNE NIGRO
ASSOCIATE POLITICS EDITOR

ALEX DYER
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Judge of the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, Amy Coney Barrett, was nominated by President Trump for Associate Justice of the Supreme Court on Saturday, Sept. 26.

Barrett graduated from Rhodes College and Notre Dame Law School. She taught at Notre Dame for 15 years and continues to teach part time. She is a conservative, Pro-Life judge, who Trump nominated to the 7th Circuit Appellate Court three years ago.

Randall S. Abate, Professor of Political Science and Sociology, explained how our political process works. He explained that Republican presidents nominate conservative justices and Democratic presidents nominate liberal justices.

“Elections matter. Trump’s appointees to the Supreme Court will have a profound influence on the interpretation of our Constitution for the next 30-40 years. It also was important to conservatives and liberals alike to replace Justice Ginsburg with a woman to maintain gender balance on the Court,” said Abate.

Jennifer McGovern, Ph.D., an Assistant Professor of Sociology, also weighed in on the vacancy and politicization of

the ostensibly bipartisan process of selecting a Justice.

“Given the way that the Supreme Court vacancy has turned into a political battle,” she said, “I hope that Ginsburg’s passing inspires politicians to work towards finding a solution that has clear rules for nominating justices with respect to election timelines. I hope they can work together to develop a bipartisan solution that can be in place from this point forward.”

McGovern believes that the

American people should play a role in the making of this decision. “Democrats in the House are considering a bill on term limits,” she explained. “This is one solution, but I’d like to see a number of solutions proposed that might reduce partisanship and make American people feel like they have a voice in the process.”

Abate then gave his opinion on having a nomination for a new high court justice right before an election. “I understand that the political party

in control would seek to capitalize on that opportunity. I am concerned, however, that this very important confirmation process for the highest court in our nation is being rushed and conducted carelessly,” he said. “That concern would have been true even at the beginning of 2020, but it is a much greater concern just one month prior to the election.”

Abate explained how Barrett’s politics are very different from his, but there are many conservative jurists who he trusts to make decisions based on the merits of the disputes before them.

“My concern about Barrett’s track record and candidacy is that she appears to be a ‘hired gun’ to cast the deciding vote to overturn a woman’s constitutional right to choose as established in Roe v. Wade when the opportunity presents itself,” said Abate. “Some are also concerned that the rush to get her nomination confirmed is to provide added support on the Court for Trump in the event that the 2020 election results are contested.”

Matt Filosa, junior political science student, explained that the nomination of Barret to the Supreme Court is being ridiculed to the Supreme Court for two reasons. “First, it comes in the midst of an election season, where in 2016 a precedent was created by the Republican senate to hold off on nominations

until after the election is held,” he said.”

He elaborated that in 2016, Republicans held off on Obama’s selection, Merrick Garland, to the court. Because of Trump being in office, Republicans feel that she should be nominated to the court as soon as possible, according to Filosa. He also said that there is backlash on social media over this because it is a double standard.

“The second reason could be the issues at stake, her seat on the court will solidify a 6-3 conservative majority. Some people have raised concerns about things like Roe vs. Wade or the Affordable Care Act,” he said.

Filosa then gave his partisan perspective on Barrett’s nomination by saying it was very smart of Trump to nominate her and have her confirmed as soon as possible. The conservative base could solidify a judge for decades who can rule on issues that they advocate for.

“If she is confirmed by the Senate, she could sit on the Supreme Court for decades. This means that she is someone who will have significant influence on cases to come which is something that we all should care about. And that is up to people themselves to decide if they feel this is a person that should sit on our country’s highest court,” said Filosa.



Amy Barrett accepting the nomination to the Supreme Court in the Rose Garden.

IMAGE TAKEN from USA Today

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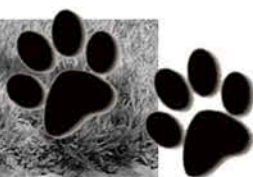
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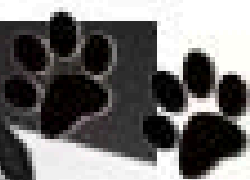
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Former Hawk Pete Guerriero Signs With Panthers

ERIN MULLIGAN
STAFF WRITER

On Oct. 1, former Monmouth running back Pete Guerriero signed with the Carolina Panthers’ practice squad.

Guerriero was asked to try out for the Panthers and competed against three other running backs for the practice squad spot. He impressed head coach, Matt Rhule, and became one of the two running backs that earned a spot on the squad.

The Lyndhurst native came to Monmouth in 2016 and spent his freshman year as a track runner. He won the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Outdoor Championship in the 100m and 200m. In 2017, he became a redshirt freshman for the football team and immediately made an impact on the entire program.

The 2019 Football Championship Series (FCS) Running Back of the Year declared for the National Football League (NFL) Draft after completing his third season of eligibility. He ended his Monmouth season last year with a total of 3,974 career rushing yards which was the second most in program history. Throughout his career, Guerriero had 20 career over 100-yard rushing games appearing in 34 games for Monmouth.

Guerriero was the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) FCS leading rusher in the country and scored 239 points throughout his time as a Hawk, which is the third most in Monmouth history and helped the Hawks earn their first Big South Championship.

Senior Offensive Line-man, AJ Farris, could not say enough about his former teammate. He praised the NFL rookie, saying, “I feel like with COVID he got snubbed this year and would have been signed way earlier if all of this wasn’t a thing. It’s a great feeling to see all the work he put in when no one was watching pay off for him.”

Farris reminisced on Guerriero’s start with the team, saying, “We were talking after practice one day and he told me he was going to be the starting running back that year. I looked at him like he was crazy. Like who does this

“It’s a great feeling to see all the work he put in when no one was watching pay off for him.”

AJ FARRIS

Monmouth Offensive Line-man



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Former Monmouth Hawks running back Pete Guerriero won FCS Running Back of the Year honors in 2019 and ran for the second most rushing yards in program history with 3,974 for his career.

“He has worked very hard to get this opportunity, and we are confident that he will make the most of it.”

KEVIN CALLAHAN
Monmouth Head Coach



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Pete Guerriero has signed with the Carolina Panthers practice squad after the injury to star running back Christian McCaffrey has opened the door for those competing at his position.

track kid think he is?”

Guerriero played in 11 games that 2017 season and had many great achievements. He made First Team All-Big South as a running back and kick returner, became the fifth Monmouth player in history to have a 1,000-yard season, and recorded six 100-yard rushing performances among in addition to being named the Big South Co-Freshman of the Year.

“Boy was he right, opened a lot of people’s eyes that year and continued to do so going forward,” said Farris. “Playing with him was awesome. He’s a great guy on and off the field and one of the most motivated people I’ve ever met.”

Head Coach, Kevin Callahan, said that the football team is excited to see Guerriero in the NFL. Callahan said, “He has worked very hard to get this opportunity, and we are confident that he will make the most of it.”

The Panthers are 2-2, and with Guerriero on their practice squad, he adds major depth to the team. On offense, Guerriero will be of great help to them now especially due to star running back, Christian McCaffrey, being out on the Injured Reserve with an ankle sprain. Not only will he be of great value to Carolina as a running back, but he will also be useful to them on special teams as well.

Hawks Offensive Coordinator Jeff Gallo said that they are excited for Guerriero and praised his dedication and versatility. He said, “Pete has the vision, speed, and ball skills to help Carolina both on offense and special teams. He fits perfectly into Carolina’s offensive scheme that can take advantage of his elite speed and versatility.”

Gallo added, “Pete is a great representative of this football program and University, and we know that he will be successful.”

Guerriero is in strong company with current New York Jet Chris Hogan and former tight ends and teammates Shawn Clark and Jake Powell as Monmouth Hawks ready to make an impact in the 2020 NFL season. Clark and Powell both earned in-person camp invites while Guerriero is currently signed to a practice squad.

“He fits perfectly into Carolina’s offensive scheme that can take advantage of his elite speed and versatility.”

JEFF GALLO

Monmouth Offensive Coordinator

Monmouth to Re-Air Classics on ESPN+

MARK D'AQUILA
SPORTS EDITOR

Unprecedented times call for unprecedented measures as Monmouth athletics has decided to bring something new to a deflated campus that is terribly missing their fall sports season. With the help of ESPN+ Monmouth will now be re-airing classic sporting events from the 2019-2020 athletics season starting on September 30th.

The schedule includes nearly two months of non-stop

Monmouth action starting with men's basketball versus Radford from last season and ending with men's basketball versus Quinnipiac. The schedule includes a variety of men's and women's sports ranging from soccer to basketball to football to field hockey.

Each week ESPN+ will air three games starting at 3:00 p.m. sharply every single Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The links to these ESPN broadcasts will be provided on MonmouthHawks.com as well as the Monmouth Hawks Twitter page which will release schedule

updates and news about these re-aired events.

Big South champion football leads the way with six games on the docket from their historic 2019-2020 season starting with the matchup from September 7th against Lafayette. They will also be airing the games versus Albany, Presbyterian, Gardner-Webb, North Alabama, and lastly Hampton which will be aired on November 6th.

Men's basketball is also heavily featured in the Monmouth Classics with five games available

starting with Radford and ending with Quinnipiac. The matchups being aired also feature Rider on October 21st, Albany on November 4th, and Iona on November 9th.

Arguably the most dominant team on the menu and easily the most important game on the schedule is the historic women's soccer team who is featured in three contests including the only conference championship of the bunch. The Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Finals versus Fairfield will be re-aired on

October 28. This was an enormous 6-0 shutout from the Lady Hawks who captured their fourth straight MAAC Championship at Hesse Field that night.

The ESPN+ schedule also features a national ranked field hockey team in their matchup from September 20th of last season against Drexel which will be aired on October 12th. This was a 5-0 shutout which saw four different Hawks score and a shutout from their goalkeeper Kate O'Hogan.

Lastly, but certainly not least women's basketball is featured in four separate matchups starting with Saint Peter's on October 19th and ending with Lafayette on November 11th. The other matchups being aired include conference battles against both Siena and Manhattan.

Associate Athletics Director for New Media and Communications at Monmouth University, Greg Viscomi, discussed the decision to bring this new content to Monmouth during a dry time for athletics.

"Once again our partnership with ESPN is bringing top quality Monmouth University content to our fans," said Viscomi. "We know our fans, parents, students and alumni are missing Monmouth athletics events and this is a great way to have them relive some of our greatest games from last year."

The broadcasts being shown are not just about the athletes on the field, but they are also showcasing the many students working behind the scenes with ESPN+ to put these broadcasts together for the viewing pleasure of all.



Monmouth Football defeated Lafayette on Sept. 7, 2019 by a score of 24-21. The game is to be re-aired on ESPN+ as one of Monmouth's classics.

PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Men's Basketball Announce New Freshman

JACK MURPHY
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Men's basketball announced that they have signed a pair of players to join the program for the 2020-2021 season. Myles Ruth and Klemen Vuga will both be joining the freshman class for the blue and white this year.

Ruth is a native of Hillside, New Jersey and played his high school basketball at Don Bosco in Ramsey, New Jersey. In his senior season Ruth was named First Team All-Big North Division, First Team All-North Jersey and First Team All-Bergen County.

Standing at six feet tall, he averaged 13.6 points per game, 4.7 assists and 2.3 steals in senior campaign in high school. He was also very efficient from the field as he finished the season with a 53 percent field goal percentage. With Ruth's efforts, the Ironmen finished the 2019-20 season with a 14-6 record while posting an impressive 9-1 record at home.

Ruth also posted a total of five games in his senior year with at least 20 points including a 27 point explosion against Newburgh Free Academy. Not only did he score with ease, but he filled up the entire stat sheet in this contest. Ruth finished with 27 points, seven rebounds, five assists, two blocks, and six steals.

Ruth was also awarded Most Valuable Player honors for the Dennis Gregory Classic as well as being selected as an All-Star by NJHoops.com

Joining him in Monmouth's incoming class is Klemen Vuga from Menges, Slovenia who at-

tended high school at Virginia Episcopal School in Lynchburg, Virginia.

Vuga spent two seasons on varsity where he started a total of 57 games. In his junior season, Vuga averaged 7.5 points and 4.4 rebounds in roughly 19 minutes per game. He stepped up his game in his senior year where he averaged 11.5 points and 8.3 rebounds while averaging 24.2 minutes in 27 games played. He shot 46 percent from the field. Beyond the arc, Vuga shot 28 percent in his two sea-

sons and also had a free throw percentage of 46 percent.

In a game against Hargrave Military Academy, Vuga exploded for 20 points and 16 rebounds. He also registered both a block and a steal in the contest. He put up an impressive performance in Virginia Episcopal School's win over Covenant. Vuga recorded a career high 22 points in 31 minutes of play. He also grabbed 12 boards in the winning effort. On the defensive end, Vuga contributed by adding two blocks and two steals to his tally. In his se-

nior year, Vuga recorded a total of nine double-doubles. Vuga stands at six feet and nine inches and played high school ball under head coach Darko Sedlar.

"We're super excited to add Myles and Klemen to our program," said head coach King Rice.

Ruth and Vuga will be rounding out a four-player freshman class for the Monmouth Hawks. The other freshman they will be joining in blue and white are Jack Holmstrom from Rockford, Illinois and Myles Foster from

Brooklyn, New York.

"We can't wait to get to work with them on our new team and we're happy they chose us," said Rice.

The Hawks are coming off a season where they finished the regular season with 18 wins but did not get a chance to participate in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) tournament due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Men's basketball is scheduled to tip-off their season on December 8th when they face off with Niagara on the road.



Head Coach King Rice looks to lead his team to another winning season after his Hawks registered 18 wins a season ago. They did not compete in the MAAC Tournament, as it was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics





FORMER HAWK SOARS TO NFL



Last season's FCS running back of the year Pete Guerriero signed with the Carolina Panthers' practice squad this past week.

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