



THE OUTLOOK

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STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1933

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IMAGE TAKEN from New York Post

Joe Biden Wins Race to the White House

Kamala Harris to Become First Woman Vice President

MEGAN RUGGLES
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Joseph R. Biden was elected the 46th president of the United States of America on Saturday, Nov. 7, after he gained a clear lead in the vote count in Pennsylvania, following a week of slowed vote tallies in the key battleground states due to an unprecedented surge in mail-in ballots.

When vote counts neared completion in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, President Trump's lead disappeared and solidified Biden's victory.

The Black community saved Biden in the Democratic primary, delivering him 25 percent of the votes in South Carolina, explained Joseph Patten, an Associate Professor of Political Science. "Biden got the party's nomination because of African Americans and won the presidency because of African Americans," he said.

But the election did not hinge on Biden's ability to

convert voters in the suburbs; it came down to racially diverse urban areas in Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, Arizona, Nevada, and Georgia. After vote counts from Detroit, Milwaukee, and Atlanta flooded in, Trump's election night lead faded, according to the Associated Press.

Biden appealed to Black Americans amid Trump's response to the coronavirus pandemic, which disproportionately affected people of color, and the Black Lives Matter's protests. Shadiyah Belton, President of the

Black Student Union, said, "Biden and Harris' acknowledgement of the disparities that black people have faced in relation to healthcare, education, economic opportunity, and the effects of COVID, had a huge impact on the amount of support he received from Black voters." Biden's familiarity with these issues due to his ties with former President Barack Obama increased his popularity, she noted.

Selecting Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA) as a running mate confirmed that repre-

sentation matters in politics. Patten said that "Identity politics is a major factor in American politics... in the context of George Floyd, it would almost be difficult to conceive of a race that didn't have a person of color in it."

Harris will be the first woman elected Vice President of the United States. Zachary Dougherty, President of the Democratic Club, said, "I don't think we can trivialize the impact [Harris' election] will have

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University Hosts "Post-election Check In"

ISABELLA HANNA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Counseling and Psychological Services, Professors United for Safe Haven (PUSH), and the Intercultural Center teamed to host a virtual post-election community discussion via Zoom on Friday, Nov. 6.

Coordinated by Chris McKittrick, Ph.D. Assistant Director of Counseling and Psychological Services; Zaneta Rago-Craft, Ph.D. Director of the Intercultural Center; and Amanda Stojanov,

PUSH Faculty Organizer and Assistant Professor of Digital Media, the meeting posed questions on the current political climate surrounding the presidential election and its impact on the Monmouth community.

McKittrick emphasized basic guidelines to establish the mood of the discussion before bringing up topics. "This is a safe space for all," McKittrick said. "A place where everyone can voice their opinions without fear of ridicule or criticism." McKittrick also challenged those present to "...go outside [their] comfort

zones because all feelings are valid."

Rago-Craft mirrored McKittrick's sentiments by asking attendees to listen with the desire to understand, rather than listening to simply respond.

"If an individual is to challenge someone else's views during the meeting, [I ask that] that he/she challenges with care and respect," Rago-Craft said.

The first discussion topic asked the attendees

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Student Organization Hosts Reproductive Justice Awareness Week

MELISSA BADAMO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF/FEATURES EDITOR

The Gender Studies and Intersectionality Club (GSIC) teamed with Students for Systemic Change and SPECTRUM to host three events for Reproductive Justice Awareness week from Monday, Nov. 2 to Friday, Nov. 6 via Zoom. The events were held in response to the Catholic Campus Ministry's Oct. 6 event, "Make Abortion Illegal Again," according to Melissa Alvare, Lecturer of Sociology and Faculty Advisor for GSIC. "[Students] hoped to provide

the Monmouth University community opportunities to learn about reproductive justice and to counter any misinformation and stigmatization that may have resulted from the 'Make Abortion Illegal Again' event," said Alvare. "By organizing Reproductive

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Global Ocean Governance Lecture Discusses Biodiversity Treaty

MATTHEW CUTILLO
MANAGING/NEWS/LIFESTYLES EDITOR

The University’s Urban Coast Institute and Institute for Global Understanding held their second Global Ocean Governance lecture via Zoom on Thursday, Nov. 5. Titled “Connected, Dynamic, at Risk: Coastal Nation Interests in a Strong New High Seas Biodiversity Treaty,” the lecture featured Rutgers University Associate Professor Cymie Payne and Guillermo Ortuño Crespo, postdoctoral researcher at the Stockholm Resilience Centre and coordinator of early career professional engagement for the U.N. Decade of Ocean Science.

The Global Ocean Governance series is meant to address cutting edge issues that are of relevance to the marine environment across many subtopics, according to Randall Abate, J.D., in his opening remarks. The lecture had more than 70 registered attendees from 14 countries.

Lecture presenters Payne and Crespo met at the United Nations while working on a prospective global treaty for biodiversity in the high seas and its particular value to coastal and island nations, she Payne explained.

“The United States is a pre-eminent maritime power and it’s a coastal state,” Payne said. “We’re speaking to you two days after Americans voted, and we don’t yet know the results yet... but America’s interests in a strong, new,

high seas biodiversity treaty remain compelling.

The main area beyond the 12 mile territorial sea and the 200 mile exclusive economic zone, as well as the seabed beyond the extended continental shelf where it exists are the subject of this treaty. “It’s an almost imaginary zone for many of us,” Payne said. “For most of us, it doesn’t allow easy access despite the beautiful, rich, complex life forms that inhabit it. These life forms are also essential for our own existence.”

The United States’ land is about 3.8 million square miles and U.S. waters are 4.3 million square miles, partly because of islands like Hawaii that have a great sea area, Payne said. “The U.S. hasn’t finished mapping its extended continental shelf which is probably more than one and a half times the size of Texas.”

Crespo’s side of the lecture dealt with transboundary connectivity, biodiversity in the high seas and the risks that many species face in areas beyond national jurisdiction. “Coastal states such as the United States should care quite a lot about what happens beyond the 200 nautical mile boundary,” Crespo said.

The amount of pressure humans have placed, ecologically speaking, on this other half of our planet far exceeds the ability of these ecosystems to assimilate that stress, according to Crespo.

“We’re seeing that a lot of the populations that inhabit

these distant waters are facing threatening ecological population levels, and if the open ocean was disconnected from the coastal ocean, [as well as] disconnected from our lives and our economies, perhaps that wouldn’t be a reason for concern. I will hopefully convince you today that the high seas are highly connected to our coastal communities and our coastal systems.”

There are records of at least 23,000 species which inhabit waters beyond national jurisdiction, Crespo said. Most of these species are invertebrates, but many of them, including fish, seabirds, marine mammals and sea turtles, engage in transboundary movements or annual migrations. “They connect, spawning and feeding grounds in the

coastal ocean to other national waters and the high seas.”

There does not exist meaningful biodiversity information for fish in most of the ocean, Crespo explained. “As we move forward with this treaty, it’s important to acknowledge that [with] many parts of the ocean, we still don’t know what biodiversity lies there,” Crespo said. “We should embrace a precautionary approach towards human use of those spaces.”

There are two types of ecological connectivity, Crespo explained. Planktonic, or passive connectivity, which is driven by ocean currents. Small organisms do not have the locomotion power to swim wherever they choose, so they are redistributed with the currents. “That’s how a lot of the

larvae of corals redistribute and settle,” Crespo said.

The other type of connectivity is known as nektonic, or active connectivity. “That is where the animals, via locomotion, decide their horizontal and vertical position in the water,” Crespo said. “Many of these species, such fish, sharks, seabirds or marine mammals engage in huge migrations across entire ocean basins in search for food or breeding grounds.”

Tony MacDonald, Director of the Urban Coast Institute, considers there to be many international opportunities ahead, particularly for biodiversity. “[This lecture is] an opportunity for us to hopefully learn and take some action moving forward,” MacDonald said.



IMAGE TAKEN from Pexels.com

Records indicate that at least 23,000 species inhabit waters beyond national jurisdiction.

Students Organize Reproductive Justice Awareness Week

REPRODUCTIVE cont. from pg. 1

Justice Awareness Week, these students provided a platform for experts speaking from various perspectives to educate our campus community and address reproductive rights as a public health and social justice issue.”

Guest speakers included Monmouth faculty and students, as well as representatives from Planned Parenthood, who facilitated conversations about reproductive rights in America.

Johanna Foster Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology, Director of the Sociology Program, and the Helen Bennett McMurray Endowed Chair in Social Ethics, was a guest speaker at the event “The Reproductive Justice Movement in the US.” Foster said that she attended the events “As a supporter of reproductive freedom for all people, a former activist in the abortion rights movement, and a sociologist of gender inequality. Wearing all of those hats, I know that the decision to have a child or not, and to have the resources to protect and care for your children if you do, is at the heart of whether people can live full and free lives.”

Friday’s event, titled, “Reproductive Diversity: A LGBTQ+ and Disability Lens,” featured guest speaker Austin Greitz, Public Affairs Manager of Planned Parenthood Action Fund of New Jersey, an advocate for reproductive

and LGBTQ+ rights, and a graduate of Montclair State University’s Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies Program. Greitz spoke about the current status of reproductive rights in New Jersey and the services that Planned Parenthood Action Fund provides such as healthcare, advocacy, and education. He also highlighted New Jersey’s Reproductive Freedom Act, a new piece of legislation introduced

a really clear message that New Jersey stands for freedom, compassion, and healthy communities. We’re excited to have introduced this bill and to be the next state that is on this cutting edge of protecting reproductive healthcare services and ensuring that into law.”

The event also featured Bianca Mayes, Associate Director of Health Equity at Planned Parenthood Federation of America and an advocate for

a women’s health issue...It’s time for the community to do a better job at unpacking what obstacles and barriers are particularly in the way whether it’s legislation, agencies, or funding.”

“We specifically worked on Friday night’s event that focused on reproductive healthcare within the LGBTQ+ and disabled communities. We picked speakers that would connect the ways in which

Last month, GSIC sent an email to the University community condemning the “Make Abortion Illegal Again” event.

Alvare said, “These students were frustrated that their letter written in response to that event was framed as an attempt to impede free speech, rather than a letter to intended to criticize an event that—by virtue of its title—suggested that women who seek abortion for any reason should be criminalized... I am deeply impressed by the way these students stood up for their beliefs and principles, and by how quickly and effectively they organized this week of informative and inclusive events.”

Lisa Dinella Ph.D., Professor of Psychology, Director of the Gender and Intersectionality Studies Program, and Principal Investigator of the Gender Development Laboratory, praised the dedication of the student leaders who organized the event. She said, “Their passion and dedication to equity is laudable...I found the week’s events to be informative, salient and timely.”

Foster concurred, “I applaud the Gender and Intersectionality Studies Club for organizing the week of awareness that moved the discussion beyond abortion. I look forward to learning more from the club about how the MU community can get involved to support the Reproductive Freedom Act that has just been introduced into the New Jersey State Legislature.”

“I am deeply impressed by the way these students stood up for their beliefs and principles, and by how quickly and effectively they organized this week of informative and inclusive events.”

Melissa Alvare, Faculty Advisor for the Gender Studies and Intersectionality Club

in the beginning of October that protects and expands access to reproductive healthcare for all New Jerseyans regardless of gender identity, age, income status, immigration status, etc.

“When people can make decisions that are best for their lives, families thrive and we build communities where each of us can participate with dignity and equality,” said Greitz. “This bill sends

health and wellness within the LGBTQ+ community, and Lydia X.Z. Brown, the Director of Policy, Advocacy, and External Affairs at the non-profit organization Autistic Woman & Nonbinary Network.

Mayes discussed the intersection between the Black and the LGBTQ+ communities in relation to reproductive rights. She said, “This is an issue that imbeds and engrains the LGBTQ+ community, it’s not just

LGBTQ+ and disabled people have different experiences with reproductive health and services,” wrote Skylar Rathvon, Vice President of GSIC, and Luka Graves, Treasurer of GSIC, in a statement to *The Outlook*. “These types of events are crucial to host on college campuses because all students should be able to access accurate information about reproductive health without fear of discrimination.”

Chair of the Board of Trustees Joins University Podcast

MATTHEW CUTILLO
MANAGING/NEWS/LIFESTYLES

President Patrick F. Leahy Ed.D., and Communication faculty member Matt Harmon invited Chair of the Board of Trustees Jeana M. Piscatelli to their weekly “Monmouth Mondays” podcast on Monday, Nov. 2. The episode detailed Piscatelli’s rise as the first woman in University history to obtain the position.

Piscatelli joined the board of trustees in 2010 after being an active participant and Chair of the Leon Hess Business School Business Council. “I was overjoyed to take part in [the Business Council], and served for several years before serving as Vice Chair,” Piscatelli said. “Actually, I had the good fortune of being Vice Chair to two Chairs before taking on the role of Chair. I had wonderful role models to work alongside, as well as everyone else on the board. I see us all as equals and it’s a great group of individuals to work with.”

The most important relationship to a University president, besides his or her spouse, is their relationship with the Chair of the Board of Trustees, Leahy explained.

“Where Board Chairs and presidents can work really well together, that means

great opportunities for that institution,” Leahy said. “You can imagine if they don’t work very well together, how challenging that can be.”

A woman securing the role of Chair is a win for every other alumni and female student that’s currently enrolled at the University, Piscatelli explained. “We attribute so much of our success in knocking down those doors by the women that come before us and the women that led by example.”

Leahy wants the University to be a leader in the area of gender inclusivity, he explained. The Board of Trustees recently met for the 263rd time, the first time a woman chaired the meeting.

“I think it’s a great source of pride for me, personally,” Leahy said. “I’m just really grateful that I happened to be the president when that happened. It’s such a great example to all of our students. Our men and women, but particularly our 66 percent of the student body who are women. It’s really important that they see women in leadership positions.”

A University alumni, Piscatelli, considers it “wonderful” to have alumni represented on the Board of Trustees. “But that does not mean you have to be an alumni,” Piscatelli said. “We have so many long standing

friends of the University that serve on our board. I still look to many of our former chairs that participate on the Board, and I turn to them to get that history and that perspective.”

It is important to have everyone represented, Piscatelli explained. “You want to have diversity of thought, age, gender, race, and just have a community where you’re collaborating together, working towards the same end to help the university advance.”

Piscatelli accepted the role during the midst of the COVID-19 global pandemic, a decision she jokes to have “drawn the short straw,” in regards to.

“No one was vying for this role during a pandemic, but we’re all thrust into this situation at the same time and it’s not ideal for anyone,” Piscatelli said, “I think [it’s a success] as long as you have the right intentions and you work together in coordination with the president. We’re just here in support of the president and his cabinet and we just want to continue to provide that while they work through the heavy lifting of the day to day.”

“We are very fortunate to have president Leahy and his cabinet, [as well as] the staff and the faculty that we do on campus,” Piscatelli said. “Their priority is the safety and health and wellness of the students and the community

of the university, which is first and foremost.”

Piscatelli still remains an active member of the Business Council. “It’s near and dear to my heart,” Piscatelli said. “I still mentor students of the business school. I will

always have an open phone and open email policy for students, so if they want to run through a resume together or just talk through some opportunity, I’m happy to do that and provide some help anyway I can.”



PHOTO COURTEST of Anthony DePrimo
Jeana Piscatelli is the first woman elected Chair of the Board of Trustees

Post-Election Meeting Attendees Evaluate Well-Being

CHECK-IN cont. from pg. 1

to compare their feelings a month ago to the present day. Many participant voiced their discontent and anxiousness for not only the results of the election, but also how the outcome will influence American morale. One participant stated, “I am fearful for myself, my family, and my friends regardless of the outcome; this is not a fear that will dissipate even after the election.” McKittrick responded by acknowledging that “... most of our expectations will not be met, no matter where you politically stand.”

The next few discussion topics focused on the present condition of the community. Rago-Craft asked attendees their methods of taking care of themselves amidst such a

stressful time. For a few, the act of unplugging from social media and other news outlets helped relieve some of the constant worry. Others attendees felt more at ease when they reached out to friends and family to “process the information together,” explained one participant.

“There is a silver-lining to every bleak situation,” Rago-Craft said. “The civic turnout and engagement as a result of this election is outstanding.”

The following question asked the ways attendees’ cared for those within their own circles. “I did my best this past week to relieve my students of unnecessary class-work,” a faculty member stated, recognizing how the election may personally affect her students. Other attendees stated that checking in on oth-

ers was helpful for their own well-being.

“Checking in on people whose voices are not necessarily heard on a macro level allow us to take personal anxious energy and make it productive,” McKittrick said.

Leading up to the end of the discussion, Rago-Craft asked the group “what they need right now.” “I need a break from technology,” Stojanov replied. This sentiment was shared by a majority of the attendees, as participants compared what they needed to what they were actually doing.

To conclude the meeting, Rago-Craft urged the attendees to reflect and contemplate on one last question: “Regardless of who wins or has won the election, what will I do, and who will I be, relating to my relationship with others?”



PHOTO COURTEST of Anthony DePrimo
Many attendees removed themselves from social media post-election.

MUPD Crime Log

2020 MUPD Crime Log MUPD: 732-571-4444				
Date Occurred	Time Occurred	Location	Crime Reported	Case
10/23/2020	0253	Mullaney Hall	PULA / Student Misconduct	20MU06788
10/23/2020	1152	Garden Apts	Student Misconduct	20MU06794
10/30/2020	2336	Laurel Hall	DV Simple Assault / Student Misconduct	20MU06989

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The Phenomenon of “Fake News”

EDITORIAL STAFF

The phrase “fake news,” which refers to news stories that publish false information, has been used quite often on social media in recent years. As the student-run newspaper of Monmouth University, *The Outlook* editors discussed their views on the implications of “fake news.”

One editor said, “I think it is unbelievably dangerous for people, and especially the president, to claim our media is all ‘fake news.’ If we do not have the media as the fourth estate, then we have nothing as a country. Without the media, we are simply allowing a few elites to dictate our entire lives.”

“Fake news is out there but not all of the news is fake,” commented an editor. “The claims that people and the president have been mak-

reference what you hear from a cable news station with a neutral source, but people enjoy being angry too much to ever commit enough effort to doing something so simple.”

Some publications, such as *USA Today*, have even dedicated sections of their newspapers to fact-checking claims across social media. It is important for readers to be aware that fake news can exist, and that reviewing other sources can give a clear sense of what is accurate and what is not.

Some editors also noted that news sources sometimes “click-bait” a reader by publishing a deceiving headline, a common tactic in tabloid newspapers. One editor said, “When a person reads a title or a headline that strikes them in a certain way, usually in an outrageously abhorrent way,

a source, most often an expert in a specific subject area, in order for an article to be credible.

The antidote to “fake news” is research. One editor said, “The phrase ‘fake news’ is easy to throw around when you’re pressed with information that is not easy to accept. It’s just so easy to find the truth behind a particular topic by reading the many different neutral publications. To label all of journalism as one particular thing just comes across as being intimidated by education.”

The beginning of the pandemic in March also saw an increase in claims that news sources are “fear mongering,” deliberately spreading false or exaggerated news to spur fear and manipulate the public. Just like fake news, while fear mongering may exist, claiming that every article about COVID-19 is “fear mongering” can have

“If we do not have the media as the fourth estate, then we have nothing as a country.”

ing about fake news is dangerous.”

It’s good to be skeptical and question things you read—that’s even an important trait for a journalist to have. However, it becomes a problem when readers label something as “fake news” when they simply do not agree with the facts being published.

Many of those who attack reporters on social media do not realize how important news and the media is. Without journalists, there is no one to inform the public about events or issues not only in our country, but around the world. In fact, it was two *Washington Post* reporters who began the Watergate scandal that led to investigations of President Nixon.

One editor said, “It’s no coincidence that the growth of distrust with the media and journalists in general directly aligns with the time period of President Trump making disparaging remarks about the industry. It would take the minimal amount of effort to cross

they are more inclined to immerse themselves in that news regardless of its validity since it is so eye-catching and compelling.”

Another editor added, “News outlets do have the tendency to sensationalize to draw in viewers, which is dangerous. But the outlets have to increase their viewer and readership some way, so they create catchy headlines and take eye-catching photographs or videos to draw viewers in. So, people need to develop their media literacy skills to better decipher the truth from the news and to learn what fake news looks like.”

As journalism students, we are equipped with the tools to find out whether news is “fake” or not. Under the instruction and guidance of our professors, we are able to strengthen our media literacy skills, which allows us to detect misinformation. For example, we know that information and quotes must be attributed to

alarming consequences. Publishing accurate facts and statistics about the virus is not “fear mongering.” It is simply informing the public, which is a journalist’s responsibility. If readers disregard important news about COVID-19 because they think the media is “fear mongering,” then it would have disastrous consequences on public health.

News and media outlets have a commitment to publishing honest, fair, and accurate news. Fake news does exist, and it hinders the credibility of other journalists and news outlets. It causes readers to be less willing to trust any news article they come across.

However, a major problem arises when people claim a news story is “fake” just because they may not agree with what they read. While fake news is dangerous, it is even more dangerous for people to distrust the media outlets that are committed to publishing real, accurate, and important news.

HOW TO SUBMIT ARTICLES OR LETTERS:

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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Is It Safe To Travel Again?

LAUREN DEMARCO
STAFF WRITER

During these unprecedented times, many people are still traveling and risking their own safety and the safety of others. Traveling during this pandemic is something I would not do and would not recommend others to do.

Right now, I think traveling during a pandemic is a tough decision to make. I think many people are trying to figure out if they should be traveling or not. There really is not a correct answer; it is a personal choice.

However, I personally would not travel under these conditions right now. With everything still going on, I do not think it is safe to get on a plane because of the risk of possibly getting sick. I believe that it is too soon to be traveling since we do not fully understand the virus yet and a vaccine is still in the works.

People want to know if they will be safe once they get on to a plane and not have to feel anxious and scared. A lot of us are still trying to manage this pandemic in our own ways. I have seen some people going on planes and traveling whereas others are not. I think that traveling is not the right thing people should be doing because of all the social distancing guidelines that are in place. However, many are just going to do what they want and if that involves them getting on a plane, they will. If that is the case and people do travel, they need to beware of the risks that could come along with traveling.

I believe that you encounter



IMAGE TAKEN by Hunter Goldberg

Traveling safely by plane right now requires taking extra precautions such as wearing a mask, which is required, and sanitizing often.

a lot of germs when traveling by plane. Walking through the airport, sitting for hours on the plane and touching things that are touched by numerous others is not safe. Airports and planes were gross and germ-filled before coronavirus and now they seem to be thousands of times worse. I know airlines say that they have upped their sanitation practices but you cannot guarantee that they do the best job before you get on the plane.

Although, others will have their own opinions on this particular situation. They may think that because of this pandemic there is no problem traveling. If people do travel during this time, the guidelines they should follow are wearing a mask, quarantining and being tested. You should wear a mask the entire time you are in the airport, on the plane and around others. Quarantining

should be followed after you get back from going anywhere. The next thing is that you should be tested after you get back to make sure you are healthy.

I have been tested two times, just to give myself peace of mind. Even though I felt fine prior to those two tests, I wanted to know for sure if I was sick or not. Getting tested is not a bad thing and we should all be able to get tested freely.

I know that others have their own thoughts and opinions towards this pandemic. However, right now we all have to follow what the state is telling us and be extra cautious. In hindsight, we all have to look at the bigger picture. I truly believe it is not a good time to travel. I would rather wait until things can slowly die down from this pandemic and have a safe and enjoyable plane ride.

Traveling For Turkey

LAUREN SALOIS
OPINION EDITOR

Thanksgiving has always been my favorite holiday. For one, I love to eat and there is nothing better than a fried turkey, mashed potatoes and pecan pie. However, the real reason I love celebrating Thanksgiving is that it is not as stressful as Christmas.

I do not have to buy gifts for weeks in preparation for this one day and I do not have to go to numerous celebrations. My parents are divorced and my dad is remarried so I end up having about six different Christmases.

For those who did not grow up in a divorced family you would think “wow that is amazing you get so many gifts” but in reality, you are so stressed out from traveling all over the world in just a few short days that you do not even get to enjoy the holiday spirit.

That is why I love Thanksgiving. I only have to attend two dinners. One for my mom and one for my dad. I still have to spend the day traveling but it does not even come close to the miles I would drive the week of December 25. This is why I am choosing to fly home to Texas for Thanksgiving. However, it is coming at a cost; I will not be able to spend my last few weeks of college at college.

With the cases still surging in Texas, New Jersey has not lifted its travel quarantine from The Lone Star state. Nevertheless, I could not even

imagine having to stay in New Jersey and missing Thanksgiving dinner with my family.

I do realize the risk of me getting on a plane right now during a pandemic but I have already had to fly home last semester and fly back for this semester and both times, I came out of it corona-free. I will be taking precautions, prior to my flight I will be getting tested and when I land in Texas I will get tested again multiple times to make sure I am safe to see my family.

I am so thankful I am able to go home for Thanksgiving but I am also extremely sad that I am missing out on my final weeks of being a college student. I am sad that I will not get to have crazy nights with my housemates and that I will not get to spend time with my boyfriend while we suffer through the end of the semester together.

I would be even more depressed if I did not go home and spend my last Thanksgiving with my family before I become a true adult with a real job. I probably would not even celebrate Thanksgiving if I were not able to sit around the table and eat too much with my family.

I know I am taking a risk by flying home for Thanksgiving but it is a risk worth taking for me. I hope that I stay corona-free for the next few weeks so I am able to get on that plane and spend time with my family. Also, I am already preparing myself for two huge Thanksgiving feasts and for lots of leftovers.

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How to Land an Internship During the COVID-19 Pandemic

DENISSE QUINTANILLA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The internship process is something that many students find difficult. Now, with a global pandemic that caused an economic recession, the search has become even more competitive and challenging.

With many students wanting to gain real-world experience in their field of interest, COVID-19 has made the process harder and tedious. When the pandemic first began in March, many companies were forced to shut down their internship programs in the interest of everyone's health.

"In the beginning of the pandemic, internships were down 75 percent or more. Now the market is coming back and we are seeing more internships posted each week," said William Hill, Director of Career Services. "[Internships should be approached] the same as they would any other time, except with more enthusiasm and patience. The basics of the job search haven't changed. It's the market that has changed".

Nancy Gallo, Job Placement Coordinator, mentioned one tool students can use when it comes to the internship search called Candid Career, which can be found on the Career Services website. She said, "When you go to the site, there are three to four short minute videos of professionals in a field, and you can narrow it down by their job title, college

major, or industry."

Gallo continued, "What I like to do is find someone who is doing what [you] want to do, and they usually give [you] their name and where they work, and then go find them on LinkedIn."

One student who has taken advantage of Career services is Naser Haroon, a junior studying computer science. Haroon was a software engineer intern

ship for the following semester. He said, "What made it difficult is that they weren't doing return offers because of the pandemic...there was so much uncertainty."

Another student who was able to land an internship during the pandemic is Sabrina Gutierrez. In May 2020, Gutierrez graduated with a Bachelor's in business administration with a concentration in

able to better prepare and devote more attention to the interviews I do have."

Although Gutierrez believes the internship search is complicated now, there are other ways for students to grow and develop necessary skills. She said, "Although students are missing out on interacting in person with industry professionals and recruiters, there are many webinars or online

available, it has become more competitive to land a position, leading to dozens of rejection letters and low confidence among job seekers," she said. "People must learn to accept rejection because there may be other times throughout your career that you feel lost, unappreciated, and unmotivated to keep going...This experience has taught me how to deal with those feelings, learn from my experiences, and keep a positive attitude."

If that internship position does not come right away, it's important that students continue to do things that will help them obtain a future internship like networking, building their resume, and getting involved with clubs and organizations at school that build experience.

"Just do something," Hill said. "When this is over and you go on your first post-COVID interview, the first thing employers are going to ask you is, 'What did you do during the pandemic?'"

Career Services offers career counseling, job search advice, resume assistance and interview coaching. Both Hill and Gallo highly encourage students to make an appointment with Career Services.

Gutierrez said, "As long as you stay positive, motivated, and put your best effort into everything you do, you will eventually get your dream job, build a great career, and make amazing accomplishments along the way."

"When this is over and you go on your first post-COVID interview, the first thing employers are going to ask you is, 'What did you do during the pandemic?'"

William Hill, Director of Career Services

at the financial services company Visa. He was able to land this internship with the help of LinkedIn.

He said, "I applied to about 40 companies and I heard back from three to four for interviews, and I ended up getting accepted into Visa. These applications I found online... LinkedIn is the best job-searching platform."

With the pandemic, Haroon faced many difficulties when it came to securing his intern-

economics and finance. Now, she is pursuing a Master's in Business (MBA) and will be graduating in May 2021.

Gutierrez landed an internship at Commvault on the logistics team and mentioned it was very difficult to find an internship during this time.

"Many companies are on a hiring freeze or reduced hiring...this has allowed me to really focus on the opportunities that pertain to my interests and skills," she said. "I've been

recruiting events hosted by organizations looking to hire students and recent graduates."

Both Haroon and Gutierrez encourage students to get involved on campus in order to make themselves more marketable for future internship positions.

Gutierrez said that searching for an internship amid a pandemic has taught her to accept rejection, be resilient, and keep trying. "Because there are not as many jobs/internships

Blue Hawk Records Artist of the Week: *Abigail Garcia*

MELISSA BADAMO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF / FEATURES EDITOR

Every artist remembers the moment they were destined to follow their passion for music. For Abigail Garcia, it was 13 years ago, singing along at a Hannah Montana concert.

"I think this was the first recollection I have of me singing," she said. "That's when I knew I needed to get involved with music."

Now, as a freshman music student, Garcia will be headed to Lakehouse Recording Studio in Asbury Park with the Blue Hawk Records team to record the first song she will ever release. Titled "Silver Lining," the song borrows from the indie-pop sound of artists she is influenced by, such as Billie Eilish, Taylor Swift, Ariana Grande, and Harry Styles. Written in April during quarantine, it details her experience with the beginning of the pandemic.

She said, "It's focusing in on what I would consider the silver linings of my life during the pandemic. I was a senior [in high school] so it was really unfortunate, but the perks of it was getting

to spend more time with my family."

In high school, Garcia was involved with her high school's choir and school of rock club, which she described as, "the moment my whole life morphed into music." And, at eight years old, she began doing recitals and shows at a performing arts program called Gateway to the Arts.

Although Garcia has been writing music since her freshman year of high school, working with Blue Hawk Records to develop and record her song is a brand new step in her musical journey. "I've never put out music before, so I'm kind of going with the flow," she said. "I was just scared of being judged, so I never really finished a song. This is the first song I really felt good about to share with other people."

Garcia sees working with Blue Hawk Records as an opportunity to grow as a singer, musician, and performer. She said, "Part of the reason this is only my first song is that I'm finally just becoming better at keyboard, and it's hard to finish a song when you can't play an instrument that flu-

ently." Along with developing her keyboarding skills, Garcia hopes to gain some experience with guitar as well, since music has always served as a creative outlet for her.

She said, "When I write, it's usually to express myself or get out feelings that I've been going through. And a lot of the time, it's about relationships. That's what comes easiest to me."

Outside of Blue Hawk Records, Garcia hopes to join a sorority and get involved with theatre at Monmouth, something she dabbled in during her high school years as well. In fact, she would describe herself as someone who is open-minded. "I jump into any opportunity I can get," she said. "I feel like I get really passionate about anything that I do."

In the future, Garcia hopes to continue writing and releasing music, and finds interest in the management side of the industry as well.

"My whole life kind of revolves around music," she said. "I'm a freshman, so I wasn't expecting to get this opportunity this early on, but I'm really excited that I did."

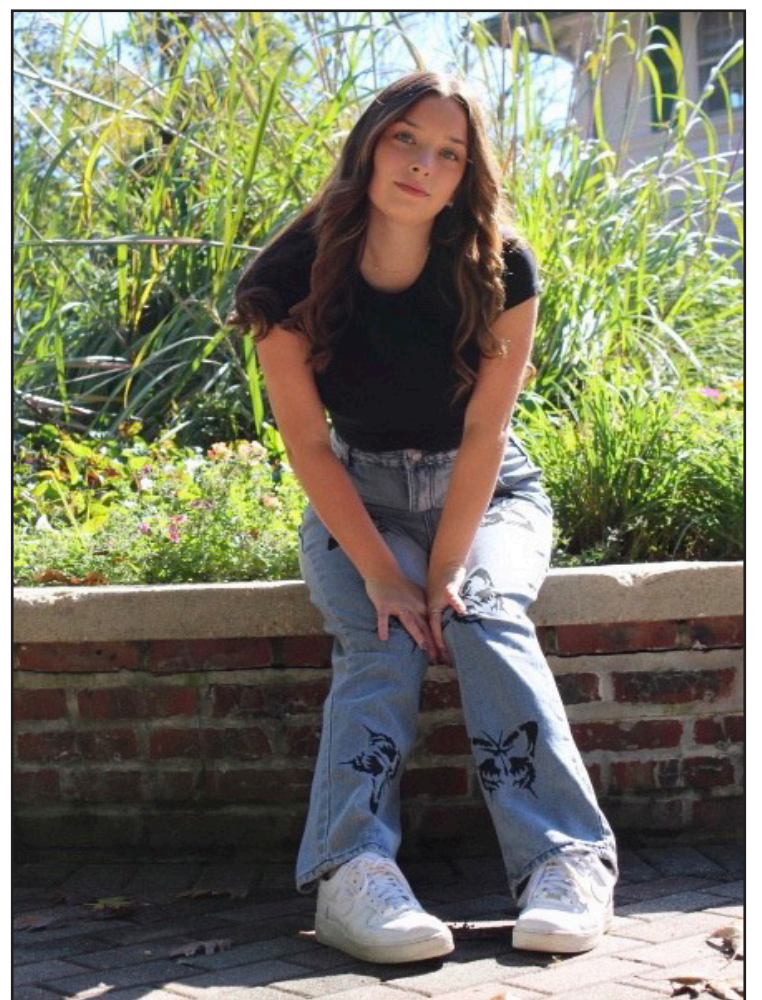


PHOTO COURTESY of Abigail Garcia

Freshman Abigail Garcia will be recording her original song "Silver Lining" for Blue Hawk Records' 17th compilation album.

Are You Vitamin D-ficient?

JESSICA PAK
ASSOCIATE LIFESTYLES EDITOR

As the weather starts to become cooler and COVID-19 cases increase, people will be more inclined to stay indoors during these frigid, nippy months. But despite the comfortability and safety to staying indoors, it is not entirely efficient to devote all of your time under a roof since it can result in vitamin D deficiency.

According to WebMD, Vitamin D, a.k.a. The “sunshine vitamin”, is produced by the body in response to being exposed to sunlight. It supports strong bones and can protect against a plethora of long term health problems.

Karen Pesce, Ph.D, Professor of Biology said, “Vitamin D can help increase absorption of calcium in the bones. In the brain, there are receptors for vitamin D which may influence behavior as well as cell signaling pathways that involve calcium.” She adds, “One way to get vitamin D is through sun exposure since ultraviolet light can convert precursors in the skin to vitamin D3 and another way would be by eating vitamin D rich foods like fish but taking supplements is probably the best way to make sure that someone has sufficient levels of vitamin D.”

When an individual lacks the proper amount of vitamin D, their bone tissue can lack the ability to properly mineralize. This can amount to bone pain and skeletal

deformities. Similarly, low blood levels of vitamin D can amount to cognitive impairment in older adults, severe asthma in children, and even cancer.

Junior communication student, Kayla Kennedy, has encountered vitamin D deficiency first hand. She said, “I actually didn’t know I was lacking vitamin D until my doctor had me take a blood test. When my test results came back it showed my vitamin D levels were low so she prescribed me a supplement. Vitamin D deficiency is dangerous because it can lead to thin, brittle, and misshapen bones.”

As intimidating as this sounds, adequate amounts of vitamin D can restrict these abnormalities from occurring.

Professor of Psychology, Michele Van Volkom, Ph.D, has a few recommendations for combating vitamin D deficiency.

“The sun does remain our best source of vitamin D, so getting outside even for a little bit of sunshine can help. Taking a short walk, even if it is chilly out, can help elevate mood and decrease stress levels, both of which are so important during the pandemic. If we are not able to get enough vitamin D from the

sun, we can also get enough vitamin D from a healthy diet that includes good sources of protein such as fish or eggs. Any type of milk that is fortified with vitamin D can also help. So, my advice is to get outside safely, and soak up some sunshine...your mind and body will thank you for it!” said Van Volkom.

Taking advantage of the weather when temperatures are suitable is an excellent way to get your recommended dose of Vitamin D. Emily Vasquez, a junior Biology student, is appreciative of the weather and takes walks whenever she can.

“In the past year of my life,

walking outside has become a thing I try to do daily. I love walking especially in the evening when the sun is beginning to set. Being warm because of the natural sun puts me in a better mood,” said Vasquez.

Aside from obtaining vitamin D from the sun or from supplements, food can serve as a great way to get your dosage as well. Fortified foods (such as milk, cereal, yogurt, and orange juice) have added vitamin D in them, making them nutrient rich. Proteins such as salmon, sardines, egg yolk, and shrimp also contain high amounts of vitamin D.

Not only does Vitamin D enhance a person’s mood but it can also influence weight loss and prevent risk of heart disease. One study from the Cambridge University Press noted that individuals who took a calcium and vitamin D supplement daily were able to suppress their appetite more easily than those who were taking a placebo supplement. Another study from the Oxford Academic reported that people who were overweight who took a daily vitamin D supplement improved their heart disease risk markers.

With temperatures dropping more and more as the winter approaches us, people must find ways to obtain vitamin D that suit their lifestyles. Whether that would be spending more time outside, taking supplements, or just eating foods that are vitamin D rich, there are plenty of ways to ensure a healthy body and a healthy mind.



IMAGE TAKEN from Pexels.com

Vitamin D can help increase the absorption of calcium in the bones.



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A New Generation of Gaming: What to Expect from the PlayStation 5

MELISSA BADAMO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF/FEATURES EDITOR

The PlayStation 5 (PS5), the next generation game console by Sony, launches on Thursday, Nov. 12, almost exactly seven years after the PS4. At the retail price of \$499.99 (or \$399.99 for the digital edition), it comes just in time for the holiday season, and will provide an abundance of new gaming opportunities when we're stuck inside during the next few months of the pandemic.

There's a bunch of new features to look forward

to with the PS5. First off, the new DualSense controller will provide a "highly immersive gaming experience," according to the PlayStation website, with features like haptic feedback and adaptive triggers. Haptic feedback allows for you to feel vibrations related to what you are doing in your game. Meanwhile, adaptive triggers allow for different levels of resistance when pressing down on the L2 and R2 buttons.

It deviates a bit from the traditional PlayStation controller,

resembling an Xbox controller in both shape and its new white color. Speaking of the Xbox, the Xbox Series X launched on Nov. 10 for the same price as the PS5. Both next-gen PlayStation and Xbox consoles support 120 frames per second and have backwards compatibility. However, while backwards compatibility for the Xbox supports four generations of games, this feature on the PS5 is only limited to PS4 games.

Sony is also selling a media remote as a PS5 accessory for \$29.99. It



IMAGE TAKEN from givemesport.com

The DualSense controller has new features such as haptic feedback and adaptive triggers, which allows for a more immersive gaming experience.



IMAGE TAKEN from PlayStation.com

The next generation PlayStation console offers accessories sold separately like a wireless headset, HD camera, and a media remote.

includes buttons to launch apps like Disney+, Netflix, Spotify, and YouTube on your TV to keep up with today's era of streaming. Other accessories like a wireless headset for \$99.99, an HD camera for \$59.99 that allows players to broadcast themselves alongside their gameplay, and additional DualSense controllers for \$69.99 each could add up in price, so it's up to your individual gaming preferences to decide if they're worth it.

With a new console come new games as well.

Some anticipated releases include FIFA 21 on Dec. 4, Call of Duty: Black Ops Cold War on Nov. 13, and Resident Evil Village in 2021. Grand Theft Auto 5 and GTA online are also getting enhanced for the new console in 2021.

As someone who grew up with the PS2 in the 2000s, it's cool to see the console evolve with new technology. The PS5 features will give new life to gameplay, and I'm looking forward to experiencing a new decade of gaming.

Weakest Link Is Stronger Than You'd Think

ALEX DYER
ASSISTANT NEWS/ENTERTAINMENT
EDITOR

As the proliferation of reboots, remakes, revivals, and spinoffs increases with time, it becomes easier and easier to make the case that there's no longer any sincerity or authenticity on television.

Ever since The Virus™ became the center of our lives, dominating our media cycle, TV watchers have been more hard-pressed than ever for quality entertainment with personality.

One of my favorite formats of TV entertainment—and one I think is often criminally overlooked—is the game show. Game shows, at their core, are fully representative of the reason we watch television in the first place: to be entertained.

Is there a more pure, distilled way to experience entertainment than to watch people playing a game? I'd argue there isn't. But there's still an art to making a game

show that I think one recent reboot in particular has really nailed.

The original British version of *Weakest Link* (and its first American spinoff) were hosted starting in 2001 by the cold and devilishly detached Anne Robinson, who is perhaps best known for her catchphrase, "You are the weakest link. Goodbye!" In 2020, that charm was channeled once again into a full reboot on NBC.

The new *Weakest Link* features rules familiar to any previous fans of the show, but simple enough that they can be explained pretty succinctly: eight contestants take turns answering trivia questions of increasing value, with each contestant having the opportunity to bank the money for previous correct questions. Each round one person is voted off the team until two are left, who then face off for the total money banked throughout the game.

Perhaps the thing about the new *Weakest Link* which worried me the most for its prospective ratings was the replace-

ment of host Anne Robinson, whose trademark dry brevity and digs at her contestants often carried the show. However, perennial meanie Jane Lynch brings a similar vibe to the game, scolding the "teammates" for banking meager amounts of cash and smiling wryly when they gang up on each other.

And, yes, she does say it: "You are the weakest link, goodbye." And when she does, it never fails to remind me of Lynch's cult-classic-character Sue Sylvester from *Glee*. Although she has a distinct lack of an English accent, Lynch took Robinson's methodical persona and made it her own, never copying but always paying homage.

The cutthroat nature of a lot of game shows is what really draws viewers in; in art, conflict drives plot and that is what ultimately entertains us. And let me tell you: the format of *Weakest Link* is rife with opportunities for conflict to arise. It may sound silly, but as the rounds fly by and the team's size is whittled down from eight,

I generally start feeling a connection to one or more of the contestants, hoping they can eke out a victory even if the other teammates are turning on them.

I remember watching early-afternoon syndicated episodes of the original *Weakest Link* after school at my grandparents' house. Behind Jeopardy! (the king of all game shows), I've always felt that *Weakest Link* had one of the best executions of the game show format

and I was disappointed that it had such a short-lived run on American TV (it lasted 12 years in the United Kingdom).

With NBC's true-to-form primetime revival of the program this fall, I can't help but smile at the fact that the concept of the game show lives on to entertain us. If you're looking to be entertained and you have 55 minutes to spare, you can't go wrong popping on an episode of *Weakest Link*.



IMAGE TAKEN from Primetimer.com

Jane Lynch hosts the *Weakest Link*, a reboot of the American version of the popular British game show.

These Hawks are the #FirstToFly

HAILEE KALLE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Established in 2017, Monmouth University created a sensational on-campus organization called First to Fly: First Generation at Monmouth. The main purpose behind First to Fly is to give recognition and support to the first-generation college students on campus.

Many members within the organization lead as mentors to the first gen students to make sure they achieve academic success, inclusion on campus and transition to the college world as smoothly as possible.

Not only this, but the orga-

nization also hosts many educational events and activities throughout the school year to raise awareness for the many hardships and challenges that relate to these first-generation students in hopes to promote campus wide support, partnerships and initiate positive change.

For example, the organization held a virtual networking workshop, where they taught club members about networking, how to improve their own campus involvement, and how to connect with the resources they may need on campus.

Kennedy Johnson is the Secretary of the club. She said “We hosted a workshop on Monday, Nov. 9 as a kickstart to the cel-

ebration of the National First-Gen week. Students were given the opportunity to network with other first-gen students, learn about various campus resources and tips.

This organization has made an immense impact on members of the campus community. Natalie McGee transferred to Monmouth after one semester at another institution. She said, “I was nervous to make this transition, considering I am a first generation student, and I felt like I really couldn’t relate to anyone.” The resources that Monmouth and First to Fly gave her have inspired her to become a transfer student mentor, where she aspires to especially guide first generation students.

It has impacted Johnson as well. She said that it has brought her out of her comfort zone and brought her closer with her peers. “I have to engage with the club members and plan events and normally I am not this hands-on in clubs.” She said it also brought her closer with her friends that are also first-generation students.

Back in March of this year, it was with great honor that First to Fly was recognized by The Center for First-Generation Student Success, The NASPA (The National Association of Student Personnel Administrators) and The Suder Foundation, in its 2020-2021 cohort

of First Gen Forward Institutions. This cohort shows how dedicated and determined the members of this organization have been to their commitment of success to our first-generation students on campus.

Junior Monmouth University student and organization member, Katie Kraska elaborates more on the details of First to Fly and why it is an organization you don’t want to miss out on. Kraska said that First to Fly is an organization that is geared towards first-generation college students but you don’t have to be a first gen student to join. Anyone can join to support their peers!

As for the organization events, Kraska said “When we are in person, we have a lot of fun. Last year we did bowling night with pizza and snacks, we did an ice cream social and this semester we did a virtual bingo night and the winners got prizes.” Kraska added that the turnout to these events aren’t bad, considering that they only had one virtual event so far. The organization has struggled a little to get people to come to the meetings virtually, but continue to try to get as many people as possible.

For more information, be sure to follow First to Fly on Instagram, @firsttoflymonmouth.

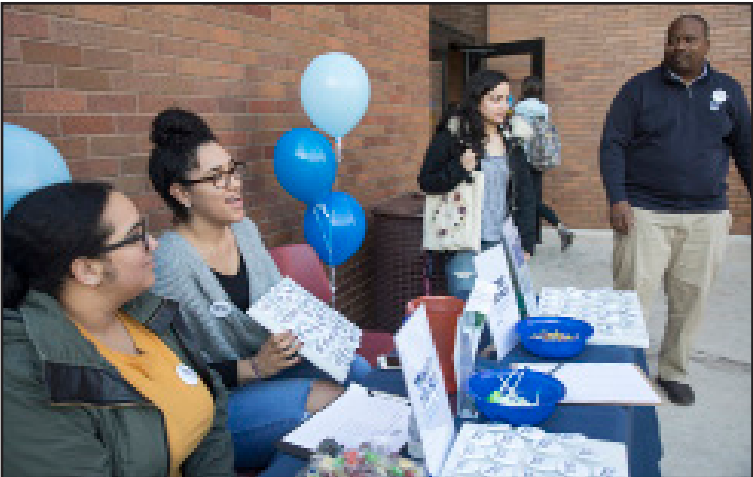


PHOTO COURESTY of Anthony DePrimo
Members of First to Fly frequently host events throughout the semester, like this tabling session in 2018.



PHOTO COURTESY of Anthony DePrimo
A First to Fly member proudly pins a badge to her chest at a 2018 event.

Upcoming Events Calendar

November 11: First to Fly’s Celebration of First Generation Experience at Monmouth

November 13: MU Shadow PR Playa Bowls Fundraiser

November 13: Track and Field Club Turkey Trot 5K

November 13: Safe Zone: LGBTQIA+ Ally & Advocacy Training

November 13: Virtual Open Mic Night

November 16-20: Panhellenic PR Week

November 16: PRSSA Virtual 5K Run

November 17: Tuesday Night Book Club

For more information, check out the ExperienceMU app

What Does a Biden's Victory Mean?

BIDEN cont. from pg. 1

on future generations of aspiring young women.”

Another factor that might have propelled Biden forward is a surge in youth voter turnout. “We turned the tide of voter efficacy for young Americans who are traditionally apathetic to our democratic process,” Dougherty said.

Patrick Murray, Director of the Monmouth Polling Institute, was not surprised by how close the race was. “From the beginning of this election cycle, I warned to be prepared for a wide range of electoral and popular outcomes. This election is different: a lot of people overestimated Biden and underestimated Trump,” he said. Referencing the poll deviations, Murray explained there has been difficulty polling Trump and his supporters.

“People expecting a big so-called ‘blue wave’ on Tuesday night were probably disappointed,” Murray said. “We saw that blue wave barely hold in suburbia, but in few other places. Biden also flipped the right amount of support among college-educated and non-college-educated white men, but it shouldn’t be understated that this was largely a rejection of Trump.”

tion of Trump.”

“Surely political pollsters represent one of the biggest ‘losers’ of the 2020 election,” said Kenneth Mitchell, Professor and Chair of the Political Science Department. “Mainstream polls in the crucial battleground states missed the mark by a wide margin...What’s the value of a political poll in Iowa, only days before the election, with Biden up three percent when Trump wins the state by eight percent?”

In terms of policies Americans can expect from Biden’s presidency, Mitchell explained he does not expect significant policy legislature until the 2022 midterm elections since Republicans will likely retain their Senate majority.

“Executive orders will be the area of policy change under Biden,” Mitchell said. “A return to the Paris Climate Accord, the Iran Nuclear Deal, a reversal of Trump EPA policies, and more support for NATO... There is virtually zero chance that the GOP Senate would pass the tax hikes Biden and Harris campaigned on. Thus, public revenue, already low from the pandemic’s economic carnage, will be too low to support new spending initiatives.”

Dougherty believes that “Presi-

dent-Elect Joe Biden will work to unify our country.” But Mitchell is a bit less optimistic, suggesting that Biden’s centrism would clash with both the GOP Senate and progressive Democrats in the House. “Biden’s centrist campaign won enough votes in Pennsylvania, Arizona and Georgia to win the election, but not enough to win at the congressional level. Divided government tends to stall significant legislation,” he said.

Mitchell added that “the country is deeply divided with no ‘centrist path’ on most of the big issues of the day—climate change, income inequality, healthcare, racial justice, taxes, college tuition, [and] China policy.” Polarization is “firmly in place,” and Mitchell is not expecting a shift soon.

However, Michael Phillips-Anderson, Ph.D., an Associate Professor of Communication, suggests that our division as a country is mostly represented in our structure of government. Even states that voted for Trump passed liberal ballot measures: Florida raised the minimum wage and Montana and South Dakota legalized marijuana.

“On nearly every issue, the majority of Americans agree with Democratic positions,” noted Phillips-

Anderson. “Also that Democrats have won the popular vote in seven of the last eight presidential elections. I think that Biden’s win but the Democrats failure to take back the Senate doesn’t mean that the Democrats have the wrong position on the issues. Their problem is that they have a small but significant Democratic majority in a system that keeps minoritarian (in this case, conservative Republican) power in place,” he explained.

But not all parties accepted Biden’s victory. Carlie Zeidler, President of the College Republicans, said, “It’s definitely not over yet, but we will see how the courts handle it. We support President Trump’s decision to file lawsuits and expose the truths about fraudulent acts regarding the election process. If nothing is found in court, then we will respect whomever the President Elect may be.”

Patten explained that one of the benefits of local control in federal elections is that it makes widespread corruption difficult. “There is no credible evidence of wide-scale voter fraud, losing is not something that comes easily for Trump, but the lawsuits are not going to materialize into anything,” he said.

Americans Celebrate as Biden is Elected

GEORGEANNE NIGRO
ASSOCIATE POLITICS EDITOR

The presidential election results were projected on Nov. 7th, with former Vice President Joe Biden and Senator Kamala Harris announced as the winners of the race. This news lead to various different reactions across the country and around the world.

Jennifer McGovern, Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science and Sociology, went into some detail about people’s reaction towards the election results.

“Well first of all, not everyone was happy about it right? I think 2020 has not been a great year and I think people needed a win you know? Even though, not everyone’s happy and even though not everyone’s favorite candidate won, I do think for the people that support Biden, that just felt like an emotional uplift,” said McGovern.

She explained how if President Trump was re-elected, people would have seen his supporters doing something similar. McGovern feels that the reaction of the election results from the Biden supporters was an expression of relief.

In response to how Trump reacted to the results, McGovern said that she was not surprised because he has been saying or weeks that he was going to act this way. She said, “In weeks leading up to the election, he was kind of setting the table for if things did not go the way he wanted, he was going to challenge them.”

McGovern continued, “I also think that if you’re Trump and you are moving around to all these rallies. He is at these rallies and he sees a lot of his supporters who are very passionate about him

to get elected. And so, in his mind he is thinking he is going to win but remember that the people who were against him were not at the rallies. I do not think he had a sense of how many people disliked him.”

Eleanor M. Novek, Ph.D., Professor in the Department of Communication, explained that Trump went into an election saying that he might not accept the results unless they went in his favor.

She said, “While some people speculate about him sulking or being a poor sport, other observers fear he is using this behavior, and the numerous lawsuits he is filing to oppose the election results, as a distraction from the arms deals he is making to generate as much money for his own pockets before he leaves.”

Voter fraud has been a big conversation since the election results, and McGovern stated that she thinks that there is no evidence of any widespread fraud. She explained how most election boards are bipartisan, so they have people from multiple parties who are in the room and who are observing the counts. She also said that none of those people have come forward and reported any problems. McGovern then stated that the most common (even though it is very uncommon) concept of voter fraud is that someone died and then a person in their family casted a ballot in their name because it was their dying wish.

Conversely, Kristen Kane, senior criminal justice student, thinks that there was potential for voter fraud to be real. “I don’t know if it actually happened and to the extent that it is being claimed,” she said.

However, Kane believes that social media heavily af-

fected the election because many influencers and celebrities use their platforms to not only get people to vote but who they were voting for could have influenced a lot of new or younger voters.

“I believe social media is so crucial right now regarding the elections because in a time of COVID social media is one of the main ways information and opinions about political views and each candidate is being spread,” said Kane.

She pointed out that Twitter specifically was the main platform where people would go back and forth with one another about the election and their political beliefs. “I believe Twitter played a big role in the election not only with Donald Trump constantly tweeting controversial things that always received backlash,” said Kane.

Donna Dolphin, Associate Professor of the Department of Communication, is not on social media, but believes that Twitter played an outsized role in this election.

“Many people use it as their source of news. It is not always easy to distinguish between news and opinion. It also created a sense of immediacy between the candidates and their followers. It eliminates gatekeepers between candidates and the receivers of their messages,” said Dolphin.

Kane then continued by saying that the people’s reaction to the election results was exactly what she expected. “I expected many people to voice their happiness or dismay over the election results, especially with a female becoming vice president for the first time in history. I thought there would be a big reaction pertaining to this,” said Kane.

Novek also discussed some

of the reaction to the election results and said that the rallies of celebration after Biden was elected was a no-brainer. Novek explained that the country has been very divided during the Trump administration and people who opposed him were pleased to see him defeated.

“Many are hoping that the cascade of mean-spirited policies that have proliferated in this administration will end. That’s something to celebrate,” she said.

Novek then explained how responsible journalists will focus on helping the country unite after the election. She said that among other things, journalists can help the public understand how election laws function, how the system of checks and balances is supposed to operate, how the transfer of power should work. That journalists can also step away from the usual “he said, she said” focus on conflict and emphasize the need for an immediate response to the

global pandemic and the economic and health challenges the country is facing.

“I hope that U.S. citizens will stop allowing their diverse political views to tear them apart and stress them out. I hope that the isolationist policies the country has adopted in the last four years, leaving the Paris Climate Accord, plans to leave the World Health organization, etc. will be reversed,” said Novek.

She finalized by saying, “I hope that the immigrant children snatched from their parents will be reunited with them, and that more humane immigration policies will be enacted. I hope that we will take major steps to reduce the social and economic inequality faced by many citizens of color, not just woke talk but actual fundamental policy change. I hope we will rethink our law enforcement and criminal justice policies to eliminate brutality and focus on reconciliation and rehabilitation.”



IMAGE TAKEN from CNBC

After the Associated Press called the election, Biden supporters took to the streets in celebration.

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MAAC Releases Preseason Rankings for Basketball

JACK MURPHY
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

The Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) released their preseason polls for both the men's and women's upcoming basketball seasons. The men's basketball team came in third in the poll while women's basketball came in eighth.

The preseason poll was made by the coaches of the league and the results were announced on an award show on Thursday evening on ESPN3. After earning a First Team selection to the All-MAAC Preseason First Team a season ago, senior guard Deion Hammond once again received the honor as he was selected this year by a unanimous decision.

The projected third place is the same ranking the Monmouth Hawks were given just a season ago, however this year they share their projected third place finish with Saint Peters.

Siena was the unanimous decision to finish on top of the standings while Iona was the pick to finish second. Niagara and Quinnipiac followed in sixth and seventh while Fairfield and Marist took the eighth and ninth spots respectively. Canisius was listed at tenth while Rider was the last team ranked in the preseason poll.

With his selection to the All-MAAC Preseason First Team, Hammond made history by becoming the first Monmouth player to be named to a MAAC Preseason Team three times in their collegiate career. Hammond was a third teamer going into his sophomore season and named to the second team last year. He would then improve to the first team by the end of his career.

Hammond also became the third Hawk to be selected to a Preseason Team by a unanimous selection joining Justin Robinson and Micah Seaborn

as the others to do so. Last season, Hammond started in all 31 games for the Monmouth Hawks.

He also led the team in scoring averaging 16.3 points per game. Hammond also led in three pointers made, and field

goals made. He ranked second in total points in the entire MAAC last season with 505 points. He also ranked seventh in the conference for free throw percentage with 80.6 percent from the stripe.

This season has the up-

coming challenge of playing through a season of basketball in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. While this season will not be like any year previously there is optimism it will operate smoothly.

"We aren't sure what's go-

ing to happen, so we are trying to have their minds in the right place. If we have a chance to play we are going to be trying super hard and really try to play together and enjoy the opportunity to be able to play," said head coach King Rice.

The men's basketball schedule has yet to be released for the upcoming season, however with the season slowly approaching it will be announced shortly.

The women's program was selected eighth in the Preseason Coaches' Poll while junior forward Lucy Thomas received Preseason All-MAAC Second Team honors.

"It's great to see Lucy get recognition as a top player in this league," said head coach Jody Craig. "I'm looking forward to seeing her show what she's capable of now that she is healthy again. This year more than any, I believe the top spot is up for grabs."

In two seasons with Monmouth, Thomas averaged 9.5 points per game as well as 6.3 rebounds. She was also named to the MAAC All-Rookie team as a freshman.

Last season the Lady Hawks finished 9-22 (5-15 in the MAAC) and advance to the MAAC Quarterfinals for the seventh consecutive season. They were then bounced out of the tournament by second seeded Marist.

Manhattan finished first in the Preseason Poll while Fairfield and Quinnipiac tied for second place by a singular vote. Marist and Iona claimed the fourth and fifth spots while Sienna and Rider are sixth and seventh respectively. Finishing behind Monmouth in the poll are Saint Peters at ninth, Niagara at tenth and Canisius rounding out the poll.

Monmouth women's basketball will begin conference play on December 9th when they have a matchup on the road with Quinnipiac.



"If we have a chance to play we are going to be trying super hard and really try to play together and enjoy the oppurtunity."

KING RICE
Men's Basketball Head Coach



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics
Junior Forward Lucy Thomas has earned Preseason All-MAAC Second Team honors.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics
Senior guard Deion Hammond has been unanimously selected as a member of the All-MAAC Preaseson First Team.

Spring Football Schedule Announced

MARK D'AQUILA
SPORTS EDITOR

On Monday, Nov. 9 Monmouth football officially announced their 2021 Spring football schedule featuring four conference games beginning in March. After the Big South cancelled their Fall schedule due to COVID-19, the Hawks will finally get their chance to defend their conference title from last season.

“We are looking forward to competing again in the Big South,” said head coach Kevin Callahan. “It’s been a long time since we played, and the team is excited about the opportunity to get back on the field.”
Ultimately, just five teams from the Big South chose to participate in Spring football which includes Charleston Southern, Gardner-Webb, Kennesaw State, Monmouth, and Robert Morris. Campbell,

Hampton, and North Alabama have all chosen not to participate in the Spring season.
Despite the short slate of games, the winner of this shortened season will then receive a bid into the automatic qualifier for the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Football Championship Series (FCS) Playoffs.
The schedule features all conference games beginning with an away matchup against the newest member of the Big

South, Robert Morris on Mar. 13. They come from the same conference Monmouth previously competed in, the Northeast Conference, where both teams combined for 11 conference titles while splitting their head-to-head record ten games apiece.
Following this one, the Hawks will stay on the road for a matchup against Gardner-Webb on Mar. 20 whom Monmouth has a 5-1 record against all-time. Last season’s

matchup was a stunning 49-28 dominance on Homecoming where the blue and white scored seven times and compiled 599 yards of total offense.
The Hawks will host their first home game against Charleston Southern on Mar. 27 at Kessler Stadium, a team Monmouth also handled in 2019-2020 by a score of 35-13 on the road. The two teams are even all-time with a 3-3 record head-to-head.
The regular season schedule will wrap up at home against Kennesaw State on Apr. 10 following their bye week. This matchup has become the top rivalry in the Big South over the past couple years with both teams battling for the top seed in the conference. The Owls lead the all-time series by a commanding record of 4-1 however that one loss came last season in a statement 45-21 victory for MU while KSU was ranked fourth nationally. This was Monmouth’s first ever win against a top-10 team in their history.
The Hawks have begun practicing at Kessler Stadium with necessary precautions being made including the conference rule of allowing 15 non-competition season practices. The Monmouth campus can now look forward to a definitive football season while the status of fans in the stadium remains a question for the future.



Monmouth football has announced a four-game conference schedule for the Spring featuring all Big South opponents including Charleston Southern, Gardner-Webb, Kennesaw State, and Robert Morris.

All-Business All-American: AJ Farris

ERIN MULLIGAN
STAFF WRITER

A Division One football player who craves the Wall Street rush and world travel. That is Monmouth Football’s Center and fifth year student, AJ Farris.
AJ Farris grew up in Delaware where he first started playing football in third grade. “I always wanted to be like my dad,” said Farris. “My dad’s always loved football, always been involved in it. I was always watching it with him. He ended up being my coach so my dad is the one who got me into football when I was in third grade.”
In high school, Farris attended Eastern Christian Academy where he had a unique high school experience. “We technically went to school online kind of like how things are now with COVID and we traveled across the country to play the top high schools in the country.”
When the time came to commit to a school, Farris was choosing between Temple, Towson, and Monmouth. He said, “I wanted to pick a really good education. I was an individual here, I wasn’t just a number and that stuck with me.” As for the football team, he added, “The coaches and the guys on the team, the guys who were older, brought me in for my visit and I just clicked with them.”
Farris knew this was the place he wanted to be saying, “Right when I came in, I was like yeah, this is going to be my home for the next four to five years.”
While at Monmouth, Farris has earned major achievements. Just last season some of them included Third Team Associated

Press All-American, First Team All-Big South and Third Team STATS FCS All-American Honors.
On Monday, Nov. 9, Monmouth Football released their schedule for a spring season after the fall season was postponed due to COVID. The season is starting on March 10, but Farris emphasized and is excited about their last game on April 10, against Kennesaw State.
The Center who is on NFL Draft radars across the country, reflected on their big win against them last November saying, “They were number four in the country. That was the hump we could never get over and I mean, we went down there and put a beat down on them.”
Last season, the Hawks won the Big South Championship and Farris wants another one. “Right now, we’re looking for our quarterback. Obviously, we lost Pete [Guerrero] but we have Juwon [Farri] who can do just as good of a job [as Pete] and players behind him who can step up. We just need to settle that [quarterback] and take it the same way as last year, one game at a time.”
He added, “Once you set a solid foundation, it just rolls into it.”
Beyond football, Farris is all business. Literally. Farris majored in business administration with a double minor in information technology (IT) and finance.
He said, “I can talk someone’s ear off and I want to live a comfortable life.”
The Hawks Center stated how he loves the fast pace of the finance industry and the chaos of Wall Street saying, “Being



Monmouth Football’s Center AJ Farris was named a Third Team All-American in 2019-2020 while earning First Team All-Big South honors.

a center, in tough, high volatile environments, that’s when I thrive.”
The business student added, “I want to become a licensed broker. I’m studying for my first test, which is the S.I.E. I want to go work for a solid company and meet the right people. Then I want to take those people that I met and open my own hedge fund or private equity company.”
Farris’ future could hold the NFL, success in finance, and seeing the seven wonders of the world. With his work ethic and determination, he has the potential to make them all happen.
AJ Farris studies Business Administration with a double minor in Information Technology and Finance where he hopes to have a career on Wall Street as a licensed broker one day.



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THE POLLS ARE IN



Men's basketball was selected third in the MAAC preseason rankings while the Women's team placed eighth as Deion Hammond and Lucy Thomas earned All-Preseason selections.