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“Moments at Monmouth” Forum Discusses Campus Culture

MEGAN RUGGLES
SENIOR/ POLITICS/ASSOCIATE NEWS
EDITOR

The final of four Moments at Monmouth forums took place via Zoom on Thursday, Nov. 12.

Following the virtual campus climate presentation and individual sessions for students, faculty and staff, an open forum was held to support dialogue between the en-

tire Monmouth community. University President Patrick F. Leahy Ed.D., along with other senior administrators attended the event to listen to the community’s experiences, views, and suggestions on Monmouth’s culture surrounding diversity and inclusion.

Leahy kicked off the discussion with a few opening remarks about his intention hosting Moments at Monmouth. “The goal is pretty simple; I want to

make sure I’m available to you around this topic in particular... It’s important for me to hear from the campus community about your experiences here, what you hear, and ideas you have about ways we can improve,” he said.

Acknowledging his privilege, Leahy continued, “it is clear to me that I’m as

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PHOTO COURTESY of Anthony DePrimo
University President Patrick F. Leahy Ed.D., alongside other senior administrators, attended the series’ final forum of the semester to discuss University diversity and inclusion.

Former Professor to Receive Commerford Labor Education Award

ISABELLA HANNA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Brian Greenberg, Ph.D., American Social History Chair Emeritus, has been nominated and will receive the Commerford Labor Education Award from the New York Labor History Association (NYLHA) on Thursday, Dec. 4, during the John Commerford Labor Education Awards Ceremony.

The NYLHA founded the John Commerford Labor Education Award in 1987, celebrating two honorees for their contributions to workers’ empowerment each year. Encouraging the study of workers and their organizations, the NYLHA “serves as a bridge between past and present labor unionists and

academics.” Thomas Pearson, Ph.D., Professor of History, said, “Greenberg brought integrity and an ability to see the best interests for faculty and the University to his work in this arena for many years.” Pearson emphasized that Greenberg’s commitment was especially evident as he negotiated the faculty contract four times.

“The Commerford Award rightly recognizes [Greenberg’s] diverse professional contributions to labor history and collective bargaining, and it is a pleasure for [us] to congratulate him,” stated Pearson.

According to former colleague Chris DeRosa, Ph.D., Chair of the History and Anthropology Department, “The Commerford Award recognizes contributions to work-

ers’ empowerment. Brian not only did that as Chair and negotiator, but he also conveyed the history of laborers’ unending struggle for fairness and dignity to generations of Monmouth students who went on to become workers and employers themselves.”

Although recently retired, Greenberg has served in a multitude of roles centered around labor education and activism.

“I was first hired as the Jules Plangere Chair in American Social History in 1990, thus allowing me the opportunity to work in different capacities on campus,” Greenberg said. He was later appointed to work as Chief

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Richard Veit, Ph.D. Appears on Preservation Speaker Series

MATTHEW CUTILLO
MANAGING/ NEWS/ LIFESTYLES EDITOR

Richard Veit, Ph.D., Professor of Anthropology and Interim Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, appeared on Preservation New Jersey’s (PNJ) “Q&A with PNJ” guest speaker series, via Zoom on Thursday, Oct. 29.

“Q&A with PNJ” is a project that seeks to highlight voices across New Jersey’s historic preservation community and bring their knowledge and expertise on a wide variety of historic preservation topics to the public, according to Melissa Ziobro, a Specialist Professor of Public History and a member of Preservation New Jersey’s Education Committee.

Titled “Dead Men Do Tell Tales: Interpreting and Preserving Historic Cemeteries,” Veit’s presentation involved a brief history on New Jersey’s cemeteries and colonial-era burial locations up to the 20th century, as well as preservation issues of the modern day.

He has published two books on the topic, titled

The Archaeology of Cemeteries and Gravemarkers, and New Jersey Cemeteries and Tombstones: History in the Landscape. Veit has also published two scholarly articles, titled “Historical Archaeology of Religious Sites and Cemeteries,” and “Taken for Granite: Terracotta Grave markers from New Jersey and New York.”

Veit began his presentation by showing “one of [New Jersey’s] oldest surviving markers in stone,” located in the St. James Episcopal Cemetery in Edison. Eventually restored by a Boy Scouts project, the tombstone was originally created in the 1690’s. “This speaks to the earliest period of European settlement in the state,” Veit said.

Next, Veit displayed an image of a gravestone with a skull and crossbones etched into its side, a small hourglass and flames surrounded by ominous birds. “Some of our earliest markers in Northern New Jersey have these incredible mortality images on them, and

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PHOTO COURTESY of Anthony DePrimo
Richard Veit, Ph.D. joined the non-profit organization Preservation New Jersey’s discussion on Preserving Historic Cemeteries in the state.

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Dr. Moscaliuc Co-hosts Virtual Poetry Reading

MELISSA BADAMO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF/ FEATURES EDITOR

Mihaela Moscaliuc, Ph.D., Associate Professor of English, co-hosted an online poetry reading of the anthology *Border Lines: Poems of Migration* on Sunday, Nov. 15. The event was also co-hosted by Kathy Engel, MFA, Chair and Associate Arts Professor in New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts. Michele McBride, secretary of the MFA Department at Monmouth, helped organize the event.

The poems in the collection detail contemporary immigration experiences such as the assimilation into American culture, conflicting identities, and the shifting of language. Published in September, the anthology was edited by Moscaliuc and Michael Waters, a recently retired professor of English at Monmouth.

“I knew right away that I wanted to mark and celebrate its publication somehow,” said Moscaliuc.

She continued, “We were hoping to do it before the elections and offer audiences yet another way—besides news on social media—to engage with current debates on immigration. I knew these poems would shed a unique light on the fact that immi-

grants and their experiences are essential to the workings of our democracy and to what we might call our national identity. Then we figured we would all need some poetry to cope with post-election exhaustion, so we set the date for mid-November.”

The event gathered over 80 attendees and consisted

Adrienne Su, Mai Der Vang, and Sholeh Wolpé. The poets are either immigrants themselves, or the children of immigrants.

“I feel really grateful to be a part of this book and to be here with you and to be welcoming you,” Engel said to begin the event. “It’s amazing to introduce people you’ve never met but

in the spring and involve as many of the voices in the anthology as possible.”

English student Latisha Liang, who is currently enrolled in Moscaliuc’s Contemporary Poetry course, was one of the attendees of the reading. She said, “I thought this poetry reading event was absolutely amazing and definitely heartfelt. It highlighted a very important point that I believe many people don’t talk enough about, which is immigration. I myself was an immigrant from the Bahamas, so I related to a lot of the poems that were read.”

She continued, “One of the poems read in the event was a poem we actually covered in class, so that was really cool to hear. I also really appreciated everyone that shared and spoke; it was a very warm and welcoming group of people.”

A second reading of *Border Lines* is being planned for late January/early February.

“I hope MU students and faculty will consider joining us for future readings,” said Moscaliuc. “Readings like this bring people together and create or renew a sense of community we desperately need right now...I truly believe poetry can make things happen.”

“Readings like this bring people together and create or renew a sense of community we desperately need right now...I truly believe poetry can make things happen.”

Mihaela Mosculiac, Ph.D., Associate Professor of English

of readings from poets featured in the collection such as Kaveh Akbar, Lory Bedikian, Andrei Codrescu, Kimiko Hahn, Esther Lin, Shara McCallum, Yesenia Montilla, Dzvinia Orlowsky, Alicia Ostriker, Ira Sadoff,

who you feel that you have had a deep connection with through their work.”

Moscaliuc said, “The anthology comprises 122 poets, so we reached out to just over a dozen for this first reading. We hope to organize others

Leahy’s Veterans Day Message

MATTHEW CUTILLO
MANAGING/ NEWS/ LIFESTYLES EDITOR

President Patrick F. Leahy Ed.D., addressed the University community on the importance of Veterans Day, via email on Wednesday, Nov. 11.

“At the 11th hour, on the 11th day, in the 11th month of the year, we Americans pause and recognize our men and women in uniform – past and present – who have defended our freedom and constitutional rights,” Leahy wrote. “On this Veterans Day 2020 all of the members of the Monmouth University community join me in thanking them for their service to our country.”

“Today, especially, we thank all of the veterans who are part of Monmouth University, including the students, faculty, staff, and alumni whose public service continues to enhance the character of our community,” Leahy wrote. “In recent years our veterans have inspired new academic and outreach efforts including: our Military Bridge Program; a long collaboration with Frontline Paper; and the Coming Home Project, grounded in our School of Social Work. These are initiatives at Monmouth of which I am very proud. Please join me in thanking our men and women in the armed forces whose heroism protects our great nation. May their selfless acts inspire our own.”

University Administrators Listen to Community Experiences

FORUM cont. from pg. 1

privileged as you can get. I’m a white, (hopefully still middle-aged at 52) cisgender able-bodied male so I never claimed to be able to understand the experiences of underrepresented members of our communities. I want to hear and listen to whatever it is you want to say.”

“I will listen and not speak this session. It is not easy for most university presidents, this one in particular, but I’ve committed to that,” Leahy concluded.

There were no prompting questions throughout the forum, so participants could share their perspectives freely.

Laura Jannone, an Associate Professor of Nursing, was the first to speak. “In 21 years, I have seen a big change, not enough change for me,” she said.

Jannone explained that throughout former President Obama’s two terms, she sensed a change in how Black students felt they could celebrate. However, during this presidency, students and faculty alike have found it more difficult. “I think we have a long way to go, and I love that we changed [Wilson Hall], we’ve been wanting to do that for a long time,” she said.

After a few moments of silence, Walter Greason, Ph.D., an Associate Professor and Chair of Educational Leadership, said, “This is always a hard thing to get started, having people feel comfortable sharing their perspectives.”

He mentioned an online forum for faculty he is a member of on Facebook that provided the opportunity to discuss the campus climate survey, both

assessing the current moment and finding ways to improve. “One of the comments I made was how to discuss specific issues in our respective units. All of us have a unique perspective and that’s what I’m here for. I want to hear from everybody about what they’re taking away from the current moment,” Greason said.

From being online, Catherine Duckett, Ph.D., Associate Dean of the School of Science, noted there’s a lot of nonverbal things that go on. “What I’ve found from having international students in my zoom class, one from India and one from Australia, they are much more outspoken than I’ve found other students to be. Much more willing to be forthcoming about how things are...” she said.

Judy, who works in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, said of the current discussion, “I hope

that this discussion is not just on teaching and students in the classroom with faculty.” Having been at Monmouth nearly 20 years, Judy is most bothered by policies in place that she feels are not applied equally. “I see that a lot on the staff level and I hope in the future those are changed, like how interviews are done, I have been a witness to those things.”

Many faculty and staff members feel that Monmouth lacks presence in its community. Kelley Schwartz, a computer trainer with 15 years of experience in higher education, said, “But one thing that’s always puzzled me is our student population isn’t more diverse... we boarder a city that has a huge Latino and Brazilian population and they don’t even know we’re here. I’m not sure what the answer is but I try to promote us as much as possible.”

Similarly, Duckett conducted an informal survey of places

she frequents in Long Branch, and one of the only places that viewed having Monmouth as a resource to the community was the liquor store. Duckett suggested that the Monmouth community should be more aware of posting events to social media. “There’s a lot of diversity in our local communities and we need to be in conversation,” she said.

Aimee Parks, Assistant Director of Human Resources for Student Employment, mentioned that her office releases federal work study students in a lot of the Long Branch schools to advise schools.

In terms of outreach efforts, Victoria Bobik, Director of Undergraduate Admission, explained outreach is a complex issue, and her office has developed extensive outreach programs and financial aid programs with local high schools. “We get a lot of students from Long Branch and Asbury but

getting a student to want to come here is not enough, we’re a \$56,000 institution and getting them aid is incredibly important [as well as helping them] with the Educational Opportunity Fund and getting students for visits,” she said.

“It’s diverse and complex as an outreach effort... It’s a cumulative effect that takes a long time to change, and that’s what we’re talking about, a culture on campus,” Bobik said.

Relating to Judy’s point on employee experiences, Greason said, “Over the years I’ve been an employee at Monmouth the core thing I don’t think we get to talk enough about is why people who come from Black or indigenous communities feel uncomfortable at best and worst cases actively afraid.”

“When I would drive to work and try to park, for years, the suspicion I was greeted with, no one was putting together that I was a regular part of the community,” Greason said. There were repeated instances of verbal harassment he had to report to campus police.

Michael Phillips-Anderson, Ph.D., an Associate Professor of Communication, shared an experience a Black student in his rhetoric class had. He was asked daily what sport he played, but he had never been an athlete. “The white students couldn’t imagine there was a black man on campus that didn’t play sports,” he said.

William Schreiber, Ph.D., Lecturer in the Chemistry Department, said, “I really appreciate those last two comments, I’m very privileged and hearing examples is what I’m looking for to become more sensitive and on the lookout for issues.”



PHOTO COURTESY of Anthony DePrimo

The final Moments at Monmouth open forum was intended to support dialogue among the University community.

Richard Veit, Ph.D. Connects Cemeteries to Culture

VEIT cont. from pg. 1

that’s because... [the area was] settled in large part by New Englanders who brought down this puritan tradition of gravestone carving,” Veit said. The gravestone speaks to the puritan mindset that only a select number of people were to be admitted into heaven, Veit explained.

By the middle of the 1700s, new designs began to emerge in sandstone markers carved from stone quarries in Newark or Belleville, Veit explained. The particular marker featured in Veit’s presentation showed a cherub, a child-like angelic figure, carved into an hourglass gravestone shape.

“My good colleague and friend Adam Heinrich has argued we see cherubs [on this period of gravestones] because of changing styles in art; a move to the baroque style,” Veit said. “Anthropologist Jim Dietz long ago argued we’re seeing the great awakening, a new religious movement where you can be saved through faith. You would have an angel on top of the stone rather than death.”

Different parts of New Jersey have varying gravestone styles, according to Veit, who displayed a Bergen County gravestone in the Dutch language. In Northwestern New Jersey, you begin to see more German language markers. “These simple marble slabs are really characteristic of Moravian cemeteries,” Veit said. “The Moravians felt that all people are equal in the eyes of God, so you don’t need a big, fancy stone.”

New England imported slate gravestones appear in coastal New Jersey, such as Monmouth County and parts of Middlesex County, and are often very well preserved. Slate is not badly affected by acid rain, or by the shelling and spalling that hurts sandstone, Veit said.

Veit went on to show a Philadelphia style stone from southern New Jersey, badly affected by acid rain and difficult to read. Upon further analysis, the marble marker displays a Scottish flag and an English flag.

“This [grave marker] is for a revolutionary war British soldier,” Veit explained. “Captain William Leslie of the 17th British Regiment, sometimes called the Tigers of Princeton, who died at the battle of Princeton.”

Captain Leslie was badly wounded and his friend, Benjamin Rush, “the most famous doctor in early america,” Veit said, had him taken north towards Morristown and the American hospitals. Leslie died on the way and he was buried in Pluckemin. “Rush paid for his marker, so it actually speaks to how the revolution is very much a civil war.”

Sometimes a gravestone is not a stone at all, as the Pleasant Mills Cemetery by Batsto was famous in the 1700s and 1800s for iron making. “It’s in an area without a lot of natural stone, so the folks who worked in the blast furnaces actually cast and inscribed their own iron grave markers,” Veit said. “There are probably 2 dozen examples in southern Jersey, total.”

By the end of the 1700s, you begin to see a more plain style similar to Philadelphia gravestones with no decoration on the top. Veit showed attendees a stone with an inscription detailing a man named Abraham Van Gilder, born on the high seas in October of 1701.

“Imagine poor Mrs. Gilder, giving birth on the high seas,” Veit joked. Gilder died in February of 1818, living for 116 years.

“That’s a heck of an accomplishment in a world without modern healthcare,” Veit said. “[The epitaph] says he was a rebel against heaven and by Christ’s free grace became an heir of God and a newborn son. I thought he might be a rebel against heaven as an atheist or an agnostic, but my students have suggested that he’s a rebel because he’s just not going [to the afterlife]. All his friends have passed on and he’s still here ticking.”

When faced with a cemetery that needs to be repaired, may it be from vandalism or overgrown plants, you must provide documentation that includes researching the history of the site and recording the current condition of the stones and burial ground.

Next, Veit explained, you must identify the stone material, its designs and its carvers.

“You may want to do a ‘conditions assessment report,’ where a professional comes in and tells you what is going on in the cemetery and what needs to be done,” Veit said. “Then, come up with a list of priorities. Often with larger cemeteries, you can’t do everything, so think about short term and longer term goals. If we listen to the stories cemeteries have to tell, they can be tremendous sources of information about local history and culture.”



PHOTO COURTESY of mementostones.blogspot.com

Northern New Jersey gravestones were designed by puritans.

Emeritus Recognized by New York Labor History Association

GREENBERG cont. from pg. 1

Negotiator for the Faculty Association, in addition to his duties as Chair and Professor of the Department of History and Anthropology.

“He was a tough negotiator for the Faculty Association but absolutely fair and highly principled,” Pearson said.

“During these negotiations, it was important to us that we represented the interests of the faculty, enabling them to focus their efforts on success in the classroom,” said Greenberg. “We wanted to ensure that Monmouth facilitated an uplifting work environment that attracted the best possible teachers.”

Greenberg went on to teach classes, introducing courses in labor history, and enhancing the Department’s reputation with his numerous scholastic publications. Greenberg has authored three books, all of which highlight his passion for the history of labor and how it is still an important part of education today.

“As an educator, I believe it’s essential for students to recognize the issues the country has overcome and acknowledge that there are remnants of problems that have yet to be solved,” explained Greenberg. “I am grateful to Monmouth University for empowering me to project my passions forward to new generations.”





PHOTO COURTESY of Anthony DePrimo

Brian Greenberg, Ph.D., will receive the Commerford Labor Education Award this December.



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The Return of College Sports

EDITORIAL STAFF

With the sports world around the globe being put on pause for months due to the COVID-19 pandemic; universities around the nation are beginning to bring back their athletic programs with unprecedented precautions. Monmouth University has taken an integral role in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) athletic procedures heading into the winter season. They plan on proceeding with the winter sports season with limited in-conference schedules and no fans in attendance. *The Outlook* continues

for Monmouth men's and women's basketball to be the first sports back to campus in December playing conference-only schedules. However, there won't be fans in attendance until Dec. 23 at the absolute earliest when the MAAC will make their decision on fan attendance. MU athletics will be offering fan cutouts to make up for the lack of attendance, which can be purchased on their website for \$50 each. The status of fans after the New Year is yet to be determined but editors weighed in on how they felt about this moving forward. "I do not think fans

Monmouth also recently announced their spring football schedule, which will feature four games in the Big South, two that will take place on the road, and two that will be played at Kessler Stadium. Of the eight teams in the Big South, only five have decided to play in the spring with some of the teams having already played games in the fall. The editors fear the statistics of how many COVID cases have come to campuses from sports teams across the country. According to one editor, "The *Asbury Park Press* reported last week that 33 percent of COVID-19 cases in New Jersey were tied to

"If Monmouth and the other teams follow the right protocols and get tested frequently, I can see how they can safely execute a men's and women's basketball season."

to report on the constant updates regarding the current COVID-19 athletic conditions, and the editors shared their opinions on how these circumstances have been handled. Many of the editors believe that there is still major risk involved in bringing sports back to campus, but at the same time they agree that athletics are key to the current state of Monmouth. "Sports do need to carry on," said one editor. "There are seniors on the teams, and this is their last opportunity to play before graduating. If Monmouth and the other teams follow the right protocols and get tested frequently, I can see how they can safely execute a men's and women's basketball season." As of now, the plan is

should be attending games at all this year with cases spiking but perhaps if things start leveling off and getting better next year, they can attend the games then," said one editor. "I am sure there will be a good portion of the student body interested in the fan cutouts being placed in the stands but also a good amount who are not because they are not big sports fans." Another editor added, "I think a limited number of fans could attend games if they strictly follow safety protocols like wearing masks and social distancing. And then in the spring, a greater number of fans might be able to attend the football games since it is a larger, outdoor space."

sports teams, which is very concerning." With the uptick in cases mimicking the early stages of COVID from last spring, the fear of bringing sports back to campus is a legitimate concern. However, as long as Monmouth continues to follow national and conference protocol there is confidence that they will be able to proceed with athletics effectively. "Sports play such a large part in not only an athlete's college experience, but also the students who attend the games," said one editor. "I think as long as the athletes remain safe and don't attend social gatherings, there's a lower risk of spreading the virus to the rest of the team. A big part of it depends on students and athletes themselves."

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What To Be Thankful For

LAUREN DEMARCO
STAFF WRITER

When someone asks me “what I am grateful for?” I stop and think to myself about all the people around me, and that usually answers the question. My answer is simple, my family and friends are what I am most grateful for. Without them in my life, I do not know what I would be grateful for.

However, I am also grateful for the life that I live and the opportunities that I am granted. During this crazy time that we all are living in, it makes you realize how much you really should be grateful for. Since Thanksgiving is coming up, I think we all have many things to be grateful for.

However, I know this year is not exactly what we all hoped for but we still all have so much to be grateful for. I know I am happy for my health and being able to spend time with my loved ones. Even though it is a hard time to get together with everyone, especially during the holidays, there are still various ways of communicating.

This year has not been the best for many but realizing what good is still in your life, makes you appreciative of the things you do have. Sometimes it is hard to remember what is important and what is not when you are dealing with tough situations in your life. However, knowing how grateful you are and appreciative of life is what I have



IMAGE TAKEN from Time Magazine

Turkey day is not just a day to eat as much food as you can but a day to reflect on your blessings and thank your loved ones.

been trying to do.

I have realized more than ever that I have a lot to be grateful for. I would be lost without my family and I am forever grateful for their presence. They are always there for me, especially during hard times when I need them most. I am thankful for all that my family has given me.

I have always been told that you cannot choose your family but you do choose your friends and acquaintances that you associate yourself with. Everyone needs to have some true, reliable friends in their lives. Now, this does not mean someone has to have a bunch of friends. It is better to have a few good friends

that will always be there for you no matter what than to have dozens of friends who you cannot trust.

I have an amazing family and friends in my life so what I am most grateful for is the love that I am surrounded by. I am thankful for their love and how their support has given me the strength to be successful. I cannot imagine a single day without them right by my side.

Overall, I think we all need to reflect on our blessings this Thanksgiving. We are all going through these unprecedented times and need this holiday to reflect and restart our mindset to finish off the semester and year on a brighter note.

The Voting Age

YOSEF DAVIDOWITZ
TECHNOLOGY MANAGER

Aside from the highly anticipated presidential election, one of the most interesting issues voted on in the 2020 election was San Francisco’s proposition to lower the voting age in local elections to 16. This idea is gaining momentum around the world in order to bolster voter turnout. A slim majority of 51 percent of voters in San Francisco agreed with this proposition, but it did not get enough votes to be passed.

While often thought of as long standing and deep-rooted, the 18-year-old voting age is actually a relatively new concept in America—the 26th Amendment, lowering the voting age from 21 to 18, was only ratified by President Nixon in 1971. The 26th Amendment was passed after a youth movement gained steam as a reaction to the Vietnam War draft where many young men did not even have the right to vote for the politicians who sent them to fight.

Today, the rising involvement of youth in activism movements ranging from LGBTQ+ to immigration issues to the Black Lives Matter Movement begs us to ask if lowering the voting age to 16 might be a good idea. The strongest argument against lowering the voting age is that 16-year-olds are not mature enough to vote. Most of them are, after all, only barely halfway through high school.

A study conducted in Norway after several municipalities lowered the local voting age to 16 found that 16-year-olds are less mature than 18-year-olds and

become no more mature when given the right to vote. However, a study conducted in Austria, one of the few countries with a national voting age of 16, showed that lowering the voting age increased political interest among youth, which is certainly a positive step toward creating politically engaged adults.

Voter turnout in the United States is infamously low with only 60.1 percent of eligible voters voting in 2016, according to *USA Today*. A movement to elect anyone other than Donald Trump helped break voter turnout records in 2020, but it is too early to tell whether the high voter turnout of this year will become a trend or if Americans will once again become too comfortable with the current political climate to feel the need to partake in their democracy.

Voting education must be emphasized if the voting age is lowered to 16. Teaching voting as a responsibility while high school students are being taught the issues surrounding the given election may permanently increase the voter turnout and allow our government to better represent its entire people.

The massive 2020 voter turnout, not to mention the fact that Trump lost the popular vote in 2016 by almost 3 million votes, proves that Trump’s 2016 victory did not reflect what most Americans actually wanted. If the voting age is lowered and voting is emphasized as a serious responsibility, we may be able to permanently increase the voter turnout and elect a government that more closely represents what matters to all Americans.

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Alumna Spotlight: Nicolette Pezza

DENISSE QUINTANILLA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On Nov. 5, Nicolette Pezza participated in the third installation of the “Ask An Alum Series” hosted by Career Services. Pezza is currently a content manager at Revelation, a digital media agency for multiple L’Oréal clients. Pezza graduated a semester early in January 2018 with a B.A. in communication with a concentration in journalism and public relations (PR). Pezza chose this major because she always had a passion for writing. She said, “When I was a junior in high school, I did an internship with Seventeen Magazine. It was the first thing that made me think, ‘Hey, maybe I could do this for a living.’” She also completed many internships during her college career with online digital publications like CollegeFashionista, as well as some PR internships. Pezza was very active on campus during her time at Monmouth. She was a sister of Alpha Xi Delta and a contributor to The Verge and The Outlook. Pezza loved her college experience. She said, “I would go back and do it all over again if I could.” Some of her favorite memories at Monmouth include meeting her best friend, working at the Office of Student Activities, and recording her original song, “You Feel Like Home” with Joe Rapolla and Blue Hawk Records. “There are too many [memories]! The list goes on,” Pezza said.

To prepare for life after Monmouth, Pezza said, “I worked with Career Services and Jeff Mass to connect me with alumni in a similar field, go over my resume, and give me job tips.” It was Jeff Mass, Assistant Director of Career Services, who reached out to Pezza to participate in the “Ask An Alum Series.” “When Kristin Waring from Alumni Engagement and I first got together in the summer, we wanted to showcase alumni from various industries each month,” said Mass. “Nicolette (our November Spotlight) has an extensive, impressive background in the beauty industry. She created her own beauty blog and completed multiple internships. She wanted to share how she got her foot in the door with L’Oreal’s Beauty Magazine, and we thought that would be perfect for our program.” Pezza said, “It was pretty cool to be able to talk to current students and recent alum about my experience especially because it hasn’t been that long since I was in their shoes even though it seems like a lifetime ago. I love giving career advice and helping where I can because I know personally I would’ve appreciated all the help and guidance as an undergrad.” Although Pezza graduated early, she still had difficulty obtaining a job after college. “Before landing my current job, I applied for easily over 400 jobs,” she said. “It’s not easy and you

have to be dedicated and treat applying for jobs like a full-time job.” Pezza continued, “In March 2018, I landed a full-time contract position with Wedding Wire (now combined with The Knot) as a Content Creator. Then, in July 2018 I landed my first full-time permanent gig, which is where I am now.” Some advice Pezza gives to students who are searching for their next job or internship is to create their own opportunities. She said, “When I graduated and didn’t have a job, I created my own lifestyle blog. I knew I wanted to go into beauty, but didn’t have any recent published clips in the industry. I didn’t have a big following by any means, but I published consistently and produced clean, polished work. I ended up using some of those blog posts as writing samples that helped land me my current job.” COVID-19 has not drastically impacted her work life since most of her work can be done remotely, but she still misses going into her office in New York. However, on a personal level, Pezza’s life looks a bit different than it did before March. She said, “Working from home full-time in my small Hoboken apartment isn’t exactly ideal... also, having your life almost put on hold in your 20s is definitely not ideal—I’d love to be traveling and experiencing life to the fullest.” She continued, “I’m thankful to have my health and my job.

COVID-19 has definitely made me appreciate the little things more.” Pezza has many goals left to accomplish. She said, “I’m still so early in my career, and I’m extremely career driven. Eventually, I would love to go brand-side and climb up the ladder to a Director or VP position.”



“I love giving career advice and helping where I can because I know personally I would’ve appreciated all the help and guidance as an undergrad.”

Nicolette Pezza ‘18

Blue Hawk Records Artist of the Week: Nick Garrecht

MELISSA BADAMO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF / FEATURES EDITOR

Freshman music industry student Nick Garrecht picked up his first guitar six years ago, around the time his grandfather, who introduced him to artists such as Johnny Cash and The Beatles, passed away. A few years later he learned the piano and joined his first band in 2016, when he played a gig at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. “It was that day I was like, ‘That’s what I want to do with my life.’ I want to be a performer,

I want to be an artist,” he said. Now, in 2020, Garrecht is the lead guitarist of his band White Wing, and will be releasing an original song with Blue Hawk Records on their upcoming compilation album. The song, titled, “Out All Night,” was written last December and takes inspiration from Garrecht’s personal life. “Back in December, there was a lot of things happening in my personal life and if you were to listen to the lyrics and read them, it has something to do with a relationship,” said Gar-

recht. “That song in particular it’s more of a common theme in a lot of people’s lives and I feel like it can help people cope with something like that happening to them.” Garrecht’s main goal in music is to help as many people as he can and offer them a way to cope in tough moments, a valuable thing that music has given him. He said, “Music has helped me in the darkest times of my life. It sounds cheesy to say, but it’s true. I genuinely believe that music is one of the greater forms of therapy. It has the potential to help...that’s why it’s my passion.” Garrecht and his band finished recording an EP in July. Their single, called “Kingdom Come,” is reminiscent of classic rock bands Led Zeppelin, and Guns N’ Roses, bands that have inspired Garrecht’s musical style. However, he prefers to be flexible in his songwriting process, exploring other musical genres as well. Garrecht hopes his experience with Blue Hawk Records will give him the opportunity to grow as a musician and performer. He said, “It’s been a fun time [working on the album]. I love it. So far the experience has been great...I hope to become a better artist and to further my knowledge on music and how to collaborate with other people,



PHOTO COURTESY of Nick Garrecht

Freshman Nick Garrecht, a singer and guitarist, will appear on Blue Hawk Records’ 17th compilation album this semester.

and to share some great memories with a lot of great people.” Garrecht said that he would be interested in producing music with Blue Hawk Records for other artists in the future, and wishes to study the field of audio engineering as well. “Honestly there’s never really a time in my life where music isn’t there,” he said. While music intertwines its way into

all aspects of Garrecht’s life, whether it’s during his studies at Monmouth, with his band, or with Blue Hawk Records, he also wishes to join Monmouth’s Intramural Soccer Team. With Garrecht’s musical background and experience, he has much to look forward to as he finishes up his first semester at Monmouth, pursuing his life passion.



PHOTO COURTESY of Nick Garrecht

Garrecht’s band White Wing resembles the musical style of Led Zeppelin and Guns N’ Roses.

Psychology Services Help Fight Off “COVID Blues”

CLAIRE RANKIN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The global COVID-19 pandemic has impacted life as we know it in a multitude of ways, leaving many people’s mental health to suffer. According to a recent Berkeley study, college students across the country have reported rises in anxiety, depression, and loneliness. The Center For Disease Control (CDC), finds the Coronavirus to cause stress for individuals due to the fear and uncertainty of the type of future a worldwide pandemic holds.

Andrew J. Lee, Psy.D., Director of Psychological Services, said the two most consistent COVID-19 related issues he sees are anxieties surrounding the disease, and the economic consequences of COVID-19 lockdowns and job shortages.

“Students are anxious about getting sick or their family and friends getting sick,” Lee said. “There is also the anxiety that comes from the financial burdens of the pandemic, not necessarily the virus itself, but rather the climate of our economy.”

A Pew Research Center survey found that overall, one in four adults have had trouble paying their bills since the global pandemic began. A third have dipped into savings or retirement accounts to make ends meet.

The Kaiser Family Foundation started collecting data in late March when the

lockdowns began, and their research found that social isolation and loneliness is directly linked to poor mental health.

47 percent of individuals being studied reported poor mental health during lockdowns, and they credited it to COVID-19 worries, financial struggles, and loneliness.

Being a college student during a global pandemic is a challenge, and students now have to cope with isolation, financial instability, and the adjustment to online classes. Logan Lazarus, a senior education major, said

she suffered a case of the “COVID Blues.”

“It was hard to get excited about life after graduation when we live in a post-pandemic world,” Lazarus said. “I am working nonstop and trying to catch up with school because online classes are a hard and weird adjustment. I went to Psych Services at Monmouth and it really helped me get my mind back on track and create a healthy routine for myself.”

Monmouth University’s Department for Counseling and Psychological Services has a variety of services they offer at no additional cost.

Students can schedule video or phone meetings with counselors, and this can be done by calling 732-571-7517 or emailing mucounseling@monmouth.edu. Some services offered during these appointments are individual psychotherapy, crisis intervention, mental health education, prevention initiatives, campus outreach, referral guides, and self-help literature.

Lee shared the advice that he gives his own clients.

“The most important word of advice I could give is to allow ourselves to grieve this loss of life as we know

it, and to move forward and control what we can in our lives,” Lee said. “We can’t control the world around us, but we can control getting our homework in on time. It is also important to reach out to the people in our lives to combat the isolation.” If you are suffering in any way and are seeking help, do not hesitate to reach out to Monmouth University psychological services. For any student that finds themselves in need of help, Monmouth University offers a variety of mental health services that are easily accessible to students.



IMAGE TAKEN from Pexels.com

Uncertainty in the future of the job market has left many college students worried as graduation nears.



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REMEMBERING A TV ICON: WHO IS ALEX TREBEK?

ALEX DYER
ASSISTANT NEWS/ENTERTAINMENT
EDITOR

On Nov. 8, the TV industry and dedicated *Jeopardy!* fans incurred a serious loss with the death of Alex Trebek, the program's omniscient and charming host. Trebek, who hosted the game show from 1984 until his death, succumbed to pancreatic cancer at 80 years old last Sunday.

I first read about Trebek's passing about eight minutes after the *Jeopardy!* official Instagram page posted announcing it: "Jeopardy! is saddened to share that Alex Trebek passed away peacefully at home early this morning, surrounded by family and friends. Thank you, Alex."

Reading that, I was incredulous; I just watched him on television two nights ago, but I and other fans weren't not expecting the news at some point. The beloved host suffered from stage IV pancreatic cancer for almost two years, and the public knew of his illness nearly as long. He wasn't shy or ashamed of his struggle, saying in the original Mar. 2019 video about his diagnosis, "I...wanted to prevent you from reading or hearing some overblown or inaccurate reports regarding my health. So, therefore, I

wanted to be the one to pass along this information."

"Now," Trebek explained, "just like 50,000 other people in the United States each year, this week I was diagnosed with stage IV pancreatic cancer."

So, after about 20 months, and after plenty of (always optimistic) regular health updates from Trebek and his family, the world received the news that he had, in fact, lost his battle.

Though his passing was inevitable, many like myself are left wondering what will become of *Jeopardy!* without Trebek. Like good art is a balance of different facets in just the right proportions, *Jeopardy!* gets so much of its wide-ranging and generation-spanning appeal from the charisma, wit, idiosyncrasy, and occasional cockiness of Alex Trebek; in so many ways, he is the very reason the show has been able to maintain such an avid viewer base for decades.

As of this article's writing, no announcement has been made regarding a possible successor to Trebek, but the show must absolutely go on, and Alex himself made it clear that he supported the continuation of the program after he was no longer able to host for whatever reason, but told *Good Morning America* in July, "I have no say whatsoever in who will



IMAGE TAKEN from Jeopardy.com

The Canadian-born Trebek hosted *Jeopardy!* for 37 seasons, firmly entrenching himself as a prominent figure of American pop culture.

replace me when my days as the host of *Jeopardy!* end."

But truly, who replaces Alex Trebek doesn't concern me; I'm not worried that the program will come to an end after this tragedy. His days as the host of *Jeopardy!* did indeed end and his final episode was taped only two weeks before he died, quite literally working until the very end of his life—something he made abundantly clear he wanted to do. I think this is what he would prefer his fans to think of when they think of

Jeopardy! and his legacy on the show; i.e., not to worry about what will become of it without him.

Like I wrote last issue, I think game shows are a pure form of entertainment: watching others play games is arguably the most wholesome way to be entertained. I've been watching *Jeopardy!* since before I could talk. My parents would pop my portable car seat onto the counter, with the TV overlooking me, and let me watch Alex Trebek while

they ate dinner. Since then, he and the program have been a fixture in my life.

And I imagine it's been that way for millions of people who have welcomed Trebek and his rotating triad of contestants over the past 37 seasons. Even though he can't host *Jeopardy!* anymore, and even though we won't be seeing him every weeknight any longer, there's a permanent, Trebek-sized dent in American pop culture forever, and that impact can't be overstated.

All Time Low Goes All Time Virtual

MELISSA BADAMO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF / FEATURES EDITOR

I can now officially say that I've been to my first virtual concert of 2020. On Friday, Nov. 13, alternative rock band All Time Low streamed the second installment to their "Basement Noise" concert series on their website.

To promote the release of their latest album *Wake Up, Sunshine* in April, the band decided to stream five virtual shows, one every two weeks from October to December. The first show included a setlist comprised of all the songs on the album, while the next four

setlists are curated by each of the band members; lead singer Alex Gaskarth, guitarist Jack Barakat, bassist Zack Merrick, and drummer Rian Dawson.

Each concert is priced at \$15, but when the Student Activities Board (SAB) offered a limited number of free tickets, I jumped at the opportunity.

Friday's concert, called "Zack's Choice Set List," was an impeccable performance with a killer range of songs, both old and new. The band kicked off the show with "Everything is Fine," released as a single in 2018 and a perfect anthem for 2020.

With lyrics like, "Every-

thing is fine and nothing matters, weather's always nice inside my head, I turn my music up so loud," it's a good reminder that although it may seem like the world around us is crumbling in the year of 2020, everything is going to turn out fine.

The 48-minute set continued with remarkable songs like "Dirty Laundry," "Take Cover," "Therapy," and "Guts," some of my all time favorites from All Time Low. This band is insanely talented at performing live, and each song sounded better than their studio versions.

Throughout the performance, the lead singer Alex spoke to the virtual crowd, saying things like, "put your hands together," making it feel like you were a part of a real audience. The camera angles made it seem like they were performing at a music award show. They also had a live chat so viewers can talk to other fans, which offered the sense of community you would have with the people around you at an in-person concert.

Assuming concerts won't be coming back any time soon, I'd like to see more bands follow this virtual format. I found that streaming a



PHOTO TAKEN by Melissa Badamo

Alternative rock band All Time Low streamed the second show of their virtual concert series this past weekend.

paid concert on the artist's personal website is a better choice than other popular platforms like Instagram Live or YouTube. Overall, virtual concerts are a win-win for everyone; the band and their crew make money during the pandemic, and fans get to watch an exclusive show for a great price. There was a live Q&A interview with the band after the show, and it would be cool if they included a VIP package where fans can join a Zoom meet and greet as well.

The concert was available to re-watch on their website

until Monday at 12 a.m., so naturally, I listened to it on repeat all weekend. I wish the replay period lasted longer, but the band wants fans to purchase more tickets for the next shows.

All Time Low was supposed to tour this summer with the pop-rock band 5 Seconds of Summer, but it was postponed to April 2021 due to the pandemic. They will be hitting the Stone Pony Summer Stage in Asbury Park on July 25, 2021, and if the pandemic drastically settles down by then, I'll buy a ticket.



PHOTO TAKEN by Melissa Badamo

The "Basement Noise" concert series included a 12-song setlist and a Q&A with the band members.

You DESERVE SISTERHOOD NOW MORE THAN EVER

LILY HOFFMANN
CLUB & GREEK EDITOR

COVID-19 has unfortunately taken many things from many people. It's had the power to take lives, jobs, and for Monmouth students, it's taken away the ability to sit in a classroom and learn in a traditional way. But beyond the classrooms, it has affected on-campus organizations. Largely, Greek Life. Monmouth University is home to five sororities: Alpha Omicron Pi, Alpha Sigma Tau, Alpha Xi Delta, Delta Phi Epsilon and Phi Sigma Sigma. It is also the home base for fraternities, Sigma Tau Gamma, Sigma Pi, Phi Kappa Psi and Tau Delta Phi. Greek life's presence at Monmouth in a COVID-19 free world is large. Greek organizations are constantly holding table events outside the Student Center, philanthropy events in Pollack, and usually hold chapters and rituals inside academic buildings. Unfortunately, due to the circumstances at hand, this has broken down the element of sister and brotherhood, a major selling point for these organizations. Over the past week, Tina VanSteenberg met with the Panhellenic chapters on campus to discuss ways to

increase sisterhood in our now virtual world. VanSteenberg is a proud alumni of Alpha Gamma Delta and hails from Twin Cities, Minnesota. With her powerful speaking abilities and her knowledge of Greek life, she has been offering talks to chapters to help them navigate the struggles of having the sorority experience amidst a pandemic. She opened up her meeting with Monmouth's Iota Theta chapter of Alpha Omicron Pi by inviting girls to share how they are "genuinely" doing right now. Immediately, the chat box flooded with responses that highlighted stress, anxiety, and feelings of being overwhelmed. VanSteenberg acknowledged that everyone is in the same boat right now. "Sisters are a bright spot in our world," she said. "We all want to spend more time with the people we love, and we are up against some pretty big barriers." Sisters are often a source for sorority members to go to during times of trouble, and with restrictions and fear of spreading COVID, it can be challenging to lean on those support systems. This often leaves sorority members feeling powerless. But she wants members of Panhellenic organizations to know that they have the ability to take that power back. In a pre-COVID world, there

were often instances of what she called, "accidental sisterhood," which occurred by simply running into sisters in class or by just showing up to chapter. These days, it is much more difficult to connect with sisters due to COVID-19 protocols and fear of spreading/catching the virus. This leaves members feeling a sense of disconnect. Though sisterhood is something members truly desire right now, it has been difficult for many chapters in the community to make it a priority. VanSteenberg discussed three barriers to prioritizing sisterhood. The first one that she recognized was the

lack of time and energy to put into other things beside class and work, etc. The second one being that many sisters feel as though they are a burden to fellow members or friends. The final obstacle, and one that many sisters resonated with is the element of struggling with mental health. VanSteenberg then placed members into breakout rooms so sisters could discuss what barriers they resonated most with. In these rooms, many sisters agreed that it's nice to see everyone relating to each other. One sister added in the chat box that it made them feel as though they were "Never

alone." Another sister said, "It is so easy to think and feel like you are the only one going through these things." However, VanSteenberg's activity made the sisters bond over the struggles they are all facing right now. It really drove home the point that sisterhood is something everyone could use during these challenging times. VanSteenberg said, "Women are not meant to go through a global pandemic alone. This is exactly what sisterhood was created for." She emphasized that sisterhood is not just "showing up" to events. It is a feeling of support, love, laughter, care, and knowing that someone is going to be there for you. At the close of the event, VanSteenberg encouraged members to share stories of a time when a sister supported them. The stories that were shared were heartwarming and created a sense of inspiration to do the same for others. VanSteenberg encouraged members to keep putting forth the effort, and that it is work worth doing. "Even when the mental health tank is low, go the extra mile." The sisters of Alpha Omicron Pi thoroughly enjoyed the event. For more information on Tina VanSteenberg, be sure to follow her Instagram @tinaraevan.



PHOTO COURTESY of @tinaraevan
Tina VanSteenberg is an alumni of Alpha Gamma Delta and an expert in all things "sorority"

Greek Talks:
Alpha Kappa Alpha and Chi Upsilon Sigma

LILY HOFFMANN
CLUB & GREEK EDITOR

Monmouth University is home to five Multicultural Greek Council organizations. These organizations are welcoming to members of diverse cultures, whether it be African American or Latinx. These organizations include, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority Inc, Chi Upsilon Sigma, Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity, and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. Jasmine Cooper is a sister of AKA Sorority Inc. She also serves as Vice President of cam-

pus' MGC. She said, "At the core of multicultural organizations is service and excellence." This especially shines through all of the philanthropic works that these organizations participate in. Chi Upsilon Sigma is one of campus' Latinx organizations. Yarleny Mejia is a proud sister of the sorority, and she serves as MGC's Public Relations Chair. This is an organization that is extremely involved in helping others. She said, "One of the reasons I joined my sorority was because within our organization there are so many opportunities to give back to the commu-

nity and I want to be able to give back to my community as much as possible." The organization's official philanthropy is the I Have a Dream Foundation. This organization gives emotional, social and academic support to children that come from low income families. However, it doesn't stop here for the sisters of CUS. Since they cannot raise funds on campus for the organization due COVID regulations, they plan on running a raffle for curly hair products because they are often expensive. During a normal school year, these organizations typically hold events such as AKA's "Mr. Pink and Green," in efforts to raise money for organizations such as the Lions Club. However, due to current circumstances events like this have not been possible. There has been an upside to this. Cooper said, "The positive part about virtual programs is that we are able to partner with other chapters across the country and attend programs at other schools a lot easier." These organizations have been able to host a handful of virtual events throughout the semester. These events are not just for individual events. The sense of unity within MGC organizations truly shows, as there are often

participants from all five organizations. This especially was true at a recent event called, "Being Me in Greek Life," in which members of MGC organizations shared their personal experiences with being involved in sororities and fraternities. Cooper said, "It has been great to see the work that all of our organizations are putting in and being there to support one another." For anyone that is interested in joining an MGC organization on campus,

Mejia offered several pieces of advice. She said, "Do your research! Sisterhood & Brotherhood is forever, so you want to make sure that you join an organization that aligns with your values. Don't be afraid to reach out to members of any MGC organization. We're all approachable and personable people." For more information about the MGC organizations, be sure to check out their official Instagram, @monmouth_mgc!



PHOTO COURTESY of Mike Lanis
Jasmine Cooper serves as the Vice President of Monmouth University's Multicultural Greek Council and is a proud sister of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.



PHOTO COURTESY of @cus_gammabeta
Yarleny Mejia was initiated into Chi Upsilon Sigma in the Spring of 2019, and serves as MGC's Public Relations Chair.

The UN World Food Programme Wins the Nobel Peace Prize

EMILIA M. INTILI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

COURTNEY GOSSE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize 2020 for its efforts in combating hunger and improving global conditions for peace.

The WFP states that the main causes of food insecurity and hunger are the result of conflict. People living in conflict zones are most affected by this reality and other pressing issues, including destabilization and displacement.

Destabilization is caused when violence erupts within a community, which triggers a ripple effect that impacts the main infrastructure of the community and exacerbates food security for all people affected. Displacement occurs as the result of the destabilization of a community; it is no longer safe, and people have no other choice but to leave. The combination of these two factors causes malnutrition, which affects children the most, according to the WFP.

Therefore, the WFP provides food that helps fortify nutrition, cash/vouchers that make other food sources accessible, school meals that aid children in the classroom, and additional assistance in rebuilding community infrastructures.

Hannah Burke, an MSW student and the intern of the

IFSW to the UN, stated, “The World Food Programme is an amazing program – its work is incredibly important for countries that are experiencing food insecurity and famine. I am especially thankful for the work they’ve done for Yemen.” Kerry Lenhart, also an MSW student, added, “The work that the World Food Programme is doing to help countries that are experiencing hardships regarding lack of access to nutritious food and economic crises is crucial and admirable.”

Saliba Sarsar, Ph.D., a Professor of Political Science, commented, “Hunger and the

threat of hunger are very real, afflicting millions of people around the world. Food security is a must.” For Sarsar, awarding the WFP the Nobel Peace Prize is a terrific acknowledgement of the essential work of the women and men who are dedicating their lives to assist the hungry, especially in conflict-torn regions of the world. He adds, “WFP’s struggle to stop the use of hunger as an instrument of war is equally important.”

In the Norwegian Nobel Committee’s announcement, they noted the WFP won the prestigious award “for its ef-

forts to combat hunger, for its contribution to bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas and for acting as a driving force in efforts to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict.” The committee also noted that COVID-19 had underscored the importance of this group in supporting the world’s victims of hunger. In the midst of the pandemic, the WFP exhibited a profound ability to reinforce its efforts.

The award aligns with the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Part of the 2030 Agenda for

Sustainable Development, the SDGs are a shared model for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and in the future. The second SDG represents “Zero Hunger” with the mission to end hunger, achieve food security, and improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture around the world by 2030, according to the UN Sustainable Development website.

Monmouth University participates in the mission of the SDGs by implementing its own food pantry and community garden on campus. In turn, we have partnered with Fulfill—Monmouth and Ocean counties’ local Foodbank, to help benefit the local community by providing accessible resources to the surrounding areas.

This United Nations (UN) agency was established in 1961 as a result of U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower calling for “a workable scheme” to construct food provision aid through the UN system. It administers food assistance to countries worldwide.

Months after its inception, it responded to a large-scale earthquake in Iran, delivering essential foods to the survivors. Since then, the agency has continued to respond to conflicts and natural disasters throughout the world, including its emergency response to conflict areas such as South Sudan, Yemen, and Afghanistan.



The Nobel Committee honored the WFP for their work combatting global food shortages that have only increased during the COVID-19 pandemic.

IMAGE TAKEN from DW

Amy Coney Barrett Confirmed, Implications

GEORGEANNE NIGRO
ASSOCIATE POLITICS EDITOR

The Senate voted 52-48 to confirm Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme on Oct. 27th.

Barrett’s confirmation was the closest to a presidential election in history, and she is the first Justice since 1869 to be confirmed without bipartisan support.

The Supreme Court’s conservative majority has been solidified for years to come.

Michelle Parisi, Adjunct in the Political Science and the Sociology Department, explained how Amy Coney Barrett is an originalist, which is a belief that judges should attempt to interpret

the words of the Constitution as the authors planned when it was written.

Parisi also said that her record on gun rights and immigration cases suggests she would be a solid conservative vote on the Supreme Court.

“What has made her popular and an ally for the religious right are her legal opinions and reviews on abortion and gay marriage. Her overall beliefs align to conservative right-wing judge,” said Parisi.

She also said that she does not believe that Amy Coney Barrett was a good pick for the Supreme Court Justice. Parisi said her nomina-

tion set the court extremely slanted to the right and that there is a conservative majority on the Supreme Court which can undo all the progressive work that has been done to help our country.

“She was appointed and signed in quickly because the Republicans want power. Having a conservative majority in the Supreme Court gives the Republican Party assurance that their agenda will be held up and any progressive legislation would be turned down or overruled. Also, Trump doesn’t play by the ‘rules,’” said Parisi.

Since Amy Coney Barrett is Pro-Life, people have

taken to social media to express their concerns towards women’s reproductive rights being in jeopardy.

Parisi said, “It’s happening now but on state and local levels. Sadly, women’s reproductive rights are up to individual states. We see states like Ohio with the ‘Heartbeat bill’ and just out right defunding of women’s clinics in West Virginia and Tennessee.”

She continued that the states already have devoured women’s rights by making it impossible to get to a clinic. She mentioned that there are only two clinics in all of West Virginia. She also said that other state laws are pushing anti-choice legislation.

“With ACB as our next justice this fight will go from state level to national. Generations of pro-life groups have waited for the day Roe v. Wade and other major court cases involving women’s reproductive health can go on the national chopping board in front of a court with a conservative majority. Anything can happen,” said Parisi.

Sarah Cooper, senior Psychology student, was not pleased with the Supreme Court Justice pick.

“I am not surprised that our president pushed to put in a new nominee although it was not passed when Obama

was president. He seems to get his way through arrogance and corruption,” said Cooper.

She also expressed that she does not think Barrett will be a good pick because she will not fight for our rights in the way Ruth Bader Ginsberg did. Cooper also said she believes Barrett was the wrong choice because she does not have the background experience that other nominees have had.

“I absolutely as a female have concerns about her being in the Supreme Court. I am worried specifically for the reproductive rights we currently have being taken away through changes to Title IX that have already happened and probably will continue to happen, and Roe V Wade,” said Cooper.

Eric Schwartz, a senior Political Science student, does not believe that Barrett’s confirmation will result in drastic decisions such as overturning Roe v. Wade or gay marriage rights.

He said, “It’s definitely concerning to see the Supreme Court swayed to one ideology so drastically. The process by which she was nominated and confirmed so quickly directly before an election also showed the GOP’s hypocrisy seeing as they refused to confirm Merrick Garland in 2016.”



IMAGE TAKEN from AJ Jazeera

Amy Coney Barrett smiles at President Trump following her confirmation to the Supreme Court. She was sworn in at the White House with Justice Clarence Thomas administering the Constitutional Oath.

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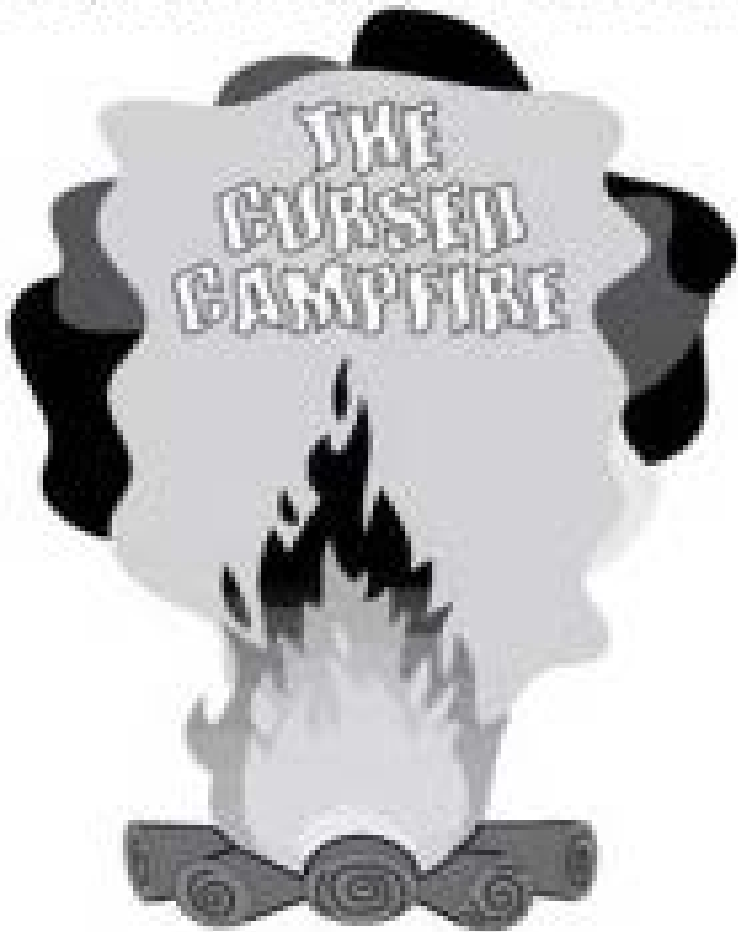
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Monmouth Intends to Play Winter Sports with Caution

SEAN EMERSON
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The effects of COVID-19 have left college athletics in a precarious position. The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and the college sports world have adapted, rearranging schedules, and reconfiguring protocol. In this complicated landscape, where such a complex matter challenges them, schools like Monmouth University are doubling down on safety procedures.

Maneuvering around these health issues is pressing with the number one priority being students and faculty safety. A pandemic that has changed the landscape of college sports, leaving a bit of a circus. The restart since the stoppage has been plagued by cases of COVID-19 and it has not relented since. Even with the mask and sideline rules, rounds of testing, and other arrangements implemented, the risks still apply.

For the upcoming winter sports season at Monmouth, we will see similar actions taking place, along with the rest of the NCAA. Monmouth will be doing their best to ensure the safety of the students and the staff working their games. Associate Athletics Director for New Media & Communications, Greg Viscomi says, “There is an abundance of measures to keep our student-athletes safe. Social distancing, mask wearing, keeping them together in groups to limit outside contact, multiple testing, and constant symptom checks.”

These are unprecedented times where University athletics programs have had to create protocol they never envisioned in their tenure. “The entire goal is to have a safe environment for our student-athletes to play in,” said Viscomi. “That is the number one goal. The NCAA, the MAAC,



PHOTOS COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

“The entire goal is to have a safe environment for our student-athletes to play in. That is the number one goal.”

Greg Viscomi
Associate Athletics Director for New Media & Communications

and Monmouth University have strict guidelines that are being followed to ensure that everything is being done to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among our teams, our University and the community.”

The task of planning and continuing with normal winter sport functions has shown to be problematic. Furthermore as of now, the number of sports expected to play at Monmouth will be limited. When asked about what sports would be played, Marilyn McNeil, Ph.D., Director of Athletics at Monmouth said, “We will play basketball, both men’s and women’s. The MAAC will make a decision about swimming and indoor track and field.”

That decision is reportedly supposed to take place on December 1, and a lot will be taken into consideration according to McNeil. She went on to say that as of “right now, swimming looks like a go for their February MAAC championships, but it will depend upon the state of New York for access to the facility in Buffalo.”

The obvious challenges that are present in today’s climate are creating setbacks and a cloudy environment where there is some heavy logistics to be thought about. The uncertainty of how things pan out has cast a shadow on some of the normalcies of the winter sports season, but rest assured there are ways around it.

“The best way to watch Monmouth athletics this winter – for now – is on the ESPN+ platform,” said Viscomi. “Right now all of our home and away men’s and women’s conference basketball games will air on the platform.” With a subscription to ESPN+, anybody can stream and enjoy Monmouth sports no matter what the circumstances are this winter.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Monmouth is awaiting a decision from the MAAC regarding the status of the Winter Track & Field season.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Swimming is hoping to participate in the MAAC championships depending upon the decision from the facility in Buffalo.

Baseball Signs Eight Players to NLI's

JACK MURPHY
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Monmouth Baseball announced they have signed eight ballplayers to National Letters of Intent this past Friday, Nov. 13. Monmouth added Jay Bant, Nick Burg, Nick Czarnecki, JD Greeley, Reed Interdonato, Jonathan Peterson, Andrew Schmid and Aidan Watson through NLIs.

“We are extremely pleased to welcome this group of fine

young men to our program,” said head coach Dean Ehehalt. “They are all outstanding students and of high character. This class will make an immediate impact on the field as well.”

Jay Bant is an infielder from Wall, NJ. He currently plays for Wall High School under the realm of coach James Rochford. In his sophomore season in 2019, Bant hit .341 with two long balls and 27 RBIs. The left-handed hitter also had a slugging percentage of .477.

He led his team to a 27-4 record and helped them win a state championship. Bant also received Shore Conference All-B North Team for his contributions and was also named Perfect Game Preseason Underclassmen All American in both 2019 and 2020.

Monmouth baseball also inked Nick Burg, a right-handed pitcher from Marlton, NJ. Burg played at Cherokee High School under Marc Petragnani while also playing club ball for the East

Coast Lumberjacks.

He won a WWBA Perfect Game 18U Northeast Fall World Series title and was also named to an All-Tournament team in 2017. Just this year, Burg pitched at the Last Dance High School Baseball Tournament where he recorded four strikeouts in three innings to help his team win. He was also named a Perfect Game Preseason Underclassmen All American in both 2019 and 2020.

Nick Czarnecki played his ball at Hunterdon Central under head coach Kevin Couzzi and competed in club ball with the NJ Diamond Jacks. Czarnecki patrols the outfield and hit .357 in 2018 and improved to .377 in 2019 with seven extra base hits.

After playing four years of varsity ball, Czarnecki earned First-Team All-Conference and First Team All-Area as only a sophomore and helped his team go 44-9 between the 2018 and 2019 seasons, while also clinching a NJ Group Four state title.

JD Greeley was a two-way player who both pitched and played the infield for Pocono Mountain West in Pennsylvania. Under head coach Steve Mason, Greeley hit .442 in his first two seasons while striking out only four times. Greeley is also dangerous on the base paths as he stole 18 bases in 19 attempts.

For his efforts, Greeley was named to the All-Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Third Team and was a Perfect Game Preseason All-American honorable

mention.

Reed Interdonato is a right-handed pitcher from Scottsdale, Arizona. He competed at Horizon High School where he played under the coaching of Beau Polvorosa. He also played at the club level for the Scottsdale Firebirds. Interdonato helped his club win a 5A Arizona State Title in 2019 and was a 2020 Preseason Perfect Game Underclassmen All American.

Monmouth will also inked left-handed pitcher Jonathan Peterson from Florham Park, New Jersey. He pitched under Douglas Wear at Hanover Park High School. He was named to Perfect Game All-Tournament Teams twice including at the 17U Mid-Atlantic Elite Championship.

Andrew Schmid is an infielder that played high school ball at Rumson Fair Haven. The Fair Haven native plays ball under former Hawk, Owen Stewart and played club baseball for the 9ers. In 2018, Schmid hit .292 but made a huge jump in 2019 when he hit .385 and launched two home runs balls as well.

Schmid earned a PG Preseason Underclassmen All American, PBR Futures Game choice and a Garden State Games selection.

Aidan Watson is from Morristown, New Jersey and plays for Morristown High School where his head coach is Ed Collins. He also plays at the club level for the Locked In Expos. Watson helped his team to 14 wins as a sophomore and was a Garden State Games selection.



Monmouth baseball has announced the eight players that have signed National Letters of Intent to play baseball in Blue and White.

Women's Basketball Announces New Class

ERIN MULLIGAN
STAFF WRITER

On Nov. 12, 2020, the Monmouth University women's basketball team announced their latest signings of guard, Emily Jimenez and guard, Antonia Panayides who will join the team in their 2021-22 season.

Hailing from the sunshine state, Emily Jimenez is from Boca Raton, Florida and goes to Cardinal Gibbons. During her junior year, she averaged 11.6 points per game and 4.6 rebounds. In addition to that, she racked up 3.5 assists per game.

Also as an individual player, the Boca Raton native earned Sun Sentinel Second Team All-County and Miami Herald Second Team All-County honors.

She also helped lead her team to their district championship, regional championship, the state Final-Four, and helped earn their season record of 25-4.

Earlier in her high school career, the 5'10" guard led her team at Boca Raton Community High School to a 15-0 record her freshman and sophomore seasons.

With the signing of Antonia Panayides, another Jersey girl will join the Hawks next season. Panayides is from Red Bank and attends Red Bank Catholic where she has been a three-year varsity player.

With an 80.0 free throw percentage, she led her team

and is only second on the team with a 51 percent field goal percentage.

Last season, the future Hawk played in all 28 games for her team and averaged 22.0 minutes per game. She racked up 83 assists to 33 turnovers and ended her season with 7.1 points per game. In addition to that, she had a 33 percent three-point percentage.

Not only is she a star on the court, Panayides is a fourth-degree black belt with three Grand Champion Belts in Taekwondo tournaments.

Speaking on the latest addition to the team, Head Coach, Jody Craig said, “Our program got better today in signing Emily and Antonia.”

Coach Craig praised the girls saying, “They are two talented, hard-nosed, and determined young ladies. Their exceptional character and drive will help take us to another level next season.”

With Jimenez and Panayides coming into the program next season, they will have the opportunity to learn from fellow guards, Alexa Wallace, Jen Louro, Destiny Jackson, and Ariana Vanderhoop. No matter what the 2021-22 season has in store, these two power houses will make their impact.

After a recently revised schedule was released, the women's basketball team will begin their season with a home game on Friday, Dec. 11 against Iona.



Monmouth Women's Basketball announced two new recruits for the 2021-2022 season including Atonia Panayides of Red Bank Catholic and Emily Jimenez of Cardinal Gibbons.



Antonia Panayides and Emily Jimenez will have the chance to learn from fellow guards Alexa Wallace, Jen Louro, Destiny Jackson, and Ariana Vanderhoop who are currently on the Hawks.



Monmouth University intends to move forward with a limited number of Winter sports following the safety protocols of both the NCAA and MAAC.

SEE STORY ON PAGE 14

PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics