



THE OUTLOOK

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University Announces Plans for Spring Semester

MATTHEW CUTILLO
MANAGING/NEWS/LIFESTYLES EDITOR

President Patrick F. Leahy Ed.D., detailed the University's plans for the upcoming 2021 spring semester, in an email addressed to the campus community on Friday, Nov. 20.

The spring semester's academic calendar has been updated with a new start

date of Monday, Jan. 25. The delay was implemented in an effort to "mitigate the risk of virus spread at the height of cold and flu season," Leahy wrote.

"This postponement, coupled with the public health objective of preventing non-essential travel, has required us to eliminate the traditional spring break," Leahy wrote.

In place of a weeklong spring break, the new aca-

demic calendar incorporates "break days" in March and April. "This adjusted schedule allows us to maintain our typical 14 week semester, which will end when it normally does in early May," Leahy added.

Spring semester course delivery methods will be similar to those offered

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PHOTO COURTESY of Anthony DePrimo

The new spring academic calendar removes the traditional spring break period and instead incorporates "break days" in March and April.

Dining Hall Serves Thanksgiving Dinner

MATTHEW CUTILLO
MANAGING/NEWS/LIFESTYLES EDITOR

The Magill Commons Dining Hall served dinner to students from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day, due to the unprecedented volume of students remaining on campus during the break this year.

With a menu consisting of turkey, stuffing, and other Thanksgiving-themed foods, employees and residence hall assistants helped prepare and facilitate the meal.

The dining hall was limited to 10 students at a time, with the ability for students to take their meals back to residence housing. Isolated students could also have their food delivered. Brunch and dinner was served each day during the holiday weekend.

Jennifer Pomarico, Marketing & Office Manager of Gourmet Dining, adjusted the normal menu to reflect a more traditional

Thanksgiving meal. The menu included carved turkey with gravy, sausage & fennel stuffing, brussels sprouts with bacon, short rib ravioli with a sage butter sauce, stuffed pork loin with cranberry stuffing, and much more.

"The dinner menu was planned a few weeks in advance," Pomarico said. "We served about 20 students all day as well as the Residential Life staff. Everyone was very pleased with the meal and the offerings that we provided."

About 160 students are still living on campus, according to Mary Anne Nagy, Vice President for Student Life and Leadership Engagement.

"We knew we were going to have students [on campus] for lots of reasons," Nagy said. "Maybe home wasn't a safe place for them because somebody was sick, or maybe they were sick themselves. I think the other piece was students who might have

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Real Estate Team Brings Home First Place Prize

MELISSA BADAMO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF/FEATURES EDITOR

The Monmouth University real estate team received a first-place prize for the second consecutive year on Friday, Nov. 13. The intercollegiate competition, titled "Monmouth University Kislak Real Estate Institute Competition," also consisted of students from Baruch College, Lehigh University, and Villanova University.

The team was given one month to develop a proposal for the highest and best use of a property, which was a mobile home park located in Highlands, NJ.

"It's a very rigorous month," said James Azarian, senior business student and captain of the real estate team. "We all see it as

the equivalent of the internship. We're dealing with real life issues and real-world scenarios. Some of us want to go into real estate development, so this could help us when we go into the job market and tell them we worked on a development proposal. It's a good experience."

The \$5,000 first place prize was divided among the team members, which included Captain James Azarian, Annalaan LeMay, Sergio Martinez, Michael Pavicic and bench players Joseph Zecchino, Jack Cusack, Michael Gauthier, Olivia Mackie, Irene McFarland, Specialist Professor of the Kislak Real Estate Institute and the Department of Economics, Finance, and Real Estate, coached the team through the competition.

"As the team's advisor, I

guide the students on how to approach the process of responding to the case prompt, suggest resources for them to obtain relevant information, answer questions and generally act as a sounding board," McFarland said. "However, the development proposal and presentation are their work, reflecting their ideas, creativity and analysis. What they put together was truly impressive."

Although the real estate team has been competing for the past three years, Azarian stated that this is the first big year for them. "Because we won a competition last year, our team grew and we gained a lot of recognition at Monmouth and in New

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PHOTOS COURTESY of James Azarian

Monmouth students received first place in a virtual real estate competition. Pictured clockwise: James Azarian, Sergio Martinez, Michael Pavicic, and Annalaan LeMay.

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Minor League Baseball Speaker Visits Sports Industry Club

SEAN EMERSON
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Minor League Baseball’s Marketing Coordinator, Miranda Mauro, joined the Sports Industry Club for a lecture via Zoom, on Thursday, Nov. 19.

Mauro worked for multiple organizations, including the Tampa Bay Lightning, the National Hockey League (NHL), and USA Baseball. Today, she is the Marketing Coordinator for Minor League Baseball. Mauro gave a talk about the experiences and the daily duties of her previous jobs and the details of the operations in her job today.

Mauro is a Florida State University alum, who graduated with a B.S. in Sports Management. She also obtained a M.S. from University of South Florida in the same respects. In the talk, she detailed the road she took, and how she made a path to the position she’s at now at Minor League Baseball. Mauro talked about her journey as a Sports Information Intern at her alma mater, to Digital Media Coordinator at USA baseball. She was able to raise the number of followers on the Twitter and Instagram accounts for USA Baseball. She gave accounts of what she did and how it molded her.

When reflecting, she gave a brief description about her time as a service attendant for the Tampa Bay Lightning. She said her skills in guest services transitioned to the next position as a correspondent

for the NHL. Understanding what appealed to fans and engaging with them, she produced specified content on social media that was beneficial in terms of understanding the market she was trying to appeal to.

As the Marketing Coordinator for Minor League Baseball, she sees her role as more comprehensive when compared to her other jobs. “Minor League Baseball has 160 teams through Single to Triple A ranks and together it touches 81 percent of the US,” she said. From having to focus on a single market to now managing 160 of them, she welcomes the challenge of having more on her plate.

Operations are not solely business, as Mauro talked about the perks and fun aspects of her job. Her job is social and connecting

to others is a great part of what she does. An example of her socializing is the baseball winter meetings in San Diego where she can talk among her peers in a fun setting and create connections with people in Major League Baseball. “It will have a bigger role in the future in Minor League Baseball operations,” she said.

Mauro finished with a familiar tidbit of advice, that one should be focused and self-motivated when in a work environment and that the drive of that could propel one’s career in her industry. “My best piece of advice is not to get discouraged,” she said. “It’s easy to get discouraged.”

“Be part of a sports club, continue to network and make connections. Don’t be nervous to reach out for help; you never know what could come from it.”



IMAGE TAKEN from Pexels.com.
Miranda Mauro is the Marketing Coordinator of Minor League Baseball.

Social Work Lecture Held

SEAN EMERSON
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The 8th Annual Social Work Alumni Lecture at Monmouth took place on Monday, Nov. 30. The lecture was a presentation called “Born of Rage: Art as an Agent for Social Change” given by Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work Ralph G. Cuseglio, DSW.

Cuseglio’s talk showed the influence of inequality, oppression, discrimination, and social injustice in art, and what kind of impressions were taken and left in certain artist’s work. Whether it was Billie Holiday’s haunting recollections of lynch mobs on “Strange Fruit” or Picasso’s interpretations of Francisco Franco’s regime in Spain in what is his probably most famous painting, “Guernica”, or Childish Gambino’s song “This Is America” about the banality of gun violence, Cuseglio draws connections of certain pieces of art and media to real-world atrocities.

One of the points Cuseglio makes is that artists, through sublimation, can bring substantial awareness to issues that are plaguing them and the world. “There’s an ability to bring things to the surface, that external factors are internalized and processed in a creative fashion to cope with strong feelings,” Cuseglio said. He further explains that “creations can turn unpleasant feelings into a more

tolerable form like a song or a painting”

When that creation becomes mainstream or processed by the public and similar feelings are shared, more psychological activities start to occur and that attention can drive change. For example, Cuseglio asked, “Have you ever been excited by a piece of music? Watch a movie that made you cry? Seen a photograph that has stunned you?” Art in all mediums can move someone or something through its ability to translate thoughts and feelings into form, Cuseglio said.

After he was finished presenting, the 2020 Alumni Award Winner and Monmouth Alum Tiriq Callaway gave a small talk, reflecting on his time at Monmouth, his upbringing, and the social work he’s doing today.

In his speech he gave accounts of his life growing up in Atlantic City and the strife he saw daily. He gave ways of how he coped with his situation and compared his own struggles to the struggles of artist’s in the earlier presentation.

He talked about his life’s story of overcoming poverty and racism, and in his emotionally charged speech that left many choked up, he explained how his mistakes lead him to write books and help others. At the end, Callaway summed up the talk saying that “in order to be passionate in the world, you have to be passionate about change.”

Spring Semester Update Music Industry’s Pandemic Struggles

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during the fall, with a mix of in-person, hybrid, and on-line delivery dependent upon class. The system is intended to be as “accommodating to student preferences as possible,” Leahy wrote. “While we may not be able to completely satisfy the preferred schedule of every student, our faculty advisors and department chairs stand ready to answer any questions about schedule adjustments.”

Students can log into the Personal Academic Information section of WebAdvisor for confirmation on course modalities for upcoming classes.

All students who live in on-campus housing, as well as all students enrolled in hybrid or in-person courses, are required to provide evidence of a negative COVID-19 test result within seven days of the start of the spring semester, Leahy wrote. “Students impacted by the COVID-19 testing requirement will receive further instruction as we approach the start of the new semester. We will continue to offer on-campus housing and meal plans for all interested students.”

Any student who deferred or cancelled their fall 2020 housing contracts and have reconsidered their decision can reinstate room assignments for the spring by contacting Residential Life Services. Residential halls will also continue to follow “previously prescribed community standards,” Leahy added, which include visitation limits and participation in surveillance COVID-19 testing.

The Faculty Council will make a decision early in the spring about continuing the Pass/Fail grading option for the spring 2021 semester, according to Leahy. The majority of the grades that were requested to be switched to a pass last semester were C grades ranging from C- through C+ with 775 pass requests, according to the Monmouth’s Registrar.

Upcoming spring iterations of the Study Abroad programming, Global Experience, and Global Seminar programs remain suspended. “Given the uncertainties of COVID-19, we strongly suggest that employees and students avoid travel during the spring 2021 semester,” Leahy wrote. “Exceptions to the suspension of Monmouth-sponsored travel must be approved by each employee’s area vice president.”

The University will continue to require the proper use of face masks and social distancing of at least six feet to reduce the risk of virus spread. Leahy also encourages all students and employees to utilize the CampusClear symptom tracking app and COVID Alert NJ contact tracing app.

“Monmouth is a University grounded in resilience and determination, and I have great faith that our community will continue to demonstrate these strengths in the months ahead,” Leahy wrote. “I am grateful for your continued patience and understanding as we navigate these challenging times together and look forward to a successful spring semester with you.”

CLAIRE RANKIN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the music industry in multifaceted ways.

Mike Flannery, a Professor in the Department of Music and Arts, acknowledges the ways the music industry has changed throughout the pandemic. “Back when you could sell records or CDs or tapes in a music store, that was the original business model,” Flannery said. “Around 2001 when I worked with Atlantic records, I had 13,000 copies sell and over a million illegal downloads. There had to be a shift in the music industry to keep this from happening, so the industry moved to streaming and cheap subscriptions to keep people from stealing music.”

He continued, “The pandemic is the great equalizer because whether or not you have a budget to tour, all of the social options like concerts for music are halted. People have more opportunities to grow big that are just ordinary students without a record label, because the formats are adapting and moving to social media.”

Scott Buksbaum, a senior Music Industry student, is a member of a well-known local band named “Malibu.” His band has been utilizing social media through live-streams, a live performance video that allows for them to share live music with their followers. This adaptation has helped them to stay relevant and engage with their fans, but the band is still facing financial hits due to the pandemic.

“We have been affected by

the Coronavirus pandemic because we can no longer play shows, and that is how we made most of our money,” Buksbaum said. “We were supposed to tour over the summer, but because of COVID we couldn’t. The only way we’ve been combatting this is doing live-streams with our record label. We can’t record in New York City, so we’ve been recording in our producer’s basement.”

Aside from the monetary disadvantages that come with the pandemic, Buksbaum acknowledged the personal hardships the band is facing is helping to motivate and inspire their music. “When it comes to the creative out-

let aspect of it, we have more time to focus on our music with quarantine,” Buksbaum said. “We also have more to draw on with our own personal struggles and relationship problems caused by the pandemic.”

Flannery also touched on how the pandemic can inspire creativity. “A lot of my friends are definitely working on more projects because they have more time and aren’t wrapped up in the social stuff they usually do,” Flannery said. “If you’re good at keeping yourself motivated and mentally fit, there can be a lot of productivity during all of this with creative work.”



IMAGE TAKEN from Malibu on Facebook
Music artists around the world, including Monmouth’s own Malibu, are having issues adapting to a world with no live audiences.

Thanksgiving Dinner Served to On-Campus Students

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traveled to a state that would require a quarantine on the way back.”

The Crisis Management team began discussing plans for Thanksgiving around the middle of October, Nagy explained. The team weighed the possibilities of a meal after learning of the University’s decision to commit to remote-learning after Thanksgiving. “Public health officials started to say campuses should try to keep students who need to isolate or quarantine on the campus,” Nagy said. “[Our group] had people

from Dining, Residential Life, Health Services, and Athletics.”

The team decided to cover the cost of students’ meal plans for the dinner, as they did not want money “to be a barrier to students staying,” Nagy said. “We wanted [students] to make a good decision about staying and not worry about it costing more money. The University has covered the cost of their housing and their food for [that time period].”

Social distancing measures were the same as they have been all semester, Pomarico explained. “Everything was served in disposable contain-

ers, [with] social distancing markers on the floor encouraging students to remain six feet apart,” Pomarico said. “Our indoor dining area has limited seating that promotes social distancing. Most students took their meals to go.”

The fear of a winter snowstorm damaging the two outdoor dining tents caused their removal, Nagy said. In its place, the University is looking to create more indoor dining spaces.

“My hope is that students will start to eat inside a little bit more,” Nagy said. “You can really stay socially distant while staying at a table. The tables and chairs are all at least six

feet apart, so once students come in they basically have their own [safe area]. I think there’s a real missed opportunity for building a sense of community.”

Any student who had to isolate in their rooms because of a positive COVID-19 test result, regardless of the time of semester, can have their meals delivered to them during the day.

“We deliver breakfast, a lunch and then a hot meal for dinner,” Nagy explained. “There’s a menu they can choose from. We also make sure that we deliver extra bottles of water, Powerade and other things like that. If

they have a fever, it’s important that they stay hydrated. We’ve done that through the whole semester, but we’ve also done that on Thanksgiving as well.”

Nagy found that over the course of the semester, students weren’t getting up early enough for breakfast.

“For noon time, students wanted eggs, bacon, and pancakes,” Nagy said. “We decided to adjust the menu going forward starting with Thanksgiving. We’re doing more of a brunch, so you can get breakfast items as well as lunch items until 2-3 p.m. Then we switch over to a dinner meal.”



The Thanksgiving meal included carved turkey with gravy, sausage and fennel stuffing, brussels sprouts with bacon, short rib ravioli with a sage butter sauce, stuffed pork loin with cranberry stuffing, roasted carrots and beets, rosemary mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes stuffed with marshmallows and cranberries, baked ziti, and vegan eggplant parmesan.

Students Receive \$5,000 Prize at the Kislak Real Estate Institute Competition

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Jersey,” he said. “Even in these tumultuous times, the team was able to combat adversity and retain our title.”

Business administration student and team member Sergio Martinez said, “Winning the Kislak Real Estate Competition was one of my goals this academic year. I always believed this team complements each other and that we are academically prepared to perform. I am very happy to have won this competition and made great friends.”

The Kislak Real Estate In-

stitute was established as a part of the Leon Hess Business School so that Monmouth could “play a more active role in the economic and educational development of the State of New Jersey,” according to the University’s website.

“These competitions offer up real challenges that people in the real estate business are facing today, including how and where people live, play and work,” McFarland said. She also noted that the competitions allow students to gain exposure to a prestigious panel of judges and other industry leaders who scout students for

jobs and internships, expanding their professional networks.

“This competition has helped to better understand the real estate development process, to work in a team, to think outside the box, and to test different ideas and identify which ones work best financially,” added Martinez.


“The students who participated in this intercollegiate real estate competition are extremely hardworking, dedicated and passionate about real estate,” said McFarland. “Seeing their efforts recognized with a first-place award is enormously gratifying. I am so proud of the way they worked together as a

team and pushed themselves to deliver a very creative and thorough proposal for a very challenging development project. These students are terrific ambassadors of the University.”

The Kislak Real Estate Institute also recently entered another team of students for the first time in a retail real estate challenge hosted by the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC), McFarland said. The Monmouth ICSC team, consisting of Zach Greiner, Olivia Mackie, Ryan Lupo, Michael Gauthier, and Emily Barreira, were coached by

an industry mentor to develop a proposal for a new IKEA store.

“This is one of the more prominent real estate professional associations,” McFarland said. “While our team did not win over the other eight schools who competed, the judges and industry mentor who worked with our students were highly complementary of the Monmouth team’s performance, particularly since they were new to the process. The student participants all said it was an incredible experience and they were pleased by how much they learned.”



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11/18

Poss. CDS/Student Misconduct

Cedar Hall

11/22

Student Misconduct

Hesse Hall

11/19

PULA/Student Misconduct

Elmwood Hall

Harry Styles Is Wearing a Dress

What’s the Big Deal?

SAMUEL CIOCIOLA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Fashion and pop music icon Harry Styles is *Vogue* magazine’s December issue cover star. Styles rose to fame being a member of the widely popular boy band One Direction from 2010 until the group split in 2015; he has gone on to a solo career producing chart-topping records like “Watermelon Sugar” and “Adore You.”

Styles is known for making fashion statements every chance he gets, and his *Vogue* cover is no exception. The cover features Styles in a periwinkle blue gown paired with a black tuxedo jacket all designed by Gucci. After the release of the iconic cover, Styles received major backlash from prominent conservatives.

Candace Owens, a popular figure in the conservative community, made some highly opinionated remarks on her Instagram page about Styles’ fashion choice. She stated that American culture needs to bring back “manly men,” and that no society can survive without masculine men. She went on to infer that men who choose to wear gowns should be considered mentally ill and that she would never allow a man wearing a dress near her children.

The negative conservative commentary surrounding Styles’ fashion decision is truly upsetting. Who is Candace Owens to conclude that a man’s fashion choice defines his mental state? Men embracing their feminine side is not a “Hollywood trend” or a sign of mental incompetence.

Our society heavily relies on gender roles. Men wear suits, women wear dresses; men do



IMAGES TAKEN from *Vogue*

Harry Styles is receiving both major backlash and praise for dressing feminine in the December cover story of *Vogue*.

the yard work; women fix dinner and so on. These commonly accepted societal constructs tend to make sense to those who classify as heterosexual, yet these same constructs trigger confusion, self-hate, and hopelessness in those who identify as part of the LG-BTQIA+ community.

I have grown up identifying in the LGBTQIA+ community while living within a mainly conservative family. I always felt as if my interests were flawed because they did not align with the heterosexual culture. I love ballet, gymnastics, dresses, Britney Spears and many more things that are looked at as feminine. I hope young members of the LGBTQIA+ community see Harry Styles’ *Vogue* cover and feel represented, heard and desired in mainstream media.

Men embracing their feminine side is not a trend that will die down, it is a cultural revolution

that aims to embrace all layers of a man, not just his societally accepted masculine side.

Many men, myself included, do not relate to common masculine themes. It is comforting to see someone as famous as Harry Styles embracing his unique style on the cover of a popular magazine like *Vogue*.

It is a reminder that self-expression and authenticity will always overpower societal constructs, and we can be whoever we wish to be! It is our human right to express ourselves in any way we desire. It is absolutely no one’s place to judge others based on what they wear.

Altogether, there is nothing wrong with masculine men and there is nothing wrong with feminine men. We are all men capable of achieving whatever we wish to accomplish. Something as small as a fashion choice does not define someone.

Self-Care Tips for Students

JOHN PAPAGNI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The transition from high school to college can be a very stressful and nerve-racking experience. Students go from being in school for eight hours a day following a strict schedule to living on their own, having to manage an extreme amount of work due in a short period of time.

College can often be so overwhelming at times that you have so much work to do that you do not know where to begin or how you are going to finish all these assignments.

Often when you are feeling anxious or stressed out, it is beneficial to not focus on your work and focus on yourself or something else. Taking time away from your responsibilities can often help you reevaluate your responsibilities and mindset on how you are going to accomplish all your assignments.

Nayeli Conill, a freshman communication student, said, “When I have a lot of work assigned and I struggle with where to start, I will often go on a nice long walk outside and the fresh air just clears my mind. It is so peaceful.”

Some activities that are great stress relievers are taking a walk outside, working out, playing sports, being with your friends or close loved ones, playing video games, watching a show or movie, listening to your favorite music, taking long

showers, maintaining proper hygiene, and unplugging from social media or technology for a bit.

Nick Kowalski, a freshman homeland security student, said, “Maintaining proper hygiene for me is essential to being productive because if I have a lot of work to do, and I have not taken care of myself, I am twice as stressed.”

When I am stressed and do not know how to begin my work I will go to the gym and either run to clear my head or lift weights to ease my anxiety. I will also play video games, listen to my favorite music, or watch my favorite shows to take my mind off what I must accomplish. Getting away from my work for a bit refreshes my mind and helps me reevaluate how I will accomplish my work for the week.

Tyler Gennaro, a freshman computer science student, said, “Whenever I am angry or frustrated, I will go to the soccer field and just take out all my anger on the ball for about an hour and that will calm me down and clear my head.”

Whenever you feel stressed or are having a hard time with your work, take a step back, take a deep breath, and remind yourself that you got this. School can be stressful, but it is not the end of the world. If school is ever getting too overwhelming, use some of the tips above to get through the semester without negatively affecting your mental health.



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Blue Hawk Records Artist of the Week: *Justin Ume*

MELISSA BADAMO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF/FEATURES EDITOR

Last November, rapper Justin Ume, who performs under the stage name UME, hit the stage at The Saint in Asbury Park. Flash forward to today, when the pandemic has put a halt to in-person concerts, he will be performing virtually at Blue Hawk Records' 17th compilation album release show on Instagram Live.

Since discovering a zeal for

songwriting at the age of 13, the freshman music industry student has written and recorded an array of songs—either with his at-home solo studio, or with his management team at various studios across central New Jersey. One of his songs, titled, "At the Tone," is rap, rock, and pop mix that will be featured on the compilation album.

"It's about love anxiety and the feeling of not having a significant other, or losing a significant other," Ume explained. "It

speaks a lot to that in the hook and the lyrics itself. I think it's a very versatile and relatable song. I'm excited for people to hear it, and it will be cool seeing how it meshes with the other songs. There's a lot of talent on the Blue Hawk team and on the album."

"This is the first step in what I always wanted to do," he continued. "It's a great feeling, and I'm excited to be apart of it."

Not only is the song being released with the student-run record label, but it will also be released as a bonus track on Ume's upcoming album in March 2021. "I'm dropping it myself in January because it's a part of the album I'm working on as well, but I submitted it to Blue Hawk and they loved it," he said.

Ume released an EP this past July, an R&B track with a friend called "All Night" in September, and a single called "BLU" on Nov. 20, which can be streamed on platforms such as Spotify and Apple Music.

"I have a whole schedule planned out from now until March," he said. "That's kind of the start of this new brand in music that I'm moving into."

While popular hip-hop artists Kendrick Lamar, Childish Gambino, and J. Cole have shaped Ume's creative vision,



PHOTO COURTESY of Justin Ume

Freshman Justin Ume, a rapper and songwriter, will appear on Blue Hawk Records' 17th compilation album this semester.



PHOTO COURTESY of Justin Ume

Under the stage name UME, Justin Ume has recorded about ten songs for his upcoming March 2021 album.

The Institute for Global Understanding's Inclusive Mission

LOWELL KELLY-GAMBLE
DIVERSITY/GRADUATE EDITOR

Monmouth University's Institute for Global Understanding (IGU) enhances cultural education and citizenship through academic and arts programs, scholarly research and events, networking of partnerships, and initiatives from local to global platforms. The IGU advances the University's objective of captivating students, faculty, and staff in increasing diversity, equality, global understanding, leadership, and social justice.

Established in 2001 as the Global Understanding Project (GUP), the organization believes there needs to be an increasing demand of learning and understanding. A major event that led to these initiatives was the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Following this event, in Spring 2002 the Global Understanding Convention was established and became an annual week-long convention consisting of student, faculty, and public speakers with open classrooms to examine analysis of matters relevant to IGU's mission.

"The IGU serves as a clearinghouse to advance the study of global affairs and promote cross-cultural communication in the Monmouth community and the world," said Randall Abate Ph.D., IGU Director and Professor of Political Science and Sociology.

An alumn of The University of Rochester and Vermont Law School, Abate joined the Monmouth faculty in 2018 with 24 years of pri-

or teaching experience at other Universities such as Florida A&M University College of Law and Rutgers School of Law (Camden). While at Florida A&M, Abate served as Director of the Center for International Law and Justice from 2012-2016. During this time, he helped students solidify international law internships, became engaged in the United Nations (UN) Permanent

Forum on Indigenous Peoples and the UN Harmony with Nature Initiative, and started annual human rights lecture and conferences on international human rights and environmental justice issues. He also published six books, as well as over thirty law journal articles and book chapters on domestic and international environmental and animal policy.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth University

Director of the Institute for Global Understanding, Professor Randall Abate, strives to uphold the organization's goal of increasing diversity, equality, global understanding, and social justice.

Abate believes that students serve a tremendous roll for IGU's activities. The program currently has two Graduate Assistants (one for fall and one for spring), two graduate interns for the full year, and two undergraduate interns for the spring throughout the 2020-2021 academic year. Students can participate in the IGU's symposium by submitting a presentation abstract for a student panel.

"Individual students and student organizations can partner with the IGU on a variety of activities on and off campus," Abate explained. "The IGU's relationships with the UNAI and UNDGC offer unique opportunities for student engagement. The pandemic has limited many of these off campus opportunities, but we are hopeful that many more off campus student engagement opportunities will be available in the 2021-2022 academic year, including potential student exchange opportunities with other universities around the world."

This year's IGU Convention, now called the IGU Biennial Symposium, will be held virtually from March 25-27. The convention consists of high-profile speakers from around the world in keynote presentations and roundtable discussions, a film screening and Q&A with the director, presentations from Monmouth faculty and students, a musical performance, and a student poster competition.

Along with this year's IGU Biennial Symposium, the program also conducts a weekly blog series and publishes The Global Matters

newsletter, which covers the Global Understanding Convention's speakers and student presentations, which transitioned into a platform to celebrate students' and faculty's achievements in advancing global understanding.

Professors Heide Estes (Graduate Faculty of English), Eleanor Swanson (Institutional Research Project Coordinator), Abha Sood (English), and Saliba Sarsar (Political Science and Analogy) edited the Global Matters newsletter. Interim Provost Rekha Datta, Professor of Sociology Nancy Mezey, Associate Professor of History Karen Schmeltzopf, and then-Provost Thomas S. Pearson were the main collaborators and organizers who helped establish the IGU as a whole. Each believed IGU's mission was to encourage students to realize their capability as leaders to become involved citizens in a diverse and increasingly interdependent world.

The IGU currently consist of 15 faculty advisory members from the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Leon Hess Business School, School of Social Work, and School of Education.

Abate said, "My efforts focus on building awareness regarding the need for effective governance of global climate change and the need to promote justice for communities disproportionately affected by climate change at the global, national, and local levels. I am passionate about helping to ensure a stable climate and promote 'just sustainability' for future generations of humans and non-humans."

Preparing For Finals During COVID: A New Layer of Stress

CLAIRE RANKIN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With finals coming up soon, college students are busier than ever. It's that time of year again, but this time around things are different. The University has moved the majority of its classes to remote learning, and this is affecting the way students and teachers are preparing for finals.

When it comes to how finals are administered, there are professors that worry about the cheating aspect of remote learning. Since classes are online, it is easier to cheat because nobody is

monitoring or watching over the students. According to *The Verge*, a University of Arizona student named Jackson Hayes experienced finals online, and was forced to use Zoom with an online proctor while he took it. He said that even though he was uncomfortable with the lack of security Zoom provides, he had to show his license and all of his personal information through the video camera to the proctor.

Eleanor M. Novek, Ph.D., professor in the Department of Communication, is not a believer of the proctor system. "Most of the work I have students do is writing- based, so

it is harder to cheat that way," Novek said. "I've heard of people using certain proctoring programs, but it's not really my thing. I feel if students are going to cheat they're just hurting themselves and their learning. My job as an educator is to teach and it's up to students what they want to do with their education."

Aside from the different online formatting that comes with remote learning, students are being forced to adopt new study habits and manage their work without having an in-person schedule to guide them. Leah Fonseca, a senior secondary education student who aims to be

a teacher, said, "studying for finals is really hard for me right now because I feel a disconnect from my teachers and classmates. Classes are literally through a video camera and I haven't even met most of the people. I feel uncomfortable reaching out to people I don't know."

Logan Lazarus, her roommate, has had a similar experience studying for finals. She said, "I went home for Thanksgiving and decided not to come back after. I'm out of my normal studying routine and it's hard to get on the ball. I've been FaceTiming some of my professors to help me, but it still doesn't feel the same.

What has really helped me to get back on track is reaching out to friends in my major and doing homework together."

Even if remote learning is not the style you prefer to learn, there are ways to study for finals and be successful. Reach out to your professors and friends in your major to help you get in the rhythm of things, and make sure not to fall behind on your work. It can especially help to set reminders for yourself on a calendar, since there isn't that in-person reminder of going to class. Most importantly, stay safe, stay healthy, and grind through the fourteenth week.



IMAGE TAKEN from Pexels.com

Many universities have begun extra measures to ensure that students won't cheat during exams, adding new forms of stress to the situation.



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2021 Grammy Nominees and Predictions: A Good Year for Women in Music

ALEX DYER
ASSISTANT NEWS/ENTERTAINMENT
EDITOR

The nominations for the 63rd Grammy Awards have been announced, and—oh boy—there are a lot of them.

The host of the ceremony—comedian Trevor Noah—and the nominees were announced in a virtual presentation early in the afternoon on November 24 by a swathe of stars from within and without the music industry: Megan Thee Stallion, Dua Lipa, Gayle King, Sharon Osbourne, etc.

Beyoncé got nine nominations, including two for Record of the Year for her own “Black Parade” and her feature on Megan Thee Stallion’s TikTok hit “Savage.” Dua Lipa, Taylor Swift, and Roddy Ricch also garnered a not-disappointing six nominations each. Perennial favorites like Billie Eilish, Harry Styles, and Justin Bieber could also perform respectfully at the awards, which take place Jan. 31, 2021.

Newcomers to the Grammy scene include Phoebe Bridgers, nominated for Best Rock Album, who I was surprised (but not upset) to see had blown up so quickly, having listened (and maybe cried) to her before. Frankly, I think she’s set to win this, although she is up against quite a few other phenomenal female musicians; in fact, most of the nominees in the category are women.

While I personally would give the award to the HAIM sisters for Women in Music, Pt. III if the Grammys were being held right now, I think Bridgers’ brand of softer folk rock was more resonant with people over the past year, and her album *Punisher* will end up besting the other nominees.

Speaking of folk crossovers, Taylor Swift had a stellar year with her #1 album *Folklore*, which had a hit with “Cardigan.” Nominated respectively for Album and Song of the Year,

these works really epitomize a folksy style that I can feel becoming increasingly en vogue for mainstream music.

Before diving into my predictions for the “Big Four” Grammys (Record of the Year, Album of the Year, Song of the Year, and Best New Artist), it’s worth mentioning that there is gaping Weeknd-shaped hole in the nominee list. For some strange reason, the Canadian singer was invisible to the Recording Academy, and his incredibly popular “Blinding Lights” was snubbed. I know, I think it’s a shame, too.

Anyway...

Record and Song of the Year got muddled up and conflated sometimes, but the basic difference is this: Record of the Year goes to the recording artist(s), while Song of the Year goes to the songwriter(s).

There are some nominees in these categories who I honestly don’t think have much of a chance at winning, as much as I may like them. For Record of the Year, these are “Circles” by Post Malone, “Rockstar” by DaBaby and Roddy Ricch, and (I really hate to say it) “Colors” by Black Pumas. Before the nominations, I actually had never heard of Black Pumas, but I actually caught “Colors” on public radio while they were actively being announced. It blew me away, and I said to myself that if a record like this could win Record of the Year it would be something special.

In reality, though, the Grammys are in some aspects a popularity contest. And, thanks to the huge rise in usership of a certain video-sharing app, there are two ways I see Record of the Year going. On one hand, the Academy could give the award to Megan Thee Stallion; she has quickly become a major player in the industry after appearances and endorsements from other major players, namely Beyoncé, who appears on Megan’s Grammy-nommed TikTok hit “Savage.” On the other hand, my official prediction is “Say So,” the

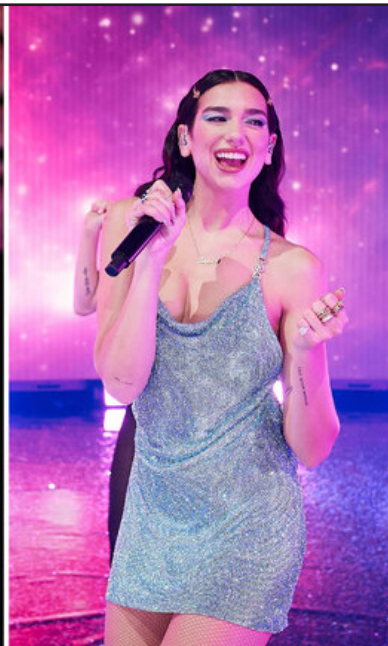


IMAGE TAKEN from *The New York Times*

Taylor Swift, Beyoncé, and Dua Lipa (left to right) are nominated for multiple awards at the 63rd Grammys, with six, nine, and six nominations, respectively.

gorgeously produced and sung sleeper hit by Doja Cat. This song has arguably the same level of hype as “Savage,” but takes it in a much more mellow, R&B-inspired direction, and I think the award will ultimately end up going to Doja Cat.

As for Song of the Year, I think the Academy will take their decisions in another direction still. Out of the Song of the Year nominees, four are not also nominated for Record: “The Box” by Roddy Ricch, “Cardigan,” “I Can’t Breathe” by H.E.R., and “If the World Was Ending” by JP Saxe featuring Julia Michaels. Personally, I see Song of the Year as a contest that’s more about lyrics than how good a song sounds. “Say So,” for example, isn’t nominated for Song. H.E.R. is a relative newbie to the Grammys, but is no stranger to penning beautiful and powerful words and converting them to music. Especially in a year plagued by racial division, I see H.E.R.’s “I Can’t Breathe” as the perfect contender for the Song of the Year, as it were.

While there are some deserving noms in the Album of the Year Category (HAIM, Black Pumas, Post Malone, Jhené Aiko, and others), I think that there’s about a 90 percent chance that either Folklore or Dua Lipa’s *Future Nostalgia* ultimately takes home the award. Even if she doesn’t win, it’s hard to say that 2020 wasn’t a great year for at least Dua Lipa’s career. I think Taylor Swift will probably eke out the win in the end, but Dua Lipa should definitely be proud of herself for crafting an album that manages to be energetic and authentic at the same time.

Finally, an award that is somewhat strange regarding its nomination criteria: Best New Artist. To help you picture what I mean, a question: Why is Phoebe Bridgers nominated for the award when her first album came out in 2017? The criteria are a bit unclear since a recent rule change, but I digress.

Billie Eilish won the award last year, much to no one’s surprise, but this year the nominees are somewhat more varied. Based

on the nominations in other categories, I would bet a steak dinner that the award will go to Bridgers, Doja Cat, or Megan Thee Stallion. I will go on record as saying that I feel like Megan Thee Stallion does have a slight advantage over the other two, as she was also an integral part of the immensely popular “WAP” with Cardi B.

2020 was an amazing year for women in all genres of music. From Grammy sweethearts like Beyoncé, Taylor Swift, and Billie Eilish to newcomers like Phoebe Bridgers, Doja Cat, Megan Thee Stallion, women have released some truly listen-worthy music this year, and I think it’s a wonderful thing to hear these diverse voices and seeing them receive recognition for making themselves heard.

As it stands right now, my predictions for the “Big Four” Grammys are: “Say So” by Doja Cat for Record of the Year, “I Can’t Breathe” by H.E.R. for Song of the Year, *Folklore* by Taylor Swift for Album of the Year, and Megan Thee Stallion for Best New Artist.

Bleachers Channel Springsteen in “Chinatown”

SEAN EMERSON
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Jack Antonoff, with his newest single “Chinatown,” has achieved the New Jersey dream: he made a song with Bruce Springsteen. Antonoff, known for being a member of fun. and being a producer for other high-profile acts like Taylor Swift, Lorde, St. Vincent, Lana Del Rey, and Kevin Abstract, has a history for creating songs for others.

But with his solo project Bleachers, he shifts gears. His focus on pop-anthems is still a priority, but with his songs as Bleachers, he puts a unique twist to it. Still in line with what An-

tonoff knows, Bleachers is bolder and more experimental. Everything that he usually does is still intact, but he adds grittier sounds that twist the songs he makes from folksy pop tracks to more experimental songs that can do more.

The song “Chinatown” tackles the viewpoints of his relationship with his girlfriend. He sings about their issues and how they overcome them. “Chinatown,” uses the fictional story of running out of the hectic Chinatown city environment to a different place, assumedly New Jersey; since it’s this part when Springsteen comes in and layers his vocals. Singing “With a girl like you/You’re

my Chinatown baby/Sittin’ on your front stoop/Crying out the crazy/I’ll take you out of the city/Honey, right into the shadow/Because I wanna find tomorrow,” you get how Antonoff is tying the story to his relationship. In his interview on Apple Music with Zane Lowe, Antonoff said “This song really used the idea of New Jersey and New York City as different characters in relationships, leaving one, entering another one, going home, going into the future. It really spoke to me, this idea of bouncing back and forth between the place I’m from and the place that I’m building my life.” His impressive songwriting is shown through the song,

and it’s clear why major acts go to him when they need a hit.

Antonoff’s talent in his music production shows in “Chinatown” too, his classic percussive acoustic guitar riffs that are squeezed in between a bassy synth and a light melody are prevalent and give the track those special Antonoff qualities. What separates “Chinatown” from other productions from him is his darker tones that he uses. Distorting the synth and using the other methods to give undertones that capture the moods of his relationships the lows and the highs. Also, the drums on the track show a different side of Antonoff,

that he can make crisp, vinyl sounding drums and mix it 80’s nostalgia sound, which

“Chinatown” is a must-listen for anyone that likes the newer sounding Lorde or Lana Del Rey. Also, the rare and spirited Bruce Springsteen appearance just makes the song that much better. It’s a great pop song that could garner some solid radio airplay in the near future. This might be a breakthrough for Antonoff, that could see Bleachers become his permanent persona. “Chinatown” is the first taste of Bleachers’ upcoming third studio album that’s set to be released in 2021, and is a great lead single for it.

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How Biden’s Administration Will Approach Foreign Affairs

JOHN SPINELLI
STAFF WRITER

The incoming Biden Administration will likely take a different approach to foreign policy than the current Trump administration. Throughout his political career, President-elect Joseph Biden has spoken highly of global cooperation and multilateralism.

He has promised to rejoin the Paris Climate Accord that the Trump Administration withdrew from, and the World Health Organization that the administration submitted a notice of withdrawal from during the summer. In addition, Biden has promised the United States’ continued support of international alliances such as NATO.

In contrast to Biden, the Trump Administration has supported an “America First” foreign relations vision. Political strategists have described President Trump as maintaining an “isolationist” or “protectionist” position on many foreign policy issues.

Non-interventionism has also been exemplified during Trump’s presidency in his recent decision to support the withdrawal of soldiers in Afghanistan.

The United States’ role in the Middle East is a concern for the incoming administration. Saliba Sarsar, Ph.D., a Professor of Political Science, discussed the possible implications of the region’s geopolitical future.

He said, “I think under a Biden Administration there will be more stability in the Middle East. This issue is obviously not easy to fix because of the various interests, cultures, and issues in the region, but American leadership does make a difference in terms of diplomacy.”

He continued, “Biden’s leadership seems to be more predictable and empathic compared to President Trump’s. In terms of trends, I believe that we will see a check on the intensity of au-



IMAGE TAKEN from wbur
Joe Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu shaking hands in 2010. Professor of Political Science Saliba Sarsar believes that Biden’s Administration might improve Arab-Israeli relations.

thoritarian rule such as in the Gulf countries and in Egypt. We can only predict what could happen, but we will see as time goes by.”

The United States will continue its alliance with the Gulf States. Sarsar is optimistic about this partnership. He said, “America and most of the Gulf States are strategic allies and have many common interests, including trade, oil, a united front against Iran, and regional terrorism.”

However, Sarsar believes there will be some changes with the partnership. He said, “One difference now is that the incoming administration will most likely emphasize human rights as a concern with these countries and the international community.”

“I also think that the improved relations between Israel and the Gulf States and other Arab states will continue to improve in the future,” Sarsar said.

Iran is another country in the region with which the

Biden Administration will explore new options or opportunities.

Sarsar noted, “I am not sure what to expect yet, but I think America’s relationship with Iran could be more accommodating under Biden. There is a possibility that the United States might rejoin the Iran nuclear deal framework agreement reached during the Obama Administration or negotiate a new and improved nuclear deal.”

He continued, “The relationship with Iran now is different than it was years ago. There is more new intelligence than before and there have been changes in the region since the Obama years. If a deal is made it would have to consider the national security interests not only of the West, but also the Gulf States and Israel.”

The Biden Administration could possibly serve as a catalyst for improved Arab-Israeli relations. Sarsar noted, “I am confident there will be a new perspective. Biden has said he is open-minded to a

two-state solution and working with both the Israelis and Palestinians.”

“He seems to be aware of initiatives and solutions to please both sides, compared to the current administration which was focused mostly on advancing a strong relationship solely with Israel. However, peace and cooperation in this region will have to be determined by both the Israelis and Palestinians ultimately,” Sarsar said.

The relationship between Russia and the United States will also be a security concern for the incoming cabinet.

“I think at the start, the Biden Administration will pursue a harder line with Russia than either the Obama Administration or the Trump Administration,” noted Thomas S. Pearson, Ph.D., a Professor in Russian History.

“Unlike Obama, Biden will not pursue a reset with Russia. At this point it would bring the U.S. no benefit and Putin knows it (in fact, he will play up the U.S. hostility to rally Russian public support for the Kremlin),” Pearson stated. “However, with Trump out of the White House, Putin will have fewer options in trying to weaken NATO and promote his attacks on liberal democracy.”

Pearson added, “At the same time, Biden will deal with Russia on matters of mutual interest such as temporarily renewing the [Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty] START treaty.”

“Russia is concerned that a Biden Administration might place more weapons systems in Europe, keeping with his claim that Russia represents the greatest current threat to the U.S. But I would be surprised if that happened, unless a major U.S.-Russia crisis occurred, because Biden will need to focus on tackling an array of domestic issues (COVID response, economic recovery, protecting health care) and rebuilding relations with U.S. allies,” Pearson said.

Pearson also mentioned the domestic implications for Russia’s foreign relations. He said, “The problem for Putin is that the near term with Biden as president will not provide Russia any relief on sanctions or recognition of Russia’s claims to Crimea, which will mean continued economic hardship for Russians. That will cut into Russian public support for Putin.”

He continued, “Russia requires significant structural reforms to improve its economy, but there is little evidence after a decade of promises that Putin has the courage to follow through.”

Joe Zecchino, a senior finance and economics student, shared his opinion on the connections between foreign policy and the economy for a Biden Administration.

Zecchino said, “I see a lot of similarities with the Obama and Biden Administrations. His administration will go back to America’s globalist roots that were in effect for the last 40 years.”

He continued, “Unfortunately, these policies by both Republicans and Democrats have left working-class Americans with stagnant economic growth (for example Flint, Michigan and Scranton, Pennsylvania), while allowing developing nations to become global powerhouses.”

President-elect Biden will face challenges from the Far East. China has risen to become a regional hegemon and a concern for neighboring U.S. allies.

Over recent years, the two countries relations have weakened due to diplomatic disputes. Some of the issues America and China argue about include the trade war, the South China Sea conflict, concerns over human rights violations in Hong Kong, and the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Zecchino responded, “As for this situation [China], I think that a Biden Administration will replace President Trump’s trade deals. We will most likely see open trade between the two countries regardless of cost of labor and currency rates, just to name a few. Nonetheless, I think the U.S. will have a more stable relationship with China in the next few years, for better or for worse.”

Zecchino also analyzed America’s business relations with neighboring Mexico and Canada. He said, “I am really curious to see what happens with [the United States- Mexico- Canada agreement] USMCA.”

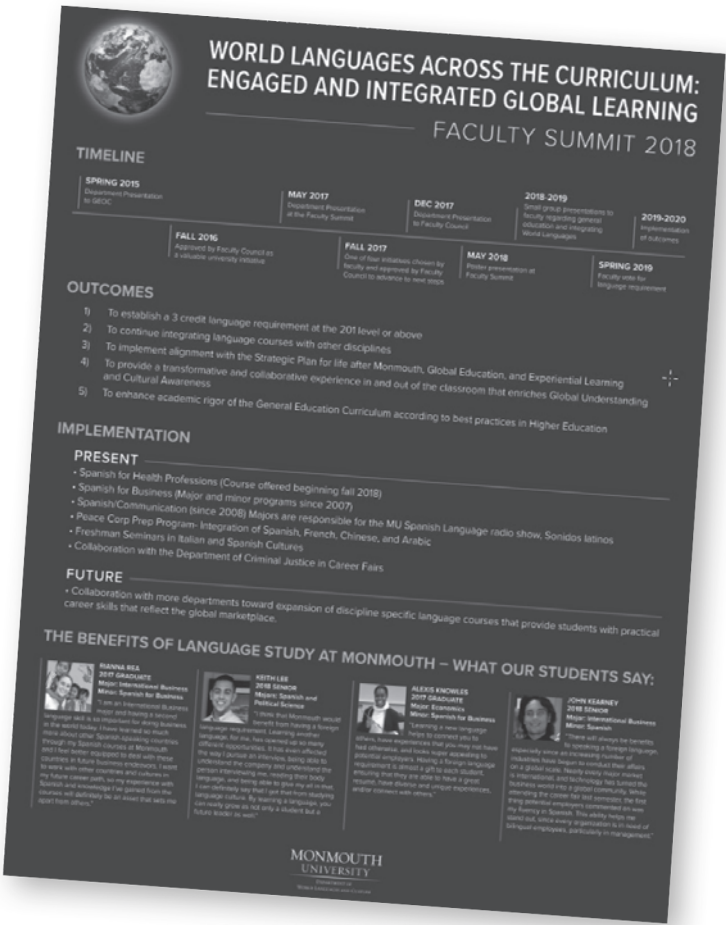
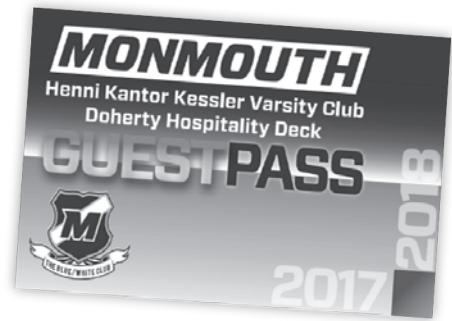
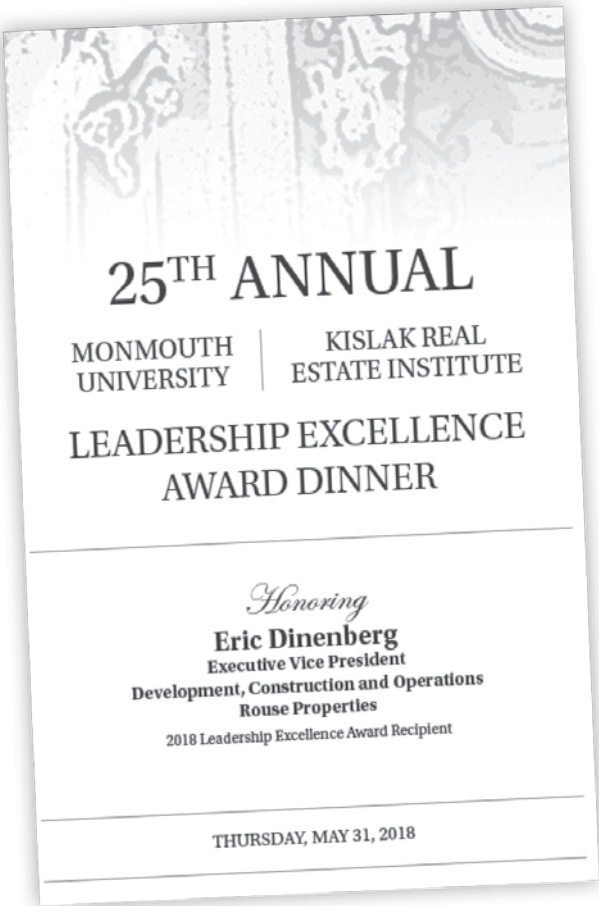
“Biden, similar to Trump, has openly favored it over NAFTA, but any major changes would be a great concern for American workers, especially in the Midwest’s agricultural region and the West’s mining states,” Zecchino noted. “In general, with more potential regulations, I think Wall Street will survive but Main Street might suffer.”



IMAGE TAKEN from The Conversation
Former Vice President Joe Biden was pictured with Chinese President Xi Jinping. It is thought that Biden will stabilize relations with China during his term.

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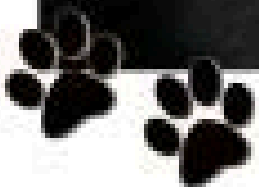
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Women’s Ball Plays in First Athletic Event Since March

SEAN EMERSON
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The long anticipated 2020-2021 season for the Monmouth University women’s basketball team began at the Rutgers Athletic Center in Piscataway, New Jersey on Friday, Nov. 27. It was a tough matchup that the Hawks eventually lost by a final score of 82-38.

This was a game originally scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 25 that had to be delayed in precaution with the welfare of student-athletes, coaches, and event staff after Monmouth’s most recent testing results on the men’s side.

During the game, the first quarter started strong with solid plays by Monmouth. Freshman forward Gabrielle Wener got the day’s scoring started with her first career points on a three-pointer from beyond the arc. The score after the first was only 19-10 for the Scarlet Knights, but their lead ended up widening in the second and third quarters. The middle quarters saw the Hawks only score 12 points collectively, but they picked up the pace in the fourth and scored 16 during the final quarter.

The box score may suggest that there were few positives for the Hawks, but others feel different. Monmouth Head Coach Jody Craig saw the game in a constructive way, saying, “We had some promising signs in the first and fourth quarters, but we showed our inexperience against their pressure.”

Monmouth started three freshmen against the Scarlet Knights: guard Ariana Vanderhoop, forward Gabrielle Wener, and center Belle Kranbuhl. Two additional freshmen contributed off the Monmouth bench as the freshmen combined for 25 of Monmouth’s 38 points. An



A STATEMENT FROM RUTGERS ATHLETICS

THE RUTGERS UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS, IN ALIGNMENT WITH COVID-19 TESTING AND PROTOCOLS FOR NON-CONFERENCE OPPONENTS, HAS POSTPONED THE WOMEN’S BASKETBALL GAME AGAINST MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY MORNING AT 11 A.M. AT THE RAC. THE DECISION WAS MADE OUT OF AN ABUNDANCE OF CAUTION AND WITH THE WELFARE OF THE STUDENT-ATHLETES, COACHES AND EVENT STAFF IN MIND AFTER THE OPPONENT’S MOST RECENT TESTING RESULTS.

THE DECISION DOES NOT AFFECT THE RUTGERS MEN’S GAME AT 7 P.M. WEDNESDAY NIGHT AGAINST SACRED HEART.

PHOTOS COURTESY of Monmouth / Rutgers Athletics

“We had some promising signs in the first and fourth quarters, but we showed our inexperience against their pressure.”

Jody Craig
Women’s Basketball Head Coach

optimistic statistic that is indicative of the potential that is on this roster.

Freshman guard Jania Hall from St. Vincent Pallotti in Gaithersburg, Maryland was one of the scorers off the bench who led the entire team in scoring on Friday night. Hall scored eight points on three field goals, adding a team-high three steals as well.

Junior guard Jen Louro also scored six points on 2-of-4 shooting from three-point range, while Kranbuhl scored six points down low on 3-of-5 shooting from the floor.

Turnovers were a focal point that hurt the Monmouth team, as they caused 42 of the 82 points scored by Rutgers. “In the end, our turnovers killed us and they led to over half of their points,” said Craig. “There is a lot to build on from our first game”.

With Monmouth falling to 0-1 on the early season, it’s time for them to focus on the next game. Craig and the Hawks are looking to secure the ball a little better, and to take better advantage of their opportunities.

On Wednesday Dec. 2, the Hawks will be going against the La Salle Explorers, whom they lost 65-50 to back in 2015. This will be their first home game of the season at the OceanFirst Bank Center, and the first athletic event played on Monmouth’s campus since March. This will be a chance for redemption and improvement for the Lady Hawks who only have two non-conference games left in their shortened schedule.

The Hawks play La Salle on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m., which will be available to stream on the ESPN+ app. This matchup is followed by a non-conference home game with Drexel on Saturday, Dec. 5 at 2:00 p.m. before entering Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) play the following week.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Monmouth Women’s Basketball Head Coach Jody Craig is leading a young team this season with three freshmen starting on Opening Night.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Freshman guard Jania Hall (left) was featured off the bench against Rutgers, leading the team in scoring with eight points and registering three steals defensively.

MAAC Announces Time Out for Black Lives Program

JACK MURPHY
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

The Metro Athletic Conference (MAAC) announced their new program, “Time Out for Black Lives,” which aims to inspire and educate the youth as

well as other athletes, families and fans. Senior forward Melik Martin represents Monmouth in this newly launched program. “Time Out for Black Lives” has a website where coaches and athletes from MAAC basketball programs contribute their time to read children’s books that focus on Black cul-

ture, history, music and myths. It comes as part of the MAAC’s United for Justice campaign that they announced over the Summer. The United for Justice Campaign was instated in response to the racial injustice that is ongoing in society. The MAAC will stand with the “Black

Lives Matter” movement and continue to find ways to help address the national issue of systematic racism. The “Time Out for Black Lives” program comes as a part of this campaign and serves to help educate people about the sides of Black history they may not be learning in school. The “Time Out for Black Lives” website says, “It is our dream that with a ball and a moving story, we can celebrate the greatness of Black culture in a positive way.”

Videos posted on the website will feature short biographies on the student athletes or coaches representing the program. The representatives page will also include information such as their hometown, favorite book, and favorite basketball player. The website also provides resource guides, called “Let’s Talk About It,” to help parents and teachers start a discussion with the children who view these videos. “The ‘Time Out for Black Lives’ program is something the MAAC and its member institutions have been excited about launching for quite some time as we worked with our partners in Greece and the MAAC SAAC and basketball coaches and student athletes,” said MAAC Commissioner Rich Ensor. “It’s an excellent way to

give back to local schools and expand the familiarity of our basketball programs while also teaching important aspects of Black history to our youth,” he continued. “Teaching children about these important parts of history is so important now more than ever, and the MAAC is proud to give back to its communities.” Melik Martin represents Monmouth in the “Time Out for Black Lives” program run by the MAAC. In his video, he reads the book *I Am Every Good Thing*, written by Derrick Barnes and illustrated by Gordon C. James. The biography for his page is friendly for a younger audience, as it gives a short summary of when he started to play basketball and his accolades as a high schooler. Another representative that took part in this program is Iona Head Coach Rick Pitino. Pitino is an icon in the realm of college basketball, as he led Kentucky to a National Championship in 1996 and led Louisville to the National Championship in 2013. Now, Pitino is using his platform as a legendary basketball coach to help support Black lives and the social injustice they face in this nation. “We hope this program is just one of many included in the conference’s United for Justice campaign,” said Ensor. “Kudos to all involved in this project and for their support of social justice initiatives.”



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics
Senior Forward Melik Martin poses for a picture with Shadow the Hawk, as well as a young student, during Monmouth’s visit to Atlantic City school on Martin Luther King Day.

COVID-19 Derails Start of Men’s Basketball

ERIN MULLIGAN
STAFF WRITER

On Nov. 25, the Monmouth University men’s basketball team put their season on halt after the result of a positive COVID-19 test from one of the program’s Tier One members. The team entered a 14-day quarantine following the positive test. Tier One members include student-athletes, coaches, and support staff, all of which will quarantine. After the cancellation of fall sports, the Monmouth community has been eager and excited to see Monmouth winter sports start up. Basketball is a big sport on campus, and while fans may not be allowed in the stands, all were restlessly anticipating the start of the season from their homes or dorm rooms. Due to the positive test, Monmouth’s game against Hofstra on Nov. 25 was canceled. The Hawks’ games against Maryland on Dec. 1 and against Saint Francis Brooklyn on Dec. 4 were canceled as well. When the season resumes, Hawks fans have a lot to look forward to. Last season, Monmouth Guard Deion Hammond, led the team in points with 506, field goals made with 174, and 3-pointers with 82. Guard Sam Chaput led the team in assists with 107 and turnovers with 52. Meanwhile, forward Nikkei Rutty also led the team in blocked

shots with 23. The 2019-20 team scored 2,209 points with 71.3 points per game, beating opponents in both categories. Last season was the year of the infamous game against the Kansas Jayhawks in which guard George Papas stole the ball and executed a dunk in the last seconds, ending up on Sports Center. This play caused immense excitement amongst Monmouth fans everywhere, leading to extended anticipation for the 2020-21 season. The upperclassmen Papas figures to be one of the leaders of the team when the season eventually begins following this hiatus. Last January, the Hawks scored a team high of points against Iona with 94 as well as a team high of rebounds with 44 against Niagara. There is a great amount of promising hope among the team, staff, and fans. The positive COVID-19 test came from the program’s regularly scheduled testing. The team plans to resume practice and team activities on Dec. 9 and had no further comments on the matter. However, on Tuesday, Dec. 1, the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) announced that due to COVID disruptions, the Monmouth versus Iona games on Dec. 11 and Dec. 12 will be rescheduled on makeup weekend on Feb. 26 and Feb. 27.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics
Monmouth Men’s Basketball entered a 14-day quarantine period following a positive test from a Tier One member, which cancelled opening games against Hofstra, Maryland, and Saint Francis.

SCHEDULE CHANGE

THE MAAC HAS ANNOUNCED THAT DUE TO COVID-19 DISRUPTIONS, THE ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED GAMES BETWEEN MONMOUTH AND IONA ON DECEMBER 11 AND 12 HAVE BEEN RESCHEDULED TO THE DESIGNATED COVID-19 MAKEUP WEEKEND OF FEBURARY 26 AND 27.

PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics
The Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) announced a major rescheduling of Monmouth basketball games, featuring a two-game series set for COVID-19 makeup weekend in February.



RETURN TO THE COURT



Women's basketball, led by head coach Jody Craig, returned to the court against Rutgers falling 38-82 in the first Monmouth athletic event since the beginning of the pandemic in March.

SEE STORY ON PAGE 14

PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics