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“Julian Abele Project” Brings Recognition to Great Hall Architect

MELISSA BADAMO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF/ FEATURES EDITOR

The “Julian Abele Project,” a virtual exhibit that highlights Julian Abele, the African American leading architect of the Great Hall, was curated by students from the “Museums and Archives Management” history course in fall 2020. The exhibit features background on Abele, history of

the Great Hall, an interview with Abele’s biographer, and more, which can be found as a LibGuide on the Monmouth University Library’s website.

“I’ve always wanted to do some type of project with my students on Julian Abele for a few years now,” said Melissa Ziobro, Specialist Professor of Public History who teaches the Museums and Archives Management course. “Over the past few years, the Uni-

versity has been revisiting its relationship with Woodrow Wilson and the renaming of Wilson Hall. In the course of those conversations, I learned about Julian Abele and his role in the building.”

Previously known as “Wilson Hall,” the University decided to rename its

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PHOTO TAKEN by Melissa Badamo



IMAGE TAKEN from Duke University Website

The Julian Abele Project, curated by history students, was a semester-long initiative to increase recognition of the African American architect of the Great Hall.

University Hosts First Annual Sustainability Week

MATTHEW CUTILLO
MANAGING/ NEWS/ LIFESTYLES EDITOR

The first annual Sustainability Education Week, a week-long series of events held by the School of Education, kicked off with “Issues & Trends in Environmental Sustainability” on Monday Feb. 15.

The conference committee consists of Jiwon Kim, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Social Studies and Foundations of Education, Carol McArthur-Amedeo, Ed.D. Lecturer and Special Education Program Director, Michelle Schpakow, Ed.D. Science Education Lecturer and KC Lubniewski, Ed.D., Associate Professor in the Department of Special Education.

Over 200 people registered for the conference, according to Lubniewski. Attendees included University students,

faculty, community members, K-12 students, administrators, in-service teachers, and other individuals interested in learning more about sustainability.

Keynote speakers included John Morano, Professor of Journalism and author of the Eco-Adventure Series, as well as Missy Holzer, Ph.D., a former science teacher and current science standards specialist with Great Minds PBC.

Finding keynote speakers was a team effort, Lubniewski wrote in a statement to *The Outlook*. “The committee reached out to the School of Education faculty and asked for recommendations of speakers, and we also announced the event to the campus community and faculty across campus reached out with their willingness to help.”

John Henning, Ph.D., Dean of the School of Education, presented an introduction to the weeklong event series before transitioning to the event’s guest speaker portion.

“I think [sustainability] is so important because this issue is here now,” Henning said. “It has been a long time concern, but last year’s fires in California seem to promise continuing, on-going consequences from the effects of climate and other environmental changes. As we learn more about how the environment is changed in ways that make such disasters more likely, and as we watch the suffering of our neighbor’s in California, we can not help but wonder what the future has in store for us.”

From one perspective, sustainability is a matter of science, Henning explained. Understanding how to sustain clean air, clean water and an abundant supply of healthy food is crucial to managing the environment.

“Science can teach us how to do that, but perhaps, even more importantly, sustainability is a

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Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program to Launch in May 2021

MELISSA BADAMO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF/ FEATURES EDITOR

Monmouth University’s new Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) program will launch in May 2021 with a class of 30 students. The three-year, full-time program received approval from the Faculty Council in January 2020, becoming the second OT program in New Jersey to offer an entry-level doctoral degree after Kean University, according to John Patro, OTD, OTR/L Chair and Associate Professor of Occupational Therapy.

“Under the leadership of [President] Leahy, Monmouth has made a commitment to offer high quality academic programs that are in high demand,” Patro said. “OT is a very hot field. It’s very well-paying field, and a lot of jobs are available. ...It’s really smart of Monmouth to offer OT at the doctoral level because you’re going to prepare students at the highest entry-level education that our field has to offer.”

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the program will be running on a hybrid schedule as the first class of students matricu-

late this May. Instruction will include online lectures and two in-person labs. The program has dedicated space in the Monmouth University Graduate Center for classrooms and six labs—a pediatric lab, media-based lab, Activities of Daily Living (ADL) suite, a telehealth lab, a sensory room, and a pace lab. Students will also have access to the Linda Grunin Simulation Lab and Learning Center inside the graduate center, a joint partnership between Monmouth University and Monmouth Medical Center.

“Something I love about the curriculum here is that we’re really committed to those smaller group sizes,” said Andrea Garcia, OTD, MSW, OTR/L, Doctoral Capstone Coordinator and Specialist Professor of Occupational Therapy. “It’s really important to be able to have that one-on-one time with your faculty as you’re learning. As an occupational therapist (OT), you might help move someone out of their bed and

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PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth University

The new Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) program includes lab space located in the Monmouth University Graduate Center.

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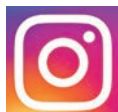
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Dean Veit Presents History On Joseph Bonaparte’s Estate

MATTHEW CUTILLO
MANAGING/ NEWS/ LIFESTYLES EDITOR

Richard F. Veit, Ph.D., professor of anthropology and interim Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, presented “A Monument to Fallen Royalty: Rediscovering Joseph Bonaparte’s Point Breeze Estate In Bordentown, New Jersey,” on Wednesday, Feb. 10.

The presentation was co-sponsored by Pennington Public Library, Hopewell Valley Historical Society, and The Hopewell Museum. It showcased the history leading up to Joseph Bonaparte’s purchase of his Point Breeze estate.

In 1815, a mysterious individual sailed from France to North America’s Port of New York. On a vessel named “Commerce,” the ship was intercepted and stopped by a British warship. The British inspected the cargo of the vessel and questioned the passengers in order to see if anyone fleeing from France was related to the Bonaparte regime, Veit explained. The individual hid in his cabin during the inspection and made it safely into the port of New York.

“Shortly thereafter, while walking on the streets of lower Manhattan, a French soldier saw him,” Veit said. “The soldier fell at his feet and cried out ‘your majesty, I’m so glad to see you.’ Our mysterious stranger was in fact Joseph Bonaparte, the former king of Spain and Naples; the older brother of Napoleon Bonaparte who had fled to North America following the Battle of Waterloo at the end of the Napoleonic War.”

Joseph Bonaparte would spend the next two-plus decades of his life living in North America, Veit said. Initially, he attempted to reach Washington D.C. and claim diplomatic asylum from President Madison, who in turn encouraged the exiled King to stay in Philadelphia.

“Madison was afraid of having an international diplomatic incident with Great Britain,” Veit said. “You must remember that only a few short years before we had been at war with Great Britain during the War of 1812.”

Shortly after the 2005 release of Patricia Tyson Stroud’s “The Man Who Had Been King: The American Exile of Napoleon’s Brother Joseph,” Veit and his University colleagues began an archaeological survey of the Point Breeze estate where

Bonaparte lived for much of his American life. “It’s an example of what you might call ‘landscape archaeology,’” Veit said. “You’re very interested, not just in the buildings that Joseph built, but also the landscapes he created.”

Bonaparte bought numerous farms and formed together a large collection, roughly 2,000 acres of total land. Gardens were an important part of the landscape in early America, as wealthy individuals used them to project their influence, reflect their importance and serve to reinforce the owner’s social status, Veit explained.

After Bonaparte decided to remain in America, he began searching for a property to live and establish himself. “He looks at a number of different properties,” Veit said. “He’s renting

initially in New York and later in Philadelphia, but he wants to have an estate similar to the ones he was familiar with in Europe.”

Bonaparte considered an attempt to purchase Governor William Franklin’s estate in Perth Amboy, but he was unsatisfied with the view. A number of houses stood between the Proprietary House and the nearest body of water, so he moved on.

As Bonaparte traveled between Philadelphia and New York, he landed in Bordentown, a place that is very much the center of America’s main Road in colonial America, Veit said. There, he found the Point Breeze estate.

Bonaparte needed to sell some of his properties in order to raise funds for the challenges he faced living in New Jersey. “Foreign nationals could not own land outright in the United States, so

Joseph had to purchase the land through an agent.” He would later petition the state of New Jersey to clear the title to the land so that it could be passed from him to his heirs.

“You may be wondering how an exiled King on the run is able to afford such a big piece of prime real estate in New Jersey,” Veit said. “The way he’s able to afford this is because he had brought to America, probably, the Spanish Crown Jewels.”

Bonaparte had a servant dispatched to one of his old estates in Switzerland. The servant was given a map and told to excavate until he hit a metal trunk, Veit explained. “[The servant] unearthed that trunk and brought it back to America. It’s believed that it contained jewelry of great value and also papers of extreme value to the Bonaparte family.”



PHOTO TAKEN by Anthony DePrimo

Dean Veit provided an extensive history on Joseph Bonaparte’s Point Breeze estate.

First Annual Sustainability Week Welcomes Guest Speakers

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problem with people,” Henning said. “Developing the will to act collectively requires transforming thinking, changing minds and persuading others of the actions we must take. We must grow in our understanding enough to appreciate the link between our behaviors and the quality of life available to us. This will require a significant change in our cultural values. Those values must be articulated, accepted and lived by. But it will not be enough to transform ourselves individually, we must grow deep enough in our understanding to become advocates for a more sustainable world.”

Morano began acknowledging sustainability as a child, fishing and crabbing in East Rockaway with an old unclaimed boat his father rebuilt. He anchored himself near a part of the bay where golfers often hit their shots into the water, pulling out and repurposing the lost balls for sale.

After an extensive and accomplished journalism career, Morano began writing novels based on extinction and habitat depletion. Maintaining areas of the world removed from human intervention is key to improving sustainability, he explained.

“A way to increase sustainability across-the-board is to walk more softly,” Morano said. “Less is more, too much is not enough. Reuse, repurpose, and

consume less. Think globally and act locally. Many of these things sound like cliches, but they make a difference. Once you start doing it, it becomes a habit and then it’s effortless. Every time we make a purchase, we ask the planet to provide something. We take something from this world. If we could ask a little less, all of us, that can make a measurable difference.”

Holzer addressed climate science and climate change standards across the New Jersey educational curriculum. Although standards have not seen many recent changes, there is change in the approach towards thinking about climate change.

“I always stress, as a classroom educator, this notion of using evidence,” Holzer

said. “Everything has to be evidence based. When we’re talking in the classroom about climate change, we want to be evidence based and let the numbers speak for themselves.”

New Jersey learning standards in science are descriptive, including climate change education for each grade, Holzer explained. In those descriptions, embedded classroom implementation suggestions provide teachers with pathways on how to integrate climate change into science instruction.

In regards to math based curriculums, teachers are adept at identifying relevant practical applications for their subject, climate change offering substantial data that can be crunched to reveal stories

of local, regional and global climate change, Holzer said.

“[Teachers] can use various change-over-time data available from the office of the New Jersey state climatologist,” Holzer said. “They can develop models using the data to predict future changes and connect with their science colleagues on mathematical applications associated with science investigations. All levels of probability and statistics serve as perfect entry points for students to wrestle with climate science and climate change data.”

The best way for educators to make a difference in the classroom is to be genuine, Morano explained during his speech.

“Model the behavior you would like to see in your stu-

dents, but avoid being the sustainability police,” Morano said. “Don’t embarrass them. Make it nice for them to do the right thing and they’ll do more of it.”

Leading a more sustainable life takes one step at a time, Morano said. It is a culmination of small changes in behavior that eventually lead to large amounts of covered ground.

“It’s not where you start, it’s where you finish that matters,” Morano said. “Gently nudging students in the direction of sustainability as a part of their lives is a wonderful achievement. If you want them to be sensitive to the impacts their choices might make, you [as their teacher] do that and they will follow. Students can spot a phony a mile away, but they will embrace those who walk the walk.”

It is important to host events related to sustainability to raise awareness around the issue and provide resources and connections to teachers, school leaders, students, and community members in attendance, Schpakow said. “Sustainability transcends grade levels and subject areas; it is not just a ‘social studies theme’ or ‘science topic’ that should be taught in isolation. Its effects are profound and global in scale, so we need to encourage the widespread adoption of sustainability practices and curriculum to truly prepare our students for the future.”



IMAGE TAKEN by Pexels.com

Sustainability can be achieved through small, incremental achievements such as using your own shopping bag, according to the guest speakers.

Panel Discusses Police Violence and Reform

MATTHEW CUTILLO
MANAGING/ NEWS/ LIFESTYLES

A panel discussion titled “Policing in Communities of Color,” which discussed police violence and police reform, was held on Wednesday, Feb. 10. The event was led by Marie Mele Thomas, Ph.D., Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice. It was also co-sponsored by the University’s Intercultural Center, School of Humanities and Social Sciences’ Sociology Program and Helen Bennett McMurray Endowment for Social Ethics.

The panel featured Sean K. Wilson, Ph.D., an Assistant Professor in the Sociology and Criminal Justice Department at William Paterson University, Andrea McChristian, Esq., Law and Policy Director at the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, Lorenzo M. Boyd, Ph.D., Vice President for Diversity & Inclusion at the University of New Haven, and Jason Williams, Ph.D., an Assistant Professor of Justice Studies at Montclair State University.

“We’re at an important point-in-time in our history when it comes to racial justice in America,” Wilson said. “Over the summer, we witnessed many protests throughout the nation that addressed police brutality and inequality in the criminal justice system. What was most surprising was the diversity among these protests.”

Wilson attended several summer protests in suburban settings, noticing many people from different walks of life, he explained. “People were beginning to finally see how harmful, destructive and racist the criminal legal system in America is and has been through our history.”

It is important for the public consciousness on these issues to be raised in order to ensure long-lasting systemic change, Wilson said. “We need the public support, and we need everybody to see this issue as not just a black or brown issue, but rather an American issue.”

Policing in New Jersey has recently seen some policy shift, as a new use-of-force policy has been implemented.

“The use-of-force policy is trying to change how policing occurs in New Jersey, providing citizens with safe policing, ethical, constitutional policing, and policing that involves asking the community what they want and need when it comes to public safety,” Wilson said. “That’s something that has been missing in the past, so it’s extremely important that we foreground the lived experiences and voices of the oppressed and marginalized in policy conversations.”

2020 saw a dual pandemic between the COVID- public health crisis disproportionately impacting black and brown communities living in crowded housing with no access to quality healthcare, and a

pandemic of racial reckoning, McChristian said.

“These crushing pandemics of racism and public health issues have really exposed the structural racial inequities that have been in America for many generations that we didn’t clearly want to face,” McChristian said. “That’s why I think we’re really at a critical moment.”

McChristian questioned if we are at a moment of making reparative policies and structures for helping black and brown communities become whole again, or if we will turn to platitudes such as hashtags, extra holidays and diversity training.

“These are all nice and great, but are these reparative systems the well-funded investment we need to make sure that we all have access to healthcare across communities,” McChristian asked. “That we have access to good schools? Or that we don’t have the highest racial disparities in youth and adult incarceration in the nation. If we’re not willing to actually put the money behind reparative systems and structures, I

feel that this will be a wasted moment. But to Dr. Wilson’s point, I’m hopeful that with this energy and this power, especially with this New Jersey budget season coming up, that we can begin to make these reparative systems to make communities whole.”

Boyd spent nearly 15 years in law enforcement, the last 20 committed to training the police.

“Dr. Wilson and Dr. Williams and I have talked for years about the frustration that I have in doing the job, but unfortunately the line of demarcation right now in this country was the murder of George Floyd,” Boyd said. “We saw this murder in real time for nearly nine minutes. Everybody that was pro-policing started to take a step back and realize there are issues in policing.”

It is not enough to simply include more people of color in policing to solve the issue, Boyd explained.

“Not only do we have to reimagine policing, we need to re-

imagine training,” Boyd said. “We have to fix the broken system of policing and that’s the path forward, but now we start to see the levels of accountability. Up until now we spent a lot of time talking about white fragility, but the point that I’m making now is we need to start looking at blue fragility. When police officers think that they are under attack, what is actually happening is they’re just being held accountable.”

The night’s discussion must also be compounded with the insurrection on the nation’s Capitol building, Williams said. “With that event, we see the sort of intersection of policing and whiteness. The wanton failure of police and white terror as well as police violence. We also see state sanctioned white supremacy on display as well.”

Then-President Trump, egging on his supporters to engage in the insurrection forces us to contend with the real life threat of white violence within a vigilante context, Williams said.

“We must not also forget about the white violence and terror we see in the institution of police in itself. There were reports about police officers being involved in [the insurrection]. To me, that’s changed tremendously the sort of mandate that needs to happen with this institution. What needs to be done with this institution that so heavily governs our freedoms and liberties. We just simply can’t take this lightly.”



IMAGE TAKEN from Pexels.com

The Capitol insurrection was a topic discussed in the panel.

University to Introduce New OTD Program

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into a wheelchair. Those are skills that you want to learn when you’re closely working with a faculty member.”

“The lab space we’re offering is pretty unique,” Patro said. “Something we’re committed to doing is making sure that we prepare students to be therapists of the future; that we’re looking at areas of practice that are emerging and giving students those opportunities.”

Jessica Gershenow, a senior health studies student and president and founder of the undergraduate OT club, is one of the 30 students accepted into the program. “I’m really looking forward to working hands-on in the labs, meeting new people, and meeting the faculty,” Gershenow said. “That’s the reason why I chose to go here, because all the [other] schools I applied to don’t really have as many hands-on labs like that. This has been my dream for so long. When I heard about Monmouth’s program, I knew that was going to be my top school.”

Gershenow attributes the OT club with strengthening her leadership skills, preparing her to become a better student, and therefore paving the way for her acceptance into the OTD program.

Students can also enroll in a 3+3 Program in B.S. in Health Studies/Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD), which allows them to obtain

both their health studies degree and OTD in six years.

The program has established a partnership with other departments across the University such as the School of Social Work, according to Gabrielle Hackenberg, OTD, MS, OTR/L, Academic Fieldwork Coordinator and Specialist Professor of Occupational Therapy. Their partnership with the School of Social work includes an accessibility space at the University’s community garden for adults or children with accessibility needs, as well as the Social Community Activity Network (SCAN), a sustainable virtual programming for seniors. These projects came into fruition as a result of a \$10,000 grant to create the Monmouth University Collaborative on Aging, a partnership with other University departments to garner community participation for seniors.

“We’re not only interprofessional within the School of Nursing and Health Studies, but we can also do interprofessional education with the School of Social Work, School of Education, and the School of Business since the doctoral capstone has a facet where students can explore entrepreneurship,” Patro explained. “We are looking at a lot of unique partnerships for this particular program that the School of Nursing and Health Studies hasn’t been able to tap into.”

Patro said that organizations outside the community have also shown an interest

in work-ing with Monmouth’s OTD students, such as administrators from a wellness program and super-intendents from school districts.

Garcia and Patro also highlighted the geographical location of the university, another component that helps Monmouth’s program stand out from the other OT schools in New Jersey such as Kean University, Rutgers University, Stockton University, and Seton Hall University. “Monmouth University is positioned in a very fortunate location,” Garcia said. “We’re in an area of New Jersey that has many opportunities for community partnership that is essential for our fieldwork learning experiences and our capstone learning experiences. Geography is really important in the experiential learning component.”

Patro said that pandemic has faced a challenge in opening a new program. “In March 2020 the University shut down, and we were just getting our work started,” he said. “But it hasn’t kept us from moving forward. We’ve hit every target and every goal that we’ve set for ourselves.” Four staff members were hired during the pandemic, and the program is looking to hire two additional faculty members in August.

“We’re very much a growing program,” Patro said. “It’s thriving. There’s lots of exciting things, and in a pandemic when there’s so much uncertainty, we’ve accomplished so much as a group and we have so much to be proud of.”



PHOTOS COURTESY of Monmouth University

The OTD Program includes 3,530 square feet of lab space in the Monmouth University Graduate Center.

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Cancel Culture: Lets Cancel it!

GIANNA FERRARO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When something is cancelled, like a television show, it is done, voided and terminated. Cancel culture is taking this term and applying it to a person. When the person is cancelled, they are no longer supported publicly.

Cancel culture is a recent phenomena of withdrawing support from a particular influencer, celebrity or company. This usually happens after the particular company or public figure has done or said something offensive. A lot of times, these mistakes take place in the past and have only recently been brought to light.

We've all seen it happen, from Shane Dawson to Ellen DeGeneres. Many influencers and celebrities have been a victim of this trend. Some of these public figures have had their names tarnished and their careers ended due to cancel culture. While many people think it's all entertaining to watch someone's life get publicly destroyed, it's actually an extremely toxic trend.

Although these people have made terrible decisions and mistakes in the past, it's important to note that we are all human. We have all made mistakes before, some being worse than others. The beauty in making mistakes is the ability to learn and grow from it. If we lived perfect lives and made no mistakes, what would we have learned? When we cancel people from their past mistakes, we're taking away their chance to learn and grow from that situation.

A lot of the faults we see that end up cancelling people are



PHOTO COURTESY of Insider Magazine
Ellen is just one of many celebrities who have been "cancelled" by the public.

likely from years ago. Most of the time, fans will go through old tweets and Instagram posts of a certain celebrity and, if they find something offensive, bring it to light. When the post is from years ago, the person most likely has grown and become a completely different person since then. What should be done instead of group shaming and cancelling the person is allowing them to apologize and explain their past mistakes. This way, they can use their past as an example for others and how they can learn from their experience.

Even though a lot of these examples exemplify mistakes from many years ago, other times it is more recent. Sometimes people make offensive jokes or do something very distasteful. The same idea should be applied to this situation. Give the person a chance

to come forward, acknowledge the mistake, and educate themselves on why what they did was not okay.

With all of this being said, it is important to say that this does not apply to someone who makes offensive mistakes consistently without any sense of wrongdoing. If someone is making these mistakes over and over again consciously without apology or growing from the situation, it is an entirely different story.

I believe that everyone makes mistakes and deserves a second chance, especially without getting publicly humiliated and shunned from society. We've all done something wrong before that we would have been "cancelled" for if we were in the public eye. These celebrities are human like us, and deserve a chance to grow from their faults.

Who Wants to Play in the Snow?

JOHN PAPAGNI
STAFF WRITER

Winter is in full force and you know what that means? It's time for snow, hot chocolate, and having fun with the people around you. No matter what age you are, you can always have fun in the snow: even if you are in college. No one should tell you that you are too old to have fun.

Whenever it does snow outside, I always try to get together with my friends so we can enjoy this kind of weather because it only happens a few times every year. You could build a snowman or an igloo, have snowball fights with your friends and family, go sledding down mountains and make snow angels.

Playing in the snow can be a great stress reliever. Getting outside after a long day of Zoom calls and work can be nice and refreshing. You could make so many wonderful memories in the snow with people who care about you.

When it snowed a few weeks ago, I remember having a snowball fight with my friends and we just laughed while throwing snow at each other, just enjoying the moment. The fact that my friends and I are college students doesn't change the fact that we want to have fun and enjoy the chance to play in the snow.

If people have differing opinions on how old is too old to play in the snow, then they are just too close-minded to see that we are enjoying our college experience. Even though there is a global pandemic occurring, this is supposed to be the best four years for college students, where they get to live on their own, make lifelong friends, and have fun in any way shape, or form.

To quote one of my favorite movies of all time, *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around occasionally you could miss it." Everyone always says, "Enjoy these next few years because they will be gone in the blink of an eye." When I heard that for the first time, I thought it was absurd because of all the work I would have to do in between, but now I am already halfway through my freshman year. I can't help but ask myself where the time has gone.

With the amount of work that college students get every week in classes, students don't realize where the time has gone. Time flies when you are having fun that you don't even realize until it is too late.

Make the most of life the way you want to, and if you want to have fun by playing in the snow, go for it. Just make sure you're wearing warm clothing.

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Students Find Difficulty Making Friends in Online Classes

DENISSE QUINTANILLA
STAFF WRITER

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, students would shuffle into classrooms, sit down at their desk, and strike a conversation with the student next to them before class officially began. Flash forward a year later, and students are sitting in front of the computer screen logging into their classes with the click of a link.

While students could once converse with their peers before and after a class, they now find themselves alone as soon as the professor hits “end meeting.” Students are now forced to adjust to everything virtually—taking classes, completing tests and quizzes, and even making friends. For many students, this adjustment has not been easy. Many have found it difficult to create connections with their peers and professors.

Breasia Love, a junior business student, is one of many who have found difficulty in making friends during online classes. “I noticed that the professors who do not enforce the webcam or utilize breakout rooms indirectly influence the way students interact via Zoom,” she said. However, she noticed that it is easier to create bonds when her classmates reach out via email or private chat on Zoom.

“I don’t think you can really make connections unless you’re

in a breakout room,” said Jessica Ciarczynski, a junior communication student. “It can be awkward at first, but once you get past the few minutes, it can be nice to have one-on-one conversations.”

Love shares a similar sentiment with Ciarczynski. “Breakout rooms become awkward when they are randomized,” she said. “However, my professors have been good with keeping the same faces in the breakout rooms.”

Mona Cobb, a junior political science student, has faced similar difficulties as Ciarczynski and Love. “It is harder to start a conversation with someone on Zoom,” Cobb said, “especially if there are no breakout groups to help break the ice for conversations...it [also] depends on if the camera is on or off for the people in the group.”

Student Activities has attempted to re-cultivate the sense of connection that has been lost due to online learning, therefore helping students make new friends and bond in the digital world. For example, they host trivia and game nights each week to break the monotony of the semester.

Love has not attended any virtual events this semester due to schedule conflicts. She said, “Most of the events take place later in the night. I am usually at work around this time, doing homework or practicing self-

care.”

However, she has not completely dismissed the idea of attending a virtual event. “If an event excites me, I may log on, but I have not done so since moving to virtual events,” she said.

Ciarczynski, Love, and Cobb shared advice for other students in order to be more active and attentive in Zoom classes.

Love said, “I would recommend keeping your camera on, as you are more likely to pay attention, as well as setting your phone aside. Also, finding a comfortable place to sit will boost your attentiveness.”

Being attentive in class will boost your participation, which can help foster a sense of connection in virtual classes. Just by participating and paying attention to your classmates, you can learn something about them and discover if you have a common interest.

“Getting the phone numbers of classmates when you are in the breakout groups can be helpful because you ask for help outside of class,” Ciarczynski added. “Organizing study groups that meet outside class hours will not only help you make friends, but also help you excel in your classes.”

One last piece of advice: Make the best out of the situation at hand, and only then will we learn to survive in the digital world.

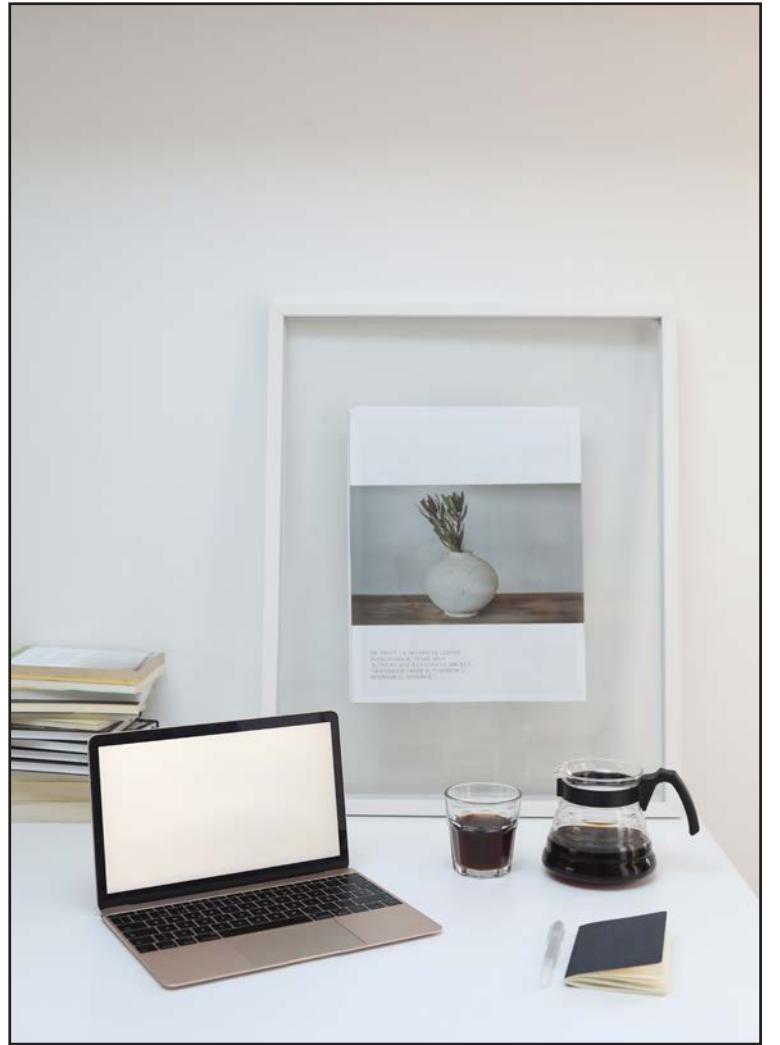


IMAGE TAKEN from Pexels.com

With students attending class through their computer screen, they have found difficulty in making friends and conversing with peers.

History Students Curate the “Julian Abele Project”

ABELE cont. from pg. 1

marquee building as “Great Hall at Shadow Lawn” in June 2020 in the wake of the Black Lives Matter movement, citing reasons that Woodrow Wilson promoted racism and discrimination during his presidency. The University also announced initiatives to honor Abele’s contributions as leading architect of the building.

“I’m a Monmouth alum myself and been on our campus since 2001, and I had never heard of him until really recently,” Ziobro said. “Everyone who has gone to Monmouth or even live in the area knows about the Great Hall but might think of it as where Annie was filmed, or they think of the Wilson connection because that was pushed for so long. But very few people have heard of Julian Abele who was this pioneering architect. We have to push that. That should be the thing that people think about with pride when they think about the Great Hall. Hopefully, our project will increase awareness about his role in it.”

“I didn’t know anything about Abele before the project, so being able to learn about him was interesting,” said Nicholas Testa, a history student who took part in the project. “[Abele] built a whole part of Duke University’s campus, had buildings in New York, and obviously the Great Hall on Monmouth’s



IMAGES TAKEN from Monmouth University Library

The Great Hall in 1930, designed by Julian Abele. The African American architect was the center of the student research project from the “Museums and History Management” history course, taught by Professor Melissa Ziobro.

campus. We were hoping to find as many buildings he had a connection to Abele as we could, and that could be found on the map portion of the LibGuide so people could get a more comprehensive look at what he built, where he built it, and how big his scope was during his architectural career.” Abele is credited with over 200 buildings, according to the LibGuide.

“I’m glad to have contributed to something bigger,” Testa said. “I took part in preserving a part of the school’s history that very few people know about. Since Abele was so unknown to the school population, the fact that his legacy will live on is something that’s very important.”

Monmouth faculty were brought onto the project to peer review the material, with the University’s Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Program helping to create the map that highlights the locations of Abele’s buildings.

“The students and faculty were kind to include me, most specifically because of my participation in the campus discussions about Woodrow Wilson and his legacy a few years ago,” said Walter Greason Ph.D., Associate Professor and Chair of Educational Counseling and Leadership. “The project is tremendously important because it reverses decades of decision-making by university leadership to overlook African-American

contributions to the educational mission here...the focus on Julian Abele moves our community forward in recognizing the unique ways that our university benefited from African-American leadership.”

“What I teach my students is that historians never work in a vacuum,” Ziobro said. “You invite other scholars to come in and check your work. We made sure that this project upheld the highest standards of research practices, and that’s why we invited people like Dr. Greason to look at it. It was very important to us that this was not just some student project, but that it upheld normal scholarly processes.”

Ziobro’s Museums and

History Management course is offered every other fall semester. Students have curated a World War I exhibit in 2016 and a Bruce Springsteen exhibit in 2018, which went on to become an exhibit at the Monmouth County Historical Association.

“Every time I teach this Museum and Archives class, the capstone project is an exhibit of some sort because I want the students to get hands-on practice in everything we’ve learned throughout the semester to better prepare them for life after Monmouth,” Ziobro explained. “It’s really meaningful for the students and for the campus community.”

Ziobro said that she will continue to push Monmouth’s mission to become a more inclusive campus by choosing research projects that shine a light on diversity. She said, “My current students are working on an oral histories of African Americans in Asbury Park and how they’ve been impacted disproportionately as a result of COVID-19. I am involved in another project of students of Dr. Walter McAfee, a pioneering African American scientist who also taught at Monmouth University.”

“In all of the projects we’re doing, we’re trying to be very thoughtful about telling inclusive stories and making sure that people know that Monmouth faculty care and ensuring that our work reflects that as well,” Ziobro said.

What To Do When Someone Takes Your Credit

MATTHEW CUTILLO
MANAGING NEWS/LIFESTYLES

It's always a little awkward when someone takes credit for your achievement. Being part of the team doesn't always mean being part of the process, and it can rub you the wrong way when someone jumps in the limelight but wasn't there originally in the crossfire. This idea can take a lot of different shapes and forms. Maybe you have an arm-chair boss who only swoops in to accept the award, but you and your co-workers have been drowning in issues that the boss never attempts to resolve.

Travis Greenberg, a senior anthropology student, has experienced this phenomena in his own life. "It goes back to something as seemingly inconsequential as being on a kid's sports team," Greenberg said. "You work hard every day in practice and you're the main driving force behind the wins of your team's games. But then the award ceremony rolls around, and your coach who never even showed himself during the season is giving a thumbs-up for the photo-op. You could see, on an adult scale, how this could happen in the workplace." Your first reaction might

be to confront that person out of anger, but experts say that isn't such a good idea. Karen Dillon, author of the HBR Guide to Office Politics, gave statements to hbr.org in relation to this idea. "You look petulant, like a kid who's folded her arms and is pouting," says Dillon in regards to letting your emotions get the best of you. Immediately confronting the person while you're in an angry state won't solve anything. The truth is, there's no sure-fire way to go about it. If someone takes credit for something tangible such as an invention, then that's grounds for a serious intervention. However, if some-

one takes credit for a group's success, that allows them to shroud themselves in the group's efforts to mask their lack of participation in the success. In my own personal experience, I try to just take it on the chin. After all, taking credit for something undeserved is a sign of someone's insecurities with their own achievements. It's a method to protect and shield their own ego from the truth. They may seem happy accepting that award that you put in the work for, but seeing it hung up on their wall will always give them a feeling of dissatisfaction. You, the hard worker,

will always reap that satisfaction. Your work ethic will provide far further and larger gains in life than their parasitic attitude ever could. As they prioritize short term gains, you're honing your skills and moving on to the next level. It's beyond tempting to have a conversation with the person and confront them about them taking your thunder away. However, realizing deep down they already know the truth, is mission accomplished enough. Moving on and living a good life that is distant from those negative forces is the best and most mature step you can take.



IMAGE TAKEN from Pexels.com
If you want to emotionally accept someone taking credit for your work, the best thing you can do is think of why they did it.

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FINAL FANTASY VII Remake: The Magic of Role-Playing Games in 2021

ALEX DYER
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

These past few years in the entertainment industry, remasters, remakes, re-etc. have been produced practically as frequently as original content. It's certainly easy to diagnose this as a dearth of creativity, but in this age of constantly adapting content for a new generation of consumers, is there a way to make—or, more appropriately, remake—a standalone piece of art based on existing media?

About ten months ago, video game publisher Square Enix released a remake of the beloved PlayStation RPG *Final Fantasy VII*. The controversy that normally surrounds rereleases, especially those of video games, is often related to the terminology used in promotional material. Video game fans tend to be very picky when it comes to their favorite games receiving this treatment; a remaster usually refers to a new version of an older game whose graphics and/or mechanics have been updated and enhanced for a new generation of consoles or players.

But, a remake? A remake is built from the ground up.

Final Fantasy VII Remake lives up to its name: it is a true remake. The original game, released in 1997, has a tight cult following with highly devoted fans. In my eyes, Square Enix had a lot to lose when they decided to remake one of their most beloved properties. Before actually sitting down and playing through Remake, which was released last year, I had my suspicions at how Square Enix would treat the plot and characters. As we've seen with recent remakes (...Cats, anyone?), it can turn out very poorly for both producers and fans alike. Fortunately for everyone, though, *Final Fantasy VII Remake* does the improbable; even as a remake of one of the most treasured video games of all-time, it manages to stand apart from its predecessor as a separately relevant and altogether stunning piece of art.

Final Fantasy VII Remake retains the same basic plot as the first third of the original (Remake is set to be a trilogy of games released over the next few years), but the focus is much more centered on the characters, their relationships, and expanding on both. The player controls Cloud Strife, a coolly reserved mercenary living in the futuristic and dystopian city-state

of Midgar, which is owned by the environmentally exploitative mega-corporation Shinra. Midgar consists of two plates: an upper plate, on which the wealthy and powerful live, and the dilapidated slums, filled with mechanical scrap, where the less fortunate are left to live in relative squalor.

Fighting against Shinra is an eco-terrorist group known as AVALANCHE, whose goal is to take down Shinra in order to stop the draining of the planet's energy source, mako. As Cloud, who has been hired to temporarily fight for the group, the player becomes acquainted with his oldest childhood friend, Tifa Lockhart, who he hasn't seen since before she joined AVALANCHE. Tifa is generally laid-back, but over the course of the game's first few chapters her passion for protecting the planet and its energy becomes apparent. Also fighting for AVALANCHE is the giant Barret Wallace; though his presence is imposing (he has a gatling gun for a right hand), his ultimate goal of taking down Shinra stems from his desire to ensure



IMAGE TAKEN from Inverse

The main cast of *Final Fantasy VII Remake* (left to right): Red XIII, Aerith Gainsborough, Cloud Strife, Barret Wallace, and Tifa Lockhart.

could have ever hoped for. Starting off as a stranger in the slums, selling flowers on the street, Aerith is the personification of the planet's precious life force. Despite the stiff dialogue in the 1997 game, I always imagined her to be an outgoing and friendly character, exemplifying this energy in a

more rooted in real life on Earth than the cyberpunk world in which they live. We know that there are, in fact, people who live in places that resemble the slums of Midgar; places filled with unsafe and rusting debris, with dangerous air quality, and with little to no economic mobility. For a game with gameplay that heavily focuses on busting up robots and monsters, *Final Fantasy VII Remake* is one of the most in-touch and effective metaphors for the destruction of our environment and the stratification of socioeconomic classes in recent memory.

Speaking of the gameplay of Remake: it is, in one word, stellar. Not only does the "Materia" system present in the original game still exist, it is expanded upon hugely. By fitting each of the four main characters' weapons with orbs of energy called "materia," different abilities, both physical and magical, offensive and defensive, become available for use in conjunction with that weapon.

The variety in the gameplay is also incredibly unique and intuitive. Even though there are four playable characters, each with different weapons and techniques, the controls of the game remain constant, allowing you to control the swordsman Cloud, gunner Barret, fighter Tifa, and magician Aerith all with the same button layout. It's a comfortable way to play, and it took me no more than an hour to really develop the muscle memory required for playing.

Arguably the most important aspect of the new game, to some fans, is the music. Originally composed by Nobuo Uematsu, the *Final Fantasy VII* soundtrack is rerecorded with remarkable fidelity to the original. The updated arrangements, which include electric guitar and an orchestra, are designed to fade in and out with the action of the game; more intense tracks are played when fighting, and the same song is played softly during other, more tender scenes. Uematsu's dedication is, I'm certain, one of the reasons the game was so well-received: as a trusted fixture of the *Final Fantasy* franchise, the fact that he returned to rearrange some of his most popular compositions was enough assurance from fans that, yes, Remake was a serious project.

As both a remake and as an allegory for climate change, *Final Fantasy VII Remake* stands on its own from its beloved predecessor. I don't love everything about this game; the sidequests are kind of boring, and the game is very linear. However, by and large, Square

Enix proved that they meant serious business when Remake came out, constructing a brand-new, exhilarating action-adventure game from the parts of a classic turn-based RPG.

It isn't often these days that we see re-anythings that are up to snuff with the originals. Sometimes, it can be soul-crushing to find out that a reboot or remake of your favorite movie or TV show. *Final Fantasy VII Remake* is a whole different animal. By remaining true to the original plot yet bringing these characters and this vast mechanical world to life, I had a video game experience that surpassed any run of the mill remaster with updated graphics. It's fair if you aren't an "RPG person;" turn-based RPGs can get tedious. But now? If you have a PlayStation 4 in 2021? There isn't much of an excuse to put off playing *Final Fantasy VII* any longer.

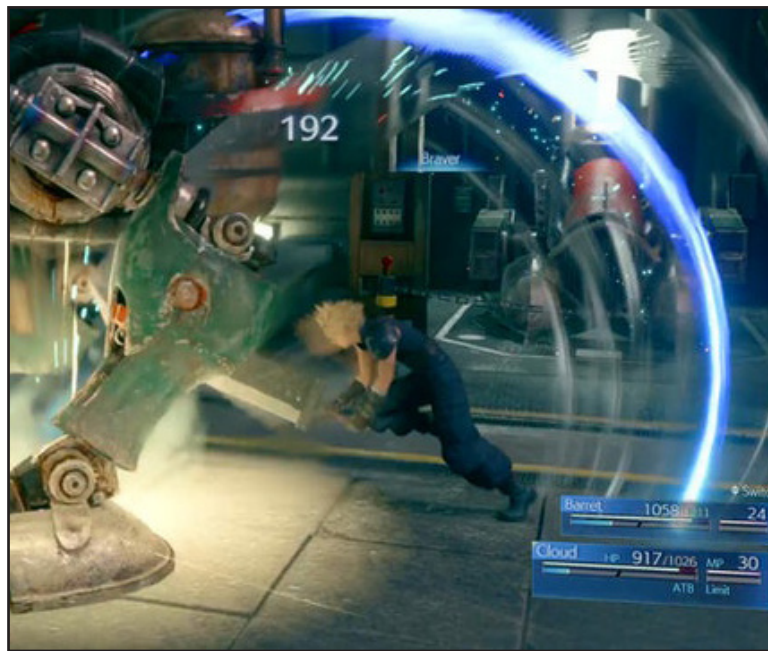


IMAGE TAKEN from Kotaku Australia

The gameplay of *Remake* is a stunning mix of modern action-adventure and classic turn-based RPG combat.

a future for his young daughter Marlene. As he explains it to her, "Some bad people are trying to hurt the planet. And Daddy... Daddy and his friends are trying to stop those bad people. The slums, your friends, the whole planet—it's Daddy's job to protect it." Framing Barret and the rest of the rough-hewn AVALANCHE cell as compassionate about the planet—as unwavering in their convictions to bring energy justice to Midgar—brings a level of deeper characterization to the cast than the original PlayStation version, and that is important especially concerning the depth and expansion of the plot.

There is one character, though, who touches my heart more than any other with both her personality and her values. Aerith Gainsborough (right), the self-described "local florist," is more of a fleshed-out character in Remake than I

human form. Aerith has the ability to "speak" with the planet; she can sense the fragility of the planet's condition, and she uses this to display her sincerity in helping AVALANCHE. However, according to Aerith herself, "The Shinra Electric Power Company isn't the real enemy. I promise you. There's a much bigger threat. I just want to do everything in my power to help. All of you... and the planet."

The real enemy, and perhaps the most genuinely frightening villain in any game, is Sephiroth, the thought-to-be-dead One-Winged Angel. Initially appearing only in split-second intervals as a hallucination of Cloud's, Sephiroth's presence becomes more and more imposing, much like a bull shark with its dorsal fin jutting out of the water. In fact, we only see him for a total of about one minute for a vast majority of the game. Like AVALANCHE, his ultimate goal is to defeat Shinra; however, he plans to use the mako energy to merge with the planet, effectively becoming it.

Though it is an abstract plot, the themes dealt with in *Final Fantasy VII Remake* are so much more relevant in the context of today than they were 24 years ago. Now that climate change is a proven fact of life, the situations in which our heroes find themselves are much



IMAGE TAKEN from FinalFantasy.fandom.com
Cloud Strife, the protagonist of *Final Fantasy VII Remake* is portrayed as aloof yet caring, true to the original PlayStation game, even as it expands on his character greatly.



IMAGE TAKEN from Neoseeker.com

Mental Health Matters: Meet the Active Minds Club

MELISSA BADAMO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF / FEATURES EDITOR

The Monmouth University chapter of Active Minds, a non-profit organization, is dedicated to bringing its mission to Monmouth's campus: to promote mental health awareness for college students.

The club began in 2013 as a co-sponsorship between the School of Social Work and Counseling and Psychological Services (CPS). The School of Social Work received a Garret Lee Smith Campus Suicide Prevention Grant, which encouraged a club on campus related to mental health and peer education. Now, in 2021, after a period of dwindling membership, the

current student leaders are determined to revive the club.

Julie Coker, President of Active Minds and a graduate student of social work, is extremely passionate about the organization's mission to reduce the stigma around mental health. Previously, she served as president of the Stockton University chapter during her undergraduate career, being drawn to the club due to a history of mental health. "I was already an advocate for mental health and excited that Active Minds was on my undergrad campus," Coker said. "It changed my life since then."

In February 2020, Justin Bieber awarded Coker with a \$100,000 check on MTV for her work with Active Minds. The pop singer also released his 2020 single "Lonely"

through a partnership with the organization.

Now, as president of Monmouth's chapter, Coker is hoping to bring mental health advocacy to campus. Because the COVID-19 pandemic has limited in-person activities, the club is conducting weekly Zoom meetings every Thursday at 7 p.m. Coker is optimistic to resume in-person meetings after the pandemic.

Antonio Pugliese, a sophomore exercise and health science student and Vice President of Active Minds, has a history with mental health, which drew him to the club. "I have a past with anxiety and depression, and people around me have a past with it, so when I came to Monmouth I wanted to get involved in clubs I have passion for and that are a part of me," he said.

Christopher Mckittrick, Assistant Director of Counseling & Psychological Services, and Advisor of Active Minds, said, "I'm a licensed counselor, so mental health is my passion; it's my job. I've always been fascinated about openness to counseling and breaking down any stigma related to mental health."

Now, as the COVID-19 pandemic drags on, college students are struggling like never before. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), young adults in the US reported worsened mental health outcomes, increased substance use, and elevated suicidal thoughts during the pandemic.

"Mental health and depression have been on the rise since being



IMAGES TAKEN from Stockton University

President Julie Coker was awarded by Justin Bieber in 2020 for her involvement with Active Minds and mental health advocacy.



PHOTO COURTESY of Julie Coker

Previously a part of the Stockton University chapter, President Julie Coker strives to continue the club's mission at Monmouth with Vice President Antonio Pugliese and Advisor Christopher Mckittrick, Assitant Director of CPS.

so isolated," Coker said. "Therapists and practitioners are in a crisis because now there's so many people that are looking for mental health services. Positively, Active Minds educates people that might be fearful of reaching out for support."

"I'm not the biggest fan when people say to worry about your mental health now because of COVID," Pugliese added. "I think it should be a big deal 24/7. But I do think that regardless of how difficult the pandemic has been, it definitely brought to life that we should value mental health."

Both Coker and Pugliese are passionate about maintaining a role in mental health advocacy after graduation. While Coker is planning on becoming a therapist, she is also interested in working full-time with Active Minds on the national level. As for Pugliese, whether he pursues athletic training or physical therapy af-

ter graduation, he is committed to emphasizing the link between mental and physical education.

To continue the legacy and mission of the club at Monmouth, Coker and Pugliese are seeking interested members, especially those who are open to leadership positions.

"When we have more students back on campus, that's when there's going to be more opportunities to connect people to supportive services, whether it's at counseling services or informal peer support where you really feel a sense of belonging and connection to one another and the campus community," Mckittrick added. "Those are huge protective factors. If we feel like we belong, we feel more able to respond and be resilient to things that are thrown to us. If we can help reduce the stigma and increase the health and resilience of the campus, I think that is the true payout of the club."

Upcoming Events Calendar

- February 17:**

Study Abroad-101

The Guardians Club Hosts FBI Profiler James Fitzgerald

Campus Catholic Ministry Bible Study
- February 18:**

English Department's Celebration of Toni Morrison Day

Building Environmental Sustainability into the Curriculum
- February 19:**

Free Play Game Night

Panhellenic Recruitment

Self Care Bingo
- February 20:**

60 in 60: What's that Song (Game Show)

Panhellenic Recruitment
- February 21:**

Panhellenic Recruitment
- February 22:**

The Winter Wellness Warmuwp Checkup

LIFT Mentoring Circle: Navigating the "isms" of Professionalism

Panhellenic Bid Day
- February 23:**

PRSSA Virtual 5K Run

For more information, check out the ExperienceMU app

Trump Acquitted Again

GEORGEANNE NIGRO
SENIOR/ POLITICS EDITOR

On Saturday afternoon, the Senate voted to acquit former President Donald Trump in his second Impeachment trial. The trial comes a month after the U.S. Capitol riots that took place on Jan. 6.

The Senate's votes was 57-43, leading to acquit Trump on the charge of inciting an insurrection. Seven Republicans voted in favor to convict Trump during the trial.

Joseph Patten, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Political Science, said he was surprised that seven Republicans voted Trump guilty and that they were not open to persuasion. He also thinks that Trump was weakened during this trial.

"For anyone who watched this on television, his attorneys didn't seem to be very well prepared," said Patten. "And even Mitch McConnell, the Senate majority leader, even though he voted to acquit, he really gave them a scathing assessment of Trump's complicity and this kind of gave a constitutional argument as to why he voted to acquit since Trump was not in office anymore."

Patten said that the fact that seven Republican senators voted to convict is very damaging to Trump.

"I think that there is a

general sense that, in terms of the trial, that Trump did not really put up much of a defense and he also did not agree to testify on his behalf," he said.

Patten also said that if something changed during the trial, the outcome would not have been different, due to the evidence of this particular case.

Jennifer McGovern, Ph.D. Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science and Sociology, also does not think anything would have changed the outcome of the trial.

"The reason is a lot of people went on record before the trial even started and said what they thought they didn't seem open to evidence," said McGovern. "That appears to be on both sides of the aisle. They didn't seem to want to consider what was presented."

Congress pursued an Impeachment on Trump, even though he had already left office. McGovern believes just because he is no longer in office, does not mean he should not be held accountable for things that happened while he was in of-

fice.

She said, "So, imagine if you were a student and you cheated and plagiarized a paper in the last week of class during finals week. And then your teacher said, 'well that's okay, I don't have to tell the student they plagiarized they are in the last week of their semester'. People are still accountable for their actions, no matter when they occur in their term."

McGovern also thought this was a way for Congress to send a message that people are still held account-

able for their actions, especially from what occurred at the Capitol on Jan. 6.

Michelle Metcalf, senior communication student, also was not surprised by this impeachment.

"Now for the second time he got impeached, I wasn't surprised again but honestly he should feel embarrassed for being the only president to get impeached twice. Now, this is something that I wouldn't want to be proud of," said Metcalf.

She also said that Trump did accomplish a lot during his presidency, such as the First Step Act and tax reform, but there were still a lot of secrets and situations that he could have handled better.

Timothy Foley, a senior communication student, disagrees with the reasons Trump was impeached for a second time.

"According to what I know, there was not enough evidence to prove that he purposely incited the attack on the capital," said Foley.

Since Trump is cleared to run again for government offices, people wonder whether or not he will pursue that.

Foley said, "I think he's considering running in 2024. Due to his age, I don't even think he knows yet. It depends on how he's feeling at the time."



IMAGE TAKEN from US News

Former President Trump was acquitted on the charge of inciting an insurrection.

President Biden Signed Order to Rejoin Paris Climate Agreement

JOHN SPINELLI
STAFF WRITER

President Joe Biden, in the first days of his presidency, signed executive orders to combat climate change and to support environmental advocacy.

The president revoked a 2019 permit to allow the Keystone Pipeline XL to be constructed. This newer pipeline would have created a faster route to transport tar sands from Alberta, Canada to the American Gulf States. Environmental groups have praised the decision for potentially saving natural habitat from being destroyed and the intention of cutting carbon emissions.

This executive order also came with a lot of disapproval. Trade unions affiliated with the pipeline criticized the decision for causing an estimated loss of 11,000 jobs and ending 300 miles of completed pipeline. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau also expressed his disappointment for the project being halted.

President Biden also signed an executive order to rejoin the Paris Climate Agreement, a key decision that was flipped from the previous administration. The treaty is the largest international agreement meant to combat

climate change.

Joseph Patten, Ph.D., Associate Professor in Political Science said, "This decision of rejoining the Paris Agreement is not a surprise. President Biden during the presidential debates said he intended to reverse Trump's executive orders. Biden served as Obama's Vice President, when this agreement was being written in 2015. A new president reversing executive actions from a previous administration is not an uncommon precedent."

Patten also talked about the role of politics in these

executive orders. "Environmental issues are particularly important to young people and an active wing of the Democratic Party. Climate change is a major pillar of his platform, this is not a surprise that the Biden Administration has been very active in these environmental decisions," he noted.

Sean Sterrett Ph.D., Professor of Wildlife Ecology, described the United States' role in clean energy. He said, "Despite the Trump Administration's pull out from the Paris Climate Agreement, renewable technology, like wind and solar, and asso-

ciated jobs related to those technologies, have been growing in America. Biden's immediate rejoining the Paris Climate Agreement is much more than symbolism; it represents a dedication to make real changes-changes that were started during the Obama Administration."

He emphasized, "This is particularly important because climate change is a global issue that doesn't conform to jurisdictional boundaries. Everyone needs to be on board to make drastic changes at all levels."

"Biden ran on drastic climate change policy and he'll

be judged on it by many Americans. I absolutely think that Biden will put dollars behind green energy projects at all levels. He's been talking about being revolutionary and bold and has moved to create a new position to focus on the issue; Special Presidential Envoy for Climate," Sterrett added.

Professor Sterrett is also optimistic about new changes coming from Washington D.C. He noted, "I expect significant moves, including new legislation, but also an embrace all of any green energy projects. In the end, I think Biden understands that clean energy and technology relates directly to new job opportunities and a better America."

Carrington Retzios, a junior marine environmental biology and policy student, commented, "The exact mitigation strategies are complex, but [the United States rejoining] the Paris Agreement is a great start for allowing global collaboration and establishing a system for regulating greenhouse emissions."

He continued, "Climate change is one of the most pressing issues facing humanity. Hopefully these conversations will open the doors to new solutions."



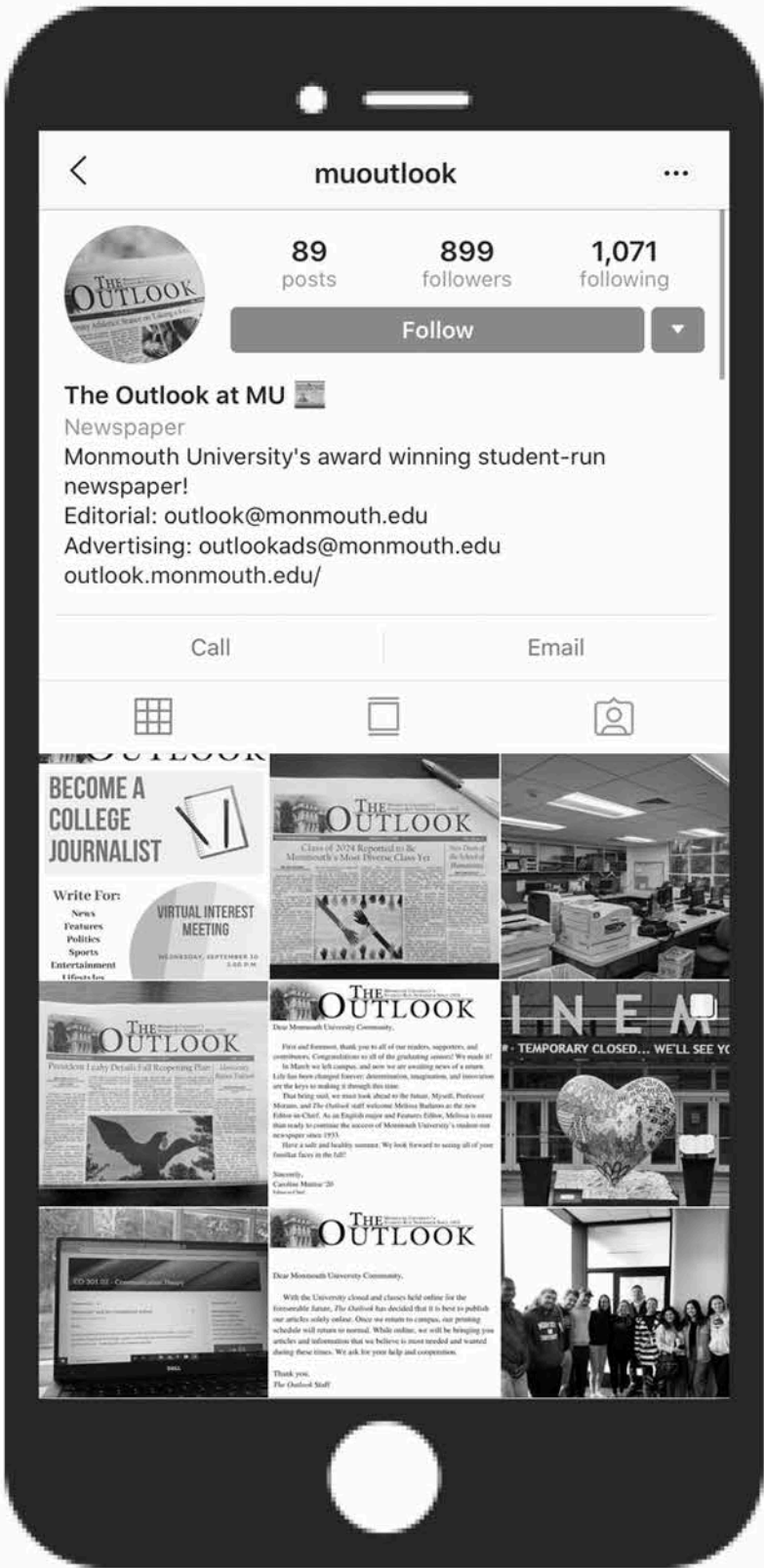
IMAGE TAKEN from Sky Press

President Joe Biden signed 17 executive orders during his first week of presidency.

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Monmouth Football is Favored to Win Big South

ERIN MULLIGAN
STAFF WRITER

On Feb. 11, 2021, Monmouth University was selected as the favorite to finish in first place in the 2021 Big South Spring Football Preseason Poll.

Football is back! In the 2021 Big South Spring Football Preseason Poll, Monmouth earned 44 points with Kennesaw State coming in second, earning 43 but the Hawks obtained six of a possible 10 first place votes.

Following Kennesaw State is Charleston Southern in third and Gardner-Webb and Robert Morris tied for fourth. Typical Monmouth opponents, Campbell, Hampton, and Northern Alabama were ineligible due to opting out of the spring season.

This is a very exciting time for the Hawks as last week; they were also selected 21st nationally in the Athlon Preseason Football Championships Series (FCS) Poll in addition to 22nd in the HeroSports preseason poll.

As we approach the largely anticipated season, the Hawks will be without their former key players such as alumni, Pete Guerriero and Shawn Clark but there are big impact players who are expected to put on quite a show.

On offense, eight returning starters have set over 40 team, game, and individual records in 2019.

In the 2019 season, senior wide receiver, Lonnie Moore tied the Monmouth record with 74 receptions and was third in the league in all-purpose yards with 1,022 receiving yards and nine touchdowns.

At kickoff returner, Moore

has earned pre-season All-American recognition after he averaged 27.8 yards per return in addition to setting the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) FCS record with a

93-yard touchdown return in the second-round game against James Madison. Moore ended the 2019 season with 19 returns for 529 yards.

In 2019, as a redshirt freshman, junior wide receiver,

Terrance Greene Jr. was a second team selection racking in a team-high of 10 touchdowns with 65 catches for 916 yards.

Offensive linemen, graduate student, AJ Farris and senior Justin Szuba pummeled their

opponents during their last season, coming out on top as the top offense in the conference. Individually they each had outstanding 2019 seasons. Farris earned STATS All-American honors and Third Team AP while Szuba became a sophomore All-American selection by HeroSports.

Senior, Gene Scott is a returning standout tight end with exceptional blocking skills. In the 2019 season, he had three receptions for 36 yards.

As for redshirt running back, Juwon Farri, he's expected to have a solid season after missing the 2019 season and earning 2018 Big South Offensive Freshman of the year. He led the league in rushing with 1,024 yards and on top of that, earning first team all-conference honors.

Linebacker, Da'Quan Grimes has earned preseason all-league honors following last season when he racked up 115 tackles (highest on the team and third in the Big South). He also finished 2019 with 13.5 tackles for a loss and led the league in forced fumbles.

Leading the elite Monmouth defense are defensive backs, Anthony Budd and Justin Terry. Budd, who was first in the conference in interceptions, made 66 tackles and 37 solo stops, in addition to eight pass breakups. During the 2019 season, Terry earned first team all-league with 62 tackles and 10 passes defended.

Head Coach, Kevin Calahan will be entering his 28th season in command. The Hawks had their first practice on Friday, Feb. 12 and their first game will be on Mar. 13 against Robert Morris.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Monmouth Football will be entering the season as the favorites to win the Big South championship in their preseason poll.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Monmouth Head Coach Brian Callahan led Hawks to a Big South Championship victory a season ago.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Senior defensive back Anthony Budd finished 14 last season with 66 solo tackles and was a 2020 Preseason All-Big South selection.

Women’s Ball Victorious Behind Rookie Star

JACK MURPHY
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Women’s basketball split a weekend series on the road against Saint Peters earning their second win on the season, losing their first matchup by a score 70-60 and taking the home victory in their second game by a score of 63-57.

Freshman center Belle Kranbuhl, got the scoring opened up early with six points in the opening minutes, finishing with eleven on the night. She

performed on both ends of the floor as she would also add eight boards and seven rejections to her total for the night. After this performance, she is averaging 3.0 blocks per game, which leads the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC). This was also the fourth game that Kranbuhl scored in the double digits.

Saint Peters started to pull away as they were in front at one point by 22 points. However, Monmouth battled back in the second half as they went on an 18-2 run and were able to narrow the lead to just five. However, it

would be too little too late as they would fall in the end for their eleventh loss of the season.

We played well enough to win this game,” said head coach Jody Craig, “But shot ourselves in the foot with missed layups, missed free throws and turnovers. We have got to take the next step as a team by being more efficient and actually playing to our potential.”

Monmouth only shot 57 percent from the free throw line and committed 21 turnovers compared to Saint Peter’s 13.

One of the highlights for

Monmouth during this matchup was freshman forward Gabrielle Wener who filled up all aspects of the stat sheet. She finished with 14 points, her career-high five rebounds, four assists and three steals.

Kranbuhl erupted in the Hawks second matchup of the weekend as she scored 20 points and 16 rebounds in the game. After a weekend where she was named MAAC Rookie of the Week, she followed it up with two great performances.

Monmouth scored their team high in points with 63 in this

one and shot their best percentage of the year from the field at 51 percent. Freshman guard Ariana Vanderhoop also dropped ten points, the first time she hit double digits in her short time wearing the blue and white.

Monmouth started the fourth quarter allowing six unanswered points however, Kranbuhl would retaliate with five straight to tie the game back up. Vanderhoop would then make a crucial layup while being fouled with just three minutes left in the contest. She would then connect on the and-one giving the Hawks the lead, which they would hold until the final buzzer.

“I’m so happy for our team getting rewarded for their efforts with a victory,” said Craig, “We finally played with discipline on both ends. We took care of the ball, put up quality shots and rebounded well down the stretch. It was a well-deserved win.”

The Hawks dominated the paint in this game as they scored 42 of their 63 points coming from inside compared to only 18 for Saint Peters.

Kranbuhl is having a stellar start to her rookie campaign as she recorded the Hawk’s first 20-point performance and she had four blocks in the winning effort. Following another phenomenal week, she was named the MAAC Rookie of the Week for the second consecutive time.

Next weekend, 2-11 Monmouth heads back on the road against Fairfield, who currently leads the all-time series 12-7



Freshman forward Belle Kranbuhl earned her second consecutive Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Player of the Week honors after scoring the first 20-point performance of the season for the Hawks and recording four blocks in the process.

PHOTOS COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Women’s Bowling Earns All-Tournament Honors

MARK D'AQUILA
SPORTS EDITOR

The Monmouth Hawks women’s bowling team participated in the Garden State Classic at Bowlero in North Brunswick, New Jersey this past weekend.

Their head-to-head record on the weekend was 4-6 but they did achieve three individual match victories over Felician, Bloomfield, and New Jersey City University on Saturday. Most impressively, they led the entire tournament in total pinfall on Saturday with an average score of 185.8.

“We didn’t perform to our abilities Friday but turned things around Saturday and

landed our first tournament win in our program’s history,” said Director of Bowling Karen Grygiel. “I’m proud of the way our athletes rebounded off of a rough start. We still have many things to improve on before we leave for our conference meet on Thursday, but this team is improving every day.”

Saturday really was an impressive day where the Hawks knocked down 4,644 pins for an average of 185.8.

The leaders of the team in this tournament were left-handed freshman Jamie Phelan and right-handed freshman Jenna Lehrer. The rookies shined all weekend long leading Phelan to a Mid-Eastern

Athletic Conference (MEAC) Rookie of the Week Selection for the second time in as many weeks. She bowled to an incredible 207.40 average in five total games with three 200-point efforts which led all bowlers.

Phelan joined Lehrer as Monmouth’s lone representatives on the Garden State Classic All-Tournament Team. However, they were able to get three bowlers into the top ten of the tournament standings with senior right-hander Camelia Coffman added to the mix.

Coffman knocked down 892 pins with an average score of 178.40 which finished her tenth in the tournament over-

all. This is the third time in her impressive career as a Hawk that she has placed top-ten in a tournament.

On the other hand, Lehrer was participating in just her second-career tournament where she placed fifth place overall and knocked down 956 pins. This was an average score of 191.20 while she also notched her first 200-point games in her career including a best of 229.

Rounding out the MU notables were junior right-hander Skylar Smith and senior right-hander Amanda Zappacosta who each had some of their best events on the season.

Smith had a 200-point game which makes it 22 for her col-

legiate career placing 19th in the tournament. She put up a season-high of 229 while Zappacosta scored her season best of 174.

The weekend high for Monmouth in their matchups was 975 total pins in the win over Felician College.

Next on the schedule for the Hawks is a trip to Greensboro, North Carolina for their first conference matchup of the season. This will be a three-day MEAC event at the Triad Lanes Greensboro set to begin on Friday, Feb. 19.

Monmouth is currently 7-8 overall on the season with a .467 winning percentage that they look to improve upon this weekend.



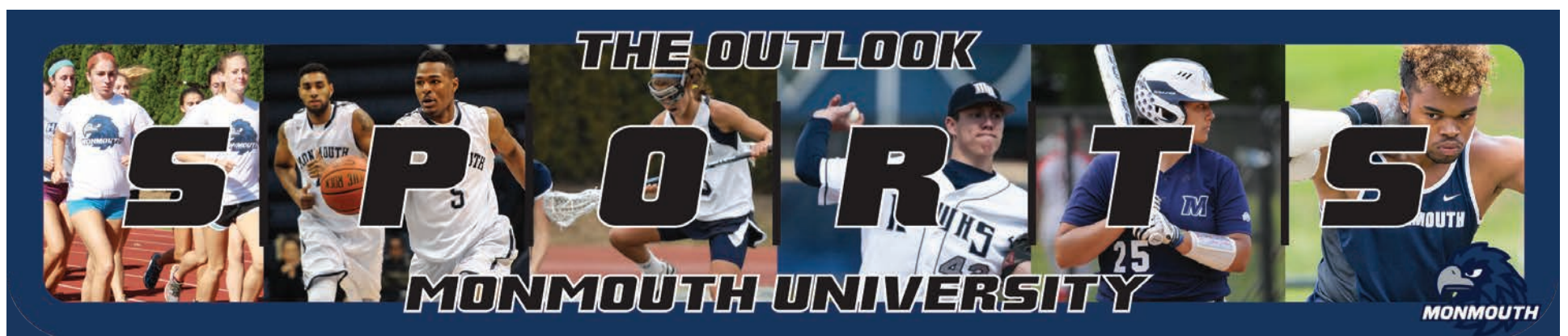
PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Women’s bowling bounced back strong on Saturday knocking down 4,644 pins for an average of 185.8.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Freshman right-hander Jenna Lehrer made the Garden State Classic All-Tournament Team.



SPRINGING INTO FIRST



Monmouth football was picked to come in first in the 2021 Big South Spring Preseason Poll, with the season slated to begin on Mar. 13.