



THE OUTLOOK

MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY'S
STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1933

OUTLOOK.MONMOUTH.EDU

February 24, 2021

VOL. 93 No. 15

Second Annual Toni Morrison Day Celebrates African-American Author

MELISSA BADAMO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF / FEATURES EDITOR

The second annual Toni Morrison Day, hosted by the Department of English, took place via Zoom on Thursday, Feb. 18. The all-day event celebrated the life of late African American author Toni Morrison and the conversations of race and marginalization

highlighted throughout her novels. The event was co-sponsored by the Office of the Provost, the Monmouth Review Club, and the Inter-cultural Center.

"This event, although only being held for two years, is so important to the Monmouth English Department community," said Gabriella Arabio, a senior English student who presented at the student symposium portion of the event,

where students presented academic pieces surrounding the topics of race and gender. "Through the works of Toni Morrison and other great writers, students and faculty can expand their interests and points of view on important topics such as gender equalities and race."

The event began with a

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IMAGE TAKEN from Yale University Website

Panelists at the virtual Toni Morrison Day discussed the topic of race and marginalization that appears throughout her published work.

Panel Discusses Governance of Marine Shipping and Sovereignty

ISABELLA HANNA
STAFF WRITER

The Institute for Global Understanding (IGU) and Urban Coast Institute (ICU) hosted a panel discussion of international experts' examination on governance of marine shipping and maritime sovereignty within the context of climate change on Friday, Feb. 19. This event is one of several talks in the IGU-UCI's Global Ocean Governance Lecture Series—a project that has worked to assemble professionals of different specialties to discuss issues focused around coastal and marine ecosystems.

Three featured guest speakers gave separate and detailed lectures on distinct realms of maritime sovereignty, the study of states extending their territorial boundaries,

and thereby responsibilities, to the waters surrounding them. Randall Abate, J.D., Chair in Marine and Environmental Law and Policy and Professor in the Department of Political Science and Sociology mediated the lectures, facilitating dialogue between the panelists.

Abate has delivered several lectures on climate justice and animal law at law schools around the world, including Oxford and the University of Melbourne.

Before presenting the lectures for this event, Abate gave the floor to Director of the UCI, Tony MacDonald, J.D., for his opening remarks for the panel discussion.

"As a result of our efforts to connect with those around the globe, we can take an accurate look at the trust resources that we all share," said MacDonald.

The first lecture was given by Beatriz Martinez Romera,

Ph.D., Associate Professor of Environmental and Climate Change law at the University of Copenhagen (Denmark). Romera's lecture was focused on how the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) regime, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and the European Union (EU) have failed to take years' worth of opportunities to regulate maritime shipping's greenhouse gas emissions.

According to her presentation, shipping accounts for about 3 percent of the global total GHG emissions and is expected to exponentially and dangerously grow by 2050—a prediction cited directly from the IMO.

She explained it has taken years of numerous treaties and

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Public Relations and Journalism Program Named to PRNEWS' 2021 Education A-List

GEORGANNE NIGRO
SENIOR / POLITICS EDITOR

Monmouth University's Public Relations and Journalism program has been named to PRNEWS' 2021 Education A-List on Friday, Feb. 12. The award recognizes the 35 best institutions of higher education advancing of PR and communication professionals in the U.S.

Specialist Professor of Communication, Alexis Nulle, said that some of the key elements to making this list were how well the programs prepare students for continued success in their existing jobs and along their future career paths. She said it also looked at the course delivery options and innovation of the programs to keep current with the changing landscape of the major.

"Our students and faculty are some of the most visionary and creative individuals with their own individual talents. Each faculty member brings their own area of expertise and specific area of interest which is advantageous and beneficial to our students comprehensive learning experience," said Nulle.

She said that the Communication Department also has some of the coun-

try's most highly recognized student organizations such as *The Outlook*, *WMCX*, and *PRSSA*.

"I'm fortunate to serve as faculty co-advisor of our nationally accredited *PRSSA* and *Shadow PR Firm* along with my very talented colleague, Professor Mary Harris, APR," said Nulle. "It's such a rewarding experience to see my students excel in their major while running a nationally accredited PR firm on campus."

John Morano, Professor of Journalism and faculty advisor for *The Outlook*, considers the award an important honor on several levels. He said it is an external, independent validation of what the faculty is trying to accomplish in the program. It signals to the University that the department is moving in the right direction, getting noteworthy results and are respected by professionals of the highest order.

"My hope for the future is that we can maintain this level of excellence and build upon it. I don't see why we can't," said Morano.

"We are not wired to settle for 'good enough'.

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IMAGE TAKEN from Monmouth University Instagram

PRNEWS compiled the list based on each program's ability to prepare students for success in their existing jobs and their future career paths.

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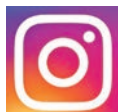
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Dr. Walter McAfee’s Legacy Honored by University Faculty

MATTHEW CUTILLO
MANAGING/ NEWS/ LIFESTYLES EDITOR

“Racing into the Space Age: The Life, Scholarship, and Legacy of Dr. Walter S. McAfee,” was held on Friday, Feb. 5. The event honored the accomplishments of the African-American scientist.

The virtual event was organized by the Department of Educational Counseling and Leadership, the Department of History and Anthropology, the School of Science, and the Black History Month Planning Committee.

Steven Bachrach, Ph.D., Dean of the School of Science, gave opening remarks and announced the endowment of the Dr. Walter McAfee Scholarship in Science.

“[The scholarship] is a way to allow for McAfee’s legacy to continue to live on and promote access to the sciences by under-represented students,” Bachrach said. “I’m thrilled to let everybody know that the scholarship has now been endowed with both gifts and pledges. It’s really thrilling to see you here and thank you in person, as well as to launch the kickoff of this scholarship and the effects that it will ripple on with.”

Walter Greason, Ph.D. Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Educational Counseling and Leadership, provided a timeline of McAfee’s accomplishments and connections to Monmouth University.

Greason first learned about McAfee while combing through old yearbooks. “An older African-American’s picture kept appearing through the late 1950s and early 1970s, but his name was never listed,” Greason said. “I was mystified by who this faculty

member was in electrical engineering. There’s no other sign or marker about what he was doing or how he was contributing to the University.”

The man was none other than Walter McAfee, a University faculty member for years at the height of the Civil Rights Movement.

“For me to start to introduce him today, and why his life and legacy carry so much importance, I do have to start with the work that I’ve done on the history of New Jersey and particularly the area around Monmouth University,” Greason said. “It wasn’t always a place dedicated to equal rights and equal justice for everyone. This is a really profound moment in the 1920s when the Ku Klux Klan dominated the Jersey Shore, so just a generation later for someone like Dr. McAfee to become a major contributor to what the Monmouth College was attempting to accomplish is a major breakthrough.”

McAfee’s mother had been denied the ability to become a teacher when he was very young, staying home and essentially homeschooling himself and his siblings, Greason explained.

“She broke through and made [her children] extraordinary thinkers, ambitious scholars who would go on to achieve degrees in the sciences at the peak of Jim Crow,” Greason said.

McAfee graduated from Wiley College in 1934 with a degree in mathematics. He would go on 3 years later to achieve a masters degree of science in physics from Ohio State University, Greason said. About a decade later, McAfee obtained his Ph.D. in

physics from Cornell University.

“It was that decade from 1936 to 1949 where we don’t often think about the contributions of African-American scientists that really grew out of the second New Deal and a lot of the initiatives that Franklin Roosevelt had put together,” Greason said.

What particularly makes McAfee famous is his “moon bounce” experiment in which he figured out the speed of the moon relative to the Earth by transmitting a radio signal through the atmosphere. He also anticipated when it would come back and how to receive that signal. “That opens the door to what we now think of as the Space Age,” Greason said.

“It was going beyond simple, potential satellite communications and radio communication,” Greason said. “A lot of the time [McAfee] was at Monmouth, there were questions that he was answering through mathematics about missile guidance and combat theater communications.”

Most of what we understand as the military strength of the United States in the Cold War can be traced back to McAfee’s skill in mathematics and physics, as well as his contemporaries and colleagues, Greason continued.

Walter McAfee represents a symbolic breakthrough that would not be matched until the hiring of Julius Adekunle, Ph.D. in the late 1990s to join the history Department, Greason explained.

“Walter McAfee set the standard for an inclusive faculty and educational experience that foreshadowed generations of African-Americans breaking through

in the early 1970s and 1980s to become Monmouth University students and Monmouth University graduates,” Greason said.

Melissa Ziobro, Specialist Professor of Public History, was the last Command Historian at Fort Monmouth, where McAfee worked, before the base closed. She has known about McAfee’s work since her time there in 2004.

McAfee recalled in a 1994 Oral History interview that several government agencies initially rebuffed his attempts to gain employment, he assumed, based on his race, Ziobro explained. “[His race] was not something he could hide during the application processes as most applications required a photograph,” Ziobro said. “Fort Monmouth, according to McAfee, did not require a photo.”

He received instructions to report to the base in central New Jersey almost immediately after submitting his paperwork. “He resigned from a steady teaching job in order to do so despite these fears that he might be turned away once he gets here and fort officials discover his race, but those fears

dissipate when McAfee arrives at the fort and finds a number of African-American scientists already at work,” Ziobro said.

Though he has secured employment, he still has to deal with off-post segregation and discrimination that makes it difficult to get housing and meals, Ziobro explained. This also includes interpersonal discrimination that he must battle on base as well.

Velma McAfee Williams, Ph.D., was a sibling of McAfee. She recalled her brother’s influence on her academic integrity.

“When I graduated from high school, he wrote to congratulate me and to tell me the difference in the education process before I went to college,” Williams said. “How I would take greater responsibility for my own learning process and my own education. At one point in the letter, the statement that stayed with me throughout my schooling was that I should not confuse hazy impressions with knowledge. To me, that was a great statement. I knew exactly what I had to do in regard to what it meant to become educated.”



PHOTO TAKEN from Monmouth University Website
McAfee helped usher in the Space Age with his findings.

Public Relations and Journalism Program Nationally Recognized

EDUCATION cont. from pg. 1

We’re regularly discussing how we can improve ourselves and our program, about what we can do to better prepare students for life beyond Monmouth,” said Morano.

Melissa Badamo, senior English student and Editor-in-Chief of *The Outlook*, said she is not surprised that the Communication Department won this award.

“With their vast experience in the field of journalism and PR, our professors prepare and inspire students to excel in these fields,” said Badamo.

She said that the facilities in the Plangere Center for Communication play a role in student success at Monmouth. Badamo said that the space dedicated to *The Outlook* office allows the editors to gain experience working in an actual newsroom, honing their newswriting, editing, graphic design, and interpersonal skills. She also said that *The Outlook* allows students to experience the field of journalism first-hand.

“Since pursuing a journalism minor my sophomore year, the communication department has transformed my college career. For example, becoming Features Editor then Editor-in-Chief of *The Outlook* allowed me to receive an internship at

the *Asbury Park Press* last summer,” said Badamo.

She said before taking journalism classes at Monmouth, she never considered a career in journalism.

“I wouldn’t be where I am today without *The Outlook*, the journalism department, and its professors,” said Badamo.

Matthew Cutillo, Managing Editor of *The Outlook*, detailed the Communication Department’s influence on his work.

“Without the support of my professors and colleagues, I would be a completely different writer,” Cutillo said. “Every day I’m grateful for the consistent support and top-notch education I receive from

the University. Without it, the skills I’m able to apply to *The Outlook* would be far less. Every journalism class I’ve taken has slowly built myself and my peers into the young, aspiring journalists we are today.”

Cutillo says that he notices this appreciation in other clubs as well.

“You can tell across the board, we are all satisfied,” Cutillo said. “Any student who participates in a club or organization feels as though it’s a natural progression from our coursework.”

Marina Vujnovic, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Communication, said that the communication degree is often misunderstood and there is this myth that somehow if one does not know what to

study, but they want an easy degree, that they should study communication.

“A communication degree is a robust liberal arts program with clear career paths that lead to employment in the media industry, journalism, public relations, and marketing, political communication, and much more,” said Vujnovic. “Our faculty is often faced with instances where we need to debunk this myth on campus and outside of the campus.”

She also said that this award confirms that the University’s communication degree is on par with those at top American institutions such as Columbia University or George Washington University. Vujnovic said that to her, the first and foremost

duty to being a Monmouth University Communication Professor is to work with her students.

She said, “There are few things to compare with being a witness to student discovery and growth. And to be a part of that is the most fulfilling experience. It is also working with such talented and dedicated faculty colleagues that we have here in the Department of Communication.”

Vujnovic said that the Communication Department is constantly looking to improve to be the best in education standards, and to serve their student’s needs.

“This award is a recognition of this mission. And that’s why it means so much,” said Vujnovic.



IMAGE TAKEN by Anthony DePrimo
The award recognizes the 35 best institutions of higher education advancing of PR and communication professionals in the U.S.

FBI Criminal Profiler Discusses Unabomber Case

MATTHEW CUTILLO
MANAGING/ NEWS/ LIFESTYLES EDITOR

James Fitzgerald, an FBI criminal profiler, discussed his role in helping to solve the Unabomber case on Wednesday, Feb. 17. The virtual event was hosted by the Guardians Club and the Criminal Justice Department.

Nicholas Sewitch, J.D., Chair of the Criminal Justice Department and Specialist Professor, introduced Fitzgerald and detailed the profiler’s accomplishments inside and outside of the FBI.

“[Fitzgerald] was doing criminal profiling before most of us knew what it was or had ever heard about it,” Sewitch said.

Fitzgerald is an expert in forensic linguistics and criminal profiling matters, as well as a media entertainment advisor, college professor, and an author of three books in his memoir series ‘A Journey to the Center of the Mind,’ Sewitch explained. “His extensive and varied law enforcement career includes high-profile cases such as the Unabomber, anthrax attacks, the JonBenet Ramsey homicide case and a DC sniper case.”

Post-FBI career, he acted as a technical adviser on the CBS TV series Criminal Minds and executive produced A&E’s Killer Profile. He was also a consulting producer for the Discovery Channel docu-series Manhunt Unabomber.

Fitzgerald joined the FBI in 1987, his first seven years in New York City before a promotion to supervisor in the Quantico profiling unit. While on vacation in the South Jersey Shore, he received a request to act as a profiler in San Francisco for 30 days on the Unabomber task force. As the case developed, 30 days turned into a year and a half.

The Unabomber sent letters to his victims before his bomb packages arrived, creating a paper trail of his linguistic style and literary word choices. The second letter was addressed to a Professor McConnell at the University of Michigan, the Unabomber posing as a student looking for a second opinion on his dissertation. McConnell’s graduate assistant opened the package, seriously injuring him.

Years later, Fitzgerald analyzed the letter while on his flight to join the San Francisco Unabomber task force. “I had a big 3-ring binder with me and I started looking through all the evidence,” Fitzgerald said. “I didn’t know anymore about this case than anyone following it through the media.”

As the flight descended, Fitzgerald used his knowledge of the “acrostic technique” to read the left-hand side of the second letter’s column in search of a possible hidden message. Fitzgerald identified the phrase “DAD IT IS I” from the first letters going straight down. After mentioning

this discovery to his new boss, he was immediately put in charge of all Unabomber case documents.

After the Unabomber’s appearance was detailed by a witness to his computer-store attack, six years passed before he offended again. “[The FBI] thought he may have been arrested in these six years, blown himself up, or maybe got married, had kids and got a job,” Fitzgerald said. “That’s known to happen.”

Once he returned, the Unabomber began to allow the public to understand what he represents, Fitzgerald explained. The bomber always used plural pronouns such as “we” in order to give the impression of a group. On June 21, 1993, the New York Times received the first letter identifying himself.

The Unabomber was originally considered to be a lightly educated, working class person, Fitzgerald explained. The profiler began to expand the range of the bomb-

er’s education after considering the numerous letters’ attention to proper penmanship and grammar.

“What struck me about this letter was two sentences,” Fitzgerald said. The Unabomber stated in his writing that “People with advanced degrees aren’t as smart as they think they are,” and “Apparently people without a college degree don’t count.” Fitzgerald considered these sentences a ploy to throw the FBI off from the bomber’s extensively educated background.

Eventually, the Unabomber offered a deal to the New York Times that if his manifesto were to be published in full, “we” would stop killing through bombings but reserve the right to bomb for sabotage purposes. The manifesto was eventually published in the Washington Post.

A woman at an academic con-

ference in Paris logged on to the newly established FBI.gov website. The FBI put the manifesto on its website, where the woman identified the writing style as her brother-in-law, a man who lives in a Montana cabin.

Her husband read the term “cool-headed logicians” in the manifesto, connecting it to a letter he received from his brother with the same hyphenated phrase. The husband acquired an attorney who contacted the FBI, and the Unabomber was identified as Ted Kaczynski, a man with a Ph.D. in mathematics who had gone off the grid for many years.

Fitzgerald needed to build a case against Kaczynski in order to justify a search warrant of his cabin. With his team, Fitzgerald compared regional spellings and topics discussed between the content of Kaczynski’s letters to his family and the various writings left by the Unabomber.

The linguistic smoking gun which allowed the search warrant to be authorized was a similarity in the verbiage of “You can’t have your cake and eat it too” that appeared throughout documents. A Montana judge signed off on the first ever usage of linguistic evidence in a search warrant.

The Unabomber’s cabin was searched. Bomb-making equipment and the exact type writer considered to have written the various letters and documentation was discovered.



PHOTO TAKEN from History.com
The Unabomber sent letters to each victim before an attack.

Experts Examine Governance of Marine Shipping

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conventions as a result of nations voicing their opinions to expose the environmental challenges these ecosystems face, yet real change is lacking.

“The Paris Agreement was a missed opportunity to clarify fundamental aspects hindering the regulation of shipping emissions because of conflicting objectives, principles, and preferences for regulatory instruments,” stated Romera.

“There are aspects of the 2015 Paris Agreement that highlight the lack of tools to deal with international shipping.”

Nonetheless, Romera mentioned how the forum is shifting post-Paris to strengthen and increase unilateral action so as to drastically reduce emissions and

embolden the vision for decarbonization.

Following Romera’s presentation was Samira Idllalene, Ph.D., Professor of Law at Caddi Ayyad University (Morocco). Her lecture explored how the atmospheric Waqf principle in Muslim countries promotes nature’s trust in the marine environment.

Idllalene continued from Romera’s established legal perspective, stating that “Marine environmental law is a technical aspect of law; however, the bottom line of any environmental issue is the ethics, what all statutes share and derive their purpose.”

The atmospheric principle, referred to as Waqf, has its connections to Sharia within the Muslim world, which is known as Islamic canonical law. Idllalene underscored that this principle has direct

ties to environmental law and climate change.

“Waqf is an ancestral institution that has fallen into disuse, largely purposed for building mosques and schools, unrelated to its ecological roots.”

“It is essential to revitalize the Waqf principle so as to reintroduce the importance of environmental law and change in the Muslim world,” said Idllalene.

As highlighted by Idllalene at the end of her presentation, the promise is in the smaller, grassroots environmental firms that are paving the way for a more uniform adoption of the Atmospheric Waqf.

The last panelist to lecture during this event was Joanna Siekiera, Ph.D., an international lawyer and postdoctoral fellow at the University of Bergen (Norway). Siekiera specializes in legal

and political relations in the South Pacific, concentrating on rising sea levels.

Siekiera revisited the notion of maritime sovereignty in regard to pacific islands, specifically considering legal dilemma of islands that are categorized as entities, not sovereign states.

“We all know that this problem of seal levels rising is not a new phenomenon; rather, it is a problem that has continued to progress for some decades,” stated Siekiera.

“With that considered, countries, for the first time last year, decided to issue a non-legally binding paper that does not necessarily examine the legal threats to offshore entities (islands and coastal lands), but instead analyzes the implications of existing state practices.”

According to Siekiera, the aim of all states is to secure

peace and stability, yet there are states that will not concern themselves with sinking islands. Nevertheless, there are regional practices, as presented in South America, that if implemented by other entities, could help reduce this ever-evolving problem.

Abate emphasize this concluding point, stating that “sea level rise threatens developed countries, too, especially with respect to national security concerns. Perhaps this dimension needs to be emphasized for increased engagement on sea level rise adaptation in the developed world.”

Upon the lecturers finishing their presentations, Abate concluded, “these are all very interesting observations that have brought to light perspectives I, and am sure many, have not yet thought about.”



IMAGE TAKEN from Pexels.com
Three featured guest speakers gave separate and detailed lectures on distinct realms of maritime sovereignty and the study of states extending their territorial boundaries.

THE OUTLOOK

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Are Students Being Overworked?

EDITORIAL STAFF

With the changes students have experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic, it begs the question: are students being overworked?

This pandemic has been a transition for professors and students alike, who are both trying to find balance. Some students have suggested that professors expect too much, overloading them with assignments. Meanwhile, professors have to provide classwork and homework for students on top of ex-

success, but is it also harmful if those expectations are set too high?

"I think the students' and professors' expectations are right where they are supposed to be," the editor recalled. "Personally, everyone I have encountered, both students and professors, have been understanding and empathetic when it comes to school work in this pandemic."

Another editor shared, "My expectations for myself have been pretty high since before we switched to online classes. I have to remind myself to slow

being more lenient because of the circumstances this year, which is good and vital right now."

Many professors have been generous with extending deadlines even before the pandemic. Now, when the pandemic has fostered a grueling academic climate for some, their leniency has been put to the test.

An editor recalled one professor who displayed compassion during an online class. The editor said, "My dog passed away in the beginning of last semester and I had to submit an assignment a day late,

"[Assignments] feel harder to manage because we were thrown into this virtual environment that many of us were not used to and/or don't like."

ams, papers, and so much more. How do professors know when enough is enough?

"I feel like professors are assigning the same amount of work than if we were in person," one *Outlook* editor commented. "It just feels harder to manage because we were thrown into this virtual environment that many of us were not used to and/or don't like."

Zoom classes can be taxing. Students went from sitting in the classroom to learning either on the computer or on their own. Some professors set high standards for their students, and many students set high standards for themselves. Not setting expectations can impair

down once in a while and take breaks, especially since the digital world and Zoom classes can be so draining."

With changing the way students learn, there also comes changes to deadlines and grades. Students may argue that it has become harder to achieve good grades. "This can be true for some students as there is a lack of motivation," one editor said. "Students are isolated and lonely, and this can cause students to do the bare minimum when it comes to assignments."

Another editor added, "I do not think grades and deadlines are too strict. I feel like they are

and my professor was very understanding." Dealing with death can be hard, and students have faced more of it in the past year than normal. Providing students the time to grieve and process is important.

With many stressors surfacing over the past year, professors have been a lot more understanding. One editor said, "I definitely feel like there is more leniency with my classes, especially when it comes to exams. Since most of my exams are open notes, it makes test-taking a lot less stressful."

The past year has been challenging for many people, and it can sure feel like students are being overworked.

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The Outlook provides the Monmouth University community with information concerning issues in and around the University while serving as a forum for expression of the ideas of its readers.

Contributions must be submitted (email outlook@monmouth.edu) by 12:00 p.m. Sundays to *The Outlook* office, 2nd floor, room 260, Plangere Center.

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Pandemic Relationships: The Good, the Bad, and Everything Else

PAMELA BANZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It has been nearly a year into the pandemic and we often reflect on how quarantine has affected our interpersonal relationships. Has it improved our platonic and romantic relationships, worsened them, or retained dynamic?

But, hey—Why not Option D: All of the above?

The pandemic has been a masterclass of self-reflection and evolving one's methods of communication, whether being forced to stay distanced, or forced into consistent proximity. Both are new challenges we face, as most of us aren't given nearly the same freedoms we're prone to for residing in our introverted, nor extroverted natures.

We have to exist in discomforts; discomforts of isolation and putting in more effort to communicate with those afar, discomforts in the lack of accessibilities to normal social functionalities (bars, parties, concerts, events), and discomforts of being in company on a near-constant basis. With these facets in mind, it is truly not a wonder that most people would actually find that the pandemic has been more harmful towards relationship than helpful.

I understand. Is it a terrible thing to come to terms with being forced to see incompatibilities or regressions when put to the test now, rather than down the road or in an alternate crisis? Or to clean a slate to make room for those who do improve one's life? Perhaps not. The devolution of relationships that are forced into close proximity sheds light on many dynamics that perhaps were previously missed or seen-yet-deflected, due to our usual escapism. We see how our

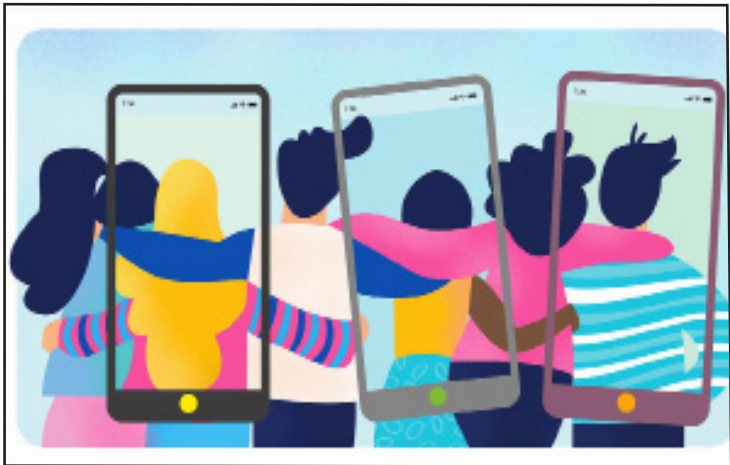


PHOTO TAKEN from: Wellesley College

Friendship during a pandemic has many endings.

relationships fare when a party faces unemployment, isolation, depression, etc. which no relationship was impervious to, beyond the pandemic, in the first place. Also, we see a test of compatibility in cohabitation. Those who have not made it through these eye-opening experiences may have been best to see these incompatibilities and come to terms that they were not in an ideal situation. This is regarding friendships, families, and romantic partnerships.

On the flip side of the quarantine coin, when forced into distance, we grasp how far others will put effort into maintaining relationships. Those that have digressed may be an experiencing quite an awakening that a relationship may not be as close if effort is a sheer obligatory requirement that cannot quite be met.

Of course, many kinships will decline if communication and compatibility cannot assuage the strife, which brings me to why the pandemic has absolutely improved relationships, as well. The challenges we have and continue to face

while in quarantine prove unshakable, closer bonds when parties are able to communicate, compromise, commit to efforts, and to respect boundaries. This has happened, as I see families strike up new activities together, couples announcing engagements and pregnancies, and friends sharing moments. COVID-19 may have rocked quite-a-many relationships, but it has reinforced innumerable others in a wonderful, substantial way.

But, then we do have those who have had their interpersonal relationship maintain, whether because they've already been through vulnerabilities, reinforced healthy methods of maintaining, previously...or because this is where the introverted homebodies truly shine. Regardless of whether there is an absolute, overarching answer to how relationships are faring during a taxing time, what this should continue to teach us, as we continue to re-align our social dynamics, is that we are all navigating within these new parameters, so we must do what we can to love others,

Eating Disorders

GIANNA FERRARO
STAFF WRITER

No matter where you look on social media platforms, you can find that eating disorders are being glorified whether it's on TikTok, Instagram or Facebook. Even though there have been strides made towards body positivity, eating disorders are not a thing of the past just yet. One of the main problems with eating disorders is that some people do not know they have them. Diet culture has become so toxic, that differentiating a diet and an eating disorder is a very thin line. Influencers have played a huge role in disordered eating through their content whether they realize it or not. It's crucial that people who are consuming this content, especially females, are educated about eating disorders.

Eating disorders affect women, men, and children of all ages. Typically, we consume media that makes us feel we have to look a certain way. It makes us feel as if we need to have the "ideal body" in order to be seen as attractive in today's society. However, there is no such thing as the "perfect" body. Every single body is different and unique in its own way, which is what makes us who we are. Society creating this idea that there is a "perfect" body is extremely toxic and the reason why there are various eating disorders.

Eating disorders are more than just the consumption of food. It is a mental health condition that is extremely exhausting and controlling. This can be through obsessing over

counting calories, not eating enough food, and/or extensively working out for multiple hours in one day. A lot of times what is happening is that the person has a fear of being overweight, so they try to control the food they are putting into their body in an excessive way. There are healthy ways to lose weight that are not disordered eating.

With the media controlling the image of what is the "perfect" body, there are a lot of triggers for disordered eating on social media. "Thinspo" is a term that has been used for the past decade to promote a certain body type through eating disorders, which ultimately means "thin inspiration." When we go online, there are thousands of pictures of influencers promoting the "ideal" body. Whether it's through photos, "What I Eat in A Day" posts, or one size fits all clothing, influencers can unknowingly promote eating disorders. It's important to be aware of this and to spread healthy eating and body positivity.

No matter how much body positivity we try to spread, there will always be the toxic culture around dieting and eating disorders. Health looks different for every individual person and it is important for influencers to recognize this. As a community, we need to acknowledge the content we pay attention to and consume. What may seem like a harmless photo or video, might be promoting disordered eating. It is important to spread awareness about these disorders and create healthy eating habits.

February Is American Heart Month

SHANNON MCGORTY
OPINION EDITOR

This February is the 57th consecutive American Heart month, a month dedicated to bringing recognition to heart disease.

Did you know that according to the American Heart Association, heart disease is the number one killer of Americans? No—not many people do.

You aren't given a set amount of time, and the time you do have can't be traded later. Based on data that the

American Heart Association gathered in 2018, someone dies every 36 seconds. If you do the math, that is 2,380 a day and 868,700 a year.

Having someone in your family with heart disease makes it more likely that you get some form of heart disease. Little unknown fact, what you eat, do and what you're around can impact your probability of getting heart disease.

Not all heart diseases are life threatening, and they don't always mean you have to get a transplant. High

blood pressure is a form of heart disease. Taking care of yourself helps to manage it and lowers the risk of it getting worse.

I am three times more likely to get heart disease than someone my age. Knowing that and facing that can be scary, but I will never let that stop me.

I come from two families where heart disease is an issue. Both my parents have faced heart disease. One had an okay ending, and the other, not so much. I am not telling my story for pity or for attention, I am telling you because heart disease is terrifying and it is often overlooked, but most importantly it is real.

When I was 18 months old, my dad died from congestive heart failure (CHF). Now, my father was no saint. He drank and smoked, which made it harder for his heart to pump. He suffered with this for most of his adult life, and it only got worse with time.

Because of heart disease, my father not taking the best care of himself, and the fact that my father had a chance of getting heart disease genetically, I never got to know my father. That alone made

me passionate for the cause, but that wasn't the end of my interactions with heart disease.

My mother also suffers

me way too soon. My freshman year hear at Monmouth, I learned that a family friend that I have known my whole life died from a broken heart.

"Those two men, my father and my friend Tommy, were two goodbyes said too soon due to heart disease."



IMAGE TAKEN from Edward-Elmhurst Health

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in Americans.

from CHF, but unlike my father she also suffers CAD (coronary artery disease). She has high blood pressure and has stents in her heart to help it pump effectively. My mother stopped smoking to take care of herself and is luckily still alive, but these diseases are ever present and are on a long list of other diseases she faces. Heart disease is something she has to consider in everything she does.

Throughout my life people that I know and love have battled heart disease and more people than I would like to admit were taken from

That might seem made up, but broken heart syndrome is a real thing. In broken heart syndrome, a part of your heart temporarily enlarges and doesn't pump well. Tommy had lost his wife just weeks before and the stress of losing the woman he loved caused his heart to break.

Those two men, my father and my friend Tommy, were two goodbyes said too soon due to heart disease.

Too many people are uneducated on heart disease. That is why I wrote this and that is why I fight. I will not be another statistic.

Students Discuss Graduate School Experiences

DENISSE QUINTANILLA
STAFF WRITER

“What is the right path for me to take after college?”

That is the question many college seniors ask themselves. Some may choose to dive straight into the workforce, others prefer to take a break before applying to jobs, and others choose to pursue graduate school.

Graduate school is an option that always lingers in the back of students’ minds as they juggle the many factors that can influence this decision.

Kelly Grant, a ’20 alum, studied radio and television as an undergrad and holds a master’s degree in corporate and public communication from Monmouth University.

“I finished up graduate school in May of 2020, and I decided to attend because I was able to financially support my degree by working as a graduate assistant,” she said. “Plus, I was able to really tailor my classes and schedule to build a curriculum that matched my desired experience in social media, video production and professional communication.”

Grant enjoyed every minute as a graduate student and found value in every class she took. “Grad school was an intimate experience for me,” she said. “I got to know my professors and peers very well, and I got to choose areas of study that aligned with my professional goals. I would say no moment in my graduate experience was wasted. My classes, internship and graduate assistantships were all



Some students describe graduate school as financial and mental investment, yet one that yields educational growth and helps them in their careers.

enriching.”

Students like Grant who pursue a master’s degree hope that it will serve them for a better future.

“[My master’s degree] made all the difference...The experience from graduate school provided me with a portfolio of work...[and] also allowed for me to demand a higher entry level salary that has set me up for success early-on in my career.” Grant landed a job at Commvault, a software company based in Tinton Falls, after one of

her classmates recognized her potential and introduced her to employees at the company.

Karla Avila, a student pursuing a master’s degree in business administration, decided to pursue graduate school in order to grow in her career. “I also enjoy studying and while I am still young, I want to go as far with my education as I possibly can because it is something I value very dearly,” she said. “I am really enjoying learning about things that I did not

know before. I am expanding my knowledge and learning a lot from professors and classmates. Even though everything is virtual I feel like I am still learning a lot.”

Meanwhile, Mariah Laster, a senior psychology student, is contemplating the idea of pursuing a Doctor of Psychology Degree (Psy.D) in Clinical Psychology.

Laster said, “Psychology is a true passion of mine and it holds the answer to so many of life’s questions pertaining to understanding hu-

man behaviors and motives, which is what I enjoy most about in the field. The knowledge in psychology is endless, and I would love to devote my life to its teachings.”

However, Laster faces many external factors influencing her decision. “Attending graduate school is a big commitment, especially when considering the length of time and the workload. The most intimidating aspect of grad school for me is the financial aspect of it. For my program I would have to take out over \$100,000 in loans.”

Although the commitment and financial aspect of grad school seems daunting, Laster has applied to several graduate schools in hopes of attending next year in the fall.

“Grad school will allow me to become a Clinical Psychologist, where I can teach at a university and work within the field of forensic psychology,” she said. “This career path is rewarding and will give me a life of personal fulfillment. My advice to anyone who is still deciding on grad school is to follow your passion and if you cannot achieve your dreams without grad school, then don’t let anything stop you from going.”

Grant offered insight about the relationship between graduate school and money. “Graduate school is an investment,” she said. “Search for scholarship and assistantship opportunities so you can really thrive once you graduate and aren’t weighed down by much debt. If money is a non-factor, then I would say absolutely go for it if you think the experience will be fulfilling.”

English Department Hosts “Toni Morrison Day”

MORRISON cont. from pg. 1

faculty pedagogy panel featuring Dr. Heide Estes, Beth Swanson, and Dr. Abha Sood of the English Department, Dr. Walter Greason of Educational Counseling and Leadership, and Anne Deepak of the School of Social Work. The event followed with a keynote address from Dr. Keisha N. Blain, Associate Professor of African American History at the University of Pittsburgh.

“When we began planning Toni Morrison Day back in September, we knew there was a strong likelihood that it would need to be all virtual this year to accommodate the COVID-19 health crisis, and we decided to approach it as an opportunity, rather than a challenge,” said Beth Swanson, Lecturer of English and Advisor of Sigma Tau Delta, the English Honor Society. “Hosting the event remotely actually worked in our favor because it enabled us to expand our outreach beyond campus. We were able to invite guests and include participants from a much larger community, which resulted in a much more high-profile event.”

The student symposium continued afterwards, featuring scholarly readings from five students: MA English student Anthony Clark on the topic of colorism in Morrison’s novel *The Bluest Eye*; sophomore music student Jenae Louis-Jacques on race and cinematography; senior

English education student Nikki Ortt on the oppression of women in a male-dominated society found in Morrison’s novel *Sula*; senior English education student Gabriella Arabio on feminism within the entertainment industry; and English student Latisha Liang on the racial injustice and violence explored in Marilyn Nelson’s poem “A Wreath for Emmett Till.”

“Presenting my paper for Toni Morrison Day was such a profound experience,” Clark said. “Given the powerful literary titan that Morrison is, it was such an honor to be able to discuss her work. She is someone who I have always looked up to both personally and in my writing life, because of her courage to write about emotionally taxing subjects that shift our consciousness.”

“The experience of presenting my work at the Toni Morrison Day Event was very rewarding,” Arabio said. “The entire audience at the event were extremely supportive and asked thought-provoking questions about the works presented.”

Swanson said, “I felt really inspired by the Student Symposium because so many of the participants were either members of Sigma Tau Delta or former students of mine, and it was wonderful to see how empowered they were by sharing their work and how their presentations led to really important cultural conversations with other students and faculty who attended the session.”

The day concluded with a reading by multi-award-winning author, Tracy K. Smith, who received the 2012 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry and served as 22nd Poet Laureate of the United States from 2017 to 2019. Smith recited poems about femininity, racial identity and culture, sexuality, and power.

“Planning and participating in Tracy K. Smith’s readings was truly an honor,” said Melissa Lauria, senior English student, President of Sigma Tau Delta, and Editor-in-Chief of the Monmouth Review, the student-run literary magazine. “Smith’s poetry beautifully follows in Morrison’s footsteps, but also celebrates its own nuance and uniqueness. I was absolutely thrilled with the turnout from both faculty and students alike.”

Swanson also said that she was thrilled with the turnout of each event. “I couldn’t believe the surge in registration we received when our registration went live,” she said. “I’m also very grateful to many of our campus partners—like the Honors School, the Intercultural Center, and PGIS—who helped us with promotional outreach. I remember watching the waiting rooms on each Zoom call and being amazed by how many people not only participated in the celebration, but also attended multiple events throughout the day.”

Morrison received the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and the Nobel Prize in Literature. Notable works include *The Bluest*



On Toni Morrison’s birthday on Feb. 18, students and faculty came together virtually to honor the author’s timeless novels and the conversations of race surrounding them.

est Eye (1970), *Sula* (1973), *Song of Solomon* (1977), *Tar Baby* (1981), and *Beloved* (1987). Feb. 18 would have been Morrison’s 90th birthday.

“I believe that students and faculty alike can connect with Toni Morrison’s works and legacy, because every archetype of African American people are represented in her books,” Clark said. “Thus, she is one of the many authors who have reminded us that African American people are not a monolith. Her works are just as timely in the present day as they were during their initial publications, because the topics that she wrote about are still happening today.”

“I hope Toni Morrison Day eventually evolves into an annual whole-campus event, so it sounds like we are off to a promising start,” Swanson said. “Toni Morrison’s legacy is so far-reaching...I think as a campus community—and as a human community—we share the responsibility to advocate for cultural change that will cut paths towards equality, equity, and the type of shared future Morrison envisioned. I believe this is what Toni Morrison Day really stands for—an opportunity to come together and recommit ourselves to being better, more self-aware, more culturally-responsive, more empathetic, kinder.”

Losing Friends From The Pandemic: What’s Next?

MATTHEW CUTILLO
MANAGING/ NEWS/ LIFESTYLES EDITOR

The pandemic has brought a lot of change, but that goes without saying. Worldly change aside, we’ve all experienced very stern differences in our personal lives as well. COVID-19 has pushed us all inward, and the insulated experience of it all has pushed loved ones away too. About a year ago when the pandemic was nationally declared, I remember speaking with one of my oldest childhood friends about it. He said to me, “I see this as a fresh start. A rebirth.” I didn’t know what he meant

at the time, but I assumed it had something to do with housekeeping your personal life. Since the pandemic pushed us all inwards, there’s been a stronger sense of individuality throughout everyone involved. We’ve all been forced to spend more time with ourselves, and perhaps even reevaluate who we’d like to spend time with once it’s all said and done. I noticed that same friend becoming more distant as time went on. I had to text them first more and more, and plans that were created were always cancelled. Promising myself I wouldn’t

text first, it’s now been an entire year since we’ve spoken. The truth of the matter is that people use the pandemic as a means to escape one another, the “fresh start” involves using COVID-19 as an excuse to leave anyone you didn’t feel comfortable enough being honest with. It’s understandable for people to use this alone time to evaluate themselves and what they want out of the world. We’ve all changed during this past year, and the “new” version of ourselves that have been created sometimes don’t have room for reminders of our old lives. I didn’t take it personally, if

anything I admire their personal growth and wish the best. That doesn’t mean it won’t hurt, though. We all fall into routines, some lasting years in the form of friendships. When those ties are cut, it can sting. There’s nothing worse than no closure, but you can’t control others actions. The self-evaluation you can commit during this time is the acceptance of letting go of what you can’t control. Let go of what you can’t control and look towards what you can. The people directly around you who you interact with every day,

they’re your real friends. The ones who stuck with you during this year. Don’t let anything happen to them. They are real, and they love you. If you made it through a pandemic together, you’ll make it through anything. The friends you lost along the way... Well... We all have people for different times of our life. When one door closes, another opens. Don’t spend too much time looking back or you’ll hear the one in front of you slam. Assess who you have and what you wish to accomplish with them. Make an amazing future together and just keep pushing forward.



There are different people for different times of your life. Don't get hung up on a past that doesn't affect your present. IMAGE TAKEN from Pexels.com

Adorable Adoptables



Boifriend



Male!

Three years old & loves to be petted!

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Three years old & loves to play!

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First Nintendo Direct in Over a Year Misses the Mark

ALEX DYER
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

It was Feb. 17, and I, like many Nintendo fans, was excited. The first Nintendo Direct in over a year came to us on Wednesday, ostensibly to reveal new information about some of the revered video game company’s most highly-anticipated new content, following a lengthy hiatus from announcements since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Needless to say, many were expecting some big announcements. So why was it so...underwhelming? The first announcement made during the 50-minute Direct was a longish cinematic featuring characters from *Xenoblade Chronicles 2*. It meanders a bit, but one character, Pyra, exclaims playfully: “I got an invitation to join *Smash*!” Soon after, it’s revealed that her counterpart, Mythra, will be joining at the same time. While I think it’s neat that two DLC characters were announced simultaneously for *Smash* (which hasn’t been done so far for *Ultimate*), and I’m sure that *Xenoblade* fans are thrilled, I think I speak for many when I say that I was hoping for a more iconic character to join the roster of one of my favorite fighting games.

Next on the list of exciting new announcements: Japanese role-playing games (JRPGs)...a lot of them. *Bravely Default 2*, “Project Triangle Strategy,” a *Legend of Mana* remaster, *World’s End Club*, and *Miitopia* are just some of the RPGs that had revelations during Nintendo’s presentation. While RPGs are great for people who enjoy strategy, their somewhat repetitive play style and anime-based art direction is uninteresting to a lot of the present audience. One of my personal highlights from the Direct was the trailer for the upcoming *Mario Golf: Super Rush* for the Switch. Mario sports games feel almost as if they’re tailor-made for hanging out with friends and having a blast. No matter your age, there is something about seeing a little

plumber or massive ape drive a ball 150 yards downrange that contributes hugely to a friendly competitive atmosphere. There were other games announced that I am genuinely interested in. *Neon White*, a card-based RPG featuring Heaven as the setting, has you play as a demon exterminator, presumably to protect paradise from corruption. Another game that piqued my interest was a collection of three *Ninja Gaiden* remasters slated for release in the coming year—*Ninja Gaiden Sigma*, *Ninja Gaiden Sigma 2*, and *Ninja Gaiden 3: Razor’s Edge*—which seems like it will be a good chance to revitalize the once venerated-for-its-difficulty series, which isn’t talked about much today. Next...*DC Super Hero Girls: Teen Power*. When this game was announced instead of something like a rumored Bayonetta 3 or Pikmin 4, I had to check if I was in a really detailed fever dream; while I love and wholeheartedly support the idea of games for kids, this was as far as humanly possible from the Direct that I was expecting. The endowment of *DC Super Hero Girls* upon the masses truly cemented the idea that this was not a stellar Nintendo Direct. But I was internally begging to be proved wrong. Then came the end of the Direct. One last announcement.

The screen faded in to reveal Eiji Aonuma, the well-known producer of the *Legend of Zelda* series. This is it, I thought. This is where Nintendo finally reveals how hard they’ve been working on the sequel to their 2017 masterpiece *The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild*—which they have previously said nothing about besides confirming its existence—and slap a release date on it. “We apologize. Development is proceeding smoothly, and we should be able to bring you some new information this year. For now, we’ll have to ask you to wait just a bit longer,” he said, regarding *Breath of the Wild 2*. Ouch. Instead, Nintendo pump faked us, revealing an upcoming HD remaster for the 2011 *Zelda* installment *Skyward Sword*. I like *Skyward Sword*; a lot! But with the absolute famine I had for *Breath of the Wild 2* news, along with the only news being “there is no news,” really disappointed me. I love Nintendo, and yes, I am certainly going to partake in some of the content announced. However, being that the most exciting announcement from such a widely talked-about and anticipated presentation is *Mario Golf*, maybe that’s a sign Nintendo could’ve given a little bit more than this overall lackluster Direct.



IMAGE TAKEN from Screenshot
In the first Nintendo Direct since Sept. 2019, the company announced upcoming games and expansions to existing games, like the addition of Pyra (left) and Mythra (right) from *Xenoblade Chronicles 2* to *Super Smash Brothers Ultimate* as DLC fighters.

Daft Punk: Legacy 1993-2021

JASMINE RAMOS
STAFF WRITER

On Feb. 23, French EDM duo Daft Punk announced their split on all social media platforms after seven years of no new releases. They revealed an eight-minute long video titled “Epilogue,” which included a clip of their 2006 sci-fi film *Electroma*. In the video, both characters are seen walking together in a desert alone. With no dialogue, the two come face-to-face, as the one with the silver helmet takes off his Daft Punk jacket, revealing a button. Once pressed, he walks away and self-destructs into pieces. The screen fades to black as the song “Touch” begins to play. The lyrics, “If love is the answer, you’re home” are heard as both silver and gold hands touch, with 1993 to 2021 shown on the bottom of the screen. With the video up to interpretation, thousands of fans flooded to the internet to speculate if they were officially done with music altogether or if they were going their separate ways entirely. According to *The New York Times*, their publicist Kathryn Frazier confirmed their breakup and that there were no further comments at the moment. Other commenters were

content with how they announced their farewell, calling it a “classy way to announce their departure,” as Reddit user AHSWeeknd posted. However, for many, it came as a surprise, as they hadn’t done much in seven years. Reddit user Stelladesanta stated, “I thought this was a new album trailer when I pressed play? Now my heart is broken, and my day is ruined.” Thomas Bangalter, usually wearing his iconic silver helmet, and Guy-Manuel de Homem-Christo, in his matching gold helmet, were to be considered huge pioneers to the Electronic and Dance community. With their robotic look and sound, they brought something different and fresh to the table that many hadn’t heard or seen before. Their 1997 debut album, *Homework*, gave the world classic songs such as “Around the World” and “Da Funk.” In October 2011, *NME* placed “Around the World” number 21 on their list of “150 Best Tracks of the Past 15 Years.” With their follow up album, *Discovery*, they hit mainstream success with “One More Time” and “Harder, Better, Faster, Stronger.” According to Cartoon Network’s Twitter account, Daft Punk aired their animated music videos for both of those songs and “Digital Love” on their channel in 2001. EDM artist and producer Dillon Francis remembers watching those music videos and how it influenced his career to this day. He posted on Twitter, “I found their music on Cartoon Network when I was 12 becuz [sic] they played the Harder Better Faster Stronger music vid. Fell in Love w [sic] them saw them live at their first Coachella performance. Thank you for all their music and inspiration.” Not only did they inspire other artists to sample their music, such as Kanye West, Janet Jackson and Jazmine Sullivan, but they also transcended into pop culture media. Their signature helmets were featured in an episode of the reboot of *The Powerpuff Girls* in 2016, and they were parodied in *Family Guy* in 2018. They even went on to write and produce films as side projects and worked on the soundtrack to *Tron: Legacy*. Twenty years into their career, Daft Punk blew up once more with their newest, and what is now their last album, *Random Access Memories*. Their lead single, “Get Lucky” feat. Pharrell Williams, went top ten in 32 countries and went multi-platinum in more than 10 countries, according to the Recording Industry Association of America. In a very rare interview with *The New York Times*, Bangalter said that with this album they

wanted to make “every song from scratch, creating a sonic world from the ground up.” He continued, “In some ways it’s like we’re running on a highway going the opposite direction to everybody else... Computers were never designed in the first place to become musical instruments.” That same year, they co-produced tracks with Kanye West on his album *Yeezus*, such as “On Site,” “Black Skinhead,” and “I am a God.” Daft Punk also collaborated with The Weeknd on his hit songs “Star Boy” and “I Feel It Coming.” The Weeknd quickly went to Instagram to praise the duo after their announcement. He posted a series of pictures to honor the time spent with the producers. He also included an interview where he spoke about how Daft Punk inspired him early on in his career. When The Weeknd’s first couple of songs were released, no one knew what he looked like. “It was because of Daft Punk and other artists that like to be...mysterious,” he said. “So being able to work with them, it felt like a bucket list. So, I really wanted to fight for that. And we got into the studio.” He continued to mention that they created both of their songs in two to three days. Several others took to social media to pay their respects to

Daft Punk and their influence on pop culture. DJ Porter Robinson tweeted, “I know this is kind of specific, but when I was about seven years old, I heard ‘Around the World’ and it was the first song I ever heard on repeat. I did this by burning a CD with the same song on it 12 times. Bye Daft Punk, love you.” The official Lego Twitter account posted a picture of the signature helmet heads in Lego form and stated, “Thank you for inspiring generations with your creativity. Farewell robots.” The official Xbox account also said, “Not all heroes wear helmets but some of our favorites do. Thanks, Daft Punk.” According to *Billboard*, Daft Punk racked up six Grammy awards since their first nomination in 1998. Their last performance was with The Weeknd at the 2017 Grammy awards, where they performed “I Feel It Coming.”



IMAGE TAKEN from Billboard (background)/SCREENSHOT TAKEN by Alex Dyer from Daft Punk on YouTube (bottom right)

iCarly Gets an iReboot

MELISSA BADAMO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF/ FEATURES EDITOR

In 5, 4, 3, 2... Nickelodeon's hit show *iCarly* is officially hitting the airwaves again for a reboot. While specific plot details have not yet been released, we do know that the revival, designed for adult audiences, will follow the *iCarly* gang grappling with their adult

lives ten years after the show's finale. According to *OKMagazine*, the show will begin filming soon and is expected to launch in late 2021 or early 2022 on the streaming service Paramount +, a rebrand of CBS All Access.

As one of Nickelodeon's highest-rated series, the original show ran an impressive six seasons from 2007 to 2012, while typical hit shows on the network such as *Drake and Josh*, *Zoey 101*, and *Victorious* are capped at four seasons. The first three seasons of *iCarly* are also available on Netflix as of February, a likely attempt to publicize the reboot.

As of now, Miranda Cosgrove, Nathan Kress, and Jerry Trainor are confirmed to reprise their roles of Carly Shay, tech producer Freddie Benson, and Carly's older brother Spencer Shay, respectively. Those not confirmed to rejoin the show include Jennette McCurdy, who played Carly's best friend Sam Puckett, and Noah Munck, who played the lovable oddball Gibby and was supposed to get his own spinoff after *iCarly* ended.

McCurdy, however, most likely will not be returning. In the past, she has opened up about her unpleasant experience on the network that includes suffering from

an eating disorder while filming *iCarly*, dealing with emotional abuse from her mother who passed away in 2013, and turning to alcohol after feeling unfulfilled with her acting resume. McCurdy has stepped away from acting for the most part, citing the "psychological trauma" of being a child star, according to *NewsWeek*.

"My great 'contribution' to society was walking onto an overlit Nickelodeon set shouting lines about fried chicken (my character liked fried chicken) and that's what kids were looking up to?" McCurdy said of her experience on *iCarly*. "There was something about the shallowness of my success that made me resent it."

Dan Schneider, producer of *iCarly* and other hit shows on the network such as *Drake and Josh*, *Zoey 101*, and *Victorious*, will not be involved with the reboot either. Nickelodeon cut ties with Schneider in 2018 after 24 years, most likely after the controversy regarding his alleged creepy behavior towards young female stars.

While Sam is unfortunately most likely out of the picture, it is possible that other recurring characters might make a guest appearance, such T-Bo, manager of the Groovy Smoothie known for putting various foods on a stick; Mrs. Benson, Freddie's overbearing mother; Nevel Papperman, nemesis of the *iCarly* crew; and Socko, Spencer's friend and maker of creative socks who was only mentioned in various episodes.



IMAGE TAKEN from Instagram: @mirandacosgrove
Miranda Cosgrove (right) posted an Instagram picture with fellow *iCarly* stars, Nathan Kress (left) and Jerry Trainor (center), on Jan. 27



IMAGE TAKEN from JustJared

The original show ended with Carly on a flight to Italy to live with her father, who is in the Air Force, and leaving her web show on hiatus. Meanwhile, in the crossover spinoff *Sam and Cat*, we see that Sam moved to Los Angeles and started a babysitting business with *Victorious*' Cat Valentine. I predict that within the ten years of the show's finale, Carly has returned to Seattle to live with Spencer again, and Sam will still be living in LA—thus a feasible excuse for McCurdy's likely absence from the show.

The internet is quite a

different place since Carly and Sam began their web show in 2007, in the days of MySpace and early YouTube. It will be interesting to see how Carly and the gang tackle the internet in the 2020s, a time where content creators have flocked to wildly popular social media apps like TikTok.

Overall, this revival is the perfect, yet unexpected, throwback for anyone who grew up watching this iconic show. While it won't be the same without Sam and her butter sock, I'm excited to see Carly and (most of) the gang back together.

HAIR NIGHTMARE: Gorilla Glue Woman Goes Viral

CAITLIN CALLAHAN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Tessica Brown, a 40-year-old teacher from Louisiana, was in a rush one day when she realized she was out of her Got2b Glued Blasting Freeze Spray, a staple of her morning routine. In the bathroom, she saw another bottle that looked similar and did not say anything about using it on hair. So she used the adhesive and moved on with her day. Soon, she realized she had actually used Gorilla Glue in her hair. When she realized her mistake, she attempted to wash it out with no luck, thus beginning her hair journey.

Brown lived like this for a month before finally going to TikTok to share her story. In the viral video, she is clearly distressed discussing her hair and her situation. She says, "Y'all look, my hair, it doesn't move. You hear what I'm tellin' you? It doesn't move. I've washed my hair 15 times and it doesn't move."

The TikTok blew up with viewers concerned, confused, and some amused. Though it was funny at first, people soon realized that this adhesive needed to come out of her hair, as it could permanently damage

her scalp.

Brown tried many different solutions before finally going to the ER. She tried tea tree oil, coconut oil, acetone, and saline water, among other at-home remedies. Even her first trip to the hospital proved unsuccessful. As they attempted to take off the adhesive, it began to burn her scalp and wasn't working. Luckily for Brown, a doctor saw her story online and reached out. Dr. Michael Obeng, director of MiKO Plastic Surgery, paid for her flight to his office in Los Angeles, CA and paid for her \$12,500 procedure.

Gorilla Glue has responded to the incident, stating, "Our spray adhesives states in the warning label, '...do not swallow. Do not get in eyes, skin or clothing...' It was noted by some that the label didn't say anything about hair."

The incident has garnered national attention from many celebrities offering support and opinions such as Chance the Rapper, Sunny Hostin, Cardi B, and Wendy Williams. Most stated their empathy for the woman. In the original video, she is clearly distressed and is not thinking of the situation as a joke.

This situation garnered the public's attention due to how outlandish it was. It was a wonder to most how she thought it was okay to put the adhesive in her hair since it said "Gorilla Glue," which is a known adhesive brand. However, many have noted the bottles are very similar and if you're in a rush, you will use whatever you see. It has also opened the door for some to judge the woman for her mistake. Many on Twitter called her out for using this as a way to make money, because of the GoFundMe set up for her to pay her medical bill.

Even with some haters, most rallied to defend Brown, noting that many people have profited or even made careers off of one viral moment, like Bhad Bhabie and Mason Ramsey.

After the surgery, Brown's manager reportedly told TMZ that she will be donating \$20,000 of the more than \$23,000 she made on GoFundMe to The Restore Foundation, Dr. Obeng's foundation that provides specialized plastic and reconstructive surgery to people around the world. She also plans on donating the rest to a family in her hometown and will keep \$1,000 to help pay off hospital bills from her

first visit.

Brown has responded to some of the comments by telling TMZ, "I'm just over the talk shows and the hate groups because they don't know me. And there are some people out there saying, 'oh well she did this for clout...' I did this to get help...I never thought it was going to get this far." Brown also told TMZ she is still experiencing

headaches and tingling from the situation. Brown has also hired a new talent manager and is now verified on Instagram as a result of her viral accident. However, this makes sense, because she has garnered a following due to her humorous personality and online videos. Lucky for Brown, her hair journey has a happy ending.



IMAGE TAKEN from independent.co.uk
Tessica Brown gained internet notoriety after using Gorilla Glue as a replacement for her usual hairspray.

New Jersey's Legal Marijuana Debate

MATTHEW FILOSA
STAFF WRITER

On Nov. 3, 2020, 67 percent of New Jersey voters had voted in favor of the legalization of marijuana, according to the *New Jersey Law Journal*. On Feb. 22, Governor Phil Murphy signed the bills into law, making cannabis legal in the State of New Jersey.

The road to legalization has been a legislative battle at the state house in Trenton.

The referendum in November enabled lawmakers to establish rules for its legalization. With the vote in November, it was an amendment to the New Jersey State Constitution which allows for a pathway to legalization which lawmakers and the Governor alike are debating.

Governor Murphy ran much of his 2017 gubernatorial campaign on legalizing marijuana in the Garden State to address social inequities and generate tax revenue to further fund programs that the state carries out. In Trenton, with a supermajority of political power concentrated in the hands of the Democratic Party, a clear consensus still has not been reached.

The state assembly is in intense debates on how to properly legalize marijuana. The legislation hopes to establish a Cannabis Regulatory Commission, similar to how alcohol and gambling are regulated in the state. At the helm of legal marijuana in the State Assembly is Nick Scutari (D-Union) and Senate President Steve

Sweeny (D-Gloucester). Scutari argues that legal marijuana can help fix decades of injustices on communities of color while a regulated market can help bolster the state economy.

The legalization hit a roadblock in January when Governor Murphy and state legislators had disagreements about underage penalties. Murphy is concerned about under 21 marijuana use and sought penalties for those under the age. Legislators such as Senators Teresa Ruiz (D-Essex), Ron Rice (D-Essex), Nia Gill (D-Essex) and Scutari all pulled support from the bill, which would include penalties. Their fears were that penalties could create a stop and frisk situation or over-policing in vulnerable communities.

Douglas Collier, Professor of

Criminal Justice and a retired DEA Agent, weighed in on the issue. He said, "Trenton needs to do the right thing for our youth, which is paramount for their health and safety." Collier said that the law needs to ensure that minors are protected from getting their hands on the drug for their own safety, but also stressed the importance of education.

Conversations on the subject halted for a while, but have since resumed the week of Feb. 15. The new talks do concede the underage penalties to Governor Murphy, which is a \$50 fine for people aged 18-20 and a warning for those under. But, as per *The Patch*, "The new legislation, however, would effectively end searches of underage people who are under suspicion

of using or possessing the drug. Smelling the drug's odor would also not be a valid reason to investigate."

The talks are moving forward, so New Jersey residents could potentially see the official legalization relatively soon. This all still comes as law enforcement continues to make marijuana-related arrests.

According to NJ.com, 6,000 charges have been filed since the November referendum, but Attorney General Gurbir Grewal put a directive out to local prosecutors to halt or push back low level offenses. Still, the law of the state is that possession of marijuana is still illegal for recreational purposes and the current statutes are being enforced.

John Comiskey, Ed.D., Assistant Professor of Criminal Jus-

tice and retired New York City Police Lieutenant, cited that the law still has not changed. He raised the question, "I do not know to what extent, are they enforcing it per say or is someone being arrested for another charge and it comes up as an incidental charge?"

Often in cases, one is investigated or searched for a differing reason, then law enforcement discovers other applicable charges in the process.

Political science student, Anthony Calamari, stated his views on the legalization efforts. He said, "I believe it's good with respect to decreasing arrests and getting less stigma. I also think it's appropriate to make the legal smoking age the same as the legal drinking age as well."

Overall, the cultural attitudes towards marijuana are changing across the country. If and when New Jersey does legalize it they will join a handful of states in leading the charge.

Nicholas Sewitch, J.D., Chair of the Criminal Justice Department, discussed the implications of legalized marijuana. He said, "There needs to be a few myths cleared up. Laws that criminalize marijuana is a myth in New Jersey. Let's debate marijuana as something different than lowering prison populations."

Sewitch continued, "In states with legalization, fatalities have seen an increase. Alcohol is easy to detect, but marijuana is tested via blood." Trenton has been in deep talks for months with plenty of debate.



IMAGE TAKEN from International Highlife

About 67 percent voted in favor of legalizing marijuana, in the state of New Jersey.

The Passing of Rush Limbaugh

GEORGEANNE NIGRO
SENIOR / POLITICS EDITOR

Rush Hudson Limbaugh III passed away, at age 70, on Feb. 17th. He was a conservative political commentator, an American radio personality, author, and was most known as the host of *The Rush Limbaugh Show*.

In February 2020, Limbaugh announced that he was diagnosed with advanced lung cancer. He continued hosting, while undergoing cancer treatment. Limbaugh has told his listeners he was hopeful to beat cancer, and that they should be hopeful too.

Robert E. Scott, Professor of the Department of Communication, said Limbaugh was an influential media personality with a large audience.

Scott said, "He could generate significant support for mainstream Republicans and help elevate lesser-known candidates to a national stage. However, his boisterous style and brash language was caustic to many and, as a result, he became a divisive figure in media and politics."

Scott also said that regardless of using language that many considered racist, sexist and offensive, Limbaugh became an "influencer" before the trend gained traction with the mass adoption of social media.

"As such, numerous conservative politicians relied on his support. Not everyone agreed with his style, humor or overall tone, but recognized his impact on an enormous audience," he said.

Over on social media, some people expressed their condolences online, and others took the time to bash him. This was causing controversy online.

Donna Dolphin, Associate Professor of Communication, said that there was controversy online regarding Rush Limbaugh because he was conten-

tious.

"He lived his professional life stirring the pot. He was a bigot and marketed himself that way," said Dolphin.

Dolphin said Limbaugh was a pioneer in radio, and he established and popularized the talk show on radio, which was enormously successful as well.

She said in 1987, the FCC revoked the Fairness Doctrine, a rule that required broadcasters to present content from both sides of controversial issues.

"Limbaugh grasped that he

could now be as radical as he wanted," said Dolphin. "He developed his ultra-right-wing persona and used his platform to promote conspiracy theories and a variety of bigoted perspectives. He was racist, misogynist, anti-Semitic, Islamophobic."

Dolphin said that Limbaugh became a powerful spokesperson for the Republican Party and he is credited with contributing greatly to Republican success in 1994. She also said his huge audience of devoted listeners trusted his message.

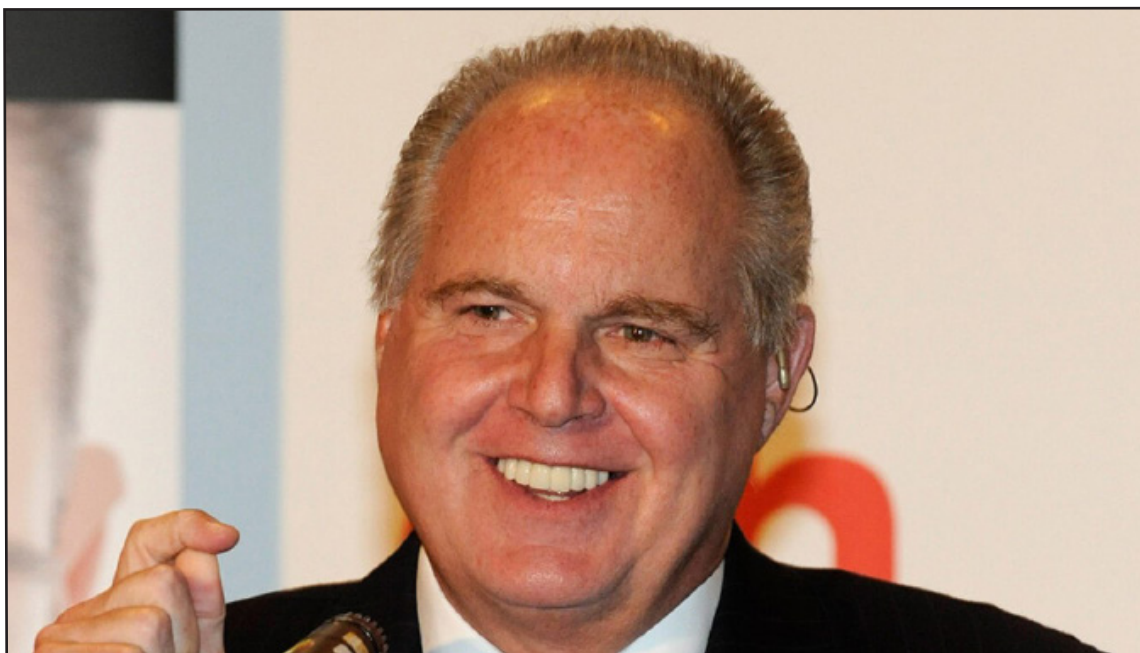


IMAGE TAKEN from Legacy.com

Rush Limbaugh was diagnosed with advanced lung cancer in February 2020, and started undergoing treatment soon after.

Sean Gerhard, Communication TV and Radio Production student, said that Rush Limbaugh was a legend in the industry and that many people over a long period of time listened to his shows.

"He not only paved the way for himself, but for others as well in all media fields," said Gerhard.

He said that people say that radio is a dying industry, however that is where the roots of everything that is popular today started. Podcasts were able to grow into what they are today because of the start of radio.

Gerhard is actively involved in *Hawk TV* and *WMCX* radio station at Monmouth University. He discussed how radio, podcasts, and commentaries are a vital aspect in expressing creatively. Gerhard said that podcasts have become so popular as of recently, and they are accessible.

"You don't need a full studio to do a podcast, and we are seeing that happen with every day people starting podcasts from their home," said Gerhard. "If you have good content, people are going to want to hear it. No matter how you choose to express your creativity in the media field we are in, radio, TV, podcasts, ect. You have to recognize that legends like Limbaugh walked so we can run today."

Meet the Founder: True Crime Interest Group

LILY HOFFMANN
CLUB AND GREEK EDITOR

Allianna Makowski is an English student with a passion for True Crime. A recent transfer from Middlesex County College, she has recently created a True Crime Interest Group open to all Monmouth University students.

Like many students, Makowski's interest in True Crime was piqued by pop culture. True Crime television programs, podcasts and books have become popular entertainment forms for Americans, especially throughout the pandemic.

Her time spent listening to these often-horrific stories inspired her to spread awareness on topics such as human sex trafficking. She hopes that with the formation of this interest group, keeping conversations alive about cases can help in the advancement of solving these chilling mysteries. For Makowski, she loves to listen to true crime podcasts, and watch YouTube experts such as Kendall Rae and BuzzFeed Unsolved Talk.

She said, "I think that everyone genuinely has an interest in true crime and unsolved mysteries especially now during a global pandemic...just talking about someone's case and keeping it [alive] can help find potential leads in finding the victim or giving them the justice that they deserve. The challenges, however, are just knowing which evidence is true or is rumored."

During these meetings, she aims to discuss true crime cases both old and new. She's been covering topics like serial killers, cults, asylums and unsolved mysteries. Her personal favorite case? The disappearance of JonBenet Ramsey.

She said, "There are so many things wrong with the case, and the fact how it is still unsolved after 25 years

is mind-blowing. In cases like these, they do keep me up at night wondering what happened and if we will ever know the truth and it's fun to discuss theories."

Most recently, the interest group had a guest speaker, James Fitzpatrick, an FBI profiler who worked as enforcement on popular cases such as Unabomber, Anthrax and DC Sniper. Having speakers is an interactive way to keep members engaged, something that Makowski is a huge proponent of. She even wants to hold trivia nights for members as a way to relieve the stresses of online learning.

She said that she ultimately plans on using the group's Instagram page (@mutruecrimeclub) as a way to determine what case they will cover each week.

Despite the challenges of meeting virtually, Makowski has been using the group's Instagram page to attract new members, and she has already been met with great success. She said,

"In our virtual world, it is a little difficult to get the word out there about a new potential club. However, I feel that the more I post, create Instagram stories, do polls, and tag school accounts, I do feel like I'll have a lot more who are interested in joining."

In the one week that the page has been live, she has managed to yield over 80 followers. Interested students can direct message the account with their name, grade, and student ID number to join. The Criminal Justice Department and the Guardians Club have also assisted in the group's recruiting process.

Makowski has been a one-man show in the creation of the group. Once the group achieves club status, she hopes that a faculty advisor and executive board will work collaboratively to help with fundraising and organization of more guest speakers.

Until then, Makowski plans on partnering with Thorn, an organization that raises awareness for human sex trafficking and children who are exploited online. She hopes that the group can raise funds for Thorn by designing merchandise representing the group.

She said, "My goal is to recognize those who are still missing and give recognition to the victims who are still missing and become an advocate for missing children."



PHOTO COURTESY of Anthony DePrimo

The True Crime Interest Group seeks to bring awareness to real life topics such as serial killers, cults, asylums, sex trafficking, and unsolved mysteries.



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Cross Country Opens Up 2021 Season

MARK D'AQUILA
ASSOCIATE SP

Cross country opened up their 2021 season after a long, 350-day hiatus due to COVID-19 with the Jasper Winter XC Invitational this past weekend. It was the first time any Monmouth runner had raced this course in Montgomery, New York.

Typically, the cross-country season takes place in the fall as this will be the first ever winter cross country season in Monmouth history.

Heading into the season, MU was tied for third place in the men's Preseason Coaches' Poll with Manhattan. Both schools received 93 points while the Monmouth women tied for fourth with Quinnipiac with 84 points each.

"That was fun! Our first competition in over 11 months; it did not disappoint," said head coach Mike Nelson. "Both groups competed with grit today. The course was basically all slush and mud. Both teams executed their race plans and moved up through the competition."

Five Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) teams competed in the event including Monmouth, Manhattan, Quinnipiac, Rider, and Siena.

The men exceeded expectations in a big way in their debut placing first in the event with 32 points while the

"Both groups competed with grit today. The course was basically mud and slush"

MIKE NELSON
Head Coach



Freshman Allie Pierontoni finished her first collegiate race with a time of 18:22.9 and earned her first win of her young career as a Hawk.

women placed second with 45 points in the event. Junior Louis DiLaurenzio from Hazlet, NJ led the charge for the blue and white coming in second out of 60 total runners with a time of 25:59.5.

Additionally, junior James Hoffman from Ocean Township, New Jersey was not far behind DiLaurenzio with a time of 26:15.6 in third place while sophomore Cameron Janovic of Oceanport placed fourth running at a time of 26:17.5.

On the women's side, they had the overall first place finisher with freshman Allie Pierontoni from Woolwich, NJ who got her first collegiate win with a time of 18:22.9. She came in first out of 56 total runners while freshman Katie Locker from Elizabethtown, PA came in fifth place

30.1 seconds afterwards. Locker ran in a time of 18:53.0 while McKenzie Delahanty placed ninth for the women with a 19:01.2 time.

"Having the individual winner on the women's side was awesome as well as the men's team champs," said Nelson. "Overall, it was a great opportunity and we're excited about the MAAC meet in two weeks."

The next event for the Hawks Cross Country team will be on Mar. 5, which is the MAAC Cross Country Championships in Galloway, New Jersey.

PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Junior Louis DiLaurenzio finished his first race of the season with a time of 25:59.5 which was good enough to secure him second place out of 60 total runners.

Women’s Bowling Competes in Conference

ERIN MULLIGAN
STAFF WRITER

The Monmouth bowling team competed in their first conference competition of their 2021 season at the MEAC Meet in North Carolina this weekend and finished with a .500 record.

In the three-day tournament, the Hawks went 5-5 and racked up two wins over top-25 teams. The team finished third with 4,624 pins

over five traditional games. The overall competition included five MEAC teams, North Carolina A&T, Delaware State, UAB, Coppin State, and Monmouth. The Hawks beat North Carolina A&T, who is ranked 13th and Delaware State who is ranked 15th in baker format. The Hawks also split the two matches with Sunday’s bracket play with a win against UAB.

One standout from the

weekend in particular, was Senior, Camelia Coffman who earned the Hawks 11th place finish which consisted of a pair of 200+ games. She had 968 pins for a season-best 193.60 average.

Another standout was Junior, Skylar Smith who added one 200+ game, providing 23 in her career and ended up finishing in 13th place overall. Saige Yamada also

Rolled 200+ games with a team-weekend and personal

season best score of 232 giving her five 200+ games this year.

Amanda Zappacosta tossed a 200+ game, being her first of the year. Another first for the year was for Mafe Aquiluz who made her collegiate debut for Monmouth and rolled her first 200+ game averaging 191 in two traditional games. Dani Seaman also experienced a personal best with her high game of 189 being her season best.

Monmouth set a season-high as a team in Baker Format in their 976-864 win against Coppin State with it being their largest margin of victory on the year with 112 pins. The Hawks’ 982 pins in the traditional match against North Carolina A&T was their season-high.

Looking ahead, Monmouth’s next competition will be a three-day Northeast Roundup in Lodi, NJ on Mar. 5.



PHOTOS COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Women’s bowling performed strongly in their first conference competition of 2021 finishing with a .500 record racking up two wins over top -25 teams on the weekend.

Men’s Basketball Falls to Pitino’s Iona

JACK MURPHY
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Men’s basketball dropped both their games this weekend at home against Iona, losing their first one by a score of 91-86, and the second 88-65.

In their first matchup, Monmouth gave up 54 points and was down by a total of 20 points by the end of the first half. Things seemed bleak for the Hawks heading into the locker room, but they would begin to stage a comeback in the second half of play.

Monmouth opened up the final 20 minutes of action with an 11-2 run that trimmed the lead to only 11 but Iona would soon get the lead back up to 18 in just a few minutes.

Senior guard Deion Hammond would drain three triples in just over two minutes to trim down the lead to only eight points with just two minutes left in regulation. The Hawks were able to cut the lead down to three and had a chance to tie as they had the ball. They were unable to convert and fell to Iona after a valiant effort being down by 20.

“Give a lot of credit to Iona, they came out very physical,” said Assistant Coach Rick Callahan. “I thought we responded much better in the second half. We had a chance to get even, and we didn’t and tomorrow’s another day so we’ll

move forward and tee it up again.”

Senior forward Melik Martin posted 16 points and 11 total rebounds posting his third double-double in the blue and white’s last four games. Freshman guard Myles Ruth had a career high in points with 13. This was the first time Ruth posted double digit points in his career as a Hawk. He

also tied his career best in rebounds with five on the night.

The Hawks were simply outshot in Friday’s contest as they shot 38.8 percent while their conference rival

posted a shooting percentage of 55.4.

Saturday’s contest for the Hawks did not fair too much better as they lost by 23 with the final score being 88-65.

“I want to give Iona all the credit, they obviously put together back-to-back games and it doesn’t surprise me because they have a Hall of Fame coach [Rick Pitino],” said head coach King Rice, “We have some more work to do.”

The Hawks were dominated on the boards as they hauled in 29 rebounds compared to Iona’s 49. The Hawks were able to force turnovers, causing the Gaels to give the ball away 17 times in Saturday’s contest. However, they only shot 34 percent from the field as a team and less than 28 percent from beyond the arc.

Hammond was the Hawks’ leading scorer with 16 points, while Martin and freshman forward Myles Foster finished the contest with 11 points apiece. This is just the second time this season Monmouth lost both games of the weekend series, with the first coming against Siena in early January. The Hawks now fall to 10-7 on the season.

Next week there are no games in line but up next for Monmouth is a string of road games against Rider. They will take place on Thursday Mar. 4 and Friday Mar. 5



PHOTOS COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Men’s basketball was dominated twice this weekend to Iona, only the second time this season that the Hawks lost both games of the weekend.



THERE'S 'SNOW' STOPPING THEM NOW



Men's and women's cross country performed strongly in their first competition after a 350-day hiatus, with the men placing first and the women placing second overall.