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University Implements New COVID-19 Testing Method

ZYANYA FLORES
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The University has implemented a new pooled surveillance testing this spring semester to diminish the number of active COVID-19 cases on campus, according to Director of Health Services Kathy Maloney. This allows for testing more people with fewer resources, as per the

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Pooling surveillance testing involves mixing different samples into one bigger sample, or "pool," and then testing this mixed sample using only one high-sensitivity test, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The benefits include testing more individuals with fewer resources and lower costs in groups of people

where the prevalence of COVID-19 is low to obtain more accurate results.

"People will be separated into three zones; 'Residential Students', 'Athletes', and 'All Others,'" said Maloney. Different pool samples will be taken from each zone frequently, with each pool containing 16 people.

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IMAGE TAKEN from Pexels.com

The University's new pooled surveillance testing will allow more individuals to be tested for COVID-19 with fewer costs and resources.

President Leahy Discusses Spring Semester on University Podcast

MATTHEW CUTILLO
MANAGING/NEWS/LIFESTYLES EDITOR

President Patrick F. Leahy Ed.D., and Communication faculty member Matt Harmon discussed the spring semester on their weekly "Monmouth Mondays" podcast on Tuesday, Jan. 26. The episode detailed health protocols and the return of sports,

The University will retain all testing capabilities for the community's students, faculty, and staff, Leahy said.

"Our testing protocols are going to be pretty rigid," Leahy explained. "For the athletes, it's going to be even more rigid because NCAA and Conference protocols demand it. We're happy to abide by those added protocols."

Leahy intends the spring semester to unfold similarly to the previous semester, opening the dining halls with limited capacity

and offering takeout for students. About 1100 students are living on campus this semester, 50 percent below normal residence hall capacity, according to Leahy.

"It's a lot lower than normal, but it's about what we had in the fall," Leahy said. "Those students that want to be back on campus, even if much of their academic programming is still online, are welcome to be here. We love having them here, it provides some energy to the campus."

The University initially required all residential students to present a negative COVID-19 test before returning to campus. Students and parents pushed to rescind the request after trouble acquiring a COVID-19 test in their home communities.

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Professors Host Panel Discussion on U.S. Capitol Building Attack, Role of Universities in Times of National Crisis

MELISSA BADAMO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF/FEATURES EDITOR

University faculty held a virtual panel discussion in response to the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol Building. During the event, titled "The White Supremacist Terrorist Siege on the U.S. Capitol: The Roles and Responsibilities of Universities in Times of National Crisis," faculty explored the motives behind the siege through their various disciplines.

The event, held on Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Jan. 18, also honored the legacy of MLK's strives towards racial equality in America.

Moderated by Johanna Foster, Associate Professor of Sociology, panelists included Dr. Steve Chapman (Political Science), Dr. Manuel Chavez, (Philosophy), Dr. Chris DeRosa (History), Dr. Walter Greason, (Educational Counseling & Leadership), Dr. Jen McGovern (Sociology), and Dr. Marina Vujnovic (Communication). The event was co-sponsored by the Helen Bennett McMurray Endowment in Social Ethics, the Sociology Program, and the Program in Gender and Intersectionality Studies. The event gathered approximately 90 participants.

"For some of us today we also gather inspired by Dr. King's enduring critique of the dangerous intersection of white supremacy, global capitalism and unconscionable wealth and equality, and US militarism and imperialism," Foster said to commence the panel discussion.

She continued, "We have a terrific group of faculty here from across the disciplines at Monmouth to give voice to the terrible events on Jan. 6 and to help us better understand and reflect on that truly terrifying spectacle, what it might mean for our nation, what it might mean for

Monmouth University, and how we can move forward together as a community."

As an Assistant Professor of Political Science, Chapman explained that one of the key lessons of the attack on the Capitol is the importance and power of elite messaging. He said, "In political science, we spend a lot of time about how messages from elites filter down through the media and to the masses and how that can shift human behavior. Cleavage-based politics comes down to in-group out-groups when you're trying to split voters into these groups for an electoral advantage...Jan. 6 is a stark example of how the elite messaging can create some human cost."

Following Chapman's commentary, Greason offered another interpretation of the siege from the perspective of education.

CAPITOL cont. on pg. 3



IMAGE TAKEN from NBC News

In response to the U.S. Capitol riot on Jan. 6, Monmouth faculty members from six different disciplines discussed the motives and aftermath and what it means for the University.

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Third Annual MLK Jr. Speaker

MELISSA BADAMO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF/FEATURES EDITOR

The third annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Distinguished Speaker in Social Justice featured guest speaker Ibram X. Kendi, Ph.D., award-winning author of *How to be an Antiracist*, on Jan. 27.

The event was presented by the Monmouth University President's Advisory Council on Diversity and Inclusion, joined by Hettie V. Williams, Ph.D., Assistant Professor in African American History, and featured opening remarks from President Patrick Leahy and Walter Grea-son Ph.D., Associate Professor and Chair of Educational Lead-ership.

Kendi's dialogue addressed the topic of social justice not only on an individual scale, but also regarding American insti-tutions and universities. "What's important to keep in mind that in order for us to create and build and maintain ant-racist institutions, we have to actively do so," Kendi began.

He continued, "We can't just sit back and think it's going to happen because the norm is racist institutions. We have to unpack and challenge that his-tory and that normality through examining the policies and the practices that govern the institu-tion...To admit our racist poli-cies as institutions is to be anti-racist."

The anti-racist activist also

outlined what a transforma-tional, restorative justice system would look like in America. He said, "First and foremost, that justice system would be as focused on fighting social problems as it is on punishing individuals...If people are en-gaging in petty theft out of pov-erty as it usually happens, then what we need to do as a justice system is eliminate poverty. Because that is going to make the community safer."

Kendi is a three-time #1 *New York Times* Bestselling Author and was named one of *Time* Magazine's top 100 influential people in the world in 2020. His other books include *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You*, *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*, and *Antira-cist Baby*. He is also the Direc-tor of the Center for Antiracist Research at Boston University.

"The Council felt Dr. Ken-di's internationally acclaimed scholarship provided an impor-tant set of tools for critical re-flection and action as it relates to antiracism, and that hav-ing him speak to our campus would allow for deeper explo-ration of his work as a means to strengthen our individual and collective actions," said Zaneta Rago-Craft Ph.D., Director of the Intercultural Center and Advisor to the President on Di-versity and Inclusion in a state-ment to *The Outlook*.

She continued, "While issues



PHOTO TAKEN from ibramxkendi.com
Author and activist Ibram X. Kendi Ph.D., spoke to the University community about social equality and anti-racism.

of racial violence have a long-standing history, the tragedies that took place over the summer have inspired a renewed sense of urgency and commitment to tackling systemic and interper-sonal racism in our country, and relatedly, our own communi-ties."

"Monmouth University has come a long way in matters of diversity, and we still have a long way to go," Williams said during her dialogue with Kendi.

According to Rago-Craft, The President's Advisory Council was established in 2016 and con-sists of 25 faculty, staff, and stu-dents who have taken a lead role in advancing the University's ef-forts for a diverse and inclusive campus.

Chair Rapolla Joins Music Executive John Esposito On Industry Webinar

MATTHEW CUTILLO
MANAGING/NEWS/LIFESTYLES EDITOR

Chair of the Music and Theatre Department and Director of the Music Industry Program Joe Ra-polla, joined music executive John Esposito on "The Smartest People in the Room" webinar. Hosted by music industry headhunter Tom Truitt, the episode detailed Es-posito's rise to becoming CEO of Warner Music Nashville.

Esposito graduated from Indi-ana University of Pennsylvania with a bachelor's degree in jour-nalism. He moved to Washington D.C. to pursue the field, but even-tually took a job as a sales clerk at a music store named Harmony Hut.

"I wanted to be an investigative journalist," Esposito said. "I go to D.C. and I see a help wanted sign for a record store. I was running out of money, so I took a job barely above minimum wage in order to just pay the bills so I could figure out when I was going to get a jour-nalism job. I found out I was really good at running a business."

His work at the record store quickly expanded, ultimately leading to a buyer position in the Macy's TV department. Esposito then worked for Mitsubishi before taking a position with The Wiz, an electronics retail chain, as their Chief Operating Officer of Mov-ies and Music.

"I will always thank The Wiz for giving me the exposure that gave me that opportunity," Es-posito said.

His work at The Wiz eventually led to him meeting Rapolla. Help-ing found Music Marketing Net-work, the company reached out to The Wiz.

"We were just doing really hit, data driven marketing campaigns and research," Rapolla said. "I was making a sales call to The Wiz and I walked into [Esposito's] office. Before too long, I noticed the guitar in the corner and I think that was the end of the sales call."

Rapolla worked with Esposito at PolyGram, a company acquired by Universal in 1998. Esposito became the founding general manager and executive vice presi-dent at The Island Def Jam Music Group during this acquisition.

In 2009, Esposito was offered to move to Tennessee and run War-ner Music Nashville. "I said I love Nashville. I'll do it in a heartbeat."

Esposito gave his advice on how someone could break into running a label.

"The answer is the same with everybody," Esposito said. "Just get the foot in the door and show everybody your passion, and out-hustle everybody. You don't have to hurt anybody along the way, you just have to have people know that you're a heavy lifter and that you'll get your job done."

"Pooled Surveillance" Testing Aims to Lower University Cases

TESTING cont. from pg. 1

For athletes, the frequency of testing will be determined "by the Athletic Department in conjunction with NCAA and conference guidelines," Maloney said. "50 percent of residential students will be tested each week and notified by the residence halls."

Participation in this testing is also "a condition of resi-dence," according to Malo-ney. She said that all others, including students who have in-person classes and com-muters, are strongly encour-aged to participate and get tested together if they are in like-groups and off-campus houses. She further explained that costs of surveillance testing will be covered by the University, and only the "student's health insurance will be billed by the labora-tory" for additional individ-ual testing if one was in a pool that tested positive as well as symptomatic testing.

"The pool testing self-ser-vice was quick and easy, and it brings some type of secu-rity," said communication student Evan O'Brien, who was tested in the "All Others" group.

The University will also continue to perform fre-quent testing to symptomatic students and faculty. This pooled-surveillance testing strategy would help identify asymptomatic positive cases prior to large spread of trans-mission, therefore reducing the risk of an outbreak.

A pool test contains several different samples from as-ymptomatic students within a particular location. Once a negative pool test result comes

back, it can be concluded that all students within that pool are negative. If a pool test result comes back posi-tive, then further individual testing is done to confirm who is/are testing positive for COVID-19. This testing method enables data to be collected to see the trends of COVID-19 infection trans-mission when testing groups that may not have originally received a test due to a lack of observable symptoms.

However, pooled surveil-lance testing can only be used in groups of people where the prevalence of CO-VID-19 is low to obtain more accurate results, according to the CDC. Otherwise, if this testing is done in a high prevalence area, then many pool tests will come back positive, therefore reducing the efficiency of this strat-

egy. According to the CDC, "lower disease prevalence may enable a lab to use a larger optimal pool size."

The CDC also notes that the lab "cannot ensure the diagnostic integrity of an in-dividual specimen because it is combined with other specimens before testing." Monmouth students, who will be performing these nasal swabs on themselves using a kit, will need to have a qual-ity swab collection to ensure that there is enough genetic material for testing to prevent a false-negative result.

Prior to the start of the fall 2020 semester, the CDC pub-lished a study performed by Duke University in which they implemented a pooled surveillance testing pro-gram for asymptomatic CO-VID-19 infections. The study revealed that out of 10,265

undergraduate and gradu-ate students who were tested over the course of 10 weeks, 84 came back positive, half of which were asymptomatic at the time of testing. This im-plementation of pooled sur-veillance testing, along with entry testing, contact tracing, and symptom monitoring, al-lowed Duke University to re-main open consecutively for 10 weeks of school, "without substantial outbreaks among residential or off-campus populations." For Duke Uni-versity, this testing approach "permitted a nearly 80 per-cent savings in use of labora-tory resources."

While Governor Murphy has not released any official statements regarding New Jersey colleges and univer-sities, Governor Cuomo ap-proved of this pooled sur-veillance strategy to be used

in all 64 State University of New York (SUNY) Institu-tions, according to the Of-ficial New York Website. For SUNY institutions, student and faculty participation is mandatory unless they have already been diagnosed with COVID-19.

As listed on the University at Albany's website, partici-pants are given a test kit in-cluding saliva sample tubes and are required to complete this test on a weekly basis, for noncompliance would result in prohibition from campus or other disciplinary actions. The University at Al-bany's COVID-19 dashboard showed five positive cases of COVID-19 within the last 14-day period of the fall 2020 semester, whereas Monmouth University had nearly 30 ac-tive cases during the same 14-day period.



PHOTO TAKEN from Pexels.com

The new method allows for accurate data on COVID-19 trends, testing individuals who may not have done so previously.

Leahy Talks Difficulties of Upcoming Spring Athletics

SPRING cont. from pg. 1

“When they raised that concern, we decided we’ll do the testing here,” Leahy said. “We’ll make sure we take care of our students. We changed the policy just slightly to suggest either bring us a negative test or you must be tested within the first couple days of returning.”

Requiring residential students to be tested within 72 hours of their return will allow the University to start from square-one, Leahy explained. “If there are any positive cases, we can move on those immediately. We’ll isolate those positive tests and do the contract tracing to make sure all direct contacts are also quarantining to keep the case load at an absolute minimum.”

In lieu of a week long spring break, the semester incorporates “break days” in March and April. Removing spring break allowed for an extra week before the semester’s start, helping the quarantine protocols required for returning out of state students.

“That extra week was really helpful in that regard,” Leahy said. “We’ll have a couple Fridays off, but we are going to be able to make up that time by collapsing spring break. We needed the week now more than in the

middle of the semester.”

The University will have its spring athletics in full swing, compliant with state, national and conference-specific COVID-19 safety measures.

Leahy detailed the challenge of managing two sports teams during the winter break, a small-scale operation in comparison to over 20 programs moving in tandem during the spring.

“There’s one reason that we are trying to move Heaven and Earth to make these athletic programs available this spring,” Leahy said. “That is because our student athletes want the opportunity to try and compete. That’s it. There’s this false

impression about money... it is simply about knowing how important sport activities are to [our student athletes]. It’s about how good it is for their mental and their physical health, and how important it is to them.”

Harmon, broadcaster for multiple University sports, asked Leahy how realistic it may be to facilitate up to 20 sports during the spring athletic season.

“We’re blessed with the facility that could allow it,” Leahy explained. “We’re blessed with a first rate athletics department that is interested in trying to make this happen. We can afford the testing protocols that are required. I would like to think

compared to a lot of other institutions, we’re in a relatively better position to pull this off.”

It would be difficult to guess which sports could be interrupted and which could not, Leahy said. The spring athletic calendar consists mostly of outdoor sports, a perk that will slow potential COVID-19 spread.

“Monmouth may be equipped for [spring sports] because of its fields, stadiums, good facilities, and good staff,” Harmon explained. “Not to say that other Universities that Monmouth will play during the course of the spring [aren’t also prepared], but it’s not just Monmouth.

We may be ready to go but a school that might be on Monmouth’s schedule might not be ready to go. As we’ve seen during the basketball season, you keep your fingers crossed, essentially, up until an hour before game time and you hope you can move forward.”

The University’s men’s basketball team suffered four different COVID-19 related pauses, the most recent due to a positive test from a Tier One program member. Tier One is considered players, coaches and support staff.

“If we ever had evidence there was a positive case on either side, it would necessitate an immediate shutdown,” Leahy said. “You’re right, it’s not just what we do here on this campus, but it’s what all of our competitors do.”

Leahy is confident in the other Universities that make up local athletic conferences to handle COVID-19 cases seriously.

“I think the MAAC (Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference) in particular, where I am very involved, are all very good colleagues and were all committed first and foremost to student health and safety,” Leahy said. “I think all of us are going to take the protocols equally seriously and that’ll give us some comfort.”



Up to twenty spring sports will run during the semester, compliant with all COVID-19 safety measures. PHOTO COURTESY of Anthony DePrimo

Faculty Discuss Historical Perspective On U.S. Capitol Attack

CAPITOL cont. from pg. 1

“There’s this distrust of expertise that leads to an undermining of legitimate authority,” Greason said. “If there is no truth or if there is no legitimate knowledge, there can be anarchy on an everyday scale.”

Meanwhile, DeRosa weighed in with a historical perspective. “When we look at the 6th of January, our impulse is to find out what broke down. We could look at the cultivation of separate realities that are politically reinforcing, we could look at the lingering embers of reengaged fire of white supremacy...and all these things are worthy of concern, but I would also urge that we look at what didn’t break down.”

“There’s also a really important point to make about tacit white supremacy,” Chapman said, also observing a difference between the Capitol riot and the Black Lives Matter protests in June following the murder of George Floyd by a police officer. “The events of Jan. 6 were white supremacy involved,” Chapman said. “The way [the rioters] reacted to police like they were almost offended that the police would try to stop them...that shows the privileged position in society.”

The faculty also discussed the Capitol riot’s implications on Monmouth University, exploring the role and responsibility of U.S. institutions and universities during times of national crises.

“It’s something that probably touched all of our students,” McGovern said. “You didn’t have to be in DC to know what was going

on...those tensions are coming up in their own family...it may be hard to focus...I think we can teach this (debate) and model...respectful debate, to teach them that there are ways to disagree.”

“We grow as people the more that we know,” Greason said. “Engaging and unpacking our current moment is what we can start to do in this conversation.”

“The goal of us as educators is to find student opportunities to use and exercise those skills as critical thinkers,” Chavez added.

Chapman contributed to the conversation by re-emphasizing the importance of a liberal arts education. “Not only should we leave students with knowledge and critical thinking skills, but also the scientific process and the interconnectedness of everything,” he said. “I always hear my advisees ask, ‘why do I have to take this class? It has nothing to do with my major.’ It’s those classes that really build up the different layers of analysis that you can kind of surround yourself with.”

Vujnovic, Associated Professor of Journalism and Chair of the Faculty Council, added to the discussion of truth that Greason examined earlier in the conversation. “Whenever I would go to the Great Gall, I pass by the old Monmouth college seal and it says, ‘truth, leadership, service.’ And I always felt that’s the real mission of the University, which unfortunately I feel that we and universities in general have abandoned,” she said. “We are allowing our curriculum to be increasingly stripped of these kinds of ideas. I think we need to look hard into what we do as individuals and

hold ourselves and our institutions accountable to when we fail to meet these goals.”

Foster concluded the discussion, “We hope the conversation continues in your classrooms and beyond and in ways that resonate with Dr. King’s cogent power analyses and his call to courage. Not only when it’s safe or popular, but when it’s right. It’s so wonderful to have the opportunity to come together in this way.”

A few days before the panel discussion took place, President Leahy also issued a statement to the University community via email on Jan. 12 condemning the attack.

“As we continue to combat an ongoing global pandemic, and persevere in the fight for racial justice, we witnessed [on Jan. 6] an unprecedented and disgraceful attack on the United States Capitol and the basic tenets of democracy that undergird our rule of law and sense of community,” Leahy wrote. “Like so many of you, I have spent the past week reflecting on the attack on our Capitol, which was at once an attack on our democratic ideals and on our sense of justice and equality...As an American, I condemn these acts in the strongest way possible.”

Leahy’s statement also addressed the role of Monmouth University on a national scale. “I am encouraged by the good work on our campus to educate our citizenry, to develop the next generation of compassionate leaders, to uphold democratic ideals of free speech and mutual respect, and to foster a decidedly antiracist campus community,” he wrote. “While our nation remains divided, let us continue to do our small part to heal it.”



Faculty discussed the attack’s implications on universities. PHOTO TAKEN from Pexels.com

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Melissa Badamo	EDITOR-IN-CHIEF/FEATURES EDITOR
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Alex Dyer	ENTERTAINMENT/ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR
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Katherine Rivera John Spinelli
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Phone: (732) 571-3481
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Mailing Address:
The Outlook
Monmouth University
400 Cedar Ave
West Long Branch, NJ 07764

Website: outlook.monmouth.edu
E-Mail: outlook@monmouth.edu
Advertising Inquiries: outlookads@monmouth.edu

Extension of the Pass/Fail Grading System

EDITORIAL STAFF

As we approach the third semester impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the University has decided to extend the pass/fail grading system for undergraduate students through May 14, 2021. This allows students to change standard letter grades (A through D-) to a “pass” grade at the end of the semester without affecting their GPA. Students can only use a “pass” grade for four credits this semester.

This grading system was introduced in the spring 2020 semester, when

the University outlined in its official reopening plan for 2020-2021. “We recognize that the learning environments in which students may find themselves during the continued pandemic may lead to students not working at their normal performance level.”

The *Outlook* editors weighed in on their thoughts about this grading system.

This option may help students’ GPA during the challenges of untraditional online classes. However, some editors believe that enough time has passed for students to

pending on their performance in a certain class. “I have used it in the past to boost my GPA, but I do not foresee using it in the future,” one editor said. However, another editor said that they would not utilize this grading system, but recognizes that it may be beneficial for others.

Some students might not be able to fully utilize this option, however, such as those who will be applying to certain graduate schools that require letter grades or those who need to meet prerequisite requirements for their major.

One editor disagrees

“I find that only being able to use [the option] for four credits is wrong...it should be able to be used for as many classes as needed.”

classes were shifted to on-line instruction following spring break.

As *The Outlook* reported in fall 2020, according to Monmouth’s Registrar Lynn Reynolds, the majority of the grades that were requested to be switched to a “pass” in the spring 2020 semester were in the C range with 775 pass requests, followed by B grades with 471 pass requests, D grades with 323 pass requests, and A grades with 26 pass requests.

“The decision to allow pass/fail grading takes into consideration the disruption to academics that COVID-19 and subsequent societal impacts have had, and it’s designed to provide options that we hope will relieve some stress,”

have gotten used to online classes, and therefore the pass/fail option would not be necessary. “I think the pass/fail option should only pertain to first-year students since they haven’t been exposed to enough online schooling in a university setting,” one editor said.

First-year students have had to face multiple obstacles regarding online learning, as they may also be struggling with the general transition into college that includes making friends, getting connected on campus, and keeping up with academics.

Some editors said that they will consider utilizing the pass/fail grading system this semester de-

with the policy that the pass/fail grade can only be used for four credits this semester. “I find that only being able to use it for four credits is wrong, as most classes are three credits and someone may need it for more than one class,” the editor said. “It should be able to be used for as many classes as needed.”

Many editors agree that the pass/fail option should be eliminated once the University returns to full in-person instruction. For now, however, most editors agree that it is a necessary safety net for students who are struggling during the pandemic. The University made the right choice by extending this grading system for the spring 2021 semester.

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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.

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Vaccines Are Coming, So Where's The Excitement?

MATTHEW CUTILLO
MANAGING/NEWS/LIFESTYLES EDITOR

Vaccines for the general public are inching closer and closer. Some friends, family members, and colleagues may have already received their first dose if they're part of an early phase.

Having a discussion about vaccine distribution in the home can be awkward. According to Pew Research Center, intent to receive a COVID-19 vaccine is only 60 percent as of Dec. 3. "21 percent of U.S. adults do not intend to get vaccinated and are 'pretty certain' more information will not change their mind," the Pew Research Center suggests.

The percentage of those who have trust in the vaccine has likely risen since its early steps towards distribution in early January, but Pew Research Center has not done a current survey.

Although there has been work to help instill more confidence in a COVID-19 vaccine, many Americans are simply uncomfortable with the speed of which the vaccine was created. Cases are expected to go down in parallel with more opportunity for outdoor interaction, causing some to question if a vaccine is worth it at all.

Travis Greenberg, a senior anthropology major, detailed some of the struggles he faces at home. "It might be a generational thing," Greenberg said. "Older peo-

ple might not be as trustworthy as we are, and they definitely have issues accessing the internet to answer their own questions."

Many concerns, such as vaccine development speed, have been addressed by experts online and through traditional media. Gitanjali Pai MD, an infectious disease physician at Memorial Hospital and Physicians' Clinic in Stilwell, Oklahoma, gave a statement to healio.com

"Fortunately for humanity, COVID-19 vaccine development occurred in the spirit of a relay race," Pai said in her statement. Many compa-

nies have worked together to develop the record breaking vaccine.

Various COVID-19 vaccines developed as a result of landmark government funding and cooperation, yet many remain distrustful. "I think since the vaccine is a personal thing, that's why there's some resistance to it," Greenberg said. "When it comes to wearing masks, people will do it because it's a community thing. Although vaccines are all about stopping the spread, people might see it as too invasive and a step too far."

Vaccines created by Amer-

ican biotechnology companies, such as Moderna, are being spread all around the globe. This international cooperation has led to a new era of medicine-based globalization.

In a family home, there's a lot of different moving parts. Different people who live in the same area encompass a wide array of vulnerabilities to the virus. Concern for COVID-19 has had a flow to it, moving up and down depending on case load and specific community issues.

We're only a few months from the presumed finish line. To look back on the vi-

rus with a sense of pride in protecting those around you and yourself, it makes sense to fulfill any possibilities that could create a safer environment.

That being said, showing someone an expert's opinion on the COVID-19 vaccine may not be enough to sway them into acquiring a vaccine.

"I hope the cases go down with or without the vaccine," Greenberg said. "It's undeniable it helps ease the active cases, however. For me personally, the vaccine represents putting it all behind us."



IMAGE TAKEN from Pexels.com

21 percent of U.S. adults do not intend to be vaccinated, according to a survey by Pew Research Center.

Adorable Adoptables

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Procrastination: The Good and the Bad

STEFANIE DONAYRE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

We have all been in this scenario: there was a deadline approaching, and you entered a limbo state where you knew you should be doing your assignment but kept switching between apps like Instagram and Netflix or falling down the rabbit hole that is YouTube.

Throughout our time in school, we have been told countless times not to leave any assignments until the last minute. By now we have familiarized ourselves with the anxiety or adrenaline rush derived from the consequences that come along with it. Yet we still do it.

Although the word “procrastination” itself is often associated with someone characterized as lazy, this may not always be applicable.

A 2013 York University case analyzing college students found that procrastination derives from the fear of disapproval. Therefore, a connection between procrastination and perfectionism is present.

To me, this explains the times I stayed up past midnight stressing as I re-wrote essays or changed another aspect about the work I had done that was due the next day. After years of being evaluated as a student through my grades, it seemed like the pressure was still on. In my mind I did not recognize this to be extreme, as I was trying to receive the best grade possible; when in reality, I was only putting more pressure on myself.

Now with the additional learning formats introduced by the University during the pandemic, I was able to take asynchronous online courses. Asynchronous learning lets students access their class’

instructional materials at any time without having a live video lecture. Prior to the pandemic, I think this would have sounded like a dream; now, I see that this allowed for more time to procrastinate by pushing off assignments for the next day.

Asynchronous learning is convenient for international students and students with schedules that would have conflicted with participating in a structured virtual meeting. Personally, I found that taking a class synchronously over Zoom is more motivating, as it still had that classroom interaction aspect despite being online.

In a way, procrastination can also be seen as a coping mechanism. Essentially, you do not want to come to terms with having to complete your work, so instead of doing it, you put it aside by distracting yourself with other things.

While this habit seems rather harmless now, it can develop into

a vicious cycle that can progress to be worse as it follows you throughout your life. Fortunately, there are efforts that can be made to not only tackle procrastination, but also improve time management skills.

These include exercising regularly, sleeping well, working on your hobbies, and listening to a motivational podcast. Maybe take a break from social media, catch up with friends on FaceTime, eat healthier, or keep a journal or schedule. Taking a break to go on a run around my local park was the most efficient for me as I am able to return to do my assignments with a clear mind.

Part of the college experience is finding ways to improve. Learning to efficiently manage your time can go a long way. After all, the start of a new year is the perfect time to begin on a clean slate and overcome procrastination to conquer the semester.

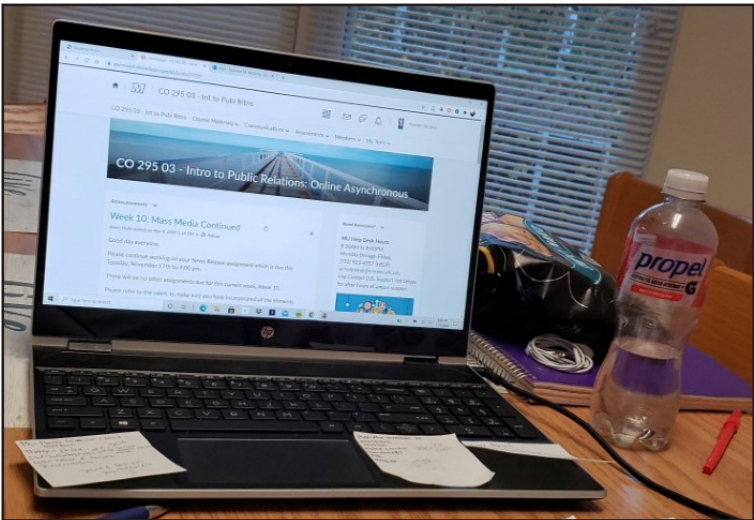


PHOTO TAKEN by Shannon McGorry

Although virtual learning can heighten procrastination, it is important that students use their time efficiently.

The Third Virtual Semester

GIANNA FERRARO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With the COVID-19 pandemic beginning in March 2020, Monmouth University is entering its third semester of online learning. Students from colleges and universities from across the country have mixed feelings about the third semester of online learning, including myself.

Every morning has looked the same for the past few semesters. I wake up, go to the kitchen for coffee, and prepare for a day of staring at a computer screen.

Raising hands to answer questions and face-to-face interaction are a thing of the past. Instead, we unmute our microphones to speak and work in breakout groups with our fellow classmates through a screen. This new way of education has left me no choice but to see advantages and disadvantages.

Staring at a computer for hours and learning through a screen has left me feeling as if I am going through the motions of learning, without actually absorbing the information. In order to successfully retain information, students need to be self-disciplined and well organized.

With the number of hours we spend in our homes increasing, the distractions around us are endless. Not only do students have to worry about distractions from family members and the comfortability of home, but focus can be put on the backburner when learning from your couch or bedroom.

When I am in a classroom setting, it is easier for me to tune in and focus on lectures and the

content in front of me without being distracted.

Although online learning has challenged many of us, I have been able to appreciate and see the benefits of it. As a commuter student, I do not have to worry about leaving for class extra early for a good parking spot. I am able to join my class five minutes before our meeting time without having any issue of missing class. My class attendance has increased significantly since online classes began.

In addition, my schedule is more flexible with online learning. During the school year, I babysit for a close family friend for extra money. Now, I am able to give them more availability because of a more flexible schedule, and therefore make more money.

To say online learning has been a challenge is an understatement. The education system has been completely reconstructed in a very short amount of time. Students have had no choice but to adapt quickly to this change in the learning process.

While it can be easy to focus on the hardships and negatives of online learning, there are benefits to this new construction of curriculum. Although Zoom fatigue can sometimes get the best of me and I can get easily distracted, I am happy I do not have to commute 30 minutes away for my classes and struggle to find a parking spot.

With endless resources and absences being a thing of the past, students are adapting to a new way of learning and adjusting to a new normal.

WELCOME BACK LETTERS

Dear Students:

As we begin a new semester here at Monmouth, following a longer than usual winter break, let me share a warm Welcome Back on behalf of the entire University community. We have missed you. I hope the past few weeks have afforded you some well-earned rest and relaxation.

And, to our new students joining Monmouth this spring, allow me to share a sincere Welcome. We are so pleased that you have chosen Monmouth as your University, and we promise to make your experience here worthwhile.

Even as the COVID-19 health crisis continues to transform our world, the Monmouth spirit remains as strong and as vibrant as ever. Despite the many challenges presented by this pandemic, I am gratified by the many ways in which you routinely demonstrate resilience and a shared commitment to the common good at Monmouth.

This upcoming semester will undoubtedly present new challenges, but I am confident that you will respond to them with continued strength and compassion. And, in so doing, remember to take advantage of the many resources available at Monmouth to enrich and support your student experience. We are committed to providing you with the most supportive environment possible, both to encourage your academic success and to help maintain your overall health, safety, and wellness.

Thank you, in advance, for your continued cooperation with our health and safety protocols, all of which can be summed up in the following: mask up, back up, and wash up! And, try not to touch your face. To ensure a successful spring here at Monmouth, it is going to take each of us to protect all of us. My best wishes to you for an exceptional semester.

Sincerely,

Dr. Patrick F. Leahy
President

Statement on the January 6th Attack on the U.S. Capital

PROFESSORS UNITED FOR A SAFE HAVEN (P.U.S.H)

We, the undersigned members and supporters of Professors United for a Safe Haven (P.U.S.H), condemn the attack on the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, and acknowledge the siege as a horrific enactment of violent white supremacy assaulting the core values, practices, and defenders of American democracy that we all deeply cherish and pledge to uphold.

In our unequivocal outrage as witnesses to the virulently racist

and brazen disregard for both the law and basic norms of human decency in an effort to delegitimize a free and fair election and peaceful transfer of power, we insist in no uncertain terms that the perpetrators of these crimes against our most sacred democratic institution be held accountable for their acts of terrorism.

As have so many before us in recent days, we decry the undeniable hypocrisy evident in the double standard applied to Black Lives Matter protestors, overwhelmingly peaceful dissenters met with excessive police presence and

state-sanctioned violence, and the anemic law enforcement response to white nationalist insurrectionists breaching the U.S. Capitol.

We recognize in this most painful and shameful of moments in our nation's history that there is understandable fear, trauma and exhaustion among our colleagues and students, particularly those who do not have the benefits of race, gender, or heterosexual privilege, or may be members of religious communities also so clearly targeted by white nationalists past and present.

Further, we know that this at-

tack on the U.S. Capitol was an attack on all of us, on the Constitution itself, and thus an attack on all at Monmouth University and the wider community who expect that the values and practices of democracy and the norms of human decency will be protected and defended here on our campus as well.

In the midst of our horror and grief, we remind ourselves that universities can and must protect and defend the values and principles we hold in our highest resolve. We remind ourselves that the university has a special and moral obligation to educate a citi-

zenry. This education is not only in instrumental and technical knowledge, but for a quality of mind that seeks the truth, and a quality of heart that seeks to understand ourselves, each other, and our shared humanity.

It is our faith in Monmouth University as an institution beholden to this special and moral obligation that we affirm our fundamental duty to educate our students to value one another, to elevate the common good, and to build a healthy democracy free of bigotry and extremism.

We invite you to join us.

Signed,

Amanda Stojanov (Communication)	Stephen J. Chapman, Ph.D. (Political Science & Sociology)	Jason E. Adolf (Biology)
Amanda Connelly (English)	Randall S. Abate (Political Science and Sociology)	Beverly Schweiker (Dept. of Education)
Eleanor Novek (Communication)	Anne Deepak (Social Work)	Sarah Brown (School of Social Work)
Lisa M. Dinella (Department of Psychology/PGIS)	Elena Mazza (Social Work)	Claude E. Taylor (Department of Communication)
Jennifer Shamrock (Communication)	Melissa A. Brzycki (History & Anthropology)	Mala Jayatilleke (Chemistry & Physics)
Jeffrey E. Jackson (English)	Nancy Uddin (Accounting)	Megan Phifer-Rixey (Biology)
Andrea Hope (Health and Physical Education)	Stuart Rosenberg (Management and Leadership)	Keri Sansevere (History and Anthropology)
Mihaela Moscaliuc (English)	Peter Liu (Criminal Justice)	Rekha Datta (Provost/Political Science)
Marie Mele (Criminal Justice)	Patricia Cresson (Art and Design)	Nicole Pulliam (Educational Counseling & Leadership)
Karen Schmelzkopf (History/Anthropology)	Kendall Turchyn (English Department)	Dottie Lobo (Biology)
Megan Delaney (Professional Counseling)	Melissa Alvaré (Political Science & Sociology)	Brittany Macaluso (Social Work Society)
Scott Jeffrey (Management and Leadership)	Chyna Walker (President, SAGE (Students Advocating Girls' Education))	Cameron Gaines (National Council of Negro Women)
Natalie Ciarocco (Psychology)	Dr. Heidi Bludau (History and Anthropology)	Jeanne Koller (Social Work)
Thomas S. Pearson (History and Anthropology)	Chad Dell (Communication)	Jenai Bacote (Founder, Students for Systemic Change)
Sanjana Ragudaran (Social Work)	Johanna Foster (Political Science & Sociology)	Ailisse Aquino (President, Gender Studies and Intersectionality Student Club)
Heide Estes (English)	Karen Bright (Art and Design)	Lisa Iannucci (Library)
Brian Greenberg (History Emeritus)	Robin Mama (Social Work)	William P. Mitchell (History and Anthropology)
Dickie Cox (Communication)	William Schreiber (Chemistry and Physics)	Alison Maginn (World Languages and Cultures)
Corey Dzenko (Department of Art and Design)	Mike Richison (Art and Design)	Christine Forbes (Library)
Kathryn Lubniewski (Education)	Andrea L. Garcia (Occupational therapy)	Michael Anthony Donato (Art Department)
Marina Vujnovic (Communication)	Michael Callahan (Social Work)	Hettie V. Williams (History and Anthropology)
Julia Riordan-Goncalves (World Languages and Cultures)	Dr. Glenn E. King (History and Anthropology)	Patricia Dempsey (Nursing)
Jen McGovern (Political science and Sociology)	John E. Henning (School of Education)	Alan A Cavaiola, PhD (Professional Counseling)
Patrick Love (English)	Elizabeth Gilmartin-Keating (English)	Steven Bachrach (School of Science)
Sharon Dornemann (Chemistry and Physics)	Katherine Parkin (History and Anthropology)	Richard Veit (History and Anthropology)
Stan Green (Anthropology)	Kiameesha Evans (Health and Physical Education)	Kurt W. Wagner (Library)
Sarah Cooper (Psychology)	Nichole Michelle Smith (Political Science and Sociology)	Dr. Zaneta Rago-Craft (Intercultural Center)
Wobbe F. Koning (Art & Design)	Robert Scott (Economics, Finance & Real Estate)	Dr. Christine Hatchard (Psychology)
Kristin Bluemel (English)	Deanna Shoemaker (Communication)	Scott Richards, PhD, PA-C, DFAAPA (MSPA Program)
Skylar Rathvon (Sociology Alumni)	Brooke Nappi (History/Anthropology)	Edward W. Christensen (Management and Leadership)
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Manuel Chavez (World Languages and Cultures)	Colleen Beach (Social Work)	Marilyn McNeil (Athletics)
Nancy Mezey (Honors School & Political Science and Sociology)	Kathleen Grant (Educational Counseling and Leadership)	Mark Ludak (Dept. of Art & Design)
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Lydia Brown (Psychology Student)	MacKenzie S. Avallone (History & Anthropology)	Mary Anne Nagy (Vice President for Student Life and Leadership Engagement)
	Tina Paone (Educational Counseling & Leadership)	

Quarantine Poetry:

How One Student Turned to Writing to Cope With a Loss

MELISSA BADAMO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF/FEATURES EDITOR

Rebecca Ley's story starts with running. Having grown up in Rumson and currently residing in Spring Lake, NJ, it's the reason she decided to attend Monmouth. She ran distance on the women's cross country team, won a school record in 2018, and aimed for the spring outdoor record for the 5K—until her life took an unexpected turn.

After a sudden digestive issue prevented her from running, she and her mother took a trip to the hospital, only to be sent home frustrated with inconclusive test results.

"Mom, I'm not dealing with this," she told her mother, "no one knows what's wrong with me. I'm taking a walk and I'm going home."

Afterwards, her mother responded, "Becca, I'm going to stay. I'm

not feeling well."

After three nights in the hospital, Ley decided to visit her mother. "I went there for me, and she ended up staying there for her. She was in one of the waiting rooms with my sister and my dad, and she didn't look well," Ley described. "And she said, 'Becca, they found cancer.'"

"I knew something like that was coming," she continued. "I felt defeated."

It was around this time that Ley quit running, a drastic change in her life that she had been thinking about for a while. "I didn't know who I was without [my mom]," said the health studies student. "When I was younger, I was a gymnast and a surfer. I always had something going for me that I was going to excel at because I had my best friend at my side cheering me on. Seeing her get weaker and weaker all the

time, I was like, 'how do I go on without my biggest cheerleader?'"

Eight months after her mother was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, she passed away in February 2019.

"I felt like I had no one," Ley said. "I just had a lot of rage in me because after a death, at first everyone's there, and then after a while they trickle off because they have their own lives and their own families."

After seeing a therapist and a nutritionist, the 23-year-old turned to one other outlet—poetry. "When I quit running, I started going on long walks, and I started writing while I was walking. I'm not someone who can sit down and write," she explained, as she was briskly walking through the halls of an independent living center, where she works as a caregiver for a woman with dementia. "I would come home and read to [my mom] what I wrote on the long walks, and she really liked them."

Ley compiled the poems into a 122-page book, titled *How Dar-e You Leave Me*—a nod to her mother's first name Daryl—that recounts the feelings of anger, grief, and isolation following her mother's passing. Self-published under the pseudonym Edith R. Cooper, comprised of her middle name and her mother's maiden name, the book also features original photographs that correspond with the raw, unapologetic emotion found in each poem.

"I almost gave up a million times because after I read [the poems], I

was like, 'they're not perfect.' I thought maybe I'll just have them as a memory, but then it's sad that they're just sitting there collecting dust. None of the poems are edited; they're all things I've written on walks. I just wanted to get myself out there as I am, flaws and all."

She continued, "I want to move on from [the poems], but they keep telling me that they're going to help someone else, whoever's in this place. I don't want to be shameful about the hurt that I went through anymore. I just went through so much anger and it helps me to share more than to hold it in. This book is kind of my little pity party...Maybe someone out there will click with it."

Not only does Ley hope that readers will connect to her poetry, but with her infectious, ebullient personality, she immediately touches the lives of those she meets.

"She was my first friend at Monmouth and I'm really lucky that I met her," said Chloe Barone, a '20 alumna who met Ley at freshman orientation the summer before college. "She really changed my life in a lot of ways because she's really kind and down to earth. I think it's very rare when you meet someone and you could feel their energy and if they have a good soul. And she's just a really good person down to the core."

"Her mom was so lovely. She was an angel on the earth," Barone continued. "[Ley] has been through a lot. She's taken all these experiences—the good and the

bad—and she reflects it perfectly through her poetry."

Now, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Ley has once again turned to poetry to heal at a time when that familiar feeling of isolation began to resurface.

"During the quarantine, my mental health was failing," she said. "I didn't have my mother to talk to. I broke my foot at the beach. And you know walking is my biggest escape. That's how I deal with everything."

However, Ley kept in mind what her mother's passing taught her—to stay resilient, no matter what happens.

Although her poetry book is available for purchase on Amazon, Ley is seeking creative minds skilled in media design and editing to help refine the book. "I know there's so much potential at Monmouth to collaborate with someone," she said.

Ley will be donating about 50-75 percent of book profits to pancreatic cancer research.

"[Her poetry] is really brave because I think that a lot of people don't like to talk about the way they feel," said Barone. "They feel uncomfortable or like they shouldn't bring it up, because sometimes it's scary if it gets really intense. But she does it really well."

Moving forward, although Ley is still searching for the direction to take her health studies degree after graduating this May, she is sure of one thing—she will still be writing poetry on her walks, taking life one step at a time.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF Rebecca Ley

Rebecca Ley's poetry book encapsulates the grief and isolation she experienced after her mother's death.

A Blood Test Does Not Always Show COVID-19

MORGAN SCHMITT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), blood tests can determine past infections of a virus by detecting antibodies, proteins created by the immune system in response to a virus that protects against later infections. However, there have been questions as to how accurate COVID-19 antibody tests are for detecting past infections, according to an article published by the CDC's November edition of the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR).

Antibodies within patients decline over time. According to the CDC article, a negative antibody test does not indicate that a patient did not have a previous infection of COVID-19. Because the amount of time COVID-19 antibodies remain detectable within a patient's blood remains uncertain, health experts believe that this blood test does not seem like a reliable way of detecting a past infection.

The CDC article presented a group of over 3,000 United States healthcare workers who underwent a study conducted by a group of academic medical centers, known as The Influenza Vaccine Effective-

ness in the Critically Ill (IVY) Network. Each medical personnel in the study took a blood test in April 2020 to show their original COVID-19 antibody count. After 60 days, the healthcare workers were required to return and have another blood test within the study.

156 healthcare workers returned out of the original group for their second blood test appointment. Out of this sample, 93.6 percent showed a decline in their antibody count compared to their initial visit 60 days prior. Of the 156 people, 28.2 percent reported that their antibody count was just below the level of detection for their second antibody test, which would show as a negative antibody result.

The findings in this study had some limitations that could have influenced its results. Approximately 20 percent of the sample did not return for a secondary blood test.

The study also stated that 13 United States medical facilities were used to gather healthcare participants. By obtaining a sample size from one particular setting, the findings are convenient but can be unnatural compared to obtaining random samples of participants. Some of the samples in this study could have also been misdiagnosed due

to still having some antibodies, yet not enough to be detected within a blood test.

Healthcare workers showing a decline in their antibody results when working in infected settings every day questions the accuracy of detecting past COVID-19 infections through the blood test. An antibody test may or may not show if someone has had a past COVID-19 infection, according to the findings of the study.

The antibody test only tests for antibodies in the blood. Since the healthcare workers in this study had a decline in antibodies but did not show signs of further COVID-19 infection while they continued working, this shows that they had immunity to the virus.

The antibody test should not be used as a sole detector of a current or past COVID-19 infection. It should be used to determine if someone has antibodies against COVID-19. It takes time for antibodies to build up after a potential infection as well.

Although the amount of time COVID-19 antibodies can be detected in a patient's blood is still uncertain, healthcare personnel believe that antibody testing is necessary to combatting the virus.

"Antibody testing is vital to help-



IMAGE TAKEN from ABC News

COVID-19 antibody testing may not be the best method of determining if an individual has had the virus since antibodies decline over time, according to a study published by the CDC.

ing understand this virus and the actual prevalence," said health promotion student Savannah Steinhauer. "Those infected may not have tested or even believed they had it due to being asymptomatic, or due to an incorrect diagnosis. Antibody testing aids epidemiologists and other public health officials with establishing a more comprehensive analysis of those who have been infected and the accurate disease prevalence of COVID-19. It also adds a peace of

mind to those who find out that they either did have the virus, or did not."

Steinhauer continued, "Personally, I would like to get an antibody test just to see what my results are; maybe I did have the virus at one point and didn't know. I think if people treated the antibody testing the same as the blood test for the mono virus, then public health officials and patients would have a better understanding of their bodies, care, and whether or not they're susceptible."

Can Reboots Save TV in 2021?

CAITLIN CALLAHAN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

2020 was unkind to most, but 2021 may still be able to bring some viewers joy with the announcements of reboots of both *Sex and the City* and *Gossip Girl*.

Sex and the City was one of HBO's most monumental series, originally running from 1998-2004. It was recently announced that streaming service HBO Max ordered a ten-episode reboot, and production is scheduled to begin in late spring if the ongoing pandemic allows it.

According to HBO, the show will have a similar premise to the original run. "The series will follow Carrie, Miranda and Charlotte as they navigate the journey from the complicated reality of life and friendship

in their 30s to the even more complicated reality of life and friendship in their 50s," said a statement released by HBO Max.

The *Sex and the City* reboot will focus on just three of the four original main cast members. Who will be noticeably missing from the core group? Fan favorite Samantha. Kim Cattrall, the actress and five-time Emmy nominee who played Samantha, has expressed in the past that a reboot is not in her future.

As for Kim Cattrall's plan to not return, it may not come as a shock to fans. Cattrall and castmate Sarah Jessica Parker have maintained a very public rift, as both have since the second *Sex and the City* film stated some questionable things about one another.

The series has already been given two movies to finish their characters' stories, but they failed to hit the mark and the sequel received overwhelmingly negative reviews from fans and critics. In 2017, when a possible third movie was brought up to Cattrall in an interview with Piers Morgan, she openly expressed her disinterest in the project and name dropped Sarah Jessica Parker. Parker, who will continue to play narrator and protagonist Carrie Bradshaw, remains adamant that there is no bad blood between the two despite Cattrall's comments.

Not having Samantha on the show has upset many loyal fans and they have expressed their dissatisfaction with a Cattrall-less reboot. Although it can be brought into question why this reboot is necessary, it will still be interesting to see how the pandemic is incorporated into the show, as Parker suggested that COVID-19 will be part of the plot. It seems we will just have to wait and see what Carrie and Mr. Big are up to; hopefully divorced by now.

Sex and the City is not the only revival planned for HBO Max. Although originally a CW show, a *Gossip Girl* reboot is also on the way and a teaser has already been released.

This reboot, however, will follow a different format than *Sex and the City*. The *Gossip Girl* reboot will not continue the stories of its original main characters, but center on a whole new roster of rich kids living in New York's Upper East Side.

Production has already begun and a season of ten hour-

long episodes is scheduled to be released on HBO Max sometime later this year. The original run, which debuted in 2007, focused on a group of rich young socialites living in the Upper East Side and the various scandals they become entangled in. The whole series is narrated by "Gossip Girl," an anonymous online blogger that publicly releases information about the characters.

The new series seems to have a similar premise to the original, just with a new slate of characters. According to HBO Max, "Eight years after the original website went dark, a new generation of New York private school teens are introduced to the social surveillance of Gossip Girl. The prestige series will address just how much social media—and the landscape of New York itself—has changed in the intervening years."

The new cast features all young actors, most having had

minor acting experience or none at all. Kristen Bell, who narrated the series as "Gossip Girl," is the only original cast member thus far that has confirmed her return.

It will be interesting to see how social media has impacted the new generation of Constance students. Screenwriter Joshua Safran was quoted by Hollywood Reporter as saying, "It's just a new look at this particular society in New York, the idea being that society changes constantly." This chance to open back up *Gossip Girl* in the age of social media will allow a new perspective.

All the viewers can hope for is they don't mess up the reveal of *Gossip Girl* herself again. C'mon, Dan? Seriously? These reboots may not be the same as the original shows we all love, but they can definitely give us something to look forward to in a time where there is not much of that.



IMAGE TAKEN from Harper's Bazaar

Kim Cattrall (farthest right) will not return as Samantha Jones for the *Sex and the City* reboot.



IMAGE TAKEN from Glamour Magazine

HBO Max's reboot of *Gossip Girl* will focus on a new generation of Upper East Side rich kids.

(ever)more music from taylor swift

MELISSA BADAMO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF / FEATURES EDITOR

Taylor Swift has done it again. *Evermore*, her second surprise album of 2020 following the release of *folklore*, has already taken the world by storm.

Her ninth studio album overall, *evermore* was announced on Swift's Instagram only a day before its Dec. 11 release date. Since then, the album has taken the number one spot on Billboard's album chart, selling more than a million copies globally in its first week.

Swift introduced the album as the "sister record" to *folklore*, as it follows the same indie sound, piano-driven melodies, and poetic lyrics where the beauty of these albums truly lie. Swift taps into her storytelling talents to narrate both fictional and nonfictional stories that are nothing less than heart-breaking.

The album was produced by the same brilliant minds of *folklore*: Bleachers frontman Jack Antonoff, Aaron Dessner, and Swift herself;

and written by Swift, Antonoff, Dessner, and William Bowery, the pseudonym for Swift's boyfriend, British actor Joe Alwyn.

"...We just couldn't stop writing songs," the singer captioned her Dec. 10 Instagram post. "...it feels like we were standing on the edge of the folklorian woods and had a choice: to turn and go back or to travel further into the forest of this music. We chose to wander deeper in."

The album begins with the lead single "Willow," which was accompanied by an ethereal music video that performs as the sequel to the "Cardigan" music video off *folklore*. The "Willow" video follows the singer-songwriter stepping into a piano and entering the woods, setting the mythical vibe of the album.

Meanwhile, the final track "Evermore" is also a sequel to *folklore*'s "Exile," with both songs featuring vocals from indie folk band Bon Iver. *Folklore* is also referenced in the lyrics to the third track "Gold Rush": "My mind turns your life into folklore/ I can't dare to dream about you any-

more."

With a simple four-chord piano progression reminiscent of "New Years Day" from *reputation*, "Champagne Problems" tells the emotional story of a girl who rejects her fiancé's marriage proposal. Another notable track is "No Body No Crime," an upbeat country-esque song that features the pop rock band Haim and tells the story of a murder mystery that has been stuck on repeat for me since the album's release.

Overall, the album is both calming and poignant, comprised of rainy-day ballads graced by Swift's mellifluous voice. Although *folklore* and *evermore* are brilliantly intertwined, I must say that I prefer *folklore*'s vibe, its metaphorical lyrics, and the heart-wrenching love triangle embedded in its 16-song track list.

After dropping two albums in one year, I can't help but wonder what other secret projects are lurking in the shadows for the Grammy award-winning artist. Swift wrote in an Instagram post the day of *evermore*'s release, "I have

no idea what will come next. I have no idea about a lot of things these days and so I've clung to the one thing that keeps me connected to you all. That thing always has and always will be music. And may it continue, evermore."

These last two albums spotlight Swift's musical and lyrical range. As one of the biggest names in the music industry, she can successfully leap from country, to pop, to indie folk in the span of her 15-year career. As sung in "Willow," she "comes back stronger than a 90's trend."



IMAGE TAKEN from Slant Magazine

Taylor Swift recently released *evermore*, the companion to her 2020 indie album *folklore*.

Unity Theme Surrounds Biden and Harris Inauguration

GEORGEANNE NIGRO
POLITICS EDITOR

Joe Biden was inaugurated as the 46th president of the United States on Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2021. This inauguration marks the next four years as Joe Biden as president and Kamala Harris as Vice President for the United States.

During Biden’s inaugural speech, he made the word “unity” a constant theme. He said the word “unity” or “uniting” eleven11 eleven times during his inaugural speech, hinting at his tasks ahead for the United States.

Sarah Cooper, a senior psychology student, said that she is hopeful that this theme of unity will be displayed throughout the next four years.

“I am hopeful that progress will be made to create more equality, which has already happened through an executive order on advancing racial equity and support for underserved communities through the federal government which happened on 1/20/2021,” said Cooper. “This is just the first step and I am hoping action in the workplace such as training and the same especially for our law enforcement.”

Cooper also said that this inauguration was important

to her as a college student because Biden has made claims to include college students in the next stimulus checks and to potentially help with student loan debt, which is prominent in our country.

Joseph N. Patten, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Political Science, also commented that he thought the general theme of unity that ran through the whole inauguration was appropriate.

Kamala Harris, current United States Vice President, was

also inaugurated on Jan. 20. She is not only the first female United States Vice President, but also the first Black and first Asian-American United States Vice President.

Patten said that having Harris as the new Vice President will be important in several ways.

“I think that it is critically important in many ways, that the republican and democratic parties are kind of in many respects at a divide in long racial and ethnic lines, so that has

kind of led to the political tribalism,” said Patten.

He also said that the African American population has been the most loyal democratic base.

“And actually, Joe Biden is the president of the United States really because of the African American population. Specifically, during the South Carolina primary when a lot of people had Biden’s primary chances written off and he came back into South Carolina and to some of the other states

because of the black primary votes,” said Patten.

He then concluded by saying that this is certainly “long overdue”.

Jennifer McGovern, Ph.D. Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science and Sociology, said that she is hopeful for that having a woman and a person of color as Vice President that it would show that anyone who wanted to serve their country (who have the credentials and experience) could be in this role.

“But my fear is that one of the things as a sociologist that I know is a lot of the times especially women and women of color get into a position of power, there is a little more of a shorter leash or less patience, and sometimes people can get upset with small things that they might not be upset with if that same action, speech, or behavior was conducted by someone who looked different,” said McGovern.

She hopes that the American people will give Vice President Harris a chance to govern, to influence policy, and do not automatically assume she is doing certain things for other reasons. McGovern also said that the inauguration and theme of unity made her feel hopeful.



President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden arrive at the Presidential Inauguration on Jan. 20, 2021.

Trump Impeached for the Second Time

MATTHEW FILOSA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Former President Donald Trump is facing another impeachment trial in the wake of the siege on the U.S. Capitol. This makes him the only U.S. President to be impeached twice in the nation’s history.

Trump had been sowing doubts in the election process in the swing states that he lost, alleging voter fraud and that the election was stolen from him. Most of his base believe that the results of the election were not legit, which in turn made Republican members of Congress back Trump’s claims.

On Jan. 6, Trump held a “Save America Rally” with his supporters to protest Congress’ certification of the Electoral Votes from the 2020 election in which Trump lost to now-President Joe Biden. The rhetoric of the rally resulted in Trump’s supporters, who amongst them were domestic terrorists or insurrectionists such as the Proud

Boys, white supremacists and other far right fringe elements, breaking through the Capitol.

Many blame Trump’s tone and rhetoric as the cause of this incident which vandalized the halls of Congress, called for the execution of prominent politicians and the deaths of five individuals based on reporting by the *New York Times*; two of which were Capitol police officers.

In Congress, Democrats and even some Republicans argue that if it was not for Trump’s actions, the events of Jan. 6 would not have taken place. Many claim that Trump spread lies and misinformation to his supporters that the election was a fraud, and that his actions were to subvert democracy from the will of the people by attempting to usurp power.

On Jan. 13 the House of Representatives voted 237 to 197 according to the Office of the Clerk for the House, making it the most bipartisan impeachment vote in history with 10 Republicans joining the

Democrats. Trump has officially been charged by the House with “Incitement of an insurrection” against the United States.

In the aftermath of the insurrection, there was bipartisan condemnation from Democrats and Republican leaders such as Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA).

But as the time has passed, the notion of a trial is becoming more partisan.

“However, now that it’s in the Senate, you’re seeing a divergence,” said Stephen Chapman, Ph.D, Professor of Political Science. “Mitch McConnell signaled he was somewhat acceptable of members of his party voting to convict and he himself was undecided. But what a difference a couple weeks make, as McConnell voted in favor of the motion stating the impeachment was unconstitutional given Trump is out of office. Regardless, the vote on that measure was 55-45, with only five

Reps joining the Dems in voting down the measure. This signals it’s very unlikely the Senate will convict Trump.”

Republicans are claiming that Americans should just move on in healing the nation and that it will only alienate more of the former president’s base. The trial is set for mid-February as Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) agreed to focus on confirming President Biden’s cabinet picks first, but a showdown awaits.

Professor of Political Science Joe Patten, Ph.D. stated that “Democrats are seeking accountability for Trump’s actions but some like Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA) believe it could do more harm than good because of the circumstances we are in as a country.”

This comes as the nation is still grappling with the pandemic. Junior anthropology and political science student Catherine Melman-Kenny said, “It is right that Trump

is impeached because his actions were treasonous and seditious.”

Professor of Sociology Jennifer McGovern, Ph.D. addressed her views on the matter. “According to the legal definition, he probably didn’t commit a criminal act,” she said. “Trump did rile the people up but legally and criminally he may have not incited the insurrection. However, his actions for the last few months in creating doubt in the election threw fuel into the fire. He may be culpable but not criminally liable.”

McGovern continued, “It is important for actions to have consequences and I am concerned that a politician could act the way Trump did because it sets bad precedent. This type of behavior is problematic in a democracy by which the impeachment is a consequence.”

The trial will be another textbook event in U.S. history as the country deals with massive political polarization, a pandemic that has cost lives, and the inauguration of a new president.



Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House, raps her gavel when Trump was voted to be impeached by the House.



Donald Trump became the first president to be impeached twice.

University to Host First Virtual Spring Recruitment

LILY HOFFMANN
CLUB & GREEK EDITOR

One of the most highly anticipated events each year at Monmouth University is Panhellenic Recruitment. This event takes course over three days at the beginning of the spring semester, and attracts undergraduate women who are interested in joining a sorority. However, like most things this year, this event will now be hosted virtually from Feb. 19-22 via Zoom. The Panhellenic Council of the University has been working tirelessly to ensure that recruitment weekend runs smoothly. Samantha Trippiedi

serves as President of the Panhellenic Council. She said, “As Panhellenic President, I have been working extremely closely with our Panhellenic Vice President of Recruitment, Natalie Cianci, as well as our advisor, Tyler Droste, to make sure we plan the best and most efficient virtual recruitment as possible.” For Trippiedi and the council, this means covering all bases from technological difficulties, to ensuring the potential new members feel confident going into the weekend. Trippiedi added, “In a virtual world, it can be anticipated that there will be technological issues- but that does not mean there should be any reason to stress. PNM’s

will have their Recruitment Counselors (also known as Rho Gamma’s) as a point of contact as well as the Panhellenic Exec to go to in case they experience any issues!” The comfort of the potential new members is also something that Trippiedi is not taking lightly. She crafted a “PNM Guide for Virtual Recruitment” which she said will be released soon to help the potential new members prepare for the weekend’s events. Given the circumstances, the five Panhellenic chapters on-campus have also been preparing all year to host potential new members. Kelly Petersen serves as the Member Development Vice President of Alpha Xi Delta’s chapter at the University. She said, “Recruitment will definitely be a different experience this year due to COVID-19, but thankfully technology will help us get to know new members!” Ruby Dougherty is the Vice President of Membership recruitment for Alpha Omicron Pi’s chapter at the University. She said, “Although planning a virtual recruitment has been very difficult it will be so rewarding. I speak for all members of Alpha Omicron Pi when I say we are

looking forward to recruitment weekend so much! We have prepared so much for this and have been working very hard. Our chapter is very excited!” However, this has also been a daunting process for the chapters, as noted by Tessa Listo who serves as Tribune for Phi Sigma Sigma. She said, “my chapter has been preparing for virus recruitment by discussing our anxieties together about it being online. This is new to everyone on all sides so it’s very nerve wracking for all of us.” The chapters on campus are urging women to participate in recruitment and join a sorority. Liana Monticello is the Vice Presi-

dent of Recruitment for Delta Phi Epsilon’s chapter at the University. She said that despite sisterhood being virtual, sorority life is still “a network” where you can make so many friends. These connections are what makes it all worth it. Petersen expanded on this saying, “Sisterhood is more than just having events in-person or on campus; it may be as simple as seeing a sister on campus and walking to class with her or lending her your laptop charger. There are several aspects to sisterhood and being part of a sorority will allow you to see this.” For more information on Panhellenic recruitment, be sure to follow @monmouthphc on Instagram!



PHOTO COURTESY of Mike Lanis
Sisters of Alpha Xi Delta at the 2019 Relay for Life event at Ocean First Bank Center.



PHOTO COURTESY of Alpha Omicron Pi - Iota Theta
Alpha Omicron Pi welcoming a new pledge class following 2020 Recruitment Weekend.

Multicultural Greek Organizations Honor Black History Month

LILY HOFFMANN
CLUB & GREEK EDITOR

February is Black History Month, and is celebrated annually to honor the African Americans who have experienced years of adversity. However, this year brings about a greater importance to the celebration, after the inauguration of the first female Vice President, Kamala Harris, who is of African American descent, as well as the rise of empowerment movements such as Black Lives Matter. On a national level, this years’ celebrations will entail virtual festivals like those hosted by the

Association for the Study of African-American Life and History, and tributes to pivotal figures like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. On a local level, Monmouth University will host it’s very own celebration of Black History Month through various workshops and speakers. This month is also of utmost importance to students involved in the Multicultural Greek Council on campus, specifically the brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated. These organizations will be showing their support throughout the month. For the brothers of Omega Psi Phi at the University, this event is espe-

cially empowering. This month the brothers of the organization are celebrating Carter G. Woodson, a notable alumni of the fraternity. Woodson was the son of two former African slaves. In 1908, Woodson graduated from the University of Chicago, and went on to receive his Ph.D. from Harvard University. Woodson made strides for the black community when he started Negro History week in 1926, which eventually became the Black History Month that is celebrated today. On Feb. 9, the Tau Eta chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated will be hosting a “reflective” event that covers black television sitcoms, like “What’s Happening,” and “The Fresh Prince of Bel Air.” This interactive event will discuss important issues within the black community. The Tau Eta chapter said in an Instagram post, “This month puts a spotlight on all the accomplishments of African American culture. It includes the celebration of the African Diaspora and African American history.” For more information on the Multicultural Greek Council and Black History Month, be sure to follow @monmouth_mgc on Instagram.



PHOTO COURTESY of Chris Spiegel
The brothers of Omega Psi Phi at Monmouth University plan to honor brother, Carter G. Woodson for Black History Month.

Club and Greek Upcoming Events

- February 3, 2021 at 3 PM**
Fraternity and Sorority Life 101 Session
- February 3, 2021 at 3 PM**
WMCX Club Meeting
- February 5, 2021 at 3 PM**
Racing into the Space Age: The Life, Scholarship, and Legacy of Dr. Walter McAfee at Monmouth and Beyond
- February 5, 2021 at 9 PM**
Dinner Detective and Murder Mystery
- February 7, 2021 at 6:30 PM**
Super Sunday Football Challenge
- February 8, 2021 at 11 AM**
Learning HOW to Learn in College
- February 8, 2021 at 12PM and 3 PM**
Spring 2021 Involvement Tables
- February 9, 2021 at 7:30 PM**
Tuesday Night Record Club
- February 9, 2021 at 9 PM**
Black Sitcoms Declassified and Overlooked Messages

Students in
Recovery Club

DIY KITS

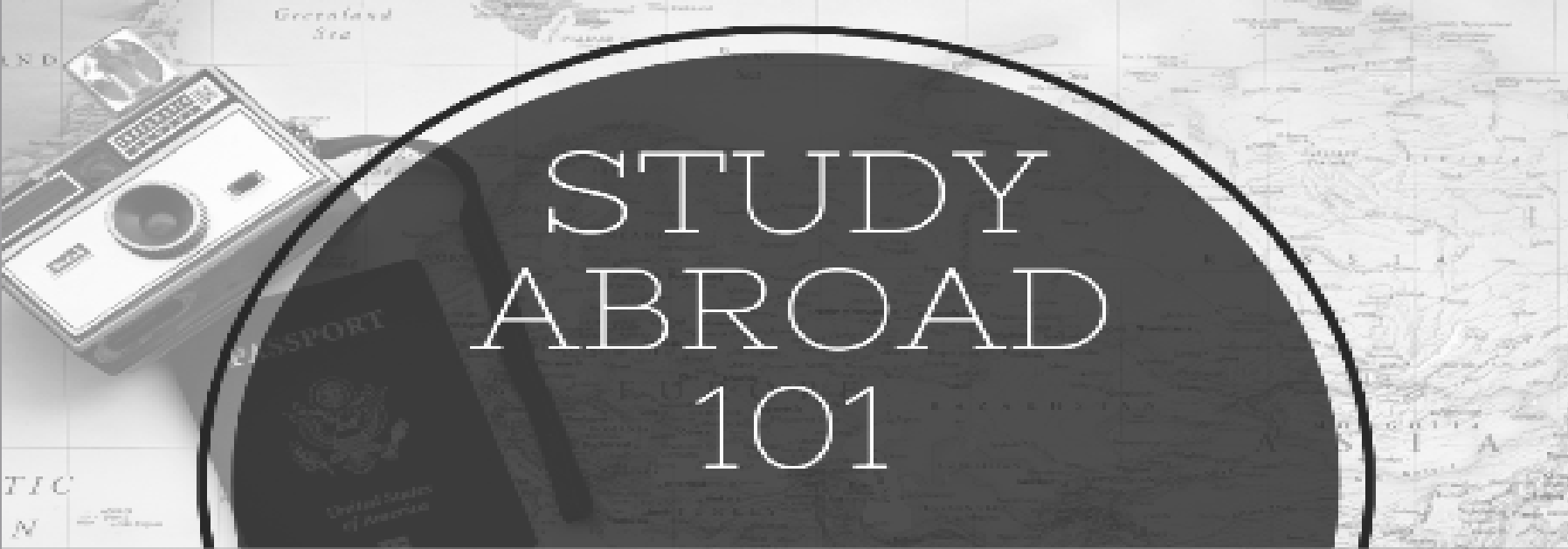
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Tuesdays 6pm (2ND & 4th of each month)
Feb 9 & 23 March 9 & 23 April 13 & 27

Email sschaad@monmouth.edu
For kit one week prior to be mailed

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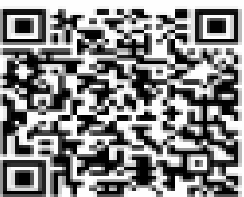
Zoom ID: 927 6862 1412
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STUDY ABROAD 101

Every Wednesday at 2:45 PM on Zoom

Link in the **Experience Monmouth App** or use our **QR Code!**



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Dr. Marilyn McNeil Announces Retirement

MARK D'AQUILA
SPORTS EDITOR

On June 30, 2021 Monmouth University's Vice President and Director of Athletics, Dr. Marilyn McNeil will be officially retiring from the role she has served for the last 28 years.

McNeil has spent 53 years total in the collegiate athletics field including her time as an athlete, coach, administrator and Athletics Director.

"While I have held many roles in intercollegiate athletics, the undisputed highlight of my career has been leading Monmouth for the past 28 years," said McNeil. "and almost completely because of the wonderful coaches and staff beside me."

This speaks to the gift of McNeil who has led a plethora of phenomenally successful collegiate coaches. Remarkably, eight of the University's current head coaches have been with the team for ten or more seasons. Even more impressively, head football coach Kevin Callahan, head soccer coach Krissy Turner, and head women's tennis coach Patrice Murray have led their teams for over 20 seasons. All of these tenures have been overseen by none other than Dr. Marilyn McNeil at the helm.

It is difficult to appropriately measure the impact she has had on Monmouth University athletics as a whole through simply words and numbers. McNeil helped lead all of her programs to a combined 119 regular season conference championships with a grand total of 38 National Collegiate Athletic Conference (NCAA) championships during her tenure. She helped the university's reputation improve from relatively no-name programs to some of the most dominant in all of mid-major Division One athletics.

"Dr. McNeil's influence on Monmouth will be felt for decades to come," said Monmouth University President Dr. Patrick Leahy. "Our athletics program grew significantly during her tenure, giving hundreds of students the opportunity to compete at the highest levels of collegiate athletics."

As a strong advocate for the Title IX rule in college



PHOTOS COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

"While I have held many roles in intercollegiate athletics, the undisputed highlight of my career has been leading Monmouth for the past 28 years."

Marilyn McNeil
Vice President and Director of Athletics

sports, McNeil's impact has been felt strongly in terms of gender equality. She helped bring seven new sports to Monmouth including five for the women's side.

Dr. McNeil served on the Division One NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics and the office of the President for National Association of Collegiate Women Athletic Administrators (NACWAA). If that was not enough, she also served with the Division One NCAA Women's Basketball Committee where she was the chair for a year.

Some of the major initiatives she led while serving these roles were trying to improve budgets, staffing, hiring processes and other equality practices that she implemented into her programs. An example of this was the all-female Division One voting delegation that she brought to the NCAA convention.

"Dr. McNeil is a fierce advocate for our student-athletes," said President Leahy. "She has been a leader on this campus for years, as well as a leader throughout intercollegiate athletics nationally, and her influence will be sorely missed."

This is reflected by the "A" grade Monmouth received from the Tucker Center for Research on Girls and Women in Sports for the number of women head coaches at Monmouth. As well as the top-notch facilities that she has helped add to the University during her tenure such as OceanFirst Bank Center, Kessler Stadium, and So Sweet a Cat Field.

Incredible academic achievement has also been a key part of McNeil's impact, with a constantly improving cumulative GPA and graduation rates well over 90 percent.

"Monmouth has been a great environment to grow and learn and I am thankful for having so many influential mentors," said McNeil. "Our new athletics leader will surely see these cornerstones and move the Hawks upward."

Monmouth has yet to determine who McNeil's replacement will be but the job search will begin in the next few months with massive shoes to fill.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Monmouth Athletic Director Dr. Marilyn McNeil led coaching staffs to incredible tenures including eight coaches who have been with their program for ten years or more and three who have eclipsed 20 years with their teams.

Men’s Basketball Split Weekend Series With Niagara

JACK MURPHY
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Men’s basketball split their two away games against Niagara this past weekend winning the first one by a score of 77-67 on Friday and dropping the second one 74-83 on Saturday.

Monmouth’s Friday victory

was their fifth straight win, making it the Hawks longest winning streak since the 2017 season.

In just their second trip, the Hawks secured their first road win of the year while senior forward Melik Martin and senior guard Deion Hammond led the charge putting up 19 and 18 points respectively.

Monmouth held the Purple Eagles to only 26 points in the first half, allowing them to head into halftime with a 15-point lead. Niagara made things interesting in the second half as they cut down the lead to single digits.

Hammond drained three triples in Fridays contest putting him at 257 for his career

in blue and white, tied for the second most in Monmouth history. “We’re just grateful we got to come out and play today,” said Hammond. “We didn’t really think about who we had to play, we were just glad to play and get the win.”

Freshman guard Myles Ruth continues his Gary Payton-esque season as he recorded multiple steals for the eighth time this season in just 12 games.

The Hawks were distributing the rock with ease in this one as they totaled 23 assists collectively. This is the most Monmouth tallied in a single game since the 2012-2013 season. They also secured the ball as well holding the Purple Eagles to force nine turnovers.

“Today I thought we had a really good game plan,” said Head Coach King Rice. “We did some things a little bit differently then we normally do against them and I think it messed them up a little bit and then my guys were super excited to be able to play a game after not playing last week.”

The Hawks were also more efficient in their matchup with Niagara as Monmouth shot an impressive 50 percent from the field and 47 percent from behind the arc. Friday’s win brings Monmouth to eight wins on the 2020-2021 campaign.

History would not repeat

itself in the next contest between these two squads as Monmouth fell short to Niagara.

The Hawks were led by red-shirt sophomore Donovan Toatley who scored 17 points in 21 minutes and senior forward Melik Martin who notched his first double-double of his career with 14 points and 11 rebounds.

These performances were not enough for Monmouth to win as the Purple Eagles were steam rolling early going on a 11-0 run in the first half to give themselves a comfortable 12-point lead, but the Hawks clawed back to trim that lead to only six heading into the locker room.

“Give Niagara all the credit,” said Rice. “Their kids were more together today and that usually happens after you get beat on your home floor so that was going to have them regrouped. You expected them to come back strong.”

Hammond hit another milestone during his terrific tenure in blue and white as he surpassed the 1500-point mark, becoming only the seventh Hawk in the program’s D1 history to do so.

Coming up for now 8-5 Monmouth is two matchups on the road against Manhattan. Their first matchup will take place on Feb. 5 and will air on ESPNU. Their next game will take place the day after on Feb. 6.



Senior forward Deion Hammond led the Hawks to a 77-67 victory on Friday thanks to an 18 point performance.
PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Shawn Clark Football Player Turned Rugby Pro

ERIN MULLIGAN
STAFF WRITER

In November, former Monmouth tight end, Shawn Clark, became a two-sport pro athlete after becoming one of the newest additions to the pro rugby team, the Colorado Raptors.

The Potsdam, New York native has played sports his whole life but says, “Football has always been my one love.”

Clark sees his time at Monmouth as the best time of his life. “Monmouth Football, the whole program, just the atmosphere helped me really just find myself as a person,” said Clark.

During his college career, Clark had a knee surgery, dislocated his shoulder, and played six weeks with a torn labrum and torn bicep. With the help of his support system at Monmouth, Clark derived his motivation from his hometown, and ended up earning First team All-Big South Honors, led All-Big South tight ends with 18 receptions for 254 yards and four touchdowns, and earned an Eastern Conference Athletic Conference (ECAC) First Team Selection.

“There’s very few people who get the opportunities that I have from my area and it means so much to have that kind of support around you, plus at Monmouth University in general, my support system was amazing.”

Clark reminisced on Monmouth’s Big South Championship win against Campbell

University saying, “We just beat them down and holding that trophy for the first time was the best feeling I’ve ever felt in my life.”

Becoming a National Football League (NFL) player has been Clark’s main goal his entire life. Following his last season, the decorated tight end did not receive any offers from NFL teams following the huge impact COVID has had on small school player’s opportunities. Clark headed down to North Carolina and began training with The Perfect Athlete Training and received invitations to work out with the Indianapolis Colts and Buffalo Bills. “Understanding that I wasn’t the only one going through it kind of kept me pushing for the opportunity I had in Indy and Buffalo as well.”

Clark then went to play for the Blues in the developmental camp, the Spring League that consists of NFL coaches and future NFL players. He spoke on the camp saying, “It’s such a good experience to be around and it shows yourself, that you can play with the best of them.”

While still playing with the Blues, Clark received a phone call with an offer to play professional rugby for the Colorado Raptors who are leaving Major League Rugby and looking to develop American athletes to try to make the World Cup team. COVID has helped Clark realize how short and precious life is. “Opportunities are so limited in life and I’m just trying to make the

most of every opportunity I can get,” said Clark. “Why not take this chance, go and continue to be an athlete?”

With no prior rugby experience, Clark flew out to Denver, signed a contract, and is excited to represent

the U.S. in the Rugby World Cup. He will also still be able to work out for NFL teams in the meantime.

Clark is thankful for “my man, Coach Jeff Gallo” and the athletic advisors, Tom Bieber and the entire staff

saying, “They worked relentlessly with me for five years to make sure I would succeed.”

“Monmouth football and the university both taught me how to make the most of every opportunity, and I am most grateful for that,” said Clark.



Monmouth football Alum Shawn Clark recently became a two-sport athlete after joining the professional Rugby team the Colorado Raptors.
PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics



LEAVING THE NEST



THANK YOU

DR. MARILYN MCNEIL!



Monmouth University's legendary Athletic Director, Dr. Marilyn McNeil announced she will retire from her 53-year career in college athletics on June 30, 2021.

SEE STORY ON PAGE 14

PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics