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John Morano Steps Down as The Outlook's Advisor After 33 Years

GEORGEANNE NIGRO
SENIOR/ POLITICS EDITOR

After serving as the faculty advisor for 33 years, overseeing 800 issues and over 12,800 pages of the newspaper, John Morano, Professor of Journalism, has decided to step down as faculty advisor for the student-run University newspaper, *The Outlook*.

Morano has been the only faculty advisor for *The Outlook* since it was first published in 1933, and he is also the founder of the journalism program at Monmouth.

Under his leadership, the paper has won five national championships from the American Scholastic Press Association, one national championship from the Society of Professional Journalists, and was awarded 'Top Ten in the Nation' from the American Collegiate Press.

Morano said that his feelings on leaving the newspaper are complicated. "I mean, it's time. It's time for me to step away



PHOTO COURTESY of Mark Ludak/JohnMorano.com
Morano founded Monmouth University's journalism program, guiding *The Outlook's* editors and staff with experiential, industry knowledge for decades.

and let someone else step in," he said.

Marina Vujnovic, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Journalism, will take over as the new faculty advisor for *The Outlook*, starting this upcoming fall 2021 semester.

"She's wonderful. That makes it that much easier for me to hand it over to a colleague," Morano said. "But

it's been a really big part of my life, and a great joy in my life. On some level, after all of that time, it becomes part of you. But nothing lasts forever, and it really shouldn't last forever. So, the time is right, this is the time to do this. I don't want to overstay

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Pamela E. Scott-Johnson, Ph.D., to Become New Provost

MATTHEW CUTILLO
MANAGING/ NEWS/ LIFESTYLES EDITOR

Pamela E. Scott-Johnson, Ph.D., will serve as the new Provost/Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs this summer, following a national search of over 100 applicants.

Scott-Johnson currently serves as the Dean of the College of Natural and Social Sciences at California State University, Los Angeles (Cal State LA), the largest college at the University. The school encompasses nearly 6,000 undergraduate students.

Prior to her time with Cal State LA, Scott-Johnson served as the Interim Dean of Morgan State University's College of Liberal Arts, as the Chair of the Department of Psychology and taught as a Professor of Psychology.

She earned her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in psychology and neuroscience from Princeton University and a B.A. degree in psychology from Spelman College.

President Patrick F. Leahy Ed.D., announced Scott-

Johnson's selection during the weekly "Monmouth Mondays" podcast on Friday, Apr. 9.

"Her school, part of that larger University, serves as many students as we do here at Monmouth," Leahy said.

Cal State LA is the highest ranked school in the U.S. based on the upward socioeconomic mobility of its students, according to a study published in *The New York Times*.

"For an institution like ours that is hungry to grow our retention and graduation rates, and to diversify our student base, we thought that was really relevant experience," Leahy said.

Through the work of the search committee, the number of applicants was narrowed down from 100 to 40, then 12, Leahy explained. The remaining four held public forum-style webinars for the campus community to join and ask questions.

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The Double-edged Sword of Food Delivery Services: Small Restaurant Owners Grapple With Shifting Industry

RACHAEL FILARSKI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In the wake of COVID-19, the nation's restaurant industry took a severe hit. In an effort to bring awareness to small restaurants and aid them in their struggles, a movement began encouraging community members to support local small businesses.

With indoor dining no longer an option, restaurants relied heavily upon third-party delivery services such as DoorDash, Grubhub, and Uber Eats to make up the in-house business they were unable to generate. App-based delivery services experienced tremendous growth.

According to financial reports for the fourth quarter and full year of 2020,

Grubhub alone reported making \$504 million - a 48 percent increase from the \$341 million the company brought in last year during the same period. Still a relatively new development, the relationship between small restaurants and food delivery services is misunderstood by many. Although responsible for increased sales, are these third-party delivery services taking more than just their fair share of the profits?

"More or less," replied Matteo Rafael, owner of Nelly's Pizza in West Long Branch. "It does depend on the service. For some third-party services, they sometimes take about 30 percent when it's their company drivers delivering food, so using our own drivers has more benefits. As for decreased profits, it hasn't affected us on a major scale

because we use our own drivers."

In order to lessen the profit cut of going through app-based delivery services, some small restaurants have implemented in-house delivery. Others, however, are not so open to the consideration.

"In my view, third-party is more cost effective," explained Joe Maruca, general manager of Maruca's Tomato Pies in Seaside Heights. "Also, the non-monetary variables (finding a driver and ensuring they show up for work) outweigh the cost of third-party."

Although food delivery services can demand a large percentage of total revenue, it seems that apps like DoorDash, Grubhub, and Uber Eats have contributed to an

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IMAGE TAKEN from Pexels.com

Grubhub reported a 48 percent profit increase during the pandemic, yet many business owners remain undecided on third-party delivery benefits.

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Eleanor Novek, Ph.D., Retires After 25 Years

MATTHEW CUTILLO
MANAGING/NEWS/LIFESTYLES EDITOR

Eleanor Novek, Ph.D., is stepping down as a Professor of Communication after 25 years. During her time, she wrote three academic journals on prison education and activism, was nominated for the Distinguished Teaching Award, received the Judith H. Stanley Traveling Fellowship for Teaching in the Humanities, and taught dozens of courses related to every corner of the journalism industry.

Outside of the classroom, she joined the Board of Directors for the Redeem-Her Transitional Program for Women, became an Editorial Board Member for both the Atlantic Journal of Communication and the Journal of Prison Education and Reentry. She also became a state coordinator for the Alternatives to Violence Project in which she organized and led nonviolence workshops in prisons, churches, and community centers.

“I’ve been at MU for 25 years, and now it’s time to spend some time doing other things,” Novek wrote in a statement to *The Outlook*. “I’ve got the travel bug and once COVID-19 calms down, there are some places on my bucket list that really call out to me, such as Greenland and Cuba.”

“Professor Eleanor Novek will be impossible to replace,” Aaron Furgason, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Chair of the Communication Department and Adviser of WMCX said. “Finding a new colleague that is both a champion for Monmouth University students, an advocate for social justice and education for New Jersey’s pris-

oners, plus being a fantastic colleague will be a difficult role for someone to fill. Professor Novek will be sorely missed by students and faculty in the Department of Communication.”

Novek taught all different facets of journalism to students during her time, including news writing, editorial writing, and online journalism.

“I think all forms of journalism are important, now more than ever,” Novek wrote. “I have enjoyed teaching journalism classes to some very bright and courageous students. The world needs you folks! The news keeps

us aware of the changing events and issues in our world and gives us information we need to make the best decisions about our lives, our communities, and our government. In the distant and recent past, presidents and politicians, con men and corporations, have lied to the public shamelessly, and courageous journalists have stood up and provided the factual evidence we needed to discover the truth. I feel so proud of my students who have become journalists and are serving their communities and the world in this way.”

Novek’s research interests during her time at Monmouth fo-

cused on communication strategies and practices of incarcerated individuals; higher education in prison and the methods that sustain it. She spent her time greatly on racial justice issues involving men and women in prison; prison journalism; and methods of teaching nonviolence, leading to her receiving the Literacy Volunteer of the Year Award from the New Jersey Department of Corrections.

“Incarcerated people are people just like you and me,” Novek wrote. “As human beings, we are more than the worst thing we have ever done. Doing nonviolence workshops in prisons taught me

that people don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care. That experience has really shown me the value of connecting with students and helping them connect with each other, so I have taken some of those lessons and tried to incorporate them into my classes wherever possible. And as a journalist, I believe that prison is not the answer to the problems that plague our society. The public needs to know the human stories of those folks locked away behind bars, so they are not forgotten.”

The Outlook asked Novek if she recalled any particularly memorable or rewarding moments during her time at Monmouth.

“Quite a few!” She wrote. “One of the best was when Dr. Johanna Foster and I were able to bring a class of Monmouth students into a New Jersey State Prison to study with incarcerated learners for a semester. Their topic was ending the school-to-prison pipeline — the dynamic that pushes poor students of color out of school and into the criminal justice system. The MU students then made a public presentation about their work that was standing room only - it attracted everyone from the president of the University to the Commissioner of the NJ Department of Corrections. That was an awesome day!”

“I am a peace activist,” Novek wrote. “I intend to do more nonviolence workshops in my community and in prisons. And in addition to volunteer work and travel, my husband and I love to hike in the woods, and we plan to do more of that soon. And I’d like to see my family more often.”



PHOTO COURTESY of Anthony DePrimo

Novek taught a variety of journalism courses during her 25 years, including news writing, online journalism and editorial writing.

Provost

PROVOST cont. from pg. 1

Each candidate managed a dozen or so interviews with different figures around the campus, Leahy explained. He collected all the feedback, considered individual inputs from faculty leadership, University deans, and other academic leaders.

“I spent a weekend contemplating it and decided that Pamela Scott-Johnson is the right person for us,” Leahy said. “She enthusiastically accepted my invitation to come to Monmouth this summer and to serve in that really important role.”

Leahy looks forward to Scott-Johnson joining the University community in the coming months, helping to drive and support academic priorities, he explained in a statement to *The Outlook*.

“She is both an accomplished academician and experienced administrator with a deep commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion,” Leahy wrote. “Beyond her sterling credentials, Dr. Scott-Johnson has an amiable personality that will undoubtedly enrich our campus community. She represents everything that I hoped for in a Provost candidate when we embarked on this national search in the fall, and I am gratified by the widespread support for Dr. Scott-Johnson across our university throughout the search process.”

In-person Graduation Ceremonies to Be Held In May

MATTHEW CUTILLO
MANAGING/NEWS/LIFESTYLES EDITOR

President Patrick F. Leahy Ed.D., and Communication faculty member Matt Harmon discussed commencement plans on their weekly “Monmouth Mondays” podcast on Friday, Apr. 9.

Leahy explained how the University has been in close contact with the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education, awaiting concrete commencement plans to share with the campus community.

“I recognize how important this ritual is,” Leahy said. “We [were always] committed to having in person ceremonies, we just didn’t have clarity up until now. The Office of The Secretary of Higher Education

in the state has given us the parameters that we feel we need in order to host, once again, fairly traditional, in-person graduation ceremonies for all of our graduates this spring.”

Commencement ceremonies will be held in Kessler Stadium, rain or shine. Those graduating will be seated socially distanced from one another on the field, and three guests will be permitted per graduate to sit within the stadium itself. Masks are mandatory, and social distancing guidelines apply to guests as well.

“The schedule for the ceremonies is based on when you have finished your degree requirements, what degree you will be receiving, and what school you are a part of here at the University,” the official commencement

announcement specifies. “What school you are part of here at the University cannot be changed at this time.”

“I’m so proud of this because a lot of other colleges and Universities are not going this way,” Leahy said. “To be fair to them, maybe their local health organizations are not allowing it, but we’ve been holding out and pushing the Office of The Secretary of Higher Education all in an effort to try to have in-person ceremonies. We will this year.”

Ceremonies will take place over four days, the 12th, 13th, 19th, and 20th of May. Day one will feature all graduates completing degrees at the end of the fall 2020 semester, as well as Master and Doctoral candidates in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, the School of

Business and the School of Education later that afternoon.

The following day will feature Master and Doctoral candidates in the School of Nursing and Health Studies, the School of Social Work and the School of Science.

The next week will center around Bachelor degree candidates in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and Bachelor degree candidates for the School of Nursing and Health Studies and the School of Social Work. The final day features Bachelor degree candidates in the School of Business, and Bachelor degree candidates in the School of Education and the School of Science.

A full schedule of events can be found at monmouth.edu/commencement.



PHOTO COURTESY of Anthony DePrimo

The University’s in-person graduation ceremonies will take place over the course of four separate days this May.

Walter Greason, Ph.D., Details History of Fictional Wakanda City

MATTHEW CUTILLO
MANAGING/NEWS/LIFESTYLES EDITOR

Walter Greason, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Educational Counseling and Leadership, presented “Wakanda, Afrofuturism, and the Future of Cities” as part of the “Future of Cities” speaker series hosted by the School of Public and International Affairs at Virginia Tech on Wednesday, Apr. 17.

Greason is the creator of the Wakanda Syllabus, a bibliography of resources meant for exploring the artistic and cultural context of Marvel’s Black Panther comics and the fictional African nation of Wakanda.

When it comes to the design of Wakanda, it took a considerable amount of time and effort to settle on a design that could speak to African cultural diversity, but remain accessible and recognizable to a variety of people around the world, Greason explained.

“[The design of Wakanda] challenges the notions that have been embedded in Africa as a rural continent; a place that did not have urban spaces,” Greason said. “To do that in a relatively short frame [of the film] and to make that impression so

people could engage the notion of this fictional nation took years.”

Within the film, protagonist Chadwick Boseman says the phrase “This never gets old” when he sees Wakanda. This moment signifies the narrative, ancestral history and vision of the African continent, Greason explained.

“Seeing the ideals and possibilities of a liberated African diaspora taps into something deep and emotional that counters generations of film that ste-

reotyped and dehumanized people of African ancestry in any number of ways,” Greason said. “[It’s] about bringing a global array of voices into media, television, movies and audiobooks. The sentence ‘This never gets old’ is the feeling of many folks I’ve worked with for 20-25 years, that opening experience of a fictional African nation that had never been touched by colonialism, slavery and segregation.”

As Jack Kirby and Stan Lee were writing Fantastic Four comics in the mid-1960s, they

wanted to do a storyline based in Africa, Greason explained. The duo wanted to create a portrayal of Africa that countered stereotypes of poverty and lack of development.

“They wanted it to be comparable to the things they have seen and written about, like Thor and Asgard,” Greason said. “They wanted it to be an ideal place, essentially a black utopia for people of African descent and African heritage.”

Through the 1970s, the

concept became a parallel of Tarzan mythology, Greason explained. The Black Panther became a Tarzan allegory of struggle against a variety of primitive forces trying to maintain an advanced society. “[The protagonist] is being cut, bloodied and he’s being knocked out; struggling to overcome extraordinary physical adversity to ultimately triumph in the end.”

These two generations of stories were not challenged as a framework until the late 1990s. Wakanda does not develop into the modern iteration that audiences are familiar with until Christopher Priest, a novelist and science fiction writer, began to infuse The Black Panther with Hollywood blaxploitation and cinematography, Greason said.

“[The author] takes those kinds of images, then the sense of the country itself,” Greason said. “He says Black Panther is not a superhero, but rather a combination of a Prime Minister, a monarch and a religious figure of hope. His powers are not about energy rays or about the different kinds of spectacular tools that he’ll put forth, but it’s about his political sophistication. His wisdom, his spiritual grounding among his people, and Priest changes the entire formulation.”

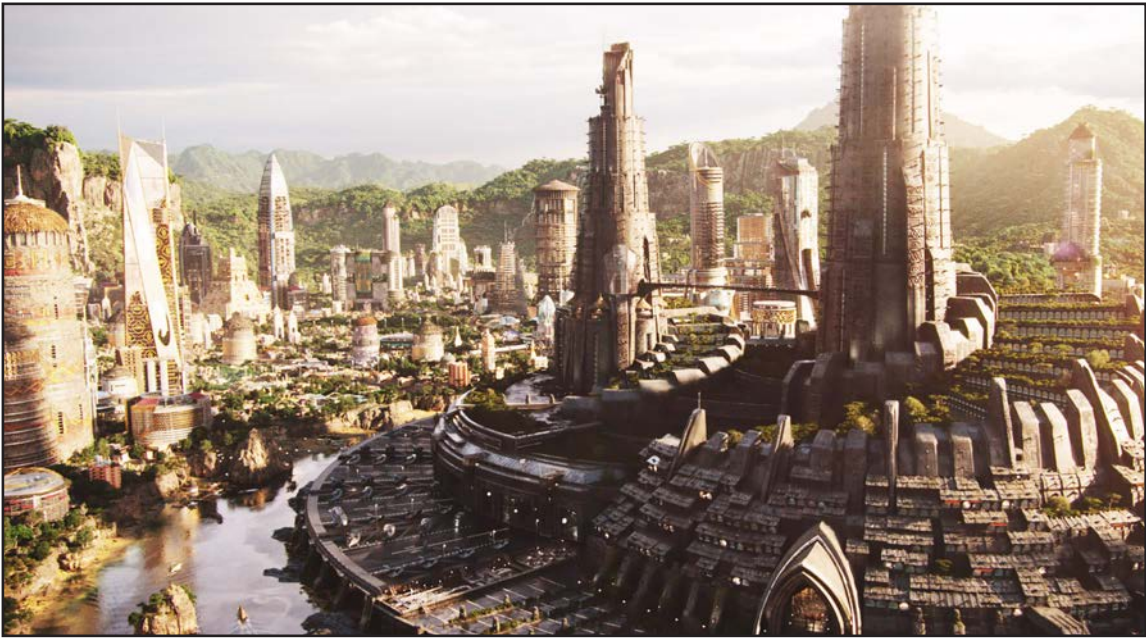


IMAGE TAKEN from TIME.com

The fictional city of Wakanda represents an African nation that counters stereotypes of lack of technology and land development.

World Cinema Series Discusses *Woman at War*

MATTHEW CUTILLO
MANAGING/NEWS/LIFESTYLES EDITOR

The World Cinema Series hosted a virtual film discussion of Benedikt Erlingsson’s *Woman at War* on Thursday, Apr. 15.

Moderated by Thomas Pearson, Ph.D., the discussion featured input from faculty speakers Catherine Duckett, Ph.D., Associate Dean of The School of Sciences, Maiya Furgason, Professor in the Department of Management and Leadership, and Nancy Mezey, Ph.D., Dean of the Honors School.

Woman at War is a 2018 Icelandic-Ukrainian film centered around Halla, an eco-activist and choir conductor who aims to disrupt the newly founded operations of a Rio Tinto aluminum smelting plant in the Icelandic highlands. A forgotten application to adopt a Ukrainian child is suddenly approved, and Halla must balance her disruptive activism with the soon-to-be adoption.

“This film is a blend of adventure-thriller, environmental drama and an offbeat comedy,” Pearson said. “[An orchestra] tends to appear during moments of intense action with a Greek chorus, and there’s also a Ukrainian choir that appears in moments of self-reflection. This director, with his original vision, has thought out everything because he really wants to marry the absurd with the urgency to get his message of eco-activism across.”

The film poses two questions, Pearson explained. “What are the instruments and limits in the war between the eco-activists, the corporations and their government patrons in the fight over the natural environment, and the second question is what risks do activists, their families and friends take on their commitment to environmental justice and environmental activism.”

Duckett began her comments, stating that the film is a manifesto.

“It is a statement of intention, and in that sense it is a sort of meta-manifesto because you have Halla’s manifesto and you also have the director’s manifesto,” Duckett said. “This is of interest to me and my teaching because I’m trying to get students to find their activist voice.”

The difference between an activist and an extremist can be a matter of perspective, Duckett explained. “As a climate science communicator, one of the ways we view environmentalism in the United States is through a lens that has been filtered or clouded by extreme climate disinformation. Exxon and other corporations knew about climate change well before the American public was informed in detail and they deliberately tried to create the impression that scientists were being extremists and alarmists.”

Those who are only in their early 50s are set to experience the adverse effects of climate change by the end of their lives, Duckett explained.

Young people will have the majority of their lives transformed by climate change.

“For me, the discussion of what’s appropriate activism and what is extremism is very timely and topical,” Duckett said. “We all have to decide for ourselves what we should be doing about this crisis and how we can help within the social boundaries that we work in.”

The corporation Rio Tinto itself is well over a hundred years old and is the second largest smelter of aluminum in the world, Furgason explained. Rio Tinto is a multinational with 32 subsidiary companies, producing 23 percent of Iceland’s total Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

“[Rio Tinto] uses a huge amount of electricity,” Furgason said. “The electricity

in Iceland is produced from hydro power, so that’s a positive, but here’s a company that’s making 500 tons a day of aluminum. They come out with this rhetoric that says Rio Tinto has strong environmental focus and environmental issues are among the most important issues, and yet they are major violators of both human rights and environmental.”

“The first thing that really came to my mind was motherhood, and what does it mean to be a good mother,” Mezey said of the film. “There’s all sorts of literature on what it means to be a good mother, and really the definition of a good mother depends on the cultural background that you’re from. For example, with white middle-class mothers in the United States,

a good mother means staying home with your kid and making sure they do everything they possibly can with this intensive mothering. For African American mothers, historically, a good mother has meant someone who has been in the workforce and can raise up her children with their community.”

When you look at the film’s protagonist, you may question how good of a mother they would be to the adopted child, Mezey pointed out. “I think initially when you look at Halla, you think ‘Wow, how can she be a mother?’ She’s an activist, an extremist. She’s blowing up things and she’s breaking the law, but she makes it clear in her mind that by doing all the things that she is doing, she is in fact a very good mother.”



PHOTO TAKEN from SBS.com

The film centers around an eco-activist fighting for a better world for her adopted child.

Kathryn Schauer ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER

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Time to Travel

GIANNA FERRARO
STAFF WRITER

When the COVID-19 pandemic first hit the United States last year, the travel industry came to a complete halt. Over the course of the summer, people began to venture out a little bit more, but mostly sticking to small road trips. With more and more people gaining access to COVID-19 vaccinations, the light is finally at the end of the tunnel. After over a year of isolation, it's safe to say that we are itching to get out of our houses. Armed with the right precautions and equipment, travel is possible right now.

I do think it is possible to travel safely during this time, and I will be comfortable to travel. After the semester ends, I will have gotten the second dose of the vaccine, making it easier for me to be around people and travel with my friends and family. In addition to having the vaccine, I feel comfortable traveling because I will be taking all of the necessary precautions to ensure the safety of myself and others. Some of these precautions include wearing a mask, social distancing, avoiding touching my face, and washing my hands often.

Along with personal precautions, resorts and airlines are enforcing these rules as well. Most hotels and resorts require a negative covid test when occupying a room and a negative test is also required in order to travel to most islands or countries. In addition to the negative covid test, guests must wear a mask whenever walking through the resort, and in any form of transportation



PHOTO COURTESY of Jesse Bragger
A student at Monmouth student felt it was finally safe to travel and took off on an adventure.

provided by the resort. Guests also must make reservations at most restaurants in order to prevent too many people crowding in the same area. When hanging out by the pool or on the beach, guests must order through a server to prevent crowded bars. As far as airline precautions, passengers wear masks for the duration of every flight and present a negative covid test to prevent the spread of the virus.

For my upcoming trip, to ensure the safety of myself and those around me, I plan on isolating 10 days before my trip and 10 days after I arrive home. By isolating in this manner, I will ensure that I will not get those around me sick. While at the hotel, I plan on distancing myself from others in order to prevent any contact with the virus. I also plan on bringing extra sanitation

products on my trip. For example, I will pack extra hand sanitizer and antibacterial wipes to wipe down our hotel room when we arrive.

COVID-19 completely changed the way we travel. However, by being extra careful, that will probably be a good thing for us. With the weather beginning to warm up and states and countries slowly re-opening, it's a natural feeling to wonder if and when we can travel.

By taking necessary precautions before and after trips and being vaccinated, I feel comfortable beginning to travel again. Slowly but surely, the United States is starting to re-open. Although it might not be a good idea to travel outside of the United States for the time being, there are plenty of amazing places to visit.

Together but Alone

SHANNON MCGORTY
OPINION EDITOR

Today we live in a world controlled by social media. People walk with their heads buried in their phones, and they care more about likes or the latest trends than they do for each other. Many are spending time trying to perfect the latest TikTok challenge rather than with their friends and family.

Even when you are with people, are you really there? Are you fully present? Most of the time the answer is no. Being physically at a table is different from sitting there and engaging with those around you. Because of social media, conversations are half-hearted and often results in having to repeat yourself multiple times.

"Likes" equate to popularity on social media, and the more likes and followers you have the more popular you are considered. Being popular on social media is not the same as having friends in real life. Someone on Instagram could have eight thousand followers but have no friend in real life. What many fail to realize is that it is better to have a few great friends than to have many acquaintances.

In life we could be constantly surrounded by people and have no idea because we care more about what is going on in our phones than the world around us. This is not our fault, not entirely. We grew up with technology and social media. We use it for class, for fun, and when we are bored. Babies have their blankets that they turn to when they need to feel secure, but when we feel scared and alone we turn to our

screens instead of the person sitting right next to us.

It is rare that you see two people interacting face-to-face these days and it is monumental when two strangers interact face-to-face. It is not that we are incapable of performing such tasks, but that many are simply afraid to. Because we have become accustomed to interacting through social media, conversations are shorter, less proper, and very rarely included small talk. People no longer make eye contact when they speak to you, or ask questions, or provide verbal ques.

Being on social media is fun and interesting, but it is not everything. One cannot let the digital world consume then as that is not only detrimental to one's mental wellbeing, but it can also affect one professionally. Social media might be a part of your professional life and work tasks, but it is only a small part. The main thing people do in a work setting is interact with others. If an employee is unable to do that then they might not fare well in their profession.

When people are forced away from their phones, they do not know what to do. Talking to people becomes a forced task that many would rather never endure. We are more alone in this world of social media than ever before. While we might be interacting with people online, we are secluded from the world around us. I believe this is something we need to work on and will always need to look to improve. If we allow our lives to be overrun by media, then we will never truly be able to enjoy the life we are meant to be living.

Since When Am I an Adult?

SHANNON MCGORTY
OPINION EDITOR

With the end of the spring semester quickly approaching, one cannot help but to think about the future. Whether you are awaiting the start of the next semester or entering the real world after graduation, the future can be scary.

Shonda Rhimes once said, "We're adults. When did that happen? And how do we make it stop?" I can't help but wonder, when did I become an adult or if I really ever became one.

How does someone go from a child to an adult

and who makes that decision? As I get older and prepare to enter my last semester at Monmouth, I wonder what the criteria is for being an adult. For some reason, it seems as though the criteria is different for every individual. Something that might make one person an adult might not for someone else. This inconsistency causes one to wonder what is so special about being an adult.

Some of us became adults at a young age either because that is how are families raised us or because of the circumstances surrounding our lives. Other people are just now on their own

for the first time, and some are still trying to figure out how to survive. No matter where you are in your life, it is okay.

Some would consider college students adults, and others would not. I understand why, but there is a seesaw on whether one is an adult or not. Either you are an adult or you are not. The line between adulthood and childhood that college students must balance often blurs not only for those attending college, but also for professors and family members.

When you are a child, your biggest concern is what your family is cooking for dinner. If that were my biggest concern today, life would be a whole lot easier. Us college students are now faced with having to manage our time between work and school and play, something that had always been managed for us before. We have to worry about paying bills, keeping our living space clean, and where our next meal is going to come from. Children have things scheduled for them. While adults pay taxes and bills, children do not have that concern.

While maintaining these responsibilities, college students are also supposed to live their lives to the fullest.

"We're adults. When did that happen? And how do we make it stop?"

-Shonda Rhimes



IMAGE TAKEN from USAToday.com
13 going on 30 used to be a cute movie—but as we get older, it soon becomes our reality.

They are supposed to go to parties and maintain good grades all while preparing for the rest of their lives. College students are on their own only part of the year; the other parts, students live with their families.

Going from living on your own to living under supervision can be hard. Family members are constantly asking where you are going, when you will be back, and whom you are going out with. This can take a lot of getting used to as when students are living on their own,

they don't have to answer to anyone.

The question was when and how do I think we become adults: well, I guess it is up to you. There is no set timeline for when this happens. You get to decide how and when it does.

Life is a journey that you get to take at your own pace. Don't rush to be a full blown adult if you don't have to because from the looks of it, isn't all it's cranked up to be.

Professor Morano Leaves *The Outlook* After 33 Years as Faculty Advisor

MORANO cont. from pg. 1

my welcome.”

Morano said he was originally going to step down as faculty advisor last year, but since the COVID-19 pandemic hit, he felt that he could not leave under those conditions. He decided to stay another year and make sure all of *The Outlook* staff was able to get through this pandemic and their new work environment through a temporary remote setting.



IMAGE TAKEN from JohnMorano.com

Aside from serving as *The Outlook's* faculty advisor, Professor Morano is also the author of the Eco-Adventure Series.

of things. I'm a journalist. I came to do journalism.”

According to Morano, being able to teach students about journalism is great, but it is not enough. He said to be able to get his students into a newsroom and to guide them on how to do it is where the real experience comes in. “To be in the trenches with the students doing this, and to be recognized beyond the walls of Monmouth as a successful publication, is a wonderful thing,” he said.

Morano explained that hav-

an advocate in hiring her. Novek also said that Morano has had an enormous impact on the Monmouth journalism community, and he is also a defender of student press freedom.

“Sometimes, when *The Outlook* has been reporting a controversial story, Morano has had to defend the students from people who would like to silence them. And after publication, he has had to remind people that *The Outlook* is a student voice, not a marketing tool for the university. And he has stepped up to do that week after week, year after year,” said Novek.

She also said that she admires his dedication and his clarity about his role in supporting, but not controlling, *The Outlook* staff. She said Morano is dedicated to honest, hard-hitting, truth-seeking journalism, and has been fighting the good fight on Monmouth campus long before she arrived.

“He's also demonstrated to me the importance of finding a way to pursue what you love. He loves journalism and nature and has written a beautiful eco-adventure series of novels that combines elements of both in a way that young people and old can appreciate... He loves a good story - and can tell one, too, like nobody else. If you haven't heard him tell the



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth University

Throughout Morano's tenure as faculty advisor, *The Outlook* has won 26 national awards.

story of the birth of his eldest son at home, it will take your breath away,” said Novek.

Morano said that he has loved every second at *The Outlook*. He now plans to reclaim a little more time for him. He plans to also write more books and read more too.

“I'm still Professor Morano. I'm still going to be in my office doing my thing. My door is always going to be open. Anybody at the paper, who thinks talking to me will

help them understand something a little bit better, continue to do that. I'm thrilled to do it,” said Morano.

Morano said that *The Outlook* will do what it does without him. He hopes that the paper never settles, the paper is always fair, the paper always tells the truth, and that *The Outlook* staff always gives it their best effort.

“If we just do that, *The Outlook* will always be an amazing newspaper,” said Morano.

A year later, since he feels that *The Outlook* has adjusted to the pandemic, now is a better time to leave.

Aaron Furgason, Ph.D., Chair and Associate Professor of Communication, used to have Morano as a professor back in 1988, and they have now been colleagues since 2000.

“I would describe John as incredibly knowledgeable, very much about student success and the difficulties of journalism. His expectations were very high. You worked in John's classes, and at the end when you finished, you were a better journalist for it,” said Furgason.

Furgason said that as he got to know Morano more over the years, that he is one of the most kind and personable people he knows.

“I feel bad for the students since he is leaving *The Outlook* because John has done it so well for so long. I think that Professor Vujnovic, who's coming in, will do a fantastic job, but she has some big shoes to fill,” said Furgason.

Furgason also said that Morano was hired because there was no journalism program at Monmouth University. “Without John, there is no journalism program here. There is no way for students to get those skill sets. He had come with so much great professional experience that students benefitted,” he said.

Morano said, “You know it's funny. People come to universities to do all kinds

ing a dedicated newsroom space is central to a successful learning experience, and that the paper enables students to perform journalism at a very high level. He said that he has high expectations for his students, especially those who are a part of *The Outlook* staff, because he knows what they are capable of and hopes to push them to be the best they can be.

“He is not just a professor, but also a mentor,” said Melissa Badamo, a senior English student and Editor-in-Chief of *The Outlook*. “He has helped me sprout into a skilled journalist and has given me guidance that I will take with me throughout my entire career. Almost everything I learned in journalism, I learned from him.”

Badamo first met Morano as a sophomore when she took his Intro to Journalism course. Now, as a senior, she said she feels honored to be the last Editor-in-Chief he works with.

“Professor Morano gives countless guidance to students at *The Outlook*, whether it's advice on writing articles, gathering sources, etc. He brought his expertise into the newsroom 33 years ago and has been inspiring journalism students ever since. *The Outlook* wouldn't be the award-winning newspaper it is without Professor Morano,” said Badamo.

Eleanor Novek, Ph.D., Professor of Communication, has known Morano for 25 years, and Morano was even



PHOTO COURTESY of Brianna McCabe

Professor Morano with members of *The Outlook* staff in December 2019 (from left to right: Matthew Cutillo, Hunter Goldberg, Danielle Schipani, Lauren Salois, Ray Romanski, Brianna McCabe, Professor John Morano, and Melissa Badamo).



PHOTO COURTESY of Brett Bodner

The 2012-2013 *Outlook* staff poses outside the newsroom in the Plangere Center for Communication.

Thank You, Professor Morano!

Dear Prof,

The first time I met you was at the Mondays at Monmouth event. I was lucky enough to sit in on your class and witness the true passion you had as a professor. After class you took the time to sit with all the high school seniors who attended, answered any questions, and shared your contact information. From that moment I knew Monmouth was for me, and I knew I had found an incredible mentor. Thank you so much for inspiring me and so many other students during your time as *Outlook* advisor. You’ve truly created a network of editors who care for one another and I’m so grateful to be a part of it. We’ll miss you! **-Danielle Schipani ‘17**

So much of who I am and what I’ve accomplished is a reflection of your teachings, guidance and constant support. You are so much more than just a professor to me: you are a mentor, role model and fatherly figure. Thank you for your impact on my life, Prof, and for grooming me from a student/editor to now a professor myself, full-time professional and (hopefully) author one day. Your legacy in the newsroom will forever live on not just within these walls and papers, but within each journalist’s hearts. **-Brianna McCabe, MBA ‘15 & ‘19**



PHOTO COURTESY of Courtney Buell

When I first walked into your Intro to Journalism class my sophomore year, I never could have imagined how much you and *The Outlook* would impact me. Your expertise in the field of journalism has inspired me from day one. Over the years, you have become my biggest mentor, helping me grow into the journalist I am today. You have left an imprint on *The Outlook*, and your students, that will never be erased. **-Melissa Badamo ‘21**

Professor Morano has been the backbone of *The Outlook* as long as I can remember. Always available, and always an immense support to his students; he has personified what it means to be an excellent educator and advisor. His gift lies in his ability to pull the best out of his students while still allowing them to produce autonomous and unique work as individuals. His attention to detail and what it means to ask the ‘right’ questions, and his emphasis on unearthing truths are lessons that have inspired me personally to become a better journalist and I’ve taken them with me well-past graduation day. He has taught me not just how to be a good journalist, but how to excel in professional life. What is unique about Morano’s approach to advising is he has provided tools that are valuable outside of the classroom. By instructing without governing, he has allowed his students to rise to their full potential and to become self-reliant. He will always be part of what has made *The Outlook* such a joy to be a part of and has given so many students who have come through this organization the skills not only to succeed but to triumph. **-Courtney Buell ‘18**

Prof - “Be fair and tell the truth.” That was the mantra in everything we published in *The Outlook*. Well here’s me telling the truth, I never thought I’d see the day that the *Outlook* moderator would be someone else. It just wouldn’t make sense. Between being in your class, serving on the editorial staff, and the mentoring sessions we’ve shared over the years, my college experience would never be the same. Thank you Prof for everything. Enjoy the next part of the adventure “Out there, somewhere.” **-Chris Orlando, MPP ‘14 & ‘16**

Thank you for coaching the team at *The Outlook* for the last 32 years. It was one of my favorite teams that I have been a part of and you will certainly go down as the winningest coach in paper history. Through your courses, our weekly meetings, and long nights in the newsroom, I learned what it means to be a journalist. Thank you for everything that you have given to us at *The Outlook*, including Bubbakoos. **-Caroline Mattise ‘20**

The man, the myth, the Morano. Up until now I thought the only guarantees in life were death, taxes and Professor Morano advising *The Outlook*. I’m forever grateful for the opportunity you gave me to not only become a part of *The Outlook*, but to also have faith in me to run the paper my senior year. Thank you for all the valuable writing, journalism and life lessons you taught me along the way. You helped fuel the fire that is my love of writing and it’s a fire that still burns today. Cheers to your next chapter. **- Brett Bodner ‘13**



PHOTO COURTESY of Danielle Schipani

Professor Morano means so much to me, it’s hard to know where to start. The first thing that comes to mind is sitting in his Feature Writing class during a Mondays at Monmouth. He took time to talk to me after class and, even though I was going to Community College first, I knew this was the guy that I wanted to lead me in college. I transferred to Monmouth three years later and, with Morano as my advisor, began the best two years of my life (still to this day). It was quite a ride for those two years. I could only imagine the impact this man has had on students that worked for *The Outlook* over the last 32 years. Thank you, Prof. It’s hard to imagine *The Outlook* without you.” **-John Sorce ‘17**

Professor Morano will always be someone I remember fondly and with gratitude during my time with *The Outlook*. He was an incredible mentor and someone who provided me with such a strong foundation and the tools to succeed in my journalism career. He was engaging and always encouraged our staff to think outside the box, and I always appreciated his wisdom and stories he shared from his own career. I looked forward to our weekly post-mortem reviews of each *Outlook* issue, and he helped me grow as a student and as a leader, and was contagious in fueling our passion for journalism. **-Gina (Columbus) Mauro ‘12**



PHOTO COURTESY of Brett Bodner

A Writer with a Dream: Melissa Badamo's Senior Goodbye

MELISSA BADAMO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF/FEATURES EDITOR

When I was seven years old, I had my lifelong dream figured out: I wanted to be a writer. I can proudly say that dream has come true.

I began writing for *The Outlook* the second week of freshman year and quickly became a staff writer. I was promoted to features editor my junior year, and became Editor-in-Chief my senior year. Now, at the time we're publishing the last issue of the year, I have more than a hundred *Outlook* articles under my belt.

I picked up a journalism minor my sophomore year. At this time, I didn't know as much about journalism as I do now. I was struggling to put articles together—it would take me hours to write a story that I would now complete in no time. I contemplated dropping my journalism minor; I thought I wasn't good enough for it. But I worked at it; I kept writing stories every week, I improved. Now, I realize that quitting would have been my biggest regret.

I wouldn't be where I am today without *The Outlook*. Before I came to Monmouth, I never even considered journalism as a career or an area of study. However, I wanted to pursue extracurricular writing opportunities, so when the TA in one of my classes freshman year mentioned that she was the Editor-in-Chief, I told her I was interested. That day, I bravely walked into the *Outlook* doors for the first time without knowing anyone. I took a tour of the newsroom, filled out an interest form, and three years later I became the leader of the newspaper.

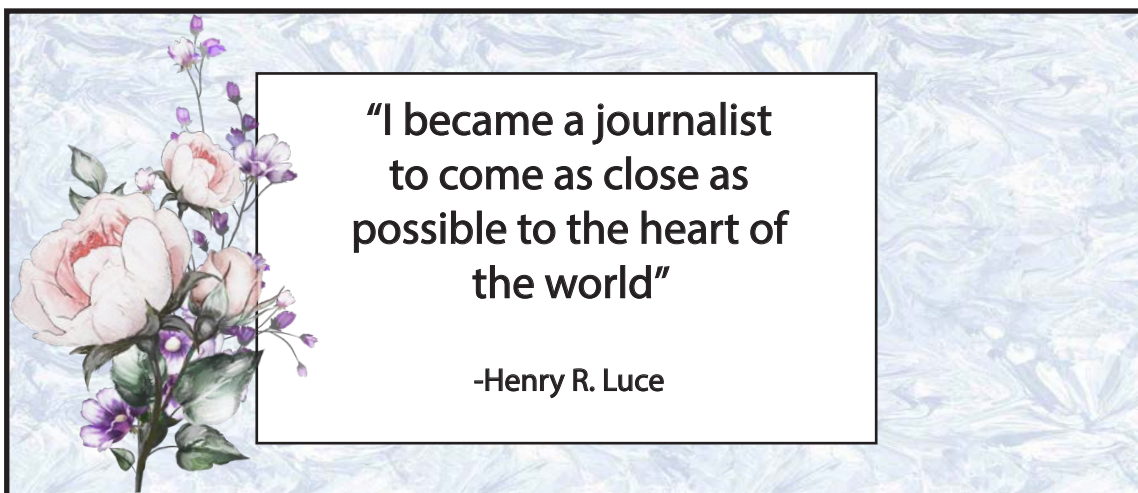
Being Features Editor for the past two years has been such a rewarding experience. I discovered that it's my favorite type of journalism; I love having the opportunity to learn, write, and publish people's unique stories. Writing human interest and profile articles is where my creativity really shines.

Because of my experience at *The Outlook*, I scored an internship at the *Asbury Park Press* last summer. It was such a unique experience—not only because I was able to write for one of the biggest newspapers in the state, but also because I worked remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic. At the *Asbury Park Press*, I wrote about the current events that defined 2020, most notably the pandemic. With journalism, writing has a purpose.

I'll miss the Tuesday night grinds in the newsroom, the trips to Plangere Café, and overall just having a good time with my fellow editors. But, the memories will still remain. *The Outlook* has defined my college career.

In fact, journalism thrust me out of my comfort zone. Before college, I used to be quiet and shy in public. Conducting interviews with students and professors honed my oral communication skills. It allowed me to grow into an outgoing journalist, making it easier to make new friends and connections.

I was in the newsroom, getting ready for the next issue, in March 2020 when the University received notice that we were having an extended spring break due to the COVID-19 pandemic. From



that point on, *The Outlook* staff has been producing the newspaper remotely every week. Being an Editor-in-Chief during the pandemic was no easy feat, but I'm proud of the work I put into *The Outlook* every single week. Writing for features, news, and entertainment all while leading a team of editors, conducting weekly meetings, and making sure every page is perfect for publication, this has been the toughest—yet most rewarding—year of my college career.

I reached many milestones in college aside from becoming Editor-in-Chief of *The Outlook* and interning for an esteemed local paper. In April 2018, at the end of my freshman year, I self-published a young adult novel titled *The Uncommon*. At this point, my dream of becoming an author has finally come true. Aside from working in journalism, I plan to keep publishing books in the future.

I want to thank my family, my parents and my brother Justin (AKA my roommates), who have supported me nonstop and have always made it known how proud they are of me. Special thank you to my mom, who encouraged me to write for *The Outlook*. I don't know where I'd be without you.

Thank you to my friends, who have single-handedly shaped my college experience. Hanging out, laughing, and studying in the student center for hours at a time with iced coffees from Dunkin is one of my favorite college memories. I'll miss attending the Winter Ball every February, dancing altogether, forgetting about homework just for one Saturday evening, and watching the snow fall outside the Great Hall like a scene from a movie.

Thank you to my fellow *Outlook* editors. We are such a well-oiled machine, even during a pandemic. I am extremely proud of us for pumping out an issue—both print and online—every week at a time when the whole world was put on pause. Matt and Danielle, thank you for staying up until midnight with me every Monday and Tuesday to make sure we put out near-perfect issues each Wednesday.

Thank you to Professor John Morano, who will be leaving *The Outlook* as faculty advisor after 33 years. You have been my greatest mentor at Monmouth, and I am honored to be the last Editor-in-Chief you work with. Almost everything I learned in journalism, I learned from you. A couple years down the road, when I'm working full-time as a journalist, I'll constantly be hearing your "Moranoisms" in my head. Your guidance and mentorship will always stick with me.

This is not a goodbye, but a "see you later." Although I will be passing on the Editor-in-Chief torch, I will be returning as a graduate student next year as I pursue my MA in English with a concentration in creative writing.

During college, I sprouted into an outgoing, skilled journalist. My advice to all underclassmen is to get involved, if you aren't already, in a club or organization that interests you. It will change your life, just like *The Outlook* changed mine. Decades from now, I will look back at all my articles from *The Outlook* and smile—at the experience, the memories, the thousands of words I've written for this student-run newspaper.

PHOTOS COURTESY of Melissa Badamo

The Darker Side of the Track Stars

CLAIRE RANKIN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

How far would you push yourself to be the best? Running is a gritty sport that requires determination, focus, and extensive repetitive training. Only those with a strong mentality tend to thrive in this sport, but when does the desire to succeed become obsessive? The intensity that comes with becoming one of the best runners can be stressful, and has a tolling effect on the mental health of individuals in this sport.

Shawnee High School is a South Jersey School that had a distance- running dynasty. In 2018, they were the #4 team in New Jersey. Shawnee Cross Country athlete Laura Mavracic experienced the pressure of high-intensity athletics firsthand, and it damaged her both physically and emotionally.

Starting at the age of 16, Laura began to suffer from a chronic gastrointestinal disease called Chrons. While she was dealing with this ailment, her coach and team continued to put pressure on her to compete, and she continued to push herself despite having a serious health ailment.

“The best runners are the skinniest,” said Mavracic. “I felt I had to under- eat and over- train, I really didn’t want to let my team down.” This led to malnutrition that caused stress fractures in her lower legs. To this day, Laura says “I have not competed in over 3 years and I feel running has destroyed me. My body never fully recovered from it, and I lost my love for the sport.”

Grace Kearns was one of Laura’s teammates in high school, and now runs division 1 for Monmouth University. She said, “I still love cross country, but not like I did in high school. Running for college is much more difficult, and high school already had me feeling burned out. I feel I have to make sacrifices, and don’t get to enjoy life and do social activities that normal people my age do. I’m so preoccupied with what I’m eating and putting into my body, and the rigorous exercise I have to do to keep me in shape. I feel like I’m going insane sometimes.”

Mary Cain once was one of the best female runners in the country. She was running record-breaking times by age 17, and was the youngest athlete to be on a world championship team. The Nike Oregon Project is one of the best track teams in the world, and the coach, Alberto Salazar, recruited her to be on the team.

Cain got slower rather than faster when she joined this team, and suffered back- to back injuries for years. She eventually came out and shared her story of abuse at the hands of her coach in a *New York Times* feature. The program was so intense that they were pushing her to lose more and more weight, restricting her diet. She developed an eating disorder during her time with Nike, and the malnutrition led to her getting stress fractures in her legs. She eventually came out and shared her story with the world, emphasizing the tolling effects that a sport can have when one is overworked.

According to the NCAA, student athletes are 1.5 times more likely to suffer from poor mental

health, and 1 in 10 athletes report feeling so depressed its difficult to function or get out of bed. Athletics can be a positive and motivating experience when it is done healthily, but far too often people test their limits and damage themselves physically and emotionally. It is important as an athlete to be aware of these risks, and advocate for mental and bodily health.

Dr. Zoe Salaman is a clinical psychiatrist who specializes in and works with athletes who are struggling with their mental health. She said, “The issue many young athletes have is finding balance. Many of the individuals I treat have been athletes from the time they were young, and it is much of what shapes their identity and defines their self- worth. It is important as a coach, fellow teammate, or friend to keep an eye on those who are involved in high- pressure sports activities, because it is easy to go off the deep end.

Dr. Salaman advocates for the NCAA to take the mental health of its athletes more seriously. She suggests that athletes are provided with accessibility to therapists and mental health services that tailor to their needs. She also advocates for NCAA to check the clinical history of athletes that they recruit to make sure they don’t suffer from any serious mental illnesses.

She said, “It is important that athletes are only competing if they are mentally healthy and fit for the challenge. There are far too many suicides amongst young athletes, and there needs to be reform in the system to ensure that sports stay fun, and aren’t detrimental to the health of its participants.”

Food Delivery Services: The Pros and the Cons

DELIVERY cont. from pg. 1

overall increase in sales for many small restaurants. According to Robert Lipyanek, general manager of Jersey Mike’s in Toms River, third-party orders only accounted for about 7 percent of total sales prior to COVID-19. “Third-party orders were approximately 30 percent of our sales in the wake of COVID,” he said. “Currently, it fluctuates between 18 and 22 percent. It’s hard to say if we would have made it through the pandemic without third-party delivery services as this was a time when many people did not want to leave their homes.”

For Mateo Rafael, however, what would have been the fate of his restaurant without the use of third-party delivery services is more than clear. “It would have just barely survived without the use of those other services,” he explained. “What was really useful was the ability for orders to come in on multiple fronts. So, we didn’t have to just rely on the phoned-in orders (which take a bit more time), but could also take the ones coming in from the apps (which are usually already paid for and are a little faster).”

Businesses with brand recognition and a loyal customer base may have had less to worry about in sustaining in the wake of COVID. “We would’ve survived because of 70 years of goodwill, however, other smaller, less well-known companies

would not survive without the use of third-party,” said Joe Maruca. He did not necessarily support the notion that these app-based services are requesting an unreasonable cut of the profit, but instead implied that businesses should make the necessary adjustments to their operation in order to make up for these costs. “Third party apps are taking a reasonable fee,” he added. “Third party services are not cutting into profits, the problem is that business owners haven’t changed their labor model. That is, less labor.” Perhaps with the use of third-party services, small businesses may employ fewer people to make up for the profit cut.

Another benefit to utilizing these delivery services is the fact that they have helped to accommodate customers with their safety concerns over the course of the pandemic. As Mateo Rafael described, “Using these services has made in-store pickup and the ability to have contactless delivery easier. Especially since dining-in is no longer a major part of business.”

Consumers play into this exchange by paying delivery and convenience fees. “I feel that delivery prices and service fees are extremely overpriced,” expressed Mackenzie Kleniewski, Monmouth University student and frequent user of food delivery services. “For instance, a playa bowl is normally \$10 in-store but is more than double that price to order it through delivery apps.”

Additionally, these delivery ser-

vices have made the restaurants responsible for covering the entirety of sometimes hefty commission fees rather than customers. Some small restaurants respond to these fees by driving up the prices of items on their app menus and charging more for deliveries. For example, an establishment is making a \$2 profit off of a \$12 pizza. If a third-party delivery app is charging \$2 for their service, the restaurant is no longer making the profit they once did and therefore must adjust their prices and charge customers accordingly.

So, knowing that some restaurants are forced to cope with these fees from app-based services, would customers be willing to pay the extra few dollars for food that they enjoy? “Yes,” replied Alexis Romano, student at Monmouth University. “To support a small restaurant and make up for their profit cuts? Absolutely.”

It is evident that many small restaurants have suffered at the hands of COVID-19 and have turned to delivery services as a way to remain afloat. The impacts of delivery platforms such as DoorDash, Grubhub, and Uber Eats seem to have varying impacts on different food establishments. Proving to be beneficial to the wellbeing of many businesses, these services also raise concerns about unfair demands of profits. The hope, in the midst of a difficult time, is that the small restaurant industry and third-party delivery services will be able to reach a compromise that is ideal for all parties involved.

Picture This: Student Spotlight on Brett Pezza

DENISSE QUINTANILLA
STAFF WRITER

Brett Pezza is a junior studying graphic design at Monmouth University. His passion for photography started with a special gift from someone special in his life.

Pezza said, “I first became interested in photography when I borrowed my grandfather’s Canon camera when I was a freshman in high school.”

He has gotten better in this field by trial and error, allowing him to learn continuously. “In high school, I started learning by taking my camera everywhere and learning through my mistakes,” he said. “Also, I learned a lot from watching many YouTube videos of many famous photographers which helped me acquire good knowledge about camera gear and photography as an art form.”

Monmouth University has allowed him to continue to improve his skills thanks to the beautiful locations on campus and the nearby beaches.

Pezza reflected on the positives and negatives of his passion. “The thing I love most about photography is capturing moments and freezing time. I personally love documenting moments from my own life as well as my friends,” he said.

On the other hand, “The most difficult part of photography is learning how to adapt to different situations. Often, I find myself having a few seconds to get the settings on my camera right to capture a shot and knowing how to operate a camera well is very important,” he continued.

Some may ask how photographers get inspiration, and if there is any message being conveyed through photography. For Pezza, it is simple.

“I find inspiration when taking a picture by being present and taking in the location and its surroundings. Often people can easi-

ly overlook the small details,” Pezza said. “I never thought about portraying a message through my photos, but I always try and capture moments that highlight my travels and to show how amazing the world is!”

With having taken so many pictures, choosing a favorite image was harder than it looks. “If I had to choose one it would be the pink sunset rays over Utah. I took that photo when I was on tour with the band Found Vegas. I was on our tour bus when the sky parted, and these incredible pink rays came over the mountains.”

Pezza continued, “I quickly took out my camera and opened the window and shot it while the bus was moving which was difficult, but I ended up getting the photo. The sunset only lasted for about two minutes so I was lucky I was able to get that photo.”

Not only is Pezza interested in photography, but enjoys music as well. “Music has always been a part of my life. My main instrument is the guitar, but I also play piano, bass, and occasionally sing,” he said. “I was a part of many bands and I gotta have some amazing experiences playing shows and meeting some great people. I continue to play with other musicians and music will always be a part of my life.”

Music and photography seem to be a great fit, and if he is offered the opportunity to become a photographer shooting bands, he would love to take it. In fact, Pezza is already thinking about the future and hopes to combine his passion into a career.

“My career goals are to have a good knowledge of photography, video production, and design. In today’s world, everything is digital and having a wide knowledge of these skills will help me in my career. After graduating, I would like to focus on packaging design or UI/UX design,” he said.

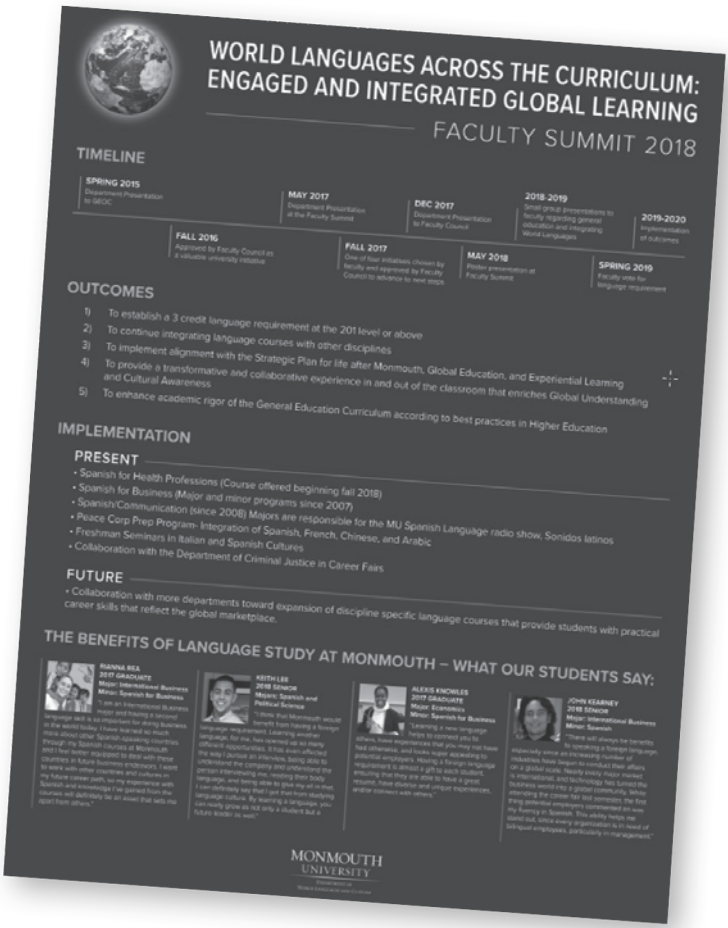
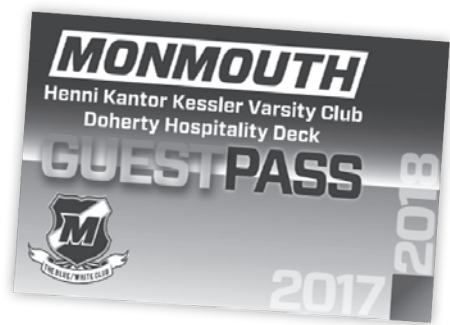
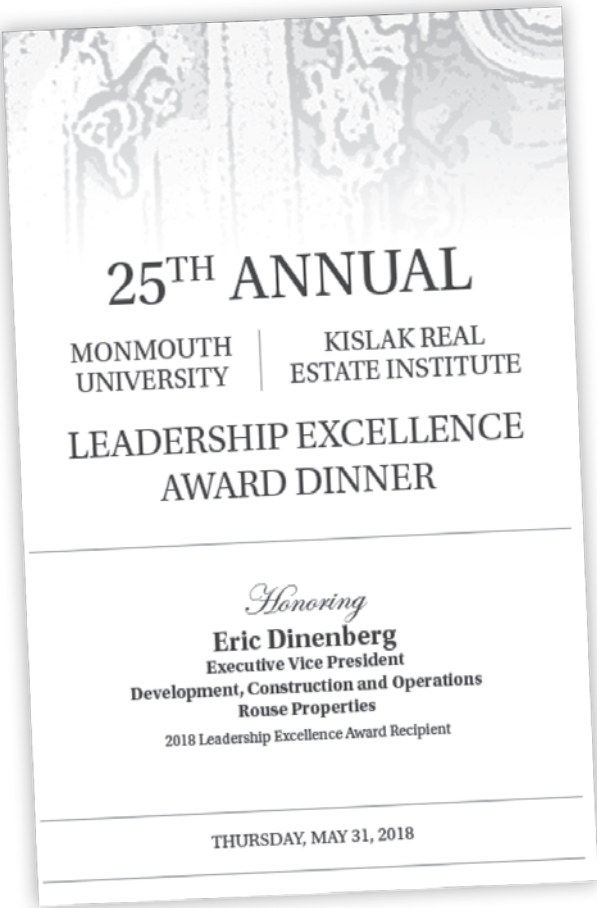
Pezza runs a photography Instagram page, @brettpezza, as well as a personal account @bretttylerpezza.



PHOTO COURTESY of Brett Pezza
A Utah Sunset, beautifully captured by graphic design student Brett Pezza.

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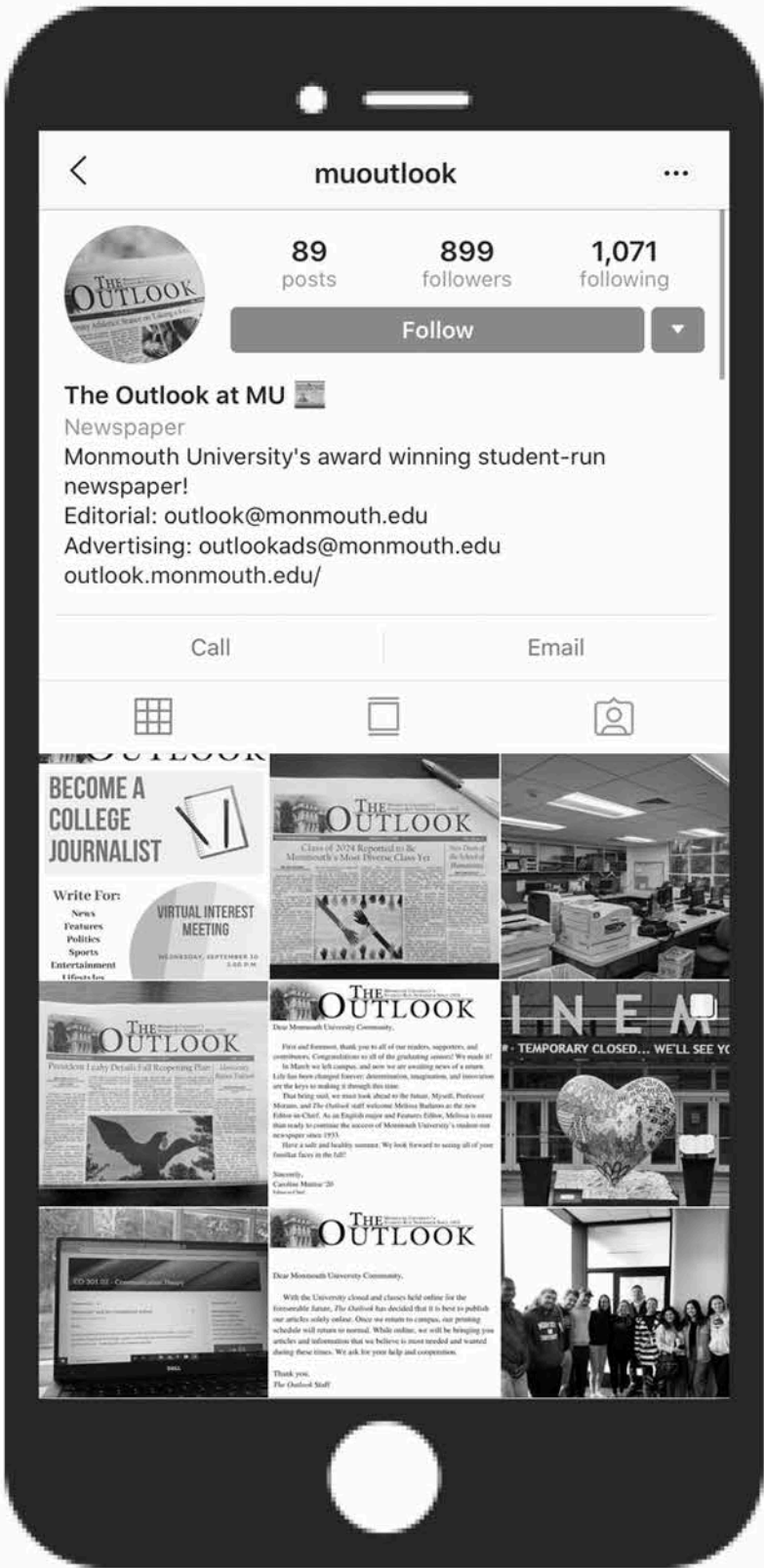
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Sound of Metal:

An Auditory Experience Like No Other

ABIGAIL BROOKS
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

At certain unexpected times in our lives, some of us experience life-changing personal catastrophes; the kind of catastrophes that cause us to fundamentally reinvent ourselves, learning to live as a person affected by such traumas.

Oscar Best Picture nominee *Sound of Metal* follows the journey of Ruben Stone (Riz Ahmed), a heavy metal drummer who experiences sudden-onset severe hearing loss, and struggles to come to terms with his condition.

Despite his initial denial, Ruben knows that he cannot continue his current lifestyle in this state. He learns that progress is not always linear; there are good days, and there are not-so-good days. Through the depiction of Ruben's highs and lows, director Darius Marder creates a beautiful story about acceptance and adapting to whatever life throws your way.

Ruben and his girlfriend Lou (Olivia Cooke) live together in an RV, travelling around the country to perform gigs for their heavy metal band Blackgammion. It seems

tor informs him is not possible: "The hearing that you have lost is not coming back. Your first responsibility is to preserve the hearing you still have." Despite the doctor's suggestion to eliminate exposure to loud noise and stop playing for the band, Ruben is insistent that he can still go on tour.

Lou puts her foot down and instead takes him to a deaf community to seek additional help. There, he meets Paul Raci's character Joe: a deaf alcoholic who runs the community as a support group for people who have lost their hearing. Joe insists that Ruben stay with him for a few weeks to learn sign language and develop a better mindset about his condition so that he can "learn to be deaf."

Riz Ahmed, who is also known for his roles as Carlton Drake in *Venom* (2018) and Rick in *Nightcrawler* (2014), did an outstanding job with his performance as Ruben.

Littered with tattoos and dropping f-bombs in nigh every sentence he speaks, Ruben is exactly what you'd expect a drummer for a heavy metal band to look like. Ahmed takes the character one step further, both through his acting and the rigorous research that went into preparing for this role.

Ahmed helped with some of the behind the scenes work for



IMAGE TAKEN from NME

Actor Riz Ahmed played a pivotal role in developing the character of Ruben Stone, the heavy metal drummer whose hearing deteriorates as the movie progresses.

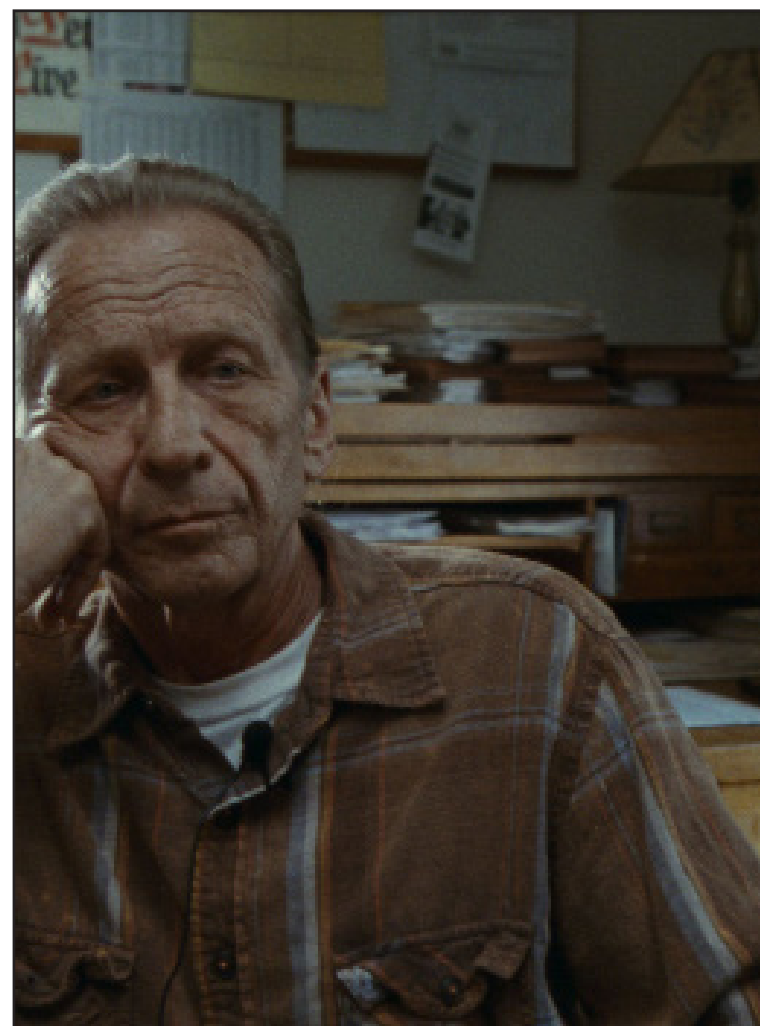


IMAGE TAKEN from the *Chicago Sun-Times*

Paul Raci's performance as Joe netted him an Academy Award nomination for Best Supporting Actor.

as though Ruben has always struggled with his hearing, but it gets worse than he ever could have imagined when he wakes up one morning unable to hear anything.

After paying a visit to Dr. Paysinger, (Tom Kemp) and being told that he only has about 20 percent of his hearing left in both ears, Ruben finds himself in a state of denial. All he is concerned about is getting his hearing—his livelihood—back, which the doc-

Sound of Metal, serving as an executive producer who worked next to director Darius Marder to research hearing loss and deafness in order to ensure that it was accurately portrayed.

Best known for his smaller roles in TV shows like *Parks and Recreation*, *Scrubs*, and *Baskets*, Paul Raci's performance as Joe was amazing, and he has an Best Supporting Actor Oscar nomination to show for it. Wise but emotionally driven, Joe wants the best for Ruben but

does not hesitate to reprimand him for his shortcomings. It's a tough love situation, and Raci portrays it perfectly.

Thematically, *Sound of Metal* is rich with life lessons and useful takeaways.

On top of Ruben's deafness, he is also a former drug addict. Lou worries that he is going to fall back into old habits as a coping mechanism after losing his hearing, and to some extent he does. He starts smoking cigarettes again, which might seem miniscule compared to some of the hard drugs that he had previously been addicted to, but it's still a step in the wrong direction.

Ruben isn't one to accept help from others, which is why he had such a difficult time transitioning into Joe's deaf community. In his mind, Lou is all he needs. However, it's clear that Lou struggles with her own issues, as evidenced by the self-harm scars that litter her arms. Up until now, they had served as each other's support systems. They both learn that there's no harm in needing more help than what they were able to provide for one another. *Sound of Metal* teaches us that recovery and progress aren't always linear, and there's no shame in seeking additional help if you need it.

It's impossible to watch this film without appreciating the effort that went into the sound design and the editing that made it work so well. Audio is especially important in *Sound of Metal*, because Ruben cannot hear like the rest of the characters. In order to effectively convey the severity of Ruben's deafness, the audience is occasionally put in his head; the sound shifts from what the people around him hear to what he hears.

When Ruben goes to the doctor and takes a hearing test, you first hear what he hears. The doctor's words are muffled and indistinguishable, so it's no surprise when the audio switches to what the doctor hears and you discover that Ruben has not repeated a single word correctly. Editor Mikkel E.G. Nielsen,

supervising sound editor Nicolas Becker and the rest of the sound department made this film even more extraordinary with their combined efforts to create this unique auditory experience.

Rated R for language and brief nudity, *Sound of Metal* is not appropriate for all audiences, especially younger viewers. However, I think that this film is an important step forward for the hearing impaired community and those in recovery from addiction. I would recommend that those within that group see this film, and not hesitate to be critical of it. If the film has shortcomings that do not accu-

rately portray deafness or do so in a way that is problematic, it should be made known so that the same mistakes are not made again in future films.

Sound of Metal undeniably deserves the Oscar Best Picture nomination that it received. It addresses some difficult topics that are often overlooked, and it does so in a way that viewers can understand and appreciate as they are put in Ruben's head and gain insight about how he experiences life differently than they do. Thanks to the film's nuanced acting and outstanding production values, you don't need to be deaf to get where Ruben is coming from.



IMAGE TAKEN from IMDb

In addition to his deafness, Riz Ahmed's character Ruben also struggles with past and present drug addiction.

YOUTUBERS vs TIKTOKERS

DENISSE QUINTANILLA
STAFF WRITER

It’s the battle of the century. TikTok or YouTube: who will win?

During quarantine in early 2020, TikTok became the platform everyone wanted to be on, seemingly replacing YouTube as the video app of choice. Everyone was dancing to songs ranging from “Savage Love” all the way to “Blinding Lights” by the Weeknd.

Fast-forward a year, and there have been countless people who have become famous due to the popularity and accessibility of this platform. However, YouTubers are not giving up so easily as they hope to win in this battle.

In a series of boxing matches, the strength of TikTokers will be pitted against that of their YouTube counterparts.

This event is being advertised as “The Battle of Platforms,” headlining the series of fights will be a match between YouTuber Austin McBroom and TikTok star Bryce Hall.

Austin McBroom, 28, is the founder of the Ace Family Channel with 19 million

subscribers. The content produced by Austin, along with his wife Catherine, is more family-related. They are not only YouTubers, but they have businesses that they run separately and as a family.

Bryce Hall, 21, became popular first on TikTok’s predecessor Musical.ly, as well as YouTube, before becoming a big TikTok star. The social media star has over 19.7 million followers on his main TikTok account.

McBroom has been challenging Hall over social media to fight him since Dec. 2020. They have been feuding for months, with McBroom finally challenging Hall to test his tough-guy persona in front of the cameras.

On March 10, Hall responded to a comment of McBroom’s, saying, “You’re 30, bro...You’re acting like a high schooler right now.”

After the match was confirmed, on March 18 Bryce Hall posted on Instagram, saying “TikTokkers about to embarrass the YouTubers real quick.” Hall accepted a five million dollar deal in order to fight the YouTube star.

Neither YouTube or TikTok has commented in regards to the event, and they are not associated with or endorsing the event at all.

Not only are McBroom and Hall fighting, but there are other TikTokers and YouTubers joining the showdown.

The matches include: Tanner Fox (YouTube) vs. Nick Austin (Tik Tok), Faze Jarvis (YouTube) vs. Michael Le (TikTok), DDG (YouTube) vs Nate Wyatt (TikTok), Deji (YouTube) vs Vinnie Hacker (TikTok). YouTuber Danny Duncan and TikToker Taylor Holder will be facing off against two others that will be picked by the audience. The way these two individuals will be chosen has not yet been determined.

Fans will be able to experience the epic battle beginning June 5 via LivexLive, a streaming platform that covers music, podcasts, and videos. It will be available via pay-per-view. The schedule for each match has not been revealed yet.

LivexLive chairman Robert Ellin said, “This event is a perfect storm of celebrity, social media, technology, digital marketing, pop culture, and, at the end of

the day, good old Hollywood 101 celebrity and industry magic. Every component of this singular moment is architected to be a larger-than-life spectacle and drive viewers across the planet through all social media platforms. Every model that we’re seeing is tracking this to be the largest PPV event in history.”

This event is deemed for entertainment purposes only and has brought up many reactions from the fans. According to

Fight Sports, “Those in favor of it say that this will simply bring in new eyeballs to the sport and potentially more revenue. Those who oppose it cite the lack of combat sports experience that can lead to someone getting seriously hurt, along with potentially degrading the integrity of the sweet science.”

Which platform is your favorite? Who will win? YouTube or TikTok? Only time will tell!



IMAGE TAKEN from *Distractify*, BANNER from *PR Newswire*

Bryce Hall (left) and Austin McBroom (right) will compete in the “Battle of the Platforms” title bout, which begins June 5 via streaming service LivexLive.

BLUE HAWK RECORDS BUSTS OUT WITH ‘EIGHTEEN’

ALYSSA CARDENAS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Eighteen is a consequential age; it marks the border between youth and adulthood, between adolescent angst and alleged independence. Blue Hawk Records, the student-run record label at Monmouth University, wanted to capture that transitory stage and spirit in the mood and music of its 18th compilation EP, aptly titled *Eighteen*.

“We want to capture the newfound independence and freedom that comes with turning that age in both our music and artwork,” wrote Blue Hawk Records Creative Director Michelle Etienne in the creative brief sent to the University Art Department class. The label partners with the department to produce the graphic treatment for promotional material and for the EP itself.

“After the year we have had, our students needed to do something liberating,” says Joe Rapolla, chair of the Music & Theatre Department and director of the Music Industry program at Monmouth University. He continued, “I wanted to enable that expression for this class. We met in person, under all the most stringent safety protocols—25 of us in a theater space designed for 150—so the team could feel the energy of the room.”

It seemed to work. The label team put together a musically diverse collection of well-produced songs written and

performed by student-artists.

As in past compilation projects, students from across all majors and programs at the University were invited to audition to perform on the release. “Some students approached the assignment with complete songs that only need to be recorded and produced, while some came with frameworks of songs that need a lot of arrangement,” Rapolla said.

Even for students who joined the project with only a rough idea for a song were welcome, he added. Rapolla emphasizes that the Blue Hawk Records experience is about more than just performance; it also involves the comprehensive work of music professionals, which includes artist development.

As Rapolla puts it, “our team loves the challenge of developing an artist, producing their music, and helping them to realize their vision. During the process they inject a newfound confidence in the artist, and in themselves. It’s really wonderful to see.”

One of the artists on *Eighteen*, Mona Ray Cobb, came to the audition with no music, no instruments, and only a few lyrics that she had penned. There was a lot of work to do with the artist and the song.

“When Mona first showed up to audition, what immediately stood out to me about her was her confidence in who she was as a person and a singer. Her first words were ‘I am not a songwriter, I just like to sing,

and I’m just auditioning for the experience.’ The song wasn’t complete, but her courage to come and at least try was all I needed to see,” explained co-GM/A&R rep and Monmouth University football team wide-receiver, Ezra Archie. “Her audition to me felt like a ‘Hey, if you help me, we’ll have something special, because I don’t have all the tools for knowing where to go with what I have.’ Knowing that I had the qualities to take her from point A to the finish line, I was passionate about getting her on the album because I felt like she was deserving of the experience more than anything,” he said.

Archie and the team helped turn Mona Ray’s song outline into a dynamite upbeat pop song about having a passion and taking a chance.

Recorded and produced in the midst of a pandemic, the record label class had to stay focused, make good decisions, and figure out all the kinks to make the most of the production process of the album through the restrictions imposed by health and safety guidelines.

In total, the team chose six great artists for the 18th compilation album. The lineup includes Alexander Giorgi, a senior business administration student, Brian Smith, a junior communication student, Josh Heckler, a sophomore music industry student, Kid Ace (Asad Whitehead), a first-year music industry student, Sarah Lambert, and Mona Ray Cobb, a junior political science student.

Alex Jeffrey, a music industry

student and production manager for the release of *Eighteen*, said, “We were blessed with fantastic musicians that made all the artists’ visions for their songs come alive. Student musicians such as Mikey Sanchez, Ethan Christiansen, and recent graduate BJ Biedebach were critical to the success of the recording sessions. The sessions went so well, and everyone had a great time recording their songs.”

The label will celebrate the release of *Eighteen* with a virtual live simulcast on April 21 at 8 p.m.

The live show, hosted by Monmouth junior and label co-GM Kayla Booker, will be broadcast live from

both the University’s radio station, WMCX 88.9FM, and Instagram Live on the Blue Hawk Records Instagram page, @bluehawkrecordsofficial. The worldwide release of the EP, on all major digital streaming channels, will be April 30.

Thanks to a newly formed partnership, *Eighteen* will be distributed through music industry service provider Vydia, which will feature Blue Hawk Records as its first university label partner as part of its new content management, distribution, and royalty tracking platform for the music industry. Other Vydia partners include Apple, Spotify, TikTok, and YouTube.



COVER ART by Aariana Flippin

Virtual Weddings: Couples Make The Best of COVID

NICOLE OCAMPO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

COVID-19 has taken many things away from us. It has affected the way we gather, socialize, and act with the people all around us. One specific area that has been significantly impacted by the pandemic is weddings. Virtual weddings have become a new option for engaged couples to celebrate their marriage while maintaining a safe and healthy distance for all their loved ones to view.

Two event planners from the company Well Dressed Events, a Bergen County event planning business, shared their views on these new and now common virtual weddings. Kristen Ligas, one of Well Dressed Events co-owners, stated “Obviously no one could have prepared us for this pandemic. With virtual weddings becoming way more popular with our clients, we had to sit down and figure out what were the necessities in making them work, and what we could throw away.”

She explained that because virtual weddings were new to them, the company had to rethink the ways they went about normal weddings. Nicole Serse, Well Dressed Events other co-owner, stated, “Usually we have vendors and caterers, but now most of them are useless. I will say it has been nice that when we do virtual weddings now, we don’t worry about handling a crowd, or making sure guests aren’t too drunk. ‘Cause me and Kristen both know some people do not know manners, especially at weddings. It’s been honestly easier on us, but we’ve had to adapt and learn other ways to make virtual weddings

memorable for our brides.”

The event planners explained that one of their main focuses with virtual weddings are to create background displays for the couples zoom. They shared that they have become more advanced with their balloon garlands and design set ups, as this is one of the main areas they can showcase their skills with during the pandemic. The planners create and manage a timeline of activities for the virtual wedding, handle the behind-the-scenes tech, work with Covid friendly vendors, and try their best to, as Serse states, “make sure the virtual wedding holds that same romantic feel that an in-person wedding would.”

Though these virtual weddings may be planned as well as they can by professionals such as Ligas and Serse, some people believe that virtual weddings cannot hold the same romantic feel that an in-person one would.

Caroline Hurtt, a 21 year old Monmouth University student, at-

tended her Uncle Steve’s virtual wedding this past summer. She stated, “I felt really bad for my Uncle, the whole time we were on Zoom it kept lagging and the sound kept messing up. The older people in my family, who don’t even use technology that much, struggled to get on and figure out what to do half the time so it was kind of a mess.” Hurtt also explained, “Something that stood out to me at the wedding was that mics were a big problem. Like I said, I have a lot of older family members and technology was just not in their favor, so we’d hear them talking as the wedding was going on. It was uncomfortable but a lot of us just pretended to not notice because we didn’t want to make them feel bad.”

She also explained that while everyone dressed up for the event, it still did not hold the same feelings that a normal wedding would. She wore a dress with sweats underneath and slippers on her feet, which she stated she took off immediately after the Zoom. “As aw-

ful as it sounds, it felt more like a chore to get done because I was just staring at my screen, which at that point I was doing anyways for my summer classes.”

Virtual weddings, with their technological difficulties, do appear to have disadvantages but Ligas states, “I feel like if you are going to have a virtual wedding, you almost need a wedding planner. We have learned so much from doing them that if you’ve never had one or gone to one you don’t realize what to do until it comes. If you have a planner, we definitely think you can have a beautiful virtual wedding.” Along with this, Ashwin Maltora, a recent groom involved in a virtual wedding, explained to TravelandLeisure, “At a 150- or 200-person wedding, you can get lost in the shuffle, and you might not even be able to see all the guests and greet them. In a Zoom wedding, you know exactly who is there, and they all talk to you. You can see everyone and their reactions. The whole event becomes

more memorable and way more in touch... It was all on display, so it created a sense of transparency.”

Does this mean virtual weddings are here to stay? Even after the pandemic? Unfortunately, there is no straight answer as it will always be personal preferences. Like Hurtt explained, her personal experience of a virtual wedding was not a good one, and in her eyes she does not believe these online weddings hold the same feelings and appreciation that a normal one would. On the contrary, Well Dressed Events co-owners seem to believe they can be beautiful and amazing as long as they are planned accordingly.

Serse shared, “If you’re upset about holding or going to a virtual wedding instead of a physical one, it is understandable, but you have to remember what the main point of a wedding is. You are there to celebrate the love of the bride and groom, or groom and groom, or bride and bride, whoever it is. You’re watching two people so in love that they want to spend the rest of their lives together, being upset about a virtual wedding is one thing, but you have to remember what the day is there for.”

As long as the pandemic is around, virtual weddings will be held. The pandemic has shown no signs of stopping, therefore holding virtual weddings on Zoom, or on any other video calling application, is what we put into it and what we make of it. As Hurtt, Ligas, and Serse share their feelings towards virtual weddings, it is important to note what Serse states. Whether an experience of a virtual wedding is a good or bad one, it is important to remember the day itself has meaning and that it should be respected and appreciated, virtually or not.



IMAGE TAKEN from New York Times

Couples have begun to use applications such as Zoom in order to hold virtual weddings for friends and family.

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Alpha Omicron Pi Kicks Off Spring Philanthropy Week

LILY HOFFMANN
CLUB AND GREEK EDITOR

This week, the Iota Theta chapter of Alpha Omicron Pi will be spreading awareness for their national philanthropy, The Arthritis Foundation. According to their website, The Arthritis Foundation is the largest nonprofit organization dedicated to the prevention, control and cure of the top disability in the United States. Arthritis leads to swelling and pain of the joints, and symptoms typically worsen with age. The most common forms

of Arthritis are osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis. According to the Center for Disease Control, there are currently 54 million Americans that suffer from arthritis in some form. Alpha Omicron Pi Fraternity has been partnered with The Arthritis Foundation since 1967, and fundraises annually for causes such as Juvenile Arthritis. In 2019, the organization celebrated 50 years in partnership with the Foundation. That same year, they were able to raise \$1,750,000 for the cause. Typically, fundraising is done through chapter wide

participation in events such as the Walk to Cure Arthritis and Jingle Bell Run. This is a cause that hits home for many sisters of the fraternity. Gabrielle Storino currently serves as the Vice President of Philanthropy for the Iota Theta chapter. She said, “Arthritis affects my family directly and is something I’m very passionate about. Knowing that there was a group of women that cared so deeply for a cause that affected my life, and wanted to do something about it by supporting The Arthritis Foundation solidified my love for Alpha Omicron Pi.”

This year, plans to hold the chapter’s Annual Strike Out Arthritis wiffle ball tournament have been postponed to the fall due to COVID-19, but this will not stop the sisters from supporting the cause that is near and dear to their hearts. Storino said that while the chapter’s ability to support their philanthropy in person has been hindered, they have not been discouraged. She said, “Although it is different not being in person, we are lucky to live in such an age [where] things can so easily be moved to an online setting...we have been working around the obstacles that COVID has thrown our way.” Earlier this week, the sisters were able to raise over \$600



PHOTO COURTESY of Alpha Omicron Pi - Iota Theta
Sisters of Iota Theta chapter pose at the 2019 Strike Out Arthritis fundraiser.

for the cause by holding a virtual fundraiser, called “Dare an AOII” via Instagram. The fundraiser allowed donors to choose dares for sisters to complete, which corresponded with the amount of money they donated. For example, Dianelys Garcia, a sister of the organization, was dared to crack an egg on her head, drink pickle juice, shower with clothes on, and post a TikTok dance to her Instagram story, all because people donated money in her name. She said, “Although weird, these dares were for the Juvenile Arthritis Foundation, which is a philanthropy super important to me, as some of my closest friends and family

struggle with Arthritis.” The fun didn’t stop there! On Tuesday night, the chapter hosted a virtual trivia night open to all members of the Monmouth University community. Storino said that this was a way for all to come together and support The Arthritis Foundation. The event included a brief discussion on the disability, and five rounds of trivia, with each winner receiving a prize. For more information on the sisters of Alpha Omicron Pi, be sure to follow them on Instagram, @aoii_mu. To learn more about The Arthritis Foundation, check out their website, arthritis.org!



PHOTO COURTESY of Alpha Omicron Pi - Iota Theta
The Iota Theta chapter will be hosting virtual philanthropy events this year due to COVID-19.

Chi Upsilon Sigma Hosts “Protecting Mother Earth” Event

NICOLE OCAMPO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On Wednesday, April 15, the Monmouth University chapter of Chi Upsilon Sigma held an event called, “Protecting Mother Earth: Save Mother Earth, Save Our Future.” The event covered aspects such as recycling, greenhouse gases, deforestation, and more. The women of Chi Upsilon Sigma created a game of Jeopardy for the audience to play that used questions related to these topics, along with a definitions and wild card section. An example of some of these

Jeopardy questions were, “The surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal, or plant lives or operates.” As the audience gave their guesses they revealed that the answer to this was, “What is the environment?” The Jeopardy board ranged in easy to hard questions that were followed by informative explanations by the two main hosts of the event, Yarlenny Mejia and Paola Reyes-Duran. The women were passionate while discussing the global issues their Jeopardy questions raised concern about. Reyes-Duran said, “We only have one

planet, we only have one life,” along with, “Everything you do has an impact on the world around you.” There were many suggestions given to the audience on ways that we can improve our impact on Earth. One of these ways was donating iPhones to places that can reuse them or use the mechanics inside of them for other products. They explained how this idea of reusing the phones or the parts inside of them can help significantly, as simply throwing away iPhones can hurt our earth immensely. The women opened up a discussion section at the end of the event where they asked the audience open-ended questions. Each question created a conversation that was valuable and taught something important about the Earth. In the midst of the conversations, an array of topics were introduced such as the controversy of metal straws being just as bad as plastic straws due to the way we dispose of them. The discussion questions brought light to topics people may not have known much about, and gave the audience an opportunity to voice their opinions. Chi Upsilon Sigma’s event involved the audience while educating about the problems and issues we have caused for our Earth, along with ways that we can try to fix them.



IMAGE TAKEN from Quizalize
Earth Day is observed each year on April 22.

Upcoming Campus Events

(More information on the Experience Monmouth app)

Wednesday April 21

-Guardians Club Meeting, 2 p.m.
Campus Catholic Ministry Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Thursday April 22

-Spring Fest 2021 Activities
-Active Minds Club Meeting, 7 p.m.
EXPRESSO, hosted by CUS, 8:37 p.m.

Friday April 23

-Spring Fest 2021 Activities

Saturday April 24

-The Big Event, 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday April 27

-Students In Recovery Meeting, 6 p.m.

Biden to Withdraw U.S. Forces from Afghanistan

JASMINE RAMOS
STAFF WRITER

On Apr. 14, President Joe Biden announced his administration will be withdrawing the combat troops from Afghanistan by Sept. 11 of this year, ending the war that has lasted 20 years. The withdraw will begin on May 1.

"It is time to end America's longest war. It is time for American troops to come home," he said during his address to the nation.

Biden noted that we cannot expect different results by using the same method for the last 20 years. The war that began after the deadly attacks on 9/11 has been passed on to four different presidential administration, starting with President George W. Bush in Oct. 2001.

Biden spoke to Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and said that the U.S. will continue to "support the Afghan people through development, humanitarian and security assistance." Ghani later stated on Twitter, "We will work with our U.S. parties to ensure a smooth transition."

According to The New York Times, the full withdrawal will be sending 2,500 to 3,500 American troops home. Information provided by the Pentagon has shown that over 775,000 U.S. members have been deployed to Afghanistan at least once since this war has started.

Secretary General of NATO, Jens Stoltenberg, has also agreed to withdraw 7,000 non-American forces from Afghanistan starting May 1 as

well.

The beginning of withdrawing the troops starting May 1st is different from the Trump administration's agreement with the Taliban of having all the troops withdrawn by May 1st. Biden believes that withdrawing the troops too soon could cause the loss of a lot of civil rights gains by Afghani women and other progress the country has made in recent times.

Because of certain security risks, Pentagon officials have argued for a continued minor presence in Afghanistan to collect intelligence, however, Biden is the first president to have rejected the Pentagon's recommendations.

Saliba Sarsar, Ph.D., Professor

of Political Science, explained that this war has estimated 241,000 deaths which include 2,400 American service members and at least 71,344 civilians; 78,314 Afghan military and police; and 84,191 opposition fighters.

However, he raises many concerns over the state of the country once the troops are removed, "especially as related to Afghani women and girls and minorities on one hand and other Afghans who assisted the U.S. in its work."

President Biden has noted that he isn't afraid of using any force in case of any attacks to come the Taliban from now until Sept. 11. Biden warned the Taliban that the U.S. will defend itself

and its partners from attacks as it winds down its forces over the next coming months.

Sarsar continued, "The U.S. in particular and the world community in general have to do their utmost to assist in the positive development of Afghanistan. It behooves the Afghani people to cease the opportunity and move forward toward a stable, prosperous, and peaceful future."

Biden has always been vocal about the country's presence in Afghanistan. He unsuccessfully advocated for a smaller presence while Vice President for the Obama administration, so this withdrawal comes with no surprise.

Eleanor Novek, Ph.D., Professor of Communication, men-

tioned, "The war in Afghanistan has always seemed to me a bloody and pointless conflict, in a location and a culture that the US doesn't understand. Without knowing the details of our national security reasons for being there, to me the withdrawal of the troops seems practical and ethical."

Similar thoughts had been said by Biden, stating that the U.S. objective had been reached a decade ago when they killed Osama bin Laden, leader of the terrorist organization and the reason for staying in Afghanistan have remained unclear throughout the years.

President Biden also noted that the war has become "multi-generational" and has led to service members who weren't even alive during the 9/11 attacks. Alexander Dyer, senior communication student, notices that younger generations examine the attacks in a less anecdotal and more analytical light.

He continued, "As a 23-year-old myself, I feel like I'm in the tail end of the last generation who were born long enough ago to remember 9/11 [...] When you look at the American military's occupation of Afghanistan in this analytical light, it makes sense that many young people see it as having gone on much too long; especially considering the fact that the 20 years of occupation makes up a majority of our lives."

The president will focus on revisiting the U.S. counter terrorism efforts in different ways in the upcoming years, as terrorist threats are more global, focusing more on foreign policy challenges faced by China and Russia.



IMAGE TAKEN from ABC News

The withdraw of the troops will begin on May 1st, and the all will be returned by Sept. 11th.

Biden's New Infrastructure Plan

JOHN SPINELLI
STAFF WRITER

President Biden has a plan of funding and improving infrastructure throughout the United States. Biden's program will not only cover 'traditional' infrastructure like federal funding for bridges and roads but will also focus on additional issues like climate change and investing in green energy.

President Biden has already signed a COVID-19 economic relief bill which granted Americans a stimulus check of \$1,400. Democrats have a majority in the House of Representatives, Senate, and Presidency, a term known as "united government," yet there have been some concerns that moderates like Senators Tester, Sinema, Manchin, etc. will stop more "progressive" leaning bills from passing.

The infrastructure plan has been met with criticism from Congressional Republicans; they have argued the bill is mostly "pork spending," saying it does not focus on important issues concerning national infrastructure. There has also been criticism for the bill's estimated price of two trillion dollars. The White House in response has offered to make a compromise to a lower at a price of 800 billion dollars.

Joseph Patten, Ph.D., Associate Professor in Political Science said, "I don't think this bill is going to be bipartisan. The Senate Majority leader has already spoken to the parliamentarian and technically they could pass this with zero republican support. This bill would emphasize not only roads and bridges but the idea of human infrastructure-

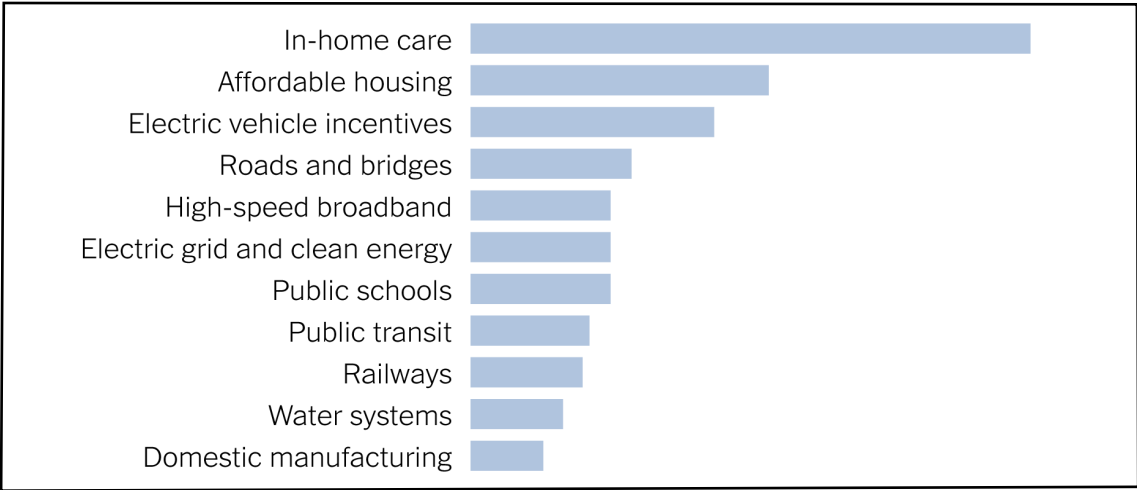


IMAGE TAKEN from The New York Times

This plan included the COVID-19 economic relief bill, which granted Americans a \$1,400 stimulus check.

daycare, more government assistance, etc."

Patten predicted some other issues might be debated in the coming months. He said, "In terms of what this Congress could do until the midterms, I think there is a chance the federal minimum wage might get raised. It has not been changed since 2009. Probably not fifteen dollars an hour like what Bernie Sanders has argued for but maybe a compromise to \$10 or \$11 an hour. I don't think there will be major bills that get through especially hot topic issues (on both sides) like strict gun control or immigration reform."

Similarly, like Infrastructure, other proposed bills that have been mentioned in the House of Representatives under Biden's presidency. These include the Equality Act- which would expand federal government anti-discrimination laws, the Judicial Act of 2021- which would increase the number of Supreme Court justices to 13 instead of the current number of nine, and HR

127, a bill which would expand federal gun registration and gun control restrictions.

Jen McGovern, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Political Science and Sociology, believes the bill does have potential to assist the current recovering economy. She said, "The bill, as it is currently laid out, does seem to have provisions to increase jobs. Some of those jobs would be in construction and engineering, such as repairing roads and bridges. The plan also proposes to increase jobs in the green energy sector, installing broadband in rural areas, and increasing job training and human capital in certain industries."

McGovern said that in the past, such government investments have created new jobs and she believes this bill can do that.

McGovern also discussed the general focus of the Biden administration. She said, "Reporters have noted that the Biden administration is likely to release 'The American Family Plan'

before the midterms. This plan would probably address education, paid leave, and childcare. In addition to the infrastructure bill, such a plan would be in line with many of the things Biden-Harris ran on. Americans have long been demanding reform in these specific areas. If passed, these policies have the potential to help many families and therefore, I do think the administration would try to propose such legislation."

She also noted how the political term "infrastructure" could be reinterpreted today saying, "This bill is asking us to rethink the meaning of infrastructure- the underlying systems that help the country's economy run smoothly. Traditionally, this has referred to things like roads, bridges, utilities, and airports which clearly help people and goods move effectively. While these things are still needed, our country has much more a service-based economy than when the federal government last passed. Because of this transition, investing in

people and services is absolutely needed to help the economy run smoothly."

Connor Vidnansky, a sophomore political science student said, "President Biden has proposed a \$2 trillion infrastructure plan or as he calls it the 'American Jobs plan.' The plan will create many jobs and help tackle climate change. It has goals to fix highways, rebuild bridges, upgrade ports, upgrade airports and transit systems. Additionally, it will modernize about 20,000 miles of highways, roads, and has goals to create jobs that have to do with electric vehicles."

He continued, "The president is proposing a \$174 billion investment in the EV market. In addition, the plan calls for \$100 billion to build new public schools and upgrade school buildings. Corporate companies may not like this bill as their tax will rise from 21 percent to 28 percent. Although this is called an infrastructure plan, there are many different things included in the bill that does not have to do with infrastructure."

Vidnansky then said the U.S. does not have that type of money to spend right now. "Biden says people making under \$400,000 will not get taxed more, but that is hard to believe. The bill cannot be paid for unless the middle and lower classes get taxed more. Many people are skeptical about this bill as it will tax the middle class and may not be as effective as Biden says it will be. In my opinion, the Biden infrastructure plan has great intentions to help the American people, but I am concerned people will get taxed more and it will not be as effective as he says," he said.

Nevertheless, She Persisted: Georgi's Senior Goodbye

GEORGEANNE NIGRO
SENIOR/POLITICS EDITOR

I transferred to Monmouth in the fall of 2019, and I honestly wish I came here sooner. I never knew the home that I was missing, that being *The Outlook* and the whole Communication Department.

I always had a love and passion for writing, but never knew what I could do with it, until I came to Monmouth. My time here has truly shown me how capable I am, and I have cherished every lesson learned here. I wish my time was not so limited, but everything I have learned during my two years here will stay with me forever.

Writing for the politics section has been such an amazing learning experience for me as a writer and as a journalist. Politics is such a complex area, and to write about it has been so fun to learn more about it. I am so thankful for all of the professors and students who have contributed to this section and made it as successful as it was. I am also very thankful for my writers who wrote articles for this section every week. You all did a fantastic job, and I hope you all continue with this section in the future.

To be awarded as Senior Editor was also a dream and such a big accomplishment for me. I really want to thank Melissa and the whole staff of *The Outlook* for helping me achieve it.

Mom and Dad: There are not enough words to describe my gratitude and love for the both of you. You both have done everything you possibly could for me and taught me how valuable the love of family is.

Mom, without you I would be nowhere. You have saved me from the darkest times in my life and you have pushed me to keep going. I admire your strength, for it motivates me even more.

Dad, I would be nowhere without you, and am so appreciative of everything you do for me. You have told me since I was a little girl to go after what I love, and to never be ashamed of it. You taught me the importance of doing what you love and also, the importance of family. You never gave up on me and thank you for that. I hope I can make you both proud in the future. I love you both immensely.

Alex and Sam: I know it is hard shining behind my light as the favorite child, but someone has to do it. Right? But in all seriousness, thank you both for being the best sisters anyone in the world could have asked for. I am so grateful for the both of you and you both have inspired me to do what I love. Thank you for being my biggest supporters, and for always having my back. I would not be where I am today, if it was not for the both of you. Thank you and I love you both wholeheartedly.

Professor Morano: You are the first professor to have ever pushed me to be the best version of myself, and for that I thank you. You have shown me how powerful my words can be and that I can make my mark if I just do the work and believe myself. Every lesson in all of the classes that I have taken from you, will be ingrained in me forever. You have taught me more than anyone else ever has in school, and I appreciate you more than you will ever know. Thank you for everything you have done for all journalism students at Monmouth and for giving them a voice. Even me.

Professor Novek: You have



PHOTOS COURTESY of Georgeanne Nigro

made me a better writer and thank you for everything you have taught me. I am so grateful to have learned from you. I admire you for everything you stand for and believe in and it makes me happy to know there are people like you out in the world. Thank you.

The Outlook Staff: Well, where would I be without all of you? I don't even want to know, because being in this amazing newspaper with all of you amazing writers has been a blast. Thank you for always being there, for not only me, but for one another too. It was so comforting to always come to any of you for all of the love that you have all gave me.

Meg: you taught me everything I needed to know for the politics section. If it wasn't for you, there would be no section this year. Thank you.

Matt: Thank you for your kindness and always believing in me. I only known you for a short period of time, but you have been nothing but amazing to me. I am so excited to see what you do in the future. I know they will be great thing.

Alex: You are another person who has shown me the ropes when I got here. Thank you for always giving me a helping hand, and for being nothing but pure sweetness.

Danielle: Thank you for constantly helping me with your edits and advice. You have helped me become a better writer and you are such a big part at *The Outlook*.

Melissa: Thank you for constantly dealing with me and my anxiety. Thank you for showing me what a true leader is, and how to think outside the box. You have been a rock to *The Outlook*. Thank you for everything, you're so loved and appreciated by us all.

Hawk TV: I have not been at Hawk TV for the longest time, but it has been such a great time. Thank you all for your positivity and creativity. I thank you all for welcoming me with such open arms and for being all such incredible human beings.

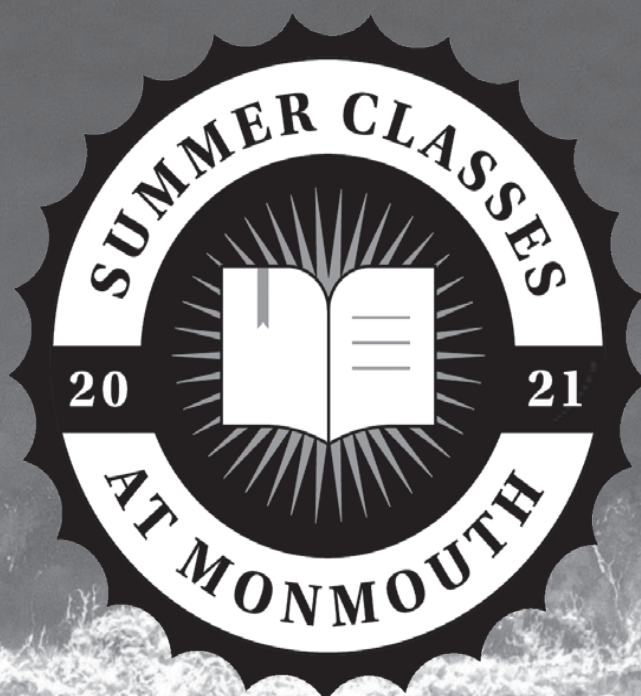
Sean Gerhard: Hey buddy. Thank you for adopting me at Hawk TV and teaching me more about media and how to get involved there. I appreciate everything that you have taught me. Thank you for being such a kind soul, and I am happy to have worked with you at my time here at Monmouth. Also, thank you for not firing me.

Sarah and Kristen: It's the Powerpuff Girls here! You both have been my rocks here at Monmouth since I arrived last fall. You have made my time here so fun and so memorable. Thank you for dealing with me on a daily basis, I know that can be tiring. Thank you for being yourselves and showing me the truth of real friendship. I love you both from the bottom of my heart.

TJ Foley: Well look who we have here. Thank you for everything, and for being my friend above everything else. You have pushed me so much and helped me get where I am today. Thank you.

To My Shore Family: You all know who you are. Thank you for all the love you have given me and for every special memory we have shared. I love you all to the beach and back.

MU Com Department: Thank you to all of the professors for everything you do for us. Your work is so valued and appreciated.



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A Tip of the Cap to *The Outlook*: Mark D'Aquila's Senior Goodbye

MARK D'AQUILA
SPORTS EDITOR

It was the very first day I walked into the Plangere building for my first day of Intro to Journalism Freshman year, that I was told I needed to go over to the prestigious, *Outlook* Office. I took the short walk past Hawk TV, past WMXC, and into the newsroom that I would eventually call my second home for the next four years. Little did I know that this office would soon be renamed after the legendary journalist, Linda Deutsch, and I would be her first ever scholarship

recipient. I mention this not to brag about myself, this University, or *The Outlook*, but rather to show everyone out there the opportunities that this hidden little corner of Plangere has presented us all with. I may not know what exactly the future holds for me after graduation, but I do know that *The Outlook* has prepared me for whatever journey is coming my way. It has taught me leadership skills that few college students have the opportunity to learn, time management that I will need for the rest of my career, and how to properly

format a date in Associated Press style. My passion for sports has always been the driving factor of my life and I am beyond grateful for both Monmouth and *The Outlook* for allowing me to continue my passion. When I was deciding between Penn State and Monmouth my senior year of high school, a huge variable for me was how quickly I would be able to contribute to their sports media programs. From the very first time I stepped on the Monmouth campus I was told no position was out of my reach and the opportuni-

ties were endless. *The Outlook* took me places I never could have imagined over the past four years. From a contributing writer my very first day at the school, to a staff writer a couple months later, to an Assistant Sports Editor the following year, to now the Lead Sports Editor for the past two years. It even brought me one of the experiences of my life last spring when we all attended the National Journalism Conference in San Francisco. My message to all newcomers to the Monmouth University campus is to find

your passion, whatever that may be, and join an extracurricular activity that pertains to it the first day you walk on campus. Whether you eventually turn this into a career or not, being a part of that group will not only help you realize what you want to do with your life, but also introduce you to amazing people who share the same passion as you. I can honestly say *The Outlook* has been the greatest part of my experience at Monmouth and I will forever be thankful for the opportunities it has provided me with over these past four years.



Mark D'Aquila meeting Linda Deutsch in 2019 after she was honored by Monmouth University and the *Outlook* Office was named after her.



Mark D'Aquila attending the National Journalism Conference in San Francisco in 2020 with the rest of the *Outlook* staff.

My Special Thanks: Jack Murphy's Senior Goodbye

JACK MURPHY
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

When I first came to Monmouth in the Fall semester in 2017, I originally was a biology major. I thought I wanted to be involved with science and midway through the second semester, I knew that was not what I wanted to do. So I was back to square one, and I thought to myself, 'okay so what's next?' While I was considering my options, my mom offered me the best

advice I could receive at the time. "Do something that will make you happy." When she told me this I knew exactly what my mindset was, I wanted to pursue a career in the world of sports journalism. My sophomore year I took Introduction to Journalism and it also was very life altering for me. Professor Morano was the one who taught the class and his speech after the first meeting motivated me to begin writing sports for *The*

Outlook. Starting out as a Contributing Writer, I knew this is something I loved to do. Whether it be about lacrosse, baseball, swimming, football or basketball I knew that writing about sports is my passion. My favorite moment as part of the *Outlook* was last year when I covered the Men's basketball team, when they played against the prestigious Kansas. During the game George Papas stole the ball and dunked

it on the other end when the Hawks were well out of it. Papas broke the internet as clips of the dunk were all over ESPN, Bleacher Report and other sports platforms. Senior year, I was named the Associate Sports Editor of *The Outlook*. These past two semesters at *The Outlook* have been my favorite as I took on a bigger responsibility as well as work with Mark D'Aquila who has helped me tremendously grow as an editor.

My advice to any underclassmen as well as upcoming students is the same thing my mother told me. Chase your dreams, do something that is going to make you happy. If you aren't happy with your major, don't be afraid to change it to something you have more passion for. *The Outlook* has been a huge part of my college experience and is a large reason why I am the person I am today. I will be forever grateful *The Outlook* offered me.



Jack Murphy with his father Michael and little brother Luke on a family vacation.



Jack Murphy visiting Monument Park located past center field in Yankee Stadium.

Softball Wins Three Games Against Marist

JACK MURPHY
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Softball took home three out of four games this past weekend against Marist in Poughkeepsie, NY. The Hawks won both of their matchups on Saturday and split the doubleheader on Sunday.

Senior pitcher Alyssa Irons was lights out in the first contest of the four-game weekend series as she earned herself the complete game win by pitching eight innings giving up only three runs while tallying eight strikeouts.

Trailing by two runs in the seventh inning, junior Lindsey Baron, hit a two-run shot to tie the game. Senior infielder, Deangie Jimenez, would go on to hit a 2-RBI base knock to give the Blue and White a 4-2 lead and enough of a cushion for them to walk away with the 4-3 victory.

Jimenez would continue her hot streak into the part two of the double header, as she once again gave the Hawks a lead in the top of the fifth, starting off the inning with a solo shot.

Senior outfielder Morgan Maziarz broke the game wide open with a three-run blast increasing the Blue and White's lead to four, ultimately winning 4-1.

Sophomore pitcher Kylie Gletow earned her third win of the season with a line of six innings pitched, five hits

and only one run in the contest. Irons would close the game out and earn her first save of the season.

Their first contest on Sunday resulted in a 2-1 loss, as the Hawks were not able to

muster much on the offensive end, being held to only two hits the entire game. Irons was credited with her third loss on the season even though she only allowed one earned run in 6.2 inning pitched. The

lone Monmouth run came off an at-bat from junior infielder Danielle Dominik who drew a walk with the bases loaded.

While runs came as a premium in the first leg of the doubleheader, game two was

a different story.

The Hawks scored early and often as four runners crossed home plate before Marist even had a chance to bat, making the score 4-0. Monmouth did a good job on working the count as both Jimenez and freshman infielder Julia Theur walked the bases loaded to score in runs.

Senior catcher Tommi Stowers increased the lead to 5-0 with a solo shot to straightaway center in the top of the fourth inning. Monmouth would then go on to score two more runs in the sixth inning and eventually won 7-2.

Gletow got the nod to start for the Hawks and did not disappoint throwing her third complete game of the season. She only allowed two runs while striking out six batters, for her fourth win of the year.

"I was really pleased with how we played today," said head coach Shannon Salsburg, "Even though we split, it was a solid day of softball."

After their four game series against Marist, the Hawks now have an 11-5 record, which is good for the highest win percentage in the MAAC at .688.

The Hawks are back to action on Wednesday where they face off in a doubleheader at home against Rider who currently has a record of 11-11.

First pitch of game one is scheduled for 1:00 p.m., with the second game set to start immediately after.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Softball wins three out of four games this weekend against Marist. They will have a doubleheader against Rider on Wednesday.

Men's Soccer First Round Opponent Revealed

ERIN MULLIGAN
STAFF WRITER

On Monday afternoon, the Monmouth University Men's Soccer team (5-2-1) drew Bowling Green (7-4-1) during the NCAA Men's Soccer Championship Selection Show.

Monmouth, along with 35 other teams has been selected to

play in a single-elimination tournament for this year's College Cup.

After winning the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Championship this past Saturday against No. 1 seed, Quinnipiac, 1-0, the Hawks earned an automatic bid. The major contributor to that win was sophomore forward, Julian Gomez, who in

the 86th minute scored the game-winning goal off a header from sophomore midfielder, Nick Rogers. In his rookie season in 2019, Gomez led the team with three assists and played a season high of 87 minutes in a tie at Rider.

Currently, the Hawks are on a solid four-game winning streak, which have come from all away games. The Hawks defeated #3

Niagara 4-3 in overtime during the regular season and again in the MAAC Conference Championships 2-1. They then defeated #2 Rider 2-0 and #1 Quinnipiac 1-0.

As for the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Tournament, this will be Monmouth's first time playing in it since 2014 where the

Hawks fell to #14 Xavier 2-1, in a double overtime game. In 2011, Monmouth advanced to the second round following their victory over Stony Brook on penalty kicks.

Looking ahead, the College Cup game is set to take place on Thursday, April 29 at 6:00 p.m. at Bryan Park in Greensboro, North Carolina.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Men's Soccer recieved an automatic bid in the NCAA Tournament because they won the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC). They will face off against Bowling Green (7-4-1).

Track & Field Excel in Spring Invitational

JOHN SPINELLI
STAFF WRITER

On Sunday, April 18, the men's and women's track & field team hosted their spring invitational at Kessler Stadium against Fairleigh Dickinson, Fordham, Iona, Manhattan, Quinnipiac, Rider, Siena, TCNJ, and Wagner. The meet came at an exciting time as the field hockey and the men's soccer team won their conference titles the day before!

The track team returned to West Long Branch defeating Rider University last Saturday, April 10, at their facility in Lawrenceville. The women scored 100.5 to 77.5 to win a smooth victory. The men, in contrast, only won by a close margin scoring 106-94.

Head Coach Mike Nelson shared some comments about the meet. "This was a large meet compared to others we have had this year," said Nelson. "We got a preview of the conference meet because many of the schools that competed here will be with us again shortly. It was nice to have a home competition since we were able to use our own facility for this."

Assistant Coach Damon Godfrey, added, "I think we had a good day; we broke the record books for many events. This meet was a good confidence builder leading us into the next important couple of weeks!"

The first half of the meet only focused on the throws and distance events. The men and women had a strong performance in distance. In the 10k, true freshman Allie Pierontoni ran 37:06 to win the race meanwhile breaking the freshman record. In

5th place was junior Mackenzie Delahunty running 37:57.

On the men's side, five Hawks went under 32 minutes. Junior Carrington Retzios ran a personal best of 30:45 for 3rd place. The Hawks took 5th to 8th place with junior Shane Ainscoe running in 31:25, sophomore Jared Taylor in 31:27, freshman Sebastian Reed in 31:33, and sophomore Cameron Janovic in 31:40.

In the 5k, the dynamic duo of juniors Lou DiLaurenzio and James Hoffman shattered the 15-minute barrier for the first time. DiLaurenzio got third place in 14:46, with Hoffman in fourth running a time of 14:47.

In the field, senior Dan Gilligan won the shot put with 16.52 meters. Continuing her successful season, senior Chibuzo Amuno threw 50.58 meters to win the hammer throw. In discus, sophomore Jade Luciani threw a personal best of 41.12 meters.

Senior Danielle Steff won javelin with a far throw of 44.65 meters. In the men's javelin, they had a 1-2-3 punch with senior Mark Orlando leading in 65.78 meters. Following Orlando was sophomore Taylor Boorse with 53.23m and junior Dorian Jackson throwing 52.55 meters.

In the intermission of the meet at one o'clock, twenty-two seniors on both the men's and women's side were honored for their hard work and dedication in their careers as Monmouth University Hawks. Following the ceremony, the afternoon session focused on the sprints and jump events.

In the men's 400 meters, Junior Jalen Jones won with a sharp time of 48.37. Addition-

ally, sophomores Micah Wood and Daniel Fenton went first and second in the 400-meter hurdles. Later, in the 4x400 relay, the men won the race composed by freshmen Matt Martino and Scott Petersen and returners Jones and Wood.

In the pole vault, junior Randy Showmaker won first place and broke the facility record at 4.75 meters. Following him in second was freshman Connor Bennett, who had a stellar performance jumping 4.60 meters. In the 800 meters, sophomore Ian Moore

won the race, changing his personal best to a time of 1:51.

In the women's 400 meters, sophomore Sydney Squier won her event with a time of 57.48. The women also showed a strong performance in the 4x100, with senior Amanda Dwyer, freshman Brianna Rubino, sophomore Nina Corpora and Squier anchoring the group.

In the Long Jump, junior Romaine Rhoden had a huge performance and won the event in 7.18 meters. For the women's side, sophomore Natalia Torres

earned a new personal best of 5.41 meters. At the end of the day, the men and women's team won 13 events.

Up next, the Hawks will be competing at Lehigh University on April 24. On May 8 and 9, the men and women's team will be competing at the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conferences Championships at Rider University. This is the first since 2019 the outdoor championship is being held; and the men and women's team will be defending their winning titles from two years ago.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Monmouth track & field will compete at Lehigh University on April 24 before heading to Rider for the MAAC Championships to close out the 2021 season.

Men's Tennis Earns Sixth Straight MAAC Title

ERIN MULLIGAN
STAFF WRITER

On April 18, the Monmouth University Men's Tennis team defeated Fairfield 5-2 for their sixth straight Metro

Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Regular Season title after their defeat over Siena for their ninth straight win on April 17.

Helping to improve the Hawks record was their 6-1

away victory against Siena this past Saturday.

Monmouth won the doubles point with wins at No.2 and No.3.

At No. 2, was junior, Lucca Silva and sophomore, Victor

Castro, who won 6-3 against Fairfield's Matt Nardone and Soma Yokoyama.

At No. 3, was 2018 Rookie of the Year and 2019 All-MAAC First Team in No. 1 doubles and No. 4 singles,

sophomore, Will Cooke Wharton and senior, Charles Gortzounian who won 6-0 against Fairfield's Darek Kuczynski and Geovanny Mendoza. Fifth-year students, Max Benaim and Sergio Martinez, lost 6-3 in the No.1 doubles 6-3.

The Hawks won five singles matches which included No. 2 and No. 6.

Following their ninth straight win, the boys in blue and white defeated Fairfield, winning the doubles point with wins at all three positions. In singles play, the Hawks got wins from fifth-year student and 2019 All-MAAC First Team in No. 2 doubles and No. 3 singles, Max Benaim, at No. 2, Castro at No. 3, Silva, at No. 4, and Sophomore, Gabriel Busato, at No. 6.

With this victory, Monmouth improved their record to 11-2 (5-0 MAAC) and has now won ten straight matches. This is in addition to the fact that they have won 27 straight regular season MAAC contests.

No. 1 Monmouth is 12-0 and 5-0 in the MAAC. They will face the No. 4 seed in the MAAC Semifinals this coming Saturday.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Fifth year student athlete Max Benaim, who was a 2019 MAAC First Team player, helped lead Monmouth to victory against Fairfield with a singles win.



WELCOME BACK MAAC



Softball took three of four games this past weekend at Marist to climb right back into the thick of the MAAC standings after COVID-19 postponements.
(Antonia Browning left, Julia Thuer right)

SEE STORY ON PAGE 22

PHOTOS COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics