



THE OUTLOOK

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Faculty Discuss Biden Border Policy as Undocumented Arrivals Spike

JOHN SPINELLI
STAFF WRITER

The Biden Administration has been criticized for a wave of new migrant arrivals on the United States-Mexican border. This recent influx has been the largest spike of undocumented arrivals since 2019, many being unaccompanied minors, according to NPR.

In April 2020, the numbers of immigrants had fallen due to the coronavirus pandemic. However, since February, the numbers have been increasing to nearly 100,000 immigrants, according to Pew Research Center. Some of the immigrant restrictions, that were put in place by former president Donald Trump, are being reversed by The Biden Administration. Pew Research Center reported that

the Remain in Mexico Policy was included in this. "The message is quite clear: Do not come," noted Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas. The White House has dismissed claims of a crisis occurring. President Biden has argued, "Nothing has changed" and "It happens every single, solitary year." However, Senate Republicans have blamed President

Biden for mishandling current issues on the southern border.

Migrants that are seeking asylum are originating from Mexico and Central American countries, according to BBC. Due to high numbers, Homeland Security and ICE said there is a need to reopen more detention facilities. Typically, parents and children are separated until further notice due to a concern for potential human trafficking connections. Journalists who have had access inside have criticized the facilities for tight conditions, making social distancing and other COVID-19 safety protocols a challenge.

Joseph Patten, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Political Science, discussed the recent history of politics and immigration. He said, "I think it's a shame how weaponized our politics has become, especially with this issue. Immigration is of course both a social and



IMAGE TAKEN from Reuters/ Andrees Latif

The recent influx has been the largest spike of undocumented immigrants since 2019, according to NPR.

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Sohyun An, Ph.D., Visits School of Education to Discuss Anti-Asian Violence Amid Pandemic

MATTHEW CUTILLO
MANAGING/ NEWS/ LIFESTYLES EDITOR

The School of Education invited Sohyun An, Ph.D., Professor of Social Studies Education at Kennesaw State University to virtually discuss Anti-Asian violence amid the COVID-19 pandemic and its implications on education, general citizens, and critical media literacy on Wednesday, Mar. 31.

Jiwon Kim, Ph.D., an Associate Professor of Social Studies and Foundations of Education in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, introduced An and the context behind the speaker's research.

An studies, teaches, and parents with a hope for anti-racist, anti-oppressive school and society for all

children, Kim explained. Her research centers on social studies and teacher education from Critical Race Theory, AsianCrit, social justice, and critical civic literacy perspectives.

An analysis released by the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University, found that while hate crimes in 2020 decreased overall by seven percent, those targeting Asian people rose by close to 150 percent. These increases were found mostly in New York City and Los Angeles.

A series of mass shootings occurred at three Asian-operated spas or massage parlors in Atlanta, GA, on Tuesday, Mar. 16. Six of the eight killed were Asian women.

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PHOTO TAKEN from Kennesaw.edu

Sohyun An, Ph.D., focuses her research on Critical Race Theory, AsianCrit, social justice, and critical civic literacy perspectives.

Director Murray Interviews Reporter Olivia Nuzzi

MATTHEW CUTILLO
MANAGING/ NEWS/ LIFESTYLES EDITOR

Patrick Murray, Director of the Monmouth University Polling Institute, held a virtual discussion with political reporter Olivia Nuzzi on Monday, Mar. 29.

Rekha Datta, Ph.D., Interim Provost & Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, introduced Nuzzi and shared the context behind the discussion.

"This event is part of a Monmouth University Polling Institute Initiative to foster thought provoking conversation on a wide range of topics beyond typical election polling or horse-race politics," Datta said. "From our own backyard, but of national fame, we are very privileged, honored and delighted to have Olivia Nuzzi [join us]."

Murray wanted to interview Nuzzi because he considers her to be someone who captures the recent changes in political society and culture, as she, "Represents a direction that we're taking right now, overall as a country as well in terms of politics and in terms of Journalism," he said.

Nuzzi began her career in local Monmouth County politics, interning with a District 11 Assembly race for Vin Gopal, who is now part of the New Jersey Legislature. She began a blog about national politics, eventually being asked to become a dissenting liberal voice on Art Gallagher's conservative blog, More Monmouth Musings.

She wrote a piece on state level issues that had drawn the attention of Tri-City News. The organization asked Nuzzi to become a columnist, her first paid work over a year-or-so long employment.

Nuzzi's political interests began at a young age. She watched former New Jersey Governor Jim McGreevey's appearance on

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Hettie Williams, Ph.D., Ties Jersey Shore to Black History

MATTHEW CUTILLO
MANAGING/NEWS/LIFESTYLES EDITOR

Hettie Williams, Ph.D., Assistant Professor in African American History, discussed the Jersey Shore's ties to black history on the *Eyes On The Jersey Shore* radio show on Friday, Feb. 12.

"I think one story that everyone should know about, but they likely do not, is the story of Dr. Walter McAfee," Williams said.

McAfee was a scientist and mathematician who worked out of Camp Evans. He was one of the hidden figures of science. The scientist worked on Project Diana, a precursor to the space age, Williams explained.

Not originally a New Jersey native, McAfee worked in the Garden State among a group of scientists referred to as the "Black Brain Trust." He went on later to teach at Monmouth University.

"He was one of the few African Americans who was able to secure a degree," Williams said. "He had a doctoral degree from Cornell University that he earned in 1949. What is significant about McAfee and the black scientists who worked with him is they actually started the space program. We tend to think of the 1950s and the 1960s 'Race to The Moon,' and it actually began right here on the Jersey Shore with Black scientists like

McAfee."

McAfee and his peers are known for the "moon bounce," a development breakthrough of bouncing signals off the moon that ushered in the space age.

Williams' research is centered around the Civil Rights Movement in New Jersey, making the argument that the movement's roots can be found in the state.

"Asbury Park was known to have one of the more active chapters of the NAACP," Williams said. "One of the scientists who

worked at Camp Evans had a cross burning on his yard in the mid-1940s. He got on the phone and called the Asbury Park NAACP. It was about 27 members of the asbury park NAACP who got in their cars; they were armed when they came to this scientist's home to protect him."

The story was written in the *New York Times* and appeared in the *Asbury Park Press*, Williams explained. "This ties into the larger Civil Rights Movement because there's a big debate among historians how the

Civil Rights Movement was fought with non-violent, direct action. That was a part of how it was fought, but members of the NAACP also carried arms."

During a movement named the Harlem Renaissance that occurred during the jazz age, many of the artists of the era and beyond were living in New Jersey, Williams said.

"Well known arguments are now being made about the music culture in New Jersey and how [the state's] artists have made a contribution from the era of the Har-

lem Renaissance, down to the present," Williams said. "We have a long history of making contributions to American music culture but also, again, Civil Rights."

One of the important stories that everyone should know, according to Williams, is that the Civil Rights Movement is referred to as the struggle for Black equality.

"It's a struggle that continues down to the present with the Black Lives Matter movement," Williams said. "Folks should realize that there is a larger continuum of history. It's not something new. There's always been struggles for black equality and that's just the most recent iteration of it."

Williams considers there to have been progress made since the struggle for Black equality began, but at the same time, there have been setbacks in history and in those areas of progress.

"For instance, the acceptance of African American culture, including music culture," Williams said. "You could argue there's been a greater level of integration when it comes to Black culture as opposed to social and economic integration. When we think about integration of African Americans into American society, as a whole we want to think about these different sectors of society: culture, economics, social integration and those various sectors in society."



Williams joined the *Eyes On The Jersey Shore* radio show to discuss black history and the Jersey Shore.

PHOTO COURTESY of Anthony DePrimo

Sohyun An, Ph.D., Breaks Down History of Racial Scapegoating

VIOLENCE cont. from pg. 1

The suspect, a 21-year-old white man from Woodstock, GA, was taken into custody later that day.

"It was heartbreaking and horrifying, but to many Asian Americans, it wasn't a surprise," An said. "Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic we've been in grief with this upsurge of Anti-Asian violence."

In Minnesota, last March, an Asian-American family came home and found a hateful note taped to their front door, An explained. "The note said we are watching you. Take the Chinese virus back to China. We don't want you here infecting us with your disease."

In Texas, April 2020, the xenophobic trend continued as a Burmese-American man with two children, ages two and six, were stabbed by a 19 year old at a Local Sams Club, An said. The man was quoted as saying "Chinese are infecting people with the coronavirus. That's why I did it."

"Stop AAPI," a service reporting anti-Asian harassment and violence, began tracking hate crime information since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. "Within a month, they received near 1,500 cases of Anti-Asian harassment, violence and hate crimes," An said. "Last year, total caseload was 2,808. Including this year, 2021, January and February,

we have now 3,795."

"This is a lot, and we wonder why we see this upsurge in Anti-Asian violence today," An said. "It's not hard to guess, right? Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, then President Donald Trump, along with his political allies and media outlets, started to call coronavirus the 'China Virus,' 'Chinese Virus,' 'Wuhan Virus,' and 'Kung Flu.'"

The World Health Organization (WHO) has a guideline which states when a new human infectious disease begins to spread, you never name that new infectious disease after a group of people, An explained. "When they announced this guideline, it's based on history. History shows and demonstrates that doing so can harm the people whose name is at-

tached to the new infectious disease. A virus doesn't know who you are. It doesn't know your nationality, ethnicity, race or gender, or your class background."

An went into detail regarding the troubling pattern of racializing disease and scapegoating racially marginalized groups throughout United State's history.

During the 1832 Cholera epidemic, the infection was spreading rapidly throughout Irish immigrant neighborhoods in New York City, An explained. The dominant group, Anglo Saxon Protestants, said the spread was due to Irish immigrants.

The 1900s Tuberculosis epidemic was spread heavily amongst Jewish Immigrants. "Again, you see a similar par-

allel with Irish immigrants," An said. "As poor, new immigrants, they're living in really congested, crowded urban housing. If you're living in really congested, crowded housing and one person gets the disease, it's more likely to be spread out. The dominant group, based on their long held anti-semitism, called it a Jewish problem. They used this to push the government to restrict Jewish immigrants."

A similar parallel also occurred during 1960s polio cases. The first case was noted in an Italian neighborhood in Brooklyn, An explained. "All the parents and grown ups were panicked, and in this panic, they said it's an Italian problem," An said. "Despite that, there was a lower rate of Italian polio cases, but the govern-

ment listened to the dominant group who demanded that you need to quarantine the Italian neighborhoods despite the fact that there's lower case numbers in the Italian neighborhood."

"Think about 2009," An said. "Barack Obama becomes the first [minority] president and there's a huge political divide; a growing anti-immigration movement. In that context, when H1N1 was first announced and noted from a Mexico village, these anti-immigrant activists started to call it the Mexican Flu. It's a build up of long held Mexican racism in the United States and the racism was fueled by the media and politicians who called it the Mexican Flu."

The first case of Ebola in 2014 can be traced back to a Liberian man traveling to the United States. The media's insistence on associating the man with his African roots caused Americans to associate Ebola with Africa. "There's people with irrational fear, discrimination and hate crimes against the West-African community."

"With the 2019 COVID-19 Pandemic, we see the pattern of how this goes," An said. "The first case was reported in China and then back in the United States. The political leaders who have the power to sway people's opinion in spite of the WHO's guidelines [to not associate infectious disease with groups] chose not to. We saw the spike of Anti-Asian violence cases nationwide."



Violence against Asian groups has skyrocketed since the COVID-19 pandemic, news outlets reported.

IMAGE TAKEN from NPR

New York Islanders' Manager of Premium Sales Talks Career

MATTHEW CUTILLO
MANAGING/NEWS/LIFESTYLES EDITOR

Steven Romano, Manager of Premium Sales for the New York Islanders, joined the Sports Industry Club for their virtual speaker series on Wednesday, Mar. 31.

Romano graduated from Monmouth in 2015 as a marketing and management major. Between sophomore and junior year, he completed a marketing internship with the Camden Riversharks. "They're now defunct and no longer a team, but it gave me a really good understanding of what the sports industry was like," Romano said. "When you intern in minor league baseball, they have such small staffs that they don't have one person handle a specific position."

Every person on a minor league staff is given five or six different positional responsibilities, so it helped Romano gain a better understanding of the industry while he worked as a marketing intern, he explained.

Fall of his junior year, Romano did a similar internship with the Lakewood Blue-Claws minor league team. "It was only about a 25-minute ride from Monmouth and they always have different positions available," Romano said. "I would highly recom-

mend that if you're an underclassman looking to get an internship. They have a great program there."

His senior year, Romano worked as a corporate sales intern with Monmouth Athletics. After graduating in May of 2015, he already accepted a job with the New Jersey Devils.

"I started in an entry-level sales associate program," Romano said. "I was selling season tickets, partial plans, group outings, and suite rentals. It really helped me get an understanding of sales. I didn't have a ton of sales experience going into this, but thankfully there's a training program. I had the right characteristics that they were looking for that ultimately helped me to be successful in that role."

Shortly after, he was promoted to the account executive team. "In this role, I was more focused on our business clients. I had some success and became a senior account executive in which my entire focus was talking to CEOs, head of HRs, and marketing directors to help them bring clients out to games."

Harris Blitzer Sports & Entertainment is a conglomerate of brands in the sports industry, Romano explained, their two biggest being the Philadelphia 76ers and the New

Jersey Devils. The conglomerate also owns the Prudential Center, the Crystal Palace English Premier League team, and the Dignitas Esports franchise.

"Esports is the rapidly-growing in the sports industry," Romano explained. "It's taking over more and more market share each year. More people watched the League of Legends Finals than watched the Superbowl last year, and Esports continuously outpaced any major sporting event in terms of ratings. If that's somewhere where you have a passion, there's endless opportunities in Esports right now."

When a college student hears sales, they normally think of films like *The Wolf of Wall Street* or the television show *The Office*, Romano said. "The fun you have in the office is just like what you see in *The Office*, with the pranks and messing with each other but just having a great time around friends everyday. What I love about sales is no two days are the same and you get to meet a lot of great people."

Sales involves calling companies or individuals that have interest in the franchise you work for, Romano ex-

plained. "It's a lot of social selling now on LinkedIn. If you're connected with anyone in the sports industry, you'll see their posts. It's a great tool to get in touch with business leaders and talk to them about how they can use the product. In a pre-covid world, it was tons of face-to-face, whether it was bringing clients out to the stadiums, going to their offices, or taking them to out golf. I'm excited for the warmer weather here to hopefully get back on the courses this summer and be able to bring clients out because that's some of the best times you'll have."

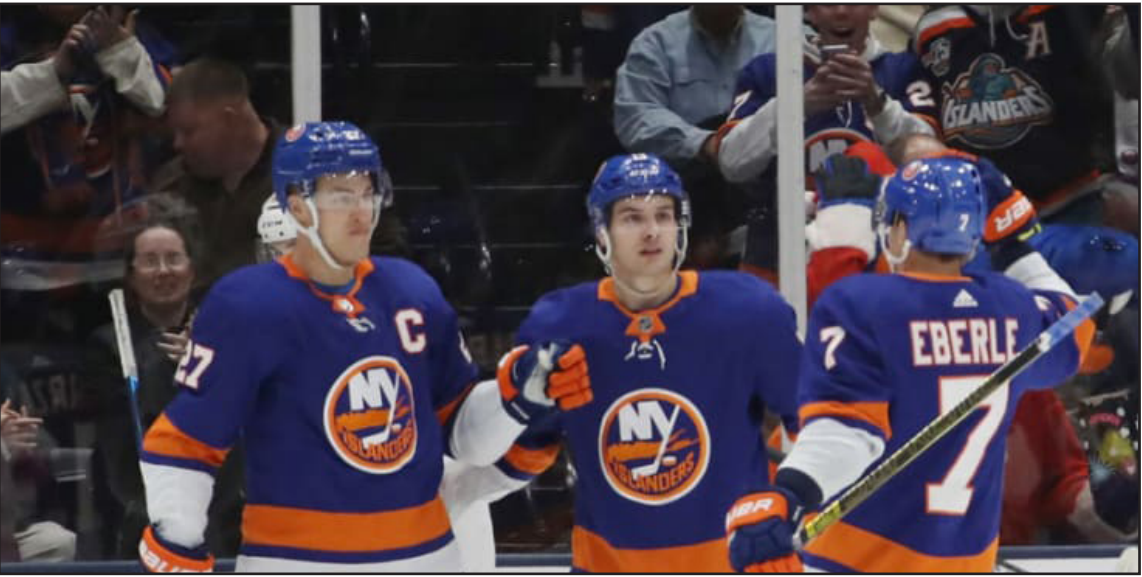


IMAGE TAKEN from Empire Writes Back
Romano graduated from Monmouth in 2015 with a degree in marketing and management and now works as the New York Islanders' Manager of Premium Sales.

Political Reporter Talks Influences and Journalism Industry

NUZZI cont. from pg. 1

The Oprah Winfrey Show, his proclamation of "I am a gay American" sparking an interest in the way that political language differs from everyday verbiage.

"I must have been 11 or so at that time, and I remember thinking that it was very interesting that political language was not really like regular english," Nuzzi said. "It was something a little bit different and I had an innate understanding of it."

Nuzzi was also interested in comedy at the time, another encouragement to keep up to date with politics as many comics center their acts around it. "I was paying a lot of attention to the news, really, just so I could be in on the joke and keep up with what people were talking about."

Becoming a speechwriter seemed like an interesting prospect, but she quickly realized that the field did not align ideologically with her interests after giving it a try. "I was not interested in helping someone lie, which kind of became clear to me as part of what that job is," she said.

Nuzzi loved the idea of interviewing someone, considering it the best possible job you could have. "Learning about another person's life, beliefs and being able to ask them whatever you wanted seemed kind of amazing to me," Nuzzi said.

"You have a very unique

voice that's unfiltered in many ways," Murray said to Nuzzi. "Were [the two publications you began with] influential in your style or were you looking at other folks?"

"I just really wanted to write things that I would want to read," Nuzzi said. "I'm definitely a student of new journalism, and I think my style is very much in line with the history of new Journalism of the last half century or so. [The style] definitely has a point of view but it's not ideological and is really just more about a sense of right and wrong."

Nuzzi now serves as the Washington correspondent for *New York Magazine*. "You're kind of like a feature writer-style, but the topics that you write about

aren't technically features," Murray said. "You're fit within *New York Magazine*, what are they trying to get from you [during an assignment]?" Murray asked.

"My job is just to report back in the most human way possible," Nuzzi responded. "What this universe is like, what people are like and what their motives are. I kind of have license to observe from 10,000 feet and to write about the bigger picture. I try and write more about what it all means at the end of the day and what it all means in the broader context of our lives."

"Not a lot of places are really about that type of slow journalism, if you will," Nuzzi continued. "It's definitely a privileged position at any magazine in this media

environment but certainly at *New York Magazine*."

Murray asked Nuzzi if she could offer any advice to a young person who is considering getting into political journalism.

"My main piece of advice would just be to try really hard to understand the people that you're writing about and to be empathetic," Nuzzi said. "Try to think about the human beings that you're covering and what the human effect is of whatever issue you're covering. I think it's very easy to kind of forget that we're writing about other human beings and that that should be the main consideration."

"I think it's very easy to get into these philosophical political debates or to

jump on these bandwagons of attacking people, or being overly simplistic about complicated ideas, and I think the most important thing is to kind of slow down and think about the human effect of the things that we're writing about," Nuzzi continued.

In terms of entering the industry, Nuzzi considers it to be a case-by-case basis.

"Some people can afford to do an unpaid internship and that's their way, but a lot of people cannot do that and they have to find other ways to be able to freelance or to get their foot in the door," Nuzzi said. "It's really just about figuring out what's realistic for you in terms of opportunity, finding connections and networking with people."



PHOTO COURTESY of Daily News
Olivia Nuzzi is the Washington correspondent for *New York Magazine*.



PHOTO COURTESY of Chris Spiegel
Patrick Murray interviewed Nuzzi on her journalism career.

THE OUTLOOK

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Should Monmouth
Mandate Vaccines?

EDITORIAL STAFF

As COVID-19 vaccines become more accessible to the general population, some universities have announced a requirement for upcoming fall students to be vaccinated.

Rutgers was the first New Jersey school to require students to receive a vaccine. It is unknown at this time if Monmouth University plans to follow suit, but President Leahy has expressed an interest in attempting as “normal” of a fall semester as possible.

One editor stated that they would prefer Monmouth to

editor said. “I believe that everyone should receive the vaccine because it’s our only way back to normalcy.”

The editor says they approve of the vaccine passport because those in highly congested locations such as airports would feel comfortable sitting in such close proximity to strangers.

Despite graduating this spring, a different editor would still like to see vaccine confirmations required throughout campus.

“If I was returned and everyone needed to be vaccinated, I would probably

datory vaccines will happen on campus, though, (at least not in the near future) since Monmouth is still waiting on approval to become a vaccine distribution center.”

The same editor believes that if a student does not want to become vaccinated, they should be limited to on-line classes only.

“I think that if a student doesn’t want to get vaccinated, they can only take online classes. However, I’m not sure how feasible it will be. There are limited course openings at Monmouth as there is (mostly for upper-level classes and grad classes), so having a separate on-

“I believe that everyone should receive the vaccine because it’s our only way back to normalcy.”

require vaccinations for upcoming students. “I would feel incredibly comfortable coming back to school if everyone was required to get vaccinated and to show proof,” the editor said. “I feel like college aged students are the most prone to getting it in the first place since everyone is within close exposure to one another.”

The idea of “showing proof” of your COVID-19 vaccination is an issue that’s become complicated over the past few weeks. Florida Governor Desantis stated that he would not require a COVID-19 “passport” as proof of vaccination.

“The student should have to provide proof for them not to be vaccinated before returning to campus,” the same

feel so much safer,” the editor said. “I honestly do not think it’s a bad idea, but requiring it might be hard for some people to get.”

The same editor agrees with the previous on their stance of COVID-19 passports.

“I think vaccine passports are vital in ensuring that the virus will not spread to other countries and states,” they said. “I just want this virus gone so any measures to do that I am all for it.”

“I would feel safer knowing that everyone on campus is vaccinated,” another editor said. “Mandatory vaccinations are very controversial, but I think it’s a huge step towards normalcy. I don’t think man-

line version of a class may be tough to organize, especially if the university is planning for a full in-person schedule. Also, Monmouth’s fall 2021 and spring 2022 course schedule is already complete, so it might be difficult to reinvent the schedule by adding online classes for those who don’t want to get vaccinated.”

Rutgers has stated that students can opt out of the vaccine requirement for religious or medical reasons.

“I think this is justified,” an editor said. “I don’t think it defeats the purpose because ideally the majority of campus will be vaccinated, therefore limiting spread and infection drastically. I just hope that people aren’t dishonest.”

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This America is Not My America!

SHANNON MCGORTY
OPINION EDITOR

This America is not the America I understood it to be when I was a little girl. Like most kids, I lived with the false reality that everything was perfect and everyone was equal. I never thought to treat someone who didn't look like me differently, but as I got older I realized that to a lot of people, the color of your skin matters.

What happened to George Floyd is wrong. What happened and continues to happen to people of color is unfathomable. People have become targets because of how they appear and it is not okay.

George Floyd was murdered—plain and simple. A white officer who had many complaints in his jacket decided to use excessive force with a man, resulting in this man's death. A Black woman named Breonna Taylor was shot because the police entered the wrong home. The *New York Times* reported that the police entered her home looking for drugs and a man she no longer had a connection to. The *Washington Post* informed us of six Asian women who were murdered because a man was “having a bad day.”

These are not the only incidents of racial violence. Looking at any news station today, you can see just how messed up some people are. All news outlets display the racial discrepancies this country faces and it is us who can change that. We need to make it so there is no fights or shootings or violence of race to be shown on the news.

We have to acknowledge what is happening in the world around us. They say the first step to recovery is admitting you have a problem. Well guess what, ladies and gentlemen—we have a problem and we need to work to solve it.

When George Floyd was murdered, it created an uproar. People started protesting and the world was thrown into chaos. Many people questioned whether or not to “back the blue” and for some, this question weighed heavily. I was one of those people.

I come from a family of first responders. From police officers to firefighters to paramed-



PHOTO TAKEN by Shannon McGorty

Student protests for equality.

ics, they are all in my family. But I also have friends of color. I have seen my friends looked at like criminals just for entering a store.

I want justice. That doesn't mean I don't support the police or that I don't support people of color, but I think light needs to be shed on what is going on. I do not agree with what is going on. I wish we lived in a world where everyone was equal and this violence wasn't a thing, but it is, and we need to call attention to it.

Some people forget that not all officers are white and not every white officer is bad. Yes, some officers hide behind the badge because they think it gives them power to do as they please. They think that having a badge justifies their actions. The people who do that are cowards, and they do not represent all police officers.

Where I am from, many of our officers are Black or Hispanic. Our officers engage with the community all the time. When this god-awful pandemic hit, Hoboken police officers started a story time.

A family could log onto Facebook where they would find a video of a different officer every night reading a story. Not all police officers are bad, but the ones who use the badge for power should be forced to leave the force.

It is hard to take sides with everything going on around us. The good news is you don't have to. You can recognize the bad while celebrating the good.

My oldest niece, 10 years

old, heard her friend being told it wasn't fair she was playing basketball because Black people are better. Her mother had to explain how some people are racist and what it means to be racist. I dread the day I have to explain to my kids about race and how different people have different views. I pray that the world will change before I have to do that because my heart breaks just thinking about it

The America we all occupy right now is not a world I want to continue living in. It is not a world for which I want to raise my children. When I was little, I always imagined a world where everyone was equal, where people would be holding hands and singing songs of peace. I never thought I would witness people being attacked for what they look like. It's sad that we have to explain to children of color how to react to police just in case they are approached by someone who is afraid of someone who doesn't look like them. It's sad that we have to tell children that it's not all a circle and not everyone is a friend.

I dream that one day we will live in a world where this issue is one of the past. I hope that this change comes sooner rather than later. One day I want to be able to say this is the America I always dreamed of living in. An America without racial violence is the America I want not only for myself but for the generations to come, and I hope one day we can achieve this.

What is Normal?

GIANNA FERRARO
STAFF WRITER

Life over the past year has been nothing short of crazy. One day we were sitting in on lectures, going to the gym, and attending parties with our friends. Come the next day, we were locked inside with no end to the pandemic in sight. It was a tragic and scary part of our lives in which we had no choice but to adapt. Now, most of us have adjusted to this new way of life. We moved the classroom into our bedrooms, the gym into our living rooms, and “parties” consist of hanging out with your parents and your dog.

However, with more and more COVID-19 vaccines being distributed every day, it's safe to say that things are on track to getting back to normal. After over a year spent indoors, there is finally a light at the end of the tunnel when it comes to the pandemic. However, that light might trigger anxiety for some of us who got used to the new normal. Yet, now that most of us have adjusted, I'm comfortable with this new normal we have created.

Being a commuter student, prior to the pandemic I would wake up an hour and a half before class. Not only did I have a commute, but I also had to ensure a parking spot to get to class on time. Now, I can roll out of bed, throw on some comfortable clothes, and log onto class. Traffic is not an issue and I never miss a class now that it is so accessible.

In addition to easily log-

ging onto class, working from home has proven to be successful for many people, including myself. Similar to lectures, employees simply roll out of bed and log onto their meetings via Google Meet or Zoom. With the work schedule being more flexible, any location can be your office. With being able to keep in touch more effectively, who would want to go back to the office?

Another important point that most of us probably have not thought about is the social anxiety that might have developed during lockdown. Let's face it, it's been months since we've been out to parties with friends. Since it has been so long, some of us might have forgotten how to socialize and interact with people in a public setting. Now that my daily routine consists of speaking to three to five people every day, I'm not sure how easy it will be for me to readjust to being around a lot of people. Staying inside feels more secure now, and going out seems risky.

Overall, I am not quite ready to go back to normal. I have adjusted to this new lifestyle that was forced upon us over a year ago. I have gotten comfortable with working from home, having a lot of time to myself, and skipping the hours of traffic to get to school or work. It is no doubt that I have adjusted to this new way of life. However, despite my introversion, it will be nice to finally break out of my shell and return to normal after so long.



PHOTO TAKEN by Shannon McGorty

The Hoboken Black Lives Matter Protest speeches took place at the water front on June 5, 2020.

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TRENDING RECIPE:

GEORGEANNE NIGRO
SENIOR POLITICS EDITOR

Feta Pasta

Given the times of the world we are in, some can get a little consumed with the new trends on social media. I know I have taken advantage of social media, especially the app TikTok. The app is a video-sharing social media network, and the purpose is to create and upload short videos for entertainment.

As I was scrolling on the app for hours one night, I stumbled upon a recipe for a baked feta pasta dish. The original recipe was posted by Jenni Häyrynen in 2019. Häyrynen is a Finnish food blogger, and her recipe led to the #fetapasta hashtag trending on TikTok, which now has over 44 million views. This recipe seemed like the easiest type of pasta to make, and I was confused as to why this was a big trend on social media platforms. I mean, no hate to this pasta recipe, but I just did not get why there were so many posts, articles, stories, etc. about this pasta. *The Washington Post*, Food Network, Delish, The Rachael Ray Show, and more have posted recipe videos and articles about this pasta recipe.

The dish consisted of using an ovenproof skillet or deep-dish pan then covering the bottom of the pan with cherry tomatoes, olive oil, garlic cloves, basil, salt, pepper, and putting a big block of feta cheese in the middle (with the cherry tomatoes surrounding it). After the pan is created, throw it in the oven at 400 degrees and let it bake for about 40 minutes. While that is baking, you then boil your pasta. After the feta dish is done baking, you toss the

pasta in the feta mixture and stir it all together, allowing the feta to cover the pasta. Seems simple right? Almost too simple, and probably not worth all the attention it was getting.

I decided to make the trending dish for my boyfriend and I one night. Being fully Italian, and coming from an Italian pasta loving family, I did not know what to expect from this dish. I went through all of the instructions carefully and started working on the meal.

Creating the feta mixture was what I expected, easy. Then after the pasta was cooked and ready, I tossed it into the feta pan. It was hard to stir it around and make sure it was completely covered. This step took me a little longer than I thought it would, but I guess you should leave the dish in the oven until the feta looks completely soft. Something I did not do.

After putting the pasta creation into two bowls, my boyfriend and I sat down and dived in. I was genuinely surprised, and I really enjoyed it. I did not think I would like it, since it seemed like a heavy dish, but I was completely wrong. I would definitely want to make it again.

My boyfriend TJ Foley, a communication student, was there while I made the dish. Foley said that he watched me make the plate carefully and watched how the feta needed to be positioned in a certain way in order to completely spread around the pan.

"The dish was excellent," said TJ. "It was kind of sweet, and strong in a way. It was also really heavy and made me full quickly. However, it was really good, and I would definitely eat it again."

TJ believes that the reason for this pasta creation to be trending, not only on TikTok but on other social media platforms, would be because of how easy it is to make the dish. He also said the time length of this recipe is short, which probably made people more drawn to making it.

"It was such a unique pasta dish, actually. Now that I am thinking about it, it's probably in my top three for my favorite pasta dish," said TJ.

Donna Dolphin, Associate Professor of Communication, said that her first reaction to this recipe trending was because of the pandemic. "People are cooking now who never really did before. TikTok trends younger and this recipe appears very easy to make—and sounds delicious—and is healthy and affordable," said Dolphin.

She also took into account the different topics and activities that tend to go trending on social media. Dolphin said, "I am often amazed by what takes off in pop culture. At least this isn't people doing stupid stunts and hurting themselves!"

Mary Harris, Specialist Professor of Communication, has some background in food and nutrition. She said there are some benefits in this pasta creation.

"This recipe is a heavy



PHOTO TAKEN by Georgeanne Nigro

Feta Pasta is a unique, easy recipe that trended on the popular social media app, TikTok.

dish, but ingredients such as the garlic, tomatoes, thyme, and lemon add some nutritional benefits in the form of vitamins and minerals," said Harris. She also said that this type of dish can vary depending on whether someone is dairy free.

"This recipe would be appropriate for people who enjoy the salty, depth of flavor of feta cheese and who like being inventive with pasta dishes. For those who are dairy-free, they might be able to test out a vegan feta cheese in place of the dairy feta used in the recipe," said Harris.

She said people want to see recipes that have not been done before, or at least is not widely known. Social media would also be the best outlet to release easy recipes in order to grab people's attention quickly.

"Overall, social media us-

ers gravitate towards quick and simple recipes that pack a flavorful punch. This recipe hits all of those marks while also doing something that isn't widely seen - baking a block of feta cheese," said Harris.

She summarized by saying that people need to be careful with how much time they spend on social media, even if the videos are addicting in some way.

"In general, people's attention spans have become increasingly shortened by social media and short videos such as TikTok and Reels, so I just recommend that people remain mindful of how many videos—cooking or otherwise—they are consuming, and whether or not they are actually spending time being creative and using the content they are watching in helpful ways," said Harris.

Faculty Spotlight: Shannon Hokanson

SHANNON MCGORTY
OPINION EDITOR

It has been 20 years since Shannon Hokanson joined the Monmouth University faculty. Hokanson is one of the most well-loved professors, not only in the communication department, but also on campus as a whole. Hokanson is a friendly and energetic person who loves dogs. Anyone who has ever had Professor Hokanson in the classroom knows that she is a huge advocate for pit-bull rescue—she even has a pit-bull herself that you can often find in his comfortable jammies.

Hokanson is loved because of how real and personable she is. She is approachable, compassionate and understanding towards her students and coworkers. Before Hokanson became a professor, she attended Monmouth University as a student herself. One of her past professors was pleased when she saw that Hokanson applied to work at Monmouth, as she was an outstanding student. "Prof. Hokanson is a kind, caring and creative person I have only known her as such," said Donna Dolphin Associate Professor of Communication. "It's a lucky thing to work with a friendly and

genuinely nice person."

Now, as a Lecturer of Communication, Hokanson does not see teaching as just a way to make money—that is not what inspired her to become a professor or what has her returning every year. For Hokanson, her students are what inspire her. Watching her students grow and helping them prepare for the real world is what she finds the most rewarding. She holds it as a high honor to be able to watch these individuals go from students to colleagues and friends.

Students value Hokanson as a person and professor. Even students who have only had the pleasure of having Hokanson once love her because she never makes someone feel like they do not belong.

Senior art education student, Francesca Cafasso, said, "Public speaking terrifies me, but her public speaking class was a lot more laid back and comfortable than I thought it would be. She approached me and offered me help when she could tell I was struggling and nervous. I was always joyed to have conversations with Professor Hokanson." Along with Public Speaking, Hokanson also teaches Communication Theory, Critical Discourse, and Introduction to

Communication.

Kevin Sula, an alumn, had professor Hokanson for multiple classes and always recalls her in such a positive light. "Professor Hokanson is the kindest and most genuine professor and advisor I've ever had during my time at Monmouth. She makes it her mission to be understanding of her students and help them in any way she can," Sula said. "She is truly a beautiful soul and Monmouth is lucky to have her in their staff as she brings light into any room she enters."

Hokanson is not just an outstanding professor, but also a person many aspire to be. When she is spoken about, everyone knows whom you are talking about, even without mentioning her name. It could be assumed that she does her job well, but what her boss thinks of her shows she goes above and beyond. Aaron Furgason, Chair of the Communication Department, said, "Professor Hokanson is the best of the best that the department has to offer students."

Part of Furgason's job is to observe professors that report to him. "When I have had the pleasure to observe her in the classroom, I have always observed an empathetic and well-informed professor deliver material in an

engaging and enthusiastic manner that connects with students," he said.

Hokanson looks at professors she had in the past as mentors. She said that she is, "inspired by the incredible teachers who challenged me to think differently and expand my perspective. They had such a profound impact on my worldview, and on my life. I hoped that maybe I could learn to facilitate the same kinds of powerful experiences for others."

An honorable attribute that Hokanson holds is not trying to change people, rather providing them with experiences to help shape them. She looks to provide her students with a glimpse into the world so they can choose who they want to be. Hokanson is a strong, empowering professor, and a positive role model for her students and coworkers. Hokanson is a bright light in a world that many are afraid of, and that makes all the difference.

Hokanson smiles warmly at all, signs her emails with "best



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth University
Shannon Hokanson, Lecturer of Communication, has made a hefty impact on students and faculty alike.

wishes," and makes sure to address all of her students individually so that not one of them feels ignored. Hokanson takes the time to learn about her students professionally and personally. She is what a great professor looks like, and what people in academia should strive to be.

Esports: Is It Too Late To Get Into It?

MATTHEW CUTILLO
MANAGING/ NEWS/ LIFESTYLES EDITOR

Getting into Esports seems like a daunting task, but it's actually not as difficult as its made out to be. You don't need the most expensive equipment or the most up to date computer, all you need is an open mind and a willingness to try something new.

There's plenty of Esports related games that don't require a super-powerful PC to play. *Counter Strike: Global Offensive*, *League of Legends*, and *Super Smash Brothers Melee* all require very low amounts of power to run without lag. You'd be surprised how old of a PC you could use to run these games, as they were all designed many years ago and built for requirements of their time.

To get into Esports, you need to take a look at your options and compare them to the games you want to play. Just want to focus on shooters? All you'll need is a nice mouse with decent sensitivity and a decent keyboard. Want to play fighting games? You'll usually just need to find a controller that's calibrated correctly to the game.

Something like *Super Smash Brothers Melee* will require a specific controller (in this case, a Gamecube Controller), because the game was

built with this equipment in mind. Fighting games like *Street Fighter* require "Box" controllers, which are essentially what they sound like but with arcade buttons sticking out of the top, spread across evenly.

A ton of Esports games will work great with any controller. Some professional *Call of Duty* players like to use a mouse and a keyboard, but it's also acceptable to use an XBOX or Playstation controller. It all really comes down to personal preference.

The most intimidating part about Esports is the wide array of techniques that go into games. The last thing some people want to hear when you talk about playing video games is to practice, but its required for almost everything.

Esports attempts to and succeeds in a very high level of play. It's why a new word was created to separate the play from casual users. Even if you don't see yourself playing the games, watching them can be just as fun.

Twitch.tv has become the home to hundreds of Esports players who connect with a crowd and provide a personalized experience for their viewers. Find one with a good personality that matches yours and enjoy their play. Maybe over time you'll pick a few things up and give the game they're playing a go.

The *League of Legends* Finals had more viewers

than last year's Superbowl, according to a report by CNN. If you're looking for a job in Esports, the market is rising at such an insane rate that traditional media can't keep up. You don't have to play the games to have fun, you can watch them too.

But let's say you do want to play them. What's the first thing you should do? As previously mentioned, it's important to figure

out the different types of equipment you'll need in order to play your desired game. Once that's done, set some small-term, obtainable goals for yourself within the game that a beginner can accomplish. You'll be surprised how quickly you can accomplish simple activities that build up into larger ones just by breaking things down into tiny parts.

You don't have to go pro,

or even semi-pro. Putting your mind to something and accomplishing a goal, whether that be learning a new technique in *Smash Brothers* or reaching a certain win percentage on *League of Legends*, it all builds together to a success you couldn't find anywhere else. Esports is on the rise and there's no reason you can't hop on the train while it's still in the station.



IMAGE TAKEN from Pexels.com

Esports is one of the most quickly rising industries in America.

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PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN

PROMISES TO ENTERTAIN

ABBY BROOKS
STAFF WRITER

British director Emerald Fennell's *Promising Young Woman*, nominated for Best Picture among others, is a riveting feminist thriller that tackles the often difficult to discuss topics of rape culture and victim blaming.

Cassie Thomas (Carey Mulligan) sets out on a mission to avenge her friend's rape and eventual death, although her methods of doing so are unconventional at best. Any time you think you know what's coming next, you are proven wrong. Nothing about this film is predictable. You have no choice but to pay full attention for the 1 hour and 54 minutes, but it's worth ev-

shop during the day, but her real job begins when the sun sets.

Cassie spends her nights frequenting different clubs, pretending to be blackout drunk. Acting like she is too inebriated to stand, she waits to get picked up by a guy who thinks he's doing her a favor by taking her home with him. Their intentions are almost never good, usually ending with Cassie being non-consensually kissed and undressed. She gives them every chance to stop what they're doing, expressing the fact that she doesn't know what's going on and wants it to stop, but they never do.

Following her *modus operandi*, after revealing that she's stone-cold sober, she walks out and leaves the men with their own thoughts. For

with the fact that his plans for the night were ruined. It's sickening, to say the least.

Written and directed by Emerald Fennell (best known for her acting roles in *The Crown* and *Call the Midwife*), *Promising Young Woman* hits the nail right on the head.

The plot is captivating and encompasses the best parts of a comedy, thriller, crime, and revenge story all in one, while simultaneously addressing topics that often go unspoken. The Oscar nomination for Best Picture is well deserved, to say the least, as are the additional noms Fennell received for directing and writing.

Nina's story isn't uncommon, but it's too late for her; she's dead before the film even starts. Instead, the plot follows Cassie's efforts to rectify what happened. It's an impossible feat considering there's nothing she can do to bring Nina back, but you can't help but root for her as she does everything in her power to make sure that Nina's name isn't forgotten and that men don't continue to get away with what happened to her.

Carey Mulligan, who you may recognize as Kitty Bennet in *Pride and Prejudice* (2005) and Daisy Buchanan in *The Great Gatsby* (2013), did an amazing job with her performance as Cassie.

Cassie suffers from a lot of unhealed emotional trauma, and walks a fine line between normalcy and insanity at times; especially when it comes to the tragedy involving Nina. Her personality can be like day and night at points, but Mulligan plays them both excellently.

Bo Burnham's role as Ryan Cooper was also respectable, although there wasn't nearly as much depth to his character as I would've preferred. Burnham does a better job acting when Ryan is sweet and flirty toward Cassie at the beginning of their relationship, but it dwindles by the end. Portraying other emotions didn't seem to come as easily to Burnham, and his performance suffers a bit for it.

Writer and director Emerald Fennell also makes a short appearance in the film as a makeup guru in an online tutorial that Cassie is watching as she gets ready for a night out, not unlike when M. Night Shyamalan has a cameo in his own movie.

Although I have to give Emerald Fennell credit for the amazing writing and directing that went into *Promising Young Woman*, there are many other strong production values that warrant such recognition.

The film's soundtrack caught my eye—or, rather, my ear—from the very first scene. All of the songs are about relationships and men, but not in the sense that



IMAGE TAKEN from *Variety*

Mulligan plays Cassie, a woman who was traumatized by her best friend's sexual assault and eventual suicide.

women are chasing after them. Ranging from classics like "It's Raining Men" to more recent songs like Charli XCX's "Boys," the soundtrack is used as more of a backdrop for the film's messages about feminism and female empowerment.

The cinematography by Benjamin Kračun is also truly remarkable. It's difficult to ignore the unique camera placement, movement, and effects that went into *Promising Young Woman*'s composition. It's anything but your typical two-shot camera angle, and it tells the story just as much as the writing and directing do. —

Most of the costumes in this film aren't very noteworthy, but Cassie's appearance changes drastically between her day shifts at the coffee shop and her night-time rounds at the club. Her makeup and outfits accurately reflect her temperament changes; it adds another layer to her character and to the film itself, with credit given to costume designer Nancy Steiner and makeup artist Adam Christopher.

The film received an "R" rating, which is fitting con-

sidering the nature of the themes it covers. Sexual assault, strong language, and drug use are all prevalent and not appropriate for some audiences. It includes several scenes in which rape and sexual assault are either seen or heard, so viewers who are sensitive to these topics may want to avoid seeing this film. These scenes may be triggering for those who are survivors of such events, so viewer discretion is advised.

Is *Promising Young Woman* for everyone?

No. The film deals with some touchy subjects, but those that have been avoided for too long and are important to address in the medium of film.

The message of Emerald Fennell's project is crystal clear: the "boys will be boys" mentality isn't going to cut it anymore. Men need to be held responsible for their actions, and Cassie does not rest until that message is heard loud and clear. Although rather dramatized, there's something to be learned from her endeavors. Promising young women deserve to have their voices heard, too.



IMAGE TAKEN from *Gold Derby*

Singer/comedian Bo Burnham appears in *Promising Young Woman* as Ryan Cooper, a boyfriend of Cassie's whose character changes as the film progresses.

ery second of your time.

A 30-year-old medical school dropout who still lives with her parents, Cassie puts her life on pause as a result of her inability to move on from her friend Nina's aforementioned tragic demise. She works at a small coffee

some, the silence is louder than anything she could have said or done to them. For others, it doesn't make a difference. "Why do you guys always have to ruin everything?" was one man's response to finding out that Cassie wasn't intoxicated, who was more concerned



IMAGE TAKEN from *POPSUGAR*

Carey Mulligan was nominated for her second Best Actress Academy Award for her role in *Promising Young Woman*; her first nomination came in 2009 for *An Education*.



IMAGE TAKEN from *Vulture*

Emerald Fennell, known primarily for her acting work, is nominated for her directing and writing at this year's Oscars.

Remembering SELENA QUINTANILLA

DENISSE QUINTANILLA
STAFF WRITER

Selena Quintanilla, the Queen of Tejano music, tragically lost her life at the cusp of her career. On March 31st, 1995, the late singer got shot by Yolanda Saldivar, friend and president of her fan club, and 26 years later her legacy lives on. Quintanilla quickly won over the hearts of many with her catchy tracks including “Como la Flor,” “Bidi Bidi Bom Bom,” “Baila Esta Cumbia,” and many more. Not only was she known for her songs in Spanish, she crossed over to the English market with songs like “Dreaming of You” and “I Could Fall in Love.” Selena was born on April 10, 1976 and began to sing at the age of 10 when she became the lead singer of the family band, Selena y los Dinos. Abraham Quintanilla, Selena’s father, became the band’s manager. The band consisted of her sister, Suzette, on the drums, and her older brother AB on bass guitar. Selena grew up speaking

English, but her father taught her Spanish so she could reach the Latino community. In the beginning, the band performed at weddings and family parties. In 1983 she made her recording debut, after appearing on the popular radio show of Johnny Canales. In 1987 she was named Female Vocalist of the Year and Performer of the Year at the Tejano Music Awards. In 1989 she signed with EMI latin and in 1990, Selena y Los Dinos released their eponymous debut album. At only 23 years of age, Selena had won a Grammy for Best Mexican-American Album for Selena Live in 1993, which made her the first female Tejano artist to win this category. Her Grammy-nominated album Amor Prohibido reached number 29 on the Billboard 200. This LP featured Billboard Hot Latin number-one hits including “Amor Prohibido,” “Bidi Bidi Bom Bom,” “No Me Queda Mas” and “Fotos y Recuerdos.” Not only did Selena dream of singing, but was a

fashion icon herself. She was known for wearing dazzling bralettes, bell-bottoms, belt buckles, and crop tops. She loved fashion so much that she designed all her outfits herself. Quintanilla opened up her own boutiques, Selena Etc., two boutiques were located in Corpus Christi and San Antonio. Selena married Chris Perez, the band’s leading guitarist, in 1992. The couple met and began dating in 1990, when Perez joined the band. The couple was married for three years before Selena’s passing. On March 30, E! Entertainment premiered an episode of their True Hollywood Story series which told the story of Selena’s rise to fame and her tragic death. Chris Perez, Selena’s widower, shared his experience of coping with the death of his wife. According to E! Online, “It was traumatic. It was the hardest thing up until that point that I had ever had to go through,” Perez shared. “I miss her face, her laughter. She was just an amazing soul, an amazing spirit.”

He continued, “I heard fans that were like, ‘How could we let that happen?’ Come on now. You think that I would let anything happen to her? Like seriously? None of us thought that that was even a possibility.” The album “Dreaming of You” was released four months after her death and was the first album to reach number one on the Billboard 100 by a Latin artist. There were six albums released after her death, each reaching number one in the Top Latin album charts. Perez wrote a book titled To Selena, With Love in 2012 in which he planned to turn into a television series. He was sued by Abraham Quintanilla for violating an estate agreement, which he signed after the star’s death, which gave the father exclusive rights to Selena’s name, voice, photographs and story forever. The case was dismissed after an agreement on both sides. Selena’s story was turned into a movie which was released in 1997 starring Jennifer Lopez. In December 2020, Netflix released

Selena: The Series, with the Quintanilla family serving as executive producers, and Christian Serratos playing Selena. Many believe that if she were to be alive today, there is no doubt she would have been a super star. Her humility, simplicity, and story is what resonated with many around the world. Selena became a cultural reference for many and was an inspiration for the Latinx community. Twenty six years later, fans still play her music and honor her memory every day. Her songs about love, heartbreak, and loss mixed with infectious rhythms cause everyone to belt out the lyrics when it comes on the radio or at a party. Selena once said “I want to be remembered not only as an entertainer but as a person who cared a lot, and I gave the best that I could. I tried to be the best role model that I possibly could.” Selena was a star whose light dimmed way too soon, but her legacy will live on forever for generations to come. Long live la Reina del Tex-Mex!

Blue Hawk Records: The Continuation of the Spring 2021 Compilation

ALYSSA CARDENAS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Blue Hawk Records’ 18th compilation album is getting closer to completion. A lot has been going on these last few weeks with setting up the album, including successful recording sessions on March 10, March 17 and March 24. There is one more studio session with two artists left to record. Brian Smith, one of the artists on the compilation album, had a few things to say about his experience recording his song in the studio. “The atmosphere in the studio is everything,” he said. “You can’t produce quality music without being comfortable in the studio environment. Thanks to the support of the great studio professionals, musicians, and Blue Hawk staff, the studio vibes were immaculate and we even got the song right on the first try.” Let’s get to know the artists more. First up is Sarah Lambert, who is taking a gap year from school this year. She says that she makes music because talking about how you feel sounds a lot less whiny when it sounds cool. One of her favorite artists is Stevie Nicks and one of her favorite albums is Pink Floyd’s *Dark Side of the Moon*. The next artist is Josh

Heckler, a sophomore music industry major. He said that he makes music because, “It’s all I know how to do.” His favorite artists are Harry Styles, Pearl Jam, and Sticky Fingers, and one of his favorite albums is *Feel Something* by Movements. Alex Giorgi is a senior business administration student with a concentration in decision sciences. He says he makes music because, “It keeps me in tune with my emotions. I would hope my music provokes some sort of emotional response from my listeners.” His favorite artist is A\$AP Rocky. Asad Whitehead (AKA Kid Ace) is a freshman music industry major. He makes music because, “Music is one of the few things in life that have never let me down. No matter what happens it’ll always be there to make things better.” His favorite album is *Nothing Was the Same* by Drake. Next, Mona Ray Cobb is a junior political science student with a minor in legal studies, but she was always interested in singing and music. During her spring semester sophomore year, Mona participated in group voice as her aesthetics requirement for school and joined to have the opportunity to sing. That is when she realized again how important singing meant to her. Last but not least, Brian

Smith. He is a junior communications student at Rutgers University. His favorite band is the Red Hot Chili Peppers and his favorite album is Pink Floyd’s *The Wall*. Students Connor Rupp, Michelle Etienne, Scott Bucksbaum from Blue Hawk Records’ marketing and promotions team ran a photoshoot and took phenomenal photos of the artists a few weeks ago. “This compilation album’s photoshoot went perfectly,” Rupp said. “Thanks to a great team we made, Michelle Etienne and Scott Bucksbaum and I really put forth our creative minds and

cameras. The photo team was able to successfully shoot one of the most unique sessions in Blue Hawk history. Using iconic Jersey Shore hangouts like the Inkwell in Long Branch, and the Asbury Park Boardwalk, the team truly went above and beyond to capture the vibe “18” is trying to convey.” The pictures were posted on the Blue Hawk Records’ Instagram page (@bluehawkrecordsofficial). The team has also been coming together to work on the album cover. They have just received artwork submissions and are undergoing the process

of narrowing down ideas. There were at least 18 submissions for artwork ideas. The team found that each design came out phenomenal, which is going to make the choosing process pretty difficult. The team is also working on potential new Blue Hawk merchandise that revolves around the 18th album release, with more options than just T-shirts. Blue Hawk records have also just revamped their Spotify account, where users can listen to the artist’s playlists and past Blue Hawk albums, and is now it is an official record label Spotify account.



Kid Ace and collaborator Baby Jai are two artists set to be featured on Blue Hawk Records’ eighteenth compilation album. PHOTO TAKEN by Connor Rupp

The Beginning Trial of Derek Chauvin

JAYME MARTINI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It was the video seen around the world: a police officer with his knee on a man's neck, who uttered the words, "I can't breathe." That man was George Floyd, and the officer, Derek Chauvin, is now on trial for second-degree murder, third degree-murder, and manslaughter. The other four officers that were surrounding him during the incident were all fired and charged with murder, according to *The Washington Post*.

As of Friday, the trial was reported to be ahead of schedule, and Friday was filled with testimonies of several police officers who spoke against Chauvin.

After May 25, 2020, protests began across the US in outrage against police brutality towards African Americans. America has seen this level of protesting and activism before, most notably during the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s. But at its basic level, how big of a role does activism and protesting play in producing actual political and lawful change, like in this trial of Mr. Chauvin?

Michelle Parisi, Adjunct Professor of Political Science, said, "[Protests are] crucial in fostering systemic change in democratic societies. When we

discuss successful social movements in the US, the underlying themes of each movement reside in the people's ability to engage in activism and protest that can uproot systemic injustices that plague our society."

Matthew Filosa, a political science student, added "The protests we saw this summer were part of the largest social movement in American history. If people did not speak out and protest, then the murder of George Floyd would have been swept under the rug along with the larger picture of inequality against African Ameri-

cans. Activism and protest are powerful tools to bring about change. The Civil Rights Movement of the 50's and 60's was successful due to these methods. One can say the same with the American Revolution."

Donna Dolphin, Associate Professor of Communication, discussed media and how it can impact how we view certain events. She explained, "For example, repeatedly presenting the same information about peaceful demonstrations turning violent creates a sense of widespread danger. We get saturated with that

information and it feels like it's more intense than it actually is. The line between imparting vital information and creating a sense of hysteria is one that responsible journalists must constantly consider."

Parisi added, "Media organizations have their own agendas and stakeholders when covering the news. Sadly, this has contributed to a massive spike in misinformation and overwhelming spread of conspiracy theories throughout our society. During the protests, media coverage was biased (depending on what news

station you were watching) and created a different situation than what was happening on the ground."

The *New York Times* reported that many witnesses felt a sense of guilt and grief after witnessing this alleged crime firsthand. They reported feeling a sense of something going horribly wrong when the incident was happening. Some have stated that they currently are coping with trauma themselves now because they could not do anything to stop it.

One witness was Lt. Richard Zimmerman, who stated that Chauvin placing his knee on Floyd's neck was against police policy. Another was Sgt. Jon Edwards, who explained that he followed protocol that night by surveying the convenience store where Floyd had been and directed other officers to turn their body cameras on while doing so.

The *New York Times* also reported that Sgt. Jody Stiger of the Los Angeles Police Department said that the force that Chauvin used on Floyd was excessive.

The *Times* also reported that Lt. Johnny Mercil said that Chauvin's actions towards Floyd were not consistent with how officers have been trained to restrain people when they are resisting being arrested by them.

The trial resumed on Monday, April 5, and more testimonies will be heard throughout the week.



IMAGE TAKEN from ABC News

The trial of Derek Chauvin resumed on Monday, April 5 and will continue throughout the week.

The United States-Mexico Border Spike

BORDER cont. from pg. 1

political issue we need to fix as a country. If you talk to an average Republican and an average Democrat, I am sure you will find they are not as far apart politically on this issue as it seems to be."

Patten continued, "For example, during the Bush Administration they passed a bill to build some border fencing and there really was not an issue with Democrats. At the same time, I think it has become extreme that the federal government is allowing a no tolerance policy like keeping children in cages."

The Biden Administration has taken a different approach on immigration compared to the previous Trump Administration. Former President Trump has advocated for tighter security at the border while President Biden has promised he will discontinue funding additional border wall construction and to generally allow more immigrants to have opportunities to stay in the United States.

The Biden Administration had planned to undo Trump's restrictions on

immigration policies when Biden was inaugurated into office, according to Reuters. However, since then, The Washington Post has reported that not much has changed in regard to the immigration policies. The Washington Post also stated that former immigration restrictions placed by Trump still are in effect and continue to block all legal immigration into the country.

Jen McGovern, Ph.D., Assistant Professor in the

Department of Political Science and Sociology, discussed the background and connections of socio-economics and immigration. McGovern noted, "The problems at the border stem from much larger issues of global inequality. While the United States has its fair share of poverty and economic equality, it also has opportunities for employment and education."

"With fewer opportunities in their home countries,

many migrants are being driven by these "pull" factors. However, other migrants are motivated more by "push" factors, such as the desire to escape the brutal gang violence that is too often paired with economic depravity. There are plenty of opportunities for reform within the American immigration system; however, migrant flows will likely continue as long as extreme inequalities between countries remain," she added.

The growing numbers of immigrants crossing the border has a lot to do with the COVID-19 pandemic and how the economic impacts have caused certain regions to struggle even more, according to Rescue.org. With more children immigrants coming into the country, Rescue.org reported that there are not enough shelter beds available. The Biden Administration is also struggling to find more housing.

Rescue.org also reported that Title 42 is still in effect to this day. Title 42 is a policy that came under The Trump Administration that used the COVID-19 pandemic to be the reason to expel or turn away asylum seekers coming into the country.

Sabrina Amato, a junior political science student, offered criticism towards the current border situation. She explained, "This issue can be fixed by transforming immigration laws and regulations into attainable and non-punishable goals. No one should fear their own or a family members life when wanting to become an immigrant. I truly believe no one is illegal on stolen land."



IMAGE TAKEN from CNN

Former President Trump's immigration restrictions are still in effect, and The Biden Administration still has plans to undo them.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. Hosts “Lethal Dollars: What’s Your Five Year Plan?”

LILY HOFFMANN
CLUB AND GREEK EDITOR

On March 29, the sisters of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated kicked off their ten year anniversary celebration, “Skee Week,” with an informative event called, “Lethal Dollars: What’s Your Five Year Plan?”

I had the pleasure of attending the event, which was moderated via Zoom by Jasmine Cooper, the president of the Tau Eta chapter, alongside Vice President Kayla Kennedy, with the help of sisters such as Aliah Moore, Briana Brown, and Taheara Gibson Clarke.

The event helped inspire attendees to use their personal, career, financial, and relationship goals as a way to foster financial and personal success, by using the Five Year Plan, a strategy that was originated in the Soviet Union.

According to a video shown during the event presented by Alex Hein, author of the book *Master of the Day*, the Five Year Plan is “a very very simple process of looking back at the last five

years and trying to figure out what went right and what went wrong.”

Hein suggests practicing self-reflection and asking yourself questions that relate to what you want to achieve in the next five years. Some of these questions include: “what would it take to be the best year of my life...what would be the most awesome thing?”

Hein also encourages challenging yourself by doing the things you are most afraid of. He used fear of isolation as an example, saying “Isolate yourself intensely for a week. You don’t use your phone to reach out to anyone, you don’t go out on a Friday or Saturday or Sunday when you’re aching for connection...record what happened and how you felt, and you realize it wasn’t that bad.”

As someone who also has a number of fears, this step in the process was daunting, but I felt motivated to put myself into vulnerable situations, especially since I knew that it can lead to immense self-growth in the long run.

Another key step in the process of creating your Five Year Plan is crossing

off items from your bucket list and creating attainable goals that can be achieved every year.

With that in mind, the sisters of Alpha Kappa Alpha provided participants with a Five Year Plan template and allotted time for attendees to complete it and set goals for themselves. For me, a first-semester senior, this exercise helped me get an idea of the things that I want to achieve over the next several years, especially in terms of my plans post-graduation.

Briana Brown, a sister

of Alpha Kappa Alpha at The College of New Jersey, said that self-care and well-being is a huge goal. She said, “Taking some time out of my day for myself because I make so much time for my academics and other people because it’s possible to take time for myself....and take time for my own well-being.”

Cooper echoed Brown’s sentiments, saying, “My life is very unbalanced... it’s very much school-focused, and I think that’s something I have to take

into consideration when planning out my next five years.”

Overall, this event was a very thought-provoking and inspiring way to kick off a week full of insightful events. Thankfully, the sisters aren’t finished yet, as they will be going out with a bang when they host the annual favorite, “Mr. Pink and Green” on Thursday, April 8.

For more information on the Tenacious Tau Etas, be sure to check out their Instagram, @tau-eta_akas.



PHOTOS TAKEN from AKA - Tau Eta

Jasmine Cooper (left) and Kayla Kennedy (right) serve as President and Vice President of AKA, respectively.

Upcoming Campus Events

(More information on the Experience Monmouth app)

Wednesday April 7

Guardians Club Meeting, 2:45 p.m.
Campus Catholic Ministry Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Thursday April 8

Active Minds Meeting, 7 p.m.
Genetics, Genomics, & Racism - How Science Shapes Policy: Past, Present, and Future, 7:30 p.m.
Mr. Pink and Green, 9:08 p.m.

Friday April 9

Let’s Talk About: Systemic Racism On Campus and Beyond, 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday April 13

Students In Recovery Meeting/Activity, 6 p.m.
How to Network and Build Rapport While Social Distancing, featuring Peter Linn ’16, 6:30 p.m.

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May 24 – June 30

Session E
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Session C
May 24 – August 12



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Register: monmouth.edu/summer

MU Swimming Returns to the Steadman Natatorium

JOHN SPINELLI
STAFF WRITER

On March 30 and 31, the men and women's swim team hosted the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Spring Invitational home at the Steadman Natatorium. This was the team's first competition since last year in February 2020.

Due to COVID-19 safety and capacity restrictions, Manhattan College was the only visiting team in the natatorium. After the two-day meet, other teams from the MAAC who competed at their facilities combined their results to virtually score the meet.

The Hawks racked up many wins during the meet. Sophomore Dylan Edge won the 200-yard fly to break his own school record, winning in a time of 1:51.22. Sophomore Katie Parker won the 200-yard Individual Medley, coming in 2:14.80.

For the long distance, junior Sarah Brennan swam the 1000-yard Freestyle and had a personal best time of 10:54.01. In the sprinting events, junior Callan Smith won the 100-yard fly in 50.20 while junior Dylan Barkhuizen earned first in the 50-yard free stroke, with a time of 21.52.

Head coach Matt Nunally shared his thoughts about the game. "I have to give credit to our team and their commitment level this year," said Coach Nunally.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Monmouth swimming had not performed in a meet since pre-COVID in February 2020 and did not miss a step with several personal bests, including Dylan Edge's 200-yard fly of 1:51.22.

"I'm pleased with their effort and I think this will pay big dividends for us as a program in the future."

MATT NUNALLY
Head Coach

ly. "They had a lot of challenges to deal with and I am impressed with how they responded to the adversity they have faced."

He also noted, "To have a number of times faster than last year's MAAC Championship shows they stepped up, were engaged and committed to performing well and I'm really happy they took advantage of the opportunity to compete this week. I'm pleased with their effort and I think this will pay big dividends for us as a program in the future."

On Wednesday, before the races began, seniors who have competed for the Hawks were recognized for their career achievements. Trevor Askew, Ryan Hohman, Hunter Klingener, Ryan Reutti, Sophia Nogales, Laura Patterson, Tara Viscito, and Reilly Ward were honored for their dedication at Monmouth University. Sophomore Ben Yeung was honored on social media for graduating early last fall semester.

The meet also brought in new faces to the program. Freshmen Alexa Ploskonka, Samantha Van Veyeren, Maggie Young, Sean Cook, Conor Currie, Martin Vradinskiy, and transfer Cole Dyson debuted for the Hawks.

The invite concluded this semester's season. The men and women's swim team will tentatively compete again next fall semester.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

The meet served as Senior Day for eight MU seniors including Trevor Askew, Ryan Hohman, Hunter Klingener, Ryan Reutti, Sophia Nogales, Laura Patterson, Tara Viscito, and Reilly Ward.

Baseball Extends Winning Streak to Eleven Games

JACK MURPHY
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Men’s baseball is coming off a weekend that featured four contests that all resulted in victories against Siena on Monmouth’s home turf.

Monmouth competed against Siena on doubleheaders on both Friday and Saturday and, out of the four games, outscored their opponent 26-1.

On Friday, the Hawks’ arms were lights out as they retired 24 batters via the punch out while only walking two. Senior right-handed pitcher Dan Klepchick threw a gem as he tossed a complete game shutout while only giving up three hits, earning his second win of the campaign.

The bats gave their starter run support early as they tallied five runs in the bottom of the first inning, batting around the order. The first run was scored on an error but the hitting barrage started with sophomore pitcher Alex Barker lining a double to opposite field. Freshman infielder Dixon Black and fifth year catcher Zach Schild tacked on base hits of their own to extend the blue and white lead to 4-0. Black would later come around to score on a wild pitch to make it a 5-0 before the end of the first inning. The Hawks would go on

to win this one 6-0 after scoring on an error in the fifth inning.

Part two of Friday’s double-header was more of the same with dominant pitching. This time, left-handed senior Trey Dombroski got the nod for the start and threw five shutout innings while sitting down ten batters by strikeout. Senior left-handed pitcher Ryan Steckline also had the punch out working for him as he struck out five batters in only two innings of relief.

The Hawks were held silent offensively up until the fifth inning, when senior outfielder Jake Catalano hit an RBI single up the middle to break the 0-0 tie. Sophomore infielder Harry Paden followed with a two-run single, widening the lead to 3-0. In the seventh inning, Barker hit his second home run of the season to put a nail in the coffin and sweep the first out of two double-headers.

Monmouth outhit Siena 10-3 in the first game and 10-6 in the second. Taking this series marks the Hawks’ ninth straight victory.

“Great day for our team,” said head coach Dean Eehalt. “In game one we jumped out to an early lead and game two we manufactured a few on the back end of a good pitcher’s duel.”

In game three of this four-game weekend series between Monmouth and Siena, the Hawks earned not only their tenth win in a row, but also their fourth straight shutout. Junior left-

handed pitcher Rob Hensey started this game for the Hawks and pitched six innings while only giving up four hits.

All of Hensey’s run support came in the second inning when Barker connected for a solo shot to lead off the inning. Black then registered a single and soon after swiped second base to put himself in scoring position. Catalano would come up with a two-out base knock extending the Hawks lead to 2-0, which was enough to secure them the win.

The final game of the series saw Siena score their lone run of the weekend. However, they were overshadowed by the offensive showcase put on by the blue and white tallying 11 hits and 13 runs.

The biggest inning for the blue and white came in the third. The Hawks sent a total of 14 batters to the plate in the inning and registered eight runs on the same amount of hits marking the biggest inning for the Hawks this season. Eight different batters had a hit in the second game.

After sweeping Siena this past weekend, the Hawks now have won 11 straight games, which is now the fourth longest win streak in the school’s Division I history. The 2008 team currently holds the record with 15 wins.

The Hawks will try to add to their historic run on Wednesday, April 7, when they face off against Rider in a doubleheader at home.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Senior pitcher Dan Klepchick earned his second win of the season after throwing a shutout against Siena on Friday.

Football Cruises Past Gardner-Webb for Second Win

ERIN MULLIGAN
STAFF WRITER

On Saturday, April 3, the Monmouth University Football team (2-0, 2-0 Big South) committed a major defeat of 48-19 over Gardner-Webb (2-1, 0-1 Big South) at Ernest W. Spangler Stadium.

Monmouth only allowed 52 yards in the second half, with redshirt sophomore running back Juwon Farri running for a career-high of four touchdowns. Not to mention, he racked up 124 yards rushing yards.

Throwing a pair of touchdown passes for his second consecutive week was superstar freshman quarterback, Tony Muskett. Reserve running back Romeo Holden averaged 10.2 yards per carry in his first ever 100-yard game and scored his first touchdown.

Much like the two weeks of success that their quarterback is having, the Monmouth defense committed three turnovers for the second straight week with a pair of fumble recoveries and an interception by Anthony Budd. Senior DaQuan Grimes made 12 tackles, which was a major aid in holding the Bulldog’s to 1-of-7 on fourth down and 3-of-16 on third down.

As a whole, the Hawks defense had four sacks and eight tackles for a loss. Individually, Budd finished his day with 11 tackles.

The boys in blue and white started the game off with a quick 20-3 lead after taking advantages of miscues on Gardner-Webb’s side. GW then rallied late in the first half after scoring 16 points in a span of 1:50. This in-

cluded a field goal as time ran out cutting Monmouth’s halftime lead to 20-19.

Going into the second half, the Hawks came barreling out of the locker room and completely dominated. Eddie Hahn obliterated the Bulldogs offense, making a pair of third-quarter fourth-down stops, providing the Hawks offense with a short field.

The leader of the pack, Muskett, threw to Lonnie Moore, who was in the corner of the end zone for the first score of the second half.

Farri then scored twice, with Holden racking in 28 yards in the fourth.

For the second consecutive week, Juwon Farri earned high recognition after earning Big South Offensive Player of the Week. To make things better and even more exciting, the superstar running back broke his own record that he set last week by reaching the end zone four times against Gardner-Webb.

Looking ahead, the Hawks will host Kennesaw State at 1:00 p.m. on April 10 at Kessler Stadium.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Sophomore running back Juwon Farri scored a career-high four touchdowns while also racking up 124 rushing yards as the Monmouth Hawks dominated Gardner-Webb on Saturday 48-19.



DIVING INTO THE SEASON



Monmouth men's and women's swimming returned to the Steadman Natatorium for the first time since 2020 for the two-day MAAC Spring Invite led by sophomore Dylan Edge and junior Camryn McHugh.