



THE MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1933 OUTLOOK

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Campus Returns to In-Person Learning

ABBY BROOKS
NEWS EDITOR

Despite the ongoing uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic and new concerns over the Delta variant, Monmouth University has started to return to a sense of normalcy this fall.

"If you look at last year compared to this year, course delivery has shifted almost completely to in-person instruction because that was our goal and our focus," said Mary Ann Nagy, Vice President for Student Life and Leadership Engagement. "We want people to be in a classroom."

Virtual and hybrid course modalities became overwhelmingly common last year as a result of the pandemic. "Can you do it on a screen? Absolutely," said Nagy. "There is a different feel, but you can successfully do it that way."

Along with continued cleaning protocols and social distancing regulations, increased vaccination rates among students and faculty

have solidified confidence in the safety of returning to campus and shifting classes back to a classroom setting. 94 percent of faculty and staff are vaccinated, as well as 85 percent of students.

"We're very pleased with the vaccination rates among our students and faculty. We would always like to see more people vaccinated, but

I understand and respect individual decisions not to be vaccinated," explained Nagy. "I hope that over a period of time that that may change, and I think that we're already seeing some of that. Students who at one point may have wanted an exemption are now uploading vaccination cards."

As a part of the process of returning to campus, the Uni-

versity required students to provide proof of vaccination or a valid exemption. "We did a really good job of following up with people we hadn't heard from to get them to tell us their vaccination status. We weren't saying you had to be vaccinated, you just had to tell us," Nagy said.

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PHOTO TAKEN by Anthony DePrimo

Course delivery has shifted almost entirely to in-person instruction, according to VP Nagy.

Leahy Gives COVID Update

MATTHEW CUTILLO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

President Patrick F. Leahy Ed.D., and Specialist Professor of Communication Matt Harmon discussed the fall semester on their weekly "Monmouth Mondays" podcast on Friday, Sep. 3. The episode detailed COVID-19 related health protocols and updates to campus facilities.

"We so desperately wanted COVID to be in the rearview mirror," Leahy said. "We got to May and had our spring commencements, and we were reporting on our [COVID-tracking] dashboard zero cases, week after week after week."

The delta variant, a strain of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, reached Monmouth County in recent months. "Given our unique location at the shore, we invite lots of visitors to our great piece of heaven here," Leahy explained. "We no doubt had a spiking in COVID cases in our area."

As of the episode's recording, three COVID-19 cases were reported within the University community. The spread of the Delta variant prompted the inclusion of healthcare protocols that University administration hoped would not have to be implemented, Leahy said. "It has forced us to realize the harsh reality that the pandemic is not in fact behind us and we're still very much dealing with it," he added.

Students, faculty, and staff are required to wear masks indoors regardless of vaccination status. This precaution comes as a result of prevailing public health recommendations from the Monmouth County Public Health Department, the state of New Jersey and Center For Disease Control (CDC), Leahy explained.

Vaccination levels for the University community are high, Leahy said. 94 percent of faculty and staff are fully vaccinated, as well as 85 percent of students.

"Our vaccination policy... said that we are mandating the vaccine for all members

LEAHY cont. on pg. 3

University Hosts National Suicide Prevention Day Event

ISABELLA HANNA
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Monmouth's Counseling and Psychological Services (CPS) held an outdoor community event in honor of National Suicide Prevention Day on Friday, Sep. 10, bringing awareness to the second-leading cause of death in young adults, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

As students walked in and out of the Rebecca Stafford Student Center, CPS held a table outside on the patio with a display of resources explaining the preventative measures available to students on and off campus. The table was manned by Graduate Assistant of Student Activities Nino Azrumelashvili, students' point of contact for the event.

"As someone working the event, it is important to keep the balance be-

tween highlighting campus resources and maintaining a degree of support and privacy with the students," said Azrumelashvili.

"Suicide is a stigmatized issue and shedding light on that issue can not only help remove that stigma, but also facilitate an environment where students can come forward without fear of ridicule."

One of the coordinators for the event, Chris McKittrick, Psy.D., LPC, explained that the University's mission for suicide prevention has evolved over the years during his time as Associate Director of CPS.

"What began as a one-time event during the semester is now a year-long initiative to get students the help they need," said McKittrick.

One of the more sustainable movements perpetuated by McKittrick's office and the School of Social Work is ConnectWellMU—an online platform connected to the University's website that allows students an easy access to the different health-related resources across various divisions on campus.

McKittrick added, "As students share their stories about mental health with us, we are simultaneously

building an online community that makes mental healthcare that much more accessible and less taboo."

In addition to ConnectWellMU, CPS partners with other departments on campus, such as the School of Science and the Center for Student Success in an effort to offer students a well-rounded approach in tackling their physical, emotional, and mental needs as they pursue scholastic success at Monmouth.

"The transition to college is already stress-provoking, not to mention other world events students are witness to," said McKittrick. "However, because of our wholistic approach to mental wellness, we have a practice of referring students to places that can relieve their area of stress and help them face their struggles with professional

PREVENTION cont. on pg. 3

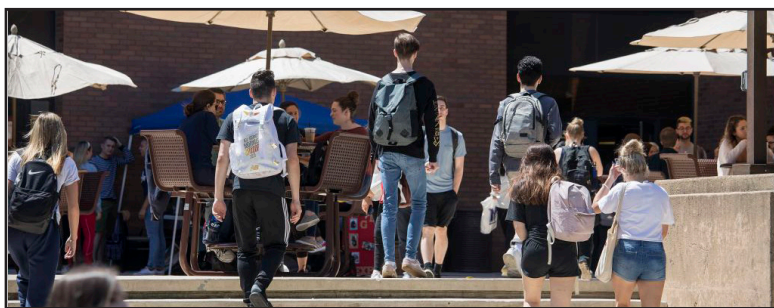


PHOTO TAKEN by Anthony DePrimo

CPS held a table outside the Rebecca Stafford Student Center.

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Office of Student Activities Hosts Involvement Fair

RICHARD D. PITTS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The University’s Annual Involvement Fair took place this past Friday, Sep. 10, one of the first major, in-person events held on campus since the COVID-19 outbreak during the spring 2020 semester. Although last fall’s fair was held online, the Center of Student Activities was eager to reinstate the event this year as a live and outdoor program. With COVID-19 vaccines more widely available than ever, in addition to the University’s indoor-mask mandate, the involvement fair is the first of many extracurricular and athletic events to come. However, in the wake of

other coronavirus variants, the Monmouth community ponders how the persistent spread of the virus will affect life on-campus. Surgical Club Co-Presidents Lilia Crew and Nico Landino expressed gratitude in returning to campus for academics and extracurriculars, feeling that the University is doing everything in its power to protect the student body. Nonetheless, they did underscore a degree of concern about the unforeseen ramifications of the coronavirus variants. This would be a consistent sentiment among other executive board members of varying clubs. Briana Matos-Estes and Madeline Blumenkrantz, representatives of the Pre-

PT Club, were also appreciative of being on campus since “online school isn’t for everyone.” They were just a few of many students who felt frustrated with the online version of their college experience. Notwithstanding the struggles the Monmouth community has had to endure the past year, students like Landino and Matos-Estes felt safe during the Involvement Fair because it took place outside. Jake Frontera of the Pre-Dental Club emphasized that, “opportunities to have events outside make a world of a difference.” Most of the club captains were pleased that the Involvement Fair was in person since it allowed for greater engagement with

new students and other clubs. Nevertheless, the trend of optimism among students was met with some apprehension. One club president stated, “I understand that being in person is important; however, it concerns me to be back with the recent influx of COVID cases across the US.” Another club representative added that he/she feels “that it is only a matter of time before we have to go online again.” Another executive board member, from a different club, met the two previously stated perspectives half-way. “While I think the Delta variant poses a legitimate threat to our campus this semester, I think that with stringent following of Uni-

versity approved guidelines, combined with our pre-existing high levels of student and staff vaccinated persons, we should be safe to continue classes and events in person.” Travis Greenberg, senior anthropology major and President of Monmouth Esports, estimated that nearly 30 new members joined his organization. New members’ interests included Warzone, Smash Bros., Rainbow Six, League of Legends, and Rocket League. “With more members and more eyes on the club, we can find new college leagues to compete in,” Greenberg said. “[With more members] we can receive funding from the school for things such as an Esports room.”



Ninety-six student organizations joined the involvement fair, hoping to meet prospective new students interested in after-class participation.

PHOTO TAKEN by Matthew Cutillo

In-person Learning Makes a Comeback

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For those who have not yet received the vaccine, the University continues to provide opportunities to get it. “We offer our own vaccination clinics here on campus so that we can ease access to a vaccine. Back in January, people were staying up through all hours of the day and night to try to get an appointment to get a vaccine. That has died off tremendously because the availability of vaccines is far greater now,” explained Nagy. “We wanted to make sure that we continue to have vaccines available. We have at least one more clinic where you can get Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson and Johnson.” Classroom capacities have posed a challenge in returning to in-person classes. Three feet of distance must still be maintained between students in a classroom, which has required some creativity to accommodate. “We’ve taken places that normally aren’t classrooms and transformed them into classrooms. Anacon Hall now has two classrooms, one in A and one in B, so that we can have bigger spaces to put people in to spread them out,” said Nagy. “We also secured the use of temporary classrooms that can hold 25 people with

three feet of distance between them so that we had extra classrooms to be able to be used for larger classes,” explained Nagy. “To the best of my knowledge, there’s no specific classes that are being taught in the temporary classrooms. You obviously can’t do technical kinds of classes like labs and things like that, but they’re fully furnished. When you’re in there, you don’t really realize that it’s a temporary classroom. They have all of the technology, they’re air conditioned, they have windows. They have everything you need in a classroom, so

there’s not a lot of classes that can’t be held there.” These classrooms, labeled “E TS” on class schedules, created some confusion among students with classes located in these rooms. “I didn’t know that these temporary classrooms existed until I found out that I had two classes there. When I saw ‘E TS’ on my schedule, I didn’t know what it meant but figured it had something to do with Edison. That’s where I first looked when I was trying to locate these classes,” said junior health studies student, Ashley Haytas. “I feel that the University

tries its best to accommodate classes. With 25 students in a class and to ensure adequate distancing, the trailers were necessary,” explained Tiffany Medley, Ph.D., Lecturer of Biology. “My class Introduction to Global Sustainability is in a popular time frame of Monday and Wednesday from 11:40 to 1:00 and all other large classrooms with sufficient distancing between desks are full.” Despite many COVID-19 restrictions being lifted this semester, some things have remained the same for the safety of students and faculty. “We’re continuing to spread people out. We’re

promoting events outside as much as possible and are still using Zoom to avoid having to bring larger groups together. We’re still doing the enhanced cleaning protocols. We still have wipes and hand sanitizer and all of those things out for use,” explained Nagy. “I think our greatest challenge right now is getting people to wear their mask. I can’t tell you how many times a day I have to ask someone to put a mask on or to wear it properly,” Nagy continued. It was wonderful to not have to wear masks for a period of time. We all got spoiled, but we’re back in it now.”



Classroom capacities have posed a challenge, but accommodations have been made.

PHOTO TAKEN by Anthony DePrimo

Director Murray Joins IssuesWatch Podcast

MATTHEW CUTILLO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Patrick Murray, Director of the Monmouth University Polling Institute, joined the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants (NJCPA)'s IssuesWatch Podcast to discuss the sampling process behind political polling.

Polling raises credulity, Murray explained. "How could you interview 500-800 thousand people and get something that is pretty close to what millions of people think? The first step is sampling."

There's a mathematical property that says if you take a truly random sample of a small population, of a very large population, you can get results within a certain margin, Murray said. The first step is to ensure a representative sample that's pulled from people who live in a particular state, all the voters in the country or whatever happens to be the studied population.

"There are all different types of populations and as long as you approach it with the sampling prospect of 'I'm going to get a truly random sample and do the best job that I can to make that representative,' that's your first step," Murray said.

The second step of polling is how people are contacted and interacted with. For many years, the go-to method was by telephone, Murray said. "It still continues to be kind of the gold standard method, but we're

moving into other methods." As caller ID and cell phones became more popular, participation numbers began to drop.

"People started getting more and more annoyance calls," Murray said. "They stopped picking up the phone unless they recognized the number, so it just takes a lot more work to get somebody on the phone."

A drop in phone-polling has not affected accuracy, Murray explained. A representative sample can still be obtained, but extra work must be done to reach people over the telephone who are willing to speak. New samples include cell phones in addition to landlines.

"Most of the calls we make nowadays are to

cell phones," Murray said. "There's a few holdouts, particularly here in New Jersey, in terms of cutting the cord."

Other rising methods are online. "We've done a lot of online work where you take a sample and try to match it to an email. We take a list of registered voters, and if it matches email addresses, you reach out to them there."

The difference between online polling and telephone polling is the different ways you can ask and present questions, Murray said. "In online polling, you can actually show images and so forth but you don't always get the nuances or immediacy. [Over telephone] people are kind of being forced into making a choice, so there's pros and cons on both sides."

It has become so easy to conduct online polls that many are low-quality and low-effort, Murray explained. "There are so many bad ones out there that don't do all the rigorous stuff. A lot of that data you have to worry about, and unfortunately there's more and more of it out there so we don't know what to trust."

The final part of doing a good poll is how you ask the questions, Murray said. You do not ask questions the way pundits or academics think about them, you ask questions the way that people on the street think about them.

"While I was a Political Science graduate student, my interest was really in how people think," Murray said. "I take that approach

when I look at how people ask questions."

"One of the things I used to do a lot when I first started out was go to diners," Murray said. "That's where people talk about politics, and just kind of eavesdrop on what the conversations are, what are they thinking of and how are people talking about these things."

It is not always as simple as approval or disapproval of an issue, as sometimes there may be a third option somewhere that academics or the media does not consider. "They always want something in black and white, and sometimes there's a nuance there that you only catch if you actually listen to how people talk about these things."



Patrick Murray shared his expertise on the operations behind how polling is conducted.

PHOTO TAKEN by Anthony DePrimo

CPS Holds Suicide Prevention Day Event

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help."

Although the COVID-19 outbreak has influenced the way in which CPS has operated in the past year, the center is now offering both in-person and telehealth channels of treatment and communication.

"We are excited to have the option and capability to offer both types of deliveries so as to best serve the student body at large," said McKittrick.

With CPS's growth as a resource to students on campus, they are that much more equipped to handle emergen-

cy situations, such as suicidal ideations.

"In the event a student feels suicidal, the situation can be handled in a number of different ways."

McKittrick began, "First, the student can call campus police (MUPD), and an officer will report to the student immediately. This is especially helpful in the event there is an emergency occurring beyond the hours of CPS."

"Or, if CPS is open, a student could call the office and ask to speak with one of our on-call therapists immediately," explained McKittrick.

Beyond calling, a student

can also walk-in to CPS without any appointment and explain the severity of the situation then and there. Moreover, CPS can connect the student with necessary transportation to and from a hospital.

"This just highlights some of the on-campus resources, let alone what is available off-campus, like the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-8255)," explained McKittrick.

"In the end, our goal is for the student to be healthy and successful, and we work with students where they are at to help them in their assimilation into higher education.

Leahy Update

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of our campus community. We're not going to treat the faculty and the staff separate from students; we just didn't think that was fair. We put a mandate in place for all of our campus community."

"Underlying these masking protocols that we have put in place is a really strong level of vaccination amongst the monmouth university community, and that is a great comfort as we go into the fall semester," Leahy said.

Removing the indoor mask requirement will be considered as daily COVID figures continue to be determined.

"We'll make adjustments when we think it's safe to do so," Leahy said. "I know that I don't want to stay masked up any more than anybody else does, but we'll look at it daily as we've been doing all along."

COVID restrictions will be reasonable when it comes to eating and drinking, Leahy said.

Dining halls will be left open and students will not have to wear a mask when enjoying a meal.

If the University were to remove the indoor mask mandate, unvaccinated people will still need to adhere to the mandate. Unvaccinated members of the campus community will also remain

subject to surveillance testing on a regular basis, Leahy explained. "Those are protocols that, if we're granting you a vaccination exemption, you have to comply with that are not necessary for vaccinated people."

Leahy stressed that unvaccinated individuals who properly follow healthcare protocols are considered fully compliant in the eyes of the University.

"I want to make sure that there's no sort of difference of opinion among the vaccinated and the unvaccinated," Leahy said. "We have the policy in place, and as long as the unvaccinated have followed those policies, I consider them fully compliant and [they] should be included as full members of our community, whether that's faculty, a staff member, or student."

Leahy appreciates that there's a wide variety of opinions on the vaccine mandate, he explained.

"I can't imagine the number of messages that we've tried to respond to over the course of the summer. People want to be heard, in our community, and they deserve to be heard. They're in the right to be heard, and if they reach out to us, we'll respond to them and just try our best to articulate, more fully, the rationale behind our policies."



According to the CDC, suicide is the second leading cause of death for people between the ages of 10-34.

IMAGE TAKEN from <https://www.cdc.gov/>

THE OUTLOOK

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Welcome Back from The Outlook

MATTHEW CUTILLO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Welcome back, everyone! It's so great to be back on campus. It goes without saying that a lot has led to this moment, but I'm confident we'll all have a safe and fun semester. Things are really only looking up from here as we quickly approach 2022. To those who continued their club participation remotely, I salute you. At *The Outlook*, it wasn't always easy keeping things afloat. We take for granted how the simplest actions are complicated when they're done online. Working together in-per-

son again has completely streamlined our way of doing things, and we hope to provide a service to our campus community that's leaps and bounds ahead of what we could provide online. As of today's issue, *The Outlook* has launched a brand new website, further expanding our reach and keeping us up-to-date with other college publications. To those in other campus clubs, whether that be PRSSA, HawkTV, WMCX, Monmouth Esports, or the dozens of other clubs, *The Outlook* extends our appreciation to you for keeping your organizations afloat and being there with welcoming arms for all new students who look to capitalize on our return to campus. We sincerely appreciate all professors, faculty, and

staff who made the best of our remote-learning period and have come back better than ever to educate in-person again. The transition from in-person to online was just as difficult for them as it was for students, so it means a lot to all of us that so much passion goes into their craft. Everyone should take the opportunity of returning to in-person classes to appreciate how fast things can change and how quickly we can be forced to adapt. A significant chunk of a traditional college experience has been taken away from us, and I'd be lying if I said I amongst students and faculty alike are incredibly high, so I'm sure health protocols on campus will become more comfortable as the weeks come and go. I urge you to use this opportunity to become more involved on campus. It was a valid excuse to not do so during our remote-learning period, but everything is now back in full swing. If things will cautiously return to normal in 2022, it would be best to lay some groundwork for yourself now regarding your involvement. After attending the Comm Kick-off Event and Involvement Fair, I was shocked by the amount of freshmen and

Don't take for granted this wonderful opportunity to be back on campus.

wasn't a little bit envious of any freshman with a normal next four years to look forward to. Regarding that, I think there's something to appreciate in the uniqueness of the experience. We were part of something, for better or worse. We'll look back on our time in college and remember something so monumental as so memorable. I'm optimistic about this semester and you should be too. President Leahy has expressed that the indoor mask mandate is dependent upon a multitude of factors and recommendations from health services, and the situation will be monitored daily. I'm confident that by next semester, the campus will be looking like it's old, bright self. Vaccination rates

sophomores looking to join clubs and organizations. It seems that every club had a wonderful turnout, and I hope that momentum continues into the rest of the semester. You can tell that there's a new sense of excitement in the air. I don't want to take too much more of your time. Speaking for ourselves, *The Outlook* plans on having a wonderful and productive semester as we re-enter our office space. We're planning to bring back weekly comics for our editorial page, and a few more surprises as the semester goes on. Whether you're reading this in physical print or on our website, I wish you the best of luck this semester and urge you to savor whatever college time you have left!

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Feeling all of the Feels

SHANNON MCGORTY
OPINION EDITOR

This past week, the question I was asked most frequently was, “How does it feel being back on campus?” Everyone is looking for one answer, but I don’t think it is that simple. Typically, I have responded with, “It’s good,” but that’s not the truth. I really want to tell people I feel all the feels. That just one feeling is not enough.

It feels great to be back on campus. The one familiarity that I am fortunate to have is knowing where everything is. I can see my friends in person, interact with my professors, and have a somewhat normal life. The sad truth is that the undergrads do not have the same experience. Attending classes may seem boring to some, but being able to interact with people is an opportunity I would have killed for a year ago.

Normal life. I don’t think that will ever be a thing again. Today’s normal is completely different from the normal life of 2019. Wearing masks inside is not the worst thing to happen to us, but it also isn’t fun. I will not sit here and say that everything is great, but it is a whole lot better than before.

Patience does not seem to be a trait I possess anymore. Sitting in a classroom for longer than a half hour is almost impossible. I get fidgety and feel like my body will explode if I don’t move.. Mask breaks have become the regular for three-hour classes and standing outside the building in the middle of class to get air is the equivalent to going to the bathroom.

I also feel this great sense of being overwhelmed. I feel like there is so much to do and so little time. I decided to fill my plate well beyond what one may deem possible. Taking six classes, interning, working, staying involved on campus, and maintaining friendships can be a lot. I enjoy the challenge of staying busy, but I am afraid I might have taken on more than I can handle.



PHOTO TAKEN by Shannon McGorty
Students are finally able to return to in-person classes and couldnt be happier. Many even posed for the classic first day of school pictures

The start of this semester is almost like starting over. It feels like a new place, a new life. I can choose to be someone new, reinvent myself, or introduce myself exactly as I am. It’s funny how being in a place that is all so familiar can feel like being lost somewhere new. One has to reintroduce themselves to people and places. Sophomores and freshmen have never really been on campus or experienced campus life. Seeing how many people are disoriented and lost when it comes to finding classes is crazy to me.

Living on campus now is a lot different than when I was a freshman. In your own private room, you do not need to wear a mask, but once you step into the hallway you do. That has to be one of the strangest things to me. How do you make friends when you can only see half their faces? Giving a

name a face is nearly impossible, as you only see eyes.

It is nice to be on campus again and have a sense of independence, but at the same time it can be lonely. You no longer have to hear that you are up too late; no one is going to tell you what you can and cannot do. You make your own schedules and choices. One thing I learned from living on campus is that my choices are my own, but so are the consequences.

Explaining what I am feeling in one word would be wrong, because it can’t be wrapped up in a bow and presented to the public. I am excited, but I am also afraid because my time at Monmouth is coming to an end and I don’t want to face that. These years have been some of the best and worst years of my life, and I wouldn’t trade that for the world.

Welcome Home Hawks

SHANNON MCGORTY
OPINION EDITOR

I remember when I was a freshman. It was both liberating and terrifying.

Leaving home and all that was familiar was not easy. I was excited to see who I was without the direction of a parent. I think the hardest thing about going to college was learning who I am. I have always been the daughter, the niece, the cousin, I have never been just me. Until college.

In the first weeks of college, I missed home. I missed my friends and family. I was fortunate to start college before a pandemic. Before we lived in a world of caution and fear. Now that is all we know. The best thing one can do for themselves when coming to college is expand past what you know. Try new things, experiment with things you otherwise would have avoided.

The most important thing a person can learn in the first few weeks of college is how to manage their time. You can’t let studying be the only thing you do. Spending time with friends is necessary but you need to find the balance.

College is a completely different atmosphere than what anyone is used to. It isn’t a sheltered world, but it also isn’t the real world. Although you are

technically on your own, there are still people you can turn to. You have advisors to give you advice. Use them. There are places to get food—not home-cooked and sometimes not edible, but food nonetheless.

Putting yourself out there is the key to success. You need to step out of your comfort zone to fully immerse yourself in the college experience. It is going to be difficult to expand most of the time, but it is one of the most rewarding things about college. This allows you to decide who you are and who you want to be.

Going to college can be scary, but it’s what you do with your time here that matters. Utilize your professors and the relationships you build with them. High school teachers are right when they say college is not the same as high school. College is hard, but the relationships you build will last a lifetime. Years from now, you are going to look back and wonder why you were so scared. These people will have some of the biggest impacts on your life.

College can be scary, just like any new thing in life, but what matters is what you do with your time there. Who you make yourself out to be is going to be what determines how you enjoy college and what you get out of it.

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Hurricane Ida Causes Devastating Damages For Students

JOHN PAPAGNI
STAFF WRITER

A category four storm, known as Hurricane Ida, ravaged the east and southeastern part of the United States from August 26th to September 1st, including a few inches of rain in the Monmouth area.

William Siemer, Executive Director for Campus Planning and Facilities Management, said that Hurricane Ida did not impact the campus community as hard. “We did experience stormy weather in the area, but thankfully there was no damage, flooding, or power outages to speak of in our immediate area.”

However, in other parts of the state, the torrential downpour, high winds, and flash floods caused severe damages to roads, buildings, and people’s livelihoods—including some of Monmouth’s very own students.

Destiny Ramos, a senior psychology student, was heavily impacted by this weather phenomenon. “The experience of Hurricane Ida was unexpected and definitely a life changing experience that caused an extreme challenge in me and my family’s lives.” She said that the storm started as regular showers but quickly picked up momentum and backed up the sewer system near her home in Bloomfield.

“Once my street began to flood, this led to my mom’s car being flooded with water above the tires of her car. My mom decided to try and move

her car to a safer spot, but the water had already got into it,” Ramos said, adding that the horn doesn’t sound the same, her car is filled with sewage water, and her brakes don’t work.

On top of facing material damages, Ramos faced an even more meaningful loss. The storm had completely destroyed her late grandfather’s and dog’s belongings. Ramos said, “After we lost my Grandpa, it was tough to cope with. We decided not to get rid of all his things, including his futon, jackets, sofa, and some of his clothes. After we had lost our dog, Gerdi, we decided to keep most of her puppy toys.” The basement served as a safe place to connect with their loved ones.

During the hours leading to the storm, Ramos was packing her things to move back to Monmouth. She never imagined that in a few hours her basement would flood. However, once it began to flood outside her house, things quickly escalated. “After the outside began to look like a river, sewage water began coming in. Once the pressure from the sewage water became too much for the pipes, one of the lids of the sewage drains popped off, causing sewage water to rush out.”

At that moment, The Ramos family decided to save what they could, including their grandfather’s hats, some of her grandparents shirts’, and some photos on the wall. “We lost things in our base-



PHOTO COURTESY of Destiny Ramos

Hurricane Ida impacted Ramos’s in a way she never would have imagined, causing her to loose valuable memories of her late grandfather and dog, while leaving them to pick up the pieces left by the storm.

ment that meant more to us than money. Things that were irreplaceable and that had sentimental value,” Ramos explained, heartbroken. Although having lost valuable memorabilia, she was grateful to have been able to save some things, as many other families did not have the same luck.

Now the Ramos family is left with the aftermath; they removed all the water the next day but everything was ruined, including the futon her Grandpa loved, their sofa, her grandmother’s dresser and clothing, bins of photos, her dog’s toys, and much more. The Ramos family no longer has heat or hot water, has no washer or dryer, and she said their house smells like sewage water. Ramos set up a Go-

FundMe page to ask for donations in order to help rebuild their basement, buy their grandmother a new dresser and clothes, and replace essential items destroyed by the storm.

Esatnia Blanc, a sophomore majoring in computer science, also experienced the fury of Hurricane Ida. Blanc recently purchased a brand new car, and just after two months of driving it, the hurricane put it to rest. “I live in Elizabeth, and it never floods in my area, so I wasn’t too concerned until I got a flash flood alert on my phone and saw my car halfway underwater,” Blanc said.

After the storm, Blanc checked to see if her car survived; however, it totaled beyond comparison. Her prob-

lems did not end there, she had reached out to the dealership where she purchased the vehicle to get it towed, and they had a week-long wait time due to the large amount of people who had lost their cars because of the storm. Blanc got the news that her car was totaled a week later, but she is receiving a brand new vehicle free of charge sometime next year.

“Thankfully, my home and family were safe in the storm, I just wish my car survived,” Blanc said.

Ramos reflected on the impact this hurricane has had on her family on the GoFundMe page, “We had already lost my Grandpa and dog, which was hard enough on us but losing things from them felt like losing them all over again.”

The Best Student Deals Around Town

DENISSE QUINTANILLA
FEATURES EDITOR

Now that the semester has begun, many students are anxious to get out and explore the West Long Branch area. However, sometimes things can get a little expensive, and as college students, it may be necessary to save as much money as possible. Being a student pays off tremendously, as many locations offer discounts to students just by showing your school ID.

If you’re looking to grab a bite off campus, there are plenty of locations that can satisfy your appetite. Bubbakoo’s Burritos offer student meals for only \$7 and include options like tacos, mini nachos, or a bean burrito. All meals come with a fountain drink as well.

If you are looking to take a break from your schoolwork and catch a movie, AMC theatres, located inside the Monmouth Mall, has special student pricing every day.

As students, everything we do requires some sort of technology component, whether it’s the use of a laptop or the need for certain software. Sites like Lenovo and Dell offer discounts to students which can be accessed directly from your Monmouth portal. Another tech giant that has great deals is Apple, who offers education

pricing through their website. They have a deal going on which lets students get free AirPods, with a purchase of select Mac or iPad models. After all, who doesn’t like free stuff?

For those who are into photography and video, the site OnTheHub lets students access software like Adobe Creative Cloud for only \$19.99/month compared to \$52.99 a month by using your school email address at the time of purchase.

In order to access these offers, just log on to your MyMU portal, and search ‘Student Discounts’.

Whether you’re looking to take a little trip to the city, or travel due to an internship, taking the train may be the cheapest option for you. The University participates in NJ Transit’s University Partnership program, which provides students an extra 25 percent discount on an NJ Transit monthly pass.

All you have to do is login to your MU portal, under for your information, click NJ Transit Student Pass, and follow the steps to complete the registration using your school email. Once the registration is complete, download the NJ Transit mobile app and enter your Student Pass login information.

Now if you’re looking to relax a bit, your student discount will come in handy in that case



PHOTO TAKEN by Denisse Quintanilla

Bubbakoo’s Burritos offers five different student meal options for a low cost of \$7 dollars and include options like chicken tenders and a cheese quesadilla. All meals come with a choice of a can of soda, or a bottle of water, and chips.

too. Amazon offers students a free 6-month trial for Amazon prime and then it only costs \$6.49 a month, which is half the price of a regular prime membership

If your go to de-stress method is watching a good movie or TV show, some streaming services offer great student deals. Hulu offers a plan to students for just \$1.99 a month with full access to Hulu originals, movies, and TV shows with a few commercials. Additionally, Paramount+ offers students a 25 percent discount on all essential monthly subscription plans.

For those who like to listen to music while doing homework, Spotify and Apple Music got your back. Spotify’s student plan include all the premium benefits, Hulu, and SHOWTIME, for \$4.99 a month plus tax. Similarly, Apple Music offers students a discounted plan of the same price through the website UNiDAYS.

Jessica Gonzalez, a senior studying criminal justice, has found the app helpful when it comes to saving money.

“UNiDAYS is an app that offers discounts to college students and verifies that one is a student through the uni-

versity’s email,” Gonzales explained. UNiDAYS offers students discounts on 150+ brands, which can be redeemed in-store, through the app, and online.

She highly recommends the use of this app and adds, “It takes only a couple of minutes to sign up and saves you a lot of money, which as students helps us a lot.”

Remember, don’t be afraid to ask those working at retail stores, restaurants, or other locations to see if they offer student discounts. Take advantage of these offers now, especially if you are graduating next year.

Adorning Your Dorm

AVA KOMASZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With the first week of classes under their belts, students at Monmouth University are beginning to settle into the 2021-2022 academic year. Now that the Hawks are back in their nest, many create a home away from home in one of the 11 on-campus residence halls.

Part of being a student is making sure you have all the tools for success at your disposal. In the age of technology, one of the key components to room organization is the positioning of furniture for access to the outlets. Sophomore Tom Hintelmann said that he ensures an outlet is positioned next to his desk so that he never loses his progress while studying.

Outlets aren't just important for studying; they are also necessary for entertainment. Many students bond and form long lasting friendships by playing games, watching movies, and streaming shows with one another. Sophomore Nash Steward, a political science major, used one of her outlets to set up an entertainment station by plugging in a TV for movie nights with her friends and roommates. She said it was important that her dorm this year felt like a home. According to Steward, her building last year felt like it lacked a personal touch so this year she chose to make the most of her space.

Steward is not alone in her out-of-place feeling after the last year and a half. The COVID-19 pandemic has vastly impacted how stu-

dents feel about the college experience. Many felt that they lacked agency because so much of their lives was dictated by COVID policies. Some new students didn't even have an opportunity to live the college experience because of health concerns. Now that the COVID-19 pandemic is settling down, energy and life are returning to the Monmouth campus.

After returning from such a harrowing sabbatical many Monmouth students have a new goal in mind, prioritizing mental health. Relaxing is just as important as academics for success and happiness in daily life. One way to do that is to let vitamin D into your dorm.

From comfort to convenience, students offered insight into how their rooms are arranged. Sophomore,

Kylie Shimkus said that she positioned her bed so that she could look out the window as she lounged around. Leaving the blinds open not only allows the beneficial rays to enter the dorm, but also allows her to feel like a part of her natural surroundings. Similarly, Shimkus, a criminal justice major, and Steward, her roommate, combat isolation by keeping their shared bathroom doors open so they can hang out with each other. Even if they're studying separately, just being in each other's presence is enough to improve their day.

For many students, college is a time for them to learn how to live on their own. Taking care of yourself completely is uncharted territory, especially when it comes to cleaning. Not all the residence buildings

have rooms cleaned by the custodians, and students need to fend for themselves when it comes to keeping tidy. Sophomore Rachel Tramontana, a political science major, says that she's able to keep her room clean by minimizing clutter and keeping fewer items in her room. She said this keeps cleaning simple and allows her to keep her space livable and productive.

With the kickoff to the new year, students are taking the time to personalize their dorms for their needs. Since a student's dorm is like their second home, it's important that students can balance work and play, and students have done just that. They have found a way to both achieve excellence in academics and thrive socially, even in a world reeling from COVID-19.



Students getting to know their suite mates leaving Laurel Hall.

PHOTO COURTESY OF Anthony DePrimo




IMAGE TAKEN FROM Pexels.com

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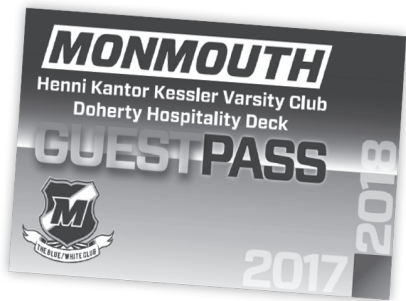
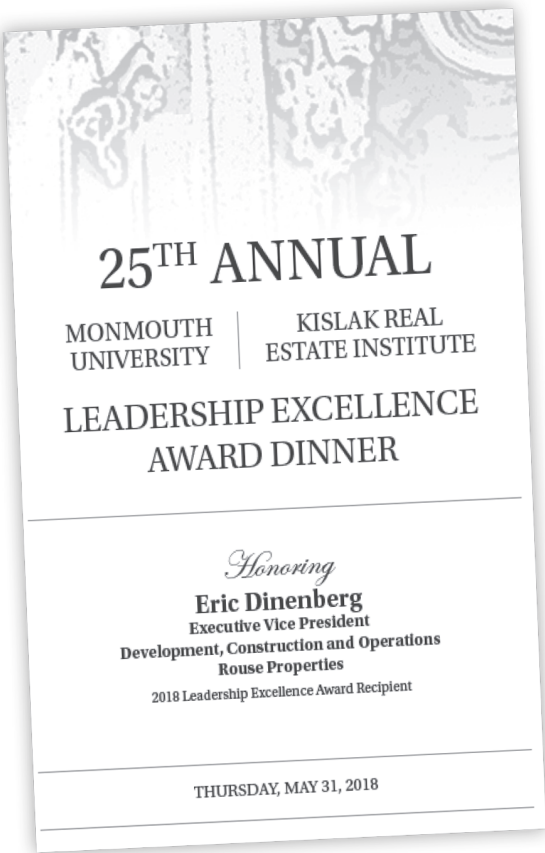


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TAKE ME TO CHVRCHES:

Screen Violence Is Dark, Bold Synthpop

ALEX DYER
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Scottish group Chvrches have been at the forefront of synthpop since their formation in Glasgow in the early 2010s, with each release since 2013's *The Bones of What You Believe* sonically encapsulating diverse eras, themes, and subgenres in electronic music. Now, in 2021, just as I've grown more mature since that time, I realize that Chvrches, too, have grown into their niche as a hyperpop-based rock band. Indeed, with their recent fourth studio album *Screen Violence*, released on Aug. 27, it seems their signature synthesized sound has evolved into something darker, more sinister, and, as it were, more intimate.

Those familiar with the goth new wave scene of the '80s are no doubt familiar with certain influential acts to the movement—Depeche Mode, New Order, and the Cure come to mind. With *Screen Violence*, I can say with the utmost certainty that Chvrches wished to channel this vibe; the album has an overarching theme of despair and nihilism, which wouldn't be immediately obvious to anyone familiar with Chvrches. For a good part of this album, the band's usual aggressive gated synths are foregone in favor of soft, introspective orchestration, complementing singer Lauren Mayberry's irresistible soprano voice perfectly (a voice which in itself has matured over the ten years of the band's existence so far).

Getting older and more cynical is both a fact of life and a major theme of the band's electro-goth venture. In the album's opener, "Asking for a Friend," when Mayberry pleads, "Will you carry me home?/Can we celebrate the

end?/I'm asking for a friend," the presumption is that the listener will interpret that line as the narrator asking these questions of the subject. However, she isn't merely acting as a proxy, like the context would imply; rather, she is literally requesting a friend; someone to hold or give comfort as she grows older, wiser, and more experienced as a human being, for better or worse.

Really, *truly*, there is not a bad song in this bunch. Other tracks that stand out include "How Not to Drown," with the Cure's Robert Smith, as well as the literarily-inspired "Violent Delights," about recurring nightmares and intrusive thoughts that sometimes accompany trauma and mental illness. In *Romeo & Juliet*, in reference to his impending officiation of the marriage of the title characters, Friar Laurence warns Romeo that "These violent delights have violent ends/And in their triumph die, like fire and powder/Which as they kiss consume."

"I feel like we're all morbidly fascinated with the violence that happens to other people," Mayberry told Apple Music.

"The verse lyrics are actually a series of nightmares that I'd been having," she continued. "In a hotel room on tour, I dreamed that people were trying to get into the room, and once woke up having piled a bunch of pillows and stuff up against the door—with no memory of doing it. It's your subconscious telling you your house is on fire and you need to get out. The wheels were coming off."

There are also moments of true sanguinity punctuating the existential uncertainty of *Screen Violence*. "Final Girl," which is a nod to the same-named horror trope, gives us an unnamed heroine's inner monologue as she considers what life could be like if she survives the "final scene;" "And it feels like the weight is too much to



IMAGE TAKEN from Pitchfork, BANNER from Amazon Music

Chvrches, pictured here, are a Scottish synthpop band formed of (from left to right) Martin Doherty, Lauren Mayberry, and Iain Cook.

carry/I should quit, maybe go get married/Only time will tell/And I wonder if I should've changed my accent/Tried to make myself more attractive/Only time will tell."

The "Final Girl" obsesses over questions on her own existence, wondering in her potential final moments what she could have done to change her current situation, and resolving to live life differently if she makes it out alive.

At some point in our lives, when it comes to grief or trauma, we're all the final girl, in front of the metaphorical slasher, wishing we had done things another way; bargaining inwardly with some unseeable force for cosmic reconsideration. As is evident in *Screen Violence*, Chvrches have developed a knack for deep narratives that are still accessible, even at their most vulnerable.

While it may, admittedly, be somewhat reductionist to view the concepts that bolster the album solely through the lens of frontwoman/producer/writer Lauren Mayberry, it's simply too intriguing to not consider the fact that, when Chvrches formed in 2011, Mayberry was the same age as I am at this very moment, in 2021.

Around the time I started listening to them, I was beginning to actively wonder who I would be as a person when I "grew up."

Listening to *Screen Violence* for the first time actually awoke a realization within me: that I'm still learning and growing up, even now. And the fact that Mayberry and Chvrches are clearly still finding themselves grappling with emotional vulnerability and insecurity—even at nine or ten years my senior—is a comforting one. A big part of maturity is having the grace to look inward and self-reflect about

the good and the bad in life. Though it's dark and viscerally human, the record lends itself well to thoughtful listening, and is the type of project that feels right at home in the often-overlooked canon of goth music and synthpop in general.

It's not a long album—standard, really, at ten songs in 43 minutes—but Mayberry's lyricism, as well as the band's talent behind the synthesizer, have matured like grapes into

a fancy-schmancy Napa Valley cabernet; whereas Chvrches freshman album, *The Bones of What You Believe*, is by comparison lovely, fruity, and teen-angst-y, *Screen Violence* is not very sweet, but it is truly, at all points, a bold, enchanting treat that deserves to be savored by the listener.



IMAGE TAKEN from Uncut UK

Robert Smith of British new wave band the Cure (left) is featured on the track "How Not to Drown," which Mayberry (right) told *Genius* follows a trend of water imagery in her writing.



IMAGE TAKEN from Louder

For the official music video for "How Not to Drown," Chvrches and Robert Smith channeled a dystopian technologic aesthetic; this includes security footage, CCTV, digital corruption, etc.

Yarleny Mejia Named President of the Year

LILY HOFFMANN
CLUB AND GREEK EDITOR

Yarleny Mejia was named ‘President of the Year’ by the Monmouth University Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life and the Office of Student Activities on April 21, 2021.

Each year these offices collaborate on and announce an application process for student organizations to apply for awards. Once the application process closes, both departments discuss the nominees and decide who will win each award.

Tara Fuller and Tara Droste serve as the Director and Assistant Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life respectively. In a statement on behalf of both Fuller and Droste, they explained that Mejia received this award due to her commitment to the advancement of the entire fraternity and sorority life community.

They said that her dedication to the community is evident through her various leadership roles. “She was an executive board member of our Multicultural Greek Council for the 2020-2021 academic year in addition to her responsibilities as President of her sorority, Chi Upsilon Sigma National Latin Sorority, Inc.”

The Directors said that Mejia is also active outside of the Greek community, serving as the Secretary for the Latin Student Organization, and a general member of the Public Relations Student Society of America.

The Directors said, “She does so much to develop herself while also putting together programs and events for the organizations she is a part of. Yarleny is a supportive, caring, and dedicated student and we feel so fortunate to have her a part of our community.”

Claude Taylor serves as the chapter advisor for the Gamma Beta chapter

of Chi Upsilon Sigma. He further described Mejia’s leadership style as that of a servant-leader. He said, “A servant-leader style focuses primarily on the growth and well-being of people and the communities to which they belong.”

Taylor said that Mejia best demonstrates this quality in the way that she focuses on elevating the student experience of those within her organization, as well as the “concentrated effort to promote service to community and others in need.”

Paola Reyes is a senior nursing student who has been a member of Chi Upsilon Sigma since 2020. She echoed Taylor’s feelings, saying that Mejia has not only been a leader for members

of Chi Upsilon Sigma but an amazing friend.

She said, “Any obstacles that sisters encounter, related to our organization or not, Yarleny has always been there for all of us.”

As for Mejia, she said she felt proud of herself when she received the award. “When you’re in a leadership position you rarely hear any positive feedback from people, and I proved to myself that I’m a hard worker and that I don’t have to rely on what other people think to know that I’m amazing and I’m enough.”

Mejia joined Chi Upsilon Sigma in the Spring of 2019 and said that at the time she was shy, reserved, and suffered from severe anxiety. “After becoming a sis-

ter of CUS, I broke out of my shell and took on leadership roles such as Chapter President.”

Through these experiences, Mejia was able to grow more empathetic, improve her communication skills and improve her mental health. She learned how to better value herself as a woman and ask for help when she needed it.

Mejia explained that the most rewarding part of holding a leadership position within her organization is having the ability to serve as a resource for other sisters, students, and even the University’s faculty and staff.

“I love helping others on whatever the situation may be...Being in a leadership position has allowed me to wear many different hats, such as helping others with academic advice, sharing information on job opportunities and community service, or simply being present for those who need someone to talk to.”

For Mejia, this experience has allowed her to do what she feels she was born to do: to help and serve her community.

Reyes explained that Mejia demonstrates this passion by promoting Greek unity throughout her term as president. “In her efforts to support the FSL community, she attended several events from different organizations and has helped other FSL leaders solve problems,” she said.

Reyes explained that additionally, Mejia has also shared many creative ideas with the community in an attempt to get everyone involved. These ideas include various Zoom events and Live with Gamma Beta episodes hosted on Instagram TV.

Clearly, Mejia is a leader that does not just talk the talk but walks the walk, being a leader and friend for the entire Monmouth community to rely on. For more information on Chi Upsilon Sigma, check out their Instagram, @cus_gammabeta!



PHOTO TAKEN from Chi Upsilon Sigma, Gamma Beta

Yarleny Mejia, a senior communication student was named President of the Year for her dedication to Chi Upsilon Sigma National Latin Sorority, Inc.

Annual Involvement Fair a Success For Student Organizations

LILY HOFFMANN
CLUB AND GREEK EDITOR

Ninety-six student organizations set up camp on the turf of Hess field on Friday, September 10 for the University’s annual Involvement Fair. Hosted by the Office of Student Activities, the fair is held during Welcome Week as a way to network with both new and returning students and to encourage them to become active members of the campus community.

This was the first time that various academic, athletic, and religious organizations were able to meet prospective new members in person in two years since

last year’s Involvement Fair was hosted virtually.

For clubs like Best Buddies, the fair was met with much success. David Fasolino, the President and Founder of Best Buddies explained that the club was able to recruit 84 new members at the Involvement Fair.

This recruitment is a significant improvement from last year since the club was unable to attend the fair due to inactive status. This year, the Best Buddies club is back and better than ever, partnering with The Arc of Monmouth, a non-profit organization supporting the lives of those with special needs.

Fasolino is hopeful about this year. “I anticipate that this year will be different because we have a new partnership and there is new leadership within the organization that is willing to work with Best Buddies and Monmouth University.”

The Monmouth University Sailing Team is another club that had a positive experience at the event, following a year of being unable to sail or compete as a result of COVID-19.

Abby Brooks, the Co-Captain of the team explained that this year’s turnout was much better than expected, as they recruited 31 new sailors.



PHOTO TAKEN by Lily Hoffmann

Abby Brooks (left) and Daniel Dickson (right) serve as Co-Captains for the Monmouth Sailing Team.



PHOTO TAKEN from WMCX 88.9 FM

Members of 88.9 WMCX FM Radio pose outside of Plangere Hall at the “Welcome to Comm” event last week.

between the Involvement Fair and the “Welcome to Comm” event the club was able to recruit more new members than they previously had in their entire roster.

Bella Lainez, co-host of WASPOPPIN Radio on WMCX added that they had more sign-ups than they’ve had in a long time. She explained that last year’s virtual involvement fair came with a lot of difficulties.

“It was hard for us to emphasize all that WMCX has to offer via Zoom. This year, getting to see everyone who came to the table was so exciting and I think our enthusiasm about WMCX was

more visible than it had been over Zoom.”

Above all, Lainez said that members of the WMCX e-board are more than ready to get back to doing all the cool events they have done in the past.

So, whether students were looking for something to enhance their resume or try something new, there was something for everyone at the Involvement Fair this year. For those who didn’t have a chance to attend, The Office of Student Activities continuously posts events and ways to get more involved on campus on their Instagram, @mu_student activities.

Dear Students:

As we embark on a new academic year – the 88th in Monmouth University’s proud history – I am so pleased to welcome you back to campus for what my faculty and staff colleagues hope will be one of our best years yet. We look forward to seeing all of you in person, and to making your Monmouth experience a positive and memorable one.

I wish to extend a special welcome to our new first-year and transfer students. And, I would also like to welcome in a special way our rising sophomores, many of whom are settling into campus life for the first time this fall. We are so pleased that you’ve chosen Monmouth as your new home, and look forward to tracking your successes in the classroom and beyond over the coming years.

The past 18 months have presented unprecedented challenges, to which the Monmouth community has routinely responded with determination, flexibility, resilience, and compassion. I am grateful to each of you, as well as to our faculty and staff, for continually prioritizing the needs and best interests of our University community.

Over the past several months, our team has been working diligently to plan for your arrival this fall in a safe and responsible manner. We are eager for you to see the changes and improvements to our campus, including many new and upgraded facilities to advance our academic mission and community-building ideals.

While things are slowly beginning to resemble our pre-pandemic state of normalcy, we must continue to remain vigilant in following our health and safety protocols, informed by prevailing public health guidance. Please continue to mask up, back up, wash up, and adhere to testing requirements. As I’ve said before, it is going to take *each* of us to protect *all* of us.

Even more importantly, please do your part to make Monmouth a community where everyone feels a sense of acceptance and belonging. Let’s continue to respectfully acknowledge our individual differences and enthusiastically celebrate our collective identity as Monmouth Hawks.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the health and welfare of the Monmouth community. My best wishes to each of you for a safe and successful fall semester.

Sincerely,

Dr. Patrick F. Leahy

President



Student Life/Leadership Engagement

To all of our Monmouth students,

Whether you are coming to campus for the first time as a member of the Class of 2025, a new transfer student, or you are a returning undergraduate or graduate student, I want to welcome you back to this wonderful academic community. The energy and excitement that comes with the opening of a new academic year is palpable and can be felt in all areas of our campus, from the dining hall to the residence halls, the classrooms to our athletic fields. You are back and our total focus will be on you and your experience as a student!

The Division of Student Life, our staff and all our departments, are here to support you as a student through your academic and social endeavors. We are the place to go when you don’t know where else to turn and if we can’t help you we will find the people who can.

This is our community – a community where we live, work, learn, grow and keep each other safe. We are a community of respect where all are welcome and valued. Never underestimate the important role you play in making our community safe and welcoming for all. It is the Monmouth way.

As we enter yet another year where we are all working to manage the global pandemic we are still in, I ask for your cooperation in honoring all of the health and safety protocols in place. After all, Monmouth Hawks do fly together.

Stay healthy, stay focused and stay together as a community!

My best wishes for a great semester and academic year.

Mary Anne Nagy
Vice President for Student Life and Leadership Engagement

Peer Assisted Learning

Title
Peer-Assisted Learning: New Name, Same Great Leaders

Article
There’s a new name on campus: Peer-Assisted Learning (PAL). PAL is the new name for Supplemental Instruction (SI), which has been providing academic support to students since 2010.
Peer-Assisted Learning is a series of group study sessions for many of the University’s most challenging courses. They are led by PAL Leaders, students who have already taken the course and know what it takes to succeed in it. They will work with you to review course material and help you master related concepts. They’ll assist you with problem-solving and the development of critical-thinking skills. They’ll also share study strategies to help you achieve your goals for the course.
PAL sessions will be available during Fall 2021 for specific Accounting, Economics, Finance, Biology, Chemistry, Psychology, and Social Work courses. Your professor will let you know if your class has a PAL Leader and introduce them at the beginning of the semester. Your PAL Leader will communicate with you throughout the semester to announce their sessions.
PAL is very beneficial for students who attend sessions. Of students completing an end of semester survey, 85% felt they understood the material better; 78% were less anxious about tests and quizzes; and 78% felt their grades had improved as a result of participation in PAL.

One student said of their Leaders, “They are so kind, intelligent, and hardworking. I appreciate them sparing their time to help us learn.” Another student described their Leader as “very knowledgeable, helpful, and available to accommodate [their] schedule.” PAL Leaders are also always very responsive via email to help the students however they can.

I personally have had a great experience, first as a student in some of my more challenging courses, and then as PAL Leader for some of those courses. I had great Leaders who helped me succeed. It’s been very rewarding to serve as a PAL Leader and help others.

For more information about Peer-Assisted Learning (PAL), visit our website at <https://www.monmouth.edu/css/peer-assisted-learning/>. Information about applying to be a PAL Leader can be found here: <https://www.monmouth.edu/css/peer-assisted-learning/resources-for-pal-leaders/>

Submitted by Jessica Clyne, Business Administration major with a Concentration in Management & Decision Sciences. Jessica is the PAL Leader for Professor Boonman’s BE251 Business Statistics class this semester.

Sports Industry Club

Dear Fellow Hawks,

A warm welcome to everyone new and returning to campus. We are excited for this year, as we are planning to have some in person meetings along with online programs as well. This summer, our Vice President, Luca Morello and I worked very hard on finding potential guest speakers for the club. We are dedicated to building connections between the student body and important figures in the sports world. We are so grateful to everyone’s support and encouragement during the past year and focus on advancing the club in new ways. We are excited to have individuals working in athlete and team management, photography, social media, marketing, sales, and medicine address our students. We are also working with Jeff Mass to help reach out to students who are most interested in a career in sports. We wish everyone good luck this semester.

Sincerely,

President Haider Husaini

Office of Residential Life

The Office of Residential Life would like to welcome you to campus whether you are a returning resident or this is your first year. Our HRAs, RAs, and CAs are all eager for this year and will be putting on programs that we hope you will consider attending. The Office of Residential Life strives to create an atmosphere that will make you feel like this is your Home. If at any time you need assistance, we are here for you. Welcome Home!!

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FEATURES

Events

September

Snacks on the Quad

Wed, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Residential Quad

Virtual Kahoot

Wed, 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM



Facebook

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Twitter

YouTube

Campus Resources

Counseling & Psychological Services (CPS)

Located: On the 3rd floor of the Rebecca Stafford Student Center CPS is a confidential mental health...

Health Services

The Department of Health Services provides free, accessible ambulatory healthcare for all Mon...

Intercultural Center

Cultivating a more inclusive campus experience. Student lounge open 24/7 - 202C - HSSC



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Men and Women’s Cross Country Compete at Lehigh University

Ragenklint and DiLaurenzio Both Earn MAAC Runners of the Week

JOHN SPINELLI
STAFF WRITER

The men and women’s cross-country teams opened their season at the Murray H. Goodman Campus at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania on Friday, Sep. 3. This season will be the first fall cross country season since 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“It was exciting to get the opportunity to compete today after all the challenges of the last 18 months. Overall, both the women and men competed well, but we have some areas we can greatly improve and that bodes well for the rest of the season,” said Head Coach Mike Nelson.

The Hawks competed in a large field against Lehigh University, University of Pennsylvania, Princeton University, Moravian University, Muhlenberg College, DeSales University, Rutgers University and West Virginia University (women’s team only).

The women’s team won the team title led by Junior Sammi Ragenklint, who ran a winning time of 21:33.5. Following Ragenklint was fifth-year senior Mackenzie Jones for fourth place and Sophomore Allie Pierontoni coming in eighth.

During the men’s race, the team finished fourth out of eight teams. Senior Louis

DiLaurenzio led the team earning fourth place with a time of 18:06. DiLaurenzio was followed in order by Freshman Luke Miller in 20th, Junior Cameron Janovic in 28th, Senior Michael Pavicic in 34th, and Sophomore Tyler Clifford in 35th.

The meet also had many highlights from new athletes on the team. Sophomore transfer Marisa Kilgarrieff finished in fifteenth and Freshman Rachael Mongeau placed thirty third. For the men, there were three freshmen who made the top fifty in the race.

Nelson discussed insight about the meet, “Sammi getting the individual win was awesome and is a testament of all the hard work she has put in. The women got the team victory, which is an encouraging way to start the fall. We’ll be back at this course in four weeks and we’ll be ready to take it up a notch”

After the meet, both DiLaurenzio and Ragenklint were announced by the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference as Cross-Country Student-Athletes of the week. Both athletes ran the fastest (Monmouth University) 6k times on the Lehigh course.

Up next, the Hawks will compete at the Iona Meet of Champions at Van Cortlandt Park in Bronx, New York on Friday, Sep. 17



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

The men’s cross country team finished fourth out of eight teams on Friday, Sep. 3.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

The women’s cross country team won the team title on Friday, Sep. 3.

1-1 Start to 2021 Football Season

ERIN MULLIGAN
SPORTS EDITOR

On Saturday, Sept. 4, the 2021 Monmouth football season started up with the Hawks losing to Middle Tennessee State 50-15 but picked up a win this past Saturday against Fordham 26-23.

In their showdown against Middle Tennessee, the boys in blue and white fought hard in the first quarter until MTSU’s Jaylin Lane ran a punt back for 70 yards providing a 7-0 lead.

Monmouth came back to tie the game after sophomore Tony Muskett threw to Archie making the score 7-7. The drive covered 79 yards over 12 plays and was kept alive by Terrance Greene Jr. who made a fourth down catch and run.

At the 33 is where things took a turn when the Blue Raiders committed a sack fumble on a Monmouth drive. Just four plays later, MTSU were ahead 14-7 on a 29-yard score from Bailey Hockman, a NC State transfer to DJ England-Chisolm. After a miscue on Monmouth’s part, the Blue Raiders took two plays to reach the endzone on yet another

Hockman throw.

After the score became 28-7 in the third quarter, Muskett committed a 14-play drive which went for 75 yards with the quarterback bulldozing from one-yard out. Monmouth star Lonnie Moore converted the two-point attempt with the Hawks going into the fourth quarter trailing with a score of 28-15.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

The Monmouth Hawks scored a final 26-23 lead against Fordham this Saturday, Sept. 4.

MTSU then returned a major interception for a touchdown. They then scored a few late touchdowns as well.

This past weekend, the Hawks racked in their first win of the season against the Fordham Rams at Jack Coffey Field.

The Hawks made their presence known in the Bronx this past weekend with star running back Juwon Farri

achieving 156 yards and a touchdown in addition to the absolute demolishing defense committing three sacks, two forced fumbles, and a two-point conversion interception return.

The game was tied until Tony Muskett threw to Gene Scott for a 35-yard touchdown reception. The Rams then cut the lead to 7-3 on a 27-yard field goal made

by Nick Leinen weber in the second. The Rams then scored an eight-yard touchdown from DeMorat to Dequece Carter in the very corner of the endzone.

As the guys got further into the game, the Hawks forced their second turnover when Justin Terry made a mega hit on Demorat resulting in the quarterback losing the ball. Eddie Morales recovered it. Muskett then ran into the corner of the endzone for his second rushing touchdown.

After Fordham answered with a touchdown, Terry committed a two-point attempt intercepting the ball in the endzone and returning it 100 yards. Nick Null was then able to kick his first Monmouth field goal.

Muskett threw an interception on first and goal from the one. On third and 13, DeMorat threw to Dequece Carter for 39 yards and a touchdown with the score becoming 26-23. The Ram’s last-second hail mary attempt was incomplete in the endzone with 26 seconds left, resulting in the Hawks win.

Monmouth plays in their next away game at Charleston Southern this Saturday, Sept. 18 at 6 p.m.

Men’s Soccer Leads 4-0

ROBBIE HOLMES
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Behind strong offensive performances from juniors Griffin Tomas and Julian Gomez, and yet another shutout for red-shirt senior Sean Murray, the Monmouth University men’s soccer team bested Delaware in Tuesday night’s contest, 4-0.

Tomas ignited the Hawks offense in the 37th minute, scoring off an assist from graduate student Jonas Lindner. The assist to Tomas was Lindner’s first in a Hawks uniform.

After stealing the ball in the 90th minute of the match, Tomas slammed the door on Delaware with his second goal of the game. Tomas successfully scored in his each of his only two shot attempts.

Gomez, who earned Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Men’s Soccer Offensive Player of the Week honors on Monday afternoon, lived up to the honor of the title by scoring two goals of his own. In the 41st minute, on a feed from freshman midfielder Brett Sieg, Gomez found the back of the net from just inside the box, putting the Hawks up 2-0.

After 31 scoreless minutes, Gomez delivered his second goal of the game, assisted by Junior Forward Ben Zakowski and Freshman midfielder Jonas Lyshoj. Gomez has now scored in nine consecutive games dating back as early as last spring. Racking up 25 points in 24 career games, Gomez has cemented his spot in the Hawks offense.

In addition to the Player of the Week honor, Gomez was named to the College Soccer News National Team of the Week. Gomez had a goal and



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

The men’s soccer team came home with a win against Delaware on Tuesday night..

“It was a very committed performance by the boys... Delaware is a strong program in the CAA, so this is a nice win for us.”

ROBERT MCCOURT
Head Coach

two assists against out of conference St. Francis Brooklyn, securing his spot on the Team of the Week.

“I’m happy we continue to

score on our chances,” said Monmouth Hawks Head Coach Robert McCourt. The Hawks attempted 12 shots in the 90 minutes of play, six of which

were on goal, resulting in four total scores.

Murray, the Hawks goalkeeper, gained recognition of his own after being named

MAAC Men’s Soccer Defensive Player of the Week on Monday afternoon. Following a four save performance, resulting in a shutout against St. Francis Brooklyn on Saturday, Sept. 4th, Murray received the honors. On Tuesday at Delaware, he too lived up to the title by stopping four shot attempts and recording his second consecutive shutout. “Murray was fantastic again in goal” said McCourt.

“It was very satisfying to go on the road and put together a complete performance against a strong program like Delaware,” said Murray. “e defended very well as a unit and scored some fantastic goals so it was great to get the reward for all the work we put in up to this point.”

Murray lodged his ninth shutout and now has 205 saves in his career as a Hawk. Following a strong Junior campaign in 2020, which earned Murray MAAC Co-Goalkeeper of the Year and All-MAAC Team honors, the Hawks continue to reap the rewards of strong goalkeeping in 2021.

“It was a very committed performance by the boys tonight,” said McCourt, “Delaware is a strong program in the CAA, so this is a nice win for us.” With the victory in Tuesday nights match, the Hawks improve to 2-0-1 on the season.

Following a double overtime 1-0 loss at UConn last Saturday, the Hawks will travel to Fairfield, Connecticut on Wednesday to contest Sacred Heart at 3:00 p.m.. The Hawks will return to Hesse Field on the Great Lawn on Saturday, Sep. 18.

To stay up to date with the team, follow @MonmouthSoccer on Twitter and Instagram.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Junior Julian Gomez was named MAAC’s Men’s Soccer Offensive Player of the Week and named to the College Soccer News National Team of the Week.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Senior Sean Murray, goalkeeper, was named MAAC’s Men’s Soccer Defensive Player of the Week.



HONORS AND SHOUTOUTS



Julian Gomez and Sean Murray earn MAAC Men's Soccer Offensive and Defensive Players of the Week, respectively.