



THE OUTLOOK

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Panel Discusses Methods to Combat Climate Change

ABIGAIL BROOKS
NEWS EDITOR

Monmouth University hosted a virtual panel discussion as a part of the third annual Climate Crisis Teach-In on Monday, Oct. 4.

Moderated by Heide Estes, Ph.D., Professor of English, the panel discussed what can be done to convince politicians and the general public to do more to combat climate change. Panelists included Stephen Chapman, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Political Science, Marina Vujnovic, Ph.D., Professor of Communication, and Patrick Murray, Professor and Director of the Polling Institute.

The Monmouth University Polling Institute released results from a poll conducted in September about sentiments among Americans regarding climate change shortly before the panel event. The findings were a large topic of conversation throughout the discussion.

"When we started doing more regular national poll-

ing back in 2015, this was one of the topics that we said we wanted to keep coming back to and we've done that every three years," said Murray. "It just happened to coincide that we were releasing it this week at the same time as the teach-in here at Monmouth."

The poll consisted of a national random sample of 802 adults aged 18 and older. Self-reported demographics

show that the majority of participants were Independent (41 percent), female (52 percent), over the age of 55 (38 percent), White (63 percent), and did not have a degree (70 percent).

Findings showed that about 3 in 4 Americans, roughly 76 percent, acknowledge that climate change is real. A stark partisan divide was evident, with 94 percent of

Democrats and 81 percent of Independents reporting a belief in climate change in contrast to a mere 48 percent of Republicans.

"Back three years ago when we did this survey, 64 percent of Republicans had said that climate change was real. That was notable because it was a jump from about 50 percent who had said it three years prior. I knew that the results that we were seeing with Republican numbers going up were going to change very radically," explained Murray. "The reason why they were up was because the federal government was engaging in this query and looking at these issues. As soon as that federal climate report was released, then-president Trump basically disparaged the report and I knew it was going to reset us back to zero in terms of where Republicans stood."

The generation gap was also evident in the poll's results, which found differences in views of climate change based on age.



PHOTO COURTESY of Pexels

The panel urged politicians and the general public to exert effort towards reducing the effects of climate change.

CLIMATE cont. on pg. 2

Dean Mauro Gives Call to Action On Climate

MATTHEW CUTILLO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Ann Marie P. Mauro, Ph.D., Dean of the School of Nursing and Health Studies, gave a virtual presentation titled "Climate & Health Policy: A Call to Action for Nurses & Healthcare Professionals," on Monday, Oct. 4.

The brief lecture was part of the University's "Wake Up to Climate Change" Climate Crisis Teach-In, informing listeners of climate change's impacts on public health, as well as how nurses and other health professionals can reduce the effects of climate change and improve health through both advocacy and policy.

Climate change is a major public health threat, and the responsibility of combating it often falls to those in the health professions, Mauro explained.

"As health professionals, we are among one of the most trusted professions," Mauro said. "We are trusted messengers around information on climate and health. As you know, talking about climate and the impact of climate change can be a bit of a political topic. Health professionals tend to be able to talk more objectively about the impact of climate on health."

For almost 20 years, nurses have been recognized as the most trusted profession, Mauro explained. The World Health Organization confirms nurses to be the largest health profession in not only the United States, but in the world. "Physicians and other health professionals are also very highly respected and trusted," Mauro said. "As messengers, we get a lot of credibility when we talk about the impact of climate change. Our changing climate is a universal, moral issue that we all need to address."

Mauro then introduced two professional organizations who have raised a call for climate action "loudly and clearly," being the American Academy of Nursing and the National Academy of Medicine.

The American Academy of Nursing is an honorary professional society of which Mauro was inducted as a fellow in 2016.

"I explained it to my family as kind of the 'hall of fame of nursing,' with great humility, of course," Mauro said. "That's kind of the best way I can say it, [as] you need to have a national or international sustained impact on

NURSING cont. on pg. 3

University Provides Update For Online Health Platform

ISABELLA HANNA
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The School of Social Work made a recent announcement concerning the progress of the University's CONNECTWELLMU initiative, an online platform that provides all members of the University with access to a variety of mental and physical health resources available on and off campus.

The announcement was made via mass email to the entire student body on Sept. 30, the last day of Suicide Prevention Month, underscoring the University's continued work in suicide awareness.

Michelle Scott, Ph.D., M.S.W., began her message with a short declaration of solidarity for the University's universal suicide prevention effort. "We at Monmouth do not see suicide prevention as something that is a priority just in one month of the year, but rather every day

of every month throughout the year," she began. "As always, Monmouth Hawks Fly Together!"

Scott is not only a Professor in the School of Social Work, but she is also the Director of CONNECTWELLMU Garrett Lee Smith Suicide Prevention Program, the

grant supporting this new available resource for the Monmouth community.

According to the CONNECTWELLMU webpage, the site is a "one-stop-shop for all things wellness" and "A dynamic portal that will be updated with additional resources as the need arises."

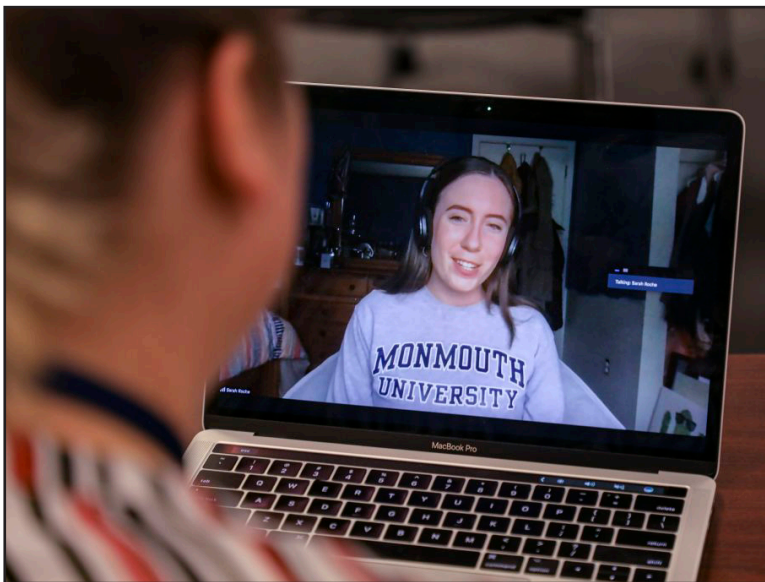


PHOTO COURTESY of Anthony DePrimo (2018)

The CONNECTWELLMU initiative provides access to mental and physical health services.

In an attempt to increase awareness about this resource, Scott explained how more information would be distributed on campus. "In the next week or two, students, faculty, staff, and administration will receive a CONNECTWELLMU resource pen and resource folder to help support [them] in [their] efforts to help those in need," explained Scott. "The resource pen and folder include information on both on and off-campus support services as well as information on identifying behaviors of concern."

CONNECTWELLMU works in conjunction with other departments on campus, such as the Center for Counseling and Psychological Services, which hosted an event on National Suicide Prevention Day earlier in September.

Chris McKittrick, Psy.D., LPC, one of the

PLATFORM cont. on pg. 3

INSIDE:

NEWS

Alumni in Management Hosts First Virtual Meeting

FEATURES

Alumni Spotlight: Arina Martin

SPORTS

Women's Soccer Takes the Lead in Conference Standings

Pg. 3

Pg. 6

Pg. 14



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Alumni in Management Hosts First Virtual Meeting

JEREMY LENART
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Monmouth University’s Alumni in Management (AIM), a Zoom series that features alumni who educate undergraduates about the real business world, hosted its first Zoom call on Wednesday, Sept. 22. Organized by Joe Palazzolo, Ed.D., Instructor in the Management and Leadership department within the Leon Hess Business School, the goal is to bring experience from emergent leaders

into the classroom. The first call featured Louis Marinos, owner of the transportation and logistics company Tri-State Express. Marinos graduated from Monmouth University in 2014 and was a member of Sigma Pi Fraternity on-campus. As a first-generation student whose family immigrated from Peru, Marinos’s parents motivated him to be a diligent student and find a fulfilling career path. Marinos entered college with a major in software en-

gineering. He realized it was not for him, and switched to business management with a minor in Information Technology after many conversations with his parents. He said, “I feel like any kid wants to make their parents proud. That is kind of what guided my choice in my major.” Upon graduation, Marinos got a job as an IT Helpdesk Technician. He held that title for one year before he decided to leave. Marinos never got the fulfillment he needed at that job because

he felt like he, “could be doing more.” Around that time, Marinos’s father was starting his own trucking company that transports waste around the Tri-State area. Marinos joined his father and never looked back. Marinos learned a lot from his father and other managers at the trucking company, as he constantly asked questions no matter how naive they sounded in his head. “You want to embrace your position and learn as much as possible,” he said. One of the hardest aspects

to learn was the “lingo” of the trucking industry. To sound professional and knowledgeable, he said that an employee should learn the correct terminology of his industry. Marinos often had to miss nights out with his friends to learn and help his dad build the company. After a few years, Marinos gained enough experience to open his own trucking company called Tri-State Express. “If you own your own company, it becomes a 24/7 job,” he said. “You’re constantly on call.” Marinos has trucks on the road all hours of the day, so he must be ready to aid an employee that calls for help. He usually gets his first call around 7 a.m., and he facilitates where each truck is going for the day. The rest of his day is filled with data entries, in-invoices, ordering truck parts, truck maintenance, and looking at different routes and future opportunities to expand. Marinos gave advice to the undergraduate students in the Zoom call. He stressed the importance of internships, as they allow students to gain experience in a potential career path. “You don’t have to love what you do, but try to enjoy what you do,” he said. “Take in as much as you can and appreciate the time you have there.” The next AIM series event is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 20 with Paul Salvesen. Students will be receiving the Zoom information via email before the event.



The Zoom series features University alumni who educate undergraduates about the real business world.

PHOTO COURTESY of Pexels

Panel Encourages Politicians to Fight Climate Change

CLIMATE cont. from pg. 1

Two-thirds, or roughly 67 percent, of Americans age 18 to 34 reported seeing climate change as a “very serious” problem, compared to 48 percent of those aged 35 to 54 and 54 percent of adults over the age of 55. “Over the past 20 years, there has been a big skew in that the younger generation has become much more progressive in their views and they’re sticking that way as they age,” observed Murray. “While younger generations have zeal, they don’t have power. That’s very unfortunate because we’re running out of time,” commented Vujnovic. “Younger people tend to get attacked for their lack of credibility because they have not lived enough life to know right from wrong, which I completely reject but that’s something that is telling us what’s currently going on in the public sphere.” “I also noticed that there’s a pretty big gender divide and racial divide,” said Estes. “It seems like it’s mostly the older white men who don’t acknowledge the existence of climate change, and of course they’re the ones with the majority of power.” “There’s also an education divide within that group too,” added Murray. “If you’re looking at older white men with a college degree versus older white men with-

out a college degree, we’re seeing a significant difference there as well.” Going beyond the mere existence of climate change, the poll found differences in beliefs about its causes. Just over one third of Americans reported that climate change is caused primarily by human activity, while another 32 percent suggested that both human activity and natural causes are at

play. “Personally I believe that we are focusing too much on individual responsibility when evidence shows that 100 companies are responsible for 71 percent of global emissions since 1988. Where is the corporate responsibility?” questioned Vujnovic. “Individual actions matter, but at the end of the day that’s not where the majority of this pollution is coming

from. Until you make large scale changes, you’re not going to see individual changes,” explained Chapman. Public perception of climate change is directly affected by how the information is conveyed. “The media has a lot of work to do to make these climate issues less abstract and more concrete. If we as media professionals explain the ultimate cost of climate change, per-

haps people wouldn’t be so split on opinion,” proposed Vujnovic. “It’s a matter of work we need to do in the public sphere to educate people about these issues, and I think the media plays a crucial role in that.” “Public opinion does tend to impact policy outcomes, but we have to be careful about whose opinion we’re talking about,” explained Chapman. “There’s plenty of evidence of bias representation. If you are part of the wealthy population, your opinion is going to matter more than poor people. When we loop back to this idea that climate change solutions are really going to cost a significant amount of money, the people who are going to be taxed more because of it are the ones who are going to make a lot of noise against it.” The panel found that although there is no single solution to climate change, there are steps people can take in the right direction. “At the end of the day, it’s about keeping the pressure. One of the main challenges when it comes to climate change is that there isn’t a catch-all policy that’s going to solve it. Coordination with all of these different groups, raising public awareness, and putting pressure on public officials is truly the only thing that’s going to move policy,” concluded Chapman.



Two-thirds of Americans consider the threat of climate change to be “very serious.”

PHOTO COURTESY of Pexels

Online Platform

PLATFORM cont. from pg. 1

coordinators for the event, said, “What began as a one-time event during the semester is now a year-long initiative to get students the help they need.” At the time, McKittrick had mentioned CONNECTWELLMU’s inception as a product of the University’s effort to support anyone and everyone struggling with mental health. Now that the initiative has come to fruition, that desire now reflects reality.

Travis Fineberg, junior anthropology major, said he looks forward to the online platform. “It’s always nice for resources to be available in addition to those that Monmouth provides in-person.”

In addition to the health-related resources on the CONNECTWELLMU website, there are other areas of wellness covered, such as campus safety and the MU Police Department, getting involved, and nutrition guidance.

Scott emphasized, “It is so important to take care of yourself as you take care of others...It has been one long 18 months, but now that we are back on campus together, while we may not be physically close as we continue to fight this pandemic, we can always stay connected!”

Flexible Grading Policy Terminated For Fall 2021

ABIGAIL BROOKS
NEWS EDITOR

The Office of the Registrar announced that the flexible grading policy has been terminated for the fall 2021 semester in an email sent to students on Friday, Oct. 1.

The policy from the Spring 2021 semester expired on May 14, 2021 and was not renewed for the current semester, meaning that students will no longer have the option to choose pass or fail over traditional A-F grades.

Flexible grading was first implemented during the Spring 2020 semester in wake of the initial outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. It sought to relieve stress among students impacted by the academic and societal disruption of the pandemic by allowing them to choose Pass/Fail grading if they were not content with the letter grade they received in one or multiple classes.

“The flexible grading policy was an agreement between the Office of the Provost and Faculty Council. In spring 2020, Faculty Council lobbied on behalf of their constituents and students for greater flexibility because of COVID. We agreed that this approach was in the best interest of students and faculty,” explained Pamela Scott-Johnson, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic

Affairs.

Under the flexible grading policy, faculty gave standard letter grades at the end of the semester as normal. Students were then given the option to complete an electronic pass/fail grading request form if they wished to change their traditional grade to P/F, with the Pass option having no effect on GPA.

“The announcement to end the policy was shared with the Faculty Council prior to distribution and to make sure the two parties were still in agreement. My office received no feedback on the policy itself, but on sharing the policy with the University academic community, especially for those who are new. Based on this feedback,

the flexible grading option for our students has ended. The partnership between the Faculty Council and the Office of the Provost has allowed us to return to our customary academic experience,” said Scott-Johnson.

With this announcement, traditional A-F grading will be the only option for students moving forward.



PHOTO TAKEN by Pexels

The policy from the Spring 2021 semester expired on May 14 and was not renewed.

Dean Mauro Gives Call to Action For Healthcare Professionals

NURSING cont. from pg. 1

nursing over a period of time.

The main vision of the American Academy of Nursing is to transform health policy and practice through nursing knowledge, whether that’s research, policy or practice, Mauro explained. “The Academy has called for nurses to play a pivotal role in responding to and advancing policy related to the impact of climate and health,” Mauro said. “Also, to look at ways we need to assess people, whether it be individual patients, families, communities, or populations.”

Different opportunities to fight climate change are discussed within the Academy, one being the “upstream.”

“An upstream is before the problem happens and before the negative effects of climate change occur,” Mauro said. “The Academy talks about ways that the nurses can work to reduce pollution, including helping to inform and write protective policies for the public and to make sure that climate change regulation is enacted and protected.”

The idea of something being “downstream” refers to the needs that occur after climate change has had an impact. “It’s the essential role that nurses and the entire nursing workforce plays in saving lives during extreme weather conditions, whether they be hurricanes, tornados, floods, or similar disasters,” Mauro said.

The Academy encourages nurses to track public health data and systems to look at the potential effects of climate change and its impact. Training opportuni-

ties are provided for nurses and other healthcare professionals to not only prevent climate change, but deal with challenges related to ongoing disasters such as floods.

Next, Mauro introduced the National Academy of Medicine, a professional organization that is part of the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine. The National Academy of Medicine provides leadership, innovation, and impact for a healthier future, according to Mauro. “The visions are similar for both organizations. They talk about climate change as one of the most significant threats to human health in the 21st century.”

“I am not honored [at the National Academy of Medicine] yet with a membership there, which is a goal at some point, but some of my colleagues are fellows,” Mauro said. “Others are invited as experts to serve on committees and panels, so you don’t have to be a member of the National

Academy of Medicine, but you do have to be invited to be on some of these expert panels.”

The National Academy of Medicine seeks to comprehensively assess the health risks of climate change and to develop strategies that address both the drivers as well as the impact, according to Mauro. “They have recently formed a public/private partnership called the Action Collaborative on Decarbonizing the U.S. Health Sector. It is a partnership of leaders from across the health system at all levels and settings to commit to addressing the sector’s environmental impact while strengthening its sustainability and its resilience.”

Mauro then presented information on prevailing U.S. climate trends. The Northeast has experienced extreme precipitation, evidenced by the recent Hurricane Ida and Superstorm Sandy 7 years ago.

“Especially over the last 3 de-

cades, we see this increase,” Mauro said. “We see more floods in this area, going toward the Midwest and the Northeast. We see more hurricanes in the North Atlantic that are category 4 and 5. Sea levels are rising and we know that as a beach community. That’s an impact on our environment from climate change.”

The Midwest has also experienced rising temperatures, while parts of the Southeast have begun to experience cold waves and winter storms that have increased in intensity and frequency. Extreme droughts have occurred in California and in the Southwest, Mauro explained.

“We know that, largely, the effects of climate change are due to the greenhouse gas emissions that come from many of the developed countries, including the United States,” Mauro said. She then presented data from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding the sources of greenhouse emissions.

“Transportation makes up the largest amount at 29 percent, which includes fossil fuels for cars, trucks, airplanes, and ships,” Mauro said. “Followed by electricity, which generates the second largest share of greenhouse gas emissions. About 62 percent of our electricity comes from burning fossil fuels, mostly coal and natural gas.”

These greenhouse gas emissions cause climate pressure changes, increasing the temperature and creating more extreme weather patterns and rising sea levels that result in extreme types of precipitation, flooding and snowstorms, according to

Mauro.

Exposure pathways include heat waves, air pollution, water contamination, and the lack of potable water worldwide, Mauro said. It is one of the biggest health concerns, particularly for undeveloped countries.

“In my community, we had more yellow jackets this summer,” Mauro said. “Usually, you have one major nest. We had multiple major nests, not only at our house, but in our neighborhood. That’s a change which then can lead to increasing allergens from the pollen and insect bites.”

Other health consequences of climate change include heat stroke, heat stress, respiratory diseases, increases in asthma, cardiovascular and stroke disease, Mauro explained. “Mental health is a real impact of climate change. Stress from the impacts on the climate cause worsening mental health and depression. We see, as well, an increase in violence in areas where there’s extreme heat.”

Consequences of climate change are seen in low income communities who have physical and mental illness risk due to flooding and crowded shelter conditions.

“We see it in terms of communities of color who are risk prone to facing cumulative exposure to multiple pollutants,” Mauro said. “Rural areas are also at risk for having disparities.”

“Upstream, you need to plan, and downstream, you need to implement comprehensive disaster management and help improve resilience for people with limited resources,” Mauro said.



PHOTO TAKEN from Pexels

Nurses assess individual patients, families, communities, and populations.

THE OUTLOOK

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Outlook Thoughts On Master's Programs

EDITORIAL STAFF

The National Student Clearinghouse estimated that while enrollment in undergraduate programs for associate's and bachelor's degrees fell by 9.7 percent compared to 2019, enrollment in master's programs increased by 6 percent. Amongst the *Outlook* staff, a discussion was had as to whether pursuing degrees that exceed a bachelor's level are on our minds. "I am a large supporter of lifelong education and learning," said one editor. "While my undergraduate journey is coming to a close much faster than I'd like to admit, I am beginning to think about options for graduate school and whether or not it will be a good fit for me at this point in time. Part of me wants to hold on to college for a little bit longer and sometimes I feel like a graduate program would do that, however, a more practical part of me is de-

bating finding a job that will help pay for the continuation of my education." A second editor agreed that pursuing a graduate degree can be worth the investment, but it is field-dependent. "Personally, I am enrolled in Monmouth's 5 year B+M program and will be returning to earn my Master's in Interactive Digital Media next year," the second editor said. "If the opportunity hadn't presented itself through a pre-existing program at the school I was already attending, I don't think I would have gone through the process of applying to graduate programs at other universities. I also wouldn't have felt nearly as compelled to pursue a graduate degree if I wasn't graduating undergrad early. I'm finishing my Bachelor's in 3 years, so staying for my Master's next year will give me the full 4-year college

experience." A third editor felt differently. "I do not believe I will get a graduate degree unless absolutely necessary," they said, "I am perfectly content with my undergrad degree and entering the workforce." A fifth editor argued that whether a graduate degree affects your earning potential or not, it is still a worthwhile experience. "Education is one thing no one can take away from you," they said. "I firmly believe that furthering one's education can only put you at an advantage, whether intellectually, financially, personally, or socially. With that, I am enrolled in the University's Five-Year MBA program, and I am excited to streamline my education and start my work career with two degrees under my belt." "I am confident that the experiences I've had as an undergraduate will help me land the job of my dreams," said the editor.

JOHN PAPAGNI
COMICS EDITOR

The Adventures of Ms. Karen

Okay class we will be having a pop quiz today. This is worth 75% of your grade. If you fail this you will fail the class. The quiz is 100 questions and we did not go over any of the material that is on the quiz.

This is unfair.

3...2...1... BEGIN!!!

I don't care you should have studied!!!

1 Minute Later

NOOOOOOOOO!!

TIME IS UP! YOU ALL FAIL AND HAVE TO RETAKE MY CLASS!!

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A Blast From the Past

STEFANIE DONAYRE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

We find comfort in the things that transport us to a time from when we were young. For many of us it is a smell, food, sound, or even a toy from our childhood. The nostalgic moments make us long for those simpler and happier times. Often, we find ourselves wishing we could turn back the clock just to relive those moments.

One thing that always comes to my mind when I think of my childhood are the rainbow scooter boards from elementary school. We would sit on these plastic scooters, hold on to the handles, and race our classmates from one side of the wall to the other during gym class. My class rarely got to use these boards but every time we did, it was such a treat.

I believe that our memories from a younger age do shape the way we are today. When I was ten, my aunt gave me an Easy Bake Oven for Christmas. I spent that whole year annoying my parents with the unappetizing cakes and cookies I made with the lightbulb-powered “oven.” I credit this to be the reason that I am such an avid baker today. Now, at 20 years old, I am making cheesecakes, coconut cream pie, and avocado brownies, which is all a bit more advanced from what my Easy Bake Oven could ever handle.

Today, everyone walks around in Vans, Converse, and Uggs. I remember there was a time kids would roll around in Heelys. In second grade, I was so excited to roll around in my new pair of black and pink Heelys, but my school banned them because they were a



IMAGE TAKEN from Buzzfeed.com

Days with the parachute and scooters were some of the best times as kids. These are the days we remember as adults.

safety concern. Since the fun was cut short when we were told to take out the wheels from our heels, I am still genuinely interested in giving these shoes a proper try.

While some played with their American Girl dolls, others preferred collecting Webkinz, the stuffed animals with codes that granted you online access to Webkinz World. This allowed us as children to enter a new world. It gave us the responsibility to care for something other than ourselves, and it fostered creativity.

In elementary school, we all took a computer class and were allowed to play games that involved thinking and logic on a website called CoolMathGames.com. I remember my friends and I would always play an online multiplayer game called “Fireboy and Watergirl.” If we wanted to play another game, we would go on FunBrain.com and

play Poptropica. This game would let you customize an avatar and choose an island to start your own adventures to help the characters in Poptropica.

As soon as I heard that the Jonas Brothers and Big Time Rush were going on tour, I immediately thought about my elementary school –self watching and singing along to the Camp Rock movie series or the Nickelodeon show, Big Time Rush, with my sister. Several of us grew up listening to these bands. Many of us wanted to be these popstars or, at the very least, see them in concert. These bands have recently got back together; we grew up, and so did they. I cannot help but wonder what has changed.

This simply reinforces the importance of living in the moment. Although it may seem far, the days we live now will one day be part of our memories.

A Dog’s Senses

SHANNON MCGORTY
OPINION EDITOR

When we were younger, we were often asked what we wanted to be when we grew up or what superpowers we would want. Today, I wonder what animal feature I would want. Would I want to be sly like a fox, have a trunk like an elephant, the speed of a cheetah, or the long neck of a kangaroo? The list is endless.

I do not think I would want a trait to make me faster or one that would draw a crowd, but I think I would want the senses of a dog. Not their sense of smell or sight or their physical characteristics, but their emotional sense.

Dogs are very good at reading people. They can tell when a person is sad, happy, or angry. Unlike humans, dogs can tell a person’s intentions within the first few seconds of meeting them, and that is a trait I would like to experience.

If I am being honest, reading people has never been my strong suit. I have always seen the good in even the worst of people and forgive way too easily. I guess

that could be seen as both a good thing and a bad thing, but after a while I can only see that as a bad thing.

A dog can just smell whether or not a person is good and determine their mood by their sudden movements. It would be so much easier to approach someone if you know what they are feeling. I wish I could understand what is going on in people’s minds, but that is impossible. I’m not saying that dogs are mind readers because I know they aren’t, but let’s face it, they are a lot better at reading people than I am or anyone I know.

If I could have any characteristic of any animal, it would be a dog’s sense of emotion and their tendency to know whether a person can be trusted. Dogs know the good people from the bad. They react accordingly to a person’s smell, but they also can learn to trust these people.

I have been hurt by people I thought I could trust or people who only looked out for themselves, and if I could have avoided that mistake—or ones like it in my future—I would.

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Alumni Spotlight: Arina Martin

DENISSE QUINTANILLA
FEATURES EDITOR

Arina Martin, a 2021 graduate who studied Music with a concentration in Music Industry, is living the dream of working for one of the popular music streaming services: Pandora and SiriusXM. Although she is passionate about what she is doing now, the road to get there has not been easy.

Originally, Martin’s plan did not include working within the music industry at all. She said, “I had started off as a biology major with a concentration in molecular cell physiology and did this for the first year of college.” At first, she enjoyed science and wanted to be a doctor, but since she has always had a passion for music, it seemed like the perfect fit.

Reflecting back on her time at Monmouth, Martin was actively involved on campus. During her four years, she was part of the Sea Sharps A Cappella as the Gig Manager, Treasurer, and Musical Director. She was also the Secretary and Vice President of Blue Hawk Records, Secretary of Blue Hawk Studio, Secretary of Doctors Without Borders, and a general member of MU Players.

On top of being so active on campus, there is also the aspect of attending classes. But there were a couple she enjoyed, including Chamber Choir, Business of Music, Principles of Marketing, Entrepreneurship, Gender Studies, and Social Media Marketing.

Joe Rapolla, the Chair of the Music and Theatre De-

partment and the Director of the Music Industry program, had the opportunity to work with Martin during her time as an undergrad. He said “Arina was a standout student, always willing to contribute to key programs and departmental activities and initiatives”, adding that “When Arina obtained the internship at SiriusXM Radio, I had no doubt that they would see what she brought to the table. So, it was no surprise that SiriusXM asked her to stay and take on such a critically current role.”

With so much going on in her world, the pressure was real. Martin said, “Some of the challenges that I personally faced were mental health issues, especially during the pandemic, and generally trying to create a healthy, balanced lifestyle.” She added that she wished she would

have utilized Counseling and Psychological services (CPS) on campus more often.

The first step she took to getting real world experience was being the Social Media Marketing intern for an independent music artist Brianna Musco, a Monmouth alum. Martin aided in creating unique social media content, brand content, and coordinated business opportunities.

Martin also had the opportunity to intern at Pandora and SiriusXM during her time as an undergrad, and owes it all to Career Services. She said, “They had sent out emails to Monmouth students about the SiriusXM internship opportunities, so I had applied.”

She said that her time as an intern there was full of unforgettable learning experiences. “Sirius XM has a wonderful internship program that

allows the interns to have a well-rounded semester full of hands-on work,” Martin said. She tracked and analyzed social marketing analytics, while also creating creative content for brand campaigns.

With such an incredible opportunity to work in her field of interest, she said that she enjoyed every moment of the experience. “Working on Pandora’s Social Team brought new things to the table every day, as brand marketing is a field that never remains stagnant,” she said.

Martin didn’t stop there—she landed a full-time position as a Multicultural Social Media Marketing Coordinator at Pandora due to the great work she put in as an intern.

She said, “My team had told me very early on that I was doing impressive work, and that they wanted me to stay full-time so that I could grow within the company.” She attributes this opportunity to her hard work, and to her team for teaching her everything she knows about marketing and recognizing her potential.

Martin is very close to her team and admits that the highlight of her day is working with them. “They’re very kind, funny and supportive people that have all gone out of their way to mentor and teach me aspects about my job,” she said. However, not everything has been easy, per se.

Martin has faced some challenges in this role, including the difficulty of learning many tasks and marketing skills related to brand marketing, and being

on top of inevitable changes in marketing trends.

As someone who has been through the internship process, Martin has some advice for those actively searching for internships in any field. “Do your own research on what career(s) you want to pursue, utilize Career Services and Monmouth’s other resources, always ask questions, and apply for different types of internships to test out what you like,” she advised.

Speaking from personal experience, Martin said that when she applied to her first social media marketing internship, she was not 100 percent sure if that’s what she wanted. But now, she can’t live without it.

As someone who works within the music industry, she has some favorite tunes of her own, including Black Swan by BTS and Dakiti by Bad Bunny and Jhay Cortez. Thinking about the future, her main focus is becoming a brand marketing expert, but for now she believes she is in a good spot and is excited to grow within her position at SiriusXM + Pandora.

For many college students, the most dreaded question is: What do you want to do with your life? For some, that may be easy; but for others, not so much. Martin wants to assure students that it’s okay not to have everything figured yet. She said, “Take things one day at a time and continue brainstorming different career options. The path to finding your ‘dream job’ isn’t always linear.”



PHOTO COURTESY of Arina Martin

Arina Martin was able to land a full-time position at SiriusXM + Pandora as a Multicultural Social Media Marketing Coordinator for Pandora due to her work as intern over the summer.

Professor Spotlight: Jennifer McGovern, Ph.D.

DENISSE QUINTANILLA
FEATURES EDITOR

Jennifer McGovern, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology and Faculty Athletic Representative published an article in the March 2021 issue of the peer-reviewed journal “Latino studies.”

The article, titled, “Are Latinx youth getting in the game? The effects of gender, class, ethnicity, and language on Latinx youth sport participation” concluded that US Latinx youth, in particular teenage girls, are less likely to participate in sports compared to other ethnoracial groups. Additionally, McGovern’s research found that sport participation was higher in native-English speaking girls than those who learned English as a second language.

McGovern specializes in understanding how sports both reflect and challenge social inequalities such as social class, race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, and sexuality. Her current research focuses on female athletes.

McGovern conducted this study due to the limited amount of research that currently exists about this community. McGovern said, “There are a lot of studies that examine race and sports, but those tend to focus on Blacks and Whites. The Latinx population in the US is growing and I really wanted to research the ways that these groups engage with sports.” On top of this, knowing that this community is diverse, she wanted to examine how factors such

as gender, class, and language impact sport participation.

Her initial reasoning to explore topics pertaining to the Latinx community stems from being a sports fanatic herself, specifically baseball. She noticed there were a large number of Latinx individuals who participated in this sport. In 2006, she visited the Dominican Republic and served as a source of inspiration for her field of study. “This trip inspired me to think about which Latinos play baseball and why, which gave rise to my current interest in how things like gender, class, ethnicity, and language shape experiences for everyday folks, not just elite professionals,” McGovern explained.

One may think that when a professor writes a research paper, it may involve more work, but it requires the same preparation as every other paper. McGovern already knew the question she wanted to ask and decided to use an existing dataset. She applied for permission to use the data, run statistical tests, and then make sense of that information. She also had to read many other papers to see the best way she can frame her article to fit into the conversations of others. She spent a lot of time writing, editing and reading over the paper. McGovern said, “I sent it to the journal, who asked me to add some revisions and resubmit it. Ultimately, I tried to listen to feedback that others gave me so that I could make the paper better.”

Although it may be hard to believe that a professor can face challenges when it comes to writing scholarly papers, it’s true. She said that some of those obstacles were similar to those that students face when they write their own papers—including finding time to write, staying motivated, and utilizing feedback to make her writing stronger. However, McGovern did face some unique challenges that pertained to this paper specifically.

“For this paper in particular, I had faced some challenges with coding and combining the statistical data,” she said.

Looking back at the bigger picture of this study, one of the most shocking conclusions according to McGovern was found when she looked at youth who identified as fully Latinx compared to those

who identified as mixed- Latinx plus another ethnicity/race. She found that youth who considered themselves as mixed participated in sports just a little more.

After doing all this work from start to finish, McGovern can’t help but feel good about everything she accomplished. She said, “I think I’ll have a better feeling if this publication gets read by many people who use the findings to bring about positive change in the world of sports.”

Although the process of writing this scholarly paper had its challenges, McGovern also enjoyed telling stories about some famous Latinx athletes. She said, “My favorite part of this study was being able to show that Latinx youth are not a monolithic group by showing how various factors influenced sport partici-

pation.”

The work doesn’t stop here, as McGovern is already exploring other ideas that she can research. She is currently working on a study with some individuals in the Health and Physical Education Department, examining how children respond to School Based Physical Activity Programs. She is also setting up a study with Lisa Dinella, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology and Director of Program in Gender and Intersectionality Studies, in which they plan to look at ways in which sport toys are layered with messages about gender and race.

Dinella said that it is an honor to have her as a colleague and that through her investigations she has made important contributions to the world’s understanding of race, gender, and sports.

“In addition to her work informing us about student athletes’ experiences, she supports students here at Monmouth University by creating opportunities for students to work alongside her on these projects,” she said.

Whether it’s this research article, her previously published papers, or future ones, McGovern has a very clear message she hopes to spread with her research.

“I hope people can see the existing disparities and create more opportunities that all youth can experience these benefits of sports, regardless of their gender, class, ethnicity, or language,” explained McGovern.



PHOTO COURTESY of Jennifer McGovern

Jennifer McGovern, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor in the Political Science and Sociology Department.

Midsemester Slump or Comeback of the Year?

ARIANA CONNELLY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As we approach the middle of the semester here at Monmouth University, it is easy to lose ourselves in the sea of assignments and exams. This section of the semester where assignments quickly roll in is enough to make any student's head spin. It is so easy to dial in to classwork and forget about everything that is supposed to make college so fun! It's at this point we start to ask, "What can I do to feel like myself again?"

The real issue coming for college students is adjusting to a new style of living because college is such a major time of change. It's easy to relax in a location that you're used to but for many college students, their "zen" is far away from campus at home. This could mean a thirty-minute drive for some or a plane ride home for others. Naturally, this leads to a strange mix of freedom, autonomy and responsibility that can be truly frightening. This feeling can hit the hardest during this section of the semester, the midsemester slump where everything—classes, social obligations, and self-care—just start to feel like a chore.

Thankfully, no one is alone in our endeavor to beat cold weather and quizzes! There are a multitude of ways to keep in touch

with ourselves through these tough times. An article from Truett McConnell University goes over some of the top tactics to keep yourself sane. A tried-and-true method includes heading outside for a while. With how beautiful Monmouth University's campus is, it should be easy to find an outdoor site that alleviates a bit of your stress. The tables by the Residential Quad are always set up, Shadow Lounge has now reopened, and even just laying out a towel on the lawns will do the trick. Also, it would be a tragedy to neglect the existence of the beach only a mile from campus. Head out to the coast and enjoy some peaceful ocean waves, which remain an option for those seeking to enjoy nature even as the weather starts to cool down.

Taking care of yourself is also a great way to recharge your battery. It is crucial to allow yourself a day or two off from schoolwork to allow for self-care. Grabbing some of your favorite snacks and listening to your carefully curated playlists can lift anyone's mood easily.

It is important to do what makes you happy. Take up a calming hobby or just hang out on your own; it can all make a big difference in your academic life. It is also important to have some time with friends and family. Monmouth University itself is very close to

different marketplaces and activities, so it is easy and fun to grab your roommates and head out for a quick trip to explore the outside world. These excursions remind us that life is not just here on campus. Knowing that life does not just consist of being at school and deadlines helps to remind us to take our time and ref lect on the work we are putting in during this season.

Biology student Cecilia Leininger shared how she is dealing with the semester so far as a resident student. She said, "[I] watch Marvel movies and Bachelor in Paradise with my roommates weekly, or I read my books." Finding media, you enjoy or can enjoy with a group is a great way to grow a community or get your mind off work. These shows and watch parties can distract you from the daily stresses, allowing you to relax for a little while before getting back to my academics.

Chemistry student Alexia Cole described that she plays video games to deal with the chaos of the semester. No matter what kind of video games you enjoy, they can take you to another place and away from your worries. Of course, you can always play a calming game, a strategic one, or something a little more action-packed. The world really is your playground.

The biggest issue during this time is trying to keep

yourself levelheaded during a tidal wave of assignments and essays. It's important to take some time off and appreciate your hobbies, your shows, or your games, even if it is just to remove yourself from academic stresses for a couple of hours. Remember, this is temporary, and getting through it is easier than you think.



PHOTO COURTESY of Anthony DePrimo
Students taking advantage of Monmouth University's beautiful and plentiful green space. Shadow Lawn is the perfect place to get the week's reading done.

It's Pumpkin Time!

ARIANA CONNELLY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It's October now, and you know what that means—it's Halloween time! For some people, once October hits, it's all about fall and Halloween. But for others, they've already been in that mode since September! Most stores have all their fall and Halloween-themed items out for a month already. It's a time where the Pillsbury cookies with pumpkins and ghosts start popping up.

There are so many places near Monmouth University that are ready for horror nights for guests. Six flags Fright Fest is open throughout the whole month of October. You get to ride your favorite rides and get the thrill of horror throughout the night.

C. Casola Farms in Marlboro is ready for people to come ride their four haunted attractions. They have the Haunted Hayride of Terror, in which you get on a hayride with other people and take a ride through the woods of New Jersey with people and sounds coming out at you. They also have a 3D Haunted Barn, which is a walkthrough of a barn with, as their website states, "creatures cling to the wall with fangs and have their claws waiting for their next victim to come along." Last-

ly, they have the Marlboro zombie breakout, where you shoot zombies in an army truck with paint ball guns mounted to the sides of them.

While those places talked about above are haunted Halloween activities, there are also non-haunted activities right around Monmouth! Happy Day Farms, located in Manalapan, New Jersey is a great farm ready for the fall season. They have pumpkin and zinnias picking, sunflower fields, and "pumpkin-vile", their pumpkin photo ops rooms.

Another farm that offers similar activities is Red Wagon Farm. also in Manalapan, NJ. Red Wagon Farm has over 100 varieties of pumpkins where you can pick off the vine! The farm also has hay rides, pony rides, and a walk through their enormous corn maze, as their website advertises.

When the leaves start falling and turning orange, the weather starts to get a little chilly out, all you want to do is cozy up and watch your favorite Halloween movie. Nursing student Alexa Cammarano has very fond opinions of Halloween and what she does during this month. Cammarano lives on campus, and she said she had her dorm decorated for Halloween and fall weeks ago. She loves dressing up in a costume every year and go-

ing out with her friends and looking at everyone else's costumes.

Jordanna Ciaravino, who is also a nursing student, loves this as well. Every year, Ciaravino goes pumpkin picking with her family right before Halloween. A tradition that Cammarano does every year with her family and friends is attending Nightmare at Gravity Hill in Jackson, New Jersey. Night-

mare at Gravity Hill is a horror-seeking walkthrough that lasts 35 minutes with a dozen different haunted scenes with people spread out on five acres. As their website says, "Our amazing, haunted walkthrough will change the way you sleep at night... or make sure you never sleep again!"

Whether you like horror or a cozier activity, there's something for everyone to

get into the spooky season. You get to wear whatever you want and be whoever you want for one day.



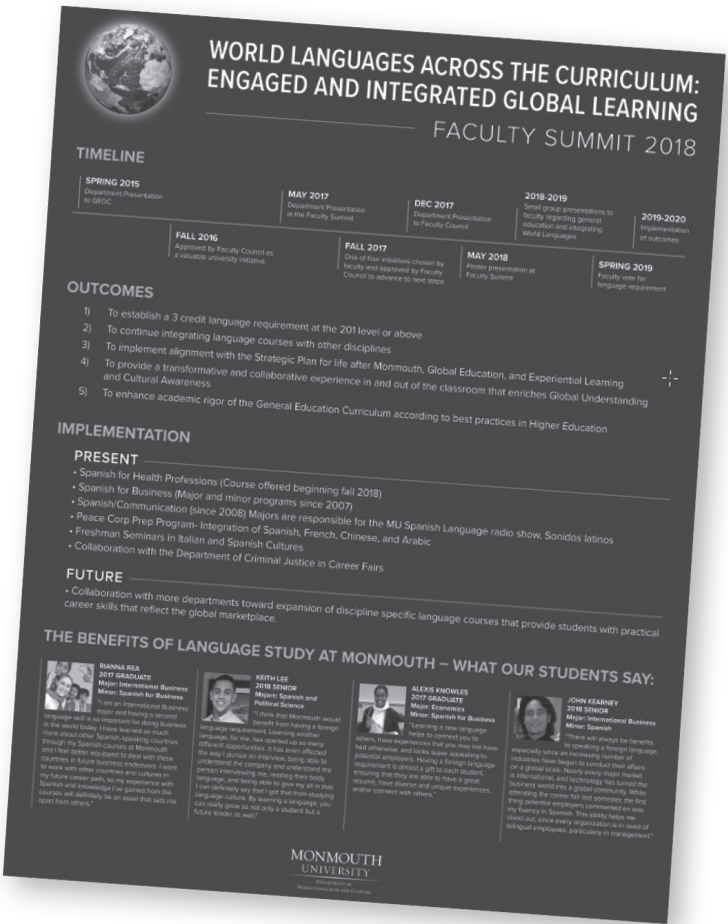
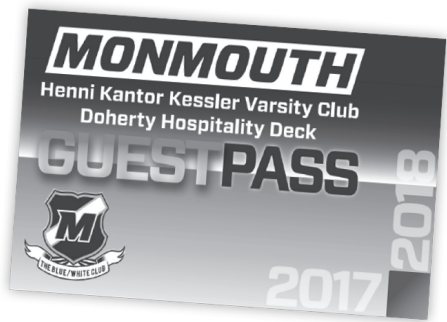
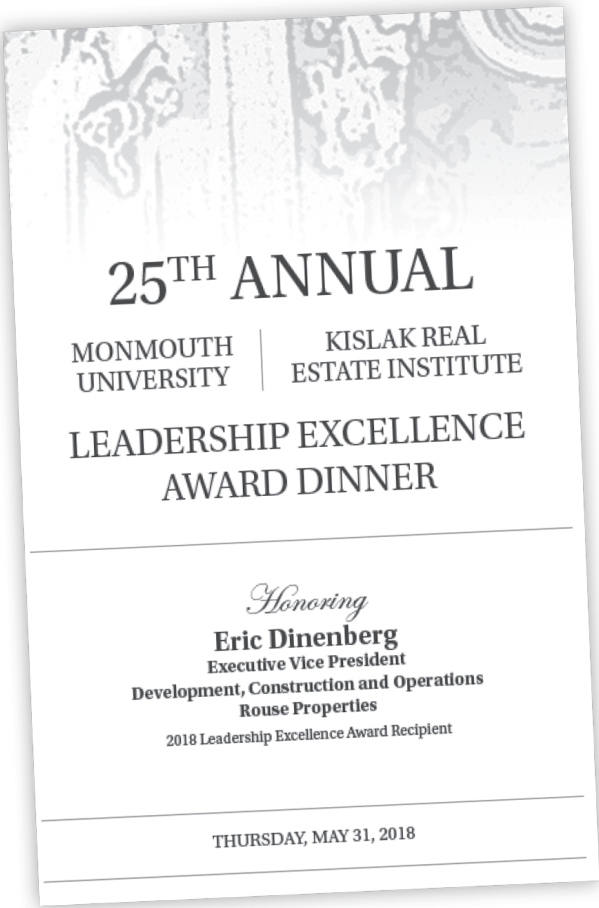
IMAGE TAKEN from Graphics Fairy
A witch shooting a black cat out of her home. Black cloaks are always in fashion for All Hallows Eve.



IMAGE TAKEN from Nightmare at Gravity Hill
The entrance to Nightmare at Gravity Hill looms in the shadows, calling anyone who dares to test their courage.

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SQUID GAME:

Inside Netflix's New Top Show

PETER ZUKOWSKI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Do you like games? Do you like to win money? Would you play a game if it meant you would win money? What if the cost of losing was your life?

These are the questions being asked by a wide variety of fans as they binge watch Netflix's newest hit *Squid Game*, a South Korean survival drama released worldwide on Sept. 17, 2021.

After just being out for nine days, Netflix co-CEO Ted Sarandos said during his talk at CodeCon last month that *Squid Game* is set to be their biggest "non-English-language" show in the world. Even though it is originally filmed in Korean, the network offers the show dubbed in 34 languages and subtitles in 37. Since the series' release, Flix Patrol—a website that tracks streaming statistics of watchers around the world—reported that *Squid Game* is ranked No. 1 in dozens of countries; not just in South Korea but also in the UK and the United States as well.

Taking its name from the classic Korean playground game known as "Squid," the show follows the struggles of Seong Gi-hun, a chauffeur with a gambling addiction who lives with his elderly mother and is having trouble financially supporting his daughter, who lives with her mother and stepfather. Needing to pay back some

loan sharks an extraordinary amount of money, his financial problems turn around real quick when a stranger asks to play a game.

After winning a game of milk caps and receiving one hundred thousand Won, the stranger offers Gi-hun a chance to win more than what he had just received, and leaves him with a card with a number to call should he accept. Knowing this is his chance to make things right with his family, he accepts and calls the number, which leads him to be taken away, unconscious, by masked men and to be woken up in a room with a large group of people, all wearing green tracksuits with numbers ironed onto them. A total of 456 players are led to play the first of six games, and in the end, the winner will take home a cash prize of 45.6 billion Won—which is roughly equal to 38.7 million US dollars.

The first game is simple—Red Light, Green Light—but not the kind you're thinking of; moving even in the slightest is grounds for "elimination." Packed with intense scenes involving high graphics of violence, plus a stage design that makes you think you're in an M.C. Escher painting, *Squid Game* offers a unique viewing experience, with a simple storyline that allows the viewers to get in touch with the characters, who are putting everything on the line to win the grand prize.

Along with Gi-hun, other players include: former gangster Jang Deok-Su; Pakistani immi-



IMAGE TAKEN from *Looper*, BANNER from *Men's Health*

Brightly-colored and convoluted set pieces give *Squid Game* a misleading and disarmingly juvenile aesthetic.

grant Abdul Ali; an elder with a brain tumor known only as "Player 001;" Gi-hun's old friend Sang-woo; and Kang Sae-byeok, played by Jung Ho-yeon—called "Korea's next top model" by *Vogue*—in her acting debut.

The main influence this show has had on the public is really its insanely prevalent social media presence. Lately, on Twitter and TikTok, people have been posting videos and memes on moments in the show, as well as recreating certain games that were played in the show itself.

Shivani Ghatak, a sophomore anthropology student, said, "If you go on TikTok for about an hour, you will understand the games they play without having to watch the show."

As viewers progress through the season, they see the development of the characters and how they represent both the good and the bad in human behavior; this is a good example of why this show is more watchable for an older, more mature audience and not something one would show their kid on their birthday.

However, based on current events it may be difficult for the hit show to stay on the air at all, as it seems that the producers of the show used stolen information in the making of the show.

A South Korean phone number is printed on the cards; players in the show use this card to call in to the producers and be taken to the location of the games. However, recently news has broken that the telephone number was actually legit—and it belonged to business man Gil-Young Kim, who lives and works in Seongju, North Gyeongsang Province, South Korea.

Since the release of *Squid*

Game, Gil-Young has received thousands of texts and phone calls, each one calling in to inquire about the fictitious game that is on everyone's mind, making it difficult for his place of business as well as his own peace of mind. Netflix may be in for a lawsuit because of the negligence in this matter, for the case has sparked both domestic and foreign conversations analyzing the situation and trying to help cease the trouble that Gil-Young has endured.

What started out as yet another

shot for an original show on one of the many active streaming services has become the most watched and heavily-debated program to hit the media this year.

Catching the eyes of viewers around the world, the elements of *Squid Game*'s story are a true testament to bringing others together and uniting many over one topic. I can say with utmost certainty that this is a must-see show, but it seems like so many people have already figured that out.



IMAGE TAKEN from *Molempire*

In the series' titular deadly game, contestants dressed in green jumpsuits enter a "game room" and vie against each other for the chance to win a fortune.



IMAGE TAKEN from *Elle*

The series' breakout star, Jung Ho-yeon, plays "Player 067."

Democratic Infrastructure Bill Faces Opposition in the House

RICHARD D. PITTS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

After a fraught round of voting in Congress, two large infrastructure bills, one bipartisan and one Democratic, are simultaneously facing heavy opposition from the GOP and a stalemate among factions of the Democratic party.

Another political cycle signals another active period centered around infrastructure in the United States, and how it can be adapted to meet the ever-changing needs of the American people. Infrastructure is a topic that has been consistently discussed in American politics, with the previous Trump Administration attempting to forward its own bill; an effort that failed. Now, the Biden Administration and its allies in Congress are attempting their own bid at an infrastructure bill.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, originally introduced as the INVEST in America Act by Representative Peter DeFazio (D-OR) on June 4 2021, is a bill valued in its current form at roughly \$1.2 trillion. The act originally included provisions to invest \$110 billion primarily in federal aid money for highway, bridge, and tunnel maintenance, construction, and safety, \$39 billion in public transit and programs to invest in rail networks managed by the Department of Transportation, motor carriers, funds for research and development purposes, and \$21 billion for hazardous material management, specifically superfund sites. \$17 billion is earmarked for seaports, with \$25 billion dedicated to airports.

The bill was later expanded to include matters concerning access to broadband services, particularly in rural areas, at a cost of \$65 billion, alongside a \$55 billion investment in clean drinking water and \$65 billion for the electric grid, coupled up with expanded physical road infrastructure, alongside the promotion of electric vehicles, with the investment there being roughly \$15 billion between vehicles and charging stations. These latter provisions draw their inspiration from a bill that was conceived in the previous session of Congress, named the Moving Forward Act, a bill also sponsored by Representative DeFazio. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, abbreviated IJA, has come a long way throughout its existence, passing the House 221-201 on July 1, 2021, and the Senate 69-30 a month later in its currently amended form on Aug. 10, 2021.

It should be noted that 19 Republican senators voted in



IMAGE TAKEN from *The Atlantic*
Moderate Democrats Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ) are considered the main roadblocks to the larger Build Back Better Plan.

favor of the Democratic bill marking a moment of bipartisanship in an otherwise divided body, especially when contrasted by the fact only two Republican representatives voted for the bill its original form in the House. According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the bill is set to add \$350 billion to the federal deficit.

As alternatives, congressional officials have proposed using left over COVID-19 relief funds, a series of tax raises on those making over \$400,000, alongside using savings generated by certain states who ended their COVID unemployment programs early; these are only a few of the means congressional officials have offered to pay for the bill, however the CBO is skeptical of the presented methods.

The last step the bill faces is passage in the House of Representatives; however, the passing of the bill,

and its arrival to President Biden's desk, remain a balancing act. There remains significant House GOP opposition to the bill. House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy argues that the bill in its nature no longer takes on a bipartisan form, forging the connection between this bill and the \$3.5 trillion measure Democrats are currently attempting to pass without Republican support through a process known as budget reconciliation.

The separate \$3.5 trillion measure, named the Build Back Better Act and popularly known as the Reconciliation Bill, would include funding for issues related to climate change, education, childcare, and healthcare. House Republicans are officially whipping the infrastructure bill in an effort to ensure party solidarity on the matter. The Democrats themselves also face internal divisions over the bill's passage—but for different reasons. Moderates and

progressives in the party are at odds over the Reconciliation Bill, and progressive Democrats have refused to vote 'yes' on the infrastructure bill without having a vote on the more robust Build Back Better Act first.

Due to the divided nature of the House, with Democrats comprising of a slim majority of 220, and Republicans forming a minority of 212, Democratic House leaders cannot afford to lose many progressive votes on the matter, otherwise the Infrastructure Bill will likely be in jeopardy. Moderate Democrats, after the Infrastructure Bill's passage through the Senate, wished to hold a vote as early as possible to maintain the momentum, and a vote was set for Sept. 27. In light of the Progressive threat to halt the bill's progression, voting on the bill was delayed to grant Moderate and Progressive Democrats more time to negotiate on the matters at hand.



IMAGE TAKEN from *MSN* by Kayla Daugherty
On Tuesday, Oct. 5, Pres. Biden addressed an operators' union in Howell, MI regarding the Build Back Better Plan.

Texas Abortion Ban Sparks National Debate

ALEX DYER
ENTERTAINMENT/POLITICS EDITOR

A "six-week" abortion ban has recently gone into effect in Texas after the Supreme Court refused to give a ruling on the law's constitutionality.

On Sept. 2, following tumult in the Texas state legislature between Democrats and Republicans, a bill was passed—the first of its kind in the United States—that bans abortion beginning six weeks after the woman's last menstrual cycle, which is before many women know they are pregnant.

One of the distinguishing features of the "Texas Heartbeat Bill," as it is sometimes known, is its broad loophole in reporting infractions of the law, which virtually deputizes any U.S. citizen to take legal action against a woman seeking abortion and any person who "aids or abets" such a procedure.

Under the text of the new law, "Any person, other than an officer or employee of a state or local governmental entity in this state, may bring a civil action against any person who...performs or induces an abortion...[or] knowingly engages in conduct that aids or abets the performance or inducement of an abortion," including in cases of rape and incest.

Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, in her dissent of the Court's decision to not issue a ruling, said, "This equates to a near-categorical ban on abortions beginning six weeks after a woman's last menstrual period, before many women realize they are pregnant, and months before fetal viability."

Sotomayor continued, saying "...a majority of Justices have opted to bury their heads in the sand." She also called the act "flagrantly unconstitutional" and claimed it "rewards tactics designed to avoid judicial review."

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott (R), in response to the bill's policy regarding rape, said "Rape is a crime, and Texas will work tirelessly to make sure we eliminate all rapists from the streets of Texas by aggressively going out and arresting them and prosecuting them and getting them off the streets."

The issue of abortion and the possibility of overturning *Roe v. Wade* are set to be tested on Dec. 1 when the Supreme Court takes up a similar Mississippi law barring abortion after 15 weeks.

Alpha Sigma Tau’s Lauren Wollman: A Cancer Survivor

LILY HOFFMANN
CLUB AND GREEK EDITOR

Lauren Wollman was just 16 years old when she was diagnosed with a genetic condition—one that would eventually lead to her diagnosis of stage one ovarian cancer. Wollman, who was just starting her college application process, was about to embark on a journey that would include many doctors’ appointments and operations, but would eventually lead her home to Alpha Sigma Tau at Monmouth University.

Wollman explained that at the time of her diagnosis, she was experiencing symptoms comparable to those of premenstrual syndrome, commonly known as PMS. Wollman shared that some of the common symptoms associated with ovarian cancer are bloating, frequent urination, feeling satiated quickly, and spotting. She said, “Sometimes that’s all just stuff that happens naturally when you are going through a cycle.”

While Wollman was going through the motions of treating her condition, she was also beginning to apply to colleges. She said, “It was a bit of a struggle...all my doctors when I was applying to college were like, ‘don’t let this hold you back from where you really want to go.’”

Wollman took the advice of her doctors. She packed her bags and left her hometown of Oceanport, NJ for the University of Scranton in Pennsylvania; approximately 153 miles away

from her family and doctors. Wollman began her freshman year as a biology student with aspirations of working in the field of oncology and helping cancer patients similar to herself.

However, her time at the University of Scranton was short-lived. “I was so far away from my home and my resources that I didn’t do well, so after my first semester I wanted to transfer to Monmouth.”

Wollman returned home to New Jersey and enrolled in Brookdale Community College to boost her GPA and prepare for her transfer to Monmouth, which happened in January of 2020. It was at that time Wollman decided to change her field of study to communication.

Wollman explained, “I felt that [oncology] was too close to home, and I was having too hard of a time separating myself from what I was studying... I was like, ‘I need to change it up’ and still be involved in the health and wellness community and help women who have struggled with something similar to me in a different way and in a different aspect by sharing their stories rather than being directly involved in helping [them], because it was just too much for me to actually go through that again.”

After changing her field of study, Wollman participated in Panhellenic recruitment as a way to make connections and meet new people. It was at that time she was introduced to the sisters of Alpha Sigma Tau’s

Beta Omega chapter. She fell in love with the organization largely due to its national philanthropic affiliation with the Women’s Wellness Initiative.

Samantha DeSantis currently serves as the Beta Omega chapter’s philanthropy chair. She explained that through the organization’s partnership with the Initiative, chapters are able to focus on health issues that impact women while simultaneously enriching their lives. DeSantis said, “I can say the women in our chapter really care about one another and women all over. We want

to make sure that everyone is always doing okay and have the help to be as successful as we possibly can.”

Wollman recalled the way their philanthropy struck a chord with her because of her personal struggles with cancer. She explained that the sisters’ passion for women’s wellness shines not just through their fundraising efforts, but also in the ways they have supported her since she became a member.

Wollman gushed about her Alpha Sigma Tau family tree and how they have been sup-

portive and understanding. She explained that since she now needs to go to annual doctor’s visits, those days are usually filled with feelings of anxiety. She said, “They are always texting me and supporting me and that’s been a huge help. All of the girls in our organization would drop anything and listen to you...that’s what’s been super great about this organization.”

This year, several sisters from the chapter were able to participate alongside Wollman, who now serves as the chapter’s Vice President of Operations, in the Kaleidoscope of Hope walk in Bradley Beach on Saturday, Sept. 25. She said, “All of the proceeds go to ovarian research and trying to find a way to test for it without the test being such an invasive surgery.”

Wollman is now in remission from ovarian cancer and will be graduating this January with a degree in communication with a concentration in media studies. She said that post-graduation, she wants to work in the health and wellness industry by doing both personal training and public relations for Our Team Fitness in Oceanport, where she currently works.

She shared that ultimately, she would love to open a gym geared towards women who have cancer and help them start their fitness journey after falling ill. Until then, Wollman will remain an advocate for women’s health and encourages that women do not feel afraid to speak up about their reproductive health.



PHOTO COURTESY of Lauren Wollman
Wollman (second from left) and her AST sisters walked for ovarian cancer last month.

What’s Happening on Campus This Week?!

For more information, check out the Experience Monmouth App!

Wednesday, Oct. 6

- Student Activities Board Member Meeting, 3 p.m.
- Students in Recovery Meet and Greet, 3 p.m.
- Catholic Campus Ministry Weekly Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Chi Upsilon Sigma “Labor and Immigration Laws,” 9 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 8

- Time Management Tips and Strategies for Science and Business Majors, 10 a.m.
- Italian Club Paint Night, 9 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 9

- Alpha Omicron Pi “Strike Out Arthritis,” 12 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 12

- Residence Hall Association Town Hall Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

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Women’s Soccer Takes the Lead in Conference Standings

STEPHEN ALDRICH
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Monmouth women’s soccer takes over the lead in the MAAC conference standing after two tightly contested games last week. A 0-0 draw against Rider and a 1-0 win against St. Peters gives Monmouth a 3-0-1 conference record.

Sarina Jones placed the game winner into the net in the 76th minute of play against St. Peter’s on Saturday night. Jones’ fifth goal of the season was assisted by Lauren Karabin and Jesi Rossman.

Fifth year defender Jones is a two-time Captain and a leader on and off the field. Coach Krissy Turner said, “The manner in which she goes about her daily routine has set the tone for our program.”

Monmouth had 4 shots on goal overall and Jones’ second half goal gave Monmouth a 26-0-0 record against St. Peters. Turner said, “One of the great things about Monmouth women’s soccer is our history of success.”

Junior goalie Maddie Ogden had two saves on the night and she is now 4-2-0 for the season. This was her second shutout for the season. Karabin leads the team in points this season with five goals and two assists.

Monmouth women’s soccer faced conference rival Rider University on Wednesday, Sept. 29. With a double overtime scoreless tie Monmouth remained undefeated in conference play.

Monmouth came out strong in the first half outshooting the Rider Broncs 9-3. Six different Monmouth players combined for nine shots against and five saves by Rider goalie Ellie Sciancalepore.

Monmouth remained dominant in the second half of regulation play. Despite a 13-4 shot advantage in the second half the Rider defense was able to keep the Hawks from getting the ball into the net.

Rider’s offense took seven shots overall with two of them being saved by Monmouth’s sophomore goalie Rebecca Winslow. The shutout is the third of the season for Winslow giving her a 3-1-1 record.

Coach Turner said, “We created many opportunities tonight, but were unable to put

“We created many opportunities tonight , but were unable to put any away.”

KRISSY TURNER
Monmouth Head Coach



Monmouth women’s soccer remains undefeated in conference play after their Sept. 29 game against Rider University.

“Sarina Jones is a winner in all facets of life.”

KRISSY TURNER
Monmouth Head Coach



Senior Jessi Rossman assisted a goal with teammates Sarina Jones and Lauren Karabin in Saturday’s game against St. Peter’s.

any away.” After 110 minutes of play, 12 different Hawks combined for a total of 28 shots and 14 shots on goal. Sarina Jones made four of those shots.

Jones has recently been named as a candidate for the 2021 Senior Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School (CLASS) Award in collegiate soccer. She is one of 30 NCAA women’s soccer student-athletes to be in the running for this prestigious award.

The Senior CLASS Award recognizes the total student-athlete. Candidates named have demonstrated excellence in community, classroom, character and competition.

“Sarina epitomizes the term student-athlete,” Turner said. “She has had many amazing performances on the field, leading Monmouth to a number of wins. In the classroom, she is at the top of her class.”

Jones has been recognized for her skills since she first stepped onto Hesse Field. Some notable accomplishments include being named to the MAAC All-Rookie Team in 2017, a First Team All MAAC selection in 2018, MAAC Championship Most Outstanding Player in 2019, MAAC Co-defender of the Year and All MAAC team (2020-21) and three times named to the MAAC All-Academic.

A Chemistry major with a 3.73 grade point average, Jones has been recognized for her classroom excellence. A member of the Chi Alpha Sigma Honor Society she has been named to the MAAC All-Academic Team three times, the 2020 United Soccer Coaches Scholar All-East Region First Team and the 2020 United Soccer Coaches Scholar All-America Third Team honors.

Jones has participated in several community events including Adopt a Family with the Raine Foundation, Read Across America, Big Brother Big Sister Holiday Party, Relay for Life and National Girls and Women in Sports Day. Coach Turner said, “Sarina Jones is a winner in all facets of her life.”

Looking ahead, Jones and her teammates will travel to Fairfield on Wednesday, Oct. 6 for a 7 p.m. kickoff. The game will be broadcast on ESPN+.

“She has had many amazing performances on the field, leading Monmouth to a number of wins. In the classroom, she is at the top of her class.”

KRISSY TURNER
Monmouth Head Coach

Monmouth Wins Homecoming Game

FRANK CASALINHO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On Saturday, Oct. 2, the Monmouth University football team (3-2) faced the Gardner-Webb Runnin' Bulldogs (2-2) in their Homecoming game, beating them 54-17 at Kessler Stadium.

The game started fast for the Hawks. They forced a 3 and out and got the football. Sophomore quarterback Tony Muskett threw a strike over the middle to fifth year wide receiver Lonnie Moore. Then, on the following play running back Juwon Farri took a carry 35 yards to the house. The Hawks took the early 7-0 lead after the extra point was converted by kicker Nick Null.

That wasn't all from the Hawks in the first quarter though. Muskett tossed a nice touchdown pass down the sideline to senior wide receiver Joey Aldarelli and the Hawks took a 14-0 lead.

The Hawks defense got on the board on the next drive. Senior defensive end Nick Shoemaker forced a major fumble. Shoemaker ripped the ball away from Runnin' Bulldogs running back Donald Jones and took it to the house. The Hawks took a 20-0 lead.

The second quarter started and the Hawks defense continued its dominance forcing a few punts from Gardner Webb. The Hawks made sure to capitalize with Lonnie Moore scoring on a 39 yard reverse. The Hawks had a failed

attempt at a two-point conversion but increased their lead to 26-0.

The Hawks were not done yet. Junior safety Tyrese Wright made an incredible play for an interception which gave the Hawks the ball back with great field position. This led to another Muskett to Aldarelli touchdown on a fade route to make it a 33-0 lead.

Before the end of the half the Runnin' Bulldogs finally got on the board. Running Back Dexter Brown rushed for a touchdown to make it 33-7 going into the locker room. Overall, the Hawks had a very dominant first half.

The Hawks picked up right where they left off in the second half. They started with the ball and scored quickly. Muskett and sophomore wide receiver Dy-

mere Miller connected for a deep pass down the sideline. On the following play Muskett threw a strike down the seam to Miller for a Hawks touchdown. Kicker Nick Null made the extra point and the Hawks led 40-7.

Gardner Webb now had possession and this time they answered with a rushing touchdown from Donald Jones to make it 40-14. Although a touchdown was allowed, it was still all Monmouth early on in the third quarter.

The Hawks wanted more and they struck right back. Muskett with another touchdown pass this time to Lonnie Moore who had himself a day. The Runnin' Bulldogs had no answer for the wide receiver and the Hawks continued their dominant performance

with a 47-14 lead in the third.

The 3rd quarter ended with the Hawks still leading comfortably 47-14. A dominant performance so far on both sides of the ball for Monmouth.

The Hawks' continued their immense success in the fourth quarter. Juwon Farri got into the endzone again with a power run to make the score 54-14, Hawks.

Gardner Webb got some points on the board in the fourth and knocked in a field goal to make the score 54-17 and that was all the scoring in West Long Branch. The game ended with the final score being 54-17 Hawks. This was a much needed bounce back victory on Homecoming day for the Hawks who dominated the Runnin' Bulldogs Saturday on both sides of the ball.

It's safe to say that the Hawks had themselves a day. As for the offense, Tony Muskett threw four total touchdown passes. Juwon Farri ran for 139 yards and two touchdowns and in his fantastic performance, Lonnie Moore racked up 150 scrimmage yards and two touchdowns.

As for the Hawks defense they were stout and forced a ton of three and outs in the first half. The Hawks defenders also committed two turnovers.

It was an overall impressive performance Saturday from the Hawks as they now have a 3-2 record. Looking forward to next weekend, the Hawks will meet Campbell on the road next week in a Big South Conference matchup in Barker-Lane Stadium.



Monmouth Football players celebrate after #99, Nick Shoemaker scores a defensive touchdown.

PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Sean Thompson Named New Pitching Coach

ROBBIE HOLMES
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On Sept. 29, Monmouth University Baseball Head Coach Dean Ehehalt announced Sean Thompson as the Hawks new pitching coach.

"I could not be more excited to join the winning tradition of Monmouth Baseball," said Thompson. "I am grateful for the opportunity given to me by Coach Ehehalt and I am motivated to help continue to push the levels of success in this program."

Thompson joins the Hawks from his alma mater Virginia Commonwealth University

(VCU), where he was Director of Pitching Development in the 2021 season.

"We are very excited to welcome Sean to our University and baseball family," said Ehehalt. "Sean is a very talented and passionate young coach that will immediately impact our program. He has been around quality baseball people and has been in an environment with a great winning tradition."

Thompson tossed over 300 innings for the VCU Rams from 2015-18, acquiring a 27-10 record. The four year starter posted a 3.30 career ERA with 249 strikeouts. Thompson's 27 wins landed him second most in VCU

program history.

In June 2018, Thompson signed with the Chicago White Sox as an undrafted free agent and pitched in the AZL Rookie League. In 2019 Thompson joined the Great Falls Voyagers where he made 14 starts, striking out 66 across 80 innings.

As Director of Pitching Development at VCU, Thompson saw both Tyler Davis and Mason Delane named to the Atlantic-10 All-Rookie Team. Prior to joining the Hawks Thompson worked with Flood City Elite travel baseball as an assistant coach, as well as coaching as an assistant with Paul Carpenter's All-American Amateur Baseball

Association Team, helping lead them to a 32-2 record.

Thompson sees a bright future for the staff as they prepare for the 2022 season. "The expectations are at an all-time high with this season," said Thompson, "and it is the exact reason I wanted to be a part of this team moving forward."

In 2021, the Hawks pitching staff combined for a 3.21 ERA, striking out over 300 batters. Thompson will be leading the Hawks staff which is returning four starters. Amongst the four, MAAC Pitcher of the Year, Rob Hensey, who posted a 1.54 ERA across 41 innings. Hensey's ERA ranked fifth in the country

for the 2021 season.

Alongside Hensey is the junior left-handed pitcher and Wall native, Trey Dombroski. Last season Dombroski posted a 2.73 ERA last season with a team-best 64 strikeouts in MAAC competition.

Dombroski returns to West Long Branch hot off a summer hurling for the Harwich Mariners in the Cape Cod Baseball League (CCBL). Dombroski's CCBL regular season 0.85 ERA with 45 strikeouts across 31.2 innings earned him BFC Whitehouse Outstanding Pitcher Award as well as a spot on the All-League team. Dombroski finished his summer with the greatest strikeout to walk ratio in league history of 45:2 for pitchers who threw over 30 innings.

Senior right handed pitcher Dan Klepchick and junior left hander Alex Barker will be returning to the staff as well. Klepchick, a starter for the Hawks since his freshman year in 2018, posted a 3.35 ERA last season with 54 strikeouts. In his first year with the Hawks last season, Barker struck out 33, with an ERA of 2.68.

The Hawks 2021 campaign was concluded in the MAAC tournament, falling 3-1 to the Fairfield University Stags. Dombroski threw 7.1 shutout innings in relief, keeping the Hawks within striking distance through to the end. The Hawks' 24-win 2021 season consisted entirely of Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference play. To stay up to date with the team as they prepare for their 2022 campaign, follow @MUHawksBaseball on Twitter.

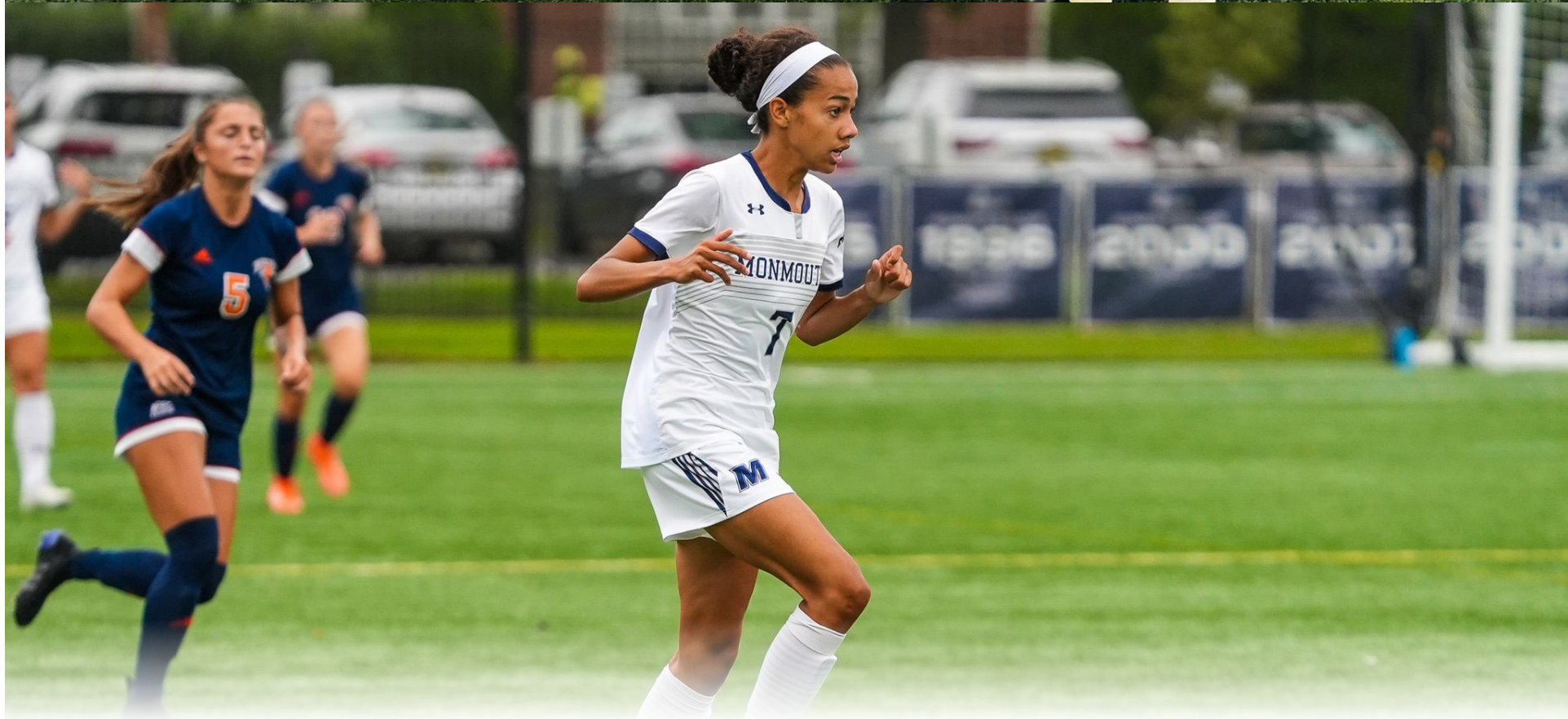


Sean Thompson will start as a new pitching coach for the Monmouth University Baseball team this Spring.

PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics



LEADING LADIES



Women's Soccer Leads in Conference, and Sarina Jones earns Senior CLASS Award.