



# THE OUTLOOK

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## School of Humanities and Social Sciences Appoints New Dean

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David Golland, Ph.D., was recently appointed as the new Dean of the Wayne D. Murray School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Before joining Monmouth's campus, Golland was previously a professor of history at Governors State University in Chicago, Illinois. He served in a variety of capacities over his 12 years at the institution.

Upon ascending to his new position, Golland expressed some of his first impressions about the University. "I love Monmouth! I've met so many people here who share my commitment to excellence in higher education."

Golland mentioned his ambitions for the University, as it currently houses 13 academic disciplines and four centers. He started, "I want to better integrate all of these disparate pursuits so that we can work together in serving our students and supporting

their scholarship."

The new Dean intends to direct his attention specifically to the Departments of Communication, Art and Design, and Music and Theatre. According to Golland, these departments' pursuits are most closely aligned with one another.

"These departments will work together on a new Film Studies program in anticipation for an influx of future students seeking eventual employment at a planned Netflix headquarters at Fort Monmouth," continued Golland.

Richard Veit, Ph.D., Associate Dean and Professor of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, served two years as the Interim Dean for the School. Veit hopes to support Golland in their effort to build partnerships across other schools that create positive outcomes for Monmouth students.

Veit said, "I look forward to supporting him as he implements his vision for a robust and dynamic School of Humanities and Social Sciences."

Aaron Furgason, Ph.D., Chair



IMAGE TAKEN from monmouth.edu  
**David Golland, new Dean of the School of Humanities**

and Associate Professor for the Department of Communication, added, "I am excited for the opportunity to see what new academic initiatives Dean Golland has for the School of Humanities and Social Sciences."

Golland responded, "During my time here, I hope to be remembered for my patience and thoughtfulness in helping

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## University Welcomes Speaker Saul Flores

LUCIANA SILVA  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Leon Hess Business School, First to Fly, and the Intercultural Center co-sponsored an event titled, "From Where I Stand," featuring guest speaker Saul Flores on Monday, Nov. 7. The purpose of the event was to inspire first-generation college students and those of varying backgrounds to overcome their personal, academic, and financial barriers in pursuit of a college education.

Flores was the first person in his family to graduate high school and college. As result of Flores' persistence in the face of opposition, he received over 20 college scholarships, affording him the ability to attend college and graduate from North Carolina State University.

According to NAFSA: Association of International Educators, Flores is a photojournalist, philanthropist,

and nationally recognized speaker. During one of his most recent projects, Flores walked over 5,000 miles across Latin America fundraising for the reconstruction of an elementary school in his mother's native hometown in Atencingo, Mexico.

Flores started his presentation by sharing some of his experiences growing up with his family in Brooklyn, New York. "My mom would take us to work with her on the weekends...In those moments I knew I was loved. That's when you realize that somebody is sacrificing something for you," he said.

He continued to telling stories of his mother scrubbing the floors of a penthouse suite in Manhattan, the smell of the Clorox, as well as his first experience eating a croissant with his sister.

"We struggled being raised by undocumented parents. They came to the

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## Love at First Swipe? The Student Dating App Experience

MELISSA BADAMO  
GRADUATE ASSISTANT

For many modern daters, stuffing notes in a crush's locker or sending roses signed by "Your Secret Admirer" has largely been replaced with swiping right on a smartphone screen.

Many college students have made a beeline to online dating, with popular apps like Tinder, Bumble, and Hinge taking the forefront. According to the Pew Research Center, 30 percent of Americans used a dating site or app as of 2020, compared to 11 percent in 2013. That number jumped to 48 percent for Americans aged 18-29 in 2020.

In the online dating sphere, Tinder has a reputation of harboring users looking for hookups or casual relationships. Hinge, on the other

hand, is marketed with the slogan "Designed to be deleted," drawing users who seek deep connections and long-term relationships. Bumble, dubbed the "feminist dating app," only allows women to make the first move, reversing traditional gender roles prevalent in heterosexual relationships.

One senior English education student, who wished to remain anonymous, shared her experience using Hinge. "I don't use it that often; only when I'm bored. I downloaded it during quarantine because I didn't have anything else to do. I think sometimes I want attention and then I'm sick of it, so I stop talking to people. It's a shot of dopamine and attention that you can get at any time," she said.

According to a peer-reviewed study published in *Sexuality & Culture: An Interdisciplinary Quarterly*, many online daters initially view these apps

as "fun" or as a "game," but generally find them more convenient than traditional, in-person dating.

The anonymous student, who identifies as bisexual, also finds a discrepancy in how different genders communicate on Hinge. "I think women are just more intuitive than men. [Women] ask questions about me, while men do not. I'm not saying they're more serious, just that they are more considerate," she said. The student also noted that several male matches on Tinder requested salacious photos rather than a genuine conversation or relationship, thus causing her to delete the app.

Those who experience sexual harassment through dating apps are more prone to showing depression and anxiety symptoms, increased loneliness, and lower self-esteem, according to a 2022 study in

the *Journal of Sex Research*.

"I hate Tinder," concurred a senior health studies student, who also wished to

remain anonymous. "It's be-

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IMAGE TAKEN from Insider.com

In today's digital age, many college students flock to dating apps to find love.

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# Talks with University of Ghana



**The delegation discussed** renewing collaboration between social work departments and cultivating new partnerships in other areas.

PHOTO COURTESY of University of Ghana

**ABIGAIL BROOKS**  
GRADUATE ASSISTANT  
MANAGING EDITOR

A Monmouth University delegation met with officials from the University of Ghana to discuss areas of shared interest and collaboration; more specifically, to renew a previous partnership through the Department of Social Work.

The delegation was led by Pamela Scott-Johnson, Ph.D., Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, who met with Gordon A. Awandare, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs at the University of Ghana.

“It was really a great opportunity to have a discussion face-to-face, especially since I happened to be in Ghana already,” said Scott-Johnson. She was on a business trip in Ghana, and it is her practice to connect with other administrators when traveling.

The University has a long-standing affiliation with the University of Ghana in Accra, dating back to 2003 through the Department of Social Work and Sociology.

“We had a memorandum of understanding that allowed for Master of Social Work students in our Global and Community Practice specialization to travel to Ghana in the spring semester of their second year to complete their field internship in Ghana. Our students would leave in early January and be back by early April,” described Robin Mama, Ph.D., MSS, LSW, Dean of the School of Social Work at Monmouth University.

“It’s one thing to read about places and different cultures. It’s a whole different thing to actually go somewhere and experience what it is to be in a foreign country, in a place that’s completely differently from where you grew up and where you’re living. To really experience that is a remarkable learning experience,” explained Janine Speiser, MSW, LSW, Assistant Director of Professional Education and Special Projects for the School of Social Work. Speiser earned her Master’s in Social Work and was one of the last students to travel to Ghana for her internship

completion.

Sanjana Ragudaran, Ph.D., MSW, emphasized the importance of global interactions in the social work space. She started, “International collaborations are important in social work. We are functioning in a global space where social problems are interconnected.”

“Student experiences overseas are invaluable in understanding the problems and how they are addressed in different countries,” continued Ragudaran.

According to a recap of the meeting provided by the University of Ghana, the institutions discussed renewing collaboration between social work departments, as well as cultivating new partnerships in other areas.

Daniel Frimpong Ofori, Provost of the College of Humanities at the University of Ghana, was also present at the meeting in which he provided an overview of some of the academic projects the College of Humanities is presently pursuing, welcoming the proposition of additional partnerships with Monmouth University.

“It would be really nice to renew our partnership with the University of Ghana. In addition to sending students, we also invited their faculty members to Monmouth and vice versa,” said Golam Mathbor, MSS, MSW, Ph.D., RSW, Professor of Social Work.

“Our affiliation saw us also host Dr. Stephen Ayidia, who was the chair of the department at Monmouth for a visit and lecture,” added Mama, who served as an outside evaluator for Ph.D. dissertations from their department, noting that Monmouth sent social work books to the department twice.

“Students benefit from international engagement,” said Scott-Johnson on the importance of retaining international partnerships. “It’s a great opportunity for us to broaden our perspectives on how we support international travel, student engagement, community engagement, social justice, and human rights.”

Although international partnerships in general pose opportunities for growth, establishing a connection in Ghana offers its

own unique set of benefits. “The continent of Africa has been bypassed and excluded often in the development work globally and this continent is not only important for its abundant natural resources but also for the development world to learn about people’s indigenous initiatives emerging out of this continent,” explained Mathbor.

“Our students have a lot to learn and at the same time contribute through their service learning projects for the people there out of internship opportunities with the University of Ghana and its affiliated institutions,” Mathbor continued.

“International partnerships are an essential component of our work at the school. Our program is grounded in Human Rights and Social Justice. This opportunity can open doors for student experiences to immerse themselves in the local culture, and practices and learn about social work practice in another country,” added Ragudaran. “I especially welcome this attempt as it is an African country and the perspective is different from that of Europe or Asia. I think that this would be an excellent opportunity for students in Global Community Practice in our MSW program.”

“In our world, the unknown can be scary. Foreign countries and foreign people are often portrayed in ways that aren’t always positive,” described Speiser, who reflected on her 10-week internship in Ghana as a largely positive experience where she felt truly integrated in the local culture.

In light of the University’s latest attempt to rekindle this relationship with the University of Ghana and reinstate similar international collaborations that allowed her to complete her internship abroad, Speiser advises students to do their research and assess opportunities for foreign travel with an open mind.

“Take all of your expectations, all of your preconceptions, all of the ideas you think you have about what this is going to be, put them in a basket, and leave them in the backpack at the airport. Leave it behind and go with an open mind,” she recommended.

# School of Humanities and Social Sciences Appoints New Dean

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faculty serve students...I have noticed that the faculty already goes above and beyond their normal duties to accommodate the School and its students.”

“For example, I have been impressed by Professor Patten’s introductory political science class for their creative thinking about electoral issues,” expanded Golland.

Patrick Robbins, a sophomore music industry student, believes Golland will positively contribute to the success of the Department of Music and Theatre Arts. He said, “I look forward to a bright future for not only the department but the School as a whole.”

Robbins was interested in knowing Golland’s aspirations not only for the School, but the University as well.

Golland answered, “I would like to see increased diversity in the student body and among faculty here at Monmouth.”

According to the US Department of Education, Monmouth’s student body is 61 percent female and 39 percent male. Regarding race, 69 percent of students are white, 3 percent are Asian, 5 percent are African American, and 15 percent are Hispanic. One percent are international students.

Golland reiterated the dedication of the faculty and staff to facilitate the most optimal student outcomes. He highlighted a couple of faculty in particular, “Professor Jodry’s teaching style in Professional Counseling; Professor Maginn’s teaching activities in her intermediate Spanish class; and Professors Dooley and Mitchell hit the mark in their Model UN program.”

# “The Walk of the Immigrants”

FLORES cont. from pg. 1

U.S. for a better life, the opportunity for education, and the chance to escape poverty—all while learning English,” reflected Flores.

Curious about his own identity, Flores and 15 other school friends flew to Mexico on a school trip. While staying with his family, his grandmother brought him to visit the school that his mother had attended as a child. As they were leaving, he heard from one of the students that the school was to close due to economic difficulties.

Flores elaborated, “I came back to the U.S. thinking of ways I could prevent the school from closing. My mother’s recognition of the power of a good education is one of the reasons she left her family behind in the first place.”

Understanding the negative impact the school’s

closure would have on the children living in that area, Flores started “The Walk of the Immigrants” journey. In an effort to save the school, Flores crossed nine borders among ten countries, heading back to North Carolina after three months. According to the philanthropist, Flores’ journey was not without hardship. “While there were hard times, I am grateful to the friends I made along the way, like Fish, Felipe, and Raimundo.”

He continued, “I was so emotional when I arrived back at the school we helped save, and about a hundred kids began singing Mexico’s national anthem...It was so gratifying to give back. 134 students were able to graduate upon the renovations being finished.”

“This journey will forever be embedded in my memory. In an unexpected place, I discovered a community I was meant to serve,” concluded Flores.



IMAGE TAKEN from campuspeak.com

**Saul Flores** walked over 5,000 miles through ten countries to document immigrants’ hardships, raising money for an elementary school.



# Monmouth Hosts Mothermotherland at Pollak

EMER BROPHY  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Monmouth’s School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Department of Communication, Center for Arts, and the Intercultural Center sponsored *Mothermotherland*, an original performance by Slovo. Theatre Group, in Pollak Theatre on Wednesday, Nov. 2.

Slovo. Theatre Group is made up of Ukrainian and American actors, playwrights, and directors who have adapted the work of Ukrainian author Mykola Khyvylovyy into an original performance. This act also draws inspiration from the artists’ own personal experiences and the present-

day war in Ukraine. *Mothermotherland* featured Audrey Rose Dégez, Lili Maritchka Dégez (Audrey’s 6-month-old daughter), Daria Holovchanska, Yulia Linnik, Olesia Zakharova, and Veronika Shuster—all of whom played a role in crafting the performance.

Dégez, playwright and manager of the project, noted how central collaboration is to the group’s creative making process. “We all co-write and co-direct,” she said.

Although she is one of *Mothermotherland*’s point leads, Dégez made sure not to take any personal credit, emphasizing that the show is a Slovo. Theatre Group creation.

Joe Rapolla, Specialist Professor and Chair of the Music and Theatre Arts Department summarized the meaning behind the play, “It was a pow-

erful message detailing the struggle of war and the despair of oppressive authority, complicated by the joy and sacrifice of motherhood and family.”

Deanna Shoemaker, Associate Professor of Communication and Performance Studies, commented on the professionalism of the performance. She began, “These college-aged performers have so much to lose, and it was clear that they fear for their families, loved ones, homes, and their own futures...I was so struck by their resilience, talent, and knowledge of their own history.”

After Slovo. Theatre Group’s performance, the audience and cast members participated in a talk-back.

Performer Shuster began, “There are these expectations that one’s motherland place will take care of you and make

you feel safe and comfortable...We don’t feel safe in our motherland.”

Shuster likewise explained how the ‘motherland’ and the concept of a mother figure are intertwined themes throughout the performance.

Audience members asked the artists were why a mother figure is so idealistic in society.

“It’s this idea of something that can’t hurt and will always be there for us and heal all our pain and catch us before we fall,” Dégez answered.

According to Linnik, the performance consists of two parts; one demonstration the group’s realities to the audience, and the other playing a character.

She added, “We used our realities, and sometimes traumatic experiences, about Ukraine and turned it into an artistic performance to spread awareness.”

Evidently, the performance left an impact on some audience members. Shoemaker reflected, “Art helps to humanize tragedies, and these young artists’ perspectives allow U.S. audiences to better understand Ukrainian history, their strong cultural identity, and the power of artists to collectively resist oppression and maintain hope.”

“They are actors, producers, directors, writers, performance artists, and activists making a difference. They have bravely traveled from their homeland to the U.S. to elevate the story of this war and its historical context, in a language they are still learn-

ing,” she expanded.

Rapolla concurred, “It’s important to experience music, theater, art in all forms, from artists, writers and creators from outside our area, our culture and our country. The perspective of others gives us a more worldly view and enables us to bring that back to our students, colleagues and community.”

An audience member and Communications student, Sydney Cherwien, said, “I really enjoyed this performance. I have no previous knowledge on this topic about Ukraine, and after seeing it, I feel more informed and understanding of the terrible situation that the people of Ukraine are going through. It was a moving and educational performance.”

“Works such as this remind us that our corner of the world is just that, a small, fortunate, geographically protected place. It gives us the opportunity to begin to have empathy for the challenges others face, and an increased appreciation of the many benefits inherent to a developed western society,” reminded Rapolla.

Shoemaker concluded, “During such a devastating and dangerous war in Ukraine that has had and will continue to have a long-term global impact, this event felt very necessary. This personal and political performance works to amplify Ukrainian voices and challenge U.S. audiences to pay closer attention to this war that impacts all of us.”



IMAGEN TAKEN from kennedy-center.org  
**The Slovo. Theater Group’s** performance of *Mothermotherland* explores maternity through the experiences of Ukranian and American artists.

# Department of Communication Adds Sports Concentration

ALEXIS DUBEY  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Monmouth’s Department of Communications announced its decision to offer Sports Communication as a major concentration. Prior to this decision, Sports Communication was only offered as an undergraduate minor.

The Department has hosted a selection of sports communication classes as elective and minor-fulfilling courses for over ten years.

Aaron Furgason, Ph.D., Chair and Associate Professor for the Department of Communication, explained the reasoning behind making this track as a major concentration. “We have taught sports classes for years. The idea was to make that official and make an offering for students to pursue.”

He continued, “It’s been a long time in the making; It took eight years as an idea from Professor Matt Harmon and Professor Chad Dell.”

Alexis Nulle, MA, Specialist Professor and Faculty Co-Advisor of PRSSA in the

Communication Department, is a strong proponent of this curriculum addition. “As a sports enthusiast myself, I think it is a great additive to our program. Especially teaching a sports and public relations class, I see a lot of students who are interested in sports,” said Nulle.

According to Nulle, the new major will still have the basic foundations of journalism and public relations while enhancing students’ knowledge in the sports and communication sectors.

Furgason elaborated, “Sports is fundamental to entertainment. Consumerism is founded in advertisements that we can click on at any time based on our interests, which shows the importance of understanding both advertising and the economics of sports content.”

“There is an increasing number of students who desire a career in sports...I believe that Sports Communication will be a popular area of study for students because there are a wide variety of employment opportunities related to sports and the sports industry. Everything from event management to play-by-play — it’s pretty much

unlimited,” he expanded.

John Papagni, junior communications student, agreed with Furgason, saying, “I think this new concentration cluster opens a lot of opportunities for students that want to specialize in sports broadcasting; before this, the Department did not have concentration that directly related to sports.”

Nulle added, “I think this opens tons of opportunities for our faculty and staff to support students’ career aspirations as well.”

When asked what concentration clusters the Department should consider in the future, Papagni responded, “Perhaps a film concentration...If there is a market and demand for a particular specialty, it should be made accessible to students.”

Bente Steenhorst, PRSSA’s Public Relations Sports Coordinator and Communications student-athlete, discussed her thoughts about the undergraduate offering as a graduate student.

She said, “I would’ve definitely chosen that major if it was an option while I was an undergrad. I could have started my studies much earlier rather than as a graduate.”



PHOTO TAKEN by The Outlook  
**Sports Communications is** one of the newer additions to the Department of Communication’s course cluster offerings.

Nulle likewise reflected on her undergraduate studies. “I honestly wish when I was in college that we had this opportunity. I did my undergrad work at Rutgers University, and it was either Communication or Journalism and Media Studies. If there was a sports option, I definitely would have gone that route. If a student knows

they want to go into sports, having that special niche really makes a difference.”

Furgason concluded, “We’re excited to be able to offer students the opportunity to pursue an interest that they might have, in addition to a variety of job opportunities that are available in the sports field.”







# How Far Will Influencers Go?

BAILEY FREDERICKS  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Most of us have a favorite influencer — someone we look up to, someone we want to be like, or simply someone we enjoy seeing pop up on our feed. As it is their job, influencers share a lot of their personal lives on the internet, but at what cost?

To answer this question, one must first define the role and responsibilities of a modern-day influencer. Influencers, also referred to as content creators, provide digital forms of content posted or streamed over various social media platforms, such as TikTok, YouTube, Instagram, Twitter, Twitch, and more.

There are various types of creators. For example, niche creators make videos for a specific group of people. To explain, a niche creator for the fitness industry would solely post content focusing on working out and staying healthy.

However, other influencers are famous because people enjoy following their day-to-day activities. People find this specific content enjoyable since it makes others’ “real life” seem so much more interesting and outlandish.

Nonetheless, this genre of content creation has sparked some controversy as it requires influencers to share the ins and outs of their life for the sake of making money.

The first issue arises when content creators monetize their loved ones.

Mary Harris, MA, APR, Specialist Professor for the Department of Communication and Journalism/PR Program Director, said, “One concern of influencers sharing personal content or family information is that that information gives individuals, companies, and institutions access to private data. For instance, sharing childhood milestones can become a matter of health privacy in the future.”

The Labrant Fam is one of the most popular family influencer accounts, primarily posting on YouTube and TikTok. Their accounts are run by couple Savannah and Cole, and their content exclusively features videos of their children’s personal lives.

Savannah and Cole exploit their children for likes and views, or in other words, they monetize their family. According to *Forbes*, YouTubers make \$5 for every 1,000 views. According to Social Blade, The Labrant Family averages about 4 million views per video. With over 500 videos posted to their channel, it is safe to say they are making quite a bit of money off of videos of their children.

The rising fame of the Labrant



IMAGE TAKEN from Pexels.com

**Phone eats first:** Do influencers really need to share everything they do on the internet?

Fam triggered a trend of parents posting embarrassing or personal videos of their children on the Internet in hopes of being noticed. Besides the innate invasion of privacy, these children are not old enough to consent.

Harris continued, “Children cannot consent to their privacy being exploited in this manner.” Often too young to understand what is going on, these children will face real-world implications when they grow up.

There are also some serious dangers of posting children on the Internet. The TikTok account Wren.Eleanor, run by Jacquelyn Paul, features only videos of her three-year-old daughter, Wren. This account has caught the attention of many adult men who make inappropriate comments under the account’s posts. It is also alarming to look at the high number of saves Wren’s videos accumulate compared to most other videos on TikTok.

As sad as it may be, Jacquelyn Paul’s account is not necessarily out of the ordinary. Many parents post videos of their children on TikTok, acquiring the same inappropriate reaction from adults. There are obvious predators on TikTok, even if they are trying to stay hidden.

Because videos of toddler-age children attract more views and saves, parents continue to post their children; popular videos rake in most money.

Even if influencers do not have children, they can still monetize loved ones in inappropriate ways. David Dobrik, arguably one of the most popular and successful YouTubers, was likewise accused of exploiting his circle for views. Dobrik allegedly put himself and loved ones into dangerous situations to film videos

that would likely generate views and, therefore, revenue.

The idea of influencers sharing their whole real lives on the internet while remaining entertaining is simply unrealistic—no one’s life is that interesting. Therefore, when influencers who exclusively share posts about their personal lives run out of content, they are forced to create and fabricate new, exciting content. Hence, the large following of lifestyle influencers.

Harris argued, “It is human nature to be curious about the lifestyles of others. However, this is the first time in history that people have been given access to following the lives of pseudo-public figures who are strangers to them in real life. It gives people a sense of false community and perhaps fandom, and the trend grows.”

This is what makes social media so dangerous; consumers forget that online content is manipulated to appear genuine.

Most people are aware of the negative effects social media can have on people’s mental wellbeing; however, this specific content can create distorted ideas of reality. Individuals will begin to reflect on their own lives, questioning why their life is not nearly as “glamorous” or “perfect” as the influencer’s life they are constantly seeing.

Harris added, “As the saying goes, comparison is the thief of joy.”

It is easy to argue that influencers chose this life for themselves, thus they should deal with the backlash and consequences. Nevertheless, it is unfair and harmful to their loved ones whom they make money off of, as well as the consumers of such content.

# THE THIN LINE OF CANCEL CULTURE

BREANNA GUINTA  
STAFF WRITER

In the last few years, people’s adherence to cancel culture has grown exponentially. From what it seems like, both celebrities and businesses are being cancelled left and right for their “controversial” beliefs. Does cancel culture add any value to our society?

Generally-speaking, I feel cancel culture is toxic and a threat to Americans’ constitutional right to freedom of speech. Because cancel culture can have long-lasting negative consequences, people are afraid to share their opinions. People should not have to tip-toe around one another when disagreements arise.

Back in 2019, it was reported that Chick-fil-A was donating to anti-LGBTQ+ groups. Hobby Lobby was victim to public scrutiny for staying open during the height of the pandemic, thereby putting the health of their workers and customers at risk. Scores of people rallied to cancel best-selling author of the *Harry Potter* series, J.K. Rowling, for making trans phobic remarks on Twitter.

While there is no question cancel culture is toxic, I do believe that cancel culture can prompt positive change.

For instance, the #MeToo Movement empowered women and men alike to call out their sexual abusers, encouraging multitudes of people all over the world to break their silence. Essentially, these individuals “cancelled” their abusers, as well as the stigma that surrounds speaking about sexual misconduct and assault.

This was especially true when A-list celebrities were put under the fire, like Brock Allen Turner. When Turner was a college student, he attended a party but was later caught taking advantage of a college woman in 2015. The victim went on to write a book about her experience and called him out on the internet. She won her case in court and Turner’s life went down the drain.

While cancel culture can be effective, it isn’t enough to rely on when correcting people’s actions.

For instance, popular social media influencer and beauty guru, James Charles, has had various scandals. His most recent and scandal concerned his relationship with an un-

derage boy. Charles would send explicit photos to him on Snapchat, claiming he did not know that the boy was a minor; however, evidence proves otherwise. Despite Charles’ scandal, he is still popular with a strong fan base.

Although YouTube temporarily stopped monetizing his videos and some sponsors dropped him, Charles is still a big name in the beauty world. In this case, the cancels against Charles weren’t enough to stop his growing fame. I believe Charles needs to face more severe punishments for his actions.

On the other hand, American rapper, Lil Nas X, fell victim to cancel culture. For his music video MONTERO (Call Me by Your Name), he is shown giving Satan a lap dance. The internet was outraged and tried to cancel him. Christians were not only upset about the presence of Satan, but also upset over his sexuality. I do not think he should be cancelled for those reasons since there are worse things a person can do.

Another American rapper, Kanye West, went on an antisemitic rant on Twitter and said how he wishes to see the Jews wiped out (like they did in World War II). He claimed he could say stuff like that since Black people are Jews. Although I am not shocked West would say something like this, I am glad Twitter banned his account.

People like West should not have a platform and I do not understand how the world has not cancelled him yet. Even with harassing his former wife, Kim Kardashian. Why is West still running his mouth with no consequences? It is unacceptable and sickening.

I am all for free speech and for being yourself if it doesn’t harm anyone else in the process. However, there are lines that should not be crossed when doing so. Cancel culture seems to only pick and choose what is worthy of being cancelled.

To conclude, cancel culture needs more defined boundaries. Those who advocate for what they believe in (no matter if you personally believe it’s wrong), should be allowed to do so. On the flip side, anything that could cause harm to another being is not tolerable and the abuser deserves to be punished accordingly.



IMAGE TAKEN from Pexels.com

**How much are influencers** willing to sacrifice for views?



IMAGE TAKEN from Norse Notes Valetina Moreo

**Is cancel culture** really necessary in society?



## Career Treks: A First-Person Experience of SiriusXM + Pandora

LINDA GAMMAL  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Eighteen students from various majors came together on a Career Trek, organized by Monmouth University's Career Development team, on Thursday, Nov. 3. The trip's destination was to SiriusXM + Pandora's NYC headquarters, located at the Avenue of the Americas.

We hopped onto a train bright and early at 8 a.m. chatted with our classmates, and watched as the landscapes swooshed by on the train. Once we arrived, we had the chance to get some steps in by walking to the headquarters and looking around at NYC's bright and bustling avenues.

First stop, we checked in with

security and made our way to the 36th floor. We were greeted by Alison Rivera, the University Recruiting Senior Manager at SiriusXM + Pandora. Do you know the saying "Man plans, and God laughs?" Well that's exactly what happened!

Instead of a typical studio tour, we were invited into Sway's Universe, on Shade45, a SiriusXM live lifestyle radio show. Rapper GRIP was interviewed by Sway Calloway about his new album and MU students had the opportunity to ask him a few questions on the radio.

Next, we had the opportunity to hear a panel from fellow MU alumni Ron Gaskill and Arina Martin on their journeys at SiriusXM + Pandora. Students asked a multitude of questions spanning career advice, internships do's and don'ts,

and more. Some notable advice that stood out was to seek different opportunities through clubs and internships so that you can broaden your experience and even connect those experiences as an asset to a later job.

For example, don't limit yourself to just being involved only in TV if that's what you enjoy; try dipping into the fields, of radio, graphic design, or Public Relations. Through those experiences, you'll be able to learn tons and stand out when interviewing for a different job that you hadn't necessarily planned. In this industry, it's always good to be safe and stretch yourself to be a flexible candidate. Students also learned that the music and entertainment industry is fast paced, making it rarely boring.

Norma Sanchez, a junior communication student, shared her feelings about the trip. She said, "This trip allowed me to have an insight into what a day in the life in this office looks like. It also lets students see what workspaces in the corporate world actually look like. My favorite part of the event was the panel at the end because I got to hear from knowledgeable and experienced alumni in the industry."

Karla Avila, an MBA Graduate Student, shared that her favorite part of the day was being live on air. She said, "I've done college radio here at Monmouth for years so this was such an incredible ex-

perience for me. And to top it off, I was able to ask the guest artist GRIP a question live on air where I shared the mic with Sway and the other co-hosts, which was amazing! It was an experience I will never forget. Definitely went back home with a smile on my face and told my family and friends everything that happened."

Career Treks like these allow students to get an inside scoop into a specific field and company. Julia Angeliadis, Career Development Outreach Coordinator at Monmouth University, explained the true benefits of joining a trip such as this one.

She said, "Our Career Treks will expose students to various industries and employment opportunities, which will in turn provide them a clearer picture of viable options for their future. Visiting employers first-hand will help students explore their interests, identify their talents, and achieve their professional goals. They will also have the chance to engage with and ask questions to C-Suite leaders and other experienced individuals to gain insight into what it is like working in a professional environ-

PHOTO TAKEN by Linda Gammal



PHOTO TAKEN by Eva Breiterman

Students from various majors came together for a Career Trek to Sirius XM + Pandora through Career Services.

## A Glimpse Into Thanksgiving Traditions and History

LAUREN BEVACQUA  
STAFF WRITER

With the brown, red, yellow, and orange leaves falling and the weather slowly getting colder, Thanksgiving will soon be here and most college students will go home to spend time with the people they love.

There is a rich history of how Thanksgiving came to be. The holiday started in 1621 when Plymouth colonists and the Wampanoag joined together for a feast; however, Thanksgiving is also a National Day of Mourning for Native Americans due to the oppression and genocides that followed. Taking a break and reflecting on this time is important for those who celebrate and to acknowledge other cultures as well.

Thanksgiving break is also the time to wind down and reunite with friends and family. However, there may be students who do not have plans for Thanksgiving or may be bored over the break and seeking something to do. Before the feast takes place, one can find fall activities around the state. For history lovers, Westfield, New Jersey offers a colonial Thanksgiving dinner filled with eighteenth century customs and

traditional colonial American foods. This takes place at the Miller-Cory House Museum on Nov. 20 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For those who want to splurge and may not have time to cook, Perth Amboy and Weehawken offer a Thanksgiving Day Cruise. This



cruise offers a lunch buffet and beautiful views of the ocean or New York City skyline.

Another classic activity is to gather around the TV to watch

the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, which takes place from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on NBC. Since 1924, the parade provides entertainment for the morning of Thanksgiving day. From floats to bands performing, this provides an electric start to the festivities to come. Some may even travel to New York City to witness the parade in-person.

Often, students who are from out of state do not see their family until this holiday break. Taking this time to unwind from school helps students decompress before finals. Connor Currie, a junior psychology and criminal justice student, is from Maryland. His immediate family is still there, and he believes that spending time together is important.

Currie said, "It's so hard for them to come see me because of how much they all get up to down there. I'm only really able to call them or text. Plus, I haven't seen them face-to-face in almost three months. Breaks are important because obviously, nobody wants to be doing papers or stressing all the time, but it also lets you rest and get you ready for what's next, especially with finals soon after break."

From baking treats to watching movies, family

traditions begin to take place with the holidays around the corner, any tradition imaginable comes out.

Currie continued, "We start Thanksgiving morning off with blueberry muffins, and then have a sort of buffet throughout the day with a bunch of snacks and appetizers. While my parents prepare the food, my brothers and I usually do some cleaning around the house. We eat dinner early, so we have plenty of time at night to snack and watch movies."

Some students and their families may not have traditions, but rather enjoy the sacred time together. Sarah Bilotta, a sophomore homeland security student, said, "My family doesn't have any traditions on the day of Thanksgiving, but we cook and prepare the dinner together. Everyone volunteers to make one dish, whether it's a dessert or side, so I can always expect a delicious spread from the turkey to the pumpkin pie."

Whether cousins and distant family are coming from out of state, being at the same time and place together makes this holiday special. Bilotta continued, "A highlight of my Thanksgiving is being in the presence of all my relatives. Most of my family is from New Jersey, and I'm lucky to



see them frequently, but my sister works in Rhode Island so it's about a three-hour drive to visit her, and I know I can look forward to seeing her at Thanksgiving. I'm also blessed to have all four of my grandparents alive, and witnessing four generations, regardless of location and age, come together in one room is the most important element of the holiday for me."

PHOTOS COURTESY of Monmouth University (@monmouthuniversity)



# Love at First Swipe? The Student Dating App Experience

DATING cont. from pg. 1

-come the app to use for hook-ups and it's not the place to go if you're really trying to find a personal connection with somebody."

This student also found that dating app usage has negatively affected her mental health. "If I don't get a match back from a certain person it makes me feel discouraged," she said. "It also sucks because it's so easy to ghost people on dating apps, and having a conversation you thought was going really well suddenly stop is definitely a dating deterrent."

Such experiences can lead to "dating app burnout" for many students. Students may experience feelings of self-doubt or inferiority if they don't receive as many matches as expected, get "ghosted" when a match abruptly ceases communication, or even get "catfished" when a match pretends to be someone they're not.

"Dating apps can create a 'relationshopping' mentality where there are so many options that it encourages pickiness, 'trading up,' or less civil behaviors (e.g., ghosting)," said Gary Lewandowski Ph.D., Professor of Psychology with a special research focus in romantic relationships. "There is also the issue of people lying and misrepresenting themselves. Though that's also possible for in-person dating, on the

apps, that extra layer of perceived anonymity makes it a bit easier."

Lewandowski continued, "Using any dating app can heighten the impact of rejection, simply because there is greater volume of interactions. Dating apps that focus more on physical attributes/appearance (e.g., Tinder) can amplify body image issues."

The anonymous English education student also noted how dating apps can foster feelings of insecurity about body image. "You put these pictures up of yourself and you're like, 'Somebody likes me and my body.' But then you realize, 'These people don't know me.' Dating apps are based solely on appearance, so I feel like it can cause a lot of body issues," she said.

"In my opinion, the better dating apps are any that allow users to highlight their personality, interests, and hobbies, rather than their appearance," said Lewandowski. "Personality factors are more important for long-term relationship success."

Kimberly Hill, Clinical Counselor for Monmouth's Counseling and Prevention Services (CPS), gave advice for students who may experience body image insecurity as a result of dating apps. "To any student that is struggling with a body image insecurity, nobody is perfect. There are a few different strategies to combat this insecurity, but I would recommend to take a look at yourself and identify the things about yourself that you do like. Accept-

ing our body image and our overall confidence level can be challenging and I would encourage students to see a counselor if they feel as if they cannot get through this alone," she said.

Hill also provided advice on how to cope with rejection and ghosting. "I would encourage any student that feels a sense of rejection or 'ghosting' to allow themselves to process, either with a friend or independently, your feelings and thoughts," she said.

"Let's explore why these feelings and thoughts are coming up for you," Hill continued. "I know it is probably easier said than done, but keep in mind that there may also be other factors contributing to why this person stopped responding to you. They can potentially have their own stuff going on! After some reflection, go participate in something enjoyable to help lighten the mood."

Apps like Bumble have a built-in "safety and well-being" feature, which provides tips for combatting dating anxiety and exhaustion, feelings of rejection, and more. Bumble recommends taking a break from swiping, "browsing mindfully," and finding a healthy balance between dating, family, work, hobbies, and self-care. Finally, the app urges users to "keep the faith," providing a link to Bumble success stories.

A question persists: can dating apps foster genuine human connection and long-term romantic relationships? According to the

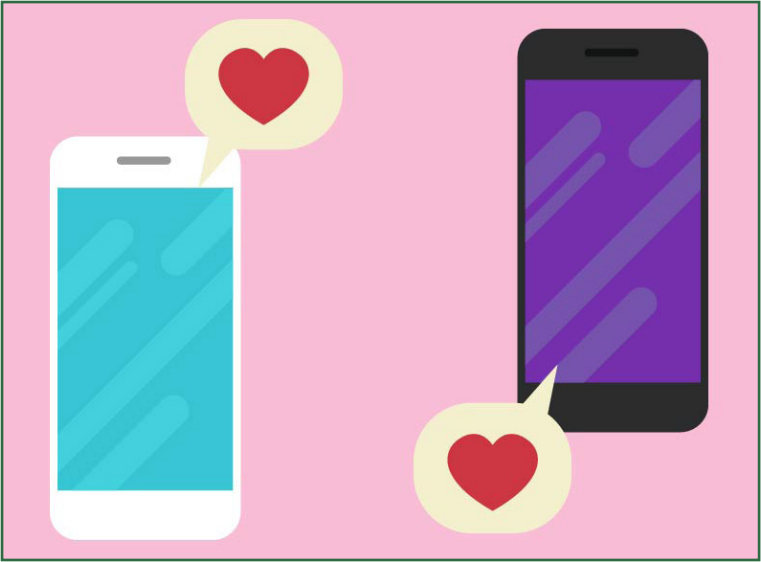
Pew Research Center, about 12 percent of adults have married or began a committed relationship with someone they first met through a dating site or app. In fact, users are more likely to describe their overall online dating experience as positive (57 percent), rather than negative (42 percent).

Lewandowski noted some advantages to dating apps compared to in-person dating. "A major benefit of meeting someone online is that gives users the opportunity to learn more about a potential partner upfront and help identify meaningful similarities and desirable traits beyond simple physical features. Dating through apps is also a lot easier

for individuals who are less outgoing," he said.

Some Monmouth students have also reported dating app success. Stefanie Donayre, a senior communication student, met her boyfriend of two years on Bumble.

"The beauty of using a dating app is being able to find someone who shares similar interests or values as you through the filters and profile prompts," Donayre said. "Just like traditional dating, you still go through some dates to spend time together and get to know one another. I think certain dating apps can foster genuine romantic connection, and I'm just one of many people that can attest to this."



GRAPHIC MADE by Angela Mascia

**Online dating is popular** among college students, whether they are seeking casual or long-term relationships.

# Five of the Best Study Spots On and Off Campus

CECILIAH LEININGER  
LIFESTYLES EDITOR

As finals steadily approach, finding the perfect study spot in anticipation for the season is of the upmost importance. A good space to study can help minimize distractions, increase productivity, and lower stress during one's studying process. Figuring out what atmosphere maximizes your productivity and minimizes your stress is paramount to anyone's academic success.

### 1. Libraries

A tried-and-true studying location, the library is a perfect spot to maintain focus while doing your work. It's a quiet space that provides students with internet access, computers, and printers.

The Guggenheim Memorial Library, located on the residential side of campus,

enables students to reserve study rooms for both independent and group study sessions, making the risk of distractions that much more avoidable.

The library has three floors, each with their own study rooms and varying levels of silence. The third floor is intended for complete silent study, while quiet conversations are permitted on the first and second. This allows students to choose what atmosphere they feel will produce the best work.

If a study room is not what you're looking for, the Guggenheim Memorial Library also offers plenty of tables, outdoor seating, and a modest café located on the first floor to suit your needs.

### 2. Coffee Shops

If you're interested in getting a small snack or caffeine fix while studying, a coffee shop may be your location of choice.

Coffee shops tend to have a very friendly and relaxing environment because of their low light and ambient music, which can reduce the stressful nature of studying. The ambience of a coffee shop, coupled with the motivation that accompanies the presence of other working individuals, can increase productivity and motivation tremendously.

Many coffee shops also provide free amenities like Wi-Fi and electrical outlets to charge your laptop or phone so you can continue your work as long as you need. Most also have comfortable furniture that add to the cozy atmosphere.

Monmouth University's campus has two coffee shops on campus: the Parson Cafe, located in The Great Hall, and Dunkin' Donuts, located in the Rebecca Stafford Food Court. However, if an off-campus shop has more appeal to you, there are plenty of options near campus, including Offshore Coffee Co., Starbucks, Rook Coffee, and Odyssey Coffee.

### 3. Bookstores

Being surrounded by shelves lined with books can provide a special kind of ambience that makes you feel ready to take on any academic challenge that comes your way. By leaving your room and entering a bookstore, studying can feel less like a chore, especially when you bring friends along.

One of the most popular bookstores to study at is Barnes & Noble. Located nine minutes away from campus and with a built in Starbucks coffee shop, the Eatontown

Barnes & Noble is a perfect place to sit down and grind out some work. It usually doesn't get too crowded, allowing the store to maintain some semblance of quiet while still providing the aesthetic background noises of turning pages and brewing coffee.

"I like studying at Barnes & Noble because of the environment. It's quiet enough for me to be productive while not getting distracted. There's always other people working in there, and being around others who are doing work always makes me feel more motivated," said Adriana Simancas, a junior marine and environmental biology and policy student.

### 4. Outdoors

Studying outdoors during the warmer months or the random warm day during the fall and winter seasons allows you to soak up a little Vitamin D and take in some fresh air while studying. Finding a nice outdoor table or bench on campus is perfect for students who feel unmotivated indoors and focus better outside.

Einat Shayer, a junior marine and environmental biology and policy major, expressed, "I like studying outside to get some fresh air when I'm stressed. I enjoy the sounds of nature around me, like the chirping of birds and the rustling of trees. It keeps me focused and calm when I'm working."

According to the University of Arizona, studying outside can actually increase creativity and productivity, improve mood and health, and give stu-

dents a natural energy boost. In fact, many professors have held some of their classes outside because of the marked improvement they see in their students.

### 5. Campus Buildings

Monmouth University has an abundance of study areas for students on the academic side of campus— such as the Great Hall, Edison Hall, and Planigere Hall— as well as the Rebecca Stafford Student Center.

Simancas said, "One of my favorite study spaces on campus is Edison Hall. I like the small study rooms for when I want to have my own space or to study with a small group. The dry erase windows are a plus; they're super helpful for reviewing material. However, the Great Hall is a close second for me because of the ambience."

Each campus building has its own unique study spaces; nonetheless, most buildings have computers and small study rooms or open seating areas that allow students to comfortably conduct their work individually or host group study sessions, making them great options for all Monmouth students, regardless of major.

It's important for students to find a study space that's most appropriate for them in order to keep themselves as relaxed and comfortable as possible. Having a dedicated spot to study can bring about better-quality work and have a positive impact on students' mental health during what's typically a very stressful time.



IMAGE TAKEN from offshorecoffee.co.com

**Offshore Coffee Co.** is a great place to study while grabbing a bite to eat.



# L.S. Dunes Releases Debut Album, Permanent Rebellion

STEFANIE DONAYRE  
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

New rock supergroup L.S. Dunes released their first album, *Past Lives* on Nov. 11, 2022 through Fantasy Records. With the band consisting of some of rock’s biggest musicians, it’s no surprise that fans’ anticipation for the album has grown.

Composed of vocalist Anthony Green of Circa Survive and Saosin, guitarist Frank Iero from My Chemical Romance, drummer Tucker Rule and bassist Tim Payne of Thursday, and Coheed and Cambria guitarist Travis Stever, each of these musicians come from well-known bands; nonetheless, they have banded together to form L.S. Dunes. Forming during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, L.S. Dunes virtually wrote and recorded their tracks while trying to keep the project a secret until the grand announcement of their inclusion in the 2022 Riot Fest lineup.

After setting up in-home studios Payne, Iero, Rule, and Stever began their practice sessions virtually. Upon putting together their song, “Antibodies,” Rule knew the track would fit Anthony Green’s vocals.

This process continued—the band worked on more tracks and asked Green to sing without telling him who else was in the band. After rehearsing in-person for the first time, the band wrote two more songs which ended up being part of the album as the tracks, “Permanent Rebellion” and “Sleep Cult.”

L.S. Dunes then took their songs to Philadelphia to record the album with the help of producer Will Yip, who has worked with other well-known bands such as Turnstile and Quicksand.



IMAGE TAKEN by Luke Dickey

L.S. Dunes released their album *Past Lives* on Nov. 11, 2022 .

Teasing the band’s formation, the members began posting on the @LSDunes Instagram page, which quickly gained 43.2 K followers after the release of their debut single, “Permanent Rebellion,” which currently has 1,780,736 listeners on Spotify. The Instagram page constantly reshapes fan artwork and a weekly personal video from Rule called “Tucker Thursday’s.”

To celebrate the album’s release, the band did a pop-up show at Fingerprints Music in Long Beach, California. In front of a crowd of 250 fans, L.S. Dunes performed tracks like “Permanent Rebellion,” “Grey Veins,” “Past Lives,” and “2022,” which happens to be Green’s favorite track on the record.

In an interview with Consequence.net, Green said, “Every time I get to the verses of that song, I get a lump in my throat like I said too much.”

He added, “‘2022’ is a

reflection of the patience required by a person during the process of recovery, overriding that conditioning

of immediate gratification.”

However, their pop-up show in California wasn’t their first performance to-

gether. The group played their first show at Riot Fest in Chicago just a few months ago in September. From wearing a tiara on stage to crowd surfing, Green’s energy bounced from the stage to the crowd. Although the members of L.S. Dunes also play with other bands, they plan to this band’s success as a priority. At festivals such as Aftershock and Riot Fest, some of the members had to play the show more than once. At one point, Rule had to take a boat and a van to play the album release show in Long Beach, California the day after playing a show with Thursday on the Emo’s Not Dead cruise which sailed from Los Angeles, California to Ensenada, Mexico.

L.S. Dunes will perform in Asbury Park on Nov. 25 at Asbury Lanes as well as New York City at Music Hall of Williamsburg, Brooklyn, NY on Nov. 29. These are shows you won’t want to miss from this new supergroup. See you in the mosh pit!

## THE WORLD OF COMEDY PODCAST

JAYME MARTINI  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It seems as though more and more people are choosing podcasts over radio as their medium of audio entertainment.

Podcasts empower listeners to engage in conversations that interest them. More specifically, podcasts allow people to tune into specific topics of interest or particular personalities without the added interruption of advertisements as found on the radio.

There is a wide range of podcast genres to choose from, such as news, crime, entertainment, investigative, and, my personal favorite, comedy. There are even various sub-genres within each of these categories. For instance, comedic podcasts can consist of a comedian interviewing other comedians or celebrities, talking about events in their own life, or humorously debating different topics with others.

One of my favorite podcasts that falls into the latter category is called “Taste Buds.” Sal Vulcano of Impractical Jokers, and Joe DeRosa, a comedy writer and stand-up comedian, debate different foods every week. For example, they discussed Oreos vs. Chips Ahoy! and strawberries vs. bananas. I feel that the ridiculousness of the podcast is one of the reasons why it’s so funny. The co-hosts often find themselves screaming over their respective foods, which is

by itself highly entertaining. At the end of each episode, the hosts poll the debate prompt on social media; the decision of which is the superior food is left up to the viewer.

It’s important with podcasts, especially comedy, to get the listener involved as it adds so much more to the podcast. This interactive component allows listeners to have inside jokes with the hosts.

Some comedy podcasts have also had some serious turns, which can take people by surprise. One that comes to mind is the Joe Rogan podcast. Rogan, who often hosted fellow comedians, now has more recognizable celebrities stars on the show. Nevertheless, Rogan’s claim to fame has been colored by some controversy, most notably his misinforming discussions about the corona virus. People who have any sort of platform, especially a large one like Rogan’s, have a responsibility to not intentionally spread misinformation to listeners. Personally, I think this is a danger on the rise as the entertainment landscape is

formed by “influencers” over traditional media personalities.

Another important aspect to the world of comedy podcasts is the opportunity for collaboration. Popular comedians Tom Segura and Bert Kreischer both have their own podcasts, “Bertcast” and “Your Mom’s House” respectively, but they collaborate together on a joint podcast they have titled “2 Bears 1 Cave,” showcasing their friendship and comedic chops. The fans get more content from their favorite comedians, and the comedians get more exposure and views—mutually beneficial from all fronts.

Prior to the age of podcasts, comedians’ exposure was limited to stand-up routines, most desperate to make it big enough for an hour slot on a television special. Now, comedians can create podcasts where they create traction, a loyal and diverse fanbase, as well as their own specials. Comedians and other entertainers are more accessible today because of podcasts.



IMAGE TAKEN by Nick Karp

Supergroup L.S. Dunes consists of Anthony Green, Frank Iero, Tucker Rule, Tim Payne, and Travis Stever.



IMAGE TAKEN from No Presh Network on YouTube

Sal Vulcano and Joe DeRosa discuss Chips Ahoy! vs Oreos on their podcast, “Taste Buds.”



# GHOST FILES: IT'S SCARY GOOD

GABRIELLE SANGATALDO  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Spooky season went out with a bang this year, especially with the conclusion of the *Watcher's* web series' first season, *Ghost Files*. Hosted by self-proclaimed ghouls Ryan Bergara and Shane Madej, *Ghost Files* consisted of six episodes in which skeptic Madej and believer Bergara explore various "haunted" locations. Complete with ghost hunting tools and their respective charms, the two set out to gather evidence about these locations, informing their viewers so that they can come to their own conclusions.

In this first season, the pair explored a number of famed sites, among them being the infamous Alcatraz Federal Penitentiary and the Whaley House, known for being the two most haunted sites in the United States. Each episode shows Bergara, Madej, and their team of videographers and producers spend hours wandering these locations' grounds, attempting to capture ghostly evidence with their array of equipment, sometimes successful and sometimes not. Viewers get



Ryan Bergara and Shane Madej sit in front of their set for the series Ghost Files.

the pleasure of not only receiving an in-depth history lesson on what makes each location supposedly haunted, but also the hilarious interactions between Bergara and Madej as they taunt the ghosts and each other.

The comedic duality of evident skepticism and fearful belief create for a beyond entertaining watch that can humor anybody. Madej's nonchalant demeanor perfectly contrasts that of Bergara's anxious tendencies, allowing viewers to witness an ideal hosting situation of conflicting yet complimentary opinions. In episode

debriefs— shorter videos in which the two answer viewers' questions and examine evidence gathered in the episodes— viewers are given logical and supernatural explanations for the abnormalities that occur.

It is unsurprising why *Ghost Files* experienced immediate success. Bergara and Madej wield ghost hunting expertise from a previous show on *BuzzFeed's* YouTube channel called *BuzzFeed Unsolved*, which ran for eight seasons over the course of six years. During this time, the duo dove deep into some of the most

troubling true crime cold cases and hands-on investigations of ghostly sites, quickly attracting a cult following in the process. Fans loved the witty banter and playful bullying between the two hosts; their fanbase's devotion enabled the web series to land streaming spots on Hulu and Amazon Prime Video.

Upon them announcing their leave from *BuzzFeed*, and therefore *BuzzFeed Unsolved*, Bergara and Madej worried fans about never returning to ghost hunting; nevertheless, there was obvious excitement for the new projects that lay ahead.

The anticipated arrival of *Ghost Files* on their budding channel *Watcher* exceeded expectations; the first episode alone garnered over 4.5 million views. It is beyond a doubt well-deserved.

Immediately, one can observe the level of professionalism in *Ghost Files* that *BuzzFeed Unsolved* lacked. Detailed graphics, a well-established set, and even the introduction of more sophisticated hunting tools demonstrate that the ghouls aren't messing around, nor is their budget. *Ghost Files* surpasses even the most well-known ghost hunting shows simply for the fact that Bergara and Madej don't try to manifest evidence where there isn't any. Likewise, there's an apparent absence of overdramatization that presents itself in many other ghost shows. As a viewer, it is clear that the show is more for fun and audience enjoyment than anything else, which makes it engaging to watch.

Whether a Shaniac (the boys' nickname for a skeptic), Boogara (a believer), or somewhere in between, there is something to be had for everyone within *Ghost Files*. Though the next season doesn't air until 2023, anticipation buzzes for what mysteries Bergara and Madej have in store.

## Wakanda Forever

JOHN PAPAGNI  
OPINION/ COMIC EDITOR

*Wakanda Forever* is one of the better projects Marvel has produced in a very long time. After *Avenger's Endgame*, people speculated that Marvel had reached its peak and could never supersede the standards they themselves had set. Nonetheless, to our surprise, this latest production has exceeded expectations.

The beginning of *Wakanda Forever* almost made me cry as I am sure most people know that Chadwick Boseman, the previous leading role of the first *Black Panther*, passed away two years ago due to cancer.

*Wakanda Forever* starts with Shuri, played by Letitia Wright, attempting to cure T'Challa, played by Chadwick Boseman, of his illness with some home-made concoction. Unfortunately, Shuri is too late and T'Challa joins his ancestors.

A year passes, and Wakanda's queen Ramonda, played by Angela Bassett, attends a United Nations conference where representatives discuss the incredibly powerful element Vibranium. For those who don't know, Vibranium is a scarce element in the Marvel universe that possesses many extraordinary properties.



Wakanda Forever stars Letitia Wright as Shuri and Dominique Thorne as Ironheart.

Many nations fear Wakanda since it is the only known nation with access to Vibranium. If Wakanda decided to challenge the world in a war, the earth's powers would have no means of stopping them. Ramonda refutes these claims saying that Wakanda is the only nation responsible enough to have access— if others were to get their hands on the precious element, who knows the level of mass destruction possible?

The movie then cuts to an American ship out at sea, exploring the depths of the ocean to find Vibranium. Eventually, the Americans find a chunk of it by taking advantage of a new piece of equipment capable of

detecting the rare element.

As the modern-day pirates try to gather their latest treasure, the ocean's waves stir up a song that lures crew members to jump overboard. Essentially the captain of this operation, Director Dreyfus, played by Julia Louis, sees the danger she is in and tries to escape via helicopter.

Suddenly, sea people emerge from the ocean, attacking the ship in hopes of killing any possible survivors. Dreyfus eventually escapes, but only within inches of her life.

The movie cuts back to Wakanda when Ramonda returns, showing concern for her daughter Shuri. She be-

lieves that Shuri has not taken the time to properly process T'Challa's passing and needs to get out of her laboratory where she spends too much time avoiding her problems.

Ramonda finally convinces Shuri to leave her lab and explore Wakanda's wilderness. Then, seemingly out of nowhere, Shuri and Ramonda are greeted by a man with wings on his feet. The man calls himself Namor, played by Tenoch Huerta. He informs them that Americans have found vibranium near his underwater kingdom and that American technology is increasingly advanced, to the point where specific machines

can detect the element.

Namor wants Ramonda to have someone find the person who designed this specialized equipment and turn them over to Namor and his people. At first, Ramonda wants to refuse his demand, but Namor threatens to go to war with Wakanda if they don't comply.

Ramonda has the head guard at Wakanda, Okoye, played by Danai Gurira, to find the scientist. Okoye brings Shuri because she's concerned for her well-being. The two find the scientist Riri Williams, played by Dominique Thorne, and plan to take her to Wakanda; however, Namor's people ambush them and take Riri and Shuri.

What will happen now? Will Namor's people kill both of them? Will Ramonda wage war or find a compromise? You will have to find that out for yourself.

The director of *Wakanda Forever*, Ryan Coogler, did a great job putting this movie together. The music was beautiful, the costumes and makeup looked amazing, the set design was gorgeous, and the cinematography had some outstanding shots. The only complaint I have about this movie is the pacing; sometimes, the film was too fast or too slow.

At two hours and 41 minutes with a PG-13 rating, I give *Wakanda Forever* a 4.5 out of 5 stars.



# What We Know So Far About the Results of the US Midterm Elections

MELANIE TENCZA  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Americans made their way to the polls this past Tuesday, Nov. 8 to cast their votes for the 2022 midterm election. While results from a number of states are still pending due to ballots being counted, it is understood so far that the Democrats have maintained their majority in the Senate, while Republicans appear to be poised to win the House of Representatives.

While the House was generally predicted to land in the hands of the Republicans, the Senate was deemed a toss-up, with either side having a good shot at gaining control of it. 35 of the 100 seats in the Senate were up for election this year. The Democrats gained a seat, and the Republicans lost one. The House results so far have come to 204 Democrats, and 212 Republicans, with 218 needed for control.

The midterm elections occur every two years. One third

of senators are chosen and every member of the House of Representatives is chosen.

Generally, the midterm elections do not receive as much publicity as the presidential election. However, they are still considered incredibly important because their results decide which party will control Congress, state legislatures, and governor’s offices. They also are widely considered to be a “referendum on the first two years of a presidential term - with the party in power often taking a beating,” as Anthony Zurcher of *BBC* explains.

Midterms tend to disclose the public’s feelings towards the president and their associated political party in power at the time of the election, giving a general prediction for how the next two years they have left in power are expected to go.

America has seen an influx of voters choosing to vote by mail or absentee vote in recent years, largely due to restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, it has also been

proved to be more convenient for many voters. It saves them a trip to the polls on busy Election Day, which in turn also saves them from the time that they would have spent waiting in line. However, the increased prominence of voting by mail has also made elections lengthier because of the time it takes for ballots to be received and counted, leaving Americans waiting on election results over a week out from the midterm election.

It also has created some distrust among Americans toward the current election system because of the alleged potential risks posed by mail-in ballots, such as voter fraud. Many fear that the elections are becoming increasingly susceptible to voter fraud due to the rising number of mail-in ballots seen election after election and the potential for votes to be intentionally miscounted. However, these claims are often unsubstantiated.

For this election, there were many highly controversial yet important topics indirectly being voted on for the ballot. Abortion rights has been a major point of

discussion, especially in wake of the overturning of *Roe v Wade*. Democrats have largely been pushing to uphold a nationwide legalization of abortion, whereas Republicans are seeking a national ban on abortions with ranging limitations.

For many American voters, abortion rights played a large role in the midterm elections and which candidates they voted for.

For many students at Monmouth University, the midterms were the first election they have ever had the opportunity to cast their votes in. Nashaviah Steward, a senior political science student, is one of the many students who voted in her first ever midterm election.

“As a first time voter, I learned a lot about local politics and our role in them, something I wasn’t incredibly knowledgeable about before this election. I feel that often when we think about politics, we think of them on a larger domestic scale. However, seeing local politicians on the ballot really showed how involved

we can be as voters in this process,” explained Steward.

Another senior political science student elaborated on the significance of exercising the right to vote, saying that “It is important for people our age to vote. The reason young people in the U.S. feel their interests aren’t represented in our democracy is because most chalk their vote to mean nothing, when, as a collective demographic, it has the potential to shift elections and the political playing field.”

As Americans still await the last few results of the 2022 midterm election, it is clear that the importance of voting is understood amongst both the Democrats and the Republicans.

The United States continues to see voter turnout on the rise, and as the country comes closer to the presidential election in 2024, many American citizens are desperate for their voices to be heard on different issues and ideas that they want to see addressed.



IMAGE TAKEN from theenchantedmanor.com

As it stands, the Democrats have won enough seats to maintain Senate control, while the House seems tightly poised to flip to Republican control.

## Russia Retreats from Kherson

JOCELYN MARSH  
STAFF WRITER

Eight months ago, during the early days of the Russia-Ukraine war, Russia captured the strategic city of Kherson. The seizure of the important port and industrial city had been a symbolic prize of the invasion.

In response to the capturing of Kherson, Ukraine launched a southern counteroffensive on Aug. 29 to expel Russian Forces occupying the southern regions of Kherson and Mykolaiv Oblasts. As of Oct. 17, Ukraine had liberated numerous small villages and over 1,170 square kilometers of occupied territory.

On Wednesday, Nov. 9, Russia made one of the most significant reversals of President Vladimir Putin’s war effort by retreating from this region.

The seizure of Kherson had given Moscow an important foothold west of the Dnipro River, from where it expanded and which it hoped to use as a base to push farther west, the end goal being the port city of Odesa.

According to the *New York Times*, Yuri Kotyonok, a military analyst, said, “The decision is shocking to thousands and millions of people who are fighting for Russia, dying for Russia, be-

lieve in Russia and share the beliefs of the Russian world.”

This decision comes approximately a month after an explosion occurred on or near the westbound lanes of the Crimean Bridge, heading towards Kerch in Crimea itself.

According to a senior Ukrainian official who spoke with the *New York Times*, “Ukraine’s intelligence services had orchestrated the attack and that it involved a bomb loaded onto a truck that drove across the bridge.”

On the other hand, Russia claimed that a bomb exploded while being carried by a truck going full speed using an improvised explosive device.

While Russia’s top military leaders attempted to justify the withdrawal, it is undoubtedly a major and humiliating setback for the Russian cause. Russian defense chiefs have claimed they are pulling back their troops to the east bank of the Dnipro River to save the lives of soldiers and civilians.

According to the *New York Post*, Russian General Sergey Surovkin, the recently appointed commander of the war, stated, “I understand that this is a very difficult

decision, but at the same time we will preserve the most important thing – the lives of our servicemen and the overall combat capability of the grouping of troops, which is futile to keep on the right (west) bank in a limited area.” However, Ukrainian troops remain wary of being lured into a trap as Putin previously vowed the territory would be Russian citizens “forever.”

A junior Monmouth University student majoring in marine and environmental biology and policy with a minor in geographical information systems explained their perspective on the ongoing conflict, stating, “I think that Russia-Ukrainian conflict is occurring because of money. The people in power are profiting from this war while many people are suffering, which is disgusting.”

A junior criminal justice student stated, “When it comes to the Russia Ukraine retreat I think that it is definitely a good thing for Ukraine and it weakens Russian position and strategy. Other countries might view Russia as weakened right now and it shows the lack of strength in their military however I would still be cautious as it can be a retreat to regroup and replan to attack again.”

## Missile Strikes Poland

RICHARD PITTS  
POLITICS EDITOR

DEVELOPING: A Russian-produced missile struck the Polish village of Przewodow, 15 miles from Ukraine’s border, killing two people working on a farm, according to a statement by the Polish Foreign Ministry.

According to *AP*, a senior U.S. intelligence official stated that Russian missiles crossed into Poland.

Speaking to *CNN*, a Polish official said that nothing is confirmed and that an investigation is ongoing.

Ukraine’s President, Volodymyr Zelensky, blamed the explosions on Russia and labeled them as an escalation by Moscow in the current conflict.

Two unconfirmed scenarios as to what could have happened are being proposed. The first scenario centers around a deliberate Russian strike on the Polish border village. The reasoning for such a strike is unclear given the village’s general strategic insignificance. The second scenario would be that the missile was shot down over Ukraine by Ukrainian air defenses, with the remains landing in the Polish village.

It is worthwhile to note that the Ukrainian border village of Dobrotvirska, not far from the impact area, is the location of an important

electricity line connecting the European Union and Ukraine.

Eastern European states such as Lithuania and Estonia have voiced their support for Poland, with Lithuania’s President saying to the press that “every inch of NATO territory must be defended.”

The Polish response so far has been fairly assertive. Speaking to the press, Poland’s Secretary of State and Head of the National Security Bureau stated that military readiness will be raised across Poland, alongside possibly triggering NATO’s consultative Article IV.

The Polish President has also reportedly spoken with NATO’s General Secretary.

The incident comes on the heels of another wave of Russian missile strikes against Ukrainian critical infrastructure, in particular its electric grid. The strikes have caused blackouts in not only Ukraine but neighboring Moldova, a state which is not a member of NATO.

The Russian Government has so far denied it attacked Poland with missiles. The Kremlin has labeled the incident as a Western “provocation,” or false flag, in order to provide pretext for further intervention.





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# Women's Basketball's Late-Game Heroics Earn Back-to-Back W's

JONATHAN BAILEY  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Monmouth University women's basketball team (1-1) took down the visiting New Jersey City University (0-1) 79-70 Thursday evening at OceanFirst Bank Center, thanks to a remarkable fourth quarter surge.

The Hawks held off a feisty NJCU team that were within a point early in the fourth quarter before the big run put the game well out of reach. Damaris Rodriguez' fantastic performance for NJCU ultimately went to waste, as she scored a game-high 33 points to pair with two steals, two assists and two rebounds. The Hawks' own grad student Lucy Thomas also stuffed the stat sheet, leading the way

for Monmouth with a double-double that included a new career-high of 23 points and matching her career-best in rebounds with 13. Thomas was one of four Hawks to reach double-digit points on the evening, alongside freshman Anaya Coleman and graduate Bri Tinsley, who each put up 15, and junior Kaci Donovan who chipped in another 10. Thomas' double-double was a welcomed sight and her first in some time; this was the 10th of her career and first this year after posting four in the 2018-19 season and five in the 19-20 season. Coleman's performance was the best of her young career, as the New York native put up double-digit points for the first time to go along with

five defensive boards, four assists, and a perfect night from the free-throw line. Clinging to a 53-52 lead after Rodriguez made a pullup jump shot for the visitors, the Hawks went on a barnstorming 19-2 run to take an 18-point lead with four minutes remaining. NJCU would eventually shave down the Hawks lead and try to even things out, but the Hawks' depth scoring proved to be the difference. Monmouth's bench contributed 13 more points than NJCU's and showed what they can accomplish as a team in the victory.

The Lady Hawks (2-1) then traveled out to Pitt Center in Fairfield, Ct. to face off with Sacred Heart (1-2) and scored 17 of the game's final 22 points to rip off their second consecutive win.

Bri Tinsley scored a career-high 25 points, including eight clutch ones in the final four minutes to go alongside her four assists. Lucy Thomas added 19 points, joining Tinsley in the double-digits while nine different Hawks in total scored on the night.

The Hawks ran the show from start to finish, leading for 31:06 in total. Sacred Heart temporarily held the lead after a few scoring runs, but their seven minutes with the advantage pales mightily in comparison to the Hawks'



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

**Lucy Thomas** was unstoppable during the Hawks' win-streak, following up her double-double with another 19 points.

domination of the scoreboard. The Hawks built their lead all the way up to 15, and ended the night with a 77-62 victory, thanks to a great night overall in shooting efficiency and a near-perfect 13-15 from the free-throw line.

Head Coach Ginny Boggett was over the moon with her squad's performance in their last two victories, and especially this one in particu-

lar. "An incredible response in the second half was the difference tonight," She remarked. "The team is really buying into the things we are emphasizing and it is showing. I am proud of our effort and it was nice to get a win to kick off this road swing."

The Hawks (2-1) will play away once again on Wednesday night, facing Loyola Maryland (1-2) at 7 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

**Bri Tinsley** scored a career-high 25 points to help the Hawks sink Sacred Heart in their second consecutive win.

## Men's Basketball Comes Up Empty-Handed On Road Trip

JONATHAN BAILEY  
SPORTS EDITOR  
MORGAN ALSTON  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Monmouth University men's basketball team (0-1) opened their season against Seton Hall (1-0) at the Prudential Center in Newark, NJ on Wednesday, Nov. 9.

The Hawks hung with the Pirates for the majority of the game, keeping things relatively close during the first half. The Hawks were within five points of the Pirates about halfway through the first half, but the Pirates proved too much to handle with a 6-0 scoring run and a 15-0 scoring run, propelling them into halftime with a 36-17 lead.

Monmouth was able to keep things much closer in the second half thanks to strong efforts from junior forward Myles Foster and sophomore guard

Tahron Allen. Foster led all players in the game in points and rebounds, with 18 and 15 respectively. Allen was the only other Hawk to reach double-digit points on the night.

Seton Hall only outscored Monmouth 43-35 in the second half, but ultimately Monmouth's slow start in the first half put them in too big of a hole for the Hawks to be able to bounce back. The team mustered up 29.8 percent of their field goals whilst struggling even more from deep, converting just 10 percent of their three-point attempts.

Monmouth (0-2) then traveled down to the John Paul Jones Arena where they faced off against No. 18 University of Virginia (2-0) on Friday, Nov. 11. The Hawks were defeated 89-42. Foster again led the team with 10 points, scoring

double-figures for his second consecutive game to begin his season. Monmouth deployed the same starters for the second game in a row with their season opening road trip just kicking off.

The Hawks looked good early, and their efforts allowed them to keep the score close. Things were knotted up during the first seven minutes of the game as Foster made his first five shots for the team. Monmouth scored the first four points of the game, and freshman Jack Collins' first three-pointer of his career gave the Hawks a 13-10 lead within the first 15 minutes. The nationally-ranked Cavaliers stole the lead and never looked back, taking a 42-21 lead into halftime.

The second half would play out similarly to the first, as juniors Myles Ruth and Klemen Vuga got the Hawks rolling early in the second half, but a 17-0 run for UVA gave the Hawks a mountain too great to climb. Sophomore Jayden Doyle and junior Jakari Spence made their first career baskets later on in the half, while junior Jack Holmstrom and freshman Andrew Ball netted triples for Monmouth for their second game in a row trying to put a dent in Virginia's lead.

The Cavaliers steadily increased their advantage just like the first half, and UVA secured the win at their home court. Foster was the only Hawk to reach double-digits in scoring in the loss.

Head Coach King Rice lauded the Hawks' opponents, but was less than pleased with the

Hawks' effort from start to finish. "Virginia is really, really good. Tony Bennett helped me years ago with our defense and he's always been so, so good to me. Their team is a team and they're not going to do things that aren't team like," Rice acknowledged. "If you try to shortcut it, it could get ugly, and tonight I thought we were good for 10 or 11 minutes. Unfortunately, we had to sub and our subs are young and [Virginia] turned up the heat."

On Monday, The Hawks (0-3) then stumbled to a third consecutive loss at the hands of No. 23 Illinois (3-0) and concluded their season-opening road trip at the State Farm Center in Champaign, Illinois. The game was high-scoring at both ends of the court, as the Hawks scored a season-high 65 points but also allowed a season-high 103 points. Freshmen guards

Ball and Collins led the Hawks in scoring, with Ball putting up 13 and Collins right behind him with 12.

The Fighting Illini started with the lead and never relinquished it, heading into halftime up 30 at a score of 63-33. Things were a bit closer in the second half with Illinois taking their foot off the gas pedal, only outscoring the Hawks 40-32. The Fighting Illini's Terrence Shannon Jr. proved to be too much for Monmouth to handle with his electrifying 30-point, 8-rebound performance, and ultimately served as the catalyst to the 38-point loss for the Hawks.

Up next, the Hawks will return home to OceanFirst Bank Center on Thursday, Nov. 17 at 7 p.m. to take on Norfolk State in their first home game of the year, still seeking their first victory of the season.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

**Myles Foster** has been a steady contributor thus far for the Hawks, having already posted a double-double in the Hawks' first game.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

**Jack Collins** is one of several freshman Hawks making significant strides and earning playing time early in the year.



# Swimming Heats Up Before ECAC Championships

**ABIGAIL BROOKS**  
GRADUATE ASSISTANT  
MANAGING EDITOR

The Monmouth University men's and women's swimming teams posted their first victories of the season in dual meets against Manhattan at the Loria Family Aquatic Center in Riverdale, NY on Saturday, Nov. 12.

The men's team posted a decisive 204-52 win over the Jaspers. Blake Reynolds, Dean Beyer, James Leitz, and Callan Smith each won two races to lead the Hawks to victory.

Reynolds earned first-place finishes in the 50-yard freestyle and 50-yard butterfly,

finishing in 21.25 and 22.75 respectively. With these wins, he increased his career victory total to 31 and has seven wins on the season.

Beyer won the 1000 freestyle in 9:43.73 and the 500 freestyle in 4:44.09, bringing his record to four wins this year and six over the course of his career.

Leitz saw victories in the 100-yard butterfly and the 100-yard backstroke, finishing in 52.91 and 53.58 to secure his first two wins of the year and bring his career total to four.

Smith was the final Hawk to post two victories on the day, winning the 100-yard freestyle in 47.35 and the 100-yard IM in 52.81. He now has nine wins

this year and 82 across his career. Several other Monmouth swimmers put up an impressive performance. Owen Dyson earned his first win of his career in the 200-yard freestyle, finishing in 1:45.03. Teammate Kevin Del Giorno took first in the 50-yard backstroke with a time of 23.58 to secure his first win of the season and fourth of his career. Fellow Hawk Sean Cook won the 50-yard breaststroke in 27.09, also posting his first victory of the season to bring his career total to five.

Del Giorno, Cook, and Reynolds competed in the 200-yard medley relay with teammate Thomas Svane-From, winning the event with a time of 1:34.26.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

**Blake Reynolds** recorded a pair of wins in the free-style and butterfly competitions, bringing his career total to 31.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

**Alexa Houseknecht** registered three individual victories to help hand Monmouth their first W of the season.

Similar to the men's team, the Lady Hawks overpowered the Jaspers 181-69. Alexa Houseknecht won three individual races to help lead Monmouth to the team's first victory of the season. She posted first-place finishes in the 50-yard breaststroke (33.13), the 100-yard backstroke (1:01.74), and the 100-yard IM (1:03.35). These were her first wins of the year, bringing her career total to four.

Five Hawks won their first-career races. Julia Bocaj earned a first-place finish in the 1000 free with her time of 11:23.43. Jenna Pryne won the 50-yard backstroke in 26.68. Edie Ancell earned a win in the 100-

yard freestyle with a time of 55.36. Isabella Aguanno swam a 1:11.17 to win the 100-yard breaststroke. Hannah Parker's 5:23.07 earned her a first-place finish in the 500-yard freestyle.

In her second win of the year, Bailey Rynkiewicz won the 200-yard freestyle in 2:00.85. A Monmouth team of Ancell, Aguanno, Rynkiewicz, and Morgan Fredette won the 200-yard medley relay in 1:52.90, an event won by both the men's and women's teams during the day's dual competitions.

Up next, the Hawks will return to NY to compete in the ECAC Winter Championships from Friday, Dec. 2 through Sunday, Dec. 4.

# Bowling Starts Off Hot, Men's Golf Finishes Fall Strong

**JONATHAN BAILEY**  
SPORTS EDITOR

The No. 23 ranked Monmouth University women's bowling team recorded three wins out of eight matches in their first MEAC conference meet of the season. Over those eight games, the team posted an average pin-fall of 183.7 per game and finished seventh out of the nine teams that competed. Despite the disappointing finish, the Hawks were still very consistent and a bit unlucky, finishing fifth overall in total pin-fall.

On the weekend, the team defeated Howard 1,032-853, Norfolk State 865-821, and UAB 924-776. The Hawks' score of 1,032 against Howard was the third highest overall score out of all the teams that competed that weekend. Four of the Hawks' five losses

came against other nationally ranked programs. The Hawks were 2-3 on Friday, and 1-2 on Saturday, and are now 3-5 overall on the year and 3-5 in Baker matches. In all Baker events, the Hawks boast a record of 6-7. The Hawks will travel back to Millsboro, Delaware for the Hawk Classic Invitational hosted by Maryland Eastern Shore. The three-day competition begins on Friday, Nov. 18, and will conclude Sunday, Nov. 20.

The Monmouth University men's tennis team competed in the Drexel Hidden Dual tournament on Nov. 7 and 8 against St. John's and Drexel, winning five singles matches and winning five out of seven in doubles matches. In their first matchup against St. John's, Seniors Alexander Zuckerman, Christof Zeiler, and Gabriel Bustao each won their singles matches, joined

by junior Diego Laporta. Zuckerman decisively won in two sets, while Zeiler, Busato and Laporta each needed three sets to finish off their opponents. Junior Charlie Penman was unlucky not to join his teammates in victory, losing his matchup in three sets. Victor Castro, Lucca Silva, and Arthur Dussaubat also competed in singles matchups against St. John's but came up empty handed.

The Hawks' matchup against Drexel found them much less fortunate this time around, as grad student Lucca Silva emerged as the Hawks' only victor. Dussaubat, Zuckerman, Penman, and Laporta also competed against Drexel, and were joined by teammates Niels Van Noord and Dmitry Bezborodov.

After their singles matchups, the Hawks dominated their competition in the doubles matchups, winning five out of seven and sweeping St. John's. Teams of Niels Van Noord and Victor Castro, and Gabriel Busato Dmitry Bezborodov each took 6-2 victories in their contests. Christof Zeiler and Diego Laporta, and Charlie Penman and Alexander Zuckerman each won their matchups 6-3.

In their following doubles matchups against Drexel, the Hawks were again on the losing end, with Drexel looking the better side in both singles and doubles. Niels Van Noord and Victor Castro got Monmouth started with a 6-4 win, while Busato and Bez-



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

**Dmitry Bezborodov** was one of several Hawks with impressive displays in all competitions.

borodov were defeated 6-4 and Zeiler and Laporta were defeated 6-2.

After the mostly successful tournament appearance, the Hawks traveled down to Annapolis, Maryland to participate in the U.S. Naval Academy's Navy Invitational tournament, competing in both singles and doubles matches. Van Noord competed in singles flight A, winning two and losing one while Bezborodov won one and lost two. In flight B, Castro went undefeated in his three matches while Zuckerman won two out of three. Flight C saw Castro and Penman both go undefeated, while Zeiler joined them in that regard from flight D. Laporta rounded things out for singles competition with a

1-2 finish in flight C.

The Hawks did not compete in singles playoff matches because Bezborodov and Van Noord matched up with each other in the bracket.

In doubles matches, Castro and Van Noord swept flight A with a 4-0 record, and Bezborodov and Laporta went 3-1 in flight B. Zeiler and Penman also went undefeated in flight C, while Zuckerman and Silva split their four games evenly with their opponents.

The tournament did not hold playoff matches for the doubles teams.

The Navy Invitational tournament will be the last competition for the Hawks for a few months; the squad will return to action on Feb. 4 against Temple.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

**The women's bowling team** competed in their first MEAC conference meet of the season and dominated in wins over Howard and UAB.





# ***FIELD HOCKEY DROPS TO DREXEL IN CAA SEMIFINAL***



Field hockey's season came to a close after losing to Drexel in the semi-finals of the CAA Championship.