



# THE OUTLOOK

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## University Grants Students Free Access to *The New York Times*

ABIGAIL BROOKS  
GRADUATE ASSISTANT  
MANAGING EDITOR

Monmouth University granted students free access to *The New York Times* on Tuesday, Jan. 17, adding to the school's expansive collection of over 230 databases and other informational resources including *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Wall Street Journal*.

Kurt Wagner, University Librarian, explained that Monmouth already had partial access to *The New York Times* through another subscription: "It wasn't the full experience of having this kind of premium access. When you subscribe to them directly, you get access to special articles and other content. For a long time I had been wanting this better version with full access to *The New York Times*, but there's always the question of money."

Last year, the Leon Hess Business School, the



PHOTO COURTESY OF ABC News  
**The New York Times** is a daily newspaper based in New York City and is one of the world's most reliable news sources.

Monmouth University Library, and *The Wall Street Journal* partnered to provide school-sponsored *WSJ* memberships to all Monmouth University students, faculty, and staff.

"The Leon Hess Business School faculty is committed to a curriculum that prepares our students for leadership roles in business. Access to the *WSJ* as a supplement to the classroom curriculum allows students to apply their learning through a review of business news, critically think about how their

education relates to the real world of business, and build awareness of current business news," said Raj Devasagayam, Ph.D., Dean, Professor of Marketing and International Business and Dean of the Leon Hess Business School.

"That made me want the same access to *The New York Times*," said Wagner. "I had been having conversations with sales representatives, but it never seemed to be the right time."

NYT cont. on pg. 2

## Professor Deepak, Ph.D., Named Academic of the Year

ALLIANNA MAKOWSKI  
STAFF WRITER

Monmouth University's Anne Deepak, Ph.D., Associate Professor of the School of Social Work, was named Academic of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers-New Jersey chapter (NASW-NJ).

Deepak began teaching at Monmouth University in 2014. As a practitioner, her work primarily related to helping homeless families and individuals living with HIV and AIDS. In ad-

dition to her professorship and field experience, Deepak is presently serving her second term working with the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General Prosecutors and Supervision & Training Bureau on a required cultural diversity and de-escalation training for police officers throughout the state.

Deepak appeared in the Fall/Winter 2022 issue of Monmouth's magazine in

DEEPAK cont. on pg. 2



PHOTO COURTESY OF Bill Cardoni  
**Professor Deepak** was named Academic of the Year for her work in advancing antiracism and social justice.

## Honors School Introduces New Assistant Dean

ABIGAIL BROOKS  
GRADUATE ASSISTANT  
MANAGING EDITOR

The Honors School welcomed Jennifer Ross as the program's new Assistant Dean on Wednesday, Dec. 7, joining the administrative team of Nancy Mezey, Ph.D., Dean of the Honors School, and Doris Meyer, Assistant to the Dean.

"We are excited to have Dean Ross join the Honors School team. She brings holistic support advocating for students and supporting them as they navigate the many resources available to them," said Meyer, who expressed excitement about Ross's ability to contribute to the school's high standard of honors education.

"Dean Ross comes with a lot of experience and a comfort level working with students. She was an obvious

choice for this job," said Mezey, citing Ross's four year career at Union County College where she served as an advisor and administrator for the school's honors program.

"I ended up here because I was looking to get a bit more program oversight and to move up. I ultimately wanted to be at a four year institution at a good, small college," explained Ross, who pioneered a lot of her organizational and advising work at Union. "I know what practices worked well with those students, so hopefully it translates well with these students at Monmouth. I'm really hoping to do a lot of what I did with my prior school, just on a larger scale and over the course of four years instead of just the two."

As the Assistant Dean of the Honors School, Ross is tasked with advising students around honors education and keeping track of their progress to en-

sure that they are on track for the program.

"One of the things that happened during the pandemic is that someone in a previous director's position, Reenie Menditto, retired, and she was the person who kept track of our students' progress and made sure that they were on track. When the pandemic hit, we had a series of tragedies in the Honors School and at a time where our honors students needed us the most, we were not able to provide," explained Mezey.

Despite efforts to get back on track with the help of assistants, part-time roles, and temporary faculty, Mezey still felt that the Honors School was coming up short. "At the end of the day, I feel very strongly that we did not keep track of students the way we needed to, and I felt bad about that," she said.

Now, with the addition

of Dean Ross to the Honors School's administrative team, Mezey hopes to increase the program's retention rate and give students the tools they need to act as "beacon[s]" of academic excellence."

"The purpose of the Honors School is really to support our high-achieving, high-ability, highly motivated students in a way that gives them a living, learning community

ASSISTANT DEAN cont. on pg. 3



PHOTO COURTESY OF Jennifer Ross  
**Jennifer Ross** joins Monmouth University as the Assistant Dean of the Honors School, working alongside Nancy Mezey and Doris Meyer.

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Dear Students:

Just before the end of our break and the beginning of the spring semester, we celebrated the graduation of the most recent class of Hawks, including undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students. Joining our students at commencement always fills me with pride— and the ceremony is a reminder that our winter graduates were not marking the end of their time at Monmouth, but rather, the beginning of something new.

Almost to a person, each of our graduates expressed a similar sentiment— that it all went by so quickly. So no matter where you are in your own path to graduation, especially students who are new to Monmouth this spring, I hope you will avail yourself of every possible on-campus and extracurricular opportunity that you can.

Sign up for career fairs and professional development programs. Attend lectures and events with special guest speakers, and find time to enjoy performing arts presentations and gallery exhibitions. Cheer on your favorite teams— or take advantage of our extraordinary location with a walk near the ocean. I promise you'll thank me later, because sooner than you think, your own academic journey will include a ceremony launching you into the next phase of your life and career.

I do have one important favor to ask as we begin the semester; while the COVID-19 health crisis continues to recede from the forefront of our daily lives, we are seeing a rise in other transmissible illnesses increase in our region. So by all means, go out and get involved with our campus and community, but please do it safely and carefully. It takes each of us to help keep all of us healthy.

We are so happy to have you back and are excited for a terrific semester ahead.

Dr. Patrick F. Leahy

President

## Students Granted NYT Subscription

NYT cont. from pg. 1

Upon closer inspection of the cost of the different subscriptions to *The New York Times*, Wagner discovered that the prices for limited and full access were relatively similar. “I was thinking I could cancel the partial one and subscribe to the premium one, but it didn’t work quite that way because they wouldn’t let me cancel and give me a refund or anything,” said Wagner.

After some negotiation, Wagner secured a partial year subscription lasting from the end of January through June. “I was able to find the funds to pay for that through the library’s donor fund for library materials. I figured, what better way to spend this money than to give the entire University access to this really tremendous tool?”

Wagner noted that when both subscriptions expire in June, he plans to cancel the limited-access plan and renew the premium subscription at an equal price point.

“Having greater access to resources like *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal* really provides this balanced package of trustworthy information,” explained Wagner. “Having both shows that we’re not trying to favor one point of view or one perspective.”

“I think it’s great that Monmouth is offering both *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*, which are both relatively accurate in terms of facts,” said Catherine Duckett, Ph.D., Associate Dean of the School of Science. Citing the Ad Fontes Media Bias Chart, a resource that rates various news out-



IMAGE COURTESY OF The New York Times  
**Students** received an email from University Librarian Kurt Wagner on Tuesday, Jan. 17 with the free access code.

lets based on reliability and bias, Duckett noted that *The New York Times* leans left politically while *The Wall Street Journal* leans right. However, both outlets are ranked as reliable in their fact reporting and analysis.

“[The Media Bias Chart] affected my own reading of media, and I’m now more likely to go to Reuters or AP or something like that for news,” said Heide Estes, Ph.D., Professor of English.

“With social media and the way the algorithms work, many people are effectively in information bubbles where they only get information that reinforces the ideas prevalent in their social circle,” continued Duckett, noting the importance of access to accurate information through credible sources.

“While social media has real time and reliable reporters, finding these accounts takes a high level of media literacy and a strong understanding when it comes to discerning misinformation and propaganda,” said Richard Pitts, a junior political science

student. “Newspapers like these are not prone to misinformation or propaganda, and offering these subscriptions keeps the student body informed with a diverse set of viewpoints.”

“I find out a lot of things through social media, I just don’t believe stuff right away. If I see something that seems slightly implausible in some way, I’ll go and double check if other outlets are reporting on it. If they aren’t, I’m going to assume it’s because they haven’t found good information about it that they trust,” explained Estes, who noted that reading articles in their entirety and cross checking facts are important habits to adopt when consuming information found online.

“I use free resources from the University often. The databases are good for when I need to write papers or search a topic with reliable sources. It’s great to be given such a valuable tool for free. Everyone should take advantage of it,” said Breanna Guinta, a sophomore creative writing student.

## Professor of Social Work Receives High Honor

DEEPAK cont. from pg. 1

Deepak also represented the New York Team at the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) held by the United Nations.

Ralph Cuseglio, DSW, LCSW, Associate Professor of the School of Social Work, further lauded Deepak’s experience, “Dr. Deepak demonstrates herself as a ‘champion of justice.’ She is the genuine article, and she walks the walk.”

Cuseglio continued, “We work closely as co-chairs of GTAA. To me, Anne is the heart of GTAA; without her knowledge, dedication, and motivation, we would not have made the strides we have.”

“It is vital for students to learn how systematic challenges, barriers, and injustices impact the mental health of the marginalized and oppressed populations that they will work with every day. Our students are fortunate enough to have a professor who is an accomplished scholar and an expert in this area of social work practice,” concluded Cuseglio.

an article titled, “Teaching the Tough Topics,” highlighting her latest achievement.

Robin Mama, Ph.D., MSW, LSW, Dean and Professor of the School of Social Work, said, “Deepak very well deserved this award because when she first taught in the Doctorate of Social Work program, students were impressed with the class’ content and the depth of knowledge she brought into the classroom.”

Mama continued, “Along with Dr. Ralph Cuseglio, Deepak has co-chaired Growing Together As Allies (GTAA’s) Committee. With her scholarship focused on the development and application of postcolonial feminist work to social issues, the impact of international volunteers on NGO’s in the Global South, and the examination of social justice delivery and diversity content in social work education, she is an excellent teacher.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF Anthony DePrimo  
**Professor Deepak** is also the co-chair of Growing Together As Allies (GTAA) with Professor Cuseglio.

# Monmouth's Sports Industry Club Traveled to Boston, MA

**ISABELLA HANNA**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF / NEWS EDITOR

Monmouth's Sports Industry Club (SIC) traveled to Boston, Massachusetts from Tuesday, Nov. 29 to Thursday, Dec. 1. to network with professionals and athletes of major sports teams, namely the Bruins and Celtics.

Haider Husaini, President of SIC and junior marketing student, was at the forefront of organizing the trip for his club.

As perpetuated by the club's executive board, this experiential learning opportunity directly relates to the greater mission of the club.

"Our goal is to acclimate likeminded students with a network of accomplished individuals in the sports world, thereby putting them in the best possible position to receive career advice, internship experience, and, ultimately, land jobs post-graduation," began Husaini.

According to Husaini, SIC's trip to Boston is a culmination of what the club has worked for as planning had begun during the middle of the 2022 Spring semester.

"It was a wonderful experience to put this together. To see everything we had worked for and imagined come to fruition was nothing short of a blessing," explained Husaini, "Our advisor, Dr. Matthew Harmon was kind enough to drive us to the city in the MU Athletics van. I speak for everyone in SIC when I say how truly appreciative we are for all of his effort."

The trip enabled students to attend a Bruins-Lightning game, a tour of TD Gardens, a panel discussion with front office professionals of the Bruins and Celtics, a Celtics-Heat game, and tour of Fenway Park.

"My experience on the Boston trip was incredible. There was so much history to learn about both the city and the sports teams. We also got to hear from employees of the Bruins and Celtics, similar to our zoom meetings, and built great connections with them," said Nicholas Auer, a senior marketing student.

Bryan Derr, a senior communication student and social media coordinator for the club, concurred, "I have done very little traveling in my life, so being in Boston for the first time was eye-opening. The city is an amazing place, and Haider, Luca, and Dr. Harmon worked incredibly hard to have a full itinerary of things to do and places to see."

He added, "While we were able to see games and visit places like Fenway Park, my favorite part of the trip of would have to be the panel discussion with professionals from the Celtics and Bruins. They all provided tips and insight on how we can build our respective careers based on their experiences breaking into the industry. I will hold onto all the help they gave us for the rest of my professional career."

"The Boston trip with the Sports Industry Club was definitely one of my most memorable experiences in my time at Monmouth," said Addison Morse, a senior marketing student and the club's digital creator.

"I had so much fun learning more about the sports industry and attending these games, and this trip even helped me learn more about myself. I am more than excited to take part in this club's next trip, and I highly recommend everyone to take advantage of these experiences throughout college."

"It's important to have these experiences in college, because we are all still trying to figure out who we are and what career we want to pursue," said Luca Morello, Vice President of SIC and junior marketing student.

The SIC also has regular Tuesday evening meetings where guest speakers visit campus and describe their experiences within the industry. These guests range from sports agents to team videographers, advertising creatives, social media managers, and broadcasters.

Morello concluded, "Because of my participation in the club, I am grateful to have the opportunity to speak and network with great sports professionals from some of the largest companies in the sports industry, like Bleacher Report, Wasserman, NBA, NFL, Madison Square Garden and more."



PHOTO COURTESY of Haider Husaini

The Sports Industry Club traveled to Boston, MA, where they attended a Celtics-Heat game, toured Fenway Park, and more.



PHOTO COURTESY of Haider Husaini

Part of the trip included a networking event with professionals from the Bruins-Celtics front office.

# Jennifer Ross Joins MU as Assistant Dean of the Honors School

**ASSISTANT DEAN** cont. from pg. 1

experiences both in and out of the classroom with other students who really want to focus on their academics in different ways than the average Monmouth student might," described Mezey. "They take that community that they've built with each other and put it into other areas around the University. When you see some of the student leaders around campus, it's not surprising to see

that many of them are Honors Students."

"I am looking forward to Dean Ross bringing fresh ideas to the table for how to improve the Honors program, whether it be through the curriculum or the events we hold," said Mary Schuld, junior English and elementary education student. "Being a part of the Honors School provides me with the opportunity to meet students from various disciplines, engage in thought provoking discussions, and take a deep dive into research areas that I am

passionate about."

"I thrive on the energy in our office and love being a part of such a close-knit community. Our office is an inviting space for students to make connections with the Honors School administration as well as their peers. Every day you will find students, including non-honors students, in the office to connect, socialize, or just relax. The camaraderie and vibrant culture make the Honors School a special place to work," described Meyer, adding that Dean Ross has already made her presence in the program known by establishing record-keeping processes, outreach efforts, and suggestions on honors courses and degree plans.

"I have had the pleasure of already working with Dean Ross, since I am a student worker in the Honors office, and I am confident that she is already an invaluable member of the team. She brings a warmth and compassionate nature to the office each day and continues to contribute to creating the best honors program possible. She may have just started working here, but she has already created a positive impact on me, and I know that will spread to the rest of the Honors community," said Schuld.



PHOTO COURTESY of @mu\_honorsschool on Instagram

Honors students complete a thesis or capstone project, which they are given the opportunity to present at different conferences.



IMAGE TAKEN from NJTOD.org

Before coming to Monmouth, Dean Ross worked with honors students at Union County College.

"Dean Ross comes with a lot of experience and a comfort level working with students. She was an obvious choice for this job."

NANCY MEZEY, PH.D.  
DEAN OF THE HONORS SCHOOL

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The New York Times Access: It's About Time!

EDITORIAL STAFF

After a long and restful break, The Outlook's editorial staff is ready for another great semester of publishing. Your favorite journalists are back and better than ever!

Speaking of The Outlook, while your personal access to our newspapers, both in print and online, costs nothing, this isn't reality for many other news outlets who utilize subscription fees, also referred to as paywalls.

If you've ever had to conduct scholarly research, you might have noticed that reputable online sources, such as The Wall Street Journal, Harvard Business Review, and The New York Times, limit the number of articles you can access for free.

While this is wildly inconvenient when writing a paper, there's a larger issue at hand—in order to access relevant and quality journalism, one should have to cough up a monthly payment? Does this not contradict the very essence of journalism?

Nevertheless, there's good news! Monmouth announced on Tuesday, Jan. 17 that all students can now enjoy free access to The New York Times (NYT) as covered under our tuition. Naturally, the editorial staff had to give their own take.

One editor began, "I'm very excited about the NYT access! I used to pay for it in high school as I would often have to read editorials for AP English assignments. Likewise, I prefer The New York Times as my primary source of news and think

it's great that all Monmouth students can now access it at no extra cost."

"I am pretty thrilled to see that I can now get it for free through the University as I was paying the monthly fee prior," continued another editor, "I frequently scroll through their website on my own time, but I've also taken several classes where the professor will assign a reading from the NYT; it almost always becomes an ordeal as you only get so many free stories before the website tries to charge you for a subscription."

This sentiment was shared unanimously by all the editors, especially those who were previously paying for access out of pocket.

This latest development succeeds the University's previous announcement over its complimentary access to The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) in Dec. 2021.

"I think it's a step in the right direction allowing students to reliably inform themselves on what's going on in the world rather than getting bits and pieces of information from social media and the like," responded an editor.

"From what I understand, the amount being invested by the University is virtually nothing," explained a different editor, "Both the NYT and WSJ subscriptions were funded largely by contributions from donors, so I'm just thankful that there are people out there supporting the University so that we can have these subscriptions."

As reported in news this week, University Librarian Kurt Wagner told The Outlook, "I was able to find the funds to pay for [the subscription] through the library's donor fund for library materials."

"If this access was from Monmouth's funds," the editor added, "I'm not very confident that the University would be so willing to invest. That kind of money seems like it's reserved for Athletics."

The discussion then transitioned to answer the question: Is it possible to stay informed without buying "real" journalism?

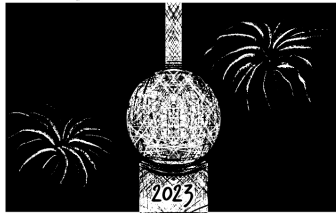
"It is possible; a lot of students today might use social media, such as Twitter, to stay informed; however, these are only small glimpses into what we might want to know and sometimes perpetuates the spread of misinformation," started one editor.

Another editor concurred, "It's definitely possible to stay informed without investing in accredited journalistic sources, but it gets a little tricky with misinformation and fact checking. In today's day and age, almost everyone gets their news from social media, which is a slippery slope because anyone can post anything, so you may or may not be getting accurate information."

While the editorial staff is grateful for this newfound access to The New York Times, it doesn't resolve the issues that others without the financial means to purchase such access have when trying to properly inform themselves.

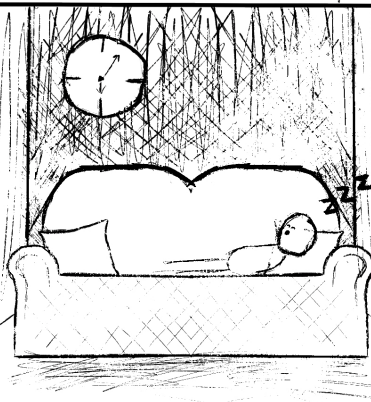
EVERY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

BY KILEY HUBBARD



I'M GOING TO BE SO PRODUCTIVE THIS YEAR AND TRY TO GET AN EARLY START TO THE DAY

2 DAYS LATER...



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# Artificial Intelligence: Our Future or Demise?

BAILEY FREDERICKS  
STAFF WRITER

The use of artificial intelligence (AI) technology has made its way across various industries, one of which is academia. Individuals involved in America’s education system have conflicting views as to AI’s place in students’ learning process.

Before diving into the debate itself, one must first define AI—it is any computer system that completes tasks that would normally require human assistance.

A common misconception about AI is that it only refers to robots and talking computers; in actuality, AI is everywhere. Social media monitoring, algorithms, and chat boxes are examples of AI, just like self-driving cars and “smart assistants” like Siri.

In recent years, AI has skyrocketed in popularity due to significant accomplishments made by the major tech giants. As a result, AI is most commonly found in healthcare, marketing, banking, aviation, oil, and gas organizations. It is only a matter of time before AI is implemented in our schools.

AI in education leaves some individuals skeptical about how well the technologies will perform.

Supporters of AI in the classroom argue that it will enhance the system by creating personalized forms of learning for each individual. For example, AI could help customize teacher’s instruction and tutoring services.

AI likewise has the ability to alleviate educators’ stress. Scantrons have dictated standardized assessments for ages, but AI makes it possible to grade students’ multiple-

choice exams even faster. Additionally, according to the University of San Diego’s online blog, some AI technologies can grade more “abstract” assignments, such as papers.

This new wave of technology has the bandwidth to enhance one’s learning from online school. After the pandemic, many students and families of students chose to transition their preferred mode of learning to online. Students were able to prioritize their health and safety without sacrificing the essence of their education.

While these benefits paint a barrier-free picture, there are many who feel uneasy about intertwining AI with education.

The first issue, and most obvious, is cheating. AI has backed apps and websites that essentially complete students’ work for them. For instance, the app Photomath enables students to receive an answer to their math equation in seconds by simply snapping a picture of the problem.

Sophia Curcio, a sophomore psychology student, argued, “Some AI makes it a lot easier to cheat. I feel like students learn less with more extensive AI.”

Cheating is likely to occur in the classroom one way or another, but many teachers and parents fear that AI makes cheating far too easy and will even encourage cheating as there is no perceived risk. A student may not choose to cheat on a math test by looking at another student’s paper out of fear of being caught. However, that same student may cheat on their math homework using Photomath because there

is little way of proving that their homework was done using an app.

The next issue that arises does not necessarily involve education, but the atmosphere of a school. Schools are environments that foster social connection between people of all backgrounds. Therefore, some argue that the use of AI in education, specifically through tutoring and teaching, can take away from that necessary social component educational institutions.

Lastly, AI is just data fed into a machine. AI cannot learn, grow, adapt, or be creative by itself. Therefore, the use of AI in the classroom is potentially more complicated (and expensive) than some make it seem.

“I think AI does not necessarily enhance a student’s learning experience. I guess in some cases it could be useful, but for me, I tend to take away more from traditional styles of learning than through techniques that use AI,” said Kirsten Cluett, a sophomore health studies student.

The implementation of AI is not going to single-handedly ruin America’s education system as we know it so long as the key ideas of what students are learning stay the same. Rather, we should focus what aspects of AI prove beneficial and find a place for them in the classroom. Finding a balance between using AI technology and utilizing traditional teaching practices is the key to unlocking a new layer to our present education system.



AI is constantly advancing, yet the extent of its benefits and dangers is still unknown and highly debated.

# The Forgotten Art of Connecting

BREANNA GUINTA  
STAFF WRITER

The spring semester is often marked with new classes, familiar faces, and the same coursework.

Generally speaking, I did well making new friends from my classes last semester. Those I developed a deeper relationship with, I kept in touch with over winter break. Nonetheless, I lost touch with those whom I was merely acquainted.

You would think that in today’s day and age, technology should make fostering relationships easier. In actuality, I blame social media and instant messaging for the increased difficulty of connecting with others in person.

The rise of social media over the last couple of decades has led most college students to have at least one social media account and access to a smart-

phone or cell phone. The advent of social media and phones has created the means for instant communication, thus reducing the need for in-person interaction. Like some people my age, I find it easier to send a message than talk face-to-face—especially if the message is something I am nervous communicating to the person.

When I was younger, I wrote letters to express my feelings. Sometimes it’s easier to write down what you want to say and have someone read it thoroughly. There were even a few instances when I wrote letters to my parents because I was too scared to say it to them aloud. It’s easier to hide behind written words.

We are wired to long after social connections as communal creatures who rely on one another to survive. Without farmers, we don’t have food. Without teachers, we cannot

learn. Without doctors, we have no treatment. The pandemic disrupted this structure, and we had to adapt to socialization via technology.

When restrictions were lifted and students returned to campus, I was uneasy to start up those physical interactions again. For almost two years, I adjusted to communicating through social media, text messages, and video chatting. It was easier to comment on someone’s social media post or send a SpongeBob meme to respond to someone than using spoken words. Coming out of the pandemic was like having to rewire our brains to how they were.

Nevertheless, upon deciding on a creative writing major and pushing myself to engage with my community, I was able to ease back into normal again. As a full-time student, I am taking 15 credits this se-

# Out With the Old, In With Zoom

YOSEF DAVIDOWITZ  
STAFF WRITER

It’s easy to forget that when the COVID-19 pandemic started in 2020, classes were initially moved online for only two weeks. After over two years, it is safe to say that the day-to-day ramifications of the pandemic are largely resolved as Monmouth University’s classes, clubs, and student activities are back in full swing, maskless, and without any online first weeks like in previous semesters.

While most people are glad to put pandemic restrictions behind them, there has been one noticeable change to education since that fateful two-week break: the prevalence of Zoom.

During the first few weeks of lockdown, schools and businesses all over the world frantically transitioned all classes and meetings to Zoom, a program that would unknowingly become a staple in our global educational ecosystem. It was the perfect way for schools to quickly switch to online classes—unlike the bloated, complicated Skype or Teams (both owned by Microsoft). In just two years, Zoom’s name is now synonymous with video conferencing.

While involuntary online classes were not ideal, the advent of Zoom has had its upsides. It’s easier than ever to meet from any place at any time. Nearly all my classes’ syllabi this year mention that along with regularly scheduled office hours, additional meetings are available by appointment via Zoom. Some clubs have also opted to have Zoom meetings for smaller routine meetings that are not worth organizing a physical gathering.

Moreover, some hybrid classes have made additional creative and practical use of Zoom. For example, I am currently writing my Honors Thesis, a process that requires registering for the class “HO496.” In reality, this is a class in name only as it does not have a scheduled time; rather, it involves independently meeting with a professor and writing my thesis. However, there have been a few class-wide Zoom meetings to keep us all up-to-date on our thesis requirements.

As a commuter student, Zoom allows me the ability to attend these nighttime, irregularly scheduled meetings without traveling back to campus for just a half hour.

mester and come to campus five days a week, which allows me to spend time with friends between classes. Speaking of friends, most of the people I meet I have shared interests in as we take the same variety of English classes.

For example, I am taking “EN 384: Language and Community” this semester with Dr. Courtney Werner. On the first day of class, she had us go around the room and share our names and our favorite food. Then, on the second day of class, she had us say our names and then repeat the names of the

Nonetheless, Zoom has some less redeemable qualities. Students and professors don’t need reminding of the downsides to remote learning, such as convenient distractions, little-to-no interaction with classmates, and professors who are unfamiliar with teaching in front of a computer screen.

Unfortunately, the fact that almost every student has now taken several online classes has normalized remote learning and these deficiencies. After being forced to take online classes, many students are beginning to question whether remote learning is as valuable and effective as in-person learning.

Recently, two of Monmouth students sued the school for not offering a tuition reimbursement after switching to online learning. Monmouth is not alone—according to the *Associated Press*, over 200 schools have lawsuits against them over this same issue.

Although most would agree that online classes are an inferior learning environment, now that most of the world has experience with online learning, perhaps it is possible to take the best aspects of Zoom classes and use them to enhance in-person learning.

Additionally, the flexibility of Zoom can greatly benefit students, especially graduate students who often have busier schedules. According to Monmouth’s website, there are four graduate programs primarily hosted online, including Autism/Applied Behavior Analysis (Master’s) and Nursing (Doctorate).

With student loan debt in the public eye after President Biden’s student loan relief, as well as the question of the value of online learning being brought to the forefront by lawsuits, perhaps the failings of online classes can turn into opportunities.

Now that almost everyone has experience with online learning, universities could begin offering an accelerated, inexpensive online curriculum option that allows students to learn without the same degree of financial burden.

Ultimately, as we become further removed from the days of Zoom classes, it remains to be seen what aspects of online learning will remain and flourish within our education system.

students before us. It helped us remember each other’s names in a fun way. I wouldn’t have had this kind of experience if the class was offered virtually.

I missed what it was like to meet people and interact with people in person. While it may have felt like connecting without technology was a thing of the past, there are things we can all do to socialize face-to-face, thereby making our college experience more enjoyable.

My little piece of advice—put your phones down and make connections.

LAUREN BEVACQUA  
ASSISTANT FEATURES EDITOR

It's official: the spring semester has arrived like a neatly-wrapped gift for Monmouth students and staff. With any new semester comes new classes and a fresh opportunity for success. Here are some tips to be your best academic self this semester and beyond.

**1. Utilize Add/Drop Week.** The first week of a new semester always starts with Add/Drop week, which allows students to freely add and drop classes without getting a withdrawal on their transcripts. While this Add/Drop period ended on Jan. 24, this is something to take advantage of in future semesters. Students are also encouraged to continue to work diligently with their advisors to create the perfect schedule.

**2. Communicate with your Academic Advisor.** Working with an advisor is crucial to succeeding and determining what classes to take according to your major. Aim for at least two meetings with your advisor; one in the beginning of the semester and one at the end. This ensures that you are on track with your academic career.

**3. Ask Questions.** When working to build a doable schedule with an advisor, asking questions is key.

Students must fill graduation and major requirements, and knowing the prerequisites for courses and asking for clarification makes the process easier. Advisors can also provide career advice or guide undeclared students toward choosing the right major.

Catherine Duckett, Ph.D., Undergraduate Academic Advising Administrator for the School of Science, said, "The first question I ask students is: 'Are you in college to learn how to prepare for a more fulfilling life or are you here to prepare for a specific career?'" All students should be asking themselves this question.

"If the answer is the latter exclusively," Duckett continued, "Tips include researching what successful practitioners follow. If the student is trying to prepare themselves to be a lifelong learner and for a fulfilling life, my answer is they should be seeking out courses and experiences that challenge them and where they learn new and varied skills."

**4. Never be afraid to share your opinion about a certain class meeting time or one that you do not like.** Many students have preferences for class times; some are not morning people, therefore avoiding the earliest class time is likely desirable. Some students also aim for a day off during the week to catch up on coursework. Make sure your advisor is aware of your academic likes/dis-

likes, and they will have no problem accommodating as long as classes are offered during your preferred times.

**5. Do your Research.** Going into an advising meeting can create anxiety for students; however, going in with a plan of what your major expects from you can help you sculpt your schedule with ease.

Bridgette Blumetti, a sophomore nursing student, said, "Having prior knowledge on courses within my curriculum guide has proven to be advantageous. As nursing students, we are required to complete several science courses which can prove challenging. I attempt to pair higher difficulty courses with simpler ones."

"By creating a schedule revolving around these harder courses, it provides the opportunity to study more efficiently and disperse my time for class work," Blumetti explained. "I have also found it crucial to my success that I establish a weekly work plan."

**6. Work on balancing your schedule.** It's important to maintain a balance between your GenEd requirements and your major/minor requirements. Think about yourself in the future; you might not want to take your hardest classes spring semester of your senior year.

Stanley Blair, Ph.D., Associate Professor of English and Academic Advisor, said, "When I advise students on scheduling courses, I sug-

gest they consider two kinds of balance. One kind of balance is chronological, during the student's entire time at Monmouth. This chronological balance often tends to favor General Education courses near the beginning of the student's time at Monmouth, and to favor major courses and related professional preparation near the end. The shift from the one to the other is often gradual."

Blair added, "The second kind of balance is within each semester. Most students have multiple components to their degree program—at least one major, oftentimes one minor, General Education, and sometimes free electives. Since all of these are important, and since their interrelationship is also important, all of them can and perhaps should be represented in the schedule each semester. In some majors, the workload in upper-level major courses is substantial, and quality of performance in them is important. In such cases, two upper-level major courses per semester may be sufficient, though three such courses may also be possible or necessary."

**7. Know Your Limits.** If a class is not a good fit, or you're finding it difficult to balance your workload, you can withdraw. Monday, March 20 is the last possible day to withdraw from a semester-long course in which you will receive a "W" on your transcript. Advisors are always there to help you navigate this change.

# Academic Advising Tips for the Spring Semester and Beyond

## Spring Semester Survival Guide

SHANNON SMITH  
FEATURES EDITOR

The air at Monmouth certainly feels different at the start of the spring semester; rather than stepping onto campus as the leaves fall under the cool September winds, students are met with bare trees, cold January weather, and, most importantly, new classes.

Freshman and transfer students are especially approaching new territory this semester.

transfer students might not have experienced all the excitement and events that come along with joining Monmouth in the fall. Meanwhile, freshmen are experiencing Monmouth in a new atmosphere with different classes and events on the horizon.

Anthony Urmei, Director of Transfer Services, said, "Transferring to another school can be a challenge in the best of circumstances. In my experience, spring transfers generally feel more rushed because of the way academic calendars and winter breaks fit into their transfer cycle."

the ins and outs of how your new school operates and get into a rhythm with your courses. Then it's time to take the next steps. Go to the Involvement Fair to find student organizations that interest you, visit Career Development to build a plan for your future post-graduation, and definitely connect with your academic advisor so you stay on track for graduation."

For first year students, it's essential to utilize Monmouth's services, departments, and events. First Year Advising is there for first-year students, even throughout the spring semester. Along with The Office of Student Engagement to get involved, Career Services to get ahead in your career and major, there is more that cover all you may need during your time at Monmouth.

For Sophomores and Juniors at MU, this isn't their first rodeo, but it won't be their last. For many, it's good to start practicing good habits now in order to succeed both this semester and for the rest of their educational career here.

Nicholas Sorrentino, a sophomore business administration student, said, "Time goes by quicker than expected, make sure to soak it all

in. Last semester felt like a blink of an eye; this semester I want to leave enough time for myself, my school work, and my friends. Time management is key."

With graduation right around the corner, many seniors are looking forward to what's next. Some are applying for full-time jobs, looking at graduate schools, and taking strides this semester to finish on the best foot possible. However, it is common for seniors to also be anxious about what is to come once they leave the Hawks nest.

While it's important to stay on top of your studies, success comes with balance. There are many on-campus events that provide opportunities to step away from your workload and foster a balance between school and a social life.

Luckily for students joining Monmouth this semester, a Spring Involvement Fair took place on Wednesday, Jan. 25. From 1-3 p.m. on the 2nd floor of Ocean First Bank Center.

Clay Vaughn, Director of Student Engagement, said, "This was a fantastic way for clubs and organizations to showcase who they are, what they do, and provide new and returning students with an-

other chance to get connected to a student group."

This semester, many events are planned to keep students engaged on campus and allow them a much-needed break between busy class and work schedules.

Lauren Bevacqua, the Novelties Chair for the Student Activities Board, expressed, "SAB already has events planned for February. On Feb. 11, we are holding a Winter Ball, in conjunction with RHA. This will be a semi-formal dance filled with fun activities, food, and held in the Great Hall. On Feb. 15, there will be a DIY Charcuterie Board event with Cheese All That NJ. There is definitely more to come throughout the rest of the semester!"

According to Vaughn, the best place to learn more about what is happening this semester is through the "Experience MU" app.

"Lastly, any student who is trying to find ways of getting involved or is interested in starting a new club can come to Office of Student Engagement, which is located on the 2nd floor of the Student Center and our staff will be happy to assist them," concluded Vaughn.

PHOTO COURTESY OF  
Monmouth University



# How to Start the Spring Semester on the Right Foot

DANI WALANO  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When traveling back to school after winter break, many students are excited at the thought of seeing friends and creating more amazing memories while on campus.

However, it's easy for that excitement to turn into anxiety as those first-day jitters start to creep in at the notion of beginning a new semester.

As much as we likely look forward to having our social lives return to how they were when we are at school, the thought of all the work and stress that accompanies the start of a new semester is overwhelming.

Nonetheless, with a few simple tips, we can help you start your semester one the best foot possible, helping you finish out the school year stronger than when you began!

One of the biggest determiners of your success this semester is time management. Effectively managing your time is a key life skill and one that you will use time and time again (no pun intended). It is important to dedicate the appropriate amount of time to your tasks, from getting your homework done before a fun weekend out to finding a parking spot before class.

Furthermore, creating a schedule for yourself keeps you in check of any assignments due while also giving you time to relax and have



IMAGE TAKEN from Pexels.com

**Keeping your space neat and tidy** is a great way to save time, reduce stress, and encourage yourself to get your work done.

fun, helping you establish a good work-life balance. Try planning out your day in the morning or at night to keep yourself accountable.

The best way to schedule your time is by using a calendar or daily planner, whether physical or digital. For example, Office 365 has a built-in calendar feature, allowing you to add in social activities, class times, and assignment due dates. Scheduling your day helps you avoid overbooking yourself.

One of the biggest aspects of time management is self-discipline; it takes tremendous focus and requires great motivation. Therefore, establishing a rewards system can help keep you consistent and encouraged, even when your mood tells you otherwise.

According to Simply Psy-

chology, the brain releases larger quantities of dopamine in anticipating a reward; Dopamine is a chemical that makes you feel satisfied and motivated. Having a reward system while studying for a test, or even a simple task like cleaning up your dorm, can make you more driven to complete tasks in a timely manner.

The way in which you start your morning can also dictate how the rest of your day will go, so it's important to schedule some time aside for your mornings. If you wake up with enough time to do your morning routine, it will help you feel refreshed and ready to start the day.

Some tips that might make your morning more tolerable include picking out your outfit the night before, packing up your bookbag in advance,

making your bed, and having your lunch or snacks ready to go. If you have extra time in the morning, play some good music to set the tone for the day, read a few pages of a book, or stretch and get your body moving.

Speaking of snacks, one of the most important things to remember this semester is to eat. While some people don't enjoy eating early in the morning or packing snacks, it's crucial to nourish your brain and body with healthy foods that sustain you throughout the day. Not eating all day will make you feel sluggish and unproductive; it's essential you eat and take care of yourself.

Staying organized can also help keep your stress levels down and save you time. Doing things like maintaining a

tidy desk space or color-coding folders for each class will make you more diligent.

A sophomore marketing student, Megan Zennario, explained, "Staying organized allows me to balance my personal, social, and academic activities more effectively."

Learning about your classes' resources is another great way to prepare for the spring semester. If you want to stay on top of your game, attend your professors' office hours. You can talk to your professor about different ways to approach a difficult concept, all while helping your professor get to know you better.

It is sometimes easier to ask your peers for help than to go to a professor, so going to PAL study sessions, tutoring services, or the writing center can get you the help you need in a more comfortable environment.

Kaitlin Chillemi, a sophomore education student, added, "I like utilizing the writing center to seek guidance for my papers; they have helped me build more coherent and structured essays in the past."

While all of these aspects are important to help your semester go smoothly, all of these methods are unique to the individual. By integrating these tips into your life in a way that is best for you and your routine, you can avoid feeling overwhelmed and burnt out. We wish you a great start to your semester!

## 12 Apps to Help Build Healthy Habits

CECILIAH LEININGER  
LIFESTYLES EDITOR

The beginning of every new year has us reassessing our lives, which likely includes the realization that we need to get ourselves together. We start making plans to workout every day, get straight As, and eat healthier, completely convinced that this is the year we do away with all of our unhealthy habits.

However, this staggering burst of energy and motivation seems to fizzle out faster than the New Years Day firework displays. But, with a little help from some fun, encouraging apps, you can keep that enthusiasm alive to accomplish all your new year's goals.

Apps like Walkr and Fantasy Hike allow you to track your steps while completing engaging games.

For example, Walkr takes your steps and converts it into fuel for your rocket so you can discover new planets and complete missions. It also keeps record of how many calories you've burned and recommends new goals based on your fitness level.

With Fantasy Hike, each step helps your avatar on their adventure to Mount Fire as they compete with other characters. This app displays how far you've walked since you began

your journey as a way of exhibiting your progress.

As the semester goes on, we tend to leave even the small things, like drinking water, by the wayside as we develop tunnel vision about grades and schoolwork. Nonetheless, there are apps that actually track your water consumption, sending you reminders to stay hydrated.

Plant Nanny is an encouraging app that uses every glass of water you track to help you grow plants and build up your collection. Its water-drinking reminders help you and your plants stay hydrated together.

Waterllama breaks down the water content of different drinks and sets up daily goals with cute animal characters. The app includes fun, healthy challenges to complete with its animals, like "Tea-Rex," "Lose Lactose Playpus," and "Sober Bear."

Other apps, such as Finch and Medito, promote mental wellness.

Finch is a self-care app that enables you to take care of your pet the way you would take care of yourself. You can choose from a multitude of mindful exercises— mood check-ins, daily goal tracking, journaling, breathing exercises, stretches, and short guided meditations.

Medito facilitates guided and unguided meditations, as well as breathing exercises, that are

easy to fit into your schedule. The app promotes mindful routines and finding positivity through gratitude.

Ariana Rayes-Connelly, a sophomore psychology student, added, "I really enjoy Medito because it has meditations with varying lengths, including a five minute one that's easy to fit into my day."

Many people's new year's goals are to read more outside of school. Whether this is for general enjoyment or to enhance your knowledge on a certain topic, Goodreads and StoryGraph are two amazing apps that track your reads and show your progress.

Goodreads gives users the option of creating different bookshelves that organize which books you want to read, are currently reading, or have read. While you are reading a book, the app has a feature that allows you to update your progress and see what percentage of the book you have read, which motivates a reader to make it to the end!

Within the Goodreads one can also follow friends to see what they're reading or how they rated different books; it creates a community that encourages one another to keep reading.

At the end of the year, Goodreads gives you your reading year in review where you can see how many books

you've read, along with your total number of pages read and your highest and lowest ranked reads.

StoryGraph is more statistical in nature as it gives you insight into your reading habits. The app tracks how many books and pages you've read, in addition to some general stats, such as mood, pace, average page number, average rating, genre, format, languages, and most read authors. At the end of the year, you can go through and look at your yearly stats.

Apps like Study Bunny and Flora help you to stay focused with your academics by timing your studying and completing focus sessions.

Study Bunny gives you a bunny friend that does your studying with you. Within the app, you can make to-do lists and flash cards to earn coins and, ultimately, customize your bunny. You can also view your study stats to track your progress.

ress.

Einat Shayer, a sophomore marine and environmental biology student, expressed, "I like StudyBunny because it's an adorable app that motivates me to study. I could see a difference in my study habits in only a week."

Flora helps you eliminate distractions from your phone by blocking app notifications. While you work, the Flora app plants a seed that grows the longer you focus. If you leave the app during your focus session as your tree is growing, the tree will die; if you can stay focused, you'll unlock new trees to expand your garden.

While it is far easier to fall back into old, unproductive habits, these apps make it easier to maintain your resolutions. Before throwing in the towel, give these apps a try to become the best, healthiest version of yourself.



IMAGE TAKEN from Pexels.com

**Apps like Goodreads and Storygraph** can help you track your reading in a way that's both fun and motivating.

# Paramore Releases Fierce New Single, “C’est Comme Ca”

MELISSA BADAMO  
GRADUATE ASSISTANT

From emo to alt-rock to ‘80s synth, Paramore has done it all; now, after a five-year hiatus, they’re stepping into an interesting new genre of horror-rock. Released on Jan. 12, “C’est Comme Ca” is Paramore’s fierce new single from their upcoming album *This Is Why*.

While the ‘80s-fueled *After Laughter* was an admirable shift for the three-piece, it feels like a breath of fresh air to see my favorite band inch their way back to their rock roots—but with a modern, slightly eerie twist. “C’est Comme Ca” begins with a neat intro full of oscillating power chords, a clean, satisfying drumbeat, and an electrifying bassline, which is why I was unprepared for the jarring transition into the chorus.

The chorus lacks melodic and lyrical variation, as lead singer Hayley Williams merely repeats the phrase “C’est Comme Ca” four times. They even threw in a slew of “na na na’s” after each line, making a mediocre chorus even worse (after all, My Chemical Romance did it best).

This repetitive style of songwriting has inched its way into some of Paramore’s best songs, like “All I Wanted” and “The Only Exception.” But in contrast, the chorus of “C’est Comme Ca” is chaotic and clumsy. And while I’m not exactly digging it, I do appreciate the artistic decision to fuse a frantic melody with anxious lyrics to foster a feeling of impending doom.

Williams prowls her way through each verse with spoken word, a style previously seen on their experimental track “No Friend” from *After Laughter*. Her voice is deep and bewitching, juxtaposing the chorus’ sharp vocals that sound like something from an anime intro. If anything, this shows Williams’ extraordinary range, which continues to impress decade after decade.

The best part of “C’est Comme Ca” is the bridge,



PHOTO TAKEN from Ticketmaster.

Paramore currently consists of frontwoman Hayley Williams, guitarist Taylor York, and drummer Zac Farro.

where Taylor York’s bouncy guitar riffs fit like a puzzle piece with the classic Zac Farro drum groove. In fact, the instrumentals are where this song truly shines. York even sneaks some brisk acoustic guitar strums in the verses and pre-chorus, a detail I initially overlooked without headphones. Meanwhile, the bracing bassline may just be the electric current that revives a flat chorus.

“C’est Comme Ca” follows in the footsteps of the titular album song “This is Why,” which encapsulates the pressures of existing in the public eye, and “The News,” a relevant political commentary on the anxiety associated with watching catastrophic current events on the news.

While “C’est Comme Ca” is my least favorite of the three singles, it fits well with Paramore’s recent discography and is a great example of the band’s maturation. So far, I’m fairly satisfied with the new music this trio has thus far put out.

“C’est Comme Ca,” a French phrase that roughly translates to “it is what it is,” is equally as edgy as the first two singles. In the second verse, Williams sings, “I’m off caffeine on doctor’s orders...lucky for me I run on spite and sweet revenge.” Meanwhile, “This is Why” claps back at a critical world with the opening line, “If

you have an opinion / maybe you should shove it.”

As Williams explained in a press release, “The idea of imminent doom is less catastrophic to me than not

knowing anything about the future or my part in it. The guys and I are all in much more stable places in our lives than ever before. And somehow that is harder for

me to adjust to.”

These singles give the air of a band who have been burned by a cold world and even colder people. It is in this way it shares themes from their third (and best) album, *Brand New Eyes*, which explored the tense relationships between former band members. In fact, “This is Why” reminds me of “Playing God” off *Brand New Eyes*, a cutthroat anthem against critical, controlling, and opinionated people.

So, while Paramore have always sung about spite and revenge, this time they’ve returned with a more mature angst. Once again, they have taken this universal slice of the human experience and concocted a musical balm for those who need it most. As they continue to thrive in their thirties, this trio has finally returned to tell the world that they’re done with life’s bullshit.

## Everything You Need to Know About the 65th Grammy Awards

GABRIELLE SANGATALDO  
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

The 65th Grammy Awards premiere on the CBS Television Network on Sunday, Feb. 5 at 8 p.m., and, before you get geared up for your viewing parties, here’s everything you need to prepare for “Music’s Biggest Night.”

First and foremost, comedian Trevor Noah will return for the third year in a row as the night’s host, a precedent set only by LL Cool J in the last 30 years. A well-known TV personality as well as an experienced host, Noah certainly knows what it takes to lead one of the most highly anticipated music events of the year.

In regard to nominations, Beyoncé unsurprisingly leads with nine, her categories including Record of the Year and Song of the Year with “BREAK MY SOUL,” as well as Album of the Year and Best Dance/Electronic Music Album with *RENAISSANCE*.

Other notable nominees include Harry Styles and Adele, both of whom received nominations for Record of the Year (“As It Was” and “Easy On Me,” respectively) and Album of the Year (*Harry’s House* and 30).

For those of you wondering what the difference is between Record and Song of the Year, Record of the Year is awarded to the entire team that works on producing a song; Song of the Year honors the songwriting aspect of a song in specific. Naturally, Taylor Swift is

nominated for multiple categories, including Song of the Year and Best Music Video with “All Too Well (10 Minute Version)” and Best Country Song with “I Bet You Think About Me (Taylor’s Version) (From The Vault).”

The Swedish supergroup ABBA also makes multiple appearances on this year’s nomination list after surprising many with a nomination for Record of the Year last year in honor of their first song in almost 40 years, “I Still Have Faith in You.” This year’s nominations for the band include Record of the Year and Best Pop Duo/Group Performance with “Don’t Shut Me Down,” as well as Album of the Year and Best Pop Vocal Album with *Voyage*.

Notably, this year’s award ceremony has introduced five new categories, of which are Songwriter of the Year, Non-Classical; Best Alternative Music Performance; Best Americana Music Performance; Best Score

Soundtrack for Video Games and Other Interactive Media; and Best Spoken Word Poetry Album. Expanding the pool of nomination categories is significant, simply because more artists have the chance to receive recognition for their work—even if it isn’t within the mainstream realm of music.

Unfortunately, word regarding presenters and performers is still inconclusive, assumedly because of the grueling task of finalizing artists’ schedules. Nonetheless, with the awards coming up soon, it is expected that the list of names will slowly but surely become public.

Overall, the awards night is likely to impress, especially with some of the biggest names in music racking up multiple nominations left and right. If you miss the viewing, be sure to check back in with *The Outlook* for a full breakdown of the night’s winners and performances.



IMAGE TAKEN from Nme.com.



IMAGE TAKEN from Billboard

Paramore is set to release their new album *This Is Why* on Feb. 10.

The Grammy Awards will premiere on the CBS Television Network at 8 p.m.

# I Played Over 50 Hours of “The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild,” Here’s What I Think

GABRIELLE SANGATALDO  
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Let me preface this by saying that I am not a gamer by any definition. My limited gaming resume consists of *Animal Crossing*, *Stardew Valley*, and *Pokémon Brilliant Diamond*, largely because of my personal gaming requirements.

Anything too difficult stresses me out; games that are easy and straightforward bore me. I need to have some freedom with the gameplay, but too much leaves me restless.

Nevertheless, I went on a hunt for something that met my strict preferences. A quick Google search for the best Nintendo Switch games yielded *The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild* at the top of the list. Another quick Google search told me that it was perfect for new-time *Zelda* players as no prior knowledge was needed to play. Desperate and on a whim, I bought the game.

I began *Breath of the Wild* apprehensively. I was well-aware of the game’s extensive lore, and I worried that I wouldn’t have the necessary background to enjoy the storyline. The reviews about the game proved correct. Before long, I was completely and



IMAGE TAKEN from Nintendo.

In *Breath of the Wild*, players assume the role of the character Link, destined to save the Kingdom of Hyrule.

utterly sucked into the land of Hyrule, teeming with its post-apocalyptic enemies and scarily realistic laws of nature.

In the game, you play as an amnesiac Link who has just awoken from a 100-year-long nap. You then must recover his memories in an effort to save Princess Zelda; she’s trapped fighting off Calamity Ganon in the heart of Hyrule Castle. The path to rescuing Zelda is anything but straightforward, making for a nonlinear gameplay that will capture the attention of even the most skilled gamer.

Despite having played over 50 hours so far, I have yet to complete the main storyline of *Breath of the Wild*. The number of side quests and physical freedom of the open-world map prove for countless hours of immersive gameplay, all of which are accessible outside of the main quest.

For example, I’ve gone off on hunts just to mine ore that I can sell for a few extra rupees, Hyrule’s currency. Other times, I’ve spent considerable time simply exploring the map to get a better lay of

the land.

The game sets the player up perfectly for this addictive playability as the world itself is not unlike our own. Grass fields are easily set on fire; flowers, mushrooms, and fruit scavenged for food; lightning strikes any metal objects on your person; rain makes climbing surfaces slippery and difficult to scale; cold, and conversely, heat, affect your person, making specific armor more appropriate for certain biomes. One can take hours just experimenting with how the character

reacts to the elements.

The environment itself isn’t the only enticing aspect of *Breath of the Wild*. The storyline is filled with such rich and dynamic characters that the player can’t help but feel a connection with, despite the minimal screen time each character has with Link. Each recovered memory of Link’s results in a short clip the player gets to watch.

It is in these moments that we, as well as Link, learn about his relationships with the other warriors and his ultimate purpose within the grand scheme of defeating Ganon. So, as the plot unfolds, so does a new motivation to recover the rest of his memories and fulfill the quest of saving Zelda.

Due to my newfound love for the game, it’s an understatement to say that I was excited to hear that *Breath of the Wild*’s sequel, *Tears of the Kingdom*, is scheduled for release on May 12 of this year. The hype across the board is unmatched, as six years have passed since the release of *Breath of the Wild*—making its successor one of the most highly anticipated releases of the year.

Until May, I’ll continue my quest to free Zelda and wait in anticipation for which direction the storyline heads in next.

## Fall Out Boy Performs as New Trio Amid First Single in Five Years

GABRIELLE SANGATALDO  
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Fall Out Boy performed their new single “Love From The Other Side” on Jimmy Kimmel Live! as a three-man group on Thursday, Jan. 19. The performance was taped only a few hours before guitarist Joe Trohman announced his musical hiatus on the band’s social media accounts.

The single is the band’s first musical release since their album *MANIA* in 2018. You can only imagine how eager their fanbase was to receive a much-needed emo throwback anthem.

While supportive of Trohman’s decision, fans were understandably disappointed. His social media post titled, “a note from Joe,” explained that his leave of absence is in response to his mental health. Moreover, he underscores his complete willingness to return to the band in the future.

“In the meantime,” he writes, “I must recover, which means putting myself and my mental health first.” On the same day as Trohman’s announcement, the band announced that their upcoming album, *So Much (For) Stardust*, is set



IMAGE TAKEN from Kerrang.com

Fall Out Boy is without guitarist Joe Trohman in new music video.

to release on March 24 of this year. Although missing from the band’s new saga, the guitarist likewise relayed how much pride the upcoming album gives him.

The music video for “Love From The Other Side” recounts a little girl’s bedtime story. As the fantasy develops, a wizard transforms Trohman into a human-size raccoon—a not-so-subtle nod toward his break from the band. Nonetheless, Trohman’s presence as a raccoon was kept throughout the video. YouTube comments on the video’s post show nothing but love and support for Trohman, emphasizing the importance of taking time for

oneself.

The song “Love From The Other Side” itself is extremely reminiscent of the band’s older works. Immediately, the listener is hit with melodic strings and soft piano, an orchestral combination not dissimilar from Fall Out Boy’s fourth album *Folie à Deux*.

It then transitions into a traditional, heavier sound, complete with thrashy guitars and a driving drum kick. Any emo fan would immediately connect the head-bumping sound to the band’s earlier albums, released during the pinnacle of pop-punk music.

The chorus begins strong with lead singer Patrick

Stump belting, “Sending my love from the other side of the apocalypse,” perhaps alluding both to the COVID-19 pandemic and their seventh album *MANIA*, which received mixed reviews from critics and fans alike.

Nevertheless, the chorus is as catchy as it is nostalgia-inducing, making for an earworm like that of the 2005 emo scene. “Love From The Other Side” continues to show lyrical fluidity and sophistication, something that is unsurprisingly present throughout all Fall Out Boy songs.

Fall Out Boy’s new music is part of a long line of newer emo returns. Last

May, the famed My Chemical Romance released their first single since 2014 after launching a tour for the first time in years. Panic! At The Disco released their seventh studio album *Viva Las Vengeance* last August, and Paramore gears up to release their sixth studio album *This Is Why* this February.

With Fall Out Boy’s next album on the horizon, it’s no surprise that fans are on the edges of their seats for more snippets of music from the bands they grew up with.

Overall, this newest single serves as its own amalgamation of the band’s career. By combining elements from almost every Fall Out Boy era to date, “Love From The Other Side” is the ultimate comeback for the band, despite lacking a member for the time being.



IMAGE TAKEN from Wikipedia.com.

The cover art for the upcoming album, *So Much (For) Stardust*.

# U.S. Hits Debt Ceiling; Treasury Works to Prevent Default



IMAGE TAKEN from travelcaffeine.com

**House Republicans** and Senate Democrats have reached an impasse on how to handle the debt ceiling issue.

**ANGEL VALERIO**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As of Jan. 19, the United States has hit the debt ceiling. The limit on the U.S. debt has been met at \$31.4 trillion and may only be surpassed in the future.

To define the issue, the debt ceiling is the restriction of the amount of debt that the U.S. can possess, established by Congress, which becomes a problem when there is not enough revenue to match or surpass government spending. There was a law established to go along with upholding the debt ceiling during World War I, which is still in effect today.

Congress ultimately decides whether or not to raise the debt ceiling, which has been done 78 times since 1960.

Some members of the House, like U.S. Representative Chip Roy (R-TX), see the debt ceiling rise as inevitable and believe that cutting government spending is the most important action to take to balance the budget.

This is despite the Republican majority in the House, led by Kevin McCarthy, being opposed to cutting spending on military defenses, though there also seems to be opposition to cutting Social Security and Medicare.

Notably, this differs from most previous Congress Republicans as the Republican Party has historically been in favor of cutting social programs like Medicare and Social Security.

Nonetheless, leadership within the House Republicans is less likely to go through with raising the debt ceiling until the budget is modified and spending cuts are agreed upon by both Democrats and Republicans in Congress.

As reported by Reuters, the Department of the Treasury's secretary, Janet Yellen, has halted the defaulting of debt until June 5 due to the difficulty of accurately forecasting government revenue and spending any further beyond said date.

However, the Treasury also warns that they may enact emergency cuts to government spending before June 5, if necessary, to the opposition of the Senate's Democratic majority's plans for the budget.

Between the House and the Senate, the Democratic ma-

jority in the Senate under the leadership of Chuck Schumer refuses to halt spending.

This year's bills are akin to 2022's spending package of about \$1.66 trillion. Schumer believes that cutting spending on behalf of the Republican Party would lead to an economic downfall.

Within the Senate Republicans, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell believes that halfway through 2023, possibly before June 5, the debt ceiling will be lifted as negotiated within both Congress and the White House as the US has never defaulted on debt before.

As reported by the Associated Press, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre has issued a statement on how raising the debt ceiling is not a negotiable issue within Congress, and that they should go on with raising the debt ceiling as has been done before.

The statement was issued on behalf of President Joe Biden whose goal is to limit the impact of the debt ceiling issue on the economy as opposed to continuing negotiations.

According to *The New York Times*, the Ways and Means House Committee Chair, Jason Smith of Missouri, stated that President Joe Biden should collaborate with the House Republicans in discussing the debt ceiling.

However, Joe Biden has indicated that he refuses to participate in negotiation on this urgent issue.

The possible reasoning for the U.S. never defaulting on its debt in the past is to maintain the American dollar as one of the world's strongest currencies, and to maintain the integrity of bonds and other assets issued by the government on credit, which currently helps the American economy in the face of international trading partners.

Defaulting on the debt without raising the debt ceiling would make the U.S. economy less reputable to the rest of the world.

If the government ultimately defaults by June 5, many fear that the economy could suffer.

There could be a lack of funding for social programs like Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security. There could also be a lack of funding for the military's defenses and the salaries of federal government employees. Currently, the solution has not yet been decided on what cuts are to be made on essential government programs and/or regarding how high to raise the debt ceiling once again for the next fiscal year before the Treasury takes action themselves.

Regardless, the worry of the state of necessary funds and programs in 2023 and 2024 impacts working American families and the economy's image on an international scale due to the uncertainty of when the debt ceiling will be raised once again and how the government will spend their money this time.

"Any default would ultimately harm working people. Budget cuts will inevitably come from safety net programs designed to keep working Americans and those in poverty afloat. If House Republicans allow this issue to go unaddressed, they will be responsible for worsening an already tough economic situation for the everyday American and those less fortunate," a senior political science student said.

On the other hand, a junior homeland security student said, "The government spends too much money and is reckless. The government should spend within its means and reorganize its priorities to meet needs we have at home first."



IMAGE TAKEN from AP News

**The U.S. Treasury** may enact emergency cuts to government spending.

# Drama Over Speakership

**RAINA MORSE**  
STAFF WRITER

After an eventful number of weeks and 14 failed votes, Kevin McCarthy (R) of CA's 20th district was elected Speaker of the House on Saturday, Jan. 7. Normally, the House successfully elects their speaker in an almost ceremonial way, swearing in new members on the same day as it elects a leader.

In fact, this was the first time since 1923 that the House needed more than a single vote to decide on their speaker. Without a speaker, the House is unable to pass any bills or swear in its new members.

This includes things like agreeing on raising the debt ceiling – a necessary measure to avoid a government shutdown.

In the days surrounding the election, Republican representatives commented on the vote as a way to set the tone for this Congress, so the delay in selecting their speaker is likely a portent of the sort of governing we can expect from the Republican majority these next two years.

In order to secure enough votes for the speakership, McCarthy has made a number of concessions, mostly to far-right members of the Republican Party, many of whom are a part of the Freedom Caucus, which will limit his power. The Freedom Caucus is generally loyal to former President Donald Trump and notably includes Marjorie Taylor Green, Jim Jordan,

Scott Perry, and Lauren Boebert. Some outlets have asserted that he may be entering his speakership in the weakest position of any speaker.

Concessions include adjustments to how bills can be brought to the House floor and voted on, relaxation of rules allowing amendments to bills, and many concessions related to government spending. McCarthy has agreed to hold votes on term limits and border security as well. Perhaps most significantly, he has also agreed to lower the threshold for initiating a "motion to vacate," the process for replacing the Speaker, from five members to one.

He has also reportedly agreed to appoint more members of the Freedom Caucus to the House Rules Committee, which is generally understood to be one of the most powerful committees in Congress due to its power over the processes and procedures around introducing new legislation to the body.

Gina Dige, a freshman graphic design student who described herself as "not in the political world" but was acutely aware of the speaker election, noted, "Politics are so polarized right now. No one cares about what is actually going on and everything seems like a petty popularity contest."

# U.S. & U.K. Send Tanks to Aid Ukraine

**MELANIE TENCZA**  
STAFF WRITER

Another year of highly escalated warfare in Ukraine has reared its gruesome head once again.

The United States and the United Kingdom have geared up to send additional aid packages to Ukraine to help in their defense against Russia.

The U.S. announced an aid package that will total \$2.5 billion dollars, including hundreds of armored vehicles, such as Stryker armored personnel carriers and Bradley infantry fighting vehicles, as well as thousands of different artillery and mortar rounds.

Similarly, the U.K. has also announced an aid package, with Reuters reporting that Britain's defense minister, Ben Wallace, has confirmed "the supply of 14 Challenger two tanks and setting out a number of other details."

This is not the first time either country has supplied aid to Ukrainians in fighting this war.

The State Department states that "Since January 2021, the United States has invested approximately \$27.5 billion in security assistance to demonstrate our enduring and steadfast commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity."

The United Kingdom also supplied Ukraine with \$2.3 billion in aid in 2022.

The announcements of these aid packages has demonstrated how civilian tax dollars are being spent in both nations, with mixed reactions being felt throughout them both.

"I do understand and support the decision of our leaders to send these reinforcements to Ukraine, as historically the United States has made attempts to intervene in global conflicts that could have negative economic impacts on the global market. I think this decision was the most logical route for our leaders to take in this situation," said a senior political science student.

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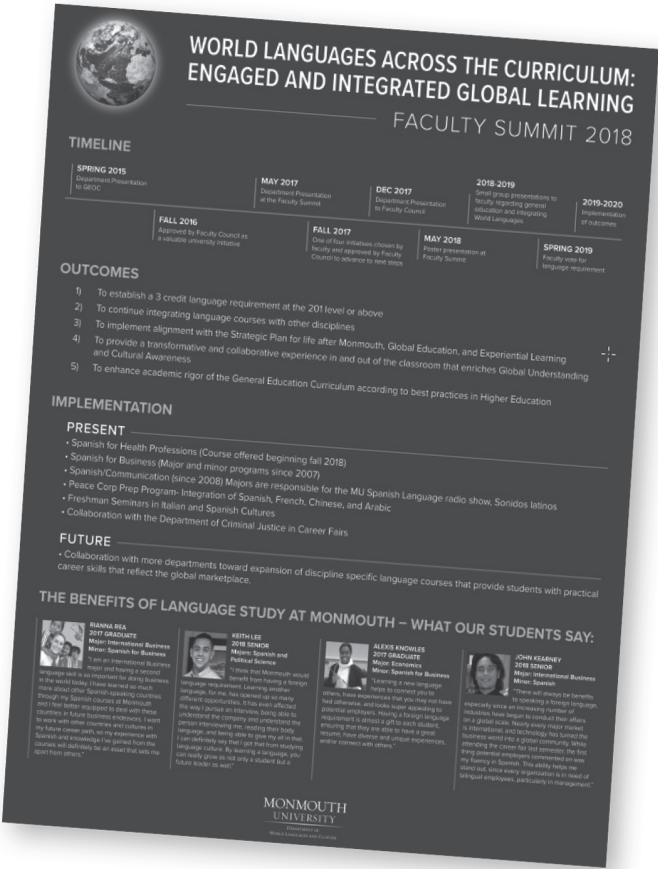
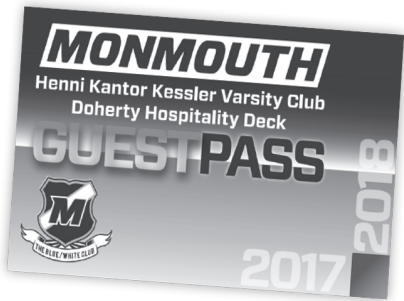
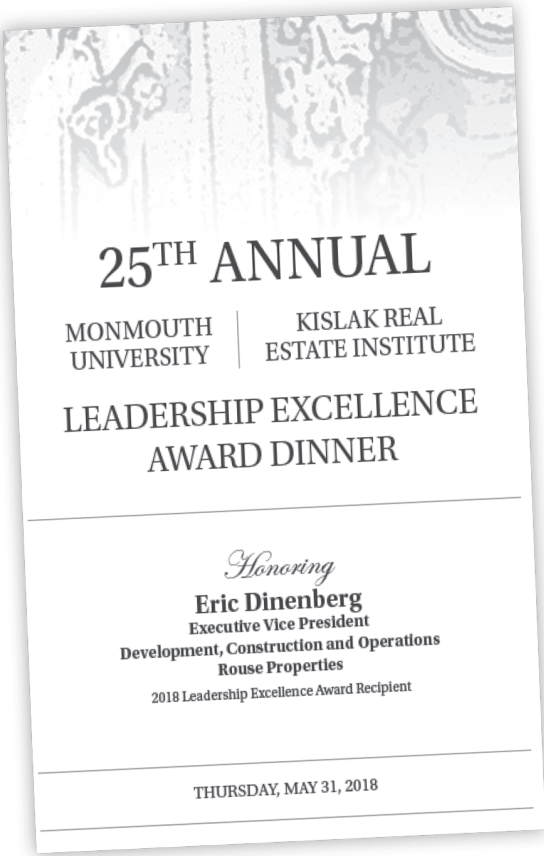
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# Highs and Lows for Women’s Basketball

ABIGAIL BROOKS  
GRADUATE ASSISTANT  
MANAGING EDITOR

The Monmouth University women’s basketball team saw a busy end to the fall semester that continued into the winter break. The Hawks brought home mixed results as they faced several non-conference opponents before beginning their first season of CAA play. Monmouth saw consecutive losses against La Salle (7-4), Dartmouth (2-7), and Brigham Young University (5-8) to conclude their non-conference schedule, ending 5-6 against non-CAA opponents to begin the season.

The Hawks ended their three-game losing streak and secured their first CAA win in a home opener against Northeastern University (5-7, 0-1 CAA) on Friday, Dec. 30. Monmouth dominated the Huskies through the first two periods of play, leading 29-21 going into halftime. Northeastern bounced back and took the lead from the home team during the fourth quarter, ahead 44-41 with just over five minutes left in the game. The Hawks never stopped fighting, scoring the last seven points of the match including a notable triple from freshman Amiya Carroll to secure the 54-49 win. With this win, Monmouth improved to 2-0 in conference openers under head coach Ginny Boggess and improved to 4-1 at home for the season.

Monmouth added another win to their record after defeating the University of Delaware (8-5, 1-1 CAA) in a decisive 80-60 victory on Sunday, Jan. 1 to ring in the new year and continue their CAA success.

The Hawks’ CAA winning streak was brief, ending after a crushing loss to North Carolina A&T (9-5, 3-0 CAA) later that week on Friday, Jan. 6. The Hawks led 34-25 going into halftime after going on an 11-0 run to start the game and another 7-0 run toward the end of the second period, led by buckets from Lovin Marsicano, Bri Tinsley, and Jen Louro. The Aggies were quick to bounce back in the second half, shooting



**The Hawks** earned some notable wins and suffered some heartbreaking losses throughout non-conference play and their first matchups as members of the CAA.

“This was a huge road win! We battled through a lot of adversity and stayed connected to put ourselves in position for a strong finish. We had a lot of players step up today and I’m excited to seize the momentum and continue to grow in our confidence.”

GINNY BOGGESS  
Head Coach, Monmouth University Women’s Basketball  
on her team’s win over UNC Wilmington

54.5 percent from the field while holding Monmouth to 21.7 field goal percentage and forcing 11 turnovers from the Hawks. The visiting team went on a 20-4 run to conclude the game and secure the 68-52 win, completely rewriting the match that was originally dominated by Monmouth.

The Hawks wasted no time getting back to work, bouncing back with a 64-56 win over Elon University (4-11, 0-4 CAA) on Sunday, Jan. 8. Tinsley led Monmouth’s offensive effort with four rebounds, four assists, and a game-high 20 points. Marsicano added nine points and five rebounds of her own while teammate Ariana Vanderhoop contributed another nine points and two assists. Although it was a matchup full of back-and-forth battles, the Hawks ultimately prevailed 64-56.

Monmouth fell into another lull full of losses, dropping three consecutive games to Stony Brook University (10-6, 4-1 CAA), Towson University (9-7, 3-2 CAA), and the College of Charleston (8-8, 3-3 CAA). However, the Hawks didn’t go down without a fight in any of the matchups despite the unfortunate final scores. Against Stony Brook, Kaci Donovan and Vanderhoop both recorded their fifth double-digit scoring games of the season while Tinsley had a career-high nine rebounds and a game-high four assists. Jen Louro put on a monumental performance against Towson, racking up a career-high 25 points for the Hawks. Vanderhoop recorded her second straight game in double figures and sixth on the season against Towson. She posted her second career double-

double later that week against the College of Charleston, reaching double figures for the third straight game as she finished with 14 points and matched her career-high with 11 rebounds. Tinsley and Lucy Thomas both added 13 points for Monmouth, marking 11 double figure games for Tinsley this season and six for Thomas.

In their most recent matchup against the University of North Carolina Wilmington (4-14, 1-6 CAA), the Hawks (9-10, 4-4 CAA) finally came out on top 55-52. Led by Vanderhoop’s career-high 24 points, 17 of which were scored in the second half, Monmouth came back from a 26-23 deficit at the half to claim the much needed win.

The Hawks played a strong first period, leading UNCW 20-13 after an early 17-11 ad-

vantage thanks to buckets from Carroll and Jania Hall. Monmouth put up a far weaker performance in the second quarter, scoring a mere three points compared to the home team’s 13.

The third quarter saw a much more even matchup, although the Hawks still trailed UNCW 34-30 after putting up only seven points to their eight. The final 10 minutes were momentous for Monmouth, who opened on an 11-2 with eight of those points coming from Vanderhoop. In the lead 41-37, the Hawks pulled away even further after a Kranbuhl lay-up at 1:51 put Monmouth ahead 49-44.

UNCW didn’t go down without a fight, cutting their deficit to one point with a mere 47 seconds left in the game. Monmouth pulled away and secured the victory as the Hawks scored six of the game’s final 10 points, five coming from Vanderhoop alone.

With this win over UNCW, Monmouth broke a three game losing streak. In addition to the 24 points she put up to reestablish her career-high for the second time this season, Vanderhoop also contributed eight rebounds and two steals to lead the Hawks to a much needed win. She has now scored in double figures in four straight games and eight times throughout the season. Across the board, seven Hawks have put up 20-plus point performances for Monmouth this season.

Belle Kranbuhl added 10 points and six rebounds, scoring in double figures for the fourth time this season, while freshman Ella Farrelly came off the bench to grab seven rebounds and block two shots. Hall also made a team-high three assists in the contest.

“This was a huge road win! We battled through a lot of adversity and stayed connected to put ourselves in position for a strong finish. We had a lot of players step up today and I’m excited to seize the momentum and continue to grow in our confidence,” said Boggess on the team’s victory.

Up next, the Hawks are set to host Hampton University on Friday, Jan. 27.



**Ariana Vanderhoop** put up 24 points against UNC Wilmington, her fourth straight game in double figures and eighth of the season.



**Bri Tinsley** has been a key player for Monmouth, scoring in double figures in 11 games this season.

# Track and Field Teams Continue to Break School Records

**MORGAN ALSTON**  
SPORTS CO-EDITOR

The Monmouth University's men's and women's track and field team jumped right back into action on Saturday, Jan. 15 for the UPenn Select Meet held at the Ocean Breeze Athletic Complex in Staten Island, NY.

The Hawks took home victories in four events and placed second in four more, while also producing five all-time top-ten performances during the meet hosted by the University of Pennsylvania.

On the women's side, there were several notable performances that led Monmouth to victory in three of their four total event wins and four of the five top-ten list additions.

Ashley Navarro had an impressive performance which empowered her to win the

women's mile. The redshirt senior's time of 4:46.55 placed her second amongst the school's all-time top-ten. Sophomore Veronica Chainov won the women's high jump by clearing the bar with a mark of 1.71m. Vanessa Wood won her second consecutive shot put event with a throw of 13.37m, giving the sophomore a new personal best.

Yasmeen Tinsley solidified two new top-ten placements after finishing in second place in the women's 60m hurdles and third in the 400m. Her monstrous effort in the hurdles is now good for second all-time in MU's history. The sophomore kept the energy going with her 56.85 finish in the 400m, placing her tenth all-time in school history.

Redshirt sophomore Marisa Kilgariff earned the final top-ten performance with a new personal best in the women's 3000m at 9:53.39 - the fastest

time in Monmouth's history.

On the men's side, the successes continued when Louis DiLaurenzio added the school's fifth-best men's time at a quick 4:08.44 mile, giving the Hawk's a clean sweep in the event.

Redshirt sophomore Brandon Muir placed second in the men's 60m dash with a blazing time of 6.93, while senior Mujeeb Ali finished second in the men's shot, put recording a distance of 15.49m.

In the field events, Bryce Boddie brought home a third place win for the Hawks. The sophomore leaped a mark of 14.23m, a new personal best. Juniors Dalton Yeust and Connor Bennett tied for fourth place in the men's pole vault as they each cleared the bar at 4.50m.

On Saturday, Jan. 22, Monmouth University men's and women's track and field team headed back to Staten Island, NY to compete at the Villanova Invitational at the Ocean Breeze Athletic Complex.

DiLaurenzio had another impressive day as he knocked down the Monmouth University indoor track record in the men's 1000m, posting a time of 2:22.03

DiLaurenzio's shiny new record earned him a second place finish in the event, while his teammate, Stone Caraccio, produced a fourth-place finish at 4:23.83 - placing him at the fifth-fastest time in MU's school history.

DiLaurenzio and Caraccio were two of 10 Hawks who set new marks in their respective competitions in the school's all-

time top-ten. It was an even split between the Hawks squads, with five new women's records and five new men's records.

Tinsley kept the ball rolling with a win in the women's 60m hurdle thanks to an impressive 8.67 finish. Navarro won an event for the second week in a row, this time winning the 1000m event at 2:44.58 - producing the third-fastest time in Monmouth history. Tinsley then ran the 200m in 24.83, a new personal best that places her fourth in school history in the competition. Redshirt junior Grace Mary Kearns joined the top-ten with her fellow teammates, now sitting sixth in the 1000m after finishing with a time of 2:52.28.

Sophomore Declan McDonnell entered the top-ten in the men's mile clocking a time of 4:11.41, which earned him eighth place in Monmouth history. Redshirt sophomores Isabella Leak and Marisa Kilgariff each produced impressive finishes during the mile that allowed them to take eighth and ninth on Monmouth's top ten list, respectively.

Ali continued to make his dominance known with a new indoor season CAA-best weight throw of 19.04m; this is now the sixth-farthest weight thrown by a Hawk.

In the field events, Junior Keven Kevelier tied his personal record in the high jump with a first place finish, clearing the bar at 2.05m, while teammate Ahmad Brock took home the win in the triple jump with

a leap of 14.49m. Those two finishes are the best marks in the conference this year. Brock now sits tied for seventh on the top-ten for the triple jump. The victories piled up as Yeust tied his personal best in the pole vault, winning the event with a jump of 4.85m.

Head Coach Mike Nelson had only good things to say about his team's recent performances: "We had some really impressive performances last night at the Villanova Invitational. The meet started very well for us with a victory in the women's 1000m (Ashley Navarro) followed by a school record in the men's 1000m (Louis DiLaurenzio)!"

"We had 10 all-time top-ten performances. These were in a variety of events which is what we love to see. We're trying to be a complete track and field program, so it's great to see outstanding marks in the weight throw, triple jump, 200m, 1000m, and mile," continued Nelson. "Also, Dalton Yeust had some good attempts at the school record in the pole vault. Now we turn our attention to the home meet on Saturday and Sunday. We look forward to competing at OCFB. Fly Hawks!"

Up next, the Hawks will compete on their home indoor track where they will host the Monmouth Winter Classic on Saturday, Jan. 28. Monmouth will also be sending a group of athletes out to Lewisburg, PA to compete at the Bison Open hosted by Bucknell University on Friday, Jan. 27.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

**Louis DiLaurenzio** set a brand-new school record in the men's 1000m and was named to the all-CAA team back in December.

## Men's Basketball's Defensive Woes Roll Into Midseason

**JONATHAN BAILEY**  
SPORTS EDITOR

In their return from winter break, the Monmouth University men's basketball team clashed with the College of Charleston and Hampton, dropping both contests by scores of 55-69 and 66-83, respectively.

The Hawks first took on the College of Charleston at home at the OceanFirst Bank Center on Jan. 19, and, despite rolling into halftime with a 31-28 lead, let things slip in the second half and ultimately stumbled to a 55-69 loss. Freshmen guards Andrew Ball and Jack Collins combined for 24 points, with the former potting a career-high 16. Their efforts were complemented by junior forward Myles Foster's own 15 points.

Senior forward Jarvis Vaughan made his highly anticipated season debut, chipping in two points, two assists, and two rebounds in 11 minutes of action. In addition, junior guard Jakari Spence dished out a career-best six assists, but was held off the scoresheet. Reyne Smith led the charge for Charleston with a monstrous 27 point effort, the majority of which came from long range on 7-10 three-point shooting. Head Coach King Rice was ho-hum after the loss, only offering a short comment: "I'm happy that my kids battled. We're

getting better. We have to keep working and we'll finish stronger than we started."

In their next game against Hampton on Jan. 21 on the University's Accepted Students Day, the Hawks once again kept things close but were unable to bridge the gap quickly enough, falling by a score of 83-66. Foster and Collins again paced the team in scoring, combining for 40 points, and Foster's 22 points is now a career-high for him. Junior forward Klemen Vuga was the only other Hawk to score in double-digits. This was the fifth time Vuga has done so this season.

The Hawks went into halftime down 41-30 but played a cleaner second half, scoring 36 to Hampton's 42, but despite the improved effort still added to their losing skid. The Hawks will have another crack at Hampton in their penultimate game of the 2022-23 regular season at the Convocation Center in Hampton, VA on Feb. 23.

Foster's career-high 22 points became his second 20-point effort of the season, and it also marked the fourth time this season a Hawks player has scored 20 points or better. In addition to points, Foster also notched a career-high in steals in the game with three. Spence matched Foster with three of his own, tying his personal best. Collins continued his impressive debut season with a new

career-best nine rebounds and has also now scored in double-digits nine times this season - nearly half of the games the team has played this season.

Coach Rice seemed less than pleased with his squad's effort against Hampton, but nonetheless gave Hampton their flowers. "Give Hampton all the credit," Rice remarked. "Two teams without a win in the league and they came in and did what they had to do. Right from the beginning, our intensity was down and their kids got going."

After what was, in all likelihood, a get-right game for the Hawks, and a missed opportunity, the team will head down to North Carolina to take on UNC Wilmington on Jan. 26, and their first of two remaining matchups with North Carolina A&T on Jan. 28 to close out their month of January.

Including his efforts against Charleston and Hampton, Foster has now scored 10 or more points in eight consecutive games, dating back to the Hawks' Dec. 22 matchup against Yale at the OceanFirst Bank Center. In their road loss against Towson on Jan. 14, the Hawks were flawless from the free throw line for the first time all season.

The Hawks come into the week riding an 11-game losing streak, dating back to their Dec. 10 loss to Princeton. Their most recent and



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

**Myles Foster** has been the Hawks' most consistent player, draining a career-high 22 points during his double-digits scoring streak.

only win of the season came in the form of a 76-69 win over Manhattan on Dec. 4. Each of Monmouth's last seven games have been against conference opponents, and losing all seven has seen Monmouth placed last in the CAA conference. Monmouth and Elon are both 0-7 in the conference, but Elon's 2-18 overall record has them placed one spot ahead of the Hawks. Hampton's win against Monmouth was their first conference win of the year, while Charleston's win against Monmouth only continued their dominance

as they now boast a flawless 9-0 conference record to pair with a 21-1 record overall. Monmouth's 1-19 overall record is currently the worst record in NCAA Division I competition, and during their 11-game losing streak, the team has not lost by fewer than 11 points. Each of the Hawks' remaining 11 regular season games will be against CAA opponents, representing a last-gasp opportunity to make some traction in the CAA standings before the CAA Tournament kicks off on Mar. 3



THE OUTLOOK

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# WBB EXPERIENCES HIGHS AND LOWS TO START 2023



Women's basketball reversed their fortunes with a big win against UNC Wilmington to kickstart their 2023.

SEE STORY ON PAGE 14

PHOTOS COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics