



THE OUTLOOK

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MU's 2023 Giving Days is a Success



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Monmouth's 2023 Giving Days is an annual two-day event that garners monetary support from across the world.

GABRIELLE SANGATALDO
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Donors worldwide contributed to a record-breaking \$225,000 through more than 1,500 gifts during Monmouth's third annual Giving Days from Thursday, March 23 to Friday, March 24. Donations came from Argentina, Germany, Mexico, and New Zealand, in addition to 38 domestic states.

Monmouth initiated Giving

Days as a way to engage with its donors, as well as capitalize on digital marketing and social media opportunities to broaden its donor pool. The 48-hour allotted period includes time-sensitive matches, challenges, and deadlines for potential donors to meet, thus fueling the urgency for individuals to give immediately.

One of these activities included the ability to match or challenge donors. For example, an individual could challenge peer-alumni to participate and

then make an additional gift to support that department when others do.

"We find that potential donors are 27-30 percent more likely to follow through on making a gift when presented with a match or challenge opportunity," explained Lindsay Wood, Senior Director for Alumni Engagement and Annual Giving.

GIVING cont. on pg. 2

Communication Department Hosts Career Event

JOHN PAPAGNI
OPINION AND COMIC EDITOR

The Department of Communication held a career and networking event at the Ocean First Bank Center on Wednesday, April 5. The event featured six Monmouth alumni panelists who discussed their jobs, tips for students, and knowing your worth in a career setting.

Panelists included Larissa Cardoza, Program Director at Integrity Continuing Education; Shimriya Richard, Senior Brand Communications Manager at Second Melody; Tara Ackaway, CEO at Social Wise Communications; Veronica Sanders, Senior Producer at Center City Film and Video; Don Povia, Marketing and Public Relations Director at BYB Extreme Fighting Series; and Mike Hildebrant, Senior Regional Continuity Manager at Townsquare Media.

Matthew Harmon, Ed.D., Specialist Professor for the

Department of Communication, moderated the panelists' discussion, introducing the topic of content creating as the first order of business.

"When COVID hit, everyone was pushing to move and create content online, so the internet was flooded with crap. There is a [difference] between putting up content and putting up content that will diversify and set you apart from others," began Povia.

Povia explained how clients will often approach him seeking to become social media stars without the education about the platform to do so.

Similarly, Richard said, "Clients will come to my company and ask for a 60 or 30-second commercial, and they often want to replicate what they saw, so part of my job is to be a translator. So I meet with the clients asking who their primary audience is, what's their budget, where

CAREER cont. on pg. 2

SGA Attends Conference at Texas A&M University

ISABELLA HANNA
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF / NEWS EDITOR

Monmouth's Student Government Association (SGA) attended the Conference of Student Government Associations (COSGA) hosted by Texas A&M University from Friday, March 31 to Monday, April 3.

SGA is the governing body of all the student clubs and organizations on campus. The association recognizes over 100 groups every year, overseeing the annual funding process for eligible clubs and providing financial assistance to organizations that wish to sponsor a program or event.

Attending this conference is a longstanding SGA tradition, which invites Monmouth's SGA executive board members to converse with fellow senators from universities across the coun-

try.

"This trip gave us the opportunity to network with other SGAs and exchange/filter ideas with one another. It's been a tradition for over 15 years, but was conducted remotely due to COVID," began Haider Husaini, junior marketing student and Chief Justice of SGA.

As per their website, "SGA's mission is to promote the health and welfare of Monmouth University's student body." According to Monmouth's delegates, their learnings from the conference will help them carry out this core responsibility.

Michaela Foley, junior social work student and Vice President of SGA, explained, "The overarching purpose of the trip was to develop our senators' leadership skills and return to Monmouth with new and innovative ideas that we can potentially use in the future."

"We met and connected with fellow student governments to learn about how other schools

are handling government on their campuses," elaborated Alexa Kopczynski, junior mathematics and elementary education student and President of SGA.

The attending group participated in various workshops hosted by multiple universities, such as the University of Connecticut, Western Michigan University, and Saint Francis University, and even held a workshop of their own. These workshops focused on consistent branding, recruitment and retention, restructuring organizations, and more.

Monmouth's SGA presentation was titled, "Building a Better Senate: Communication, Camaraderie, and Collaboration." The description of Monmouth's SGA presentation states, "The Monmouth University SGA is at a crossroads. Declining demographics have changed the landscape at which schools like

ours operate. This year's administration has engaged in a wholistic effort to build a better Senate under three

key points: communication, camaraderie, and collaboration.

SGA cont. on pg. 3



PHOTO COURTESY of Haider Husaini

COSGA is an annual conference that hails student senators from across the country.

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Monmouth’s Giving Days Generates Record-Breaking Donation Sum

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Donors were able to choose the area they wanted to support, ranging from school departments to a student club or organization. This customization option gave donors control over how their gift would be used, thereby inviting a wider range of individuals to participate. For example, student-athletes are a group where donors can show support.

The University utilized volunteer ambassadors to help spread the word about Giving Days as they leveraged their networks to garner greater participation. These individuals receive training from the annual giving office and have the ability to track their own personal impact. This year, 180 ambassadors motivated the donation of

429 gifts, equating to over \$57,000.

Additionally, the Giving Days team experimented with new ways to enhance external reception. Consequently, there was a greater effort on campus to promote the culture of philanthropy among the Monmouth community.

Wood clarified, “You may have seen a sticker with a QR code for the Giving Days website when you grabbed a coffee on campus at Dunkin, the Parson Cafe, or in Magill.”

“I think it would be a smart move to promote Giving Days more on campus,” said Sydney Cherwien, a junior communication student. “I honestly didn’t know much about it until now. I think it would be good for students to know that various Monmouth alumni are donating back to

the place they spent so much time learning and growing from.”

Students also discussed whether they see themselves becoming future donors as alumni.

Breanna Guinta, a junior creating writing student, said, “When I am an alumna, I can see myself donating back to Monmouth. This school has great faculty and all the students I have met are all so nice— I want to give back to Monmouth for future students so they can get a great experience, along with a great education, like I have.”

Cherwien said, “I would love to be able to give back to the institution that has helped me so much in my college career only two semesters in [as a transfer], as an alumnus in the future. If I have the means to donate to Monmouth as my



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Donations can be put towards an area of the University that personally resonates with the donor.

career develops, I would love to be able to give back to its future students.”

Wood concluded, “My hope for 2024 is to see Giving Days grow into an institution-wide philanthropy event that

goes beyond giving, building excitement around campus during the campaign and bringing an awareness of the support we seek to inspire for our current and future Hawks.”

Communication Alumni Network with Students

CAREER cont. from pg. 1

do they want to see this go, and what’s the return on investment they are looking at.”

In addition to the discussion, students posed questions to the panelists. One student asked about work boundaries.

“Do what you must, get a job you love. Though COVID was terrible, it brought about remote working, benefiting many people. Remote working saves people gas and people can work in the comfort of their homes...,” Hildebrant explained.

Cardozo added, “You need to be happy, but you can’t buy [happiness]. You can make a lot of money, but you could also be miserable, so what is your job giving you regarding the quality of life?” She revealed that she had denied several job opportunities, despite them offering twice her current salary; according to Cardozo, her company recognized her as a human with a life outside her work.

Sanders concurred, saying that one should have the means to meet their basic necessities, but money is not worth it in the long term. “I love my current role, my team, and while I could work somewhere bigger, I wouldn’t. Do what you love, which makes your job much better.”

Students and faculty alike thought the career fair was a

great success, especially considering the insight the alumni provided on topics regarding the workplace environment.

John Morano, MA, Professor for the Department of Communication, said, “I’ve been here since the first time Monmouth held the communication career fair; for me, it’s a huge deal when five out of the six panel members were students of mine, giving advice to students and then you realize you’re the oldest in the room which was not so great.”

“To see how motivated and happy people were to be there was a pre-covid moment,” he emphasized.

Leila Mehmedovic, a junior communication student, said, “I made genuine connections at the event. It was reassuring that when some of the alumni were in our shoes, they didn’t know what they wanted to do with their degree. They emphasized not to worry because life will take you wherever.”

Mehmedovic also elaborated on how people should know the difference between being exploited versus being an asset. “While you shouldn’t always be a person who says yes to everything, you want to show that you have drive and dedication.”

Mairead Spellacy, a freshman communication student, added, “I made many more connections than I thought I would;

it was fantastic having professionals and professors all in one place to introduce myself formally and get to know my department.”

“The Communication Career Event was a joy to attend! Not only did students have the opportunity to hear from a panel of experts in their respective fields, but they also got to connect with alumni through a post-panel networking and internship fair. It was also lovely to see everyone come together in person. I enjoyed reconnecting with former students,” said Mary Harris, MA, APR, Specialist Professor for the Department of Communication and Journalism/PR Program Director.

Aaron Furgason, Ph.D., Chair and Associate Professor for the Department of Communication, concurred, “I was very pleased with the information Communication Alums shared with current students about their post-graduation experience in their field of choice. I thought the advice given was excellent, and the connections they made with students will benefit both the slum and current students.”

Furgason likewise said that Monmouth’s Alumni Engagement and Career Development do an excellent job offering students many opportunities to connect with alumni throughout the academic term, and that it’s a student’s responsibility to attend to make the connections they need.

“I believe that it is current students’ responsibility to attend and engage with career events outside of their major because the employment information is universal across work fields. Just because you are a communication student does not mean you can’t learn a valuable job tip from a business alumnus,” he said.

Troy Fenton, a sophomore communication student, said, “It was informative seeing people having jobs that can potentially be us someday. There is a purpose to what we are doing at Monmouth, and that in some merit to the classes we all are taking.”



PHOTO COURTESY of John Papagni

In addition to the panel discussion, the event gave students an opportunity to network with the rest of the Communication Department.

Dr. Daneshgar Presents on “Ghost Forests”

RAINA MORSE
STAFF WRITER

Pedram Daneshgar, Ph.D., Professor of Biology, presented the penultimate educational Climate Crisis Teach-In event on Tuesday, April 4. The event, titled, “Ghost Forests: What’s Lost and What’s Gained?” explained the emergence of “Ghost Forests” and their ecological impacts.

The term “Ghost Forests” refers to an area of dead trees that have been exposed to water, storms, and/or potentially damaging salt. “I find them haunting,” Daneshgar explained. “It’s like walking in a cemetery because you’re walking among what was once a thing, and now it’s not.” Daneshgar is also a plant ecologist who specializes in climate change impacts on coastal forests in New Jersey and The Bahamas.

Daneshgar emphasized that ghost forests are directly tied to climate change, and that there’s both gradual and rapid ways for them to emerge. “The gradual way is through sea-level rise in a coastal habitat... The sea level rising causes bay waters to creep inland, and the salt exposure from sea water causes the trees (on the island) to die,” Daneshgar explained.

He also noted that rising sea-levels also causes flooding inland, killing forests along lowlands, “The cause of death for these trees is either salt exposure which dries them out, or they basically suffocate, because trees breathe through their roots. So, you can see that only the trees that are in elevated areas where they can escape the sea level rise (SLR) are able to survive for a long time.”

An experiment was conducted on eight of the most common native NJ coast tree species to see which could best weather salt exposure and flooding. “These trees all respond to salt damage in different ways. Some will pull salt up in their leaves, shed their leaves, and then form new leaves. Some just dry out and die immediately,” Danesh-

gar explained.

One of the main points of the event is that the emergence of ghost forests results in a habitat unsuitable for mammals. Instead, birds of prey take over the habitat due to the large open space that allows them to “sit up there and watch,” according to Daneshgar. The title of the event, “What’s Lost and What’s Gained,” refers to how “you lose habitat in one sense, but gain habitat in another,” as Daneshgar explained. “There’s something gained there with dead trees. Osprey were under threat in the ‘50s and ‘60s, but their populations have recovered to the point where they’re not completely a species of concern anymore, but this does present a new habitat for them.”

Scientists are carefully monitoring the ecosystems of ghost forests using a variety of technologies and strategies. One such strategy is “using software to listen to the sounds of these animals and what they’re doing, and using that to help identify them. We see patterns in what we hear... so we hear different composition, different animals (before and after the emergence of Ghost Forests),” Daneshgar said. He also noted that arial imagery helps show where ghost forests have emerged, allowing scientists to note where plants are impacted.

Over 20 individuals were in attendance at the event, which concluded with about 30 minutes of audience Q&A.

Organized by Catherine Duckett, Ph.D., Associate Dean of the School of Science, the climate crisis teach-in began in 2019 and aims to “generate discussion about climate impacts and solutions with the goal of improving life for humans and other living things,” according to their website. The next event, “Ecological Restoration Project for the Climate Crisis” will take place on Earth Day, April 22 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Van Court Park in Long Branch.

Afro-Caribbean Literature Class Visits the MET

RAINA MORSE
STAFF WRITER

Luis Mora-Ballesteros, Ph.D., Lecturer of Spanish and Literatures of Latin America and the Caribbean, took his Afro-Caribbean Literature class to the Metropolitan Museum of Art (the MET) in New York City on Thursday, April 6. There, they visited the exhibit spotlighting Afro-Hispanic painter Juan de Pareja.

The class, which consists of nine students, departed from campus early in the morning to spend the first half of the day moving through the exhibit. They then shared a

Venezuelan lunch before returning to campus.

The exhibit centered around the Portrait of Juan de Pareja by Diego Velázquez, who enslaved de Pareja for more than two decades. It aimed to “recast the so-called Golden Age of Spanish art from its very core,” as explained by the exhibit’s signage. “Over the course of the 1600s, Blackness became increasingly synonymous with enslaved status, but legal documents of the time enumerate a wide range of color descriptors and ethnic origins. Freed people of color also comprised a sizable percentage of the population, their visibility and participa-

tion in everyday life prompting a literary tradition describing Seville as a chessboard.”

This re-examination of history through a more diverse lens is exactly what Ballesteros’ class intends to achieve, according to Emma Cooper, a junior Spanish education student. She noted, “Early in class we broke down the myth that Columbus discovered America and examined the lingering disrespect for native cultures and histories we have because of that myth.”

Describing the portrait, Cooper commented, “He (de Pareja) was painted in the style of an upper-class individual. In other classes when I’ve been exposed to art from this era, I saw works that were all white people, and it was really refreshing to see a person of color represented, and not just shown, but shown in a higher status position.” The class discussed the significance of this symbolic power and each interviewee commented on how they had never seen an image like the one of de Pareja.



PHOTO COURTESY of Raina Morse

The class visited the Portrait of Juan de Pareja exhibit at the MET.



Students are exposed to visual arts, music, poetry, and literature in their Afro-Caribbean Literature class.

taken before. This professor is unique and different; he really encourages us to be engaged and to participate.”

“Dr. Mora-Ballesteros has almost a catchphrase for the class, ‘Vivir Experiencia,’ or ‘To live experience,’” concurred Cooper.

The students likewise emphasized how multi-disciplinary the class is, examining everything from visual arts to music, to poetry and literature. Cooper added, “We aren’t forced to memorize things. We’re actually learning. He [Mora-Balleste-

ros] shows visuals really frequently and that helps us get the most out of something.”

“It was the most perfect field trip for the class,” gushed Steinhaur, “This class will completely alter your idea of history and culture. You see history from the artists perspective. Instead of learning from a history book you’re learning through the eyes of the people and how they see things, because history books aren’t always accurate, or at least, they don’t tell the whole story. It’s almost like firsthand experience.”

SGA Senators Present at Texas Conference

SGA cont. from pg. 1

-ation. From budget allocation to senator engagement and departmental relations, the road to building a better Senate begins within.”

“We discussed how through internal and external efforts, we can build a more engaging, inclusive, and impactful organization,” elaborated Foley. “The highlight of the trip was when we completed our presentation. It was a rewarding feeling after all our hard work. I am beyond proud of everyone’s dedication.”

In addition to the workshop presentations, students participated in round robins and attended talks featuring key-

note speakers.

Among some of the students, there was one keynote speaker in particular that was especially noteworthy: Carlotta Walls Lanier, the youngest Little Rock Nine member.

Foley continued, “She [Walls-Lanier] told her story of how she was the youngest member to integrate Central High School and how her journey forever broke down barriers, changing the social landscape of America.”

Other keynote speakers included Tara Storch, Co-Founder and President of Taylor’s Gift Foundation; Reagan Pugh, professional speaker and facilitator; and Dwight Roblyer, senior lecturer in the Department of Political Science at Texas

A&M.

“COSGA exposes us to different ways of thinking and pushes senators to think outside of the box as we approach the problems that our University faces,” emphasized Tanner Purdy, sophomore finance and real estate student and Director of Specialty Funding.

Kopczynski indicated the significance of attending such an event, “I think it is important for student leaders to participate in conferences like this one because it truly is so eye-opening to see what else is out there— ideas that you may have never even thought of and people you wouldn’t have gotten to meet otherwise. Not only are you being exposed to new ideas, cultures, and way of leadership, but you are building your leadership skills and networking with people from across the whole world.”

Keifer Walsh, sophomore criminal justice student and Chair of the Student Affairs Committee, added, “There were so many interesting students with amazing experiences, stories, and ideas that all were so open and talkative. It was also really nice to get to connect more with my fellow Monmouth friends who came on this trip, and I feel as though we all grew a lot closer over the course of the weekend.”

Walsh’s sentiment was shared across the board. “While we have held retreats and team

“Not only are you being exposed to new ideas, cultures, and way of leadership, but you are building your leadership skills..”

ALEXA KOCZYNSKI
JUNIOR AND PRESIDENT OF SGA



Throughout the conference, students networked and participated in workshop presentations and round robins.

bonding activities this past year, this was the best experience I have had in SGA in terms of learning about my fellow senators,” concurred Husaini.

As for the group’s takeaways, each senator emphasized the importance of implementing their new learned ideas on campus.

“My biggest takeaway from COSGA was the need for camaraderie within a Senate. We won the Outstanding Student Government Association Award not only because of the programs and initiatives we undertake, but also because of the camaraderie that has allowed us to take them on in the first place. It is now time for us to build that same camaraderie within other student organizations so that when we col-

laborate, we are oriented for success,” responded Purdy.

On the other hand, Walsh was less certain as to what exactly the group would pursue. “It’s hard to say any one specific thing that we intend to use, just because of the sheer quantity of ideas that were thrown out. As time goes on, I’m sure we will narrow down certain key factors we want to focus on, but for now I think our focus will be in new strides in our diversity, equity, and inclusion statement, specifically with regards to mental health on campus.”

Husaini agreed, “We intend on adopting some of the DEI initiatives from other institutions to our SGA. This includes written statements, the formation of new positions/committees, and more.”

THE OUTLOOK

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Is “Senioritis” Real or an Age-old Myth?

EDITORIAL STAFF

The 2022-2023 academic school year is winding to a close, so *The Outlook* editors took a moment to reflect on upcoming graduations, how the pandemic affected their college experiences, and the infamous ‘senioritis.’ “I can confidently confirm that senioritis is the real deal; motivation is at an all-time low, deadlines are suggestions, and studying feels impossible,” one editor offered. “I can’t explain the psychology behind it, but I think senioritis is related to burnout more than anything. Four years took so much out of me, I just have no more effort left to give.”

Four years, which included the start and end of a pandemic, sapped a lot of motivation out of everyone, and left some of us stranded.

“For me, it was kind of odd to transfer schools during the pandemic,” reflected another editor. “I’m a bit scared of heading into the real world and having to get a job because I barely know what I’m navigating— it feels like I just got here. I’m excited about what’s to come but also extremely nervous.”

A third editor, who is also graduating, acknowledged, “It definitely doesn’t feel like I’m graduating. I don’t think I’ve fully processed that I won’t be coming back to Monmouth next year and that I’m experiencing my ‘lasts’ of a lot of things. The pandemic is actually what drove me to stay in college for another

year and come back to get my master’s degree. I didn’t feel like I got the full college experience because of the pandemic, so I’m thankful to have gotten at least some time back. If anything, I think enduring the pandemic is a testament to our class’s perseverance and ability to work through any obstacles thrown our way. It sucked in a lot of aspects, but we got through it and came out on the other side.”

The other side is just a hop, skip, and a jump away, but finding the motivation is tough, even for those of us who are not graduating.

As a junior, one editor remembered their own experience with a push for the finish line. “In my senior year of high school, I was significantly less motivated because I was just ready for college at that point. Even now as a junior in college, I’m dreading next year because I know I’m going to struggle with motivation since I’ll be focusing on internships and planning what I’m doing after graduation,” they said.

Naturally, at a time like this, it is always important to remember to take care of yourself too. A few of the editors offered up some of their own self-care tips for you to try at home. “The end of the semester is a really important time to remember that you’re only human,” one editor started. “Sometimes, it’s impossible to

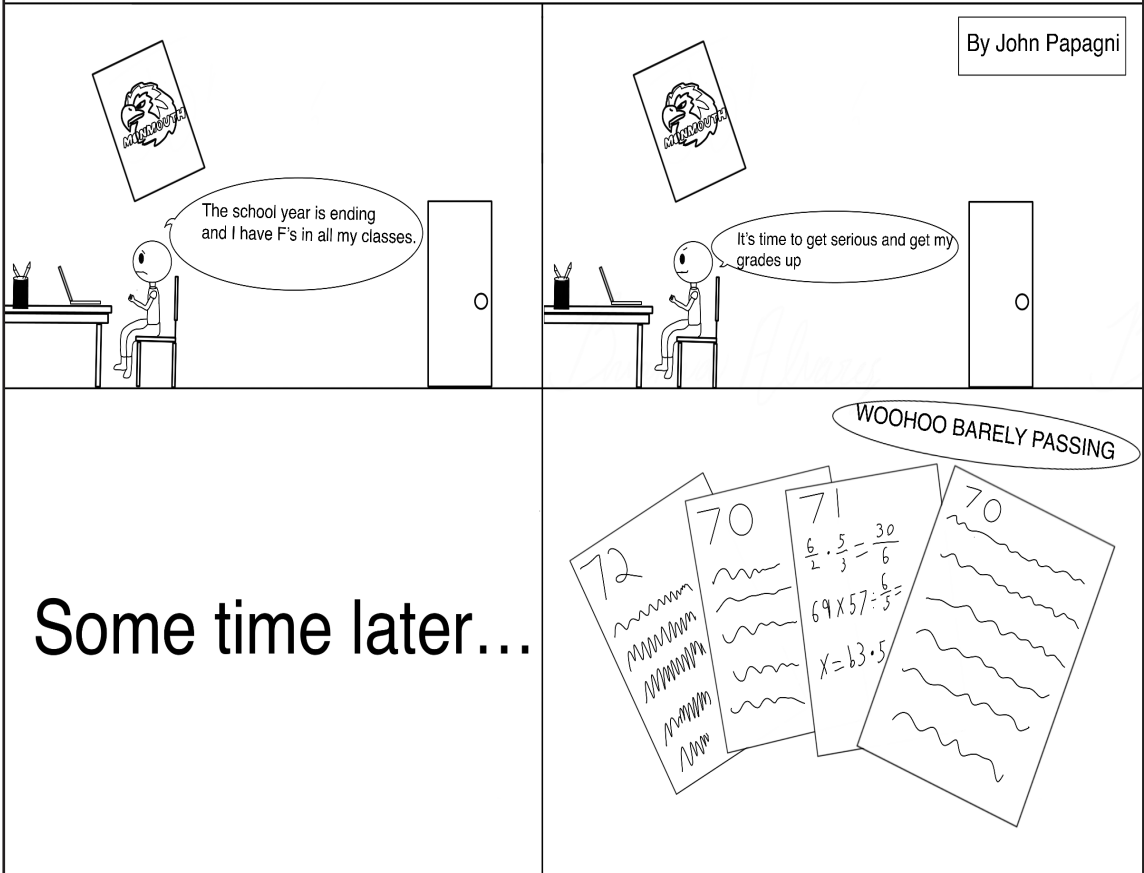
give it your all 100 percent of the time. With so many assignments, presentations, exams, etc., it’s basically impossible to put your best foot forward with everything you do, and that’s okay. Food, sleep, and other things that you quite literally need to survive have to come first. It sounds dramatic, but I know I’m not the only one pulling all-nighters and forgetting to eat when the end of the semester rolls around.”

“The number one thing I make sure I do when I’m busy and overwhelmed is to take breaks,” another editor recommended. “I sometimes tend to think that I can’t afford to give myself a second to breathe when I know I have a lot to get done, but I’ve found that taking that second actually helps me get everything done faster since it’s not being all done at once.”

A third editor jumped in with a more fun answer, suggesting, “Some things you can do to take care of yourself are make breaks for yourself, perhaps go for a walk, do something you love, such as a hobby, and go see friends to have a nice time.”

We here at *The Outlook* are proud of everyone who will be graduating this upcoming May, as well as everyone still grinding out their degree. With the pandemic in the rearview mirror, this is a good time to remember that the best is still yet to come. We wish all our fellow Hawks good luck on your upcoming finals!

Bringing Your Grades Up Late Into The Semester



Some time later...

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The Faults of Fast Fashion

BAILEY FREDERICK
STAFF WRITER

The 2021 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change found one industry guilty of emitting more carbon than international flights and maritime shipping combined, not to mention responsible for wasting over 342 million barrels of oil per year.

That industry is fast fashion. Fast fashion has been flying under the radar for years, until recent discoveries have shown it is a top contributor to climate issues.

Fast fashion is a term used to describe clothing items that are cheaply and quickly made, distributed, and sold for prices below typical retail values. Because of how these clothes are made, their quality is often mediocre. Online clothing stores such as Shien and Romwe are some of the top fast fashion providers. Nonetheless, other larger chain stores like Forever 21 and H&M, are culprits as well.

Not only do these stores exploit and abuse their workers by forcing them to work in sweatshops for long hours with extremely low wages, but fast fashion also has major environmental effects. An article written by Ngan Le for Princeton University lays out some of these impacts.

The first is water waste—it takes 3,000 liters of water to produce just one cotton shirt. Additionally, pieces of fast fashion make up a vast number of landfills across the world, which in turn causes air pollution.

Even upon hearing all these consequences, people still choose fast fashion. The reason being is that clothing made ethically is oftentimes too expensive for the average person to afford. I, a broke college student, do not have the money to spend \$50 on a simple t-shirt; but when I purchase a shirt for \$3, it usually turns out to be exactly what the price would suggest—

cheap. “I love fast fashion. I understand there are a lot of ethical implications, but I think it’s the only way to buy clothes, especially if you are a college student trying to save money,” said sophomore criminal justice student, Charlotte Raulo.

Emily Steffens, a sophomore nursing student, concurred, “I like fast fashion. I know the conditions can be bad, but it’s one of the only affordable options for people like college students who constantly need different outfits for events.”

So, where does this put everyone who can’t afford luxury items or even the “standard” price of clothing? I don’t think anyone who is buying fast fashion has the intention of harming the environment or supporting a company that abuses its workers.

However, that is exactly what you are doing when you purchase from these companies. Nonetheless, I have discovered a few ways to get around supporting the fast fashion industry without breaking your bank.

Thrifting is one of my favorite activities and a great alternative to buying from fast fashion stores directly. A lot of thrift stores increased their prices recently, but they

don’t come close to most retail fashion prices. There are also some online thrift stores, like Vintage Stock Reserve, that make costume items out of thrifted materials. Stores like this run a bit pricey, but are still an awesome option if you want to buy something unique.

There are a lot of resell websites and apps that allow people to buy and sell gently used clothes. Poshmark, Depop, and Facebook marketplace are some great websites to not only buy name brand items at lower prices, but to also make a little cash on the side instead of throwing away old clothing items.

Another alternative is buying from eco-friendly brands. Typically, when people hear the term “eco-friendly,” they immediately see dollar signs. But, if you do some digging, you will find there are some shops that create quality clothing, that is ethically developed, and is sold at solid price points. Some of my favorite stores you should check out include Honest Basics and Tentree.

Personally, I do not see fast fashion going away any time soon. From a climate perspective, people won’t step away from the industry unless more affordable options are made available to consumers.



IMAGE TAKEN from npr.org

Fast fashion has its appeals but also has various ethical and environmental issues.

The Melody of Music in Life

BREANNA GUINTA
STAFF WRITER



The meaning and impact of music is different for everyone. Personally, music is both an avenue that helps me through things and an outlet for my feelings.

For example, music helps me focus. When I am writing papers with tight deadlines, I play a play list on Spotify that is called Deep Focus.

Moreover, when I have a writer’s block for a scene in my fiction novels, I will put together songs that match the energy of the scene I envision. If it is a fight scene between two or more characters, I will put on fast songs like ‘Planetary’ by My Chemical Romance and ‘All the Things She Said’ by t.A.T.u.

Other times, when I am feeling a strong emotion, I will play music to reflect how I feel. For instance, if I am sad, I will throw on ‘The Weigh Down’ by The Amity Affliction. If I am feeling vengeful, I will put on ‘i hope you’re miserable until ur dead’ by Nessa Barrett.

Art can come in all shapes and sizes. However, the best art comes from deep down and using raw emotions. I feel like music does the best job at expressing these dark emotions compared to other forms of medium.

Carlee Migliorisi, a junior English and secondary education student, said, “To me, music is a medium of communication that demonstrates emotions through words and sounds that create a certain feeling that cannot be replicated in any other way. When someone pours their emotions into a song, it is like writing a poem; the writer takes the time to really think out their emotions to come up with a way for others to understand it too. Whether it is in an orchestral

suite or a rocker filled with slashing guitars and pounding drums, music is first and foremost a way for an artist to communicate their feelings to the rest of the world.”

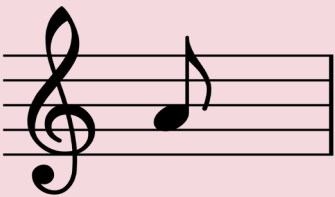
Migliorisi also said that music is important to her because it allows her to reflect on herself through others’ emotions.

“When I hear a Beatles song talking about being away from your partner, it helps me appreciate my long-distance relationship. Or, when I listen to the ‘Merry Go Around of Life Suite’ by Joe Hisaishi, it transports me to a different world full of magic,” she explained.

Music helps connect people together. I have a friend who loves to share music with me, and it is his way of communicating his feelings when his words can’t do the job. Sometimes it can be difficult to explain how you are feeling, but there is a perfect song out there to help you get your point across.

Christina Rodriguez, a creative writing student, said, “Music has a very special place in my heart. It has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. I was in dancing school for ten years, and chorus and band for five [years] when I was a kid. I have also been in three musicals, and participated in MU Players’ ‘Cabaret for a Cause’ dance numbers last fall. I use these music-based activities as an escape from reality. Music makes me feel like I can do anything I put my mind to. I am always listening and dancing to music. I have even tried to write a few songs.”

Sometimes, we all need a way to escape reality, even if it is for a little bit. Life can suck and listening to music, or even performing music, can put our minds at ease and bring us to a happier place.



Happiness or Financial Stability?

DAE'SANI CLARKE
STAFF WRITER



IMAGE TAKEN from PEXELS

Would you rather have happiness at work...

When it comes time to find a job, there are preferences people keep in mind, such as length of commute and level of flexibility.

However, there are two key preferences that most people prioritize above all else: happiness and financial stability. In other words, you want to work in an environment that makes you feel comfortable and provides for your lifestyle.

But, can job really have both? Do you have to choose between happiness and financial security?

Fareedat Adeleke, a sophomore biology student, believes that financial stability is more important than finding hap-

piness in a job. She said that many people take on jobs to support themselves and their loved ones.

“I feel like if you’re more financially stable, your mental health is better, and you feel as though you have your life together,” Adeleke said, adding that flexibility and location are other importance factors to consider as well.

On the other hand, Ky’mar Ponds, an Asbury Park home-based tattoo artist, believes that happiness is more important. According to Ponds, happiness secures satisfaction in a position. He said, “With financial stability, you will be able to pay your bills and everything, but you won’t fully be you.”

Madison Patterson, a sophomore biology student, agrees

with Ponds; however, she doesn’t see how the two are mutually exclusive.

She said, “There are many jobs that you can enjoy that still have decent pay.” Patterson prioritizes fulfillment and security in a job.

I think most people can agree that the two factors are related. Further, you can have a job that is both fulfilling and pays well. You should want to be somewhere happy but wealthy as well. Some people look for things like teamwork in a job and a relationship with their coworkers.

Come to think about it, it may be possible that one can’t survive without the others. You have those that prioritize one over the other but, in the end, they are very similar to each other.



IMAGE TAKEN from PEXELS

...or be financially stable at work?

Senior Showcase in Rechnitz Hall

SHANNON SMITH
FEATURES EDITOR

As the spring semester comes to a close, many graduating seniors look forward to saying their goodbyes to Monmouth. Seniors in the art department often get to do it in a special way: by displaying their years of work in the Senior Showcase. It consists of work from seniors across different disciplines including Graphic Design, Animation, and Fine Arts.

When you walk into Rechnitz Hall you will be greeted by pops of color, bold designs, and scattered resumes and business cards. One of the highlights of these exhibitions is the senior thesis projects that many of these students have been working on for the last year. This year's Senior Showcase has a substantial variety in thesis projects; some include app designs, infographics, branding, and more.

Paige Grippo, a senior graphic design student, said, "The thesis project from the beginning was such a fun experience to put together, from coming up with an idea to piecing it together and watching it become one of my favorite projects I've done over the past four years at Monmouth. I take a lot of pride in what I put together because the meaning behind the project means a lot to me and what I've been through. I'm very excited for people to see the outcome!"

Michael Richison, MFA, Associate Professor and Departmental Advising Coordinator of Art and Design, teaches AR-409 Senior Year Experience: Thesis/Portfolio. He said, "I'm so proud of this year's seniors, and I'm excited to see the gallery exhibit when it's finished. We have a great group this year, and we have a very diverse show with app design, branding, typography, animation, paintings, sculptures, and graphic novels!"

Students find it gratifying to set up their exhibits after years of hard work. Jenni Ackerman, a senior graphic design student, stated, "Hanging up for the show and seeing everyone's work as it goes up piece by piece puts everything into perspective. Everyone has a unique style, and each thesis topic is diverse. This graduating class of seniors really shows a lot of range on the ideas and topics for each thesis project."

The Department of Art and Design's Senior Showcase is on display in Rechnitz Hall from April 10 to April 23.



PHOTO TAKEN by Shannon Smith

RIYA AJMERA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Healthcare professionals, as well as Monmouth University students and professors, analyzed the differences between healthcare in the United States compared to other countries.

Many college students feel led astray when it comes to health insurance in America. Estellsy Acuahuitl, a sophomore biology student with a concentration in molecular cell physiology, said, "All over social media I get videos about surprising facts...while living in whichever country, and most of the ones I've viewed have mentioned healthcare being free; which I think is great and would really wish for this to be accessible to everyone—not just in those certain countries."

So, how does healthcare work in other countries? Massimiliano Lamberto, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Chemistry, recounted his experience with healthcare while living in Italy. He said, "In Italy, healthcare is nearly free because it is government-run and paid with taxes that are higher than in the U.S...you get treated regardless of who or where you are."

Though, while universal healthcare seems like a good benefit, it's not typically accessible right away in every country that offers it. Lamberto continued, "There are often long waitlists for specialized exams and visits. If urgent, people choose to go to private clinics and pay out of pocket."

Some of the benefits to America's healthcare system can be considered. While a good portion of the United States is insured, there are benefits for certain groups of people such as Medicare, which gives access to healthcare to those 65 and older. America's healthcare system also ensures the quality of healthcare as the Department of Health and Human Services has established a National Quality Strategy which guides the quality of healthcare locally and by

state. With Universal Healthcare, this might not always be possible. In some countries with socialized medicine like Britain, staff shortages due to low physician salaries cause difficulties in providing quality, timely care for patients, as *Forbes* reported.

American physicians are among the most highly paid medical professionals in the world; as *Forbes* reported in 2018, the average annual salary for American physicians averages \$217,000, compared to \$124,000 for British physicians.

As reported by The Commonwealth Fund, Italy's National Health Service uses collected government taxes to provide free care for citizens and legal foreign residents, including giving undocumented immigrants access to essential services and urgent care. According to the report, "Residents receive mostly free primary care, inpatient care, and health screenings. Other statutory benefits include maternity care, specialty care, home care, hospice care, preventive medicine, and pharmaceuticals." Specialty visits and procedures have copayments, but these expenses are exempt for "pregnant women, patients with HIV or other chronic diseases, and young children and older adults in lower-income households."

In the United States, none of these services are free unless a low-income individual has Medicaid or receives Charity Care. Moreover, with a private insurance plan, these services are typically associated with a copayment and can also have an additional deductible. Patients with HIV and chronic diseases are eligible to receive Medicare with another insurance plan (private or Medicaid) to cover costs. Pregnant women in America are not exempt from costs and face an average cost of \$18,865 with insurance coverage for childbirth, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation.

"In America, the hospital costs for having a baby is a minimum

of \$10,000. In Canada, it's free," said Jonathan Ouellet, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biochemistry who has experience with the healthcare system in Canada. He continued, "My sister had a liver transplant. The ambulatory transport and procedure—free. My mom who's in charge of giving company to my sister is accommodated with a house to stay in during the procedure for free. My sister was diagnosed with a cytotoxic storm virus and... the immunosuppressant pills and care for her was all free. Her kidney was too damaged, and my mother gave my sister her kidney for free. When that kidney failed and she had to get another transplant, it was free. Now, she pays up to \$500 in meds a year."

In Canada, the country's provinces and territories each have their own insurance plan and receive cash assistance from the federal government based on capita. "All citizens and permanent residents... receive medically necessary hospital and physician services free at the point of use," reported the Commonwealth Fund.

The contrast between America and other countries is stark enough that "a high-income person in the U.S. was more likely to report financial barriers [in healthcare] than a low-income person in nearly all the other countries surveyed: Australia, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and the U.K.," the Commonwealth Fund found in a recent study.

The study also found that "Half (50 percent) of lower-income U.S. adults reported that costs prevented them from getting needed health," compared to only 12 percent of lower income

individuals in the United Kingdom. "The U.S. spends less than other high-income countries on social services, such as child care, education, paid sick leave, and unemployment insurance, which could improve population health."

"The United States is a very capitalist nation," said Lauren Bevacqua, a junior English and secondary education student. "I feel that healthcare should be free because we are paying to be taken care of. Something about that doesn't seem right."

However, the reasons for America having no universal healthcare is rooted within the country's structural and political history making the system inexorable and unlikely to change.

With this reality, experts argue that health insurance literacy is crucial for individuals in the United States to maximize their health care accessibility. Currently, many individuals, especially those from foreign countries, struggle with America's system.

"I think it would be helpful to anybody to learn what their health insurance is about because I feel like a lot of people... spend a lot more [money] than they really should be," said Keith Gosselin, a full-time insurance employee and Registered Nurse. Compared to other countries, individuals in America are already spending a lot more for their healthcare. With more focus on health insurance literacy, individuals might better understand how to make the most of their healthcare in the United States.



PHOTO COURTESY of The New York Times

Enhancing Your College Experience with Unique Courses

LAUREN BEVACQUA
ASSISTANT FEATURES EDITOR

For those who are intrigued about taking out of the ordinary courses, Monmouth offers many gratifying, semester-long classes that are sure to keep students engaged.

These include courses where students can get an Open Water Scuba Certification (BY-290); Advanced Topics in Race and Racism (EDC-520), where students learn through discussions of racism and race; Spectr: Gangs and Crime (HLS-398), where students can study gangs and organized crime; and Superhero Literature (EN-222), where students can study superheroes in literary epics such as *The Iliad*.

Tina Paone, Ph.D., Professor of Educational Counseling, teaches Advanced Topics in Race and Racism (EDC-520). This course is offered in both the Fall and Spring semesters, and caps at 15 students. "I've been teaching this course since its conception nearly 15

years ago. I love teaching this course because I get the opportunity to teach about the topic of antiracism and teach out future school counselors and student affairs professionals how to not only recognize racism, but how to advocate with their future students and how to create change to racist policies and rules within their future institutions," Paone said.

As racism continues to be a pressing issue, this course may help those in a school setting identify instances of racism and how to address it.

Michael Rodriguez, a graduate assistant in the Educational Counseling and Leadership program, commented on the course, "Participating in the class has been extremely insightful. It has changed my understanding of how pervasive racism is embedded in our society and how systemic policies and practices were designed and implemented for the benefit of one race at the expense of other marginalized communities."

Christopher Wojcik, Adjunct Professor in the School of Sci-

ence, teaches the Open Water Scuba Certification course (BY-290) in the Fall semester. He said, "I'm a marine scientist and have been a diving instructor for 35 years. The students who take the dive class are marine science students. What's good about my course is that I can teach scuba from a marine science perspective and can prep them for their future careers."

Wojcik continued, "This can also fulfil a two-credit biology requirement for marine biology students and the average amount of students that take my class is ten."

Emily Gould, a former student of Wojcik who studies marine and environmental biology and policy, said, "Professor Wojcik's class was certainly my most exciting courses and I always looked forward to going."

Taking unique courses can benefit future careers. Employers look for well-rounded candidates, so taking such courses helps you stand out. Monmouth offers these courses to peak student interest, but also considers

how they could be implemented into a student's existing curriculum.

Gould continued, "The coolest thing about the course was that by the end, I became a PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) certified scuba diver. Becoming scuba certified will help me in my career path."

By taking free electives outside their major, students may see a reduction of stress concerning their major requirements. Due to such high learning demands and expectations, having this academic digression lifts pressure off a student's shoulders. Plus, having connections with students that study subjects very different than yours is important for branching out and expanding your social and academic horizons.

Having these unique courses is also great for those with an undecided major, or for someone who really is not sure what they want to pursue in life. With taking such a variety of courses, students may awaken their true passions.

How to Prepare for a Concert

DANI WALANO
STAFF WRITER

Have you booked up your summer to see your favorite artists and shows? While concerts are exciting nights full of fun and memories, it's crucial to prepare so that you have everything you'll need for the best night possible.

Whether you're at a stadium or an outdoor venue, many places require you to bring a clear bag if it's bigger than a small belt bag. Bringing a small crossbody bag, belt bag, or wristlet are usually best because they hold most concert essentials and make it easy to jump around and dance. Amazon has various options for clear crossbody bags or belt bags. Most arenas or venues have their bag guidelines on their website, so definitely check those out before your event.

Olivia Cutaia, a sophomore health studies student, explained, "My top five concert must-haves are my tickets, my phone or camera to capture the memories, a debit card to buy merchandise or food, a bag to carry it all, and a blanket if it's outside."

Always double check that you have your wallet with you before leaving for a concert. Make sure you pack your license for ticket pick-up or age-restricted venues, a credit or debit card, and cash. You should also consider setting up Apple or Google Pay on your phone to make any payment processes easier and to avoid the risk of losing any of your cards.

A portable charger is another essential if your phone battery drains quickly or you love to live stream and post every song you hear. Consider a portable charger that doubles as a protective case so you don't have to struggle

with wires while using your phone.

Some extra items to pack in your bag include a camera, a hair tie, lip balm, band-aids, and hand sanitizer. The most important item in your bag is your tickets. Many venues now offer online tickets, which allow you to keep your tickets on your phone through an app (like Ticketmaster) or in your email.

A festival requires a slightly different set of items than a concert typically does. Be sure to bring a towel or blanket to sit on between sets. A reusable water bottle is also useful at a festival, as many venues have water filling stations to make it easier for guests to stay hydrated. You should also bring some small snacks like granola bars or chips to stay feeling your best, especially being in the sun all day long. Don't forget some sunglasses, sunscreen, and bug spray.

Planning outfits for concerts and festivals is also a fun way to prepare for your event. While having a cute and on-theme outfit to wear is exciting, don't forget to dress

comfortably—shoes are key! Also take into consideration the venue of the event, like whether it will be indoors or outdoors, to decide what to wear.

Kaitlin Chillemi, a sophomore education student, added, "A good leather pant is a great base for starting out an outfit. They can stretch for dancing through the night and can be dressed up for a going out look."

Depending on the venue or event, arrive early before the concert starts. Doing this ensures you get a good spot in line to check in, are able to find your seats early, and can get a full layout of the venue and know where bathrooms and merch stands are located. If you're attending a festival that spans over a couple of days, don't forget to prepare your driving and hotel plans in advance to make your trip go smoothly.

Above all, stay safe and have a good time at any concerts you go to this summer! They create some great memories that you can look back on forever.



Prepare for your concerts in advance to make your time as stress-free as possible.

IMAGE TAKEN from Pexels.com

Beach Bag Essentials

BREANNA GUINTA
STAFF WRITER

Beach days are right around the corner and with them comes the need for a well-packed beach bag. Here is a list of must-have items that will help you have the best day down at the shore.

1) Sunscreen
It's super important to protect your skin from the blistering sun. Your skin is sensitive to UV rays, and sunscreen helps reduce the risk of skin cancer and signs of aging. Whether you burn like a tomato or can achieve a glowy tan, you should always protect your skin from the sun, making sure to reapply every couple of hours.

2) Water
It's so easy to forget to stay hydrated at the beach, but it's important to make sure you're drinking water throughout the day. If you feel hot, get under an umbrella for some shade and take a second to drink some water to cool down.

Junior animation student, Liam Lubitz, added, "I bring at least two water bottles to the beach. One for me and one in case someone else forgot to bring one. Everyone needs to stay hydrated."

3) Food
Bring some snacks to munch on throughout the day! Being in the sun all day will decrease your energy and you'll need to refuel, especially if you're more active. Carry snacks like potato chips, pretzels, granola bars, fruit, and sandwiches. If you're going to bring items that need to stay refrigerated, be sure to bring a cooler full of ice to keep them at the appropriate temperatures.

4) A Change of Clothes
It can be uncomfortable wearing a wet, sandy bathing suit on the car ride back home, so consider packing a fresh top, shorts, and undergarments. Most beaches have changing areas or bathrooms close by.

Pro-tip: pack your change of clothes in a separate bag tied up and tucked away into your main bag so you don't get sand on them.

5) Beach Chair or Towel
You're going to want to sit down or layout on the sand during your time at the beach. To avoid getting sand everywhere, bring a beach chair or towel.

The beach chairs I love best are the ones that fold up and have straps on the back, so you are able to carry them on your back. It will be much easier with all the other items you need to carry.

If you're more of a beach towel person, get one that's big enough for you and your friends.

6) Entertainment
If you're planning on being at the beach all day, make sure to bring something to keep you relaxed and entertained.

Gabrielle Sangataldo, a junior communication student, commented, "I bring my AirPods or a book. Though I'm someone who gets bored relatively easily at the beach, I've found that there really isn't anything better than sitting there and listening to music or reading a book."

The beach is the best time to get some reading done. Between the soothing sounds of the waves crashing and the seagulls singing, it's easy to relax and concentrate on reading a delightful story.

You could also try listening to music or a podcast while at the beach. Consider bringing some AirPods or headphones so other beachgoers can enjoy their time at the beach. If you want to bring a speaker to enjoy some music with your friends, make sure to keep it at a volume that's respectable to those around you.

Make sure to get a big bag that can hold all of these essentials, and you're all set to have the perfect day at the beach!

Summer Skincare & Makeup Tips

BAILEY FREDERICKS
STAFF WRITER

With summer just around the corner, it's just about time to update your skincare and makeup routines! If you want to get clear skin and achieve a glowy, natural makeup look, keep reading!

Having a good skincare routine is the first place to start if you want your skin to look hydrated and healthy this summer. First, pick a gentle cleanser that works best for you. My favorite brand is Cetaphil, but CeraVe and La Roche-Posay also some great cleansers.

Remember to keep your skincare simple. Overloading your skin with too many products can have adverse effects, like breakouts and clogged pores. Use a quality cleanser and moisturizer; additional products can be unnecessary during the summer depending on your skin type. Find the combination of products for you. Keep in mind that eye creams, toners, spot treatments, and serums can

have beautiful results for some people but are unnecessary for others.

The last step to everyone's skincare should be sunscreen. The National Institute for Health states, "UV damage can take a toll on your skin and its underlying connective tissue." This is why it's so important to protect your skin with sunscreen.

But sunscreen doesn't have to be a boring step in your routine! I'm a huge fan of Supergoop's Glowscreen. It contains SPF 40 and adds an amazing shine to your skin. This sunscreen is a little pricey, ranging between \$22 and \$40. A more affordable version of this product is e.l.f. Cosmetics' Suntouchable! Whoa Glow sunscreen and primer. This product is only \$14 and has SPF 30.

I would also recommend mixing your sunscreen with a tinted moisturizer or a glow serum to bring out a natural tan. I always mix my Glowscreen with L'Oreal Paris' True Match Lumi Glowtion. These two products are a match made in heaven!

Now that you're done with skincare, let's move on to makeup. In the summer, I hate having loads of makeup on because I end up sweating it off immediately after application.

Meg Smith, a sophomore nursing student, can relate to this issue: "I never wear makeup in the summer because I will sweat it off or it will just be washed away during summer activities like hiking or swimming."

The key to having your makeup stay on for hours is primer. I love e.l.f.'s Power Grip Primer and Too Faced Hangover Replenishing Face Primer.

For this look, e.l.f.'s Halo Glow Liquid Filter foundation and 16HR Camo Concealer make a perfect base. Both products are hydrating and reasonably priced.

A sophomore psychology student, Sophia Curcio, added, "I love e.l.f. products because they are so affordable. They have a really good eyebrow gel and a setting powder that lasts all day and doesn't look cakey at

all."

To finish the face makeup, add a cream contour—I always reach for Rare Beauty's Warm Wishes Effortless Bronzer Sticks—and a liquid blush, such as Glossier's Cloud Paint.

I love keeping my eye makeup simple in the

summer. Add your favorite mascara and a pop of color in your inner corners with the NYX Jumbo Eye Pencils.

Top off with a hydrating lip gloss, like Fenty Beauty's Gloss Bomb, a setting spray to lock all the products in, and you're all set to go this summer!



e.l.f. Cosmetics Suntouchable! Whoa Glow sunscreen acts as an affordable sunscreen and primer.

IMAGE TAKEN from e.l.f. Cosmetics



Ease into Spring with These 10 Albums



SHANNON SMITH
FEATURES EDITOR

Despite the 80-degree days we’ve experienced as of late, spring has sprung, and with that comes a new music rotation. If you’re anything like me, you are spending the sunny days driving to campus with your windows down, sunglasses on, and blasting your favorite music on Spotify.

Whether it be because some albums came out around this time of year or they simply have songs that I have played over and over during this season, there are just certain albums that feel like spring. Here is a curated list of ten albums that feel like spring to me and why.

1. Dreamland - COIN
Dreamland by COIN has to be my number one spring album. The minute February hits, it’s immediately on rotation. Hands down one of my favorite songs of all time is “Babe Ruth,” and though it has very little to do with baseball thematically, it’s the best song to ring in baseball season.

Released in Feb. 2020, its release date clearly relates to its connection with the season. It’s a perfect in-between album for seasonal transitions from winter to spring and spring to summer. With songs to either belt in your car or to have a moment of quiet self-reflection, it has something for everyone.

2. Fearless (Taylor’s Version) - Taylor Swift
You probably know that Taylor Swift is in the process of re-recording her albums. Having been a fan since “Teardrops On My Guitar,” I was ecstatic to hear about the re-release of her second album *Fearless*.

Fearless originally came out in Nov. 2008 but was re-released in April 2021. Songs such as the title song “Fearless (Taylor’s Version)” and “Change (Taylor’s Version)” bring a sense of new beginnings, just in time for spring. It’s the perfect album to dance in a storm in your best dress, fearless.



IMAGE TAKEN from IndyStar.
The Lumineers’ self-titled album has numerous spring-like songs, such as “Flowers in Your Hair.”

3. You’ll Be Fine - Hot Mulligan

Switching genres, Hot Mulligan lies more in the pop punk or “midwest emo” sphere. Their album *You’ll Be Fine* came out in March 2020. Known for their quirkier song titles, one of the most popular, “*Equip Sunglasses*,” has over 18 million streams on Spotify. Although the song has less to do about sunglasses and more so about spreading hate online, it makes me want to bask in the sun.

4. XOXO: From Love and Anxiety in Real Time - The Maine

I will always hype up The Maine! Their recent album, often referred to as *XOXO*, has more of a spring vibe than their other albums. Songs I would recommend off of this album are “April 7th” and “Pretender.” In true The Maine fashion, they always close their albums with a song that holds a lot of meaning and “Face Towards The Sun” is no different. It’s a great one for any graduating seniors out there.

5. Come May - Flatland Calvary

Anyone who loves country music has to listen to Flatland Calvary. Their EP *Come May* is fitting for the month. Songs like “Summertime Love” and “Missing You” really bring a yearning for summer and a lost love. Although songs are a tear-jerker, as someone who grew up in Texas, I love the toe-tapping grooves Flatland Calvary brings to the table.

6. American Heartbreak - Zach Bryan

In the same country vein, I must bring up Zach Bryan as *American Heartbreak* is one of my favorite albums of 2022. *American Heartbreak* is one of those albums that has a song for every season being that it has 34 songs. Nevertheless, it earns a spot on this list for its combined sense of a fresh start and reflection.

7. Tourist History - Two Door Cinema Club

It’s not spring without some quintessential 2010s indie



IMAGE TAKEN from KCR College Radio.
COIN’s *Dreamland* welcomed spring with its release in Feb. 2020.

rock. You probably know Two Door Cinema Club from this album with hits such as “What You Know” and “This Is the Life.” “Something Good Can Work” and “Undercover Martyn” are also great songs to help finish off the semester.

8. The Lumineers - The Lumineers

The Lumineers’ self-titled album is always in my spring playlist. It’s obvious with songs like “Where The Skies Are Blue,” “Flowers in Your Hair,” and “Big Parade.” I’m sure most people have heard their 2012 hit “Ho Hey” which is on the same album. Go take a listen to the entire

album if you haven’t already and relish in the spring vibes!

9. Lavender Days - Caamp

Similarly, *Lavender Days* by Caamp was made with this season in mind. It makes me want to go out to explore the wilderness and enjoy nature. Songs like “Believe,” “Apple Tree Blues,” and “Lavender Girl” all feel like the beginning of a coming-of-age movie set in the springtime.

10. Heard It In a Past Life - Maggie Rogers

Maggie Rogers is one of my favorite artists. Her album *Heard It In a Past Life* brings a grand feeling of spring going into summer. Released

in Jan. 2019, this album has me getting ready for beach days and road trips. “Say It,” “Light On,” and “Alaska” are all great songs to get into this album and Maggie Rogers as a whole.

So, whether you’re ready for spring or holding onto the last few cold days of winter, these albums are sure to prepare you for the next season ahead!



Netflix and Priscilla Presley Release New Series, Agent Elvis

EVA BREITERMAN
STAFF WRITER

In March 2023, Netflix and Priscilla Presley, ex-wife of Elvis Presley and current executor of the Presley estate, released the new show *Agent Elvis*.

After Elvis Presley’s daughter, Lisa Marie Presley, recently passed in January, all executive functions over Elvis Presley’s name, likeness rights, music, and memorabilia—including his home and museum in Memphis, Tennessee—have gone to Lisa Marie’s mother, Priscilla Presley.

As a way to show her love for her late husband and daughter, the executor decided to create an adult animated sitcom featuring all three members of the Elvis family in a quirky and action-packed show. In a hilarious twist, the King of Rock and Roll is a secret agent for an agency that no one knows exists.

Presley and co-writer John Eddie dedicated the first episode to Lisa Marie Presley as there were various skits of Lisa Marie as

a baby. The show’s design is inspired by stylist and designer John Varvatos; he will help with all of the costume and clothing design for the show.

The show features a star-studded cast, including Matthew McConaughey (Elvis Presley), Kaitlen Olsen (Cece Ryder), Don Cheadle (The Commander), Johnny Knoxville (Bobby Ray), and, of course, Priscilla Presley as herself. It also features cameos of real-life celebrities, though not voiced by them, like George Clinton, Howard Hughes, Robert Goulet, and Timothy Leary.

The first season is a ten-episode long odyssey that takes the viewers through the life of Elvis Presley as a father, music artist, masked vigilante, and super spy who tackles issues of foreign spies, radioactive materials, and even space.

The adventure that conspires includes many cultural references to the 1950s, ‘60s and ‘70s as the setting takes place in 1968 and 1969 during the Nixon administration. The space race and the summer of love bring a sense of reality to the show; the season even references

the chimpanzees sent to space—one of whom acts as Elvis’ sidekick.

Several teasers and trailers were released prior to the show’s run, and after the release a cartoon music video for Elvis’ hit song “Burning Love” was released as another advertisement.

The show is advised for older viewers as it makes reference to sex, drugs, violence, and alcohol. *Agent Elvis* is currently streaming on Netflix for your viewing pleasure.



IMAGE TAKEN from NetflixWiki.
Agent Elvis stars the King of Rock and Roll as a secret agent.

The New boygenius Album and the Friendships Behind the Music

TAYLOR MEMOLI
STAFF WRITER

The all-female indie supergroup boygenius is back with the release of their new flawless album *the record*. Its incredible honesty leaves fans feeling closer than ever to the band. Debuting at #1 on the UK album charts, *the record* is receiving substantial traction from acclaimed sources like *NME* and *Rolling Stone*. This is the first album from the trio consisting of individual indie artists Julien Baker, Lucy Dacus, and Phoebe Bridgers. The three are very well-known and successful indie singers themselves, but when they come together in boygenius, they create something, well, genius. Boygenius was formed in 2018 succeeding the release of the group’s self-titled EP *boygenius*. Dacus met Baker in 2016 after they played together during a Washington, D.C. gig and exchanged emails. Soon after, Baker met Bridgers while the former was already longtime friends with Dacus. Months later, the three found out they were touring together on a triple bill and decided to release a promotion song for the tour. In a recent *Rolling Stone* article, Bridgers reports, “We set out to make one song, and made six... It was not ‘like’ falling in love.



boygenius consists of Julien Baker, Phoebe Bridgers, and Lucy Dacus (pictured from left to right).

It was falling in love.” The three started a meaningful friendship and have remained close throughout the years. The group created the name boygenius as an “irreverent nod to little boys who are taught to believe they’ll one day rule the world,” according to a *Vogue* interview. Consisting of three queer female singer-songwriters, boygenius often plays on the male-fronted bands that came before them. For example, they recreated a Nirvana photoshoot for their *Rolling Stone* cover and imitated Crosby, Stills, and Nash for their EP cover, emphasizing how female artists can do the same things

as their male counterparts but will not likely receive the same applause. The three even sing from the perspective of a man on some of their songs, including “Not Strong Enough” and “We’re in Love.” The cover of *the record* consists of the trio’s hands reaching up to the sky, showing off their matching tooth tattoos that represent the first song off their EP titled “Bite The Hand.” Included in the album’s physical copy is a temporary tattoo of the same tooth so fans can join the band while they listen along to the album. Promotions for *the record* started on Jan. 18, 2023, five

years after their initial EP. On this day, they released three songs from the album including, “\$20,” “Emily I’m Sorry,” and “True Blue.” They soon released “Not Strong Enough” two months later. The album doesn’t just highlight each member’s individual talent, but it also demonstrates how well they work together. Each song is either sung by one member or all three. Throughout *the record*, you can note the close friendships between the writers. Each song to me feels like a moment taken out of my own life. It’s hard to even pick a favorite because all of them feel so relatable,

allowing you to sense just how much of themselves they imbedded into this album. The album closes with “Letter to an Old Poet,” a reference to the hit song off their 2018 EP “Me & My Dog.” While “Me & My Dog” states, “I wanna be emaciated / I wanna hear one song without thinking of you / I wish I was on a spaceship / Just me and my dog and an impossible view,” “Letter to an Old Poet” responds with their healing: “I wanna be happy / I’m ready to walk into my room without lookin’ for you / I’ll go up to the top of our building / And remember my dog when I see the full moon.” This song gives comfort at the idea that what is bad now won’t always be bad forever. Following the album’s release, the trio announced an upcoming tour and performance at Coachella this year. Also, a short film was released on YouTube following the album and is directed by Kristen Stewart. Boygenius is far from over. Phoebe Bridgers, Lucy Dacus, and Julien Baker have already established themselves as songwriters, but now they are showing people they are more than just individual acts. While the three will still release solo music, they will always be bound by their love for music, friendship, and the teeth on their skin.

BREANNA GUINTA
STAFF WRITER

A few weeks ago, the magazine *WIRED* published an article by Jason Khee who interviewed popular fantasy and science fiction novelist Brandon Sanderson. However, rather than detail Sanderson’s success in the literary world, Khee proceeded to belittle both Sanderson’s writing and personhood. At a quick glance, the article seems harmless. The title “Brandon Sanderson is Your God” appears fitting, especially considering how Sanderson writes primarily fantasy and science fiction novels. This is only the surface. Khee originally went to Utah to interview Sanderson so readers could learn more about who he is as a person and to talk about his success in the book world. Readers who do not read fantasy will probably not know who Sanderson is. For context, Sanderson wrote *The Mistborn* series, *Stormlight* Archive series, and *The Reckoners* (my personal favorite) and is also known for finishing *The Wheel of Time* series by Robert Jordan. He has also dabbled in writing graphic novels as well with his target audience ranging from young

“Brandon Sanderson is Your God” is Anything but Professional Journalism

adults to adults. It is safe to say Brandon Sanderson is a successful author. Despite this, Khee’s article failed to highlight Sanderson’s accomplishments. Instead, he makes fun of his success and critiques his writing. For example, Khee wrote, “Sanderson is excited to talk about his reputation. He’s excited, really, to talk about anything. But none of his self-analysis is, for my purposes, exciting.” Nevertheless, Khee went on to meet Sanderson’s extended family, attend a convention with him, and even go to an amusement park with Sanderson and his son. Of all the topics Khee could have written about, he chose to focus on the things he personally hated about Sanderson. “Sanderson talks a lot, but almost none of it is usable, quotable. I begin to think, *This* is what I drove all the way [here]...for? For previously frozen dim sum and freeze-dried conversation? This must be why nobody writes about Brandon Sanderson,” said

Khee. If you are a journalist, there will be quotes that are unusable in a story; this is the reality of the work. Is it plausible to believe that Khee spent days with Sanderson and there was nothing substantial? Perhaps this calls into question the quality of Khee’s questions than Sanderson’s responses. Not to mention, rather than quoting Sanderson, Khee paraphrases what he says throughout the article. An example being: “The concept of a vacation confuses Sanderson, he once said, because for him the perfect vacation is more time to write— vocation as vacation.” That would’ve been a perfect direct quote to use! Additionally, Khee perpetuated the stereotypes of science fiction, and, more specifically, Sanderson’s fans. “As is typically the case at these things, there’s a general air— warmish, body-odored— of unself-consciousness. By my rough count, some three-quarters of the attendees are men, boys, [and] menboys, blurring to-

gether in a mass of pale, fleshy nerdery in Sanderson-appropriate graphic tees. The women, fewer in number, tend to be the better cosplayers.” After the convention, Khee was invited to Sanderson’s home with his extended family over. While they were gossiping, it had slipped that Sanderson can’t feel pain. Khee writes, “When I ask Sanderson later to confirm this, he does but asks if I really have to print it. *I’m sorry*, I say. *I really do*.” It is disgusting the way Khee said that he had to include Sanderson’s medical condition in the article. I understand Sanderson invited Khee to interview him and to get a glimpse into his life outside of his novels, but to me, it is unethical of Khee to include such personal information that he was asked to keep to himself. It was not even Sanderson that disclosed this fact. Khee concludes, “This story isn’t coming together. To my mind, I still haven’t gotten anything real from Sanderson,

anything true. I’m not the first person he has toured around his lair to politely gawk at his treasures and trophies and his hallway of custom stained-glass renditions of his favorite books (Tolkien, Harry Potter, *The Belgariad*).” That is a story! Just because it didn’t necessarily interest Khee doesn’t make it uninteresting. What Khee decided to focus on was Sanderson’s religion, which goes back to the title of the article as Sanderson is a Mormon. Out of all the things Khee took in while with Sanderson, why did the core focus of the article have to focus on Sanderson’s faith? Overall, this article was poorly written. If I knew nothing about Sanderson and came across this article, I would have been disappointed with the information I gleaned from this piece. I expected more from Khee since he spent so much time with Sanderson. On the bright side, Sanderson will have four new published books this year. If you are interested in reading Sanderson’s works, I recommend starting with either *The Reckoners* series or *The Mistborn* series. Then, you can decide for yourself – rather than have Khee decide for you – if Sanderson is worth his weight in gold.

Trump Indicted on 34 Felony Charges in New York

AARON NITZBERG
STAFF WRITER

Former President Donald Trump is currently facing criminal charges in the state of New York following three separate instances where he engaged in hush-money payments during the prior presidential election cycle in 2016.

Alongside these, there are 34 more first-degree counts of falsifying business records, according to Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, who told reporters, “These are felony crimes in New York State no matter who you are. We cannot and will not normalize serious criminal conduct.”

In response, Trump’s personal attorney Joe Tacopina stated, “Today’s unsealing of the indictment shows that the rule of law died in this country. If this man’s name was not Donald J. Trump, then there is no scenario that we’d all be here today.”

These allegations are levied during a time when political movements heat up as the U.S. moves into the 2024 election cycle, the start of which is only a few months away.

With the indictment came the

release of a statement of facts by Bragg, showing that Trump had organized a broader pay-out scheme to avoid negative coverage throughout his 2016 campaign, including the hush-money payments to Stephanie Clifford, otherwise known as “Stormy Daniels,” the woman with whom Trump had an affair.

The charges themselves date back to 2015 when the Trump campaign allegedly tried to suppress negative media publications to boost his political prospects, and by doing so violated free and fair election laws, alongside the making of false business entries.

There were also missteps within the campaign and adjacent organizations concerning intentional mischaracterizations, for tax purposes, which were commonly referred to as a tax-scheme.

Trump’s former personal attorney, Michael Cohen, made illegal campaign contributions in the form of buying silence regarding Trump’s personal relations. Cohen had worked for Trump in regard to Clifford, stating that he was responsible for transferring \$130,000. However, the money came from a home equity line of credit which had been used as

reimbursement over the course of the next year.

There was also over \$400,000 worth of a “retainer payment” directed to Cohen which came out of a private trust. While some may view Cohen as biased, Bragg stated that the facts would emerge at trial. According to *ABC12*, former federal prosecutor Cheryl Chader said, “There are some risks and complications, but I also think there’s a path to conviction.”

Republican members in the House also submitted a subpoena to investigate Bragg. The House Judiciary Chair, Jim Jordan, requested Pomerantz, a former special assistant district attorney, for a private deposition on April 20. For Congress, it is rare to subpoena a prosecutor by stating that Bragg did not cooperate with adequate oversight. Bragg made the case that this is the latest attempt for Republicans to interfere in the case. This subpoena occurred only a few days after Trump appeared in New York state court.

Anthropology and political science student Mariami Ramirez noted, “I don’t think it’s going to go anywhere; he’s been impeached twice with no consequences, I don’t think that there

will be any consequences to this either. Out of all the things he should be held responsible for, I don’t think we’re going to be successful in holding him accountable for that. His base will just get angrier. They have a tribal attachment to Trump; they don’t care what he does, they will always support him. They have literal golden statues of Trump.”

A freshman political science student added, “I think it’s good; I like people being held accountable for their mistakes. From my understanding is that most of the Republican Party does not even like Trump as much as they did originally. If you’re not even get-

ting that support from your own party, I think that’s a big concern.”

Trump is currently facing 34 accounts of fraud at a criminal level in New York state, alongside three fraudulent hush-money payments which came out of his campaign and were mischaracterized during his 2016 campaign.

As it stands, the next court appearance for a pre-trial hearing is to be scheduled for December of this year, with the trial itself having been tentatively scheduled for 2024, at the same time that Trump is running for the presidency once more.



IMAGE TAKEN from Rolling Stone

Donald Trump was accused of paying “hush money” to adult film actress Stormy Daniels following an affair.

Democratic Fundraising Site ActBlue Lays off 54 Employees

RAINA MORSE
STAFF WRITER

On Monday, April 3, ActBlue, the major digital fundraising platform used by Democratic campaigns, causes, and organizations, laid off 54 employees, including 32 members of the ActBlue Union (ABIU). This amounts to about 17 percent of the organization’s total workforce, and 20 percent of the union’s bargaining unit.

In an April 3 press release, the ActBlue Union wrote, “ABLT (ActBlue Leadership Team) notified the ActBlue Union on Friday, March 29 that these layoffs would take place to address the organization’s long-term budget deficit for the 2023-2024 cycle.”

This announcement was the first time the ActBlue Union was made aware of ActBlue’s budgetary concerns. They continued, “These layoffs jeopardize ActBlue’s ability to fully serve our entities, donors, and the larger Democratic movement ahead of a critical election cycle.”

This comes close on the heels of two major changes at the organization. The ABLT and ABIU ratified the union contract only two months ago, on Feb. 6. In the same Tweet that announced the ratification, ABIU also noted that the contract was born out of “nearly two years of negotiations.”

On Dec. 2, 2020, the official ActBlue blog publicly announced that it would voluntarily recognize the newly formed union. In the

post, the company expressed, “Unions make workplaces stronger, more equitable, and more sustainable. These are all traits close to ActBlue’s work to provide long-term infrastructure for small-dollar donors to connect with the campaigns, organizations, and nonprofits they support.”

In addition, ActBlue announced that former CEO and President Erin Hill, who had helmed the organization for the past 14 years, was stepping away from her role and would be replaced in both roles by Regina Wallace-Jones, who touts executive-level experience from the likes of Yahoo and Facebook. This is accompanied by turnover of many other high-level roles inside the organization, as can be gleaned from LinkedIn.

These layoffs smack of union-busting, as expressed by Gina Dige, a freshman graphic design student. Dige said, “As an uninformed observer, that doesn’t sound right. It’s particularly concerning to me that the Union had less than three days to negotiate a severance package for laid off employees who, until Friday didn’t know they were losing their jobs.”

Johanna Foster PhD, who helms the Monmouth Union, explained in an interview some of the union-busting tactics which organizers need to look out for. Union-busting can take place before and after recognition, and range from captive-audience meetings where management shares anti-union information, which are legal; to threats, which are illegal but

often difficult to prove; to violence, which is much less common now than at other points of the past century.

In the interview, Foster emphasized, “The only hope we have for improving people’s relationship with work is collective power, whether that’s a labor union or something else.”

A former ActBlue employee, who was among those laid off, anonymously told *The Outlook* that the company’s claim that the layoffs were a response to financial stressors was a major surprise. During union negotiations, the employee alleges that management “made a strong impression every time we asked about financials... that the company was in a good place and that the union had no need to worry about potential layoffs.”

There has been little public coverage of these layoffs, although they hold potentially major implications for the organized left politically.

Savannah Steinhauer, a senior public health student, immediately noted the potential ripple-effects these layoffs might hold for organizations which rely on ActBlue for their critical work. “I hadn’t heard about [the layoffs]...that’s really discouraging to me, especially from a public health perspective,” Steinhauer said. “Planned Parenthood is the only resource for reproductive health available to some communities. It is so deeply necessary, so it’s concerning to see this kind of move (from AB) which could jeopardize their work.”

Finland Joins NATO; Sweden Still Waiting

MELANIE TENCZA
STAFF WRITER

Finland became the newest member of NATO on April 4, making it the 31st member of the treaty alliance. Finland borders Russia, and is geographically located in close proximity to Ukraine.

Following the Russian invasion of Ukraine early last year, Finland applied for NATO membership in May of 2022. Finland’s Prime Minister Sauli Niinistö justified Finland’s reason for seeking membership on the lines of Russia no longer respecting non-aligned countries, telling the press, “There’s not very much room for nonaligned in between.” Realizing the dangers posed by being a non-aligned country at a time where Russia is at war with their neighbors, Niinistö furthered, “Joining NATO is good for Finland, it is good for Nordic security and it is good for NATO as a whole.”

Countries who seek membership in NATO have to demonstrate that they meet certain military, economic, and political criteria in alignment with the goals of NATO countries. They must have democratic styles of government, as well as democratic military relations.

NATO’s “open door policy” is given in the Article 10 of the North Atlantic Treaty, and it states that any “European state in a position to further the principles of this Treaty and to contribute to the security of the North

Atlantic area” can be granted membership only when a unanimous agreement among all states is made.

Jens Stoltenberg, the Secretary General of NATO, stated to press in response to Finland’s accession to the alliance, “President Putin wanted to slam NATO’s door shut. Today we showed the world that he failed, that aggression and intimidation do not work. Instead of less NATO, he has achieved the opposite: more NATO. And our door remains firmly open.”

Sweden also applied for NATO membership alongside Finland for the same reasons. Sweden’s membership has yet to be granted due to objections from Turkey, stalling their joining of the alliance. As all nations must support other nations joining the Alliance, it is unclear whether Sweden will be granted membership.

“An expansion of NATO gives me hope that President Putin might lessen military measures as the alliance has grown even more powerful,” said political science student Janet Teufel. “However, I also think Putin might see this as a threat, as if he’s been backed into a corner.”

Expanding NATO to Finland has increased NATO’s military power, but in future times, could provoke an unsatisfactory response from Russia, especially with its close proximity to the nation. However, it is expected that the deterrence factor of NATO’s Article V will hold the fragile peace in Eastern Europe.

Global Education Office Presents:
PHOTO OF THE WEEK



**MONMOUTH IN MONMOUTH!
MONMOUTH, WALES - SPRING 2023**
Submitted by: Kent Moore, CIS Abroad (Monmouth Partner)

Featuring MU Students Brendan Brooks, Junior
& Michelle Aminov, Junior

Study Abroad Program: Monmouth in London

Monmouth students recently visited the picturesque town of Monmouth, Wales. Fun fact: Monmouth is the home of Charles Rolls, the aviation pioneer and co-founder of Rolls-Royce. Our students get to experience so much more than just class when abroad!

Each week the Global Education Office will highlight one Monmouth student's international experience. Interested in learning more about Study Abroad or Faculty Led Programs? Email us at geo@monmouth.edu to set up an info session or call us at 732-923-4768!

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SESSION A May 15–June 12	SESSION B May 22–July 3	SESSION C May 22–August 15
SESSION D June 13–July 11	SESSION E July 5–August 15	



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Student Employee Appreciation Week

Academic Success & Retention- Peer-Assisted Learning- “All students can learn and succeed, but not in the same way and not on the same day.” - *William G. Spady*

A big THANK YOU to our Peer-Assisted Learning Leaders: Omar, Karina, Keystin, Matthew, Deidrick, Antonio, Renee, Leila, Michael, Paulina, Luke, Ella, Oliva, Brianna, Olivia, Emmett, Emily, Natalie, Lacey, Thomas, Frank, Macklin, Nico, Cecilliah, Xiao, Ivana, Julia, Jessica, Marie, Olivia, Jack, Victoria, Tatum, Emilia, Kayla, Darian, Julia, Ava, Nico, Gavin, Rachel, Alison, Julia, Rachel, Jane, Daniella and Adriana. We truly appreciate you and your time spent helping other students to learn and grow!

The Athletics Academic Support A hugeTHANK YOU to Lauren, Leah, and Linda for being all-star student workers for Athletics Academic Support!

Athletics- Kadeem, the Athletics department would like to express our sincere gratitude and make sure you know how much your hard work and dedication is appreciated. We thank you for all you do and are very grateful to have you on our team!

Athletics- Monmouth Digital Network- THANK YOU to the best student-employees on campus! The Monmouth Digital Network thanks Abigail, Addie, Brianna, Bryan, Caroline, Claudia, Connor, Connor, Cory, Emily, Janelle, Jefferson, Jenna, Lexie, Luca, Madelyn, Mairead, Matthew, Nick, Omari, Rae, Sarah, Skylar, Taylor, Troy, Vaughn and Vincent for your hard work and dedication!

Biology Department - Anne Marie and Tricia would like to thank Emma Gould, Alex Kalina, Luke Hernandez, and Scarlett Pizarro for their hard work and dedication in supporting the Biology Department!!!! They always arrive with a smile, a positive attitude, and their lab coats! The third floor of Edison shines with their creative touches! They are our Rock Stars and we could NOT have made the Biology labs happen this year without them! Emma, we will miss you next year but we know you are ready to make your mark in the world! Congratulations on graduating from MU!

Center for the Arts- To our all of our ROCK STAR students, we adore you and value your time here with us at the Center for the Arts! You know who you are – Alexis, Bart, Bella, Carolyn, Chad, Denise, Gianna, Julia, McKayla, Peter, Ry, Sammy and Tara!!!! We are lucky to have you on our team, THANK YOU!

The Department of Disability Services for Students would like to thank Aisha, Elizabeth, Felipe, Giovanni, Katherine, Taylor, Jacqueline, Sara, Stephanie, Paige and Connor for all of your help this year!

School of Education Dean’s Office: Grace and Sofia—Our office honestly could not run without you!! Thank you for your hard work and great attitude all year long!

Student Employment -To all our amazing Student Employment student workers, you know who you areAisha, Alina, Leslie, Grace, Jessica, Breana and Elizabeth. We couldn’t survive without all of your hard work, dedication and commitment to our office. Thank you for making our office run smooth and efficient. We value each and every one of you!

“**The EOF Staff** would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our Office Assistants - Jasmin Garcia, Naomi Louis and Nashalie Garcia. We appreciate and thank you for all your assistance, versatility and hard work as we navigated this academic year in a brand-new home!”

“**The Office of the General Counsel** and the Office of Equity and Diversity would like to thank Kayla Canales and Valentina Lazoja for their professionalism and hard work! They are always friendly and courteous to visitors and callers and have been become experts at scanning in a just a few months. We are very grateful to have Kayla and Valentina as part of our team!!!”

GLC Tutors Gia, Jackie & Carly - Thank you for all of the support you’ve given to the students of GLC! You have positively impacted children in our elementary school classrooms and hallways in countless way! We sincerely thank you for your hard work and dedication. Your influence on today’s young minds will continue for many years into the future! Laura Tracey, George L. Catrambone School

Global Education Office – To all of the student employees of our office, we thank you for all of your hard work and dedication. You make a HUGE difference in our department and we appreciate all of your efforts. From mentoring other students to creating newsletters to running informational tables and everything in-between, we wouldn’t be able to do it all without you!! Grazie! Gracias! Merci! Danke! THANK YOU!

The History & Anthropology Department would like to recognize our Student Employees: Paige Harrington-Anthropology and Lincoln Pereira-History for their generous help, enthusiasm, and joy they bring to the office! Thank you!

The Mathematics Learning Center I can’t think of a better way to start my day than with my MLC tutors! I enjoy watching how dedicated you are to helping students be successful in their math classes. I am so thankful that you are a part of the MLC. I will miss my graduating tutors- Carli, Holly, Marlee, Kasey, and Lindsay. Stay in touch! To the rest of my MLC tutors- Abby, Alex, Victoria, Rachel, Noah, Brooke, Omar, Mike, Ivan, Reese, and Kaitlyn. Thank you for all you do!

The Dean’s Office of the School of Nursing & Health Studies wants to thank Cecilia Aversano for her exceptional performance in promoting the outstanding work of faculty, staff and administrators. Her expertise keeps the SNHS on the social media map!

School of Nursing and Health Studies- Jackie Cornetta and Rachel Bents, Roses are red, violets are blue, and we could not have run the nursing skills lab without YOU!!! Thank you for all that you do. Warm regards, The Department of Nursing Faculty and Staff.

School of Nursing and Health studies - Kayla and Brianna, so grateful for you and all that you do to support Professional Development for the School of Nursing and Health Studies. Wishing you all the best in your upcoming endeavors this summer and beyond!

The Occupational Therapy Department would like to thank our student works, Cristianna, Francesca, Julianna, Kayla and Sara for their continued hard work and dedication to the OTD program. The faculty and staff are proud, grateful and delighted to have your part of our OTD family. Thank you for your outstanding commitment and dedication to the success of the OTD program. Your continued support, assistance, and positive attitudes are very much appreciated.

The Outlook would like to thank Yosef, Jonathan & Veronika for all of their hard work and dedication this year. We appreciate all that you do! Thank you for being a part of The Outlook Family ☺

Thank you **REBECCA STAFFORD STUDENT CENTER OPERATIONS EMPLOYEES!** Information Desk Assistants-Katie Dex, Gabe Vega, Gianna Muranelli, Samantha Alvarado, Samantha Badilla Building Managers-Christine Gabbidon, Ian Moore, Megan Smith, Mujeeb Ali, Caseem Dewitt, Jade Luciani, Bridget Capano, Bailey Fredericks, Jocelyn Marsh, Samantha Alers Ramirez Set-up Crew-Ruaa Khalifa, Taiphane Orange, Jack Miller, Cristina Fico Operations Assistant-Emily Guicheteau **YOUR WORK IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!**

School of Science – Julia, Thank you so very much for your help in the dean’s office. It’s a pleasure working with you!

Speech- Language Pathology- Marissa, Olivia, Leah and Alessandra, thank you for all of your help and support in the SLP department! We cannot thank you all enough for your hard work and dedication. You make our office shine!

Student Engagement would like to thank all of our student workers for their hard work throughout the year.

- Anna Dioguardi
- Brielle Ponticciello
- Emer Brophy
- Karlee Burns
- Lauren Lentino
- Gerardo Baez
- Mikayla Poggi
- Rebecca Pimentel
- Lauren Lentino
- Mercedes Conception

Student Government- Alexa, Maura, Valentina and Jenna thank you for all you do! SGA and I appreciate your hard work and dedication to making our office and The Nest a better place! Bette

Tutoring Services- To ALL of my peer tutors, office assistants, CSS Concierge student staff and graduate students: Where would I be without you? Your willingness to serve and support fellow Hawks is obvious and appreciated by so many. I hope this year has been rewarding to you as well and that you have gained skills that you will use in your years after Monmouth. You are all very special to me and make this department great! Thank you!!! Sincerely, Dorothy M Cleary, Director of Tutoring Services

Undergraduate Admission- Dear Monmouth Ambassadors, Sending sincere thanks to each and every one of you for your dedication to Monmouth University. You are truly what being a Monmouth Hawk is all about. We are proud to have you represent the Hawk Family to our prospective students and families! From, Undergraduate Admission

Writing Services- We want to thank each and every student employee in Writing Services for their outstanding work and their commitment to supporting the Monmouth community. We could not ask for a more dedicated, hard-working, professional (but also fun-loving) and kind group of students to work with. Every day we look forward to seeing you (and seeing what you have done with the place). We know you will go on to great things after your time with us in Writing Services! Thank you! – Sharon and Dr. Fury

2023 STUDENT EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

VIVICA ROJAS

Monmouth University Student Employment Office announced the Student Employee & the Supervisor of the Year awards on April 10th in celebration of National Student Employment Week held April 10-14TH.



Vivica Rojas is a Senior majoring in Communication who was selected as the Student Employee of the Year 2023 for her extrodianry work as Marketing Assistant for Monmouth Athletics

Vivica’s favorite Student Employment Moment: My favorite memory is when I got to do my first in game promotion. It was a Rooney Shootout, I had my cards with me and I was practicing in the mirror for hours before. I was so nervous and practiced so much but once I hit the court all the nerves went away and I was able to come to life. The announcer, the DJ, my amazing boss Kelly, the fans, and my coworkers were so happy and amazed with my work that it made me want to keep going. My first promotion made the Athletic director so pleased that he wanted me to do every in-game promotion.

Vivica’s work exprience has given her: This job has given me more than words can describe. I was able to become the first ever student in-game host at Monmouth University and do it well. This job showed me dreams really do come true and when you work hard and want it enough it will happen. My boss believing in me gave me so much confidence in my future career and myself. I’m a girl who comes from a town where college isn’t in the norm and my parents couldn’t afford higher education, so the fact that I was able to come to Monmouth University (my dream school) on a EOF scholarship then got me to create my dream job. This job has given me more than I could’ve imagined. This job gave me a future and a confirmation that I will be successful.

- 2023 Student Employee Nominees:**
- Isabella Buono, MU Library
 - Emma George, Curriculum and Instruction
 - Emma Gould, Biology Department
 - Emily Guicheteau, Student Center
 - Gia LaRocca, George L. Catrambone School, Long Branch Public Schools, Off Campus Federal Work Study Program
 - Nicole Mautone, Dept. of Special Education
 - Julianna Nichols, Occupational Therapy Department
 - Janelle Ramirez, Monmouth Digital Network Communications
 - Kayla Reynolds, Undergraduate Admissions
 - Mary Schuld, Honors School
 - Rachel Strazdins, Chemisty & Physics
 - Sabrina Streakman, The Center for Entrepreneurship at Monmouth University

2023 SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR

LORETTA DICKERSON



Job Title: Purchasing Card Coordinator, Purchasing Department

Favorite Student Employment Memory:

My favorite moment was receiving the email that I was nominated for Supervisor of the year. I am so honored that I was submitted. It was a very special honor.

<https://www.monmouth.edu/student-employment/national-student-employment-week/>

Softball Bounces Back, Racks Up Two Wins at Home

JONATHAN BAILEY
SPORTS EDITOR

After a disappointing series against Delaware left a sour taste in their mouths, Monmouth University's softball team rebounded nicely, collecting a 5-3 win over Columbia on April 5 and taking the first game of an April 7 doubleheader against North Carolina A&T by a score of 6-5. Sophomore pitcher Billie Kerwood started against Columbia for the Hawks, and pitched 1.1 innings before exiting the game, with fifth-year pitcher Kelly Toomey taking over. The visiting Columbia Lions took a 2-0 lead in the second inning off of a home run that sent a base runner home. Monmouth wasted no time reigning the game back in, tying the game off of red-hot junior catcher Devin Coia's two RBI singles in the third inning. Columbia would briefly retake the lead in the fourth inning on a triple before the Hawks shut things down to close out the game. Senior pitcher Kylie Gletow pitched the last 3.1 innings, allowing only three hits and no runs. Junior infielder Julia Thuer tied the game at 3-3 on a sac-fly from sophomore infielder Eve Serrato at the bottom of the fourth inning before returning the favor in the fifth inning. Julia Thuer's RBI single in the fifth gave the Hawks a 4-3 lead, and junior catcher Abby Warner sealed the deal with a homer in the sixth inning to make the score 5-3.

Two days later, Monmouth hosted North Carolina A&T for a doubleheader that the two sides split evenly. Like their previous game against Columbia, Monmouth found themselves down 2-0 early before bouncing back in a big way in the middle frames. Warner carried her excellent performance over from the game against Columbia, scoring a run and registering three hits in her four at-bats as the Hawks scored five unanswered runs through the third, fourth, and fifth innings. Freshman shortstop Bri Lawson was responsible for three of the Hawks' six runs, scoring two and batting in another. Thuer also got in on the party with two RBIs of her own. Kerwood earned her second win of the season, going six full innings and allowing just four hits. Junior pitcher Kait Mulcahey recorded her first save of the season, holding the Aggies hitless and scoreless in her relief appearance to secure the 6-5 win. The Hawks were far less lucky in their second game of the day, losing 1-0 to their opponents in a nine-inning nail-biter. Kylie Gletow started the game for Monmouth and pitched all nine innings, allowing only seven hits and, unfortunately, the only run of the game. Gletow's fantastic performance was negated by an equally impressive effort from North Carolina A&T, who limited Monmouth to just six hits themselves. Coia and Thuer continued to have hot bats, with

each recording hits yet again. The Hawks were just not able to convert their base runners into runs, leaving 13 runners stranded in the game. Head Coach Shannon Salsburg lamented the lack of opportunity after the loss, saying "Tough way to split. I thought both of our pitchers threw really well today. Billie did a great job in the first game, and we came through with some timely hitting. In game two, Kylie pitched an awesome game. We had opportunities over and over, but we have to continue to work on having a consistent approach with runners in scoring position." The Hawks had an opportunity to get right in an April 8 rematch, but North Carolina A&T handily defeated Monmouth 7-2 despite the Hawks' best efforts. Kerwood pitched six innings for the Hawks and allowed a meager six hits to pair with nine strikeouts, but the Aggies still managed to post five runs against Kerwood. Gletow and Mulcahey also pitched in relief, and Coia extended her hitting streak to seven games with an RBI that gave the Hawks their second of two runs on the day. With her nine strikeouts, Kerwood has cracked triple-digit strikeouts on the season with 105. Coia also leads the team in batting average, boasting a .305 on the heels of this purple patch. Up next, Monmouth will travel down to the College of Charleston for another three-game series, starting Saturday, April 15 at 1 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Julia Thuer was dominant against Columbia, scoring a run and batting in another in her two at-bats.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Devin Coia extended her hitting streak to seven games, including three RBIs against Columbia and North Carolina A&T.

Baseball Shuts Down North Carolina A&T 2-0

JONATHAN BAILEY
SPORTS EDITOR

After friendly and opposing bats alike exploded in their non-conference April 4 and April 5 games against Saint Peter's and NJIT, Monmouth University's baseball team had a much more tame outing on April 9, as they shut out their hosts North Carolina A&T 2-0. Sophomore righty pitcher Reed Interdonato got the start on the mound for Monmouth and pitched a scoreless six innings. He gave up just two

hits and fanned five batters en route to earning his second win of the season, and his second consecutive scoreless appearance. Senior righties Dante Ciaramella and Ryan Bearse pitched in relief of Interdonato, with Bearse picking up his second save of the season. Bearse's save was his first since a 14-12 shootout win over William & Mary on March 25, with Interdonato starting and winning that game as well. Neither Bearse nor Ciaramella conceded a hit in their three combined innings, and the pair amassed a

total of three strikeouts. Senior first baseman James Harmstead led the way offensively for the Hawks, hitting homers on each of his two hits on the afternoon. Harmstead's multi-homer game was the third such in his career, with his last coming on March 22, 2022 against Fordham. In Monmouth's last game against NJIT, Harmstead helped keep the Hawks a perfect 12-0 all-time against their opponents with his first career triple. Head Coach Dean Ehehalt reflected on the game, calling



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Reed Interdonato blanked North Carolina A&T in what Head Coach Dean Ehehalt called "...his best career start. ...".

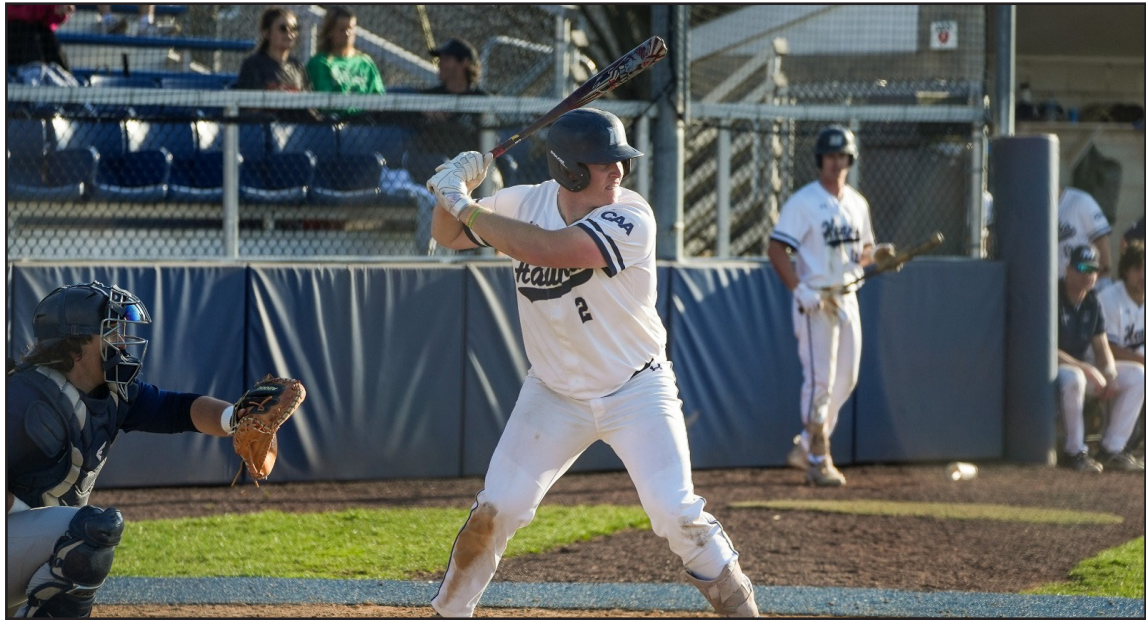


PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

James Harmstead homered twice to inspire the Hawks to their 2-0 win over North Carolina A&T. Harmstead recorded his third career multi-home run game in the victory.

it a "Great team win today. Reed had his best career start and gave us exactly what we needed. Dante and Ryan did a great job out of the bullpen. James broke out and of course provided us with our offensive production. A few nice plays on defense and [Mason] Wolf threw out a would-be base stealer in a big spot." Junior second baseman Casey Caufield and senior right fielder Ben Winstead joined Harmstead in the hit column for the Hawks in what was a quieter offensive game than usual. With their other two

games against North Carolina A&T postponed for now, the Hawks earned a much needed CAA win to give them their third conference win of the season, bringing them to a CAA record of 3-10. Monmouth's next CAA competitions will come in the form of a three-game home series against the College of Charleston, spanning from April 14 to April 16. The Hawks, now on a three-game win streak, will have four games in five days in the upcoming week, starting with a visit from the Princeton Tigers on April 12 at 3:00 p.m.

Men's Lax Shakes Off SJU, Dusts Hampton in First CAA Win

BENTE STEENHORST
STAFF WRITER

Prior to the conference matchup versus Hampton on Saturday, April 8, the Hawks hosted a midweek clash against Saint Joseph's on Tuesday, April 4. The visitors have been receiving votes in both national polls the past weeks, providing Monmouth with a challenging opponent.

The afternoon matchup at Kessler Stadium was coined the 'Battle of the Hawks,' as both Monmouth and Saint Joseph's have the same mascot. This was the last non-conference game of the 2023 season for Coach Brian Fisher and his team.

Saint Joseph's started off flying and found themselves up 3-0 halfway through the first quarter. Monmouth came back in the game after fifth-year Cade Stratton and freshman Ryan O'Rourke showed some individual class and helped their team with two goals, putting a score of 3-2 on the board at the end of the first quarter.

Within the first minute of the second quarter, the visitors extended their lead to two and stapled their foot to the gas pedal. After just a couple minutes of play, Monmouth was trailing by four and ended up netting an important goal with a second left in the first half after senior Matt Karsian sent freshman Ty Caffarelli away to make it 6-3 going into halftime.

This would end up being Monmouth's last goal of the game. Saint Joseph's dominated the third and fourth quarter, scoring seven more to end the game with a score

of 13-3 in their favor.

Saint Joseph's outshot Monmouth by just five shots, but the visiting Hawks were very efficient with the opportunities they created for themselves. Turnovers and faceoffs were evenly matched between both teams, but the visitors were better at ground balls, while Monmouth created more extra-man opportunities.

The Monmouth attack was unable to make a fist in the second half against a solid defense from Saint Joseph's. The visitors had much better luck up front, cashing in on the tremendous chances they created and extending their lead quickly.

Monmouth had a chance to redeem themselves versus the Hampton Pirates for a CAA matchup down in Virginia on Saturday, April 8. The Armstrong Stadium in Hampton, Virginia was the stage for Monmouth's fourth conference game. Both the Pirates and the Hawks were without conference wins going into the game, so both teams were looking to earn that much-needed win.

The Hawks started off strong, contrary to earlier in the week, and opened the scoring within the first few minutes of the first quarter. Caffarelli scored his 16th goal of the season to put Monmouth ahead, a lead that the blue and white would not relinquish for the rest of the game. The Hawks scored two more goals in the first 15 minutes and ended the quarter with a 3-0 lead.

Monmouth did not lose their flow and went on to score four more goals in the second quarter, expanding

their lead to 7-0 with 4:10 left to play in the first half. Hampton refused to go down without a fight as they scored their first goal of the day with a little under two minutes left in the half to make the score 7-1. The score at halftime was 7-1 in favor of the Hawks.

Monmouth's Ryan O'Rourke scored his first ever hat-trick in the first half of the game, a key part of the Hawks' success on attack. Caffarelli joined his teammate and scored the first two goals of the third quarter, not only putting Monmouth up 9-1, but earning a hat-trick as well. Caffarelli would end the game with four goals and two assists, becoming the first rookie to score 20 or more goals in a single season since Bryce Wasserman did so in 2015. Hampton would not score in the entire third quarter while Stratton scored two more goals to put the Hawks up 11-1 going into the final period.

The home team outscored Monmouth for the first time in the game during the fourth quarter, 5-3, but had been trailing by too much to come near the Hawks. Among the scorers for Monmouth in the final frame was Max Sullivan, a junior, who scored the last goal of the game - his first career goal for Monmouth. The Hawks earned the program's first-ever CAA win after a dominating 14-6 win over the Hampton Pirates.

The Monmouth defense kept the Pirates to one goal in the first three quarters of the game and goalie Andrew Kuhlman matched his career high with 14 saves in 33 recorded shots. Lance Martineau led the Monmouth defense alongside Kuhlman and caused a career-best four turnovers. Matt Soutar dominated faceoffs, go-



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Cade Stratton leads the Hawks with 28 points from 19 goals and 9 assists and is the third Monmouth player to score 60 career goals.

ing 17-7 and even got to pick up his first assist of the season. Stratton still leads the team with 28 points total for the season after adding two more goals and assists to his record, becoming the third Hawk in Monmouth history to score 60 career goals.

Head Coach Brian Fischer was buzzing with the win and the trip overall, "It felt good to pick up a win on the road this afternoon to cap off a great road trip. We were able to make a stop in Washington, D.C. to break up the long trip to Virginia Beach on Friday which allowed us to check out some of the monu-

ments and take a tour of the National Museum of African American History and Culture. It was a great experience for our team."

With this win, the Hawks moved to 4-2 on the road this season and snapped their five-game losing streak. Monmouth is now 1-3 in CAA play and 5-6 overall for the season. The Hawks will travel to Connecticut on Saturday, April 15 for another CAA matchup against the Fairfield Stags, who are also 1-3 in conference play. The game will start at 3:30 p.m. and will be broadcasted live on LacrosseTV.

Rowing Cruises to a Pair of Top-Three Finishes to Start Spring

ABIGAIL BROOKS
MANAGING EDITOR
GRADUATE ASSISTANT

The Monmouth University women's rowing team kicked off their spring season with two top-three finishes in the Women's Collegiate Novice 4+ at the Murphy Cup Regatta on the Schuylkill River on Saturday, April 8.

The Hawks' "A" entry of freshmen Marissa McKenzie, Caitlin Newson, Samantha LeCrone, Alayna Degan, and coxswain Hailea Anderson finished with a time of 7:38.37,

good for first place. Monmouth's "B" entry of Grace Hutchinson, Kaitlyn Rice, Anna Gaglianone, Heather Humes, and coxswain Casey Mastin finished shortly behind their teammates, coming in third with a 8:14.38 finish.

Both Monmouth entries moved on to the final, with Monmouth "A" finishing in 7:35.75 and Monmouth "B" coming in at 8:17.09. The "A" entry's 7:35.7 and 7:38.3 was enough to earn them fifth overall out of the 29 women's fours that competed in the

regatta.

"I thought both boats did a great job of executing the race plans we had laid out for them. We've had very little water time so far this spring, so we challenged them to compete at some pretty conservative stroke ratings and really focus on efficiency," explained Head Coach Scott Belford. "For half of this group, it was their first regatta ever, at any level, over any distance. To finish in the way we did was very rewarding. We are looking forward to getting back to work this week and putting these two boats together in preparation for



PHOTOS COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Coxswain Hailea Anderson led the "A" entry to victory.

racing both the four and the eight next week at the Knecht Cup."

The team made school history in October when the Hawks competed in the program's first ever competition at the Navy Day Regatta. Monmouth placed third out of five boats in the Collegiate Women's Freshman 8+. The Hawks' two entries in the Collegiate Women's Freshman 4+ finished fourth and sixth out of eight boats.

Just two weeks later, the team earned its first medals in program history at the Head of the Schuylkill Regatta with third-place finishes in the Women's Collegiate Freshman 4+ (15:14.0) and the Wom-

en's Collegiate Freshman 8+ (14:07.5).

Between their successful inaugural fall season and their strong start to the spring, the women's rowing team now has four medals to their name in the program's first year. They will have the chance to keep the ball rolling with a busy spring schedule. Up next, Monmouth will compete in the Knecht Cup in Pennsauken, New Jersey on Saturday, April 15 and Sunday, April 16. The team will then travel to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to compete in the Kerr Cup on Saturday, April 22 followed by the SHU Invite the next weekend on Saturday, April 29.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Monmouth's "A" entry placed first in the Women's Collegiate Novice 4+ at the Murphy Cup.



MLAX BOUNCES BACK IN FIRST CAA WIN



Coming off of a tough loss to Saint Joseph's, men's lacrosse earned their first CAA win against Hampton, 14-6.

SEE STORY ON PAGE 15

PHOTOS COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics