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Student Government Association passes a resolution regarding the use of eCampus

SGA resolution sparks rift with Monmouth's faculty union, FAMCO

TAYLOR MEMOLI
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF/NEWS EDITOR

The Student Government Association (SGA) passed a resolution (SGA.RES.S25-01) regarding the faculty use of eCampus on Feb. 5. The resolution was sent out via email to the students as well as posted to SGA's Instagram page and website, shortly after it was passed.

The resolution was authored

by Monmouth University student Michael Makfinsky ('25, SGA Attorney General), sponsored by Matthew Gold ('25, President Pro Tempore), also an MU student, and signed by SGA President Tanner Purdy and SGA Vice President Eliana Duarte.

"SGA.RES.S25-01 is the first resolution passed by the SGA in recent memory. Returning to the utilization of resolutions as a means of influencing change has long been a priority of mine and our entire cabinet. We truly believe that speaking as a voting body adds urgency to the process of problem-solving and displays our commitment to using our platform as a positive force on campus," said senior in finance and real estate and

SGA president, Tanner Purdy.

The resolution that was passed unanimously by the SGA Senate, having 22 votes in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 abstentions, urges, "the Monmouth University Division of Academic Affairs, Faculty Council, and other faculty leadership groups to require that all faculty maintain an updated eCampus page throughout the semester, including a current syllabus, grade book, and relevant course materials to support student success." In addition, under the resolution, faculty would be required to post schedules, all relevant information on major

Resolution
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Assignments. Syllabi. Grades.
They belong in eCampus!

FAMCO has rejected our proposal to create a more fair and equitable learning environment. Students deserve access to grades, assignments, and syllabi.

Stand with us,
Sign the petition...

FLYER COURTESY OF SGA.



PHOTO COURTESY OF Joe Coyle.

Computer Science Department hosts annual High School Hawk Hack

GILLIAN DESTEFANO
STAFF WRITER

Ten high schools across New Jersey participated in the annual High School Hawk Hack On Friday, Feb. 7. Fifty students arrived on campus at 11:30 a.m., and after listening to three speakers, had 90 minutes to complete a series of coding questions in teams of three or four.

The event began with a kahoot quiz to ease the tension, and Dr. Ling Zheng, the Chair of the Computer Science and Software Engineering (CSSE) and Liz Gesner, Associate Director of Undergraduate Admissions spoke about Monmouth's Computer Science and Software Engineering (CSSE) departments. From there, the students were

dismissed to two classrooms, where they warmed up.

After some easier questions to ensure that the program is running smoothly, the 90-minute contest began. Despite the different rooms, all the students were competing with one another simultaneously.

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Got a tip?
Tell us.

Resolution

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assignments, and use “the platform to communicate key announcements to students.”

The resolution, also asks that faculty members be provided with training and support so that faculty can use eCampus most effectively. This training and support would include, according to the resolution, workshops, one-on-one consultations, and technical support. Additionally, the resolution calls for a compliance review process to be implemented, “to monitor and support faculty adoption of eCampus, with mechanisms for addressing non-compliance.”

“At the heart of the student learning space is the use of eCampus to distribute syllabi, grade books, assignments, and other necessary course resources. Several members of the Senate have reported significant inconsistencies in how faculty utilize eCampus in the classroom. Rather than being confined to specific programs, these inconsistencies appear to be widespread across all levels of the academic experience. We firmly believe that all students deserve consistency in their academic experience,” Purdy said.

This SGA resolution is not the first time the SGA has tried to use its power to present a bill regarding the use of eCampus. In

2015, SGA came to the Faculty Council with a proposal that the faculty be mandated to use eCampus.

Christopher DeRosa, Professor of History, served as the chair of the Faculty Council (FC) in 2015 when the SGA presented its proposal for all faculty to be mandated to use eCampus. In the FC 2015-2016 chair’s report, it states, “[The Faculty Council] could not require that – it would violate our colleague’s academic freedom to dictate what teaching tools they use.”

According to the report, Faculty Council instead created a “Midterm Status Alert System,” focusing on one of the major complaints from the students, i.e., lack of information on grades and student performance. “The system created would have required the faculty to fill out a detailed report for each student on their academic performance at the semester’s midpoint. After, the FC leadership change and some additional discussions, the regulation was not implemented as the form was deemed to be too lengthy, laborious, and potentially counterproductive,” said Marina Vujnovic, who was, at the time, Vice Chair of the Faculty Council.

At the core of this argument, as stated by Professor DeRosa in 2015, is the principle of academic freedom by which faculty has

the right to select teaching tools, including technology, they wish to use in their classes.

However, the resolution states that “integration of technology in education is essential for enhancing student engagement, academic success, and operational efficiency,” creating a rift between faculty’s right to academic freedom, and student’s desire for a more uniform, technology-based educational experience.

“Monmouth University pays for eCampus with tuition dollars, which every student utilizes for their classes. eCampus contains a grade book, assignment submission system, announcements page, and other important course materials,” explained Brendan Sheehan, SGA Director of Public Relations. “The SGA believes all students should have access to these tools in one centralized, accessible database like eCampus, which faculty had a say in choosing. Failure to do so will make Monmouth’s education less accessible and transparent, shutting us out of the academic experience we pay for,” Sheehan continued.

Richard Viet, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs expressed his support of the resolution and his diligence in updating the eCampus in his own courses. “However,” he said, “our collective bargaining agreement with the faculty requires only that a syllabus be posted. I look

forward to working with the SGA as we strategize about how best to provide students with timely and relevant course materials in support of their success.”

FAMCO, Monmouth’s faculty union, which’s been active since 1971, negotiates agreements with the administration involving faculty salaries and benefits, but also fights for protection of academic freedom, specifies a process for tenure and promotion, and protects other working conditions of full-time faculty. They have recently negotiated a contract that will remain in effect for two more years.

Professor of Sociology and President of FAMCO, Johanna Foster, commented on this resolution and the effect it will have on professors. She said, “The faculty union appreciated receiving outreach from the SGA on their recent resolution. We can respect that students are seeking some modifications to professor’s work requirements. The faculty union took these concerns very seriously in our last round of contract negotiations and agreed to make some limited changes that acknowledge some of these concerns, while also retaining faculty’s rights to determine what tools and methods of teaching and evaluation best serve their role as professionals with autonomy in the classroom and in their areas of expertise.”

She further elaborated that FAMCO shared with SGA that the faculty’s conditions of work—which include the teaching conditions and practices outlined in the SGA resolution—are protected by a labor contract agreed upon by both the union and Monmouth University administration. Besides being required to post the syllabi on eCampus and having eCampus be the only method of electronic assignment or instruction delivery, no professor who teaches in person is required to use the platform beyond that. “Any changes to that legal agreement must be formally bargained between the faculty and the administration in contract negotiations,” Foster said. “In our last round of contract negotiations between the faculty and the administration, which lasted from February to October of last year, and will reopen again in 2027, the faculty union considered a proposal from the administration to change faculty requirements around eCampus use.”

Foster continued, “The faculty union feels very confident in our position that the high-quality learning experiences that happen here at Monmouth between our engaged students and faculty will continue under

our new contract, including this new provision, all of which remains in effect through the end of the 2027 academic year.”

Sheehan believes that waiting two years is unacceptable, and that 2027 is too late. He said, “Unfortunately, the SGA disagrees with the faculty union that a learning environment where students do not have visibility into their grades and other important course information is a high-quality one. We stand firm in our belief that this resolution will have a profound and positive impact on all students. This common-sense measure was passed unanimously by the Senate, and our petition supporting the resolution has garnered more than 500 signatures from members of the campus community in its first day.”

“I appreciate students’ zealous push for what they think will improve their educational experience, but I think there is, what we would call, a logical fallacy in their proposal,” said Vujnovic. “I was on Faculty Council when this issue was debated a decade ago, and I was a lead negotiator for our Union contract when this issue was discussed at the table last year. We need to look at the underlying issue and find the remedy for it, if it doesn’t already exist. If the issue is that there are faculty members that aren’t communicating grades and returning graded assignments, and students are unable to track their class performance, we have a remedy for that in the contract. It is disciplinary and we just negotiated an expanded version of it last year. Mandating all faculty to use eCampus will not solve this issue, because in my twenty years of teaching, and my leadership positions, I have learned that those who don’t do the work won’t be compelled to do it when what we offer them will be even more complicated and cumbersome, in addition to not solving the underlying problem.”

Vujnovic continued, “The other issue is overall student experience and the emphasis on a uniform educational experience. The beauty of higher education is that we don’t all teach the same. That is the core of what we do. We have different tools and methods. Some of us use technology, some don’t. Students will be exposed to various methods and, in my opinion, that enriches their overall experience.”

“I use eCampus because I appreciate when someone else does my math. I am sure, I am not alone in that. But many of my colleagues don’t and that’s their choice as faculty, as long as they make sure students get feedback on their progress. They don’t have a choice of not providing that feedback, and the contract is clear on that issue. Many

Resolution
cont. on pg. 3

Dear Monmouth University Community,

On February 5th, 2025, the SGA unanimously passed SGA Resolution S25-01, calling for the requirement of all faculty to post syllabi, assignment information, and grades on eCampus to the benefit of the student academic experience.

In the spirit of shared governance, we took our concern to the Division of Academic Affairs, Faculty Council, and FAMCO, our faculty union. We always welcome the opportunity for collaboration with our campus partners. As an organization, we have made it clear that the SGA stands for fair and equitable access to grades, assignment information, and syllabi. Unfortunately, FAMCO holds the official position that requiring the use of eCampus beyond the posting of a syllabi infringes upon “faculty’s academic freedom and professional autonomy.” It was explicitly implied that student concerns should be tabled until the next faculty contract negotiations in 2027, two years too late.

We wholeheartedly believe that standards across the academic experience as it pertains to our resolution do not represent a violation of faculty’s academic freedom. The SGA encourages creativity and autonomy from our faculty in ways that embolden the learning experience. We stand with FAMCO in the belief that protecting academic freedom and professional integrity should remain at the core of their mission. However, our policy does not move to erode faculty autonomy in determining tools and methods of evaluations, it empowers them to provide a better experience to students. SGA Resolution S25-01 is a common sense set of recommendations to the benefit of the university community.

As an organization, we have every intention of continuing discussions on this issue with our campus partners united by a shared goal of an elevated academic experience. Students and faculty share a special connection that is at the foundation of higher education. Our call for fair and equitable access to grades, assignment information, and syllabi is one that promotes student success and is emblematic of the trust that exists between us.

Let’s capitalize on that special relationship to make Monmouth a better place for students to learn. Let’s bring faculty, administrators, and students to the table to find a path forward. Together, we will invent a solution that satisfies both student and faculty priorities.

2027 is two years too late. Stand with us, sign the petition.

<https://forms.office.com/r/BjLfh99Caz>

For a stronger Monmouth,

The SGA Cabinet

Tanner Purdy, President

Eliana Duarte, Vice President

Matthew Gold, Pro-Tempore

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Sherly Gonzalez-Lopez, Director of Finance

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Brendan Sheehan, Director of Public Relations

OPEN LETTER courtesy of SGA.

SGA Open Letter provided to “The Outlook.”

cont. from pg. 2

faculty give paper copies back to students with grades right on it. Students can keep track of their grades and that is a perfectly acceptable way of doing things in higher education. Mandating the use of a proprietary piece of technology goes against the core of what higher education is about, and even more deeply, it is concerning considering nearly daily onslaught of news about various data breaches, which was another concern discussed during the contract negotiations. And I'll end with a concern that students proposed a surveillance system that would monitor faculty use of eCampus and track them for non-compliance. I was surprised by this. Faculty fought hard and continues to do so, not to allow any systems we use or that might be invited to our campus, to surveil and harvest our students' data and track their work. Faculty is here to discuss all of these issues with students, including how these proprietary technologies enable cheating, something that's a growing issue on our campus. A cheating incident in one of my classes last semester was destructive to my teaching experience, so I think we need to discuss technology use in higher education and how it affects both faculty and students. I invite that discussion to start as soon as

possible," concluded Vujnovic. SGA provided "The Outlook" with an open letter discussing their stance on the resolution and the aforementioned petition that students can sign to show their support. Meghan Reilly, a senior English student, is indifferent to the resolution as she can understand both sides. "I understand why the resolution has been proposed because students should be able to see their grades besides their midterm and final letter grades," she said. "However, I have had several classes where eCampus wasn't utilized and still received feedback from my professors so I know how I am doing in the class. I think that some technologies are difficult for professors to become accustomed to and as long as you don't have to pay for alternative options, it is just adjusting to different professors' modes of teaching. Although, I do understand for people who do not know how they are doing in a class to want this resolution in place." Maya Malizia, a senior sociology major, supports the new SGA resolution and credits SGA for this plan. "I feel like professors should be held accountable for putting the grades on eCampus. I think using eCampus is helpful for the

students so they can understand their position in class with their grades. I like the SGA resolution. I think it's for the best. And I wish it was implemented earlier." However, senior communication student Beyonce Carranza doesn't believe that a resolution is needed. "I don't mind using alternative options to eCampus as long as it isn't more work," she said. "It's not fair for older professors to stress themselves out learning how to use eCampus when email for example is simpler for both the professor and student. I think the SGA resolution is a bit much." "Using alternative options does not take away from having quality education," Carranza continued. "I've never felt like my education has suffered by not using eCampus, because my professors are good communicators about my feedback and grades." Christine Hatchard, Psy.D., Chair of the Council of Chairs, believed that access to course materials and one's course performance is important and that there are various ways in which communication about these could be achieved. "After reviewing the SGA resolution," she began, "I believe that what they're requesting, such as access to course syllabi, communication about their courses, and timely

information about their grades, is reasonable and can be achieved in different ways." However, regarding the use of eCampus more specifically, she said that, "A specific mandate to use eCampus would fall under the purview of the faculty union (FAMCO) and their collective bargaining agreement." "If some faculty are vague about grades or do not respond to student inquires about grades, that is a personnel problem because the faculty member is not living up to their contractual responsibilities. There are mechanisms in place to deal with faculty who do this. You cannot 'idiot-proof' the contract by making people use eCampus. A faculty member who has poor or opaque grading practices is not going to suddenly improve because they have to post their mystery gradebook

in another format. Faculty are already required by contract to keep gradebooks and save it for several years. The need of students for transparency in grading, to understand how they are being evaluated, it completely reasonable. The need of faculty to maintain academic freedom in pedagogy is also completely reasonable. The two desires are not mutually contradictory. Requiring faculty use of eCampus does nothing to ensure that both desires are met," said Professor of English Sue Starke and a member of FAMCO contract negotiating team. Sheehan concluded, "We welcome the Faculty Council, FAMCO, and others who have concerns to the table to share their thoughts and concerns, as we work to improve the academic experience for all."



Scan the QR code to sign SGA's petition to support their resolution.



IEEE/ACM Club during the Hawk Hack event.

Hawk Hack

cont. from pg. 1

The event is run by the student-led club of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers/ Association for Computing Machinery, (IEEE/ ACM) which works with everything from computer science and software engineering (CSSE) to Information Technology (IT). According to Vincent Tuberton, President of IEEE/ACM, the annual Hawk Hack is the club's biggest event, where they hope to recruit new freshmen and show off the sophisticated software. Professor Rolf Kamp, IEEE/ ACM Club Advisor since January of 2022, said "There are two prongs to our mission: number one of course being selfish, promoting Monmouth

University's computer science and software engineering department, and showing off our resources, and of course, in general, enhancing and promoting STEM awareness within the Monmouth County region. And there have been a number, for example Vincent, who have participated in the 2020 competition. And we had two students from Toms River say that they're accepted and they're coming here." Kamp said, "We use this tool called HackerRank, which is a widely used tool for interviews, so if you're an entry level [computer science] person, you're gonna sit down and they'll say here's a quiz, I'll be back and in 30 minutes. We do the same thing here. Everybody's gonna have

the same questions and then they go. They're scored based on how quickly and how accurately they solve the problems. And there will be prizes for first, second, and third place." The prizes included three drones, three robots, and three steam gift cards. "It's a huge coordinated effort between the admissions department, department of computer science and engineering, IEEE/ACM as the background set up and actual administering of the event, and getting the high schools involved and making sure that they have everything they need and we have everything we need to be successful," said Tuberton. Dr. Ling Zheng, Department Chair of Computer Science

and Software Engineering Department, said "It's a great chance to showcase our department to all participating highschool students and their teachers. It's a way to let highschool students know that this kind of journey starting from this competition can lead to many amazing results." Tuberton continued, "I actually participated as a highschool student in 2020 which was the last year that the contest was offered before COVID happened. We brought it back and we've been picking up the pace especially this year to be able to get 50 students from multiple different schools, even farther away. Which is great, because it means there's an active interest in getting involved and sending their students here." New schools also joined this year including Lodi High School, Saddle River High School, and John P. Stevens High School. In the end, John P. Stevens won first, Saddle River second, and Freehold High school got third. The event sold out in January and 30 more students were interested in competing. To meet this high demand, the CSSE department organized a "Coding Connect" event the following Tuesday to introduce highschool students to the faculty and resources available at Monmouth. Kamp said, "We have been preparing for this since August." He continued, "Preparation is

getting that website registration working, there's always some tweaks to do every year. Every year, we get better and better at learning from our history. A big change that we made this year is in the past, we would email with the announcement, all the information. Now, we just say 'Click Here!' and you can get all the information. That way, we can continue to update it." Christy Jenkins, Coordinator for Computer Sciences and Software Engineering, said, "We partner with admissions, so we come up with the invitation on the online registration and stuff and Liz has a database, I believe it's with either guidance counselors or assistant principles. She sends it out, they respond directly to us, and we build it from there. And then every year, we make this little data base of prior schools and the chaperones because a lot of them are computer science



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What is the campus culture at Monmouth?

EDITORIAL STAFF

All colleges have a specific culture to their campus. Some are tight-knit, others full of school spirit, and some that lack unity within the student body. The Outlook editorial staff explained what they believe is the campus culture at Monmouth University.

"I think overall, Monmouth lacks unity. I find that people remain within the group that they feel comfortable in whether it be for their club or sport and are not open to engaging with the rest of the student body, making Monmouth feeling split," one editor said.

Another editor explained, "I think the campus culture is a little divided, mainly between people in Greek life vs. those who are not. But, in general, I think people who want to get involved on campus create a really great community; though, I do feel like less and less students care to join clubs and attend events year after year."

There are many reasons as to why students are not connected with one another. "I think too many students wake up, go to class and go back to their rooms. I think too many people go home on the weekends. I think this contributes to the feeling of a campus that's not as connected..." one editor commented.

The culture surrounding sport-

ing events at Monmouth has traditionally been socializing before the game begins. One editor said, "I honestly never attend sporting events at school except homecoming, and even then, I usually leave before the game officially starts."

Another editor believes the tide is changing in terms of turnout at sporting events, "I think athletic events present a great opportunity to have fun with friends and show school spirit. The basketball games recently have been on fire with student turnout and hype. I know SGA has been working to build a more solidified student section that can hopefully make games for all sports next year fun and exciting."

There are different cultures within Monmouth, especially within the clubs and organizations the students typically opt to get involved with. One editor commented, "If it's well-known among the student body, I think of SGA, Hawk TV and SAB. If it's popular in terms of people wanting to be involved, I think of Greek life..." They continued, "I think there's a perception maybe Greek life is too closed off, in their own world. This is the same for sports teams and other clubs, who don't really interact outside of their own bubbles. I think if it were less closed off, with different groups interacting more often, that could

improve the culture."

Another editor believes that the community lies within specific groups on campus. "I think individual schools have a more tight-knit community, like how the communication clubs sometimes do shared events. However, I don't think Monmouth as a whole is that tight-knit but I chalk that up to a lot of students not wanting to get involved on campus past simply attending their classes," they explained.

Could Monmouth foster a strong sense of community? One editor said, "I believe the campus culture of Monmouth can be something really special if people try. I honestly think Monmouth could be the school where people play frisbee on Shadow Lawn, spike ball on the Res Quad and set up a slip n' slide behind the soccer field. We just need people to try."

"I think if we had more engagement at athletic events, more wiffleball games on the lawn spaces and more spike ball tournaments, we could build that kind of tight-knit community," one editor concluded.

For now, it seems that the perception of Monmouth University culture is one of disconnect and a lack of engagement. Changing this starts with the students, investing more time and energy to participate within the campus community, outside of the classroom.



ART BY: KILEY HUBBAR

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Can we learn to be happy?

RILEY MCGEE
STAFF WRITER

I think that it is hard to say if we can truly learn to be happy, but that there are ways that we can learn to improve our happiness. Happiness is defined as a feeling of being content, joyful pleasure and having a sense of well being. I believe that there are several ways that we can learn to be happy to have the best life possible.

To begin, a way to learn to be happy is to practice having gratitude. This means that in the morning or at night after a long hard day we can write down something that we are grateful for. It doesn't have to be anything crazy but can be something as simple as, "I am grateful that I was able to go to class even though I didn't want to." This can help us to start to appreciate the little things in life and to start to learn to be thankful for things that we have.

Another way that we can practice gratitude is saying or writing down something that made us happy throughout the day. This can be that you got to hangout with your friends, or completed a tough assignment. These things can also help us to appreciate the smaller things in our life, and help us not focus on everything that is necessarily bad.

I also believe that we can learn to be happy by learning to manage our stress. Sometimes when we are stressed it can make us irritated or upset with everything around us. We may have a big assignment that

we have to do or have a difficult week coming up. With these things we can become stressed and fall behind and feel as if we aren't happy. But learning to manage our stress can cause a sense of being content, and we can do this by learning how to manage our time.

Along with this we can learn to manage our stress by getting enough sleep, eating well or three meals, and making time for people in our lives that are important. This can help us to feel happy and learn to balance our social lives, work lives, and school lives.

Finally, I believe that we can learn to be happy by making sure that you are making time to do things that bring you joy or things that you love. By doing this it can take stress off our shoulders, and help to distract ourselves from what is making us upset. Something that I tend to do when I am feeling upset or stressed is hangout with my friends, paint, take pictures, and take walks.

All of these things bring me a sense of happiness even if it is just for the time that I am doing it. In conclusion, although we can't always change the way that we feel, there are things that we can do to help us feel better. Which is why it is hard to say that we can learn to be happy, but we can learn to do things that make us happy.



IMAGE TAKEN from Freepik

Are Zoos Ethical?

MICHAEL GRUSEKE
OPINIONS EDITOR

Odds are if you are an adult, you have probably visited a zoo at least once in your life. Zoo's offer an interactive experience, getting close up to wildlife that we would otherwise not be able to see in person. Although this sounds nice, when looking at other factors it is easy to see that zoos are more unethical than not in today's society.

First off, zoos keep animals contained to environments that are very different from their natural habitats. Many animals, such as primates, large cats, elephants, etc. are territorial and require more space to explore and interact with their environment. In zoos, these animals are typically kept in enclosures that restrict their space and

limit their natural behaviors. Obviously, an animal in the wild is used to having miles upon miles to roam, but this is impossible for most zoos to offer for their animals, which affects the animals negatively. For example, elephants in zoos often show signs of distress, such as repetitive pacing, a behavior not seen in the wild. This lack of space adds to both physical and mental harm, leading to what is known as "zoochosis," a condition where animals engage in abnormal behaviors due to the stress of captivity.

On top of this, while many zoos market the idea that their goal is to educate the public about wildlife conservation, they often do not succeed in providing impactful educational experiences. Viewing animals in unnatural

enclosures does not help people understand the full importance of wildlife conservation or the role these animals play in their natural habitats. Instead of educating visitors about the importance of preserving animal's habitats, zoos typically promote the idea that animals exist for human entertainment, which is why they are in captivity.

Although zoos also help preserve endangered species, overall, the idea of keeping wild animals enclosed in small spaces is not right. I feel that an animal that was born to roam free in the wild probably feels like they are in prison with the limited space that they have in a zoo. There are ways for humans to help preserve species without having to display so many animals in zoos for human entertainment.

ARE THE 2025 NEW YORK YANKEES BETTER THAN LAST YEAR'S ROSTER?

CHRIS ARP
STAFF WRITER

With Spring Training officially underway and the 2025 season set to kick off in just under a month, Yankees fans including myself are excited to move on from the unfortunate ending to last year's season, and hoping this time around things will end differently. The 2025 Yankees roster heading into Opening Day is a whole lot different from last year's team, who made it all the way to the World Series, but fell just

short after poor play in the Best of 7 series against the Los Angeles Dodgers.

It was an interesting offseason for the Yankees, who let free agent star Juan Soto walk and sign with the cross-town rival New York Mets, on a record breaking 15 year 765 million dollar deal with incentives that could make it an 805 million dollar deal over time. Some other notable leaves were RP Clay Holmes, 1B Anthony Rizzo, 2B Gleyber Torres, amongst others.



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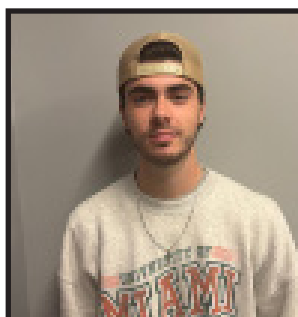
INTERVIEWED by
MICHAEL GRUSEKE

Do you think that zoos are ethical?



"Would you put people of different backgrounds into cages for viewing purposes...no."

- Hrid H.



"I think that zoos are ethical as long as the animals are being treated right."

- Bayden D.



"I don't think zoos are ethical. These animals were not meant to be kept in captivity."

- Daniel G.



"I don't think zoos are ethical. Harambe was a great reminder to us all about the inhumanity of zoos across the nation."

- Jaiden W.

Department of English hosts 6th annual Toni Morrison Day

TAYLOR MEMOLI
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF/NEWS EDITOR

Monmouth University's 6th annual Toni Morrison Day was held on Feb. 21 in Pozycki Auditorium. Toni Morrison Day celebrates the acclaimed American author and editor in a day-long event hosted by Monmouth's English Department. This year, the event's focus was "The Power of Storytelling."

This year, the event featured guest speaker Autumn Womack, an Associate Professor of African American

Studies and English at Princeton University, and four other events throughout the day. At each event, attendees learned more about Morrison's work and Black politics.

After Womack's keynote speech, the lecture "Faculty and Student Composition Panel: 'Intelligent Struggle is Needed...': Writing for Racial and Linguistic Justice in the First-Year Composition Classroom" was hosted from 11:40-1:00. Beth Swanson, M.A., Lecturer in the Department of English, moderated the panel that featured presenters Courtney Werner, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Director of First Year Composition, Linda Sacks, MAT, Lecturer in the Department of English, and Jennifer Harpootlian, M.A., Lecturer.

Werner introduced the panel, discussing the first-year composition (FYC) dedication to challenging

their students to learn and analyze topics they might never have been confronted with before. Werner also mentioned how each FYC syllabus includes a values and anti-racism statement so students can understand the core values of these classes.

Swanson discussed how her FYC class was tasked with watching Jordan Peele's "Get Out" in an attempt to make her



PHOTO TAKEN by Matthew Geller. LEFT TO RIGHT: Zafira Demiri, Timothy Pakrad, Kia Womack, and Carlee Migliorisi.

students analyze the film and the messages behind any movie, especially Peele's psychological horror. The speech featured her FYC student, Jessica Mendez, who read her in-class paper regarding the themes of "Get Out" and how they relate to the current-day struggles of the Black community.

Sacks's speech focused on her class assignment on climate change. Her FYC students had to write a paper on the topic using a social epistemic approach. Sacks read a paper from her student Emma Vilardi, who could not attend the event. Vilardi's paper focused on climate privilege and how fast fashion contributes to the climate crisis.

Lastly, Harpootlian discussed how her class created partner presentations covering the topic of social justice through the music of different generations and genres. Her speech featured

two of her FYC students, Kailyn Bloch and Kristen Sarnicola. The two presented their slideshow which compared the songs "Dear Mr. President" by Pink and "The Bigger Picture" by Lil Baby.

The next event at 1:15-2:15 was "Toni Morrison Book Discussion: The Origin of Others." This event was moderated by Lynn Siracusa, Ed.D., Lecturer in the Department of English, with panelists Joe Torchia, M.A., Lecturer in the Department of English, and Noel Belinski, MAT, Lecturer in the Department of English.

The three discussed Morrison's book "The Origin of Others," by examining certain chapters. They also applied Morrison's messages and stories to modern-day society and examined them from a more critical lens.

Siracusa started off the lecture by discussing the books forward by Ta'Neahsi Coates, discussing that Morrison is not just about race, but power.

Belinski discussed the first chapter of "The Origins of Others" by asking the audience for other examples of



PHOTO TAKEN by Matthew Geller. KATHARINE TITO AND DANIEL MARTIN won the digital poster competition.

"The other" in different societies and media as well as discussing the sanitization of slave literature over time.

Lastly, Torchia talked

about chapter two and how "othering" can bring power, value, and/or rank to the person doing it. Society values difference because it affords certain individuals power and rank.

The "Toni Morrison Day Digital Poster Contest and Toni Morrison Day Creative Writing Contest" was held



PHOTO TAKEN by Matthew Geller. AUTUMN WOMACK delivering the keynote speech.

next from 2:15-3:15. The winners of both of these events were announced by Kurt Wagner, University Librarian, and Zafira Demiri, senior English student and Editor-in-Chief of The Monmouth Review.

The Digital Poster Contest winners were Katharine Tito and Daniel Martin. Both won a certificate as well as their posters were hung in the library for the rest of the semester.

The winners of the Creative Writing Contest were Rachel Melillo, Carlee Migliorisi, and Kia Womack, who all had the chance to read their poetry to the audience.

This event also featured students from Asbury Park High School's Project Right Now. This program connects Asbury Park High School students with mentors from Monmouth University to prepare these students for

their college careers and future. Three students' poems were read to the audience, titled, "Our World is on Fire," "No Way Out," and "Scaredy Cat."

The last event from 3:30-5:00 featured Monmouth's artist-in-resident, John Vercher. Vercher read from his latest novel, "Devil is Fine," and

answered questions from Lauren DeFelice, Hana Vozzo, and Melaina Carrara from the Sigma Tau Delta English Honors Society E-board. During the Q&A,

Vercher spoke about how he has drawn inspiration from Morrison and her work. He referenced Morrison's quote, "If there's a book you want to read, but it hasn't been written yet, then you must write it," and how he has used that to propel his career as an author.

Vercher also discussed his shift into satirical and absurd writing. He stated that it is "liberating" to write in this genre and that it's "a space I'm going to stay with... [it is] fun to explore."

With that, the Sigma Tau Delta E-board provided the audience with closing remarks and thanked their co-sponsors Intercultural Center, Office of the Provost, Wayne D. McMurray School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Leon Hess Business School, School of Social Work, Guggenheim Memorial Library, Monmouth Review, Sigma Tau Delta for another successful event celebrating art, literature, and the legacy of Toni Morrison.

Keynote Speaker: Autumn Womack

MEGHAN REILLY
STAFF WRITER

Monmouth University's sixth annual "Toni Morrison Day" began with a speech delivered by Princeton professor and Toni Morrison scholar, Dr. Autumn Womack.

President Leahy provided opening remarks in which he specifically commended Monmouth's "first-rate" department of English, which organizes the event yearly. The tradition started after Morrison's death in August 2019 and the then Department Chair, Dr. Susan Goulding, wanting to make an event to honor the literary icon's enduring influence.

Dr. Goulding, previous English Department

Chair and Associate Professor, said, "Toni Morrison is one of the most important American writers we have, and the legacy she gave us should live not only in her works but in celebrations and recognitions that extend her legacy."

Dr. Womack's keynote speech was entitled "Toni Morrison and the Power of Storytelling: Or, How to Achieve a Breakdown," tying into this year's event theme. Dr. Womack specifically mentioned the timeliness of the event considering the continued scrutiny and recent attacks on fields such as African American Studies.

In Morrison's 1993 speech for the Nobel Prize in Literature, she mentions that "unmolested language

surges toward knowledge, not its destruction." This functioned as a segue to Dr. Womack's discussion of banned books, particularly Morrison's own. Morrison's novels *The Bluest Eye* and *Beloved* have been frequently challenged by book regulations as well as her 1998 novel, *Paradise*. Dr. Womack explains that this novel particularly was banned by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, which accused the novel of having "information designed to achieve the breakdown of prisons through inmate disruption such as strikes, riots, or security threat group activity."

This is why Morrison's novels depend so heavily on what Dr. Womack refers to as "the activation of the readerly subject." This is

when readers become an active participant in what they are reading, an uninterest in what a text should mean to what it could mean. Readers should consider their reactions to a text and why they feel that way.

When curiosity is piqued, Dr. Womack believes that is what produces conversation, consideration of what is on and off the page, and become open to what a text can become. Curiosity, however, is what is considered troublesome. As can be seen in the banning of *Paradise*, the Department of Justice considered free thinking dangerous but as Morrison sees it, her literature is working. When stories can stir conversation in this manner, there is true engagement between a writer and reader.

"I really liked how Dr. Womack referred to Morrison as a consistent student of craft, although we often like to think of her as a teacher. I find that dedication to remaining a student throughout one's career is such an important detail to emphasize," said Zafira Demiri, M.A. student in English. "I've always loved being a student, and I know I will never stop being one because the only way to grow is to keep on learning. We should all try to embody Morrison's ethic in that way."

When asked to share what she hopes to be the audience's biggest takeaway, Dr. Womack said, "Reading is challenging and that is okay. When readers can take a story, book, or essay into their own hands, this is when true participation occurs."

Weekly Reset Checklist



BAILEY FREDERICKS
MANAGING EDITOR /
LIFESTYLES EDITOR

This Sunday, take a look at this weekly reset checklist to ensure you are relaxed, rejuvenated, and prepared for the busy week ahead. You got this:

▣ **Clean space = clear mind:** The first step to every Sunday reset is cleaning your personal spaces. Whether you live at home with your parents, in a dorm room, or an apartment with roommates, cleaning your room is essential. Change your bed sheets, vacuum your floors and carpets, wipe down and reorganize any counters, desks, or tables. If you feel extra inspired, give your bathroom, kitchen, or other living areas a nice cleaning too. Trust me when I say a clean space clears your head and makes you feel so much more prepared to attack the week ahead.

▣ **Is all your homework done?:** Don't go into this week with school work piled up. Make sure to have all your assignments completed that are due at the beginning of the week and try getting a head start on work that's due farther down the line; your future self will thank you.

▣ **Laundry, so you can serve looks all week long:** I know laundry is a daunting task: what counts as a delicate? Is this true white or off-white? Is red dark or light? But, that huge pile of laundry sitting in the corner of your room isn't going to clean itself. The absolute worst feeling is waking up early in the morning, having an outfit planned in your head, and realizing all of your clothes are too dirty to wear. A put-together outfit will make you feel so much better, so make sure to get that laundry done so you have endless options for the week.

▣ **Grocery shop, because food is fuel:** Going to the grocery store on the weekend is probably one of my least favorite activities, but it must get done. Food is fuel, so make sure to grab all kinds of food groups at the store focusing on eats that will give your body nutrients, energy, and vitamins. Don't forget some sweet treats for you to enjoy throughout your busy week!

▣ **Meal prep time:** Going along with grocery shopping, meal prepping is a great way to save time and aggravation throughout the week. I prepare all my lunches and a few dinners for my week on Sunday nights. This helps me grab what I need in the morning and go. It's also healthier and helps you save money on take-out!

▣ **Move your body:** Go for a walk, hit the gym, or enjoy some at-home yoga. Whatever you do, make sure to move your body this Sunday. Our weeks are so jammed packed that it can often be difficult to find time to give our bodies the care and movement they need. Sundays are a great opportunity to start the week off right by getting your heart rate pumping and muscles moving.

▣ **Wash your reusable cups:** I know you have at least three reusable water bottles or coffee cups you love bringing to class and work. I also know you probably haven't cleaned those cups since last week. Make sure to wash them today so they are ready to grab tomorrow morning.

▣ **Prep for tomorrow:** I love packing my lunch, picking out an outfit, and packing a school bag the night before classes and work start back up. Not only does it allow me for a few extra minutes of shut-eye in the morning, but it also helps me feel more prepared for my Monday. I recommend doing this every night of the week though, not just Sundays.

▣ **Everything shower:** It's time for an everything shower. Apply body wash, a hair mask, shampoo, conditioner, body scrub, and whatever else you need to feel refreshed from the weekend. After the shower, take time for more self-care by using a face mask, lighting a candle, and using your favorite body lotion. Pick out a comfy pair of pj's and throw your hair into some heatless curls so you can have it styled for the week, again saving you time and energy during those early mornings.

▣ **Get to bed now!:** You did a lot today, make sure to get to bed at a reasonable time. Sleep is a key ingredient to living a happy and healthy life, so try to get at least eight hours tonight. I also recommend stopping screen usage an hour before bed to help you fall asleep quicker.

How to stay organized in college

RILEY MCGEE
STAFF WRITER

As college students figuring out how to balance school work, a social life, and your physical and mental health can feel hard. A way to be able to eliminate some stress and anxiety about school work and life in general is by staying organized. Here are some organization tips to help you:

Academic planners are a great tool to help you stay organized. I have an academic planner from Papier, and it comes with a monthly calendar, a weekly overview, monthly overview, assignment tracker, and even a finance tracker. This academic calendar has helped me stay on top of things like my school work, social events, appointments, and just everyday life. For example, I am able to write down my schedule for the semester in the front of the planner, and then write down all of my important assignments in the assignment section. The best part of this planner is the monthly and weekly overview.

The monthly overview has important dates, goals for the month, and a to-do list. This is the perfect way to have everything that is important in one place and it is portable as well.

Another good way to stay organized is to start making a to-do list for the day. This way, you can write down your day-to-day schedule. Writing down your tasks throughout the day is a way to make sure that you get your most important tasks out of the way, that way you are on top of things. Also, you are also able to check things off as you go.

I also like making spreadsheets for all of my classes. This is a way to ensure that all your work is in one place with due dates, completion status, and can even keep track of your grades. The way that I do this is go through each of my syllabus and write down my most important assignments for each class. Every class has a separate color, and then when I have finished writing down all the assignments I sort the list by earliest due date to latest. This is an organization tip that I have found the most helpful when it comes to balancing multiple assignments

for multiple classes. Something that can also be helpful is creating a routine that is specific for your day. This way you are able to plan out your day and get adjusted to a certain routine. This can help you stay organized because you can make sure you are staying on task with what you need to do throughout the day.

Further, time management is a big piece in staying organized because it can help you balance your social life and your school life. College can be difficult to adjust to because it's a whole different ball game to get used to. If you don't have good time management it can be easy to fall behind, which is why it is so crucial when it comes to organization.

I think that once you learn how to stay organized with school, it can be easier to learn how to get adjusted to college in general. Life can get the best of us sometimes and learning how to be organized with the little things in life, like school work, can make a big difference. Staying on top of your tasks can help you to free up more time to spend with your friends, family, and doing the activities we enjoy most.



Investing in a planner is a great way to stay organized.

“So Close To What”: Tate McRae makes her pop voice known

LORELAI HILARCZYK
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Ladies and gentlemen, the pop star of the year has arrived, and she’s not messing around. Tate McRae’s highly anticipated third studio album, “So Close To What,” released Feb. 21, featuring 15 songs, including her singles “2 hands,” “Sports car,” and “It’s ok I’m ok.” All of which created so much buzz and social media attention around what this final product would look like.

It currently sits as the number one global album on Apple Music’s charts and ties Taylor Swift’s record for most songs charting simultaneously on US Pop Radio by a female artist. To me, it’s nothing short of iconic, especially the way she incorporates Dance Pop, R&B, and Alternative music styles.

There was much controversy before this album officially dropped because many of its promotions were tainted by people leaking songs online. McRae revealed in an interview Q&A with influencer and comedian, Jake Shane that because of the leaks, she returned to the studio and wrote a couple more songs in response, such as “Like I do.” McRae wasn’t about to let some keyboard warriors ruin the experience for her fans (Tater Tots). Between the launch parties and album release performance by McRae at the Kia Forum in California, she’s made it clear she does things on her own terms.

The album packs one hell of a punch right from the first track, “Miss possessive.” Along with the backing track, the first thing you hear is actress Sydney Sweeney’s voice saying, “No serious-

ly, get your hands off my man.” This song is utter confidence and sets the tone for the rest of the album with its confident female experience.

She sings, “Look at the floor or ceiling/Or anyone else you’re feeling/Take home whoever walks in/Just keep your eyes off him/Yes, I’m Miss Possessive/Pretty girl, gon’ learn your lesson/Some fights you’re never gonna win/Just keep your eyes off him.” It’s clear McRae’s alter-ego, Tatiana, wrote 90% of the songs on this album. The fiery lyrics explore irrational female emotions like

jealousy, making it raw and human.

The next song, “Revolving Door,” is a glimpse into McRae’s “bad habits” and self-sabotaging ways. McRae released a music video to accompany the song, highlighting her abilities as a dancer. She’s known for her insane choreography, and this video has so much to unpack. Especially considering she does a “scorpion” in heels; talk about impressive.

My favorite part is that many of her motions are played forwards and in reverse as if she’s being

pulled in directions emotionally and physically. Much like the lyrics, “Baby, I tried to call you off like a bad habit/Tried to call you off like a bad habit/But I keep comin’ back like a revolvin’ door/Say I couldn’t want you less, but I just want you more.” Along with the lyrics and beat, the song is a testament to her artistry and ability to stay true to herself by taking time to process. As she sings in the song, “Supposed to be an adult, but fuck it, I need a minute.” And don’t we all?

Tatiana makes another appearance with these next two songs, “Dear god” and “Purple lace bra.” Without a doubt, these are two are in my top five. There’s nothing like a confident, unapologetically provocative song to make a woman feel feminine. McRae explained in a Billboard interview that these tracks were inspired by how she’s been perceived by the media and how she deals with those emotions as a 21-year-old woman. For me, these tracks are the ones you raise the volume in the car for or wake up at 2 AM to dance to in front of the mirror. Screaming this one in a stadium with McRae will be life-changing.

“Signs” is one of my absolute favorites on the album written by McRae and the incredibly talented, Amy Allen. Allen recently won a Grammy for “Songwriter of the Year” and has worked on hits like “Espresso” by Sabrina Carpenter and “Adore You” by Harry Styles.

“Signs” tackles the emotions that go into a relationship and how things get miscommunicated. It explores how girls say they’re “fine” when really they mean something else. It’s an entirely irrational emotion in

theory but one that she explains perfectly. She sings, “I wanna touch on you all day/Instead, I’m pushin’ you away/So classic, assumin’ you telepathic/Okay, it might make me batshit/Just doin’ it outta habit, oh no.” It’s not something that can be explained but felt, and when you feel it, you know.

“I know love (feat. The Kid LAROI)” is a real not-so-hidden gem. I call it that because even though it’s present on the album it’s still very much underrated currently. With McRae and LAROI’s relationship on public display, their ability to let us into their world is super commendable. They effectively tell the story of the human experience of love, which is why this track is one I won’t spoil for you.

And last but certainly not least is the slower ballad on the album, “Nostalgia.” McRae’s inspiration for this song was a conversation she had with her father about what his biggest regrets were in life. She explained to Billboard that she was raised to not miss out on her passions and not let life pass you by. She sings, “Lately, I wake up feelin’ like, ‘oh/Where does the time go? You never really know’/...Funny thing about nostalgia, it didn’t show up ‘til I lost ya.”

Somehow McRae manages to make these topics not only relatable for the listener, but one hell of a vocal composition. This album is truly a piece of art about feeling feminine, owning your own baggage, managing relationships, and life experiences. Watch out for this pop star as she takes the stage for her “Miss Possessive Tour” in the upcoming months.



IMAGE TAKEN from Instagram.

“Conclave” deserves Best Picture at the Oscars

TAYLOR MEMOLI
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF / NEWS EDITOR

This Oscars season is showing to be a tight race. Between Sean Baker’s sex-worker-centered comedy “Anora,” Brady Corbet’s three-hour epic “The Brutalist,” Coralie Fargeat’s body-horror “The Substance,” and seven others, 2025 has seen some fantastic projects in the film industry. Despite the tight race and my love and admiration for all of these movies, no project stands out to me this season like Edward Berger’s “Conclave.”

“Conclave” follows the character of Cardinal Lawrence (portrayed by Ralph Fiennes) after the unexpected death of the Pope. Lawrence must now manage the ancient ritual of a conclave and elect a new one in his place. As the cardinals flood the Vatican, secrets are exposed, and conspiracies conspire as the group must come to one, unanimous decision for who they will choose to be as the next Catholic leader.

Within this movie’s two-hour run-time, viewers are transported

into the Vatican to experience the high-stakes ritual that will decide the fate of an entire religion. Berger creates this journey with an amazing set and costuming, a talented cast, and a modern touch to the Catholic tradition.

“Conclave” takes place in the Vatican, also known as, one of the most off-limit locations for filming. To work around this, Berger and the production designer, Suzie Davies, refurbished an old Sistine set at Cinecittà in Rome to be able to bring audiences the most authentic rendition of the building as they could.

While the costumes in “Conclave” appear authentic, costume designer Lisy Christl created the traditional cardinal robes with richer colors and more intricate details to translate better to the big screen. The rich-red cassocks contrast with the traditional muted setting of the building and resemble the rising tensions amongst the cardinals perfectly.

Berger is no stranger to talented ensemble casts. From “All Quiet on the Western Front” to “Jack,” “Conclave” is no different. Alongside Fiennes stands,

Stanley Tucci, John Lithgow, Sergio Castellitto, Isabella Rossellini, and many more.

Compared to all of the other moves nominated in the category, “Conclave” consists of the oldest cast age-wise. Berger pays homage to the greats of the industry while also providing room for older newcomers to shine, such as Carlos Diez. “Conclave” provided prominent roles for older actors, just like audiences saw in Daniel Scheinert’s “Everything Everywhere All at Once,” another Oscars Best Picture winner.

Berger honors traditional Catholic tradition in “Conclave,” while also commenting on the power struggles, corruption, and need for reform within the church. All of the cardinals in “Conclave” honor their religion greatly, but they can also all see a time when the church’s hypocrisies come into play.

In modern society, the church has been at the forefront of American politics through the President’s appeal to Christian voters and the topic of reproductive health. Although “Conclave” does not address these issues head-on, the movie provides commentary that

helps assess the church’s position in modern times and how above all, it can still be a source of comfort for citizens if they can start to appeal to current life.

“Conclave” comments on current prominent issues while discussing them through a traditional lens. Institutions

cannot change unless their people do, and that is exactly what Berger set out to do with this project. Of all the Oscar-nominated films I have seen this season, “Conclave” remains on top for me; it is a movie that needs to be seen.



IMAGE TAKEN from impawards.com.

Bad Bunny's "Turista" embodies Puerto Rican culture and life



IMAGE TAKEN from Instagram.

JEFFERSON GONZALEZ
STAFF WRITER

On Jan. 5, Bad Bunny, a Puerto Rican Latin artist who has redefined reggaeton and Latin trap, released his sixth studio album, "Debi Tirar Mas Fotos." The album's title, which translates to "I Should Have Taken More Photos", is a reflection of nostalgia and the things that represent Benito (Bad Bunny) and the island of Puerto Rico. However, it wasn't until Feb.

14 that he surprised fans with a music video for one of the songs on this album. The song is called "Turista," a track that embodies the melancholic yet cutting storytelling that Bunny does best.

At first listen, "Turista" is a breakup song, soft and stripped down to nothing but a delicate guitar strumming beneath Bunny's solemn voice. There are no grand instrumentals, no heavy production, just an intimate space where his words land with weight. In the lyrics, he sings: "En mi vida fuiste

turista, solo viste lo bonito de mí y no como yo sufría. Te fuiste sin saber la razón de mis heridas... Y no era tu deber sanarlas, viniste a pasarla bien, y la pasamos bien." ("In my life, you were a tourist, you only saw the best of me and not how I was suffering. You left without knowing the reason for my wounds... And it wasn't your place to heal them, you came to have a good time, and we had a good time.")

It's a heartbreaking sentiment, the idea that someone only experienced the good parts of you but was never truly there for the full picture. The relationship lacked depth, much like how tourists visit a country, enjoy its beauty, but never stay long enough to see its struggles. They take in the sights, indulge in the culture for a brief moment, and then move on, never truly understanding the people who live there and what they endure daily.

But to me, Bad Bunny and his fans, "Turista" is more than just a breakup song. It's a perfect metaphor for Puerto Rico itself, a place where millions flock each year for its beaches, music, and vibrant culture, while its people suffer the realities of systemic neglect. The island faces

relentless power outages, economic instability, and political corruption, yet for tourists, Puerto Rico remains a paradise untouched by these hardships.

This double meaning is brought to life visually in the music video. The video opens with a seemingly typical scene: a family, two parents, and two kids, leaving what appears to be an Airbnb in Puerto Rico. They carry backpacks, hop onto city-rented scooters, and ride away, their trip over. But as the camera shifts, we see Bunny walking into the same house. The once pristine vacation rental is now a complete mess. Wine glasses left out, food containers scattered, and party decorations everywhere. He quietly begins to clean up the mess, tidies up, and puts things back in place. The scene is simple but powerful. It mirrors the experience of many Puerto Ricans who watch their island being used, enjoyed, and abandoned, left to pick up the pieces without acknowledgment or help. It is a reality hidden behind the picturesque postcards and Instagram stories of those who visit.

As the video progresses, he finds a red balloon and holds onto it as he exits the

house, and at that moment, a brand new blue Tesla pulls up outside. A new couple, excited and carefree, steps out. The cycle begins again. Then, in a final gut punch, the house's lights suddenly go out, which is a not-so-subtle nod to Puerto Rico's infamous blackouts. The symbolism is striking.

The house is Puerto Rico and like a heart that has been broken and mended over and over again, the house continues to welcome new visitors, despite knowing they, too, will eventually leave.

Bunny has never been shy about using his platform to shed light on Puerto Rico's struggles. From calling out the government in "El Apagón" to advocating for his island's people in interviews, his music has become a form of activism. "Turista" is no exception. It's a song of love and loss, of longing and reality, but most of all, it's a reminder. A reminder that beyond the beaches and parties, Puerto Rico is home to people who fight every day to keep it standing.

Love, like a place, can be both beautiful and heartbreaking and sometimes the hardest part isn't the ones who leave but being the one who stays waiting for the next story to unfold.

Candlelight Concerts "Tribute To Coldplay on Strings"

MATTHEW CIOLETTI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On Saturday, Feb. 22, Monmouth Center for the Arts hosted A Tribute To Coldplay by the Monmouth String Quartet in Pollak Theatre. This was not just any musical performance where the entire auditorium goes dark. Candlelights are all around the audience and the musicians to illuminate the music being played by the three violins and a single cello. The entire show lasted just one hour, with the quartet's song selection featuring Coldplay's hits, opening with the 2003 Grammy-award-winning song "Clocks" and ending with "A Sky Full of Stars." They even performed "Viva La Vida," which also won Grammys in 2008, as their encore.

According to Amanda Boucault, Senior PR & Communications Coordinator for Candlelight Concerts, these performances really are a sensation across the globe with a fine musical selection. "Candlelight is renowned for its extraordinary venues, diverse musical programs, collaboration with local talent, and commitment to delivering

high-quality performances," Boucault said, "Our concerts take place in remarkable settings worldwide, from historic cathedrals to iconic palaces to modern rooftops and serene gardens, all illuminated by thousands of candles to create an unforgettable atmosphere."

The performances take place in all of these different venues to bring not just music, but vibrant light, to life. The music and light not only sell tickets but standing ovations from the audience. The wide-ranging musical genres of their performances from artists like Queen, Ed Sheeran, movie soundtracks, and even world-renowned classical artists bring in audiences with all different tastes. What makes these performances extremely popular is the tickets are relatively affordable, the weekend availability, and the ambiance being surrounded by just the candlelight.

To elaborate on Candlelight's mission, Boucault expressed again on behalf of the program, "We also tailor our events to local audiences with tributes to beloved local artists and special themed shows—such as Valentine's Day, Halloween, and Christmas." They also hire and support local talented musicians who have the same



PHOTO COURTESY of Matthew Cioletti.

Candlelight musicians entertained the crowd with Coldplay favorites like "Clocks" and "Viva La Vida" at Pollak Theatre on Feb. 22.

artistic vision of making classical music an experience for all to share.

By that mission, Candlelight reviews everything from not just what happens in the show, but what the audience thinks about the show, and that means a lot to them when they get such positive feedback online from the crowd in West Long Branch. To allow for the audience's complete enjoyment of the experience, the musicians asked everyone to not take videos until the finale, and they would not even

allow flash photography since it would be disturbing to them and everyone else, no different from any other stage show.

How you buy the tickets is unique, and you have to make the transaction on Fever, on the app or website by visiting "feverup.com." There are three zones to pick from, all sold at different prices, so if you plan to go to a Candlelight Concert in the future, get them before they're gone.

This was the second Candlelight Concert event hosted by Monmouth, as the

first was in January, which featured selections from Game of Thrones and The Lord of the Rings. The next Candlelight event is on Saturday, Mar. 22, which will feature the selection of songs from movie music composer, Hans Zimmer. It would be a great opportunity to hear great music getting back from spring break, just like it was this past Saturday. If you're the type of person who appreciates the musical quality of a classical arrangement, then this experience is definitely for you.

Federal Appeals Court blocks Biden's SAVE Student Loan Plan

HENRY BOODY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On February 18, a federal appeals court ruled against former President Joe Biden's SAVE student loan repayment plan, blocking key provisions intended to provide financial relief for millions of loan borrowers. The decision halts the former administration's efforts to ease student loan debt. This appeal has sparked confusion and concern for those who expected reduced payments under the program.

The Biden administration introduced the SAVE (Saving on a Valuable Education) plan in response to the Supreme Court's 2023 decision to strike down his original student loan forgiveness program. The SAVE plan aimed to adjust income-driven repayment (IDR) plans, lowering monthly payments based on a borrower's income and forgiving balances for those who made consistent payments over time.

According to the official White House statement, the administration planned to cut payments in half for many borrowers, eliminate interest accumulation, and offer faster forgiveness for low-income individuals. When announcing its rollout in August 2023, the administration called it "the most affordable student loan repayment plan in history."

The Federal Appeals

Court ruled in response to lawsuits from Republican-led states and conservative legal groups, arguing that the former administration executed the program without congressional approval.

The court found that the executive branch can not solely change repayment terms in ways that won't impose financial hurdles on taxpayers without complete authorization from Congress. This same reasoning resembles previous legal arguments against Biden's earlier attempt at broad student loan cancellation.

With the court's ruling, millions of borrowers enrolled in the SAVE plan may now lose access to its benefits. According to CNBC, those currently enrolled in the program will be removed from the plan. Such would force them back onto repayment schedules that could significantly increase their monthly payments.

Many students and graduates who expected lower payments or eventual forgiveness under the plan now face financial uncertainty.

The Department of Education has not announced a clear transition plan for those affected, leaving borrowers waiting for guidance on repayment options.

Former Education Secretary Miguel Cardona

stated that the decision could have "devastating consequences for millions of student loan borrowers" and criticized the "politically motivated lawsuits waged by Republican elected officials" that led to this outcome.

Republican lawmakers have praised the court's decision. Representative Virginia Foxx, chairwoman of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, described the SAVE repayment plan as illegal and called it "the costliest regulation in the history of the U.S."

This ruling has intensified the ongoing debate over the federal government's role in student loan forgiveness, highlighting the deep partisan divide.

Former President Biden and his legal team are expected to challenge the ruling, but the future of student loan forgiveness remains uncertain. Congress is unlikely to pass new legislation, limiting the administration's legal options.

This ruling means a return to previous repayment plans and increased financial pressure for students at Monmouth University and borrowers nationwide unless further action is taken. The coming weeks will determine whether the administration can salvage any parts of the SAVE plan or if borrowers must prepare for higher payments moving forward.

U.S. votes against UN Resolution condemning Russia's invasion of Ukraine

BRENDAN SHEEHAN
POLITICS EDITOR

On the three year anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the United States voted against a resolution condemning the invasion at the United Nations.

The United States joined Russia, North Korea and 15 other member-states in opposing the resolution, which passed with 93 yes votes and 65 abstentions.

The vote marks a 180-degree shift in U.S. foreign policy. Under the Biden administration, the United States was a leader in opposition to Russia's invasion and supplied Ukraine with arms to defend themselves.

The United States also voted against a UN Security Council motion calling Russia an aggressor. This comes as President Donald Trump called Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy a "dictator" and falsely claimed Ukraine started the war, now entering its third year.

American allies in Europe supporting the measure overwhelmingly and some diplomats were furious that the United States sided with Russia.

The vote sparked bipartisan backlash from American lawmakers.

Republican U.S. Senator Thom Tillis of North Carolina spoke on the Senate floor and called Russian President Vladimir Putin, "a cancer and the greatest threat to democracy in my lifetime."

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who has previously called Putin "bloodthirsty", "a butcher", and "a monster" now appears to be reversing his previous statements.

U.S. Representative Don Bacon of Nebraska said, "the fastest way to stop the war in Ukraine is for Russia to stop the invasion."

Representative Brian Fitzpatrick, another Republican, noted Ukraine had a free and fair election in 2019, where Zelenskyy won with 73% of the vote. He noted, "Russia has never held such elections."

Fitzpatrick noted he and many of his colleagues in Congress are ready to, "do whatever it takes to prevent Communist Dictator Vladimir Putin from being rewarded for his illegal invasion, raping, kidnapping, torturing and murdering of the Ukrainian people, including so many women and children," and will do so, "regardless of the personal or political consequences."

U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen, the top Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, wrote in "The Washington Post", "the Ukrainians are not just fighting for their sovereignty—they are on the front lines defending democracy and U.S. support remains critical."

Zelenskyy said Ukraine would have a, "low chance to survive" without support from the United States. The Trump administration is working to negotiate a deal between the two nations.

Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth refused to name Russia as the aggressor in the war and suggested Ukraine should abandon the idea that they will get all their territory back from Russia.

The shift in U.S. foreign policy doesn't just reverse the Biden administration's anti-Russia stance. The United States has long fought for democracy in Europe, from defeating the Nazi's in World War II, to destroying the Soviet Union, America has for most of its history, stood against the aggressor.

Now, the United States has taken the unprecedented step of abandoning North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies and supporting Vladimir Putin in his quest to expand Russia's borders into Europe and NATO territory.

If Putin succeeds in Ukraine, and moves to invade a NATO country, the United States would be forced by NATO Article 5 to send American troops to battle Russia, likely leading to a third World War between NATO's 32 member-states and an empowered Russia.



IMAGE TAKEN from The Washington Post.

TO/ The Outlook

Hello, everyone! My name is Taylor Memoli and I am so honored to be this year's Editor-In-Chief and News editor! I can't wait to work with each of you. I am so passionate about *The Outlook*, and I hope all of you will want to share that passion with me. Student journalism is incredibly important. As students, you have the right to know what is going on within your campus, and at *The Outlook*, we promise to promote honest and informative articles that educate students on what is going on around them here at Monmouth University. If anyone has any questions or story ideas for *The Outlook*, please feel free to reach out to me at any time! My email is s1321538@monmouth.edu. Happy reading!

- Taylor Memoli, Editor-in-Chief and News Editor

Hi everyone! My name is Bailey Fredericks and I'm this year's Managing Editor & Lifestyles Section Editor. I'm so excited for this year & to read all the awesome articles everyone writes! If you would like to write for the lifestyles section or have any other questions about *The Outlook*, please email me at s1321296@monmouth.edu!

-Bailey Fredericks, Managing and Lifestyles Editor



Real Estate Club

Hello everyone! The 19th of this month is a career night in the Bey Hall auditorium at 6:30 p.m. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at s1322694@monmouth.edu.

- Margaret McNeil, President



WMCX

Here at WMCX, there is so much space to grow and use your voice! With opportunities such as broadcasting Monmouth University's home basketball games, having weekly talk shows on a variety of topics surrounding sports, music, pop culture, or politics, or becoming part of the E-board, there's a place for you at WMCX! If this sounds like something for you, come to one of our weekly meetings every Wednesday at 2:45 in Plangere 236. Our doors are always open if you want to come and visit us upstairs. And stay tuned for some exciting events happening later this semester!

- Beyonce Carranza, Program Director (VP)

HAWK TV Hawk TV

Hawk TV is excited to be back for this semester! We are the student run television station on campus, and it is a great opportunity to meet new people and get involved! Our studio is on the first floor of Plangere, and we currently have four shows. Hawk TV News shoots biweekly on Tuesdays starting at 7 p.m. and alternates with the Creation Corner that starts at 7:30 p.m. On Wednesdays we film our sports show called the Extra Point and Thursdays, our pop culture show called Triple Scoop, and both of those begin at 7 p.m. We hope to see you this semester!

- Ava McGinty, Hawk TV Secretary and Executive Producer of Hawk TV New



LASO

The Latin American Student Organization (LASO) brings students together to celebrate Latin American culture. The club is open to everyone and hosts events like Día de los Muertos and their annual Outdoor Movie Night where they show a movie from latin american and have latin american cuisine. LASO also supports minority representation and encourages leadership. It's a great place to meet new people, learn about different traditions, and be part of an inclusive community.

- Jeff Gonzalez, general member

PRSSA PRSSA

Hi Hawks, join the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) & Shadow PR, Monmouth's student-run and nationally affiliated PR firm, for meetings every Wednesday at 3 p.m. in Plangere 234. PRSSA gives students the opportunity to gain real experience in the PR world through hands-on work with local clients and guest speaker events. All majors & grade levels are welcome!

- Bailey Fredericks, Co-President



"College Core" - WMCX

Sarah is back for ONE SHOW ONLY! Tune in today 1-2 to listen to us yap!

xoxo - Bailey

MU CD College Democrats

We have 34 reasons you should join the College Democrats. Join Team Freedom today!

- Owen Bros, President



College Republicans

We are so excited to see you all and work to preserve your freedoms on and off of campus this year!

-NJFCR Chair Jacky Bruno and MUCR Chair Giavanna Cangialosi

MICHAEL GILCH
MUSICAL DIRECTOR
MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC AND THEATRE ARTS PRESENTS:

SHERI ANDERSON
DIRECTOR

BOB BOROSS
CHOREOGRAPHER

SINGIN' IN THE RAIN

Screenplay By
BETTY COMDEN and ADOLF GREEN

Songs By
NACIO HERB BROWN and ARTHUR FREED

Based on the classic Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer film, by special arrangement with Warner Bros. Theatre Venues Inc.
Music published by EMI, all rights administered by Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC


(Original Movie Choreography by Gene Kelly and Stanley Donen)
Produced by Arrangement With Maurice Rosenfield, Lois F. Rosenfield and Cindy Pritzker, Inc.


MARCH 6-9

LAUREN K. WOODS THEATRE


FOR MORE INFORMATION
MONMOUTH.EDU/ARTS

SINGIN' IN THE RAIN IS PRESENTED THROUGH A SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL (MTI). ALL AUTHORIZED PERFORMANCE MATERIALS ARE ALSO SUPPLIED BY MTI. WWW.MTISHOWS.COM





 COMMUNICATION

COMM. CAREER PANELS & NETWORKING EVENT



Wed., March 12, 2025

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm


Career Panels:


"Life After Monmouth: Emerging Trends in Communication Fields"
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm, 3rd floor

"All the Places You'll Go! Diverse Careers in Communication"
2:45 pm - 3:45 pm, 3rd floor

Networking Session with Panelists & Alumni
3:45 pm - 4:15 pm, 2nd floor

Internship/Job Fair
3:30 pm - 5:00 pm, 2nd floor

Students Register here: 



Health Studies Health Science + PA/OTD Majors Specialized Advising Meeting

Purpose:

- Learn about the progression of the 3+3 curriculums.
- Empower students to take ownership for academic progress.
- Connect with graduate student mentors who can share their experiences and insights which can help you succeed.
- Q & A in small breakouts by program.

Wednesday, February 26, 2025
5:30pm to 6:30pm
Edison 201, the Atrium Room

Assortment of small snack will be provided

RSVP if you are attending!



This event is for all HSHS majors accepted into the PA/OTD programs

Treat Yourself

**Self-Care on the Go:
Build Your Own Survival Kit**

Date: 2/27/2025
Time: 4:30-6:00Pm
Place: Anacon A



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SENIOR DAY

MEN'S BASKETBALL



-VS-



THURSDAY FEBRUARY 27
OceanFirst Bank Center - West Long Branch, NJ

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Happy National Pancake Day

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Come celebrate National Pancake Day in the
Dining Hall at our all-day pancake bar!



Magill Commons Dining Hall
12:00-4:00 PM

Back-to-back wins for the Hawks end in a record breaking performance

MICHAEL GRUSEKE
OPINIONS EDITOR

The Monmouth Hawks (11-18) beat the Hofstra Pride (13-16) this past Thursday (2/20/25) by the score of 68-62. Redshirt sophomore and guard Andrew Ball was the hero for the Hawks, hitting a clutch three pointer with 0:22 left in the game to take a 64-61 lead and secure the win. The Hawks late-game defense also deserves praise, as the team closed out the game on an 11-1 run.

Junior guard Madsion Durr led the Hawks scoring efforts, recording 19 points. Durr also posted up a statline of four rebounds and four assists.

Ball recorded seven points and six rebounds coming off the bench. All seven points came on an impressive personal 7-0 run in a 1:54 stretch to help secure the victory at the end of the game for Monmouth.

The Hawks started off the game slow offensively, and found themselves in a quick 14-point deficit. The Hawks were trailing by the score of 25-11 with 10:07 to go in the first half after Hofstra's Silas Sunday made a layup.

The Hawks eventually found themselves down by 16 points with 5:04 left in the first half after a three-pointer from Hofstra's Jaquan Sanders that made the score 36-20.

After this basket from Hofstra, Monmouth finished the first half on a 7-0 run, which cut the Pride's lead to 36-27 going into halftime.

Monmouth's offense came into the second half warmer than Hofstra's, eventually cutting Hofstra's lead to just two points after sophomore guard Abdi Bashir Jr. sank a three pointer that made the score 45-43 with 13:22 left in the second half.

Hofstra's offense seemed to have an answer every time Monmouth would get close to tying the game up, resulting in the Pride eventually gaining a five point lead with 4:07 left in the game thanks to a two point tip shot from Hofstra's Michael Graham that put the score at 60-55 in favor of Hofstra.

The Hawks locked in, during the final four minutes of play, going on an 11-1 run to finish the game, and officially took the lead over Hofstra with just 0:22 left in the game after the clutch three pointer

from Ball that put the score at 64-61 and helped secure the 68-62 victory on the road against the Hofstra Pride.

The Monmouth Hawks went on to defeat the Northeastern Huskies (15-14) at

the OceanFirst Bank Center Monday, Feb. 24 by the score of 78-73. Bashir led the charge for the Hawks, racking up a total of 30 points and going an impressive 9-13 from behind the

arc. This set a program record for the most threes ever made in one season.

Sophomore forward Cornelius Robinson III was a difference maker for the Hawks, posting a statline of 18 points and eight rebounds, going 7-11 on field goals.

Monmouth started off the game hot, going up by the score of 18-9 after a Bashir three-pointer with 13:07 remaining in the first half.

Minutes later Northeastern fought back by hitting two three-point connections by LA Pratt and JB Frankel. This gave the Huskies a quick 28-26 lead with 6:31 left in the first half.

The Hawks responded efficiently, going on a 6-0 run and taking a 34-28 lead after a layup from Robinson. This put the Hawks up 34-28 with 3:34 remaining.

The teams finished out the remaining minutes of the first half even, resulting in Monmouth taking a 39-33 lead into the half.

The Hawks and Huskies both delivered in the second half, both having success getting to the basket. It was not until a layup by Robinson with 4:07 left in the game, that the Hawks took a more comfortable 70-65 lead.

The Huskies responded well in the ensuing minutes, cutting Monmouth's lead to the score of 70-69 with 2:04 left in the game after Northeastern's Frankel made a pair of free-throws.

Monmouth would then take three free-throws in a row and go a perfect 3/3. This gave the Hawks some breathing room, going up 76-71 with 0:42 left in the game.

Bashir sealed the win for the Hawks, making it a two possession game after a made free-throw with 0:16 left in the game that put Monmouth up 78-73.

This lead was too much for the Huskies to overcome, which resulted in Monmouth's 78-73 victory.

The Hawks are now an above average 9-7 in conference play (6th in CAA). The Hawks will look to extend their win streak to three games when they host the Elon Phoenix (17-12) this upcoming Thursday (2/27/25) at OceanFirst Bank Center.



PHOTOS COURTESY of Matteo Bracco.

Women's lacrosse search for first win

FRANK HOARLE
STAFF WRITER

The Monmouth's Women's Lacrosse team dropped their fourth straight game to start the season against Columbia on Saturday (2/22/25) afternoon at Kessler Stadium.

After the game was tied early in the second half, Columbia scored five unanswered goals and ended up winning by a score of 11-8.

The goal scoring got started quickly, as Columbia's Natalia Raiszadeh scored twelve seconds into the game to give Columbia a quick 1-0 lead. Two more Lions goals gave Columbia a 3-0 lead midway through the first quarter.

A little over a minute after Columbia made it 3-0, sophomore attack Caleigh Shore put the Hawks on the board. Shore's goal started a hot stretch for the Hawks, as they went on to score three more goals in the next four minutes courtesy of

sophomore midfielder Sophia Ianno, junior midfielder Sophia Lymberis, and junior attack Shea Berigan to take a 4-3 lead. Columbia added one more goal to end a high-scoring first quarter in a 4-4 tie.

In the second quarter, the scoring slowed down, as there were only three goals combined between the two teams. The first goal of the quarter did not come until nearly ten minutes in, with Berigan scoring her second of the game to give Monmouth a 5-4 lead. Columbia struck back with two goals in the final two minutes of the quarter, giving the Lions a 6-5 lead heading into halftime.

Monmouth started off the second half with a goal by senior midfielder Maddie Flynn to tie the game. However, this was the last goal Monmouth scored until the 7:22 mark in the fourth quarter. Columbia went on to score five unanswered goals between the end of the third and beginning of the fourth



PHOTO COURTESY of Emily Webb.

Ally Major forced 3 of Columbia's 19 turnovers.

quarter to take a commanding 11-6 lead. The Hawks scored two quick goals in the middle of the fourth quarter courtesy of senior midfielder Danielle McNeely and junior attack Brenna McCafferty to cut the lead to 11-8 with five minutes to go, but the Lions defense would stand tall in the final minutes and keep Monmouth off the board. The

Lions held on to their 11-8 lead and secured the win. The win was Columbia's first of the season in their second game. Monmouth would suffer their fourth straight loss as they still search for their first win of the season.

Berigan led the scoring for the Hawks with two goals, pushing her total to ten on the season. Columbia's Dani

Falcone would score a hat trick, leading the Lions in scoring.

Searching for its first win, Monmouth will continue its season by going on a two-game road trip to Marist on Wednesday Feb. 26 and Quinnipiac on Saturday Mar. 1. The Hawks return to Kessler Stadium on Wednesday, Mar. 5, to take on Rider.

Monmouth falls short in comeback attempt

VICTORIA CAAL
STAFF WRITER

On Sunday, Feb. 23, the Monmouth Women's Basketball (13-12) traveled to New York where they went up against Hofstra University (10-15). In this tough battle between the two teams, the Hawks came up short in the final score of 57-54.

This game is the second encounter between the two teams this season. The first time the two teams met was

on Jan. 3, when Hofstra traveled to Monmouth University's OceanFirst Bank Center. This encounter between the two teams resulted in a loss for the Hawks with a score of 67-75. However, this battle continued as the Hawks traveled to David S. Mack Sports and Exhibition Complex in Hempstead, New York.

On this Sunday afternoon, the Hawks started strong with a layup from junior forward Ella Farrelly. The scoring continued

with another layup, this time by fifth-year guard Damaris Rodriguez and fifth-year forward Taisha Exanor, lifting the score to 6-0 in the first three minutes. With five minutes remaining in the first quarter, sophomore forward Divine Dibula made a layup, earning the score 8-4, which she later replicated with 2:30 left in the first quarter to bring the score to 10-4. With a successful free-throw from Dibula, the score went up to 11-4 with two minutes left in the first quarter. Hofstra quickly matched this as they went on a 7-0 run to put the score at 11-11 going into the second quarter.

This momentum from Hofstra continued into the second quarter. After points tallied in from Exanor and graduate student and guard Kemari Reynolds, Hofstra matched the score of 14-14 and then took the lead with 6:30 on the clock to lead by two, 16-14. A jumper from Rodriguez and then a three-pointer from Exanor led the Hawks to tie the game 19-19 with 4:24 on the clock. With points tallied in from



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Kemari Reynolds recorded four assists, for the fourth time this season.

Exanor, Monmouth was up by one in the third minute, 23-22. A layup made by Dibula sent the Hawks into a 3-point lead of 25-22.

Hofstra caught up with two layups and a three-pointer, setting the score at 29-25 for Hofstra.

The second quarter ended with a layup from Hofstra, pushing their lead further, 31-25.

In the third quarter, the Hawks picked up momentum with points from graduate student and center Belle Kranbuhl, Reynolds, Farrelly, and Rodriguez to cut Hofstra's lead to only

three points by the end of the third quarter. Heading into the fourth quarter, both teams battled it out on the court with big shots. Hofstra's lead was tested by the Hawks with an 8-0 run from Monmouth within the final minutes of the game, and with just five seconds on the clock, Exanor assisted a Reynolds layup, which tied the score at 54-54. With timeouts taken from both teams, Hofstra's Emma Von Essen hit a corner three-pointer with two seconds left, ultimately sealing the win for Hofstra, 57-54.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics.

Taisha Exanor led Monmouth with 15 points.

THE OUTLOOK



A RECORD BREAKING PERFORMANCE FOR ABDI BASHIR JR.



Abdi Bashir Jr. recorded the most three-pointers made in a season in program history, in the win against Northeastern.