Did You Know?

- The annual Giving Tree, sponsored by the Student Government Association, provided hundreds of gifts for needy families and children referred by community organizations. These organizations included the Boys and Girls Club of Monmouth County, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Monmouth and Middlesex Counties, the Shore Youth Center, Project Paul, Aslan Youth Ministries, and others. In addition to the Giving Tree, departments “adopted” families for the holidays and provided food and gifts for an entire family.
- This year the Monmouth University Bookstore’s food drive resulted in over 50 boxes of non-perishable food items donated to the Long Branch Public Schools.
- The First Year Service Project donated food and children’s goody bags to needy families for the holidays and the University Police continued its commitment to the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program.
- The Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) sponsored a Giving Tree for the SPCA which resulted in numerous bags of food, toys, and other necessities for the animals at the shelter. Members of PRSSA also worked with the Valerie Fund on gift wrapping and their holiday party.
- Circle K participated in the Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation of America Walk, volunteered at Soup d’Shore, and supported breast cancer research.
- Monmouth University Library is one of 840 libraries and state humanities councils across the country selected to receive the Bridging Cultures Bookshelf: Muslim Journeys from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the American Library Association (ALA). For more information about these new materials available at the Library’s circulating collection, please visit http://library.monmouth.edu/main/
- The American Cancer Society Relay for Life will be held on campus on April 26 and 27. For more information, visit www.relayforlife.org.
- Monmouth University Library is among the starting place for the National MS society’s “Coast the Coast Ride.” The two-day event will be held on May 18 and May 19. For more information, visit http://bikenjm.nationalmssociety.org.
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A Note From President Gaffney

Dear Monmouth University Neighbor:

Welcome to Neighbor to Neighbor! I hope you find this newsletter informative and useful in discovering the many interesting and educational happenings at Monmouth University.

I am proud of the Monmouth University community for helping with the Superstorm Sandy relief effort. As you will read in this newsletter, students have volunteered their time to the restoration of our local community by helping to clean up local towns and neighbors’ houses. In addition, students have raised money through fund-raisers, concerts, and programs to assist victims of Sandy.

The spring semester is filled with many exciting events for the community. Join us for the Provost’s Film Series, attend the Global Understanding Convention in April, cheer on the Hawks at an athletic event, or catch a performing arts event in Pollak Theatre. I also encourage you to visit the inaugural exhibit “Faculty and Friends” at the new and spectacular art building, Joan and Robert Rechnitz Hall.

For more information on upcoming exhibits in Rechnitz Hall, visit www.monmouth.edu/arts.

Dedication Ceremony Held for Joan and Robert Rechnitz Hall

Monmouth University dedicated the new Joan and Robert Rechnitz Hall on January 27. The 20,340-square-foot facility is the new home to Monmouth University’s Department of Art and Design and Principal Art Gallery and includes a two-story gallery, a reception area, three state-of-the-art Mac labs, an animation and editing studio, classrooms, faculty offices, and a student lounge. Rechnitz Hall was designed by local architects from Monteforte Architectural Studio.

Rechnitz Hall, designed in the style of the former 800 Building, provides students with cutting-edge technology as well as large, open studio spaces devoted to the traditions of drawing, painting, the all-important foundations, and various art history offerings. In addition, the magnificent exhibition space will host art shows and events.

Joan and Robert Rechnitz in front of their portrait in the lobby of Rechnitz Hall.

Visit our web site at www.monmouth.edu
Garry St. Hubert.

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travelled to Port-au-Prince, Haiti on the third

employees Corey Inzana and Tyler Bischoff,

A group of nine students from Monmouth

Students and Employees

Commenchement Held on January 18

Award-winning film producer Jon Kilik delivered the commencement address to Monmouth University graduates at its winter commencement ceremony held on January 18 in the MAC. As part of the ceremony, Monmouth County Sheriff Shaun E. Golden ’99 was presented with the Maurice Pollak Award for Distinguished Community Service for his regional leadership role during Superstorm Sandy. Monmouth University awarded approximately 420 undergraduate and graduate degrees at the ceremony.

Monmouth County Sheriff Shaun E. Golden ’99 (center) with Trustee Michelle Spicer Tito ’94 and President Gaffney.

Film producer and New Jersey native Jon Kilik received an honorary degree and delivered the commencement address.

Daniel Mangraviti Named “Designated Driver Hero of the Year”

Photo Will Be Featured on HERO Campaign Billboard on NJ Turnpike

Monmouth University senior Daniel Mangraviti of Holmdel, NJ, was named Designated Driver HERO of the Year. Daniel will be featured on HERO Campaign billboards located on the New Jersey Turnpike. In addition, he received a $300 Monmouth Mall gift certificate, a plaque, and a HERO Campaign tee shirt.

Tim Canavan and Nick Petitti, owners of Jack’s Goal Line Stand in Long Branch, received the Community Award for their outstanding work and dedication to saving lives by promoting the mission of the HERO Campaign for many years by serving free soft drinks to designated drivers and supporting Monmouth University HERO Nights. In addition, Mike and Laura Horne of Freehold, NJ, received the Community Award for their efforts to start a HERO 5k race in Monmouth County this year in memory of their son, Chad. Monmouth University adopted the HERO Campaign in 2007 and it is the model school for the program.

from left, Bill Elliott (founder HERO Campaign) and Daniel Mangraviti.

Students and Employees Volunteer in Haiti During Winter Break

A group of nine students from Monmouth University, and their three advisors including employees Corey Izana and Tyler Bischoff, travelled to Port-au-Prince, Haiti on the third anniversary of the devastating earthquake during winter break. They worked with the non-profit organization Cross to Light to start construction on a school that would take homeless boys off the streets to educate them and give them direction. During their time in Haiti, they worked near an impoverished tent city in Canaan with Pastor Garry St. Hubert.
Global Understanding Convention
Will Be Held in April

An Annual University-wide Interdisciplinary Convention
Sponsored by the Institute for Global Understanding
Monmouth University’s annual Global Understanding Convention, Transforming Global Dialogue to Achieve a Sustainable Future, will take place April 8 to 12. The convention will provide numerous opportunities for the community to enhance their knowledge about the global challenges in today’s world. Events will include speakers, panels, films, classroom colloquia, poster sessions, and workshops for students and teachers from neighboring schools, community residents, and visitors. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 732-571-3526.

Interdisciplinary Conference On Race April 11-13

The idea of race continues to be controversial and the meaning of race and its significance remains an open issue. These topics and others will be discussed during Monmouth University’s third biennial conference on race taking place April 11 through April 13. The conference is open to the public and will be held in conjunction with Monmouth University’s annual Global Understanding Convention. With a theme of “Access and Privilege in Higher Education,” the conference will explore subjects such as why the issues that surround race continue to be important and how systems of racial classification and identity are manifested in social institutions and relationships. For more information, visit www.monmouth.edu/race/.

Coastal Lakes Summit Held on February 12

Monmouth University’s Urban Coast Institute hosted the Coastal Lakes Summit on February 12 on campus. The Coastal Lakes Summit was a working meeting to advance multi-jurisdictional regional collaboration to overcome obstacles of identifying, funding, and implementing lake restoration plans and enhancing flood protection, streamlining regulatory processes, and identifying post-Sandy recovery and restoration priorities.

Scholarship Available for Children of Monmouth University Alumni

Children of Monmouth alumni who are Monmouth University undergraduate students or who will matriculate in the fall are eligible to apply for an Alumni Association scholarship for the next academic year. The $1,000 non-renewable scholarship is awarded based on academic achievement, school and community service, and leadership as judged by the Alumni Association Awards and Recognition Committee.

Monmouth University Receives Governor’s Environmental Excellence Award

Monmouth University received the New Jersey Governor’s Environmental Excellence Award for Environmental Leadership on January 29.

The New Jersey Governor’s Environmental Excellence Awards are the state’s premier environmental awards for recognizing outstanding environmental performance, programs, and projects in the state. These awards honor and recognize individuals, businesses, and others who have made significant contributions to environmental protection in New Jersey.

For more information, please contact Marilyn Ward at 732-571-4411 or mward@monmouth.edu.
The Student Government Association (SGA) launched “Hawks Fly Together for Relief” in November to help victims of Superstorm Sandy. Students have been hosting fund-raising events, organizing donation drives, and volunteering their time cleaning neighbors’ houses.

**Monmouth University Sorority Members Help Sandy Victims in Sea Bright**

Sisters of Monmouth University’s Zeta Tau Alpha (ZTA sorority) and ZTA alum helped out in Sea Bright in November by picking up debris littering the town. Kate Stevens said, “It was the best feeling in the world to help the residents of Sea Bright.”

**University of Louisville Students Partner with Monmouth University to Help Superstorm Sandy Recovery Effort in Sea Bright**

Robin Mama, Dean of Monmouth University’s School of Social Work, commented: “We were all very grateful that these students and their professor, Theresa Hayden, came to our area. I know the people in Sea Bright were very touched by their desire to help and be of assistance.”

**Monmouth University Fraternity Members Help Sandy Victims in Point Pleasant Beach**

Members of Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE) fraternity helped a family in Point Pleasant Beach move contents of their home to the curb on Sunday, November 11 after damage from Superstorm Sandy. After helping the family clear out their house, TKE members proceeded to walk the streets of the neighborhood and offered their help to more than a dozen families.

**UMass Boston Nursing Student Makes “Donation Delivery” to Monmouth University Sandy Relief Project**

University of Massachusetts Boston nursing student Leah Ottenstein made a “donation delivery” on behalf of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences at the University to help Superstorm Sandy relief efforts at Monmouth University. Leah was welcomed to campus by Monmouth University School of Nursing and Health Studies Dean Janet Mahoney, faculty, and students.

The donation of clothes, blankets, sheets, coats, gloves, shoes, and first aid kits were delivered to New Jersey relief organizations including Soup d’Shore at St. Luke’s Methodist Church in Long Branch.

**Monmouth University School of Education Donated Supplies to Union Beach Memorial School**

School of Education faculty members and students dropped off supplies to teachers and students at Union Beach Memorial School on February 7.

**Kappa Delta Pi (KDP) and the International Reading Association (IRA) of the Monmouth University School of Education organized the donation drive for the Union Beach Memorial School. To date, the Union Beach Memorial School has moved twice since Superstorm Sandy and is currently located at the Holy Family School Building.**

Students and faculty collected supplies from the Union Beach Memorial School “wish list,” including desk chairs, children’s books, educational videos, cleaning supplies, paper and markers, and art supplies.

**Employees from Monmouth University’s Facilities Management Department arranged for storage of the supplies and transportation of the donations to the Holy Family School Building.**

**Monmouth University helps local communities**

- The Social Work Society and Circle K volunteered to work with children at a half-day event in Manasquan which focused on structured activities designed to build resilience in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy.
- The Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) adopted a family affected by Superstorm Sandy for the holidays.
- On December 14, the SGA and other student groups sponsored a benefit concert featuring local bands. Proceeds from the concert amounted to $1,023. In addition, Sigma Pi Fraternity raised $1,100 for the Sandy relief effort.
- Circle K volunteered at a Superstorm Sandy cleanup in Toms River and made sandwiches for victims of the storm.
- Sigma Pi worked with Habitat for Humanity to help repair a house in Keansburg that was damaged by Superstorm Sandy. Most recently, Sigma Pi helped with the set-up for a children’s concert in Asbury Park.
- Monmouth University graduate students from the Department of Psychological Counseling volunteered at local Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) sites, doing crisis intervention and psychological first aid. Jennifer Trinarchi, president of Monmouth University’s Counseling Student Association (CSA), and Ellen Brody, treasurer of the CSA, coordinated the scheduling at the FEMA locations and have been in constant touch with students at the sites.