



# THE MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1933

# OUTLOOK

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## University Welcomes New Dean of the Honors School



Walter Greason, photographed above, was appointed as the new Dean of the Honors School for the spring 2017 semester.

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ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Walter Greason, Ph.D. of the History and Anthropology Department was appointed as Dean of the Honors School this semester. He hopes to use his lifetime of diverse experiences to develop the Honors School to create a more meaningful and impactful program.

Greason will be taking over for Interim Dean Stanley Blair, PhD, and is charged with the responsibility of overseeing and advancing Honors School

classes and programs by harnessing resources like the University's faculty to push students to become leaders inside and outside the classroom.

"Honors students and faculty will feel an awesome sense of wonder that will be the envy of higher education worldwide," said Greason, who promises to dedicate his time to making sure students fully appreciate the opportunities they are given at Monmouth.

Greason began his educational journey at the Ranney School, a local liberal arts school in Tinton Falls, where he studied for thir-

teen years before selecting Villanova University for undergraduate study. Greason excelled in his studies at Villanova as a Presidential Scholar, a recipient of a full-tuition scholarship from the University, and eventually earned his degree in history.

Greason earned certifications in Philosophy, English, Peace and Justice Studies, and Africana Studies. He continued his education by attending Temple University, focusing his research on suburbanization and segregation in New Jersey. Greason is no strang-

Dean continued on pg. 3

## Millennials: Overeducated and Underpaid

KELLI GALAYDA  
STAFF WRITER

Millennials make 20 percent less than Boomers did at the same stage in life, according to a report published on Jan. 13 by research advocacy group, Young Invincibles. The report titled, *Measuring Generational Declines Between Baby Boomers & Millennials*, used a cross-generational analysis of millennials and Baby Boomers.

Along with the 20 percent decline in earnings, the group also found that millennials have amassed a net wealth that is half that of Boomers at the same age, and that when Boomers were young adults they owned twice the amount of assets as young adults today.

According to Robert Scott, a professor of economics and finance, these findings are a result of millennials facing an economic climate that differs greatly from that of their Boomer parents. "Millennials suffered the brunt of the Great Recession, starting around 2007, more than any other group," he said.

"Those people trying to get their first real jobs were faced with one of the weakest labor markets in many decades. This likely had a ripple effect, leaving them unable to get better jobs and forcing them to settle for lower-paying jobs, or not working," Scott added.

According to Scott, millennials entered an economy that was working against them. He explained, "You don't have any control over what kind of labor

market you enter, it's all luck."

"I've witnessed this effect over the years – in strong labor markets students get good high-paying jobs right out of college, but in weak labor markets even the best students struggle to get a good job at decent pay. This has nothing to do with the quality of the person, just where they fall on the business cycle," he continued.

Student loan debt also plays a major role in the earnings gap according to Walter Greason, Ph.D., a professor of history and anthropology. He said, "the amount of college debt is much more severe than anything boomers have faced. You have to have extraordinary levels of high education to be eligible for entry level jobs, and to pay for it, we're asking people to borrow mass amounts of money that will take years to pay off."

Greason added that millennials have to show they bring a particular market edge to their employers - an edge that can only be sharpened by a college degree.

"We're in debt before we even get the chance to start our careers," said Nick Van Daley, a graduate student of anthropology. "Our parents had the opportunity to get skill-based, higher paying jobs without a college degree, so they can't understand the financial challenges we face."

While student loan debt can be overwhelming, another form of debt appears to be wreaking even more havoc on millenni-

Millennial continued on pg. 3

## MU Community Responds to the Future of Education Following Secretary Appointment

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The nomination of Betsy DeVos incited controversy following her appointment as Secretary of Education on Jan. 31.

Some of the areas of disagreement between parties includes her stance on guns in schools, the legal rights of disabled students, questionable positions on LGBTQ+ rights, or the future of public schools.

On Jan. 17, DeVos attended her senate confirmation hearing in which she was consistently interrogated by senator after senator with questions that ranged from her tax returns, which previously have never been an issue for other nominees in the past, to her possible conflicts of interest and the debate on proficiency versus growth.

Carolyn Groff, Ph.D., Chair of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, said, "In an effort to present both sides, I tried to do some research on why some people think Mrs. DeVos is qualified to be the Secretary of Education. Mrs. DeVos, as many know, is an heiress who donates philanthropically to many causes. Therefore, she was well-known among political circles..." she said.

"It is not clear if her political and philanthropic ties will allow her to remain neutral and keep a clear separation between religious institutions and federal/state-run institutions. She has not been a teacher, and this worries teachers who feel that their profession might be de-professionalized further under DeVos..." Groff continued.

Minnesota Senator, Alan Franzen, addressed the conflict of her family's supposed donations to Focus on the Family, a global Chris-



Betsy DeVos was nominated as the Secretary of Education, despite national scrutiny over her qualifications for the position.

tian ministry focusing on helping families via marriage help and blog posts dealing with a number of issues from homosexuality to raising children. Focus on the Family has been said to support

the idea of conversion therapy which, since its development in the 20th century, has been widely discredited and rejected due to the fact that it leads to homelessness, suicide, depression, drug

Education continued on pg. 6

## INDEX

News	2
Editorial	4
Opinion	5
Politics	6
Lifestyles	9
Entertainment	10
Viewpoint	12
Club & Greek	15
Features	16
Sports	18