Call for Undergraduate Research Papers

Submission Deadline for review for the 2020 issue:

January 15, 2020

Founded in 2010, the Midwest Journal of Undergraduate Research (MJUR) (ISSN: 2160-9357) is a peer- and faculty-reviewed journal produced by a team of Monmouth College student editors and faculty mentors. Scholars from a variety of colleges and universities contribute to the manuscript review process. Our mission is to support development of high-quality original undergraduate research, recognize exceptional undergraduate scholarly efforts and accomplishments, and contribute to the undergraduate learning experience. MJUR accepts submissions from all academic fields and from any undergraduate institution, national or international. New volumes of MJUR are published annually in print and online.

Manuscripts are reviewed upon receipt

For submission instructions and more information, visit our “Call for Papers” webpage at: https://research.monm.edu/mjur/call-for-papers/

Questions: mjur@monmouthcollege.edu

~ 2019 MJUR ISSUE ~

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MJUR Staff Support
Amjad Karkout
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MJUR Call for Papers: “Conference Proceedings” Issue

The Midwest Journal of Undergraduate Research invites
Conference of Undergraduate Research & Scholarship Participants
to submit conference manuscripts from any discipline
to be considered for publication in the

Conference Proceedings Issue of MJUR
to be published December 2019

Submission deadline
May 31, 2019

Email manuscripts to:
mjur@monmouthcollege.edu

For submission guidelines and more information, visit our “MJUR Conference Proceedings Issue” webpage: research.monm.edu/conference/mjur-conference-proceedings-issue/

Inquiries: mjur@monmouthcollege.edu
On behalf of the Monmouth College community, I’m delighted to welcome you to our second annual Conference of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship. We are happy to host outstanding scholars from across the nation as they share their insights, and showcase the research which has occupied their focus for so long. Our rigorous peer review process has helped us shape an exciting program which we believe will be both gratifying and informative.

The Conference of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship is an outgrowth of our own long-established Midwest Journal of Undergraduate Research. For nearly a decade now, we have been publishing the finest scholarship by undergraduates from across the globe and it was the success of our journal which first gave us the idea for this conference three years ago. Our inaugural event was so well-received that we have built upon its successes this year.

Monmouth College’s commitment to undergraduate research is part of our larger commitment to a liberal arts education that exemplifies creative thinking and active problem-solving. Whether our students are writing poems, titrating a solution, designing a circuit, or working on complex local economics issues, they are turning their classroom educations into practical outcomes. In much the same way, their liberal arts experience at Monmouth shows them how to turn their passions into the intellectual work which will enrich their world, and the worlds of those around them. It is this spirit of engaged scholarship that we celebrate in this year’s Conference of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship. We thank, and applaud, all those talented participants from colleges and universities across the nation who share their work with us.

This includes our keynote presenter, Diana Abu-Jaber. A professor and writer-in-residence at Portland State University for over two decades, Abu-Jaber’s fiction originally explored the complex intersections of Arab and American cultures in novels such as Arabian Jazz and Crescent. By the time Birds of Paradise arrived, Abu-Jaber had become a tender, astute chronicler of love and family, with all the intricate causes and effects those embody. Like the earlier memoir The Language of Baklava, her most recent book, Life Without a Recipe, explores memory and sense, centered on the food cultures which unite her family and enriches her life in countless ways.

No conference such as this happens without a team pulling together to make it sing. Thus, I would like to thank conference coordinator Dr. Judi Kessler and conference program organizer, Dr. Michelle Damian. Also central to our success are Amjad Karkout (logistics), Karen Ogorzalek (event planning), Dr. Mariano Magalhaes (submissions), Dr. Andre Audette (keynote liaison), Tim Bridge and Nick Carlson (web publicity), Duane Bonifer (public relations), Dr. Shanna Bruer (panel logistics), and President Clarence Wyatt and First Lady Lobie Stone. I also want to thank all those faculty members from Augustana College and Monmouth College who served as reviewers, those students and faculty who are facilitating panels, and the student volunteers from Monmouth College who fulfill all those quotidian tasks that need doing. Finally, I want to thank the donors of Monmouth College for supporting this large, important enterprise.

We are excited to host this second Conference of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship. I know it will be a rich, rewarding experience for everyone, two days well-spent immersed in the best of undergraduate scholarship.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Dr. Andre Audette
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Professor Kevin Roberts

Our sincere thanks to Monmouth College President Clarence Wyatt, the Monmouth College Board of Trustees, and the
Monmouth College community, without whose support this conference would not have been possible. We are grateful to
Dr. Mariano Magalhaes and the Political Science Department of Augustana College for their excellent work in coordinating
submissions. Additional thanks to Tim Bridge, Director of Web Initiatives, and Nick Carlson, Information Systems
Programmer/Infrastructure Analyst, for online technical support.
Award-winning author Diana Abu-Jaber’s body of work explores questions of identity, memory, and multiculturalism. The daughter of an American mother and a Jordanian father, she grew up in both countries, and those experiences and influences are reflected in her writing. Her first novel, Arabian Jazz—considered by many to be the first mainstream Arab-American novel—won the 1994 Oregon Book Award.

Her novels and memoirs have been praised widely for their descriptions of the Arab-American experience. Jean Grant of The Washington Report on Middle East Affairs wrote of her first book, “Abu-Jaber’s novel will probably do more to convince readers to abandon what media analyst Jack Shaheen calls America’s ‘abhorrence of the Arab’ than any number of speeches or publicity gambits.”

Her novel Crescent, chronicling the love story of an Iraqi exile and an Iraqi-American chef, won the PEN Center Award for Literary Fiction and the American Book Award, and has been published in eight countries.

Origin, set in the author’s hometown of Syracuse, was named one of the best books of the year by The Washington Post, The Los Angeles Times, and The Chicago Tribune. Abu-Jaber’s next novel was also an award-winner: Birds of Paradise, which won the National Arab American Book Award and was named a top book pick by The Washington Post, NPR, The Chicago Tribune, and The Oregonian.

Abu-Jaber has taught creative writing, film studies, and contemporary literature at the University of Nebraska, the University of Michigan, the University of Oregon, UCLA, Portland State University, and the University of Miami.

Friday, April 12
Registration/Check-In: 5:00-6:00 P.M.
CSB, 2nd Floor
South Entrance

Dinner: 6:00-7:30 P.M.
CSB, 1st Floor
Mellinger Commons

Saturday, April 13
Registration/Check-in: 8:00-8:45 A.M.
CSB, 2nd Floor
South Entrance

Continental Breakfast: 8:00-9:00 A.M.
CSB, 1st Floor
Mellinger Commons

Poster Presentations: 9:00-10:30 A.M.
With five-minute oral synopsis from each presenter
CSB, 1st Floor
Mellinger Commons

Keynote Address: 11:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.
Diana Abu-Jaber
Dahl Chapel

Abu-Jaber Book Signing: 12:00 P.M.
Foyer, Dahl Chapel

Lunch: 12:00-1:00 P.M.
Scotland Yard
Stockdale Center

Oral Presentations: 1:15-5:20 P.M.
CSB, 2nd and 3rd Floors
1 - Trends of Iodine-131 Radiation Levels in the Midwestern Part of the United States: An Exploratory Study
   Physics
   Gwendolyn Lack, Missouri Western State University

2 - Quantum Dots & Plasmonically Enhanced Photo Brightening
   Engineering/Physics
   Meredith Magee, University of Indianapolis

3 - Improving Debugging of Parallel Code with Try-locks
   Computer Science
   Abhi Jouhal, Monmouth College

4 - Pragmatic Clinical Decision Making Processes for a Client with Expressive Aphasia: A Neuroscience Perspective
   Communication Sciences & Disorders
   Nina Iraci, Augustana College

5 - Memories of Agricultural Yilan, Taiwan: An Excavation of Local Literature & Life Stories
   East Asian Studies
   Sandy Faure, James Sandberg, & Sofia Reed, St. Olaf College

6 - The Health Issues, Lifestyle, & Relationships of Hmong Shamans
   Anthropology/Global Health
   Ya Yang, University of California, Merced

7 - Democracy in Ghana
   Political Science
   Mavin Tawiah, Monmouth College

8 - The Communists’ Capitalism: The Post-Cold War Expansion of the People’s Republic of China’s Economic Investments in Sudan, Nigeria, & Zambia
   International Studies
   Derek Elijah Denton, Monmouth College

9 - Russian Media Appeals in the Baltic States
   Communication Studies/Political Communication
   CJ Bonifer, Monmouth College

10 - The Belt and Road Initiative: China using Strategic Narratives to Increase Global Influence
    Communication Studies/Political Communication
    Mikayla Moore, Monmouth College

11 - Codes of Ethics & their Implications on Free Speech
    Communication Studies
    Kaelin Sommer, Monmouth College

12 - Imperium Poenicum: The Carthaginian Empire’s Transition to a Formal Empire from 535-337 B.C.
    Ancient History
    Tristan Nelson, Carthage College

13 - Innocence in “los colores de la montaña” (The Colors of the Mountain)
    Film Studies/Latin American Studies
    Allison Norris, Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville

14 - PyBoard Lock-In Amplifier for Lake Water Optics
    Physics
    Emmanuel Ogundipe, Zhiheng Sheng, & Calvin Tang, Grinnell College
ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Panel 1
Physics
CSB 277
1:15 - 2:30 P.M.

Moderators: Dr. Ashwani Kumar, Colton Evans

**Ionic Conductivity of Silicate Glasses Using Molecular Dynamics**
Rebecca Welch, Coe College

**Measuring the Optical Properties of Lake Water with a Lock-In Amplifier**
Calvin Tang, Zhiheng Sheng, & Emmanuel Ogundipe, Grinnell College

**Surface-enhanced Raman Spectroscopy (SERS) with Subnanometer-Gap Metasurfaces**
Miles Furr & Meredith Magee (Stephen J. Bauman, Dennis Doyle, Jake Fontana, & Joseph B. Herzog), University of Indianapolis

Panel 2
Philosophy I
CSB 273
1:15 - 2:30 P.M.

Moderators: Dr. Deke Gould, Claire Koszewski

**The Pain-Suffering Dilemma**
Natalie Hardy, Augustana College

**Myths and Metaphysics**
Ulysses Tackett, Morehead State University

**How Responsible are You for Your Actions? The Uncanny Relationship between Neuroscience and The Law**
Nadia Ayensah, Augustana College

**Scientific Spirituality: Building a Bridge between Eastern Spirituality and Modern Theories in the Field of Neuroscience**
Tavian Cervantez, Augustana College

Panel 3
English/Literary Studies I
CSB 302
1:15 - 2:30 P.M.

Moderator: Dr. Jennifer Thorndike

**Conforming or Reforming? A Feminist Reading of Popular versus Christian Romantic Fiction**
Jessie Dion, Indiana Wesleyan University

**Waking Up from the Dream of Motherhood in the Haunting of Hill House**
Mason Patterson, University of Arkansas at Fort Smith

**Re-Reading Harry Potter, Resurrecting Ourselves: Grief’s Many Facets**
Isaac Willis, Monmouth College

**Retelling the Classics: The Harlem Renaissance, Biblical Stories, and Black Peoplehood**
Mina Magalhaes, Augustana College

Panel 4
History I
CSB 278
1:15 - 2:30 P.M.

Moderators: Dr. Fred Witzig, Keegan Brown

**Coastal Scene and Transient Dream: Washington Allston Revealed**
Jacob Friedrich, Roanoke College

**Effie Afton: The Little Steamboat That Could and Did Change our Economics**
Kathryn H. Weber, Augustana College

**Color Between the Sheets: Race and Prostitution in Seattle, 1880-1900**
Cecelia Longo, Oberlin College
## Panel 5
**Political Science I**  
**CSB 276**  
1:15 - 2:30 P.M.

- Moderators: Dr. Michael Nelson, Beatrix Thornton  
  - *How is Social Media Creating Political Polarization?*  
  Jacob Woerner, Monmouth College  
  - *What Happened in 2016?*  
  Alejandro Altamirano, Monmouth College  
  - *The Inherent Challenges of the Dark Web and National Security*  
  Andrew Broyhill, Westminster College

## Panel 6
**Social Sciences/International Studies I**  
**CSB 272**  
1:15 - 2:30 P.M.

- Moderator: Dr. Michelle Holschuh Simmons  
  - *A String of Thread a Day: Sustaining the Textile Tradition Tenun Cepuk in Nusa Penida, Bali, Indonesia*  
  Ilyssa Kosova, Beloit College  
  - *An Uncommon Relation: The Secondhand Fashion Market between the United States and Senegal*  
  Elizabeth Smith, Monmouth College  
  - *Terrorist Attacks in Sudan and their Impacts on Civilian Religion and Governmental Trust*  
  Zoe Meyer, Monmouth College

## Panel 7
**Sciences**  
**CSB 277**  
2:40 - 3:55 P.M.

- Moderator: Dr. Eric Engstrom  
  - *Investigating the Immune Profiles of Chronic Graft-versus-Host Disease Patients after Stopping Low-Dose Interleukin-2 Therapy*  
  Sobhi Kazmouz, Monmouth College  
  - *Using Paragraph Matching for College Course Transfer Equivalence*  
  Chamath Gunawardena, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
  - *Antimicrobial Use and Extraction of Essential Oils*  
  Julie Webster & Alyssa Nugent, Indiana Wesleyan University

## Panel 8
**Philosophy II**  
**CSB 273**  
2:40 - 3:55 P.M.

- Moderators: Dr. Anne Mamary, Anna Brown  
  - *Finding Meaning in a Futile World*  
  Andrew Morgan, Augustana College  
  - *“Being” Human*  
  Caitlyn Lecour, Augustana College  
  - *Towards a Relational and Moral Theory of Personhood*  
  Harper Vincent, William Jewell College
### Panel 9  
**English/Literary Studies II**  
CSB 302  
2:40 - 3:55 P.M.  

**Moderators:** Professor Kevin Roberts, Gunnar Leaf  

**Is Richard III Chaotic Evil?**  
Grace Lukens, *Missouri Baptist University*  

**A Lesson in Gentillesse**  
Amanda J. Grissom, *Monmouth College*  

**Being a Governess: A Form of 19th-Century Slavery? Examination in Jane Austen’s Emma, Anne Brontë’s Agnes Grey, and Charlotte Brontë’s Jane Eyre**  
Amy Ward, *Monmouth College*

### Panel 10  
**History II**  
CSB 278  
2:40 - 3:55 P.M.  

**Moderators:** Dr. Fred Witzig, Ian Armbruster  

**Carrie Chapman Catt: A Politician of her Time**  
Crystal Brandenburgh, *Iowa State University*  

**Propagandistic Elements in American Films during WWII**  
Madelyn Thompson, *St. Ambrose University*  

**It Was a Time of Reckoning: Augustana College’s 1979 Homecoming Parade and Its Aftermath**  
Maria S. Wood, *Augustana College*  

### Panel 11  
**Political Science II**  
CSB 276  
2:40 - 3:55 P.M.  

**Moderators:** Dr. Andre Audette, Luna Noofoory  

**Exploring Drug Policy in America**  
Joshua Perschall, *Monmouth College*  

**The Pink Tax: How Tariffs Affect Gendered Consumer Price Disparity**  
Mackenzi Lafferty, *Monmouth College*  

**The Shooting Cycle: Will it Ever End?**  
Courtney Smith, *Augustana College*  

### Panel 12  
**Social Sciences/International Studies II**  
CSB 272  
2:40 - 3:55 P.M.  

**Moderator:** Dr. Robert Hinck  

**African Inspired Traditions in Mexico**  
Cynthia Escobedo, *Beloit College*  

**Central American Migration and the Link between Human Smugglers and Drug Cartels**  
Claire Ramos, *Beloit College*  

**Space and Identity: Mexican-American Dance Halls in the Quad Cities**  
Crystal Salazar, *Augustana College*  

**The Invisible Refugee: Comparing the Integration Process amongst Refugees in Amman, Jordan**  
Jessica E. Acosta, *Monmouth College*
### Panel 13
**History III**
**CSB 278**
4:05 - 5:20 P.M.

**Moderator:** Dr. Amy de Farias

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<td>Kira Zimmerman</td>
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<td><strong>To the Queen’s Most Excellent Majesty: Women’s Criminal Petitions to Queen Anne, 1702-1714</strong></td>
<td>Emily Rhodes</td>
<td>Grinnell College</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>(Im)Printing the Primitive: Literary Sapphic Primitivism and the Development of a Modernist Lesbian Community and Identity in Interwar Paris</strong></td>
<td>Sophia DeLeonibus</td>
<td>Grinnell College</td>
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<td><strong>Sola Scriptura? - Homosexuality and Interpretation of Biblical Authority as Elements of Presbyterian Identity</strong></td>
<td>Luke Bultena</td>
<td>St. Olaf College</td>
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### Panel 14
**Spanish/Latin American Studies**
**CSB 378**
4:05 - 5:20 P.M.

**Moderator:** Dr. Francisco Angeles

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<td>Morgan Pizur-Kranc</td>
<td>Monmouth College</td>
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<td><strong>The Pursuit for Acceptance among Diverse Women in Latin American Contemporary Cinema</strong></td>
<td>Camila A. Rico</td>
<td>Monmouth College</td>
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<td><strong>Sexual Liberation: A Persistence of Insecurity in Emilio Maillé’s Rosario Tijeras (2005)</strong></td>
<td>Shannon M. Wilbourne</td>
<td>Monmouth College</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Latin American Women Unseen: Alfonso Cuarón’s Roma</strong></td>
<td>Katelynn E. Mickle</td>
<td>Monmouth College</td>
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### Panel 15
**Peace & Conflict/International Studies**
**CSB 272**
4:05 - 5:20 P.M.

**Moderator:** Dr. Andre Audette, Kaung Khant Nyein

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<tr>
<td><strong>From Pearl Harbor to Pikachu: The Evolution of Japanese Influence in the US through Anime</strong></td>
<td>Carlos Fulgencio</td>
<td>Monmouth College</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Understanding Peaceful Constitutional Revolution in East Europe</strong></td>
<td>Beatrix Thornton</td>
<td>Monmouth College</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Taranga: Predicting the Future of Food Security in Senegal</strong></td>
<td>Elizabeth Smith</td>
<td>Monmouth College</td>
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### Panel 16
**Social Sciences**
**CSB 302**
4:05 - 5:20 P.M.

**Moderator:** Dr. Steve Buban

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<tr>
<td><strong>Who Does “Betterhelp” Help? An Analysis of Influencer Marketing &amp; Online Counselling Websites</strong></td>
<td>Carlyn Clarke</td>
<td>Monmouth College</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Legal Criminality in the Works of Toni Morrison: A Quantitative and Longitudinal Analysis</strong></td>
<td>Jacob Hubers</td>
<td>Drury University</td>
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<td><strong>Racial Injustice in the Era of Mass Incarceration</strong></td>
<td>Kathryn Hayes</td>
<td>Augustana College</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Asexuality: To Include or Not to Include a Slice of “Cake” in the LGBTQ+ Community</strong></td>
<td>Devin Oliva-Farrell</td>
<td>Augustana College</td>
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Alphabetical Listing of Participants

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Faculty Mentor</th>
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<tr>
<td>Acosta, Jessica E.</td>
<td>Monmouth College</td>
<td>Michael Nelson</td>
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<td>Altamirano, Alejandro</td>
<td>Monmouth College</td>
<td>Michael Nelson</td>
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<td>Ayensah, Nadia</td>
<td>Augustana College</td>
<td>Heidi Storl</td>
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<td>Bonifer, CJ</td>
<td>Monmouth College</td>
<td>Robert Hinck</td>
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<td>Brandenburg, Crystal</td>
<td>Iowa State University</td>
<td>Stacy A. Cordery</td>
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<td>Brovhill, Andrew</td>
<td>Westminster College (MO)</td>
<td>Tobias Gibson</td>
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<td>Bulfin, Colleen</td>
<td>Olaf College</td>
<td>L. Deane Lagerquist</td>
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<td>Carmack, Meagan</td>
<td>Drury University</td>
<td>Rich Schur</td>
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<td>Cervantez, Tavian</td>
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<td>Clarke, Carlyn</td>
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<td>DeLeonibus, Sophia</td>
<td>Grinnell College</td>
<td>Kelly Maynard</td>
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<td>Denton, Derek E.</td>
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<td>Dion, Jessie</td>
<td>Indiana Wesleyan University</td>
<td>Robbi Henson</td>
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<td>Escobedo, Cynthia</td>
<td>Beloit College</td>
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<td>Faure, Sandy</td>
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<td>Hsiang-Lin Shih</td>
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<td>Friedrich, Jacob</td>
<td>Roanoke College</td>
<td>Julia Sienkiewicz</td>
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<td>Fulgencio, Carlos</td>
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<td>Furr, Miles</td>
<td>University of Indianapolis</td>
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<td>Grissom, Amanda J</td>
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<td>Gunawardena, Chamath</td>
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<td>Hardy, Natalie</td>
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### About Monmouth College

- **Student-Faculty Ratio**: 10:1
- **99% of Graduates**: Employed or enrolled in graduate school within 6 months
- **1853**: The year we were founded
- **1**: Community full of rich and diverse religious and spiritual backgrounds, fostered by our Presbyterian chaplain
- **1,000 Students**: From 33 states & 22 countries
- **1,000**: Average class size
- **12**: Oldest rivalry in college football
- **92%**: Of our faculty hold the highest degrees in their field
- **6th**: Of students receive a scholarship or financial assistance
- **99%**: Of students live on campus
- **50+ Areas**: Of study
- **75%**: Of students complete an internship
- **1 Traditional Scottish Pipe Band**