The Monmouth University Polling Institute was established to be a leading center for the study of public opinion on important state, regional, and national issues. In its inaugural year, the Institute was named a “Winner” by New Jersey Politifax for the accuracy of its polling in the 2005 gubernatorial election.

Public opinion research is conducted and disseminated to foster greater public accountability by ensuring that the voice of the public is part of the policy discourse and by striving to “go beyond the headlines” to cover quality-of-life issues that affect residents in their daily lives.

The Polling Institute’s activities include providing research services for government agencies and private organizations that assist with policy planning and assessment. Their research capabilities include: large and small-scale survey projects; telephone, mail, and in-person interview designs; quantitative data analysis; and qualitative research techniques such as focus group facilitation and analysis.

The Polling Institute contributes to the academic mission of the university in a number of ways, including its affiliation with the graduate program in Public Policy. Also, polling staff are available to provide assistance to Monmouth faculty and students who are conducting their own survey research. Feel free to give them a call if you have a polling question.

Patrick Murray is the founding director of the Monmouth University Polling Institute. Murray's prior experience was with the Eagleton Poll and the Bloustein Center for Survey Research, both at Rutgers University. In addition to political and issue polling, he has directed numerous assessments for public agencies, image and message testing studies, and regional service evaluations.

He takes great pride in the Polling Institute and its undertakings. “We could not have attained the extraordinary accomplishments of the past three years without both the top level support at Monmouth and our own dedicated staff,” says Patrick. “A key role of the institute is to use the media attention generated by our polls as an opportunity to promote the University and all the fine resources Monmouth has to offer.” Patrick was on his way to completing his Ph.D. with intentions of starting a teaching career when the Eagleton Institute recruited him, and the rest is history. In addition to his administrative and research responsibilities, Patrick teaches a public opinion course at Monmouth and also serves as a guest lecturer for many academic departments. Whether polling or teaching, what he enjoys most is making the numbers make sense to people.

Patrick is a member of the American Association for Public Opinion Research. He has worked as an election analyst for NBC News and the national exit polls, and is a frequent media commentator on New Jersey politics and public opinion. Patrick resides in Somerset with his wife Allison and six-year-old daughter Daphne. The family loves to travel. Patrick has visited 35 of the 50 states and 10 countries on three continents.

Timothy MacKinnon is a research associate in the Polling Institute and joined the University a little more than a year ago. His educational background is in sociology and public policy, where he learned the importance of research as a versatile tool for knowledge. Working with the Association of Trial Lawyers (ATLA) in Washington, D.C., Tim saw how poll results were used as tools for lobbying government.

Prior to coming to Monmouth, Tim received his masters in Public Policy at Rutgers University's Bloustein School. He was thrilled to take the position at Monmouth and considers his principal role at the institute as support for Patrick. Tim's favorite part of his work is developing the questions for the polls: “It is so interesting to see the results of the poll and translating what the numbers mean. The Polling Institute is a small group and we all do a little of everything to make things run smoothly,” says Tim.

Tim and his wife Sarah live in Highland Park with their children: Seamus, who is 19 months old, and Ava, who is four-and a half years old. He enjoys spending time with his family. They often travel to Boston and Washington to visit their parents and...
Polling continued from Front Page

grandparents. Tim is an avid reader of all things political, novels and short stories, but his true passion is fishing - salt or fresh water – finding it very relaxing.

Christina Johnsen is the administrative assistant in the Polling Institute and has worked at the University for about three years. She most enjoys the variety that her job brings. “There are always different projects and a mixture of things going on,” says Tina.

Tina takes pleasure in having watched the Polling Institute grow since its inception. She is impressed by the process from the development of the questions used in the polls to learning what people think to making sense of the results.

As you may know, a Silent Auction for beautiful gift baskets was held on November 19th and 20th that benefited our 2009 American Cancer Relay for Life event. It was quite fun to bid on the various items, and successful, too – the auction raised over $2,000. We will be hosting Lunch and Learn sessions on how to become part of the Relay for Life so all departments can participate in our event on campus in April.

Please continue to use the Plum Benefits entertainment discount offers, the Buyer’s Edge purchasing discounts and the “no closing cost” option offered to all of our employees by Consumers Mortgage Corporation and Two River Community Bank. We also have discount AMC movie tickets for sale in Human Resources.

If you have any suggestions please contact Sharon Smith by e-mailing ssmith@monmouth.edu by calling extension 7594.

Who’s Who ... of University Special Services Representatives

Individuals in these diverse staff positions are part of the Office of Human Resources, but rotate to various campus departments on an as-needed basis.

During peak periods, USSRs will assist in such areas as Admission Processing, Cashier’s, Bursar, Residential Life and Student Services, among others. Each rep is trained to be experienced in the processes and procedures of these departments.

In addition, USSRs may also fill in for University employees who are on vacation or a leave of absence, as well as during periods when a position is vacant.

If you have questions regarding scheduling a USSR and/or the associated costs, please contact: Maureen Slendorn, manager of recruiting and staffing, at mslendor@monmouth.edu or by calling extension 3540.

If you would like to leave a message for one of our representatives, please dial extension 3470.
Housing for Tuition Remission Students Available

You are probably aware that in addition to the University’s on-campus housing we sponsor additional University off-campus housing. We have arrangements at Pier Village, the Diplomat Apartments and the Fountain Garden Apartments. We also have approval to build additional housing on campus.

As a result of our ability to accommodate an increased number of resident students, we are pleased to report to you that the President and his Cabinet have agreed to allow tuition remission students to participate in the University’s housing selection process the same as any student interested in living in University-sponsored housing. Tuition remission students would be required to pay the same room and board costs as any other resident student. For further information, please contact the Office of Residential Life at extension 3465.
HOLIDAY GATHERING DECEMBER 12, 2008
Do you have a question about benefits?
Just...

**Ask Kathy,**

Would you explain how the new Back-Up Care Advantage Program works, and who is eligible to use this care-giving provision benefit?

We are very excited to partner with Bright Horizons Family Solutions in offering this new program that will provide faculty, staff and administrators with the provision of back-up care when they experience temporary disruptions in their regular child or elder parent or spouse/qualified domestic partner care-giving arrangements that would otherwise prevent them from fulfilling their work obligations.

Examples of this need include:

- replacing regular caregivers when they are sick or on vacation
- caring for a child when they are ill and cannot attend school
- school vacations or holidays
- business travel
- caring for a child or eligible adult recovering from medical treatment.

All full-time and part-time faculty, staff and administrators may participate in this program. Back-up child care may be utilized for an employee’s child, step-child, adopted child or foster child who is considered an IRS dependent. Back-up elder care is available for an employee’s parent, step-parent, parent-in-law, or for a spouse/qualified domestic partner, regardless of where they reside. The program is available up to 20 days per calendar year per dependent.

Registration with Bright Horizons for a dependent is required prior to care becoming available. You can speak with a Bright Horizon consultant to help you with this process 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling 1-877-BH-CARES (1-877-242-2737), or going online to www.brighthorizons.com/advantage and entering username *mucares* and password *hawks*.

Monmouth University is covering the full cost of the annual premium for this program. You will only be responsible for a co-payment as follows:

- Center-Based Care: $15.00 per child/day; $25.00 per family/day
- In-Home Care: $4.00 per hour (4 hour minimum)

Please note that additional charges may apply for medical care or for evening/weekend care.

For more information about the Back-Up Care Advantage Program, please contact the Office of Human Resources at extension 3470.
Say Hello To . . .

Amber Wirth

Amber Wirth is in her first season as the Athletics Communications Assistant at Monmouth University. She contributes toward all official communications for the office, including the department's website and development of media guides, and is currently pursuing her MBA at Monmouth with a focus in Marketing.

Amber arrived at Monmouth after spending two years as a Sales Representative for the NBA/WNBA with the Minnesota Timberwolves/Lynx Organization. She started with the Wolves/Lynx as an undergraduate intern in the Game Operations department before moving to the front office for the Lynx.

A Hastings, Minnesota native, Amber graduated Summa Cum Laude from Long Island University in Brooklyn, New York with a degree in Media Arts and Journalism. While at LIU, Wirth was a four-year starter on the women's basketball team, setting several records over the course of her career. An All-NEC and Academic All-American, she also worked in the Sports Information office for two years as a Student Assistant working with women's soccer, women's lacrosse, and softball.

Blaze Nowara

Blaze Nowara joined the Office of Public Affairs at Monmouth in September as the Assistant to University Photography. However, his office is located in the lower level behind the Copy Center.

Blaze is a graduate of James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia where he earned his Bachelor's degree in Media Arts and Design and a minor in Film Studies. He has freelance experience in New York City, and documented anthropological field study in Kenya.

Teri Monahan

Teri began at Monmouth University this past September as a Systems and Technology Administrator in the Administrative Information Systems department. Teri brings with her a wealth of experience, including many years in the banking industry as a Senior Systems Analyst/Programmer.

Teri also provided technical support at Brookdale Community College, Manalapan-Englishtown School District and most recently, Hazlet Township. Teri received her Bachelor's degree in Computer Science from City University of New York. At Monmouth, Teri provides end-user support to the administrative areas under the Office of the Provost/Academic Affairs.
UNIVERSITY FORMS
SUSTAINABILITY
ADVISORY COUNCIL

We can all be proud of the great progress made by the Energy Resource Management Committee (ERMC) and the University partners in implementing actions to conserve energy and to promote environmental sustainability. Monmouth has received state and national awards for our efforts including the installation of an extensive array of solar panels. Energy conservation and promoting a sustainable environment are ways in which we show our leadership in the “Global Community.” There is more work to be done. We share one earth, sustained by one ocean system. We are very proud of our campus and the beautiful community in which we live. The Monmouth campus provides one of the largest and last open spaces in the area. Our actions impact the adjacent waterways including Whale Pond Brook, and Lake Takanassee. It is important to recognize that each individual and every action influences this delicate system, and the sustainability of our campus and of the global environment.

Building on the strong foundation of the ERMC, we are establishing a Sustainability Advisory Council (SAC). The mission of SAC will be to promote environmental awareness through education and outreach, and to propose, research and recommend energy and sustainability policy for the University to implement. SAC will also review current practices, policies and procedures and recommend changes and actions that will positively impact the sustainability of the Monmouth campus.

Monmouth University SAC will be an interdisciplinary work group that will be made up of members of the University community including Faculty, Administrators, Staff and Students. We encourage you to get involved! If you would like to volunteer to join the Council you may contact Jim Ferris in Facilities Management at jferris@monmouth.edu or at extension 5312. Thank you in advance for your interest and active participation, we look forward to hearing your ideas.

Honor Roll of Donors

Celebrate the Season of Giving and Thanks!
2008 Employee Giving Campaign

Special Announcement to All Employee Donors

Employee Giving Campaign Recognition Luncheon & Grand Prize Drawing

Anacon Hall, Rebecca Stafford Student Center, 2nd Floor

Thursday, January 29, 2009 from 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

If you would like to make your 2009 gift now, please visit https://www.monmouth.edu/support/secure/onlinegiving.asp

For questions, please call the Office of the Annual Fund at 732-571-7528.
The Global Understanding Convention is an exciting grassroots, faculty-initiated and Monmouth University community-led university-wide interdisciplinary convention sponsored by the Institute for Global Understanding (IGU). This year the convention is being held on April 6 - 9, 2009, all over Monmouth University campus.

The theme for 2009 is “Transcending our Differences, Transforming the World,” and attempts to understand the complexity of contemporary global affairs from an interdisciplinary perspective. In an interdependent world, there is tremendous power through collective efforts that can create solutions and allow for global transformation. By transcending our differences, we can work toward such transformation. We therefore welcome everyone to join us in this exciting forum to engage in dialog and action toward seeking shared solutions to our common global challenges.

All members of the Monmouth University community are encouraged to participate, including students, faculty, staff, and administrators. You can participate in a number of ways:

- Organize a classroom colloquium, panel, presentation, lecture, exhibit, or other event
- Attend any events during the convention or bring your class
- Read and encourage students to read the book written by our keynote speaker

We are pleased to announce that on Wednesday, April 8th at 4:30 pm in Wilson Auditorium, the keynote, plenary address will be given by:

Dr. Svetlana Broz, physician, humanitarian, initiator of peace programs and refugee facilities in the aftermath of the Bosnian War. Dr. Broz is author of the book Good People in an Evil Time, and granddaughter of former Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito.

**HOW DO I REGISTER MY EVENT?**

- For regular submissions, the session submission form can be accessed at [http://www.monmouth.edu/institute_global_understanding/proposals/](http://www.monmouth.edu/institute_global_understanding/proposals/)
- If you have suggestions for additional high-level lectures/panels/presentations please feel free to contact either of the co-chairs:
  
  Dr. Kevin Dooley, Political Science at kdooley@monmouth.edu or Dr. Bojana Beric, Health Studies at bberic@monmouth.edu

**WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS?**

- February 1, 2009

Thank you and we look forward to your continued support in this most important endeavor.