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# THE Rider News

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE RIDER COMMUNITY SINCE 1930

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## Rider News previews upcoming basketball season



Photos by Andrew Xon/The Rider News and Graphic by Jay Roberson/The Rider News

## Latest Israel-Hamas war creates unease in local community

By Jay Roberson and Jake Tiger

**T**HE eruption of the latest Israel-Hamas war has killed thousands, injured even more and dampened the spirits of millions across the globe, as tight-knit Jewish and Muslim communities like Lawrenceville’s band together in solidarity during what a local rabbi called a “traumatic” time.

“It’s been horrifying,” said Rabbi Benjamin Adler of Adath Israel Congregation, one of Lawrenceville’s synagogues. “The attacks against Israel by Hamas are brutal ... traumatic for our community, and so we’re trying to go on and do what we can to help our brothers and sisters in Israel.”

Other university campuses have been the sites of pro-Palestinian demonstrations, criticizing Israel’s airstrikes against Gaza, an area controlled by Hamas, which is a Palestinian organization that the U.S. State Department declared a terrorist group in 1997.

### Tensions rising

The conflict began on Oct. 7 when over a thousand Hamas militants suddenly attacked Israel through land, air and sea, resulting in the deaths of over 1,400 people, according to the Israel Defense Forces.

Since then, Israel counterattacked by cutting off Gaza’s food, water and electricity, and launching airstrikes on the territory.

The war has killed over 6,000 and wounded close to 20,000, with at least 1,400 casualties in Israel and 5,087 in Gaza, according to Oct. 23 data from the Israel Defense Forces and the Palestinian Health Ministry.

Ethan Handelman, a junior elementary education major and Jewish student, said he had multiple friends in Israel when the latest war began, including

a childhood friend serving in the Israel Defense Forces.

“Not to sound morbid or anything ... there’s a possibility my childhood friend doesn’t make it,” Handelman said. “I’ve kept in contact with him every few days to see how he’s doing, how his family is doing. He’s been in and out of bomb shelters, so it’s kind of crazy to think about that, honestly.”

Handelman is the vice president for Rider’s branch of Hillel, a Jewish campus organization serving 850 institutions across 16 different countries, according to the group’s website.

Handelman spoke at Rider’s vigil on Oct. 18 for all lives lost in the war, and said Hillel hopes to organize events in the near future, offering support and resources to the entirety of Rider’s community, not just its Jewish students.

“It’s affected me differently than it’s affected my other family members,” said Handelman. “They’ve been nervous and stressed ... but I need to raise awareness.”

Helena Rashid, president of Rider’s Muslim Students Association, also spoke at the vigil.

In an interview with The Rider News, Rashid emphasized that the Israel-Hamas tensions have been an issue for a long time, and she encouraged the public to be more conscious of the lives lost and people affected on both sides of the conflict.

“The fact that’s not being talked about enough is Palestine and how they’re also suffering and how it’s not their fault,” said Rashid. “People are scared to speak up about it.”



Jay Roberson/The Rider News

Members from the Rider community stand together during a moment of silence.

On Oct. 25, the Rider Counseling Center will host an event for students in Zoerner House at 3 p.m., calling the gathering “a safe space for Arab and Muslim students who have been directly or indirectly impacted.”

Additionally, the Muslim Students Association will host a “Pray for Palestine” event on Nov. 2, with exact details to be determined, Rashid said.

Adler said the initial attacks on Oct. 7 occurred during Shabbat, the Jewish day of rest that takes place from sunset Friday to sunset Saturday.

Adath Israel Congregation, which is just across the street from Rider’s south entrance, had extra services planned for the weekend that ultimately continued out of respect for the community and its traditions, Adler said.

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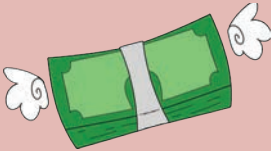
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Check out the men’s and women’s previews for the coming season.



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**WEEKS WITHOUT PAY**  
Some student workers have not been paid for weeks due to issues with ADP.



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**OPPORTUNITY OCTOBER: MINHAL MIR**  
The newest SCEO of Rider’s Saxbys discusses her goals in the position.



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# SECURITY BRIEFS

BY AMETHYST MARTINEZ

## Writing on the wall

Toilet tagging. On Oct. 18 at 11:06 a.m., Public Safety responded to Kroner Residence Hall for a report of vandalism. Upon their arrival, Public Safety met with the C&W Services janitorial staff who reported graffiti in one of the restrooms. Public Safety discovered numerous images and words written on the walls and other surfaces of the restroom. C&W Services removed the graffiti. Public safety is investigating.

## Switlik stops traffic

Stuck truck. On Oct. 19 at 11:28 a.m., Public Safety received a phone call from the Lawrence Township Fire Department who reported that they were on campus, conducting new driver training in one of their fire engines, when the truck became stuck. The fire department reported that they were driving the truck through the residential complex, in the area of Switlik Residence Hall, when the truck could not make the turn because of a vehicle illegally parked in the fire zone. The vehicle was issued summonses from Lawrence Township Police and a parking violation from Public Safety. The owner was identified and moved their vehicle so the truck could pass.

-Information provided by Public Safety Capt. Matthew Babcock

**TAKE OUR POLL ON RIDER PARKING FOR AN UPCOMING STORY IN THE RIDER NEWS:**



# Award-winning journalist speaks on cancel culture

By Julia Train

In honor of LGBTQIA+ History Month, the Center for Diversity and Inclusion brought award-winning journalist Ernest Owens to Rider on Oct. 24 for a presentation titled, “Don’t Get Canceled.”

Owens concluded his national book tour for his book, “The Case for Cancel Culture,” with a stop on Rider’s campus to talk to students, staff and faculty.

Owens, an openly gay Black man, shared his career journey and thoughts on cancel culture, and talked about his book on the topic, of which students were able to purchase a signed copy afterward.

The 32-year-old University of Pennsylvania alum was born in Chicago, grew up in Texas and moved to Philadelphia to pursue a career in journalism.

His work has been featured in a variety of publications including The New York Times, The Washington Post, CNN and Rolling Stone.

He reports on intersectional issues, such as race, gender, LGBTQIA+ community and pop culture and has won countless honors and awards, which include landing a spot on Forbes’ 30 Under 30 in 2020 and the Sigma Delta Chi Award from the Society of Professional Journalists.

Now, Owens is the editor at large for Philadelphia Magazine and a fierce advocate for the LGBTQIA+ community.

## ‘Not a left ... or a right side thing’

Owens spoke for about 30 minutes on his pro-cancel-culture stance, noting the hypocrisy of both major political parties regarding canceling people and differences between the sides.

He mentioned how people with platforms can get canceled countless times and still have a career and emphasized the importance of holding well-known figures accountable for what they say and do as opposed to cherry-picking the topics or actions that are “cancelable.”

He also shared advice about advocating for others and yourself, mentioning that fighting for basic human rights for those from marginalized communities is an important piece to the puzzle.

## Students’ thoughts

There was a mix of students in attendance, some of whom were there for extra credit, like Jade Smith and Madison Caporrino, who went for their Seminar in Writing and Rhetoric class.

“People always fight to make it against each other, but we’re only canceling people based on our own beliefs ... And it was really interesting seeing [Owens] point out that perspective and explain [it]. So everyone gets a better understanding that it’s not to divide us as a whole but to keep us together,” said Smith, a freshman business administration major. “All these horrible issues are happening around us and no one does anything about it. And now that we are doing something about it, it’s an issue.”

## Writing the book

Owens wrote his book as if he were writing a long-form article. He spoke with individuals who were both for and against cancel culture, while he remained neutral during the process of authoring his book.

He spent seven months researching, writing and

talking about the subject so that he could cover every aspect he could think of. He touched on politics, laws, social justice, celebrities and more.

He interviewed a constitutional law professor about the free speech aspect, political consultants from both ends of the political spectrum, music executives and others in the music industry, civil rights lawyers, activists and community organizers.

In 2019, he got a book agent and signed a six-figure deal. During the process of writing his novel, Owens was simultaneously planning his wedding and working his normal hours in the midst of the pandemic.

After a four-year process, he reached the conclusion of his national book tour, which began in February.



Julia Train/The Rider News

Award-winning journalist **Ernest Owens** spoke to the Rider community surrounded by an array of fall florals.

# Rider hosts vigil for victims of latest Israel-Hamas war

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continued out of respect for the community and its traditions, Adler said.

“I think it was very challenging for us to be joyous ... at a time when there were such horrific attacks,” said Adler. “I spoke to my community and said, this is our obligation. ... There’s some times when we’re just commanded to be joyous. We may not feel it, but in some ways, it helps us to cope by understanding that we have certain obligations as part of our tradition. ... That’s how we find strength amongst the Jewish people, through community.”

Adath Israel Congregation also held a solidarity event Oct. 11 at the synagogue, which was organized by the Jewish Federation and had an attendance of over 500, Adler said. Parking lots at Rider were used as overflow lots, and the Lawrence Township Police Department was present at the synagogue’s entrance to control traffic and provide security.

## A vigil in remembrance

At Rider, students, staff and faculty gathered at the Bart Luedeke Center’s Cavalla Room on Oct. 18 to commemorate the victims lost in the Israel-Gaza war.

As Rider community members have been impacted by the conflict in different ways, the university hosted a vigil in an attempt to give hope and reassurance.

Handelman started off the night with a speech: “I, being a Jewish student, have been personally affected by the attacks and fighting like many students across various religions that are here today.”

Several religious clubs attended and spoke at the vigil, including the Muslim Student Association represented by Rashid, InterVarsity and the Catholic Campus Ministry.

Nadia Ansary, professor of psychology and adviser to the Muslim Students Association, was fighting back tears as she spoke about the mothers and fathers going through the grief of losing their children; a reality many are facing right now.

Adler also contributed to the vigil, representing the local congregation and acting as a resource for the community, he said.

Marissa Ross, a junior exercise science major, has connections in Israel and felt that the vigil offered her comfort during these hard times.

“I have family and friends who live [in Israel], and I have friends and family who are in the IDF. One of my best friends ... is serving right now,” said Ross. “It’s been really hard recently, so it’s really nice to be somewhere where there’s a lot of support.”

Faculty fellow from the Julius and Dorothy Koppelman Holocaust/Genocide Resource Center of the Center for Diversity and Inclusion, Howard Joffe, spoke about how this conflict is impacting those who are Jewish because of high casualty rates.

Attendees of the vigil lit candles and participated in a moment of silence in order to commemorate the lives lost.

Graduate student Emily Wesoky has lived in Israel for some parts of her life so the recent events have been hitting close to home for her.

Wesoky said, “I’m a citizen of Israel and I’ve lived there for periods of time...so I wear that country on my chest for the whole country. I have a lot of friends there that are serving and a lot of friends that are affected by it.”

Though many students are navigating a stressful time, the vigil brought a moment of peace and

solidarity among all in attendance.

Handelman said, “In unfortunate times, it’s important that we each support one another regardless of group. We are all going through it right now; turn the anger into positive energy and willingness to be there for one another. There’s people who don’t want all of us to come together. What I say to them is: watch us.”

*The Rider News is committed to fair coverage of all sides of the latest Israel-Hamas conflict, and encourages those in the university community to share how they have been impacted by the war.*

*The Rider News can be contacted via email at [ridernews@rider.edu](mailto:ridernews@rider.edu).*



Jake Tiger/The Rider News

Rabbi **Benjamin Adler** gives his perspective on the latest Israel-Hamas conflict.

# What’s fizzin’?: A new app takes over campus

By Amethyst Martinez

THE marketing campaign run by the newly introduced “Fizz” app has been everywhere on campus: through flyers slid under dorm doors, on the social media of Rider students, in LinkedIn direct messages and more.

The new social media app, where students can discuss university-related topics anonymously, premiered on Rider’s campus over a week ago, and has since taken on a life of its own.

Fizz states it has no connection to the universities they’re servicing, meaning that schools have no access to the content or data from the application: essentially, it’s a Wild West of anonymous posting where Rider officials have no say.

The free app, which has no advertisements, states on its website that it does not generate revenue and operations are currently reliant upon a team of investors.

Multiple Rider students were contacted on LinkedIn for the job opportunity of becoming a moderator on the app, with the responsibility of sifting through dangerous and negative content, while also creating posts.

Cecilia Simon, a junior political science major, was contacted for the job on LinkedIn, but ultimately was “ghosted” by the employer.

What was expected of her? For about \$500 a month, Simon was asked to perform moderator duties such as erasing posts that didn’t follow community guidelines, but to also make at least 30 posts a day.

Simon said that representatives who reached out were looking to hire students who knew the culture and community at the university.

Included in the contracts for employees are non-disclosure agreements, meaning moderators were unable to speak with The Rider News unless they were granted full anonymity.

One paid moderator for the app estimated that there were around 10 students currently mediating the site, including themselves.

The moderator was also contacted through LinkedIn for the job opportunity, where employers are able to look at educational background and where they went to school.

“We have to post ... all the time, every day,” said

the moderator. “We’re just on the app all day.”

The hiring process involved a training session for the moderator duties, outlining what kind of content was not allowed: bullying and personal information, hate speech, misinformation, obscene content, spam and illegal content.

According to the Fizz website, moderators can see any other posts other users see, but have the ability to take down posts that don’t follow the guidelines.

“All moderators are trained to be objective, and since Fizz moderation works like a democratic voting system, no single moderator has the power to remove any post,” read the website.

The app, which is currently outwardly expanding to other schools across the United States, was started at Stanford University by two college students who, according to their website, noticed a lack of connection amongst the community due to campus restrictions caused by the pandemic.

Fizz launched at Rider just over a week ago and the anonymous moderator estimated around 1000 students from the university were using the app.

“It’s grown a lot throughout the week, so more and more people keep getting the app,” they said. “I think there’s going to be a lot by the end of the month.”

When asked if there has been bullying or hate speech that they’ve seen on the app, the moderator said it was very miniscule in comparison to the amount of posting daily by students.

Fizz also features a leadership board on the app of the top users for posting, highest like ratios and more.

The Rider News spoke to the student who sits at first place on the Fizz Karma Leaderboard, who wished to remain anonymous due to the app’s incognito way of posting.

Currently, they sit at almost 16,000 points on the leaderboard, almost 10,000 higher than the second-place holder.

The student said that Fizz also reached out to them on LinkedIn around a year ago, but they are now not working for the company. After seeing the flyers around campus this semester, they decided to give the app a shot.

“I feel like the app is going to fade a little bit unless they bring more ways to be different, if that makes sense,” said the student. “It was a new app

for Rider, so I was like, you know what, I gotta get on this and make sure people know that y’all need to step it up.”

Due to the student’s top score, he is also a moderator of posts that are reported, but is unpaid by the company.

“It’s basically a council of moderators that make sure that all the content is regulated, but it doesn’t take away your free speech,” said the student.

The posts on the app vary: oversharing bad habits, roommate complaints, difficulties of the daily grind of college student life and gripes and grievances with the university.

“Starving to death on campus [because] they decided to close all the dining options,” wrote one anonymous poster with 112 upvotes.

“Fizz up if you think we should get rid of [W]endy’s and replace it with something better,” said another, with 814 upvotes on the post.

Overall, the social media app, which has expanded to other universities across the country and has gained popularity amongst students, has to now prove its longevity, where other anonymous posting apps such as YikYak, which was founded in 2013, have faltered.



Kaitlyn D'Alessio/ The Rider News

A student uses the new Fizz app to check out campus gossip.

# Previous NJ chief of staff comes to Rider

By Jay Roberson

GEORGE Helmy, who previously served as the state director to U.S. Senator Cory Booker and was the longest-tenured chief of staff for New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy, was welcomed to Rider by the Rebovich Institute on Oct. 24 at Sweigart Hall.

He was introduced by Micah Rasmussen, director of the Rebovich Institute for New Jersey Politics, who began by talking about Helmy’s career in government.

He stated, “Going back 200 years this is a position that really means a lot in the state. So I wanted to have students and members of the community better understand the role that this person plays in state government and how they helped the state government run.”

The night began with questions from Rasmussen before allowing audience members to participate.

Helmy gave advice to aspiring politicians that may be discouraged by today’s political environment.

He said, “Don’t make decisions on self preservation. Too often, staffers will make decisions based on, ‘How do I make the boss like me?’ ‘How do I cut a better deal here that’s in my best interest for my next job?’ If you’re just a bobbing head in every room ... You might have a very long career in politics, but you’ll not be involved in politics.”

He also spoke about the ways he managed



Jay Roberson/ The Rider News

Micah Rasmussen (left) and George Helmy (right) give advice to aspiring politicians during a time with a rocky political environment.

to prioritize the plethora of issues that the state government deals with on a daily basis as the chief of staff.

“It’s all power mapping,” Helmy said. “First of all, one of my goals, identifying very clearly your priorities for the month and priorities for the year. If your thing wasn’t on my board, it isn’t our priority, so that’s how I communicated it to our team.”

Freshman political science major Liam McGuinness gave his reasons for attending the event, which was to learn more about domestic politics.

He said, “If I could start locally ... then I can move on gradually to national and international. You gotta start small and this is it right here.”

Rasmussen hoped that this event could help students and community members better understand the government and how relationships are a key factor in working in government.

“Politics is about relationships ... You take care of people and return phone calls, those are some of the hallmarks people respond to,” Rasmussen said. “So I expect students are going to get a better understanding of how politics really works in the real world.”

Politicians can seem cold to some, but Helmy brought up the ways he and Murphy attempted to humanize things, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“It wasn’t a political ploy that came from the governor. The governor for 200 something press conferences named three human lives that we lost. Every single time. He called every single family of those people before we mourned them,” said Helmy.

The most emphasized point Helmy spoke about is, as a politician, one must be able to form relationships with others even if their beliefs are different.

“You’re in the relationship business, whether you’re in supply chain or logistics or you’re selling complicated debt structures, you’re in the relationship business,” said Helmy.

# CHECK OUT THIS WEEK'S SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

## NEWS

**AWARD-WINNING JOURNALIST  
COMES TO RIDER**



Ernest Owens came to Rider on Oct. 24 to discuss his career in journalism.

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## FEATURES

**THE SPOOKTACULAR RIDER  
NEWS STAFF CELEBRATE  
HALLOWEEN**

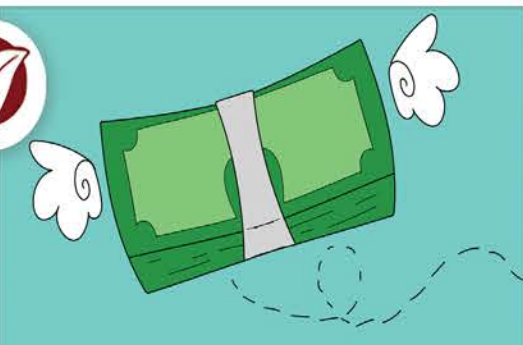


The staff of The Rider News got in the Halloween spirit!

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## OPINION

**STUDENTS ARE FRUSTRATED  
AFTER WEEKS WITHOUT PAY**



Some student workers have not been paid at all this semester and supervisors are concerned.

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## SPORTS

**MEN'S AND WOMEN'S  
SEASON PREVIEWS**



Check out the Sports section to read this year's men's and women's basketball season previews!

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# Opportunity October: Saxbys new SCEO



Photo courtesy of Minhal Mir

Senior marketing major **Minhal Mir** is the new SCEO of Saxbys for the fall semester. She hopes to help cut down wait times and create a positive, laid-back environment for her team.

By **Tristan E. M. Leach**

**M**INHAL Mir always believed in putting her all into the task at hand. In the hustle and bustle of Saxbys, however, Mir is in her element. She works tirelessly to create a healthy and productive environment for her team and the hundreds of students, faculty and staff alike that they serve everyday.

Mir, a senior marketing major, was chosen to be this semester's student CEO of Rider's Saxbys. Prior to being selected for the position, Mir, a transfer student, was working as a graphic designer for Rider's business college.

The chance to apply for the position came to Mir at an event she attended with previous SCEOs. Nick Bayer, the CEO of Saxbys, and Liz Langemak, the director of academic platforms for Saxbys, were both in attendance. After listening to the previous SCEOs and the company's top employees, Mir was inspired to apply.

"I heard more from Nick and Liz about the company in general and what [Saxbys] stands for. I was really impressed by what [Nick and Liz] were doing and the work and opportunities [Nick] has been giving students," said Mir. "I heard Grace [Ramsey] and Kayelena [Brimage], the previous student CEOs, talk about their experience and I was terrified, but also, why not?"

Even though her experience in a cafe setting was limited to working at a Dunkin' for a short time, she was excited to take the leap of faith. Mir saw applying for the job as a chance to learn more about herself. She knew she was capable of taking on any

task and knew there was no harm in trying.

"I like to try new things, doesn't matter what they are. I don't have a specific route I want to take with my job. I want to own my own business someday. I have that entrepreneurial blood because my dad owns his own business. I felt nothing bad could happen; I'm only gonna learn about myself," said Mir with a smile.

Several months later, Mir found herself at the Saxbys Training Camp in Philadelphia. During these sessions, Mir and her fellow SCEOs trained in working behind the bar and managerial work that is done by each SCEO. The program has SCEOs live in dorm rooms, take classes and become friends with each other. Mir enjoyed the experience as she had never lived on a campus and is currently a commuter at Rider.

"[CEO camp] was one of the most memorable times that I've had ... I've never lived in a dorm and that was the first time I was doing it. It was a really big learning opportunity for me," said Mir.

After 10 rigorous days of training, Mir was prepared to take on the challenge of running Rider's Saxbys. She quickly learned what her team needed and worked to provide whatever was necessary to keep Saxbys in good order.

Megyn Kukulka, a senior arts and entertainment industries management major, has worked at Saxbys since its opening in 2021. Kukulka has worked with four SCEOs, including Mir, and has found that each brings something new to the job.

"She very much listens to the team members and makes sure that they're satisfied and comfortable.

We have a lot of new team members starting this semester so it was definitely a challenge, but she's done a great job," said Kukulka.

Since starting her position, Mir has worked to listen to her team and the Rider community. Mir's biggest goal is to cut down on wait times, which can be as long as two and a half hours.

"I am a listener. I hear conversations about our GrubHub wait time from previous semesters. I've also placed orders here. I know how the wait time can be. Being behind bar and being student CEO I see what goes behind [the wait times]," said Mir.

Mir noted that there are several factors to the long times, including being short staffed, food taking longer times to cook and having only a few team members who are trained and allowed to prepare food. She has also worked hard to ensure that all items in an order come out at the same time, allowing for the student to enjoy their food and beverage together, rather than separately.

Mir encourages people to come in person to order if they want a quick drink or snack. These orders become priority because of the in-person status and therefore come out quicker.

She also motivates people to join the Saxbys team. Not only would this contribute to cutting down on the wait time, but it would also provide valuable work experience.

Mir knows the value of hard work and hopes to continue growing the Saxbys experience for all who enjoy the refreshments or work behind the bar.



Photo courtesy of Minhal Mir



Photo courtesy of Minhal Mir

Members of the Saxbys team pose for a photo with **Mir** (center left), in the cafe, located in Sweigart Hall.

CEO of Saxbys **Nick Bayer** (back center) stops by to visit the staff of Rider's Saxbys.

# Spooktacular: The Rider News staff



# f dresses to fit the Halloween spirit



From left to right: Bridget Hoyt, copy editor, as Jesse Pinkman and Jake Tiger, managing editor, as Walter White from "Breaking Bad"



Kaitlyn Seawood, social media editor, as Tutter from "Bear in the Big Blue House"



Kaitlyn D'Alessio, photography editor, as Bengals quarterback Joe Burrow

From left to right: Julia Train, news editor, Felicia Roehm, opinion editor, Tristan Leach, features and entertainment editor, and Hannah Newman, features and entertainment editor, as Khloe Kardashian, Kourtney Kardashian, Kris Jenner and Kim Kardashian



# Students frustrated after weeks without pay

**A**FTER weeks of student workers not getting paid on time, checks being sent to homes in different states when students have set up direct deposit and a lack of answers, student workers have become extremely frustrated with Rider's disbursements methodology, from Rider's payroll system, ADP, to poor communication from the university regarding their paychecks.

A plethora of issues have arose for students using ADP, from those who use the application reporting that their accounts say they no longer exist, with some new student workers not having accounts at all. With ADP accounts suddenly disappearing, student workers have to fill out a paper timesheet to give to their supervisor. The paper timesheet is a bigger hassle because students may not have time throughout their busy day to print out and fill out the timesheet when they are supposed to be able to log hours on the ADP mobile app or website as they work throughout the week.

The Rider News staff has been personally affected by the ADP issues with some paid staff members not getting paid on time and others still receiving no compensation yet this semester. With the lack of pay, employees now have to take money out of their savings or rely on others, which can be an overwhelming burden.

Students have to financially support themselves and need their check on time for rent, gas or food. As college-aged individuals are notoriously strapped for cash, students may have to use credit cards and that can lead to debt. Some students do have off-campus jobs; however, some have lessened their hours at their other job or quit altogether because they thought they would make money by working on campus and want to focus on their studies.

If a student has more than one job on campus, each job may require the student to fill out their timesheet differently. There is not one easy system for everyone to use, so students can get confused on how to properly record the times they've worked. Without consistency, student workers aren't sure who to talk to about the issues they have faced with ADP.

Supervisors are concerned for their employees because everyone needs to get paid what they deserve, on time. Some didn't even know that the student workers were delayed being paid for two to three weeks. Many college students live paycheck to paycheck, so for students not to get paid for almost a month can lead to damaging issues if they can't afford their basic necessities. Unfortunately, if workers come to those in leadership positions with questions about payroll, those in charge do not have answers. The supervisors aren't provided any details or information about the payroll problems from Rider's disbursements office.

Amy Atkinson, the assistant director of the Academic Success Center, one of the biggest student employers on campus, has seen her tutors face numerous issues with ADP. She explained that once a student fills out their employment paperwork, it takes approximately two weeks for the paperwork to process and the student employee's ADP account to be created. Recently, however, it has been taking between three to four weeks for everything to be processed.

There are also transfer numbers which are used to make sure that money is being transferred out of the correct budget depending on the job the student has. Atkinson explained that there is a delay with transfer numbers, and without that, those in supervising positions aren't sure which budget the money is taken from. To fix this problem, the tutors must email their bosses with the hours they have worked, then their bosses have to email that information to Rider's disbursements office.

"I think some of the trouble there is just trying to make sure that, as supervisors, we're doing our best to communicate to tutors what they need to do. But there have been times in particular this semester where we're getting information regarding how to make sure everybody is getting paid out of the correct budget. There have been at least two different versions from two different departments as to what we should do," said Atkinson.

She shared that the student employees make Rider flourish, as they give up a lot of their time, especially as tutors, because they want to help their peers. There are some employees who haven't gotten paid for weeks, but those students are still showing up to work and putting their best foot forward. Atkinson cares deeply about the student employees and wants to be able to provide them opportunities to grow, a pleasant place to work and compensation for their time.

"I just hope the student employees are given the same opportunities to voice their concerns as the staff and faculty have been given because our student employees are the heartbeat of this campus," said Atkinson.

She hopes that Rider learns from this and understands that these issues affect student workers, because without them Rider wouldn't be what it is today. She also hopes that moving forward, there will be more opportunities for conversation with student employees and supervisors. Atkinson would like Rider to be open to feedback and listen to the concerns of those who work on campus.

"Do check-ins with the student employees...and make sure that we're taking care of them in all ways," said Atkinson. "I hope there is more open dialogue about it and the opportunity for those who are affected to provide feedback so that feedback can be taken into consideration for future decisions especially as something as important as getting paid."

Ailyn Del Rio, a senior English major, is an embedded tutor and a student writing consultant who has been working on campus for three years. ADP has been erasing some of her hours and not paying her for all of the hours that she worked. She then has to push those hours onto the next week just for her to continue moving hours for weeks to come because she is not paid the correct amount.

"It won't pay me all of the hours I have actually worked so then I have to push all of those hours that weren't paid onto the next pay period," said Del Rio. "The issue with that is that it's across multiple jobs, that it's just randomly erasing full days of work and then because I work so much, there's a cap. You can only work up to 20 hours combined so if I'm starting to get to that limit then it's kind of difficult to shuffle those hours without messing with my schedule."

Del Rio explained that student workers get paid less than minimum wage but are extremely important to Rider.

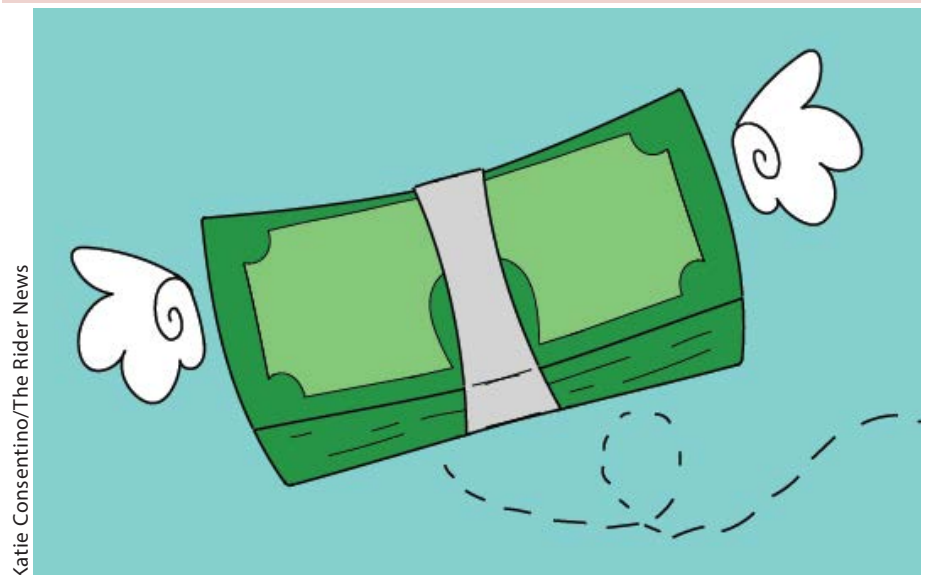
"The work that we do I believe is worth at least minimum wage because we are right there working with the students regardless of what we are doing," Del Rio said. "We're supporting the school, giving back our time and we are doing a lot of important work and we're exercising important skills and this is helping us move to the next thing but we're supporting the school in a lot of ways."

Del Rio shares that it would be great if Rider values the work that student workers do on a daily basis. Students put forward a lot of time and effort toward their job and Rider should remind workers that what they are doing is significant and let them know the positive impact they have. She hopes students will be getting paid on time moving forward, but also that they help Rider be successful and their job matters.

Del Rio said, "I think it is just really important for everyone to also see student workers and the work we do. We choose to be here, we choose to work with students or work in services that support students and to help Rider grow."

*Managing Editor Jake Tiger and Copy Editor Bridget Hoyt both work for the Academic Success Center. They had no part in the writing or editing of this story.*

Felicia Roehm



Katie Consentino/The Rider News

Students workers have gone weeks without pay, leaving students with financial issues.

## THE Rider News

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SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

# The Trustee Scholarship doesn't cover all expenses

I’ve faced numerous challenges throughout my life, but nothing would compare to the turmoil I faced in 2020. After losing my grandmother, my mother figure in life in March 2020, I didn’t think things could get much worse, but I was wrong. Shortly after, my father passed away from lung and liver cancer just three days after my birthday on May 19, 2020. My siblings had already moved out and I was left with the overwhelming responsibility of supporting myself independently.

For the past three years, I had to mature and grow up rather quickly, working full time, paying my own bills and moving several times until I settled into a mobile home with my boyfriend. Through all the hurdles, I realized how short life is. I wanted to make my grandmother and dad proud and decided to go back to school a year after graduating high school in 2019.

In fall 2020, I applied, enrolled and registered for classes part time at Northampton Community College in Pennsylvania while still working full time. Over the course of two and a half years, I saw myself grow into a person I had never imagined. I became president of my Phi Theta Kappa chapter, Beta Beta Chi, an honor society for two-year colleges, secretary for my campus’ women’s club and student governance and subsequently rose to editor-in-chief for the student newspaper, The Commuter. I graduated this past May with a 3.7 GPA and was honorably awarded the Transfer Trustee Scholarship at Rider.

Now, as the end of my first semester is quickly approaching, I have learned and gained insight on so many things I wasn’t aware of prior to becoming a full-time student. Firstly, I do not ignore the privilege it is to be a trustee. Only three transfer students are awarded this prestigious scholarship each year and I am very fortunate to have been chosen as one. But nonetheless, I still face financial barriers.

Prior to this semester, I was aware that the Trustee Scholarship does not cover housing, and the scholarship overrides all other scholarships awarded by the school. This meant that I would not be able to utilize the \$3,000 Campus Connection Grant, nor the monetary award for being accepted into the Gail Bierenbaum Women’s Leadership Council. I knew I couldn’t take out loans or afford to live on campus with my current financial state. I decided to move in with a friend in Bucks County Pennsylvania, where I now commute approximately two hours each day.

This commute not only takes a financial toll for gas and car maintenance,

but also takes a tremendous mental toll. As a trustee, I am required to take a minimum of 15 credits per semester and must maintain a 3.5 GPA. To say the least, this is a huge difference than what I was used to at community college. This semester I have classes Monday through Friday while working two work-study jobs, sometimes staying on campus until 10 p.m. and occasionally coming in on Saturdays. Some nights, I don’t get home until 1 a.m. This means I get maybe four or five hours of sleep since I have to wake up at 6 a.m. to ensure I make it on time for my 9 a.m. classes.

Not only would living on campus increase the convenience of everyday life, but it would also remove the weight of worrying about sleep, studying and ensuring that I am performing my best academically. I highly encourage Rider to consider the impact of expanding the Trustee Scholarship and the effect that it would have on students.

Kaitlyn Seawood  
junior journalism major



The Trustee Scholarship does not cover all the expenses students must pay at Rider.

FILM REVIEW

# 'Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour' is the event of the fall

On Oct. 13, Taylor Swift’s iconic summer tour made it to the big screen in a movie fittingly titled, “Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour.” As a part of MAACness, free tickets were provided to Rider students by the Student Entertainment Council, allowing many to fill the blank space in their weekend and see the concert film themselves.

The moment the show began and Swift was revealed to the crowd, the energy in the venue was monumental even on a screen. From that moment on, both the theater and live crowds were in the palm of her hand.

The second song, “Cruel Summer,” acted as the release point for a groundswell of positive emotion from every "Swiftie" who saw the film, and navigated her setlist with impressive smoothness.

As someone who has attended dozens of concerts, I have never seen a performer draw from so many different periods of their career with such attention to detail. Each era feels like its own show with new costumes, props and high production value.

Swift’s opening “Lover” era started off big. By the end of her time spent with the album, she highlighted the album’s slower ballads. This ensured a smoother transition when her breakthrough country record, “Fearless,” took center stage. Suddenly, Swift’s band took charge over backup dancers and things felt less grand, but the energy never suffered.

The third era, “Evermore,” was an acoustic folk album. Swift stood alone on stage, singing softly about loss and playing the piano in a way that would never ordinarily command a stadium.

Miraculously, she did.

Swift followed this somber performance with “Reputation,” a loud pop record that absolutely felt right in a stadium. Swift and her dancers donned snake-themed costumes, the lights shone bright, smoke machines were in full effect, and the show’s energy shifted from low to high. The most visually appealing performance of the movie was for the song “Look What You Made Me Do,” where Swift confidently proclaimed death to her old self while her dancers appeared in boxes on stage, each dressed like a previous Swift era.

This was succeeded by the most breathtaking performance of the night. As the stage donned a purple hue, Swift wore a ball gown to honor her “Speak Now” album with just one song, a short but enchanting moment, nonetheless.

Next is perhaps the fan favorite era, Red. Swift was clad in a snippy t-shirt, gifting a hat to Bianca Bryant, Kobe Bryant’s daughter. She then played the most notable song of the night. After making sure the crowd had ten minutes to spare, she launched into her beloved “All Too Well (10 Minute Version),” which matched “Cruel Summer” as a massive moment of emotional release.

As the concert continued, it entered “Folklore,” another acoustic album. This time, Swift lounges on the roof of a makeshift cabin and plays guitar. At other moments, she sat on the porch. The show felt the smallest at this moment, yet Swift never felt out of place in front of a stadium crowd or on the big screen.

After the show’s quietest point, Swift brought back the vibrant colors and bright lights with the triumphant “1989” era.

My personal favorite era had a rather short stay on stage compared to other albums in the film, but the most was made of that limited time. Swift packed all her biggest songs back to back, from “Bad Blood” to “Shake it Off.”

Following “1989” was the most exciting part of the show for many 'Swifties,' as Swift performed two unique surprise songs. Of the many that she played throughout the tour, the two highlighted for the movie are “Our Song,” a throwback from her self-titled debut album, and “You’re On Your Own, Kid,” a track from her new album “Midnights” which inspired the bracelet trading that helped define the Eras Tour.

After a three-hour musical journey, the movie arrived at the final era: “Midnights.” Swift’s newest era was accompanied by prop clouds that circled the stage and an incredibly bejeweled outfit. The final song of the film was “Karma,” which, if you attended a New Jersey concert, you would have seen it performed with a guest verse from Ice Spice. In the movie, however, Swift sang solo.

The Eras Tour was a very special experience live, and the movie captures that energy perfectly. For those who did attend the tour, those who missed out and those who might just be casual Taylor Swift fans, I recommend the movie for all. You don’t want to miss out on your last chance to witness the concert of the summer.

Elijah Nevlin  
junior marketing major



Photo Courtesy of Elijah Nevlin

Elijah Nevlin attended a Taylor Swift concert on May 12th in Philadelphia.



Head Coach **Lynn Milligan** (left) with graduate student **Jessica Schiffer** (center) and senior guard **Makyla Firebaugh** (right). Kaitlyn D'Alessio/The Rider News

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

# Rider 'locked in' amid roster turnover

By Logan VanDine

**A**FTER a 10-21 season by Rider women's basketball, the new squad is looking to prove all doubters wrong after the Broncos were ranked 10th in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference preseason poll.

Head Coach Lynn Milligan felt good about her team during practice as the Broncos have been honing their skills and working out together since July.

"It's been looking really good. When you have a roster with new faces, we're always working on our chemistry, working on just getting to know one another on and off the court and I think we've done a really good job with that," Milligan said. "I think our players are pretty locked in on understanding the correlation between on off the court relationships, so I think they have done a really good job with that,"

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

# Firebaugh embodies 'heart and soul'

By Logan VanDine

**W**ITH just five returning players for Rider women's basketball, the Broncos will look a lot different than last year, as the team looks to play much better than the previous season. One of those returning players is senior guard Makyla Firebaugh.

Firebaugh has been with the Broncos since the 2020-21 season, and found it surprising how much time had flown by as she enters her final season.

"Every day I'm so shocked, and I'm like, wow, I'm a senior. I literally graduate next semester and to me it's mind-boggling," Firebaugh said.

When it came to describing her overall tenure with the Broncos, with a smile on her face, Firebaugh said she could not have been happier with her experience.

"I loved it, it's literally so fun. A lot of new experiences, a lot of new friends, and it's definitely very

Milligan also talked about her team's eagerness to learn and train hard.

"I think the newness of this team and the willingness of this team gets me really excited because I think our energy and our competitiveness is there on a daily basis," said Milligan. "They're just willing to learn, willing to listen, willing to be coached, willing to play hard and willing to understand what our vision is and know what our goals are so this has been a willing group and it's been really fun."

The team has many key players leaving, like guard Amanda Mobley, center Victoria Tommey and forward Raphaella Toussaint graduating or transferring. Milligan dove into what her team must work on if they want to avenge their 21-loss season a year ago.

"I think overall some of our obvious weaknesses have been rebounding over the last couple of years. I think we've corrected that, with a healthy ToniRenee Blanford," Milligan said. "Our postgame has just gotten a lot better with freshmen like Sam [Richardson] and Kaylan [Deveney] and Sofie [Bruintjes] is going to be a totally different player this year, so our post group is filled with a lot of depth in the post group that want to go rebound so I think we've done a good job in correcting that."

Defense is something that Milligan puts a strong emphasis on.

"We obviously have to defend better overall and every team wants to be a good defensive team so we need our perimeter defense to be on point to help our bigs," she said.

The Broncos will also be debuting three freshmen this season: guard Aliya McIver, forward Sam Richardson and center Kaylan Deveney.

"Some days they look like freshmen and some days they look really, really good, you can see the development," Milligan said. "Kay and Sam are both good strong post-players for us. Post-play at the division one level compared to high school is very different, it's much more physical, it's faster so I think they've both done a really great job with that and Aliya as point guard playing that position as a freshman is a challenge and I think she's met it head on so I expect all three of them to be a big piece in what we are trying to do."

McIver opened up about how her tenure has been so

far with the Broncos.

"With practice well underway I would describe my tenure as great. I've learned a lot just being here for four months, on and off the court from both my teammates and coaches. I'm very confident on how well our team will play this year," McIver said.

Despite the young faces, the Broncos have some much-needed veteran presence back on their team with players like senior forward Bruintjes, senior guards Makyla Firebaugh and Molly Lynch, as well as graduate student guard Jessika Schiffer.

"It's huge, they have been here with me the longest, our philosophy is all heart and soul and they absolutely know what that means and they know how we like to do things and how we like to progress and how we want to handle ourselves on a day to day basis so all of our five returning players have done an amazing job relaying that to the other kids," Milligan said.

Firebaugh also talked about the state of the team and how she has felt practice has gone now that she is taking on the role of veteran leadership.

"Everything's been good. Obviously we have been growing every day which is the goal," Firebaugh said. "Physically I feel good and mentally I think everybody's finally realizing what it takes to individual basketball players especially and everyone's been growing every day."

As for Milligan, she will be entering her 17th season as the head coach for the women's basketball team and she described her run as the head coach so far.

"I'm very proud of what we have done with this program for the past 17 years, we've done things that have never been done with the program, on paper do we want more wins, absolutely. Have we had some great years, have we hung some banners, yes. We've had WNBA players, professional players, great wins, tough losses, we've had great student-athletes and incredible young women come into this program so we are really proud of that," she said. "We want to keep pushing forward, we've been at the top and obviously, slid down the last couple of years but we are not going to lower our expectations."

The Broncos are scheduled to play in a home exhibition game against TCNJ on Nov. 1 at 7 p.m.

family-oriented, very close-knit, which I love, and just a great atmosphere and a great community," Firebaugh said.

Firebaugh also recalled some memorable moments she's had on the team that have really stuck out to her which included hitting a game-winning three against Saint Francis.

"There are some games where I was like, 'That was a good game.' We played overtime against Saint Francis in Brooklyn, New York. That game was very good and when we went to Ireland, those games were really good. It was fun and definitely one for the record books, and that was a moment I will remember forever," she said.

Throughout Firebaugh's tenure, she has compiled an impressive resume. During the 2020-21 season, she held the titles of second team All-MAAC and Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference co-rookie of the year. She also placed second in the MAAC in number of three-pointers scored and third in number of minutes played, with 40 three-pointers and 764 minutes on the court.

On top of her impressive freshman year, Firebaugh started every game in both the 2020-21 and 2021-22 seasons. Her 67 three-pointers in the 2021-22 season led the MAAC that year. She was a member of the MAAC All-Academic team that season as well.

Just this past season, Firebaugh led the team in points per game with 14.3, which ranked sixth in the conference.

"Coming into my freshman year, pace and everything was so different, and freshman year nobody knew me and nobody knew what I was capable of, and then sophomore year everybody was like 'Firebaugh, Firebaugh, Firebaugh,'" she said. "Coach said you have to grow every year, and I finally realized and it clicked

with me and I knew that I had to progressively grow every year to take my game to the next level and to continue to play at this level," Firebaugh said.

She also stated that could not have gotten where she was as a player without the help of Milligan.

"She's honestly meant a tremendous amount to me and my family. She took me in and she believed in me," said Firebaugh. "She keeps me accountable which I love and I owe her for."

Milligan, who is entering her 17th season as the women's basketball head coach, had nothing but praise for Firebaugh, not just as a player, but as a leader.

"[Firebaugh] has meant a great deal to the team. She is one of our five returners and has taken a much bigger leadership role," Milligan said.

Milligan also recalled that when she first met Firebaugh, she knew she had a special player.

"When I first met [Firebaugh] and we started recruiting her, she had a confidence about her that was obvious. She has never been afraid of the moment since she got here. She has a great work ethic and wants to be great. Our philosophy is heart and soul and [she] has it," Milligan said.

Firebaugh has a lot of optimism about the upcoming season despite being one of just five returning players.

"[The new teammates] didn't know what to expect walking in here, and obviously I've been here all my four years, I kinda like give that off, and I'm like, 'This is what we are about, this is what we do, so everyone is kind of adapting to that culture and atmosphere, and once everyone buys into it, we are all on the same page,'" Firebaugh said.



Senior guard **Makyla Firebaugh**, making a lay up in a matchup against NJIT last season as she is one of five returning players. Kaitlyn D'Alessio/The Rider News

MEN’S BASKETBALL

# Rider hungry for redemption after upset

By Benjamin Shinault

**L**AST season, Rider men’s basketball finished its regular season campaign at 16-14, earning the second seed in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference for only the fifth time in program history. During the highlight season, the Broncs went on a thrilling eight-game winning streak and had countless unforgettable moments in and outside of the Alumni Gym.

Soon enough, March crept up on the Broncs and they were set to face the Saint Peter’s Peacocks, who were just coming off a remarkable Cinderella run the year before in the NCAA tournament. With all this considered, the Broncs were in for a tough challenger.

Throughout the hard-nosed matchup against the Peacocks, the Broncs out-rebounded both offensively and defensively, but Saint Peter’s forced more turnovers and shot more efficiently. It was a close game all around, but the Peacocks had the advantage over the Broncs to give them the 70-62 victory. The Broncs, a year after going all the way to the semifinals, were sent home in the quarterfinals.

Fast-forward to now, the Broncs are coming off a MAAC preseason poll nomination of being the top team in the conference, and senior forward Mervin James was voted preseason player of the year. The Broncs are now ready and eager to bounce back and prove those predictions correct as the basketball season is just around the corner.

Kevin Baggett, who is now entering his 12th season as head coach of the Broncs, appreciates the

nominations but still wants to prove it on the court this season.

“It’s an honor to have our league vote on us and vote on Mervin as preseason player of the year, but none of that matters at this point of the year. It matters what you get done at the end of the year,” Baggett said.

With these honors, however, the Broncs received a big target on their back and Baggett realized this.

“We understand that, with that, there are high expectations. Everybody is going to come after us every game, so we aren’t sneaking up on anybody, but we just got to get better day by day as a team, as individuals, as coaches, and let the rest of it take care of itself,” said Baggett.

Over the summer, the Broncs had quite a few transfers and many of their veteran players graduated. As a way to counter, Rider brought in five freshmen, and three players brought in via the transfer portal.

Baggett gave some insight into what he has seen in practice from his new-look Broncs.

“I think we have more ball handlers, I think we’re top to bottom more skilled, we’re young in some areas,” stated Baggett.

The Broncs’ last season had four freshmen, but outside of that Rider had a number of seniors and graduate students. With all of them no longer bearing the Rider colors, some players that remained from last season must step it up.

“The younger guys that were young last year are stepping up into a bigger role, those are changes,” Baggett said.

With five freshmen on this year’s Broncs squad, Baggett already has some expectations for his first-year players in terms of what he wants to see on the court.

“We have to get the younger guys to understand the value in basketball and playing defense, and more often than not, less is more at this point until they understand the speed, the level and the strength of playing division one basketball.”

Every Bronc this year has a role, and Baggett gave some context behind this vision for the team.

“All of them have a great value; they all need to stay in their role and understand their value, and I



Seniors **Tariq Ingraham** (left), **Corey McKeithan** (middle), and **Allen Powell** walk off the court. Andrew Xon/The Rider News

always tell the guys ... be an All-American in your role, whether it’s big, small, medium or little role, just be great, be an All-American at that role and master that role so we can help you get a bigger role,” Baggett said.

With eight new players on the court for the Broncs, at times it might be tough to portray what you want out of your new team. Bagget’s rules were simple: “Get better every day, control what you can control, be coachable, be a great teammate and be a great team,” Baggett said.

With only 3-of-5 starters from the last time Rider suited up, the starting lineup for the Broncs this season will look different.

The starting lineup for the Broncs and many other things are still being critiqued as the days start to wind down until the first tipoff of the season.

Rider’s season opener will be on Oct. 28 at 1 p.m. in Alumni Gym against Georgian Court. The game against the Lions is an exhibition matchup, which will be a perfect opportunity for the Broncs to play around with the starting lineup and the bench rotation.

The regular season begin on Nov. 6 when the Broncs faceoff against the Immaculata Mighty Macs at home at 7 p.m.

MEN’S BASKETBALL

# Langston takes the leap from Netflix to Rider

By Benjamin Shinault

**O**N Netflix, there is a docuseries called “Last Chance U: Basketball.” It’s a behind the scene look into East Los Angeles College basketball and, it details each player’s journey, whether they had a tough upbringing, or never received a chance to show off their basketball skills.

One of the players from the team, who spent two seasons on the show, JT Langston Jr., a junior forward and communications major, has found himself at Rider, making yet another pitstop in his eventful basketball career.

Langston was born and raised in Fort Wayne, Indiana, a town where a shared love of basketball bounces through the streets.

Langston played high school basketball at San Gabriel Academy in California through his junior year, but due to the COVID-19 shutdown, he had to put basketball on hold.

Langston then played basketball at East California County College. Making the initial move from Indiana to California can be tough for some folks, but Langston saw a lot of positives come out of his move across the country.

“I think it was a great transition ... it turned me into who I am today on and off the court,” Langston said. “Especially off the court because I’m becoming more social with people.”

Playing for the Huskies, Langston was an athletic forward that could score from anywhere on the court.

As a starter last season, Langston averaged 15 points, 7.2 rebounds and 2.3 blocks per game in 25 games played.

Following his sophomore season, he walked away with South Coast Conference player of the year, California Community College Athletic Association

All-State team and he also led the Huskies to the CCAA Final Four.

Soon enough, it was time for Langston to pack up his belongings and hop on another plane to New Jersey to play Division I basketball. During another time of radical change, Langston remembered what his coach at ELAC John Mosley, told him.

“Coach Mosley did a great job, having us prepared for the next level,” Langston said.

Langston delved into his style of play on the court and what type of player he strives to be for the Broncs this upcoming season. Langston described his play style as balanced. He said he can shoot from anywhere on the floor, drive in and defend well.

With all this considered, it’s still a mystery where Head Coach Kevin Baggett will play Langston this year. With a boatload of fresh talent on the Broncs this year, eight in total, the last days of practices and scrimmages will surely help decide the starting lineup.

For Langston, he wants to make a difference on the court no matter where he is slotted to play.

“It doesn’t matter whether I’m starting ... I’ll do whatever to help the team win and make the NCAA Tournament,” Langston said.

Langston, coming in at 6 feet, 8 inches tall, and weighing 205 pounds, will give the Broncs some height at the forward position. With his smaller frame, Langston will be able to fly by defenders and grab rebounds, while also being able to attack the rim with his slick handles and dunking ability.

The men’s basketball season begins on Oct. 28, and there are many players on the Broncs this year, like Langston, who are eager to prove themselves and help deliver the Broncs a long-awaited Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference title.



Junior forward **JT Langston Jr.** is ready to contribute after two years on “Last Chance U: Basketball.” (Photo courtesy of Rider Athletics).

# Sports

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