



Rider News obtains campus climate survey

By Amethyst Martinez

THE Rider Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) 2022 campus climate survey revealed a multitude of places where the university can improve in terms of DEI, but also where its strengths are in comparison to other higher education institutions.

In all, 18% of Rider's students and employees reported having experienced discrimination or harassment, according to survey data, equivalent to other four-year private universities. Of those, 52% indicated it occurred within the last year, according to the survey.

The survey, which was emailed to Rider students, faculty, staff, and administrators in February and March 2022, asked questions pertaining to the campus environment, how often those who took the survey have experienced discrimination and harassment and perceptions of Rider's commitment to DEI. Of the 1,034 who participated in the survey, 334 were Rider employees and 700 were students.

Demographics for the surveyees included race/ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, political views, disability status and religious affiliation in order to see where the university could improve in terms of providing a quality campus climate.

Chief Diversity Officer Barbara Lawrence, the main official in charge of the Rider survey, did not send the complete results to The Rider News after multiple requests since April 3, and did not make herself available for an interview regarding the survey findings.

The results, which were released to The Rider News by Associate Vice President for University Marketing and Communications Kristine Brown on April 25, showed where Rider places in terms of DEI in comparison to other four-year private and public higher education institutions that also participated in the survey. More than a year after Rider's survey, the results have still not been released to the university community as a whole, differing from many other universities who featured results on their websites. In an article published by The Rider News on Feb. 23, 2022, Lawrence had promised that "analyses of the survey's results will be completed by the spring and then shared with the community."

The survey was a mandated part of Rider's Inclusive Excellence Plan, and in urging the community to participate last spring, Rider President Gregory Dell'Omo said that the survey would provide valuable data in assessing campus inclusivity.

One of Rider's most notable findings was that faculty, staff and administrators were more frequently identified as the source of insensitive and disparaging remarks in comparison to other institutions.

Survey results revealed that 29% of respondents reported that faculty were "sometimes, often or very often" the source of insensitive and disparaging remarks, which is 4% higher than other participating institutions. Administrators came in as the source at 20%, a number that is 5% more, and staff were 22% reported as the source of remarks, only a single percent more than other institutions and 3% more than other four-year private institutions.



Eric Buckwalter and Rashe Mishra/The Rider News



Students and faculty who's drive exceeds 50 gigabytes have to clean out their Google accounts.

By Jake Tiger

AS final projects and exams crowd the minds of students, many at Rider have been left scrambling for a way to study and complete assignments after a sudden chop to their Google Drive storage space.

The problems stem from a decision by Google to change its policy for educational customers, placing a 113-terabyte cap on university cloud-storage accounts when the service used to offer an unlimited amount of storage.

"Because Rider's consumption of data and storage vastly exceeds this cap, this is the reason for the degradation of services currently," said Oliver Wendt, Rider's interim transition chief information officer, in an email to The Rider News. "Rider must lower its consumption back into compliance limits and/or purchase substantially more cloud storage which would be financially challenging to the university."

Error: Google Drive storage full before finals

Students are now budgeted with 50 gigabytes of space, and those who exceed that number are effectively locked out of their accounts, unable to create new files or even edit old ones.

Most affected by the storage crunch are student photographers and videographers whose work revolves around large file types, as well as juniors and seniors, who have accrued heaps of files in their time at Rider.

Moments before a tutor meeting on April 21, senior public relations major Lauren Van Dyk was met with an unfamiliar error message, stating that she could no longer edit a slideshow she was about to present. Van Dyk, who was about 40 gigabytes over the limit, cleared enough space to meet the storage quota, but the restrictions on her account weren't lifted for another day and a half.

"I had to move all my stuff into a personal Google Drive," said Van Dyk. "Nobody wants to do that. ... For the amount of money that we spend to go here, we should get more storage."

Rider's OIT Technical Director, Timothy Burger, sent out a universitywide email on April 24 that urged students to undergo a "digital spring cleaning" to cut down on the university's total storage.

"We need every member of the community to take a close look at your individual Rider Google Drive



Open House brings hope to Rider

By Kaitlyn McCormick

AN influx of traffic flowed down Lawrenceville Road bringing a record number of prospective Broncs to Rider's campus and causing backups past I-295 on Route 206 and at both I-295 exits leading toward Rider for what Vice President of Enrollment Management Drew Aromando deemed a beautiful day on campus.

Aside from saying this being the time traffic was severely backed up coming off of the interstate highway system, Aromando reported that the university's April 23 Open House saw 746 potential students and over 2,000 total attendees, a university record, breaking the previous best of 583 in 2015.

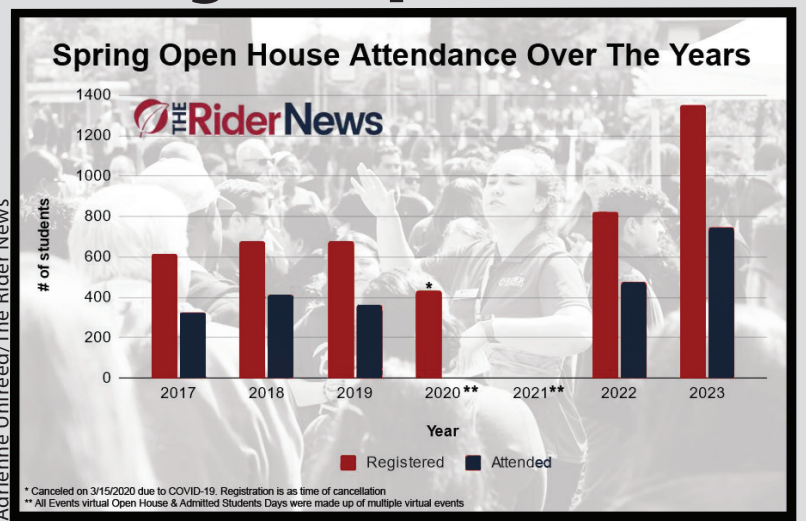
The Open House preceded a "critical week" for the university, tracking admissions and deposits leading up to the May 1st, National Decision Day.

Aromando reported that, as of April 24, the university saw 534 freshmen deposits and 117 transfer deposits, exceeding 2022 by 69 deposits to date – a 12% total increase.

"This is a great place to be, and the signs have been really good," Aromando said.

The reports of trending enrollment numbers and

Adrienne Unfreed/The Rider News



Rider's open house on April 23 open house broke records in attendance.

record-breaking interest come less than a month after Moody's Investors Service downgraded Rider's bond rating on April 5, the third time since 2020.

James Hartman, Rider's senior vice president for finance and chief financial officer, illustrated the connection that enrollment has with the university's finances, noting that about 93% of Rider's revenue comes from student expenses like tuition, fees and housing; "That is the lifeblood of Rider ... enrollment, students," he said.

The university has been the center of press and debate surrounding



INSIDE CENTERPIECES OF SUCCESS

Check out The Rider News' features on the men's and women's players of the year.

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SENIOR SEND OFF

Executive Editor Shaun Chornobroff says goodbye to The Rider News.

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AEIM HOSTS ART FESTIVAL LED BY DEDICATED STUDENTS

On April 28, students can enjoy different art put together by their peers.

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SafeZone trainings educate allies

By Jay Roberson

THE Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI) aims to cultivate a welcoming and inclusive environment for every Rider student regardless of their identity. One of the ways they do this is by hosting SafeZone trainings through “The Rider Allies Safezone Program” every two years. The first training for the 2023-25 certification took place in the CDI on April 21.

Learning specialist at the Academic Success Center (ASC) Martha Higginbotham, an attendee, explained that these trainings can help educate more faculty and students by ensuring a more caring community.

“I hope [SafeZone trainings] start to change people’s way of thinking. And people become more open to everyone we meet ... Not determine it by their sexual orientation or anything else. It’s really important as a world and as a community to be loving and kind,” said Higginbotham.

Attendees began by introducing themselves with their pronouns, which are an important part of many LGBTQ+ members’ identities. Assistant director of the CDI Shaun Williams led the training, and his first point emphasized the importance of always asking for, rather than assuming, someone’s pronouns.

“I learned today, in Spectrum [the club] and even in our training, [gender and sexuality]’s all fluid, it’s ever-evolving and there’s something new to be learned each time,” said Williams. “I think it’s very important that we learn new things and we really take the time to educate ourselves because it’s not just important for us to know, but it’s important that we’re honoring inclusivity and we’re protecting and honoring the LGBTQ+ community.”

Williams had participants discuss different parts of their identity using a social identity wheel. He began to speak about the many different identities people have and how each of them are separate, which was a segway into the discussion of the difference between sexuality and gender identity.

Audra Lubiak, associate director of alumni relations and SafeZone trainer, stated that everyone has unique identities, and people have to be more open to hearing about all identities.

“We all come from different cultures and areas, just ways of life and we all have to live together. People should be mindful of where people are coming from and to be open to listening to their side, as well as them listening to your side,” Lubiak said.

The next portion of the SafeZone training consisted of learning about LGBTQ+ history. Though there has been much progress regarding the rights of LGBTQ+ people, Williams noted they still face obstacles today.

“I hope that moving forward as we have more trainers that people will begin to open their eyes, that the community of people here just embraces our LGBTQ+ community, and that more people might feel safe enough to come out and that our LGBTQ+ community grows,” Williams said.

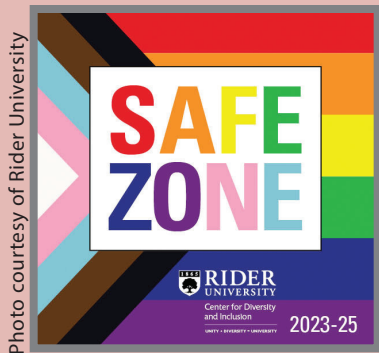
Another section of the training involved the discussion of only some of the many different gender identities and sexualities in the LGBTQ+ community. Along with this, Williams spoke about the power of language and what words to use or not use to avoid being offensive or non inclusive.

“It’s important for us to continue to grow and constantly learn in order for us to be the best people we can be and support the students we serve,” said Higginbotham.

Williams provided trainees with different ways they can be allies to the LGBTQ+ community to conclude the session. This included using inclusive language, acknowledging biases and privileges along with understanding current LGBTQ+ issues.

“I’m 73 years old, I just got my doctorate, and I think learning is forever. So because I was asked to teach a course in September, I thought it was really important for me to get as current as I could,” Higginbotham said.

The SafeZone trainings ensure that both students and faculty are educated and aware of the identities of LGBTQ+ members at Rider as well as how to respect their identity. Once certified as an ally, attendees received a sticker to display which shows their allyship and support of the LGBTQ+ community and that they have gone through SafeZone training. More sessions will be held in Fall 2023 to give more students and faculty the chance to receive a SafeZone certification.



Attendees receive a SafeZone sticker to display their allyship.

Fall break proposed for mental health

By Amethyst Martinez

LEADERS within the Rider community have called for a fall break to be added to the academic calendar due to ongoing national mental health concerns for college students. The proposal for the break, which would begin in fall 2024, now has to go through the University Academic Policy Committee (UAPC), who determines the academic calendar.

The proposal was signed by Provost DonnaJean Fredeen, Vice President for Student Affairs, Leanna Fenneberg, Rider Counseling Center Director, Anissa Moody and Associate Dean of Students, Christine Mehlhorn.

According to the proposal, “Offering mental health days can support students’ mental health and well-being, academic success, cognitive and emotional functioning and retention while reducing stigma and increasing awareness of available resources.”

The break, which would take place after midterms, giving students a four day weekend, came up as an idea to let students and faculty “take a deep breath,” according to Fredeen.

“Setting aside two days in the semester gives you a bigger break, and bigger opportunity to take not only just that deep breath, but then exhale,” said Fredeen. “We as an institution want to take initiative...that will help support our students, and I think that’s very important.”

According to a fall 2022 Healthy Minds Study listed in the proposal, 13% of Rider students reported to have considered suicide in the past year and 25 medical leaves of absences for mental health reasons also occurred at the university in the past year.

Mehlhorn said, “There’s a lot to balance, but I think it would be a miss for us not to at least ask, propose, and advocate for our students to give them a break in the fall.”

Before Westminster Choir College (WCC) moved to the Lawrenceville campus, their academic calendar included an “intermezzo,” which gave students and faculty the opportunity for a fall break. The committee was tasked with deciding if WCC should continue this at the Lawrenceville campus, but ultimately was taken out.

Fredeen said WCC faculty referred to the break as “heaven” for faculty, as well as students.

“So much has changed with our student body and particularly since the pandemic,” said Fredeen. “We have noticed issues with mental health among our students, [and] it’s a national trend.”

The idea started after a student wrote to Leanna Fenneberg, who then helped the proposal come into fruition.

“The proposal seeks to implement a fall break mid-semester as a proactive step to release academic pressures for students, aligned with campus efforts to purposefully focus on student health and well-being,” said Fenneberg in an email to The Rider News.

Two potential dates were offered: Oct. 12-15, 2024, or Oct. 19-22, 2024. Ways that were offered to include this in the calendar were adding days either at the beginning or end of the semester to accommodate for the break period.

The proposal cited other schools who partake in a fall break, such as Rockhurst University, Palm Beach Atlantic, Seton Hill, Sewanee, Huntington University and University of Richmond.

“What we’re really talking about here is that need to be able to recenter yourself and just feel like you have that long weekend,” said Fredeen. “I just think that break would be very important for our students and our faculty.”

Survey gives glimpse of DEI on campus

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Faculty and students are more frequently identified as sources of discrimination and harassment, with faculty reporting at 46%, which is 6% more than other participating institutions, and students at 64%, just 3% more.

However, no groups reported discrimination and harassment or insensitive and disparaging remarks at rates that are substantially worse than other institutions, according to the survey results.

Naa’san Carr, junior political science major and newly appointed Student Government Association president, ran most of his campaign on kickstarting DEI initiatives campus-wide. Carr, who viewed the results during a SGA meeting, said that he hopes to continue to push DEI next year in his presidency through different training, trying to initiate an Rider NAACP chapter, and more.

“I think the campus climate is getting better, from what I have experienced coming here in 2020,” said

Carr. “We’re being more aware, and we’re doing things better, but it doesn’t mean that work still doesn’t need to be done.”

In terms of strength for the university, the ratings of institutional support for DEI initiatives are more positive than at other institutions. Student groups also reported satisfaction with campus climate as comparable to or slightly higher than students at other institutions that participated in the survey.

The results for the survey concluded that as a whole, Rider’s campus climate satisfaction does not differ significantly from that of other institutions, and almost all student groups reported satisfaction comparable to or slightly higher than students in other institutions.

On behalf of the university, Brown said, “Rider’s commitment to DEI is strong, and data such as that compiled through a climate survey helps to guide our strategies moving forward.”

Google slashes storage, causes issues

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folder as well as any shared drives that you are the owner of,” said Burger in the email. “While each of us may only have a few bits and bytes of data that can be cleaned up, in the end it adds up if we all do our part.”

According to Burger, OIT has already relocated its larger files in an attempt to abide by the new limit, and will be working with the university’s other departments to do the same.

Burger also stated in the email that OIT wants to get the university under the limit so it has time to finish migrating data to an alternative cloud-storage platform.

According to Wendt, Rider’s current data consumption was about 198 terabytes, 85 terabytes over Google’s new limit, as of April 25. To decrease the total number, Rider’s Office of Information Technologies (OIT) has started using Microsoft365, moving large files into SharePoint Document Libraries.

Rider will not move away from Google Drive entirely, as services like Gmail are an essential part of its communication, according to Wendt. Instead, the university will look into a “hybrid approach,” adopting an additional service that complements Google Drive.

Philosophy club hosts cut program panel

By Kaitlyn McCormick

NEARLY a year after 25 programs were announced by the provost to be eliminated or archived last June, faculty and students in the affected programs are still refusing to stay quiet.

Rider community members gathered in room 102 of the Mike and Patti Hennessy Science and Technology Center on April 20 to hear from a panel of three professors and one graduate student in directly-impacted programs. The meeting was spearheaded by senior public relations major Keyonna Murray, president of the Rider Philosophy Club.

In one pinnacle moment of the evening, however, Jeffrey Halpern, chief grievances officer of Rider's chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), contextualized the expected savings from the administration's move to cut programs.

He shared that over a four-year period, the university expected to save \$15,000, \$10,000 and \$30,000 from eliminating the philosophy, piano pedagogy and performance, and economics majors respectively. Members of the small audience were visibly and audibly shocked.

In an interview with The Rider News, James Hartman, Rider's senior vice president for finance and chief financial officer, explained that these figures are indicative specifically of savings from section reductions, and the total number of savings over a four-year period from eliminations and archivals leans closer to \$500,000.

In Halpern's opinion, the decision to make away with certain programs did not come from an interest in finance, rather an attempt to change the trajectory and offerings of the university.

"This is not about saving the institution from bankruptcy by eliminating these programs," Halpern said. "Many of those, there's no savings at all. This is about the nature of the institution."

Hartman said that the decisions in program cuts were the results of a "very thoughtful process," and stressed that they weren't solely financial.

"It's also about doing an internal review of your academic portfolio and making sure that those programs still align with your mission and your strategic vision," said Hartman. "We have limited resources to invest in every program."

Many conversations regarding the elimination of small programs have turned to enrollment numbers

as reasoning, but panel members stressed that though it is in these programs' natures to be small, that does not make them invaluable.

When asked why she felt it was important to give small programs the platform to speak out, Murray shared that the panel came from a culmination of her interest in philosophy and her viewpoint of smaller programs in the humanities.

"I think it's so unfortunate that there are certain liberal arts topics or subjects or disciplines that are treated as if they are less important because they're not as sort of immediately profitable as the STEM disciplines or business," Murray said.

Philosophy professor Joel Feldman spoke adamantly on the panel about the impacts that cuts have had on his department dating back to 2015. Like many of the programs slated for elimination or archival, the philosophy department has struggled with a lack of resources, most notably a dwindling number of professors due to a lapse in rehiring.

Feldman said his department meetings have become "grim exercises in desperation" as they "struggle to figure out how to deliver the curriculum." Feldman explained that there is a direct correlation between the downsizing in department faculty and the courses offered because the loss of faculty translates to a lack of expertise to teach a wide range of courses.

Other panelists included Joel Phillips, a music theory and composition professor, Elizabeth Scheiber, chair of the department of languages literatures and cultures and Debbi-Anne Francis, a graduate student studying piano pedagogy and performance.

Both joined in sharing their frustrations and disappointment in the university's move to eliminate and archive their programs.

Scheiber said that members of her department feel "demoralized" and concerned about the department's future.

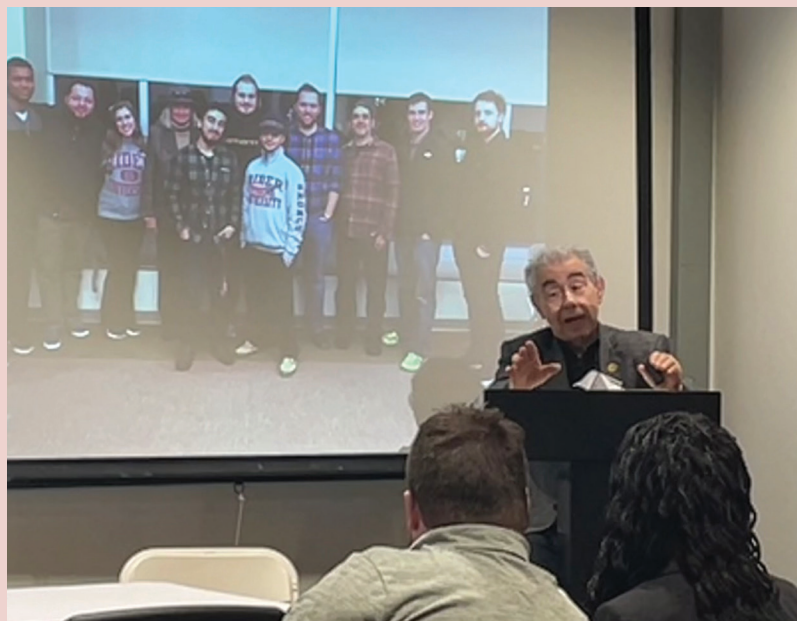
"The last so many years, I really don't feel like the humanities [are] respected here. I don't feel like our contribution is appreciated," Scheiber said. She added that while she doesn't have a problem with more vocational or business oriented aspects, the humanities are "the backbone and the strength...so many important things happen in those classes."

At the end of the event, senior arts and entertainment industries management major Gabe Kennis invited the audience to spread the word and wear black on April 26 to "show solidarity for the programs and professors threatened."

"If we the students don't step up to help these programs, frankly, administrators don't have a reason to value them," Kennis said.

When asked why she felt it important to revisit the fall decision to eliminate and archive small programs, Murray explained that it's never too late for advocacy.

"There is no time limit on the needs of the students," she said. "I truly feel that if there are enough people speaking up that it is possible to make change."



Kaitlyn McCormick/The Rider News

Jeffrey Halpern speaks to the panel audience on April 20.



Courtesy of Rider University

AJ the Bronc welcomes guests to Rider's Open House

Rider sees record Open House turnout

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financial circumstance, which Moody's reports culminates in \$111 million of outstanding debt, and criticism following the archival and elimination of a number of small programs. However, Hartman and Aromando made sure to continue enforcing the impact the COVID-19 pandemic had on class sizes and enrollment and, subsequently, finances.

"If you have a down year in enrollment ... you live with that lower class for four years until they graduate," Hartman said, explaining that financial implications from one low-enrolled or low-residency year can impact the university for a longer period of time.

Despite these issues, Aromando is remaining positive in Rider's sense of "rebranding."

One facet of this phase is "notching up" the quality of admits, which Aromando said is to ensure that the university is enrolling students who will be successful academically and financially. For example, the school is not admitting students with a 2.5 GPA or below.

"Additionally, in some of the majors students have tended to struggle, mostly the sciences, we've enhanced the transcript review to make sure we've got four years of math or four years of science," Aromando said. "It makes the classroom better ... and it also improves things like retention rates."

He also reflected on the \$500 balance deregistration threshold put in place last semester.

"We want to recruit to retain, and we want to set students up for academic success and financial success. We don't do any favors to anybody by starting them out, letting the balance snowball, and then they end up having to transfer out with a balance," Aromando said.

To prepare for May 1, the university has scheduled a slew of decision week events. The sudden uptick in interest is one that Aromando and Hartman described as not from any one specific reason, rather an across the board effort in getting the Rider name out and utilizing marketing and admission strategies.

"There really seems to be a buzz about Rider right now," Hartman said. "It's a pretty neat place to be."

'View Through Elliot's Shack': tracking Rider's art sale - By Amethyst Martinez



All-American businesses: Rider's Veteran Entrepreneurship Program - By Sarah F. Griffin



The Rider News claims state, regional journalism honors

By Jay Roberson

BEING on the forefront of coverage in a pivotal year for the university, The Rider News' work has led to a number of individual and organizational awards, including finishing second place in general excellence within the state of New Jersey and as a regional finalist for best all-around newspaper.

The Rider News won multiple awards from the New Jersey Press Foundation (NJPF), including second place for general excellence, first place for enterprise/investigative reporting, sports writing, news writing and layout and design. The newspaper also won second place in the sections online video and editorial writing.

Amethyst Martinez, junior journalism major and incoming executive editor of The Rider News, said, "I'm happy that the entire newsroom was recognized for their hard work during this school year when we won second place."

Junior sports media major and incoming managing editor Jake Tiger received first place in best sports writing from the Society of Professional Journalists' (SPJ) regional competition for his story, "From court to courtside: MyNeshia McKenzie 'bleeds cranberry,'" a feature on a Rider alumna who came back to coach the basketball team she once played on.

"It's a huge honor to receive, and honestly, this year has been crazy and it's really nice to be rewarded in the end," said Tiger. "I feel like I've come a long way as a writer, and this award is really encouraging and it's good to know that I'm moving in the right direction."

Shaun Chornobroff, senior sports media major and executive editor of The Rider News for the 2022-23 school year, Martinez and senior journalism major Olivia Nicoletti were awarded first place in news writing from the NJPF. Chornobroff, Martinez and junior journalism major Kaitlyn

McCormick were SPJ finalists for best general news coverage for their coverage of labor unions.

"I was grateful to have a large staff and multiple writers that wanted to step out, not because I asked them to, but wanted to put out the best content and wanted the experience and [to] really immerse themselves in that," said Chornobroff.

Chornobroff also received first place in sports writing from NJPF.

"I think my sports expertise is something that was where it needed to be and I thought it was really cool to be rewarded for that," said Chornobroff. "It was kind of representative of the last year and all that I've tried to do and really honestly representative of my last four years and my personal growth."

Senior sports media major and sports editor Carolo Pascale received a nomination for best photo illustrations from SPJ.

"It's been a lot of fun to kind of learn the different ways I can cover sports and cover them not just through writing, but through photography, graphic design and illustrations," said Pascale.

Martinez also received first place in the enterprise/investigative reporting categories from

NJPF. She talked about her appreciation for the paper and the hard work of her peers.

"All of the work that the newsroom has put in throughout the year has definitely paid off and has shown that The Rider News continues and will continue to be a really respectable and trusted organization to get your news from. We've been through a lot this year," Martinez said.

Senior graphic design major and The Rider News Design Manager Adrienne Unfreed, Pascale and freshman graphic design major Angelina Fierro received first place in layout and design from NJPF. This is Unfreed's second year receiving this award.

"I'm very honored to be able to win two years in a row. I can't help but thank the team here and how amazing and supportive everyone has been. I couldn't have done it without everyone here," said Unfreed.

Felicia Roehm, sophomore journalism major and opinion editor, received second place in editorial writing from NJPF.

"I'm thrilled to have won an award this year because I was not expecting it at all, so I'm really happy and excited to win something. I really enjoyed being an editor and can't wait to continue into next year," Roehm said.

Junior communications major and video editor Bridget Hoyt won second place in the online video category for her "Rider's Got Talent and some to spare" video.

"Doing this more has helped me learn about journalism," Hoyt said. "I've made a lot of progress in the last year and a half. There's a definite improvement in my work over time."

Chornobroff looked back on his experience at The Rider News and over the past year in his role as executive editor and showed his appreciation for the job.

"It's been my entire career" said Chornobroff. "It made me the journalist I am and I guess everything I can go on to do is because I joined The Rider News."



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

The Rider News Staff celebrates its journalistic recognition.

Seniors lament changes made to beloved tradition

By Michelle Pellegrino

SENIOR Week, a regular tradition at Rider hosted to give a final sendoff to those graduating, has been moved to the week before finals, causing many seniors to express a resounding feeling of disappointment with these changes. Previously, it had been held after finals have ended.

"I was expecting to have one like right before graduation because that's what they've had in the past," said senior elementary education major Angela Rizzo regarding Senior Week.

According to an email sent to Rider students on April 5, 2022 from Associate Dean of Campus Life Nicholas Barbati, last year's Senior Week took place between final exams and graduation and included events like a trip to Atlantic City, New Jersey, a senior celebration kick-off at the pub, a barbecue, a senior brunch and, of course, Senior Ball. Seniors were also allowed to stay on campus an extra week, giving them one last hurrah to their college experience.

Barbati explained that a multitude of reasons resulted in the decision, including lack of interest and expenses, but came down to changes in the layout of the 2022-2023 academic calendar.

"It just didn't seem like it was really in the best interest of our students," said Barbati. "We wanted to capture the students at the time in which they would be most excited to ... participate in senior activities, which is why we're introducing them the week prior now."

Barbati said that if they kept Senior Week for after finals, seniors would be on campus for eight days after the last testing day and explained that it seemed excessive.

"The senior class counsel and I were really trying to figure out what would be best for the students given the timeline," said Barbati.

Although he said there hasn't been any complaints, some seniors are still upset with the decision to move Senior Week to before finals, due to many events being held during the last week of classes and the weekend before final exams.

"I was disappointed because a lot of the events were during the week when I had class or I have other things going on already," said Rizzo.

Vice chair of the senior class and healthcare policy major Katy Timari said that she, along with Barbati and senior class chair Lindsay Clarke, had some fears about not being able to provide a Senior Week this year. They listed a lack of attendance and students' unwillingness to pay additional fees for activities as reasons why the decision was made to skip it. Instead, they decided to hold more events throughout the semester.

"We held it throughout the course of the semester so that way we could pull from different funding in order to be able to have events that were free for people to go to," said Timari. "We had a tailgating event at the pub prior to one of our basketball games in February, this upcoming Friday, we are having Last Call at the pub ... and then we're also having our Senior Ball."

According to Barbati's April 5 email, students who wished to participate in all of the Senior Week events last year had to pay a fee of \$140, or a total of \$200 if they also wished to bring a guest to Senior Ball. Tickets to the ball were included in this package and were also offered separately at \$60 a ticket for seniors who did not want the entire event package.

By pulling funding from different sources in order to have events throughout the semester, seniors were spared an additional charge of \$80 to participate in Senior Week. However, even this decision that takes into account students' financial situations isn't

without its consequences.

"There are people who went on the semester in LA trip who weren't here throughout the semester," Rizzo pointed out. "It's difficult for those people to be fully involved as well when the events are spread out throughout the year."

When asked how she feels about not having a Senior Week as a senior herself, Timari responded, "It's a little bit sad that it isn't like a week at the end of the school year, but again, we do really have a lot of really fun events that have been provided."

Senior film and television major Karl Stever shared similar feelings.

"I think it's cool that we get to have a Senior Ball and some fun senior events. I guess it does suck to some extent that we can't have a week dedicated to us, but it is what it is," said Stever. "I think that we should be grateful for the events that we do have, you know? I'm sure that a lot of people would be upset if we didn't have the ball or other events for the seniors."

While Rizzo recognized the hard work that was put into these events and their organizers' sensitivity to students' financial situations, she also expressed how the COVID-19 pandemic added to her disappointment.

"Our class of 2023 missed out on half of our spring semester in person our freshman year, we missed out on a sophomore year in person, and then our junior year was, like, masks," said Rizzo. "So this senior year was like our first fully in-person year, so I thought [Senior Week] would be a great way to celebrate what we've gone through and how far we've come."

Amethyst Martinez contributed to the reporting for this story.

Food Truck Friday returns to close the semester

By Bridget Gum-Egan

As the air began to cool on April 21, a breeze carried the delicious smells from the four food trucks throughout the Campus Mall, accompanied by the throbbing sounds of music. Despite the event starting at 7 p.m., many Rider students began lining up for food well before the official start time. However, students were in for a surprise as the Student Entertainment Council (SEC) had announced a new system for running this event.

Earlier that day, the SEC sent out a mass email explaining that new steps would have to be taken in order for students to get any of the food options. According to the email, “Students must show a Rider ID to receive a meal ticket and cannot receive another ticket until the previous one has been used.” Essentially, each student had to stand in line for a voucher for one of the food trucks. After receiving the ticket, people had to then stand in line at the food truck of their choice. However, students could go back to get more vouchers as many times as they wanted, as long as they presented their ID each time.

Kyylah Harley, senior psychology major and member of the SEC, explained why the voucher system had been introduced. “The last one [Food Truck Friday] there were a lot of non-Rider students here,” she said. “We didn’t want any non-Rider students to take food from Rider students.”

Harley expanded by explaining how the SEC as a group came up with the voucher system because it was the best solution to provide Rider students with the most options and availability to the food offered.

Harley was also responsible for selecting the food trucks that were



The Food Truck Friday tradition returns to celebrate the end of the semester.

available during the event, including Kona Ice, YooCuzz, La Coqueta and Tha Cha Chak. She described the selection of these specific food trucks as a “process.”

Harley’s hard work paid off, because smiling faces and stuffed bellies could be seen all around. Kona Ice offered shaved ice, but allowed the students to select their own flavors through a dispenser on the side of the truck. Evidence of this truck’s popularity could be seen on multi-colored stained lips.

YooCuz had a menu of chili dogs, mozzarella sticks and french fries. Throughout the campus mall and various lines, students could be heard ranting and raving about the salty and crispy fries, but even more so about the piping hot, cheesy mozzarella sticks accompanied by marinara sauce.

Next was a Food Truck Friday veteran, La Coqueta. This truck made street tacos with base options of either meat or vegetables to accommodate all diets. The plain corn tortilla was overflowing with

the choice of base, diced tomatoes, onions, shredded lettuce and cilantro. As if the tacos weren’t filling enough, La Coqueta also provided each student with a side of street corn covered in a variety of powerful spices.



The fourth option was Tha Cha Chak, which offered a box stuffed to the brim with rice, choice of chicken or tofu, cooked zucchini and squash and topped with two spring rolls with two different sauces for dipping or spreading throughout the container. Though the longest line of the event was at this truck, many students expressed that it was worth the wait because it was so hot and filling.

Senior English major Elayna Badger said that she came to the event to take the pressure of having to cook herself dinner that night. While she was a little frustrated by the ticket system, the time in line gave her an idea to improve the event.

“It might have been better to have a booklet,” she said. “Like you show your ID and get a booklet of tickets to all four places. That way they can see that you’ve only got one from each place and you don’t have to get back in line.”

Badger also mentioned that she really appreciated how all of the food trucks were lined up one after the other in one location because she found it very annoying to do a “scavenger hunt” for food.

Rider students can appreciate the event, as it takes some stress off their busy schedules and they can mingle, relax and relish in delectable food options.

Graphics by Rashe Mishra/The Rider News



ArtBeast is back for the first time since COVID-19

By Julia Train

TWELVE years ago, associate professor Todd Dellinger created the festivals and event management course to teach students everything that goes into planning festivals and similar events.

The class focuses on event marketing, safety precautions, obtaining vendors and more. When it was created, so was the multi-arts festival ArtBeast.

“The growth of the program, in size and depth, has been evolutionary. Although the ideas every class brings are different, the main concept of ArtBeast remains,” said Dellinger, founding coordinator of Arts & Entertainment Industries Management (AEIM).

On April 28, the festival will come back for the first time since the pandemic paused it for two years.

Each year, the name is manipulated to blend the original title of ArtBeast with the theme. For 2023, it’s called ARTSTORM to draw attention to the topic of climate change and natural disasters.

“I started out with the concept that there’s a lot of things in the world relating to natural disasters and how [they’re] getting systemically worse due to the effects of climate change,” said senior AEIM major Gabe Kennis.

He added the idea of taking the element of storms and incorporating that to the overall theme of the event and the entire class agreed.

One of their classmates is also an Eco Rep and is helping with the art-making aspects by creating a disco ball out of reusable materials that will be used at the nighttime portion of the event.

“We’re trying to use as many sustainable resources as possible, especially for the arts making aspect of it,” said junior AEIM major Megyn Kukulka. “We’re also using materials from years past, as a lot of our resources. Granted, we are given a pretty decent budget for the overall festival. We did make sure to kind of say, ‘Okay, what can we use in years to come as well as what do we already have that we can use for the festival itself?’”

They were given a \$10,000 budget for the festival, which was allocated after their proposal was approved by the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

They began promoting the event about two months ago on Instagram and tabled throughout the week of April 24 with a photo booth in front of the Student Recreation Center (SRC). The photos were uploaded to a Flickr that’s linked to the @Rider.aeim Instagram account. Students can go in and find the

photo of themselves and post it with #artstorm23.

The photobooth will also be at the festival on Friday.

The class is also completing a paint-by-number legacy project to raise money for a diversity, equity and inclusion scholarship. Those that wish to participate can pay \$3 to paint a square themselves or sponsor one, where an AEIM member will paint it for them after their donation, Kukulka said.

In addition to the paint-by-number, there will be drag artists, local musicians and art making activities: including sand bottle art, painting and slime making. They are also bringing education to the event with the Rider poets’ booth, Rider’s Libraries’ virtual reality experiences and a sound healer.

“Education and our legacy project are two different ways that we are hoping to make those long term impacts and not just affect the campus by having an awesome event,” said Kennis. “But also having an event that might [change] how you look at poetry, [virtual reality] or sound healing and also making sure to give back to make this campus experience more vibrant and exciting for the future.”



Graphic by Megan Kukulka and Gabrielle Cetrulo Porter

The promotional poster for ARTSTORM which takes place Friday, April 28.



Julia Train/The Rider News

Junior Arts & Entertainment Industries Management majors, junior Rachel Seigerman and senior Sarah Snyder paint outside of the Student Recreation Center (SRC).

Students and side hustles: a match made in heaven

By **Kaitlyn McCormick**

THERE'S no doubt that college can be expensive, but a look into what Rider students are doing with their spare time, from eBay to Etsy to showgirl dancing and ultrasound workshopping, is the pinnacle definition of the term side hustle.

In today's digital age, students have turned to resources like eBay, Etsy and even Instagram to showcase and sell their wares. Senior communication studies major Andrew Coates has an eBay store where he sells baseball cards and flips kitchenware, his highest profit being around \$800 for a rare pair of Topps rookie cards.

According to Coates, who has been selling on eBay for about a year, it can be a great way to bring in money without a major time commitment.

"You can pop in the thrift store even after school or something and take a quick look around," Coates said, noting that it can take just a few minutes to find something worth flipping. "It kinda keeps me going; it's like a fun lottery-type thing."

Sophomore sociology major Jennie Mae Sprouse also shared her experience using online platforms to share and sell her work: homemade earrings. Sprouse shared that making earrings had become a hobby at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, and she soon after started selling them on the popular online platform Etsy.

"I've always wanted to learn how to make jewelry ... I sort of went into it blindly," Sprouse said.

After having some issues with the platform, Sprouse decided to operate mainly from Instagram. Her page, @jenniemacearrings, highlights a variety of earrings from celestial enamel dangles to miniature pepsi cans.

While Sprouse admits to facing a lull in posting, she has utilized her connections at Rider to both sell and share her work with friends. She also did an event with her sorority, Sigma Alpha Iota.

Outside of what some may deem more traditional routes for an extra paycheck, some students have found income through more niche avenues.

Senior finance major Brittany L. works as a professional performer, doing both ballroom and night club gigs. Brittany requested to have her last name omitted due to the differences in her intended field and side job as a professional dancer, noting the common misconceptions about performance work that exist in the finance field.

"I've met so many people and [have] been faced with so many different opinions on being a professional performer, and since some were rather negative I don't want this to impact my career as a financial professional," said Brittany.

Brittany's performances range from professional showgirl work, stilt walking, night club dancing, choreography and LED performances. She said that she puts forth 20-30 hours per week performing on top of other academic and professional responsibilities.

"A lot of people who know me know if they even have a sniffle, I'm 10 feet away from them. I cannot get

sick. I cannot miss work. I can't miss a performance, none of that," Brittany said.

Throughout the years starting in a ballroom dance background and crossing the threshold to a professional career, she shared that one of her favorite parts is seeing how much she has grown in her own technique and skill.

The last installment of these Bronc's side hustles comes from senior film and television major Karl Stever, who makes \$400-\$500 a few times a year working with the New York School of Regional Anesthesia on the weekends.

"I set up six to eight ultrasound machines along with a projector for professors around America to come give lectures about how to properly do ultrasounds on human bodies," Stever said.

The work takes two different roles, either setting up the audio visual parts of the ultrasound presentation or serving as a live model. As for preference, Stever said that while the setup and breakdown pay more, it depends on what mood he's in.

While Stever said these workshops take place all over from Dubai to Florida, he primarily works in Weehawken, New Jersey.

"It's incredibly easy money ... spread out through the year," Stever said, noting that he plans to keep up with the practice after graduation.

Regardless of what jobs students are doing to rake in some extra pocket change, these Broncs have run the gamut in potential earning activities.

Adrienne Unfreed/The Rider News

SIDE HUSTLES

Rider Edition



Photo courtesy of Andrew Coates

Andrew Coates a senior communication studies major poses with a baseball card he flipped. The card sold for \$391.70 on eBay.



Photo courtesy of Jennie Mae Sprouse



Sophomore sociology major Jennie Mae Sprouse hand makes a variety of fun and unique earrings.



Photo courtesy of Brittany L.

Senior finance major Brittany L. works as a professional performer on the weekends.

Photo courtesy of Riley Mozes



Senior health science major **Riley Mozes** is continuing her Rider education and furthering her leadership roles.

Senior Spotlight: Riley Mozes and her future at Rider

By **Hannah Newman**

SENIOR health science major Riley Mozes' journey has reflected her future steps after graduation, traveling down the road of involvement throughout her college career. The journey has led her to a final destination as she nears the end of her days as an undergraduate, but will be continuing her journey in leadership by coming back in the fall to work toward a degree in organizational leadership with a concentration in higher education.

Mozes transferred to Rider during her sophomore year in the peak of the pandemic, when social interaction was at the bare minimum and opportunities to grow were thin. Mozes took it upon herself to see the pandemic as a reason to get involved and build on who she wanted to be despite the adversity that was placed in front of her.

Becoming a sister of Alpha Xi Delta sorority was Mozes' first chance to be a leader at Rider. She immediately ran for the position of assistant new member orientation director her sophomore year, was elected, and mentored new members while in the position. The position was Mozes' first glance at what it would be like to be a leader on campus.

"My favorite part about this position was being able to help the new members learn about everything our chapter has to offer and watch them flourish as they continue to grow," said Mozes.

In addition to Mozes' involvement within her sorority, she was eager to explore leadership opportunities beyond Greek life.

The following summer after joining her sorority, Mozes became an orientation leader which was her first leadership experience serving the Rider community. The opportunity was a pivotal moment for Mozes' college career where she discovered that she can learn while teaching others.

"Not only did I help people learn about Rider, I was learning about it as well," said Mozes.

She then began to get involved in the National Panhellenic Council (NPC), which oversees all of sorority life on campus. Her first position in the council was director of philanthropy, where she was in charge of choosing a philanthropic organization for all four sororities to raise money for together. On top of that, Mozes also oversaw the fundraising that each sorority does for their designated philanthropy.

The philanthropy chosen during Mozes' term was Circle of Sisterhood, an organization dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls through education across the globe.

Mozes' efforts during her term led her to becoming

NPC president during her senior year where her heavy dedication to ensuring that the preliminary new members get the most out of the recruitment experience that is granted to them.

"Riley changed the entire structure of how we run the recruitment process so that the preliminary new members [PNMs] can have more time getting to know each organization on a personal level," said junior public relations major and director of communications and vice president of NPC during Mozes' term Caroline Quattro.

"She has changed the structure of recruitment so that both the organizations and new members can feel connected before everyone makes their decision," said Quattro. "This result of her efforts were very visible through the reactions that PNMs had throughout their recruitment experience. This change definitely enhanced the recruitment process and will hopefully continue to draw women into Greek life."

The encouragement that her peers delivered encouraged her to seek the position of executive vice president of the Student Government Association (SGA). Mozes explained how she became a leader to not just an organization on campus but to the entirety of the student body.

Serving as the executive vice president of SGA requires a keen sense of community building and that's exactly what Mozes has done throughout her role.

Senior political science major and former SGA President Andrew Bernstein said, "She's someone I'm proud to have worked with and someone who I can confidently say has left an impact at Rider."

Bernstein added, "What I admire most about Riley is that her motivation for being involved on campus stems from her desire to improve and contribute to the community."

While Mozes was in the process of building her future self, her father, John Mozes, general manager of 107.7 The Bronc, mentioned that people would tell him that they forget she is his daughter. He took this as a compliment that signified that Riley Mozes has become a leader and networked opportunities that had nothing to do with her father's position on campus. He recalled that he barely sees his daughter on campus although her efforts speak for themselves.

"She finally figured out what she wanted to do and who she wanted to be in life. She was a transfer student and a health science major but now she has decided to work in academia and follow that career

path because she has enjoyed working with students so much so I think I am most proud of the fact that she has just discovered who she is as a person," said John Mozes.

As Riley Mozes transforms her positions as an undergraduate to a graduate student, she now understands the value of college and its contributions to building oneself and how it can shape an individual for the rest of their lives.

"Rider has proven to be the value of my education and all that I can use it for, but also the value of real world experience and how I can grow into myself as a person," said Riley Mozes.

This article is part of the Senior Spotlight series by The Rider News to showcase the college experience and future plans of seniors on campus.



Photo courtesy of Riley Mozes

Riley Mozes with her Little **Amanda Conover**, a junior elementary education major. **Mozes and Conover** are sisters of AXID.

Senior send off: executive editor says goodbye to The Rider News

UPON my first day as managing editor of The Rider News, I remember walking past the painted bricks of the newspaper alums before me with a tinge of fear and an unspoken nervousness. In my office I found a Post-it note from my predecessor telling me it was my game time and immediately, I felt at home.

When I sat down on my stained couch to scribble my thoughts for this piece, I found myself clueless and decided to search my name on The Rider News website, scrolling through old articles in an effort for inspiration. What I found myself captivated by wasn't the stories I remembered writing and the memories that accompanied. Instead, it was how many articles and stories I'd forgotten along the way, and the note, which gave me ease during a nerve-racking day.

My four years at The Rider News and the school have been a slip and slide full of new experiences, great memories, lessons learned, an unexpected amount of stress and pleasant surprises in every facet of my personal and professional life.

When I first arrived at Rider in fall 2019, I stepped into the newsroom on the first Wednesday hoping to make myself an immediate contributor to the newspaper. I waited a month for my first assignment: covering a women's soccer game during an unseasonably hot afternoon in the first week of October.

Since that first story, The Rider News has been one of my greatest passions, teaching me to trust in myself and serving as a driving vehicle in helping me find myself.

I started as an average sports writer before being elevated to sports editor for my sophomore year. That year, covering collegiate sports at its most unique point, when there was no competition in the fall and an abundance of it in the spring, was my first true journalistic challenge.

My junior year I served as managing editor, covering the everchanging COVID-19 pandemic and integrating myself as a leader at the newspaper.

This past year as executive editor has been the most gratifying experience of my life. Seeing the passion of the staff over the past year, the growth in my co-workers as they take their next leap always caused a subtle smile to break through. The position tested me and I am forever indebted to every editor, writer, graphic designer and photographer for being irreplaceable parts of putting out an amazing paper week after week.

Transitioning from a sports nut, scribing stats and scores to a news writer, covering pressing topics such as the pandemic, the Westminster College (WCC) transition and labor negotiations was not something I ever anticipated myself doing. Yet, here we are. As I reflect, writing the article I think most who come through the newspaper never expect to see published, it amazes me how fast the time has passed, but more so how many people had an influence on me along the way.

My first semester as sports editor was spent with my co-editor Dylan Manfre '22 digging into Rider athletics, telling unique stories that I still hold dear to this day. As a freshman, before we were co-editors, Dylan served as a mentor and used to meet me before our weekly meeting and privately give me critiques of my story for that week. Dylan believed in me before I believed in myself and without our work together, I don't know what journalist I would be.

To Stephen Neukam and Austin Ferguson, the executive and managing editor during my sophomore year, our continued friendship and my underwhelming fantasy football performance is evidence of the bonds this newspaper creates. Taking over for Austin as managing editor my junior year was a pleasure in itself and Stephen, you were my first executive editor and a great example.

To Sarah Siock, thank you for being a fantastic executive editor, not only preparing me for the role, but tolerating me as I learned the ropes of leadership, especially in moments when I may seemed amateur.

This past year, the newspaper's storytelling and visual appeal was the most diverse it's been in my time here, although I am biased. All my expectations for the newspaper were surpassed and none of that is possible without Amethyst Martinez being the ideal partner as managing editor.

To Amethyst and Jake Tiger, the executive and managing editor of The Rider News next year, as well as the rest of the staff, you all have the potential to be a special group and tell amazing stories. I can't wait to read this fall as your biggest supporter.

Lastly, to the Rider community, thank you for letting me tell your stories, it's been nothing short of an honor.

Shaun Chornobroff
senior sports media major



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

Shaun Chornobroff says goodbye to The Rider News.

THE Rider News

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©2023 General Meetings: Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m.

Executive Editor Amethyst Martinez	Video Editor Bridget Hoyt
Managing Editor Jake Tiger	Copy Editors Bridget Gum-Egan
News Editors Kaitlyn McCormick	Asha Burtin
Jay Roberson	Julia Train
Features and Arts & Entertainment Editors Tristan E. M. Leach	Madison Lewis
Hannah Newman	Caroline Haviland
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SOPHOMORE SIGHTINGS

First year as The Rider News opinion editor

In March 2022, I received an email from Shaun Chornobroff who was going to be the executive editor of The Rider News. It was about putting together next year's staff, and asked me if I was interested in a position. There were two positions available, opinion editor and a copy editor role. I was so excited when I received the email, and was immediately interested in being a copy editor. To become a copy editor you have to take a test, which includes reading an article, finding the mistakes and correcting as many as you can. I took the test the same week, and let's just say, I didn't do well. I didn't have much interest in being an opinion editor so I thought after I failed the test I would no longer have the opportunity to be on The Rider News staff.

After talking with some friends and family who were all telling me to reach out to Chornobroff again about inquiring about the opinion editor position, I finally did a month later. I thought by that point, the position must have been filled and there was still no way I would be offered the job; however, to my surprise, Chornobroff emailed back saying the position was still available, but they weren't planning on filling it until the fall. He recommended I write an opinion article to get some experience. My first opinion article was about the sexism in the dance industry, and is still one of my favorite articles that I have written.

The following week, I reached out again hoping to discuss more about the position and Chornobroff offered to have a meeting with me. Chornobroff and Amethyst Martinez, the soon-to-be managing editor, wanted to get to know me and see if I was the right fit for the job. I was nervous because I really wanted to make a good first impression, but the second the meeting started I began to relax. Both Chornobroff and Martinez were incredibly nice, and I left thinking the conversation went really well. They told me about the responsibilities I would have as opinion editor and I would be in charge of gathering articles every week, creating the layout and writing my own article as well.

I received an email in May from Shaun offering me the position and I was thrilled. During the summer, I was a bit worried because I was afraid I wouldn't be able to do the job well, and I had no previous experience so I was going in completely blind. Before the fall semester began, Martinez helped me and showed me some of the tasks I would have to do every week. During the first few weeks, I made a few mistakes, but everyone was so encouraging and helpful.

On the first day two features and entertainment editors, Tristan Leach and Hannah Newman, offered to walk to Cranberry's together to get dinner to get to start bonding. I loved the offer, and we continued to walk to get dinner every week throughout the year. I looked forward to the walks every week because I got to know both of them really well and always enjoyed their company. Every year, The Rider News submits articles to the New Jersey Press Foundation state awards.

This year, I am so grateful to have won second place for editorial writing for my

article "Westminster students 'feel completely unheard and unseen.'" This is my first award for my writing and I am absolutely thrilled. My first year as opinion editor was so much fun, and I wrote about so many different topics and got to know so many amazing people. Of course there were some stressful moments, but I have truly enjoyed every part of being an opinion editor. I loved getting to know the other editors and I can't wait to continue next year.

Felicia Roehm

sophomore journalism major and opinion editor



Photo Courtesy of Felicia Roehm

Felicia Roehm posing with her New Jersey Press Foundation award.

JUNIOR JOURNALS

Daniel Caesar's shows new sound in latest album

It's been four years since we've heard from Daniel Caesar, with the release of his sophomore album, "Case Study 01" in 2019. The singer of hit R&B songs "Get You" and "Best Part," featuring singer-songwriter H.E.R., released his third studio album titled "Never Enough," earlier this month on April 7, 2023. The album features 15 tracks while the bonus version has 18, featuring artists such as Summer Walker, serpentwithfeet, Rick Ross, Ty Dolla \$ign, BADBADNOTGOOD and Omar Apollo.

The album opens up with the song "Ocho Rios" in which Caesar sings about a girl who has appeared to have saved him. Parts of the chorus reads, "Girl I don't deserve you" and "You're my saving grace." In spite of what he has done to the woman he is singing about, Caesar feels that she can still lift him up. The second verse, however, ends with a question, "And if you're tired, won't you let me know (Won't you let me know)/Has love expired, we be back and forth (Back and forth)." We then transition into to the second song on the album, "Valentina" which sounds like a part two to "Ocho Rios" in which Caesar sings, "Valentina baby/I only need one moment of time/To make you feel a way/From the first time I looked in your eyes."

As we get further into the album it is clear that Caesar has taken a step away from the more traditional R&B and gospel sounds heard in his debut album "Freudian," released in 2017. At the halfway point in this album, we are met with the seventh and eighth song, "Cool" and "Disillusioned," featuring serpentwithfeet.

"Cool" is a stripped back ballad. A part of Caesar's lyrics in this song hint to his feelings of loneliness, in the second chorus of the song he sings "Sometimes/I see myself 5-foot-4, playing in my room alone/Sometimes/I see myself amused in thought." This stripped back piece consisting of what appears to just be piano, strings and Caesar's stacked vocals tell a story of defeat, in which Caesar is "nodding in agreement" just to get through a day. "Disillusioned" featuring serpentwithfeet, provides us with a different sound than "Cool," however, the lyrical content is not entirely different, in which it speaks to Caesar's fears of growing older, as he sings "It weighs upon my shoulders."

In a recent Apple Music interview, Caesar states, "I would love to one day be more than human," in the process of apologizing, after being questioned about a previous controversy in which he defended a white influencer accused of appropriating black culture. The last two songs on the album, titled "Superpowers" and "Unstoppable," speak to this feeling, with lyrics from "Unstoppable" reading, "Now who's gon' stop us?/We're unstoppable."

The album provides listeners with a new sound from Daniel Caesar, it is one that suggests he is taking a new step in his career and leaving behind old values and ideals, while also discussing his personal inner turmoil.

Asha Burtin

junior music production major and copy editor



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

The cover of Daniel Caesar's new album "Always."

MEN'S PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**DWIGHT
MURRAY JR.****1236**

POINTS

332

ASSISTS

84

GAMES



Graphic by Eric Buckwalter/The Rider News

Senior guard **Dwight Murray Jr.** averaged 15.8 points in the 2022-23 season, enough to lead Rider in scoring.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

The 'Iona Killer' leaves lasting legacy at Rider

By **Carolo Pascale**

THE night of March 9, 2022 will forever be immortalized in the memories of Rider men's basketball fans because of one man. One man that slayed the dragon. One man nicknamed the "Iona Killer." One man who propelled a basketball program to its greatest heights in over a decade. And one man who spent three years as a Bronc preparing himself for the next level. Senior guard Dwight Murray Jr. is that man, and he's ready to make the leap to professional basketball.

A roadmap to Rider

Murray's path to that night started when he was a 4-year-old in his hometown of Austell, Georgia. He started playing basketball and didn't even hear about the NBA until he was 7 years old. He didn't get serious about basketball until his freshman year of high school. However, before then, another sport had his heart: football.

"I really was good at football," said Murray. "That was my dream, to go into the NFL."

But future NBA talent surrounded Murray everywhere he looked.

Murray went up against some of the best NBA prospects at the time, playing against Jaylen Brown, Ben Simmons and RJ Barrett. At Pebblebrook, Murray played alongside Jared Harper and Collin Sexton who

both found their way to the NBA.

"It just made my grind of where I wanted to be, at the high level, to push myself even more," Murray said.

Eventually the guard earned an offer from Incarnate Word University in San Antonio, nearly 1000 miles from his home. The call from the Cardinals came due to a connection with Darnell Archey, a former Southern Alabama coach that became an assistant at Incarnate Word.

"I remember putting DJ through a workout. Really good player," said Archey. "I got to the University of the Incarnate Word the summer of '18, and we needed a point guard. That's when I was like, I got the guy for us."

After his second year with the Cardinals, the COVID-19 pandemic hit and Murray decided to take a chance in the transfer portal.

"When I realized that I wanted to leave it was probably like the second to last game," said Murray. "I was on the court and I hadn't touched the ball like five positions. I was like 'I need to leave, I can't be here.'"

There were plenty of suitors for Murray's talents, including others from the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC), but Rider and Head Coach Kevin Baggett appealed to him. Baggett said that Murray really needed someone to breed confidence in him and that's what he and his staff did by bringing him to the Broncs. "I thought we could help him and he could help us," said Baggett. "He just needed someone to believe him and give him a chance."

The 'Iona Killer' is born

The Broncs were shot for shot with No. 1 Iona for most of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Tournament Quarterfinal. Murray comes up the court, gets stuck, but finds a way to nail the game winner with 7.7 seconds left, breaking the quarterfinal curse that had plagued the team for 11 years.

"It was all God basically," said Murray. "God had it all planned out for me. It was a great moment."

This past season, the final of the Murray era was

one of the best in recent memory. Rider won eight straight games, beat most of the MAAC and earned themselves the No. 2 spot in the tournament.

The biggest highlight of the regular season was when Murray did it again. Yes, Murray hit a second game winner against Iona.

The shot broke a 21-game home-winning streak. After the game, senior forward Mervin James, who was Murray's high school teammate and best friend that Murray recruited to Rider, dubbed Murray the "Iona Killer."

"Just seeing him making a name for me like that, that's just the love we have between us," said Murray.

'Just give me the chance'

Murray and his tournament game winner garnered national attention with it ending up on that week's ESPN's SportsCenter Top 10. Murray declared for the 2022 NBA Draft in the hopes of hearing what teams had to say about him.

"The process was actually kind of fun because it's been my dream the whole time," said Murray. "I wanted to hear feedback from the NBA teams and scouts, which I heard good things, bad things and that's exactly what I wanted to hear."

He ultimately returned to Rider for his final season, and now that it's over, he's once again pursuing the NBA with a new outlook on what he needs to do to get a chance from a team.

Both Archey and Baggett believe that there are great opportunities for Murray whether it's overseas or in the NBA. Baggett said that Murray has already gotten a contract offer from a team that they played while in Ireland, adding that Murray can play at any level he wants.

Murray has since returned to Georgia for workouts his agent scheduled and believes that his chances at getting a look from an NBA team are high as he will look to be just the fourth Rider Bronc to be drafted in the NBA.

"I'm just ready for it," said Murray. "All I have to do is keep working and just wait for at least one team to like me. Just give me that chance, that's all I need."



Senior guard **Dwight Murray Jr.** will forever be known as a Rider men's basketball great. (Andrew Xon/The Rider News).



Graduate student distance runner **Teagan Schein-Becker** almost went to art school, but is now posting some of the best times in the NCAA.

TRACK AND FIELD

'Two different dreams': Track is Schein-Becker's canvas

By **Jake Tiger**

TWENTY-ONE athletes lined up for the 800-meter race at the Virginia Challenge on April 21, few as feared as Rider's graduate student distance runner, Teagan Schein-Becker.

Years ago, running was Schein-Becker's backup plan, who now stepped to the starting line already holding the Rider record in the 800-meter race.

Schein-Becker sees running as a form of expression, but growing up, she always dreamed of painting at an art school, not shattering school records and competing with some of the nation's top athletes, but that dream was almost a reality.

With her spikes dug into the track, Schein-Becker took off in a blur of cranberry, but if not for a phone call, one of the most decorated runners in Rider history would have spent April 21 painting at Temple.

'I would just paint'

For Schein-Becker, artistic inclination runs in the family. Not only did her father go to school for graphic design, her grandmother was an art teacher, who gave a youthful Schein-Becker the tools and space she needed to create.

"I was always asking to go to her school," said Schein-Becker. "I would go to school, I would come back with her ... I would just paint."

Schein-Becker painted throughout her childhood, making it her focus in high school, but it was around that time when her talents as an athlete surfaced. The distance runner competed in the Pennsylvania State Championships multiple times, placing as high as ninth and garnering attention from recruiters.

Schein-Becker inevitably faced a fork in the road: one path paved in red rubber, the other a blank canvas running with color.

"If I went to Temple, it'd be for art school. If I [went to Rider], it'd be for running," said Schein-Becker. "In high school, I was [painting] every day; all of my classes were designated to art, because I was actually planning to go to art school."

Schein-Becker appeared destined for Temple, but a pivotal, impromptu phone call from Rider track and field Head Coach Bob Hamer swayed her toward

Rider at the last second.

"Hamer called me and he was like, 'Hey, so we had this scholarship money for you, and I if you don't take it now or tomorrow, it's done, so you have to decide,'" said Schein-Becker. "In that moment, I was like, 'Yeah, I'll take it. Let's go.'"

'People are drawn to her'

"I would love to tell you that I thought she would be this good. I had no idea," said Hamer.

In her time as a Bronc, Schein-Becker has rewritten the Rider record book, won an Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Indoor Championship for the 2022-23 season and etched her name into the upper echelon of the NCAA.

But it hasn't always been records and recognition for Schein-Becker.

Despite being named to the MAAC cross country all-rookie first team in 2018, Schein-Becker competed sparingly during her first few years at Rider, often battling injuries, mental health and social distractions.

"I was just not having a good time," said Schein-Becker. "My coach said, 'If you really want to do this, you have to figure out how to prioritize and push away everything.'"

Schein-Becker took her surplus of time during the COVID-19 pandemic to heal, train and reprioritize, and by 2021, she was a completely different person.

Running became her art.

In the last two years, Schein-Becker claimed six Rider records, currently holding the seventh-fastest 1500-meter, and 13th-fastest 800-meter times in the nation for the 2023 outdoor season.

As one of the team's strongest competitors and its only graduate student, Schein-Becker has also taken on a leadership role for the Broncs.

"I think people are drawn to her," said Hamer. "She has a vibe about her where people just want to be around her."

Thinking back to that fork in the road, Schein-Becker was confident she chose correctly.

"I really enjoy this track that I'm going down. ... I've learned a lot about who I want to be," said Schein-Becker. "All my coaches were the most

insightful people I've ever met. They've changed me as a person completely. I want to be that person for somebody."

Luckily for Schein-Becker, when she isn't flying around the track, she still finds time to let her imagination run wild. In her two-bedroom apartment, Schein-Becker converted one of the rooms into the art studio she'd always dreamed of having, complete with canvas, easel and cathartic creativity.

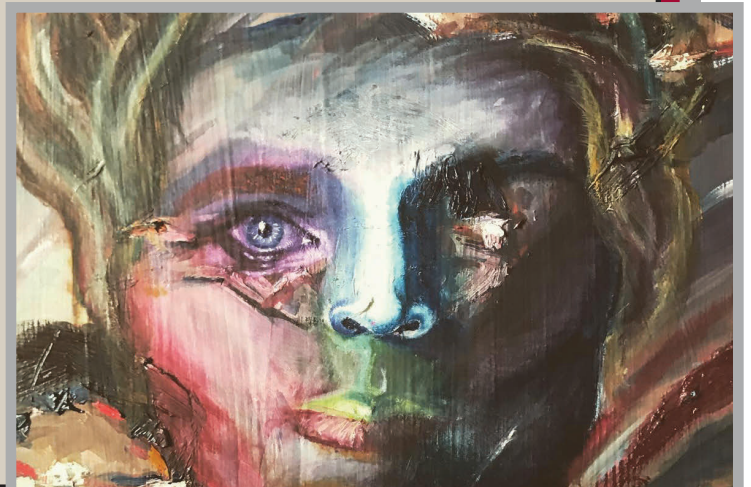
Schein-Becker described her artistic style as "forever evolving," finding that her body of work lacks a common theme because she's always growing as a person and trying new things.

"I feel so lifted. I'm back on my feet," said Schein-Becker. "It's sad that [art] became a hobby, because I always did dream of art school, but I'm living my dream right now too. I had two different dreams."

At the Virginia Challenge, despite distractions, indecision and injuries, Schein-Becker crossed the finish line on April 21 and put up a strong performance against some of the country's best, but the track star is never done improving her art.

"One of my high school coaches knew that I was all into the art program ... and every race he would just compare running to art, because it is expression," said Schein-Becker. "He said the phrase, 'Paint this race as a picture; create the ending.'"

Schein-Becker finished first and broke her own 800-meter Rider record by more than five seconds.



Graduate student distance runner **Teagan Schein-Becker** described her art style as "forever evolving." (Photos courtesy of Teagan Schein-Becker)

Sports

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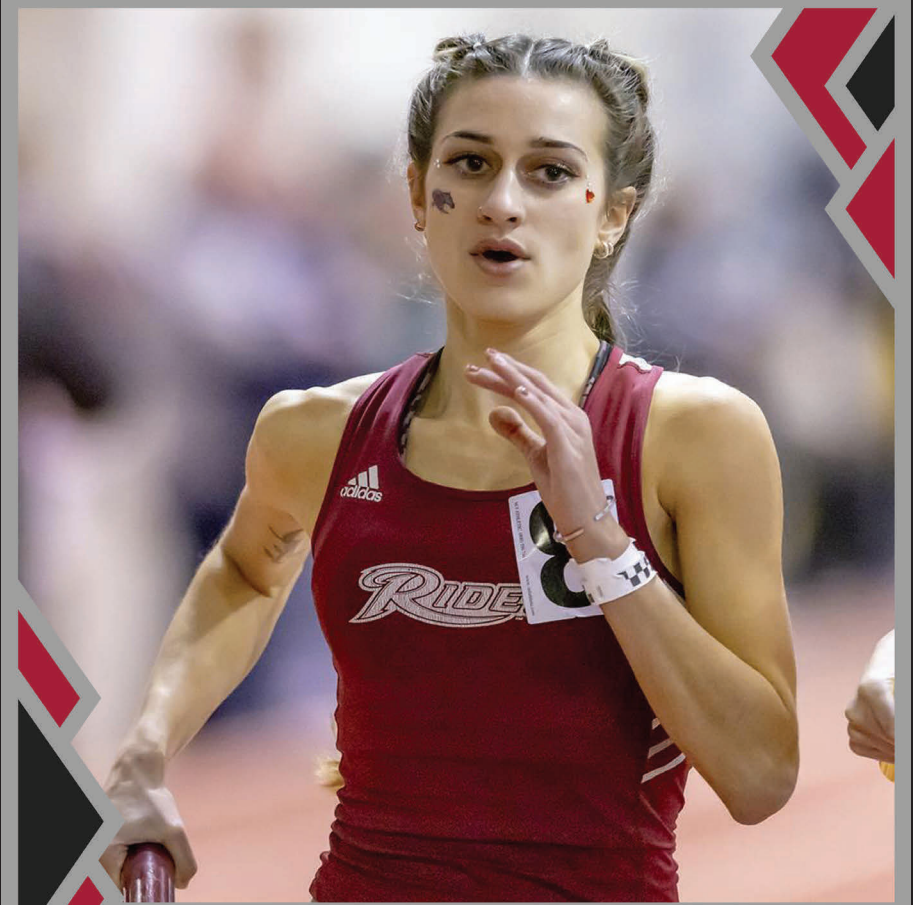
The Rider News 2022-23 men's and women's players of the year



DWIGHT MURRAY JR.

RIDER BRONCS GUARD

TheRiderNews



TEAGAN SCHEIN-BECKER

RIDER BRONCS DISTANCE RUNNER

TheRiderNews

Dwight Murray Jr.

By Benjamin Shinault

For the second consecutive year, Rider men's basketball's senior guard and captain, Dwight Murray Jr., was voted The Rider News' 2022-2023 men's player of the year. The award was decided via a poll sent out via the newspaper and social media.

Murray, during his 2022 campaign, was the player that opposing teams had to plan for. Whether it was his passing ability, his 3-point shot or his overall leadership on and off the court, Murray was one of the many elite players on the Broncs this past season.

Rider didn't have the result they were hoping for in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Tournament, as they lost to the 10th seeded Saint Peter's Peacocks 70-62, but Murray had plenty of highlights during the 2022-2023 regular season.

With regular season averages of 15.7 points, 3.0 assists and 5.0 rebounds per game, while shooting roughly 42% from the field and 40% from beyond the arc, it's easy to see why Murray led the Broncs in scoring in his final season.

Murray got right to work in the early stages of the season as he scored 18 points, grabbed six rebounds and assisted on four buckets all on national television in the Broncs season opener against Providence. And just two games later against Central Arkansas, the two-time all-MAAC guard, scored 30 points while shooting 59% from the field.

According to Murray, he had one key moment during the 2022 season that he believes was one of his most memorable. "It was probably getting the jump ball against Marist just because I told my team we need to get the jump ball for us to get the ball back for Allen Powell to hit the game-winning shot," said Murray.

Murray earned this honor in back-to-back years and this is what he stated when asked what he owed this award to: "I owe this to myself. I worked hard for this and I am just in shock. I mean, I owe this to everyone else that helped me to get to this position."

With the 2022-2023 season being the last for Murray in cranberry, Murray looks toward a professional career and the 2023 NBA Draft on June 22.

"Currently, I'm trying to make it to the NBA and it will happen only by God's will but that's what I'm pursuing," Murray said.

As Murray's career with the Broncs comes to a close, he will likely go down as one of the most decorated and talented Broncs to dribble through the Alumni Gym.

Teagan Schein-Becker

By Logan VanDine

After polling the Rider community, graduate student distance runner Teagan Schein-Becker was voted as The Rider News' 2022-23 women's player of the year. The award was decided on a poll that was sent out via the newspaper and displayed on social media.

Schein-Becker had a strong track season, setting three indoor track records in the 800-meter, the mile and the distance medley which helped crown her as the 2023 Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Indoor Champion.

If that was not enough, during the spring season, Schein-Becker broke her own outdoor records in the 800-meter with a time of 2:02.77, and in the 1500-meters with a time of 4:10.42, which, respectively, were among the top-15 nationally. Schein-Becker first joined the track and cross country teams during the 2018-19 season and despite some injuries she faced, still made an impact immediately.

The Pennsylvania native was named to the MAAC all-rookie team thanks to her strong finish at the MAAC Cross Country Championships and posting a season-best time of 23:23.5 in the 6K at the NCAA Mid-Atlantic Regional Cross Country Championships.

During her 2020-21 cross country season, Schein-Becker ran a collegiate-best in the 5K Jasper Individual, with an impressive time of 19:39.6.

On top of that, Schein-Becker became a member of the MAAC All-Academic Team with a major in graphic design, minoring in art.

This award especially means so much for Schein-Becker as injuries mounted throughout her career early on at Rider.

"I am super grateful. It's been a long process and a long journey," said Schein-Becker. "For many years, I have been struggling with injuries and stuff, so I feel like I finally got on my feet and got the ball rolling and everything is smooth now, so [I'm] very grateful to be healthy. But one thing that really stood out to me that my coach said was 'if you really want to do this, you have to figure out how to prioritize it and push away everything', and after that day I was like 'okay got it.'"

Schein-Becker also talked about how crazy it was breaking these Rider records and how she thought with all the injuries she was going through early on, it wouldn't be possible.

"It was definitely a surprise, but a really cool surprise," she said. "I came here my freshman year and I remember looking at the Rider records thinking that I'm going to be there one day."