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MAACness makes spooky return

Photos courtesy of Peter Borg/Rider University and Graphic by Jay Roberson/The Rider News



Rider reacts to latest Israel-Hamas war

By Amethyst Martinez and Caroline Haviland

In a global atmosphere rattled by news of the latest Israel-Hamas war, even small higher education institutions in the U.S. like Rider have seen repercussions, with resources being offered to students affected and professors trying to decipher the complicated conflict.

Tragedy struck on Oct. 7 when Hamas militants surprise-invaded Israel from Gaza, resulting in the deaths of over 1,400 people as of Oct. 16, according to reports by the Israeli Ministry. At least 30 American citizens were among the deceased, according to an article published by NPR.

Areas struck by Hamas include a music festival and two kibbutzim, Kfar Aza and the Be'eri Kibbutz, which were some of the hardest-hit places along the Gaza border, according to ABC News. Along with the deaths of the invasion, Hamas threatened to execute hostages.

The invasion led Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to declare war on Hamas, a Palestinian organization that the U.S. State Department declared a terrorist group in 1997. The week following resulted in Israeli military action against Gaza, including airstrikes and blocking off access to water, electricity and food and hints of a ground invasion.

At least 3,000 people have died in Gaza, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry as of Oct. 17.

The conflict has also exposed polarizing divides on large university campuses in America. The campus of Columbia University in New York was closed on Oct. 12 due to dueling pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian protests, according to the Associated Press.

Student reactions

Five days after the attack on Israel, Room 201 in the Science and Technology Center filled with students, faculty and staff to discuss the conflict during a teach-in hosted by the Department of Government, Politics and Law entitled, "War in Israel."

Before the program began, attendees whispered amongst themselves as the tension of the serious matter being discussed set in motion.

Sydney Tierney, a senior global studies major, said she attended to decipher the events and hear from professors on the difficult-to-navigate topic.

"This situation can be looked at in so many different ways," said Tierney. "...because of the severity, it just brought up a lot of questions for everyone."

Tierney said one of the issues she's been seeing is the misinformation spread about the war, and how social media platforms like TikTok are being used as search engines for news, leading to falsified details on the conflict.

Even if students, faculty or staff couldn't attend the meeting, the conversation was one that even those outside Rider's scope wanted to hear.

"I had friends that had a class... They couldn't make the event, but they wanted to know what was being

discussed," said Tierney. "I had family members that I told ... and they're like, let us know what you learned ... People had questions all around."

Faculty weighs in on conflict

Political science professor and event host Olivia Newman began the talk-in by addressing "a slightly larger room than usual," as fellow professors in the department sat in the front row, prepared to offer their scholarly opinion on the war.

"What we do in these teach-ins is we offer our perspectives as political science to offer some insight and context into what's going on in the world," said Newman.



Caroline Haviland/The Rider News

Olivia Newman (right) and Johnathan Mendilow (left) give the Rider community information regarding the latest Israel-Hamas conflict.

INSIDE BRONCS UNBEATEN IN LAST THREE MATCHES

Rider women's soccer has not lost a match since the end of September.

PAGE 11



BISEXUALITY AND PANSEXUALITY AWARENESS

A student speaks on not feeling seen in the LGBTQIA+ community.

PAGE 8



RIDER STUDENT LEAVES SYRIA TO START NEW LIFE

Student speaks on his experience leaving his home country for America.

PAGE 6 & 7



SECURITY BRIEFS

BY AMETHYST MARTINEZ

Flattened flowers

Pushing daisies. On Oct. 9, at 10 a.m., Public Safety was contacted by Facilities Management who reported damage that occurred to the flowerbed and fence located at the South Entrance. Public Safety responded and discovered tire tracks in the flowerbed that indicated that a vehicle had driven into the fence. Security camera footage was reviewed and it was discovered that a vehicle had driven over the flowerbed, into the fence and then left the scene. The Lawrence Township Police Department was contacted and is investigating.

Getting steamy

Pound the alarm. On Oct. 12, at 8:56 a.m., Public Safety responded to Switlik Residence Hall for an activated fire alarm. Public Safety investigated the cause of the alarm and determined it to be caused by shower steam. While in the process of resetting the alarm, Public Safety went to the basement mechanical room and discovered that someone had damaged the wall in the basement. It appeared that someone broke a hole in the wall of approximately 1 square foot. Facilities Management was notified to repair the damage and Public Safety is investigating.

Hit and run

Fled the scene. On Oct. 13, at 4:51 p.m., Public Safety was dispatched to a motor vehicle accident that occurred in front of Poyda Residence Hall. Upon their arrival, Public Safety observed two vehicles that had sustained damage. No one involved reported any injuries. A witness in the area reported that another vehicle had struck the two parked vehicles and left the area without stopping. The Lawrence Township Police Department was contacted and responded to the incident. The witness was able to copy down the license plate of the vehicle that left the scene and provide it to Public Safety and the police. The police department is investigating.

- Information provided by Public Safety Capt. Matthew Babcock

Hispanic business owners inspire future entrepreneurs

By Jay Roberson

WOMEN entrepreneurship week and Hispanic Heritage Month were combined in a night full of empanadas, guacamole and plantains along with panel discussions led by Hispanic entrepreneurs on Oct. 12 in Lynch Adler Hall 202.

Featured panelists

One panelist, a Rider alum and founder of Lopez and Associates Behavior Counseling, Jennifer Lopez, '13 and '15 respectively, spoke about her experiences establishing her own business in the field she's in.

The other panelist, founder and owner of E.S.T.I.R. Inc. Esther Tanez, explained how her life led her to serving the community through her business.

"Serving the community was just a part of growing up, to serve, to give back, to help. I hear somebody say they have a situation, and I go into fix-it mode," Tanez said. "For the most part we [the Hispanic community] are warm, loving, community-based and service-based because it's a part of our culture."

Before the attendees grabbed food, they were given a live demonstration on how to make their own empanadas, guacamole and pico de gallo and recipes to take home.

Tanez spoke about some of the adjustments she had to make to assimilate to American culture while remaining true to herself.

Jennifer Lopez and Esther Tanez speak about their experiences starting their own business as a Hispanic woman.



Jay Roberson/The Rider News

"Authenticity is key: be yourself, but be appropriate. When you are dealing with people at the end of the day, people are people and they like to be cared for," said Tanez.

Being yourself in business

Sophomore entrepreneurship major Nanci Lazo explained that she sometimes struggles with authenticity as she navigates college.

"Sometimes I'm either too Hispanic to join this group, or I'm not Hispanic enough to join this group. Events like this remind me it doesn't really matter and I'm OK with being Hispanic, but also just being American," said Lazo.

Many Hispanic women feel a certain pressure to be perfect through periods of change and don't attempt to look for help, but Lopez reminded the attendees that finding support within the community is essential.

"Find people in your corner that are going to help and support you," said Lopez. "You have to develop, right, and I'm not going to say that it was easy. Change is difficult and uncomfortable and I think that you have to be OK knowing that at that time it might seem like it's not OK, but there's another side to it."

Sierra Willis, a junior marketing major, found the event constructive as she looks to start her own business in the future.

"Hearing people that have been through this and experienced it and actually having people at Rider find their way on their path. It encourages you to want more and do more," Willis said.

Time to develop

Lopez spoke about her never-ending journey of self discovery and recently graduated in 2023 with her executive master's of business administration in order to enhance her business.

"Go at your own time. I think we are so aware of the people around us, so we want to rush and we are missing our own time. So if you are centered and grounded in your own time it's going to help you build that foundation that you need," said Lopez.

Through talking about shared experiences, lots of attendees felt reassured and seen by the panelists.

"The thing I loved was the food because it feels so close to home," said Lazo. "What I loved the most is that it wasn't just talking about information or whatever. We also got close on a personal level. And I feel that's what made it a wonderful event for me."

The most emphasized piece of advice given was to advocate for yourself and establish yourself as an asset.

"In life some doors get open for certain people, other times you've got to kick that door open ... You've gotta let them know what your worth is, you have to call them and say what you can offer them and how they're missing an opportunity," said Tanez.

Safe spaces offered to those affected by conflict

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

Political science professor Johnathan Mendilow, who spoke at the teach-in, said that he lived in Israel for some time, and had a "strong attachment" to the country. He also teaches classes at Rider on the Middle East and terrorism.

"This is the nature of organized violence," said Mendilow in an interview with The Rider News. "The issue is how to divide ourselves, the sides from each other, and the parallels between the search for peace ... as against the search for mutual damage."

Other professors who spoke at the event include political science professor Barbara Franz and others in the department.

Rider's response

President Gregory Dell'Omo sent out an email to the university on Oct. 11 regarding the conflict in Israel and Gaza.

"At Rider University, we condemn this deplorable act of terrorism and the devastating human tragedy that we are witnessing take place in Israel and the Gaza region," Dell'Omo said.

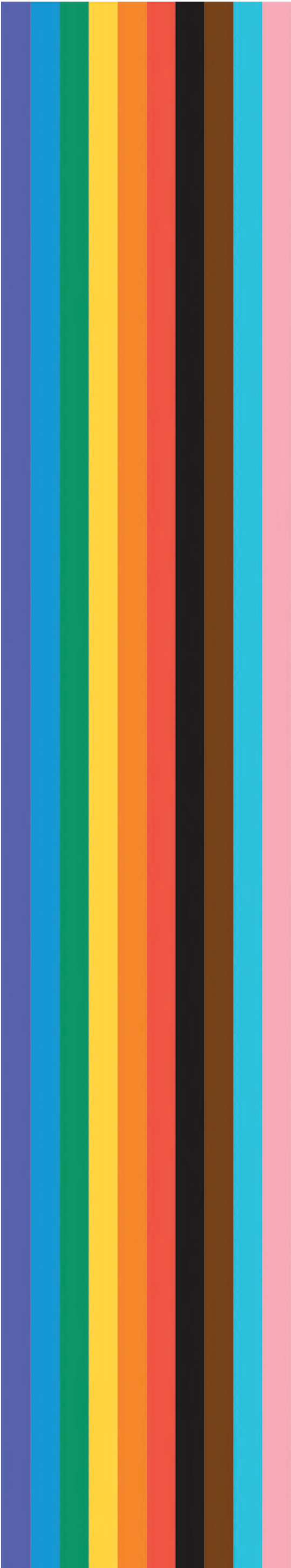
The email added that the counseling center is offering additional services as "a safe space for Jewish students to meet with counselors of Jewish faith as well as undertaking support and outreach to students of Palestinian and Middle Eastern descent."

Rider's Center for Diversity and Inclusion also

said that they would be available for active listening and be there for students who want to talk and share, but still directed those affected to reach out to the counseling center, according to Heeyoung Kim, the CDI's director and chief diversity officer.

A separate email sent out on Oct. 16 by Dell'Omo notified the university of a community vigil being held on Oct. 18 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Cavalla Room in honor of the lives lost from the latest Israel-Hamas war. RSVPs are required for the event, along with Bronc IDs needed for admittance.

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24 | 11:30 A.M. TO 1 P.M.
CAVALLA ROOM IN THE BART LUEDEKE CENTER

In celebration and in honor of LGBTQ History month, please join us for a meet and greet with Award-Winning Journalist, Ernest Owens, as he gives an interactive experience involving his newest book, *The Case for Cancel Culture*. Mr. Owens is an active ally to the LGBTQ community as he serves as the Editor at Large for Philadelphia Magazine and President of the Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists. He is an alumni of University of Pennsylvania, and studied in communications.

This event will give students, faculty, and staff the opportunity to meet Mr. Owens, get a signed copy of his book, and learn more about his success as a writer.



Center for Diversity and Inclusion

UNITY + DIVERSITY = UNIVERSITY

Rider upgrades VPN, modernizes cybersecurity

By Jake Tiger

COLLEGE students likely know virtual private networks as the services that protect them from digital pickpockets while they bootleg their favorite content from the shadiest corners of the internet.

On the other hand, Rider and many other institutions use VPNs to create secure pathways within their network, and protect valuable data from falling into the wrong hands.

Rider Chief Information Officer Moe Rahman described VPNs as secure information tunnels that run between the university and its off-campus employees.

“There is a saying in the computer science world which is, ‘Security is by design.’ You can’t expect to secure things after the fact,” said Rahman. “When you hear me talking about security, I’m always talking about wrapping it up with policies, wrapping it up with supporting processes. Security is as good as our weakest links [which] are the humans. If you give away your password, there is nothing I can do that will stop a bad actor.”

To improve its cybersecurity, the university has begun requiring multi-factor authentication for FortiClient, the university’s new VPN, according to an email sent out on Oct. 11 by Technical Director Tim Burger.

According to Mike Reca, vice president for facilities and university operations, the security change is part of the ongoing process of modernizing Rider’s cybersecurity, as more of the university operates digitally and/or remotely.

“We have people on the outside we have to

answer to with policies and procedures and things like that. We’re updating all of those as fast as we can,” said Reca. “It happens every year. ... Insurance companies require certain things.”

Rahman said the university upgraded to FortiClient over the summer, stating that the service was “next generation” and more capable of handling Rider’s growing cybersecurity needs. Rider’s previous service, Cisco AnyConnect, was outdated both in terms of security and compatibility with newer hardware, according to Rahman.

“We need to upgrade ourselves ... step by step,” said Rahman. “We purchased new devices, and our firewalls and VPN are next generation, so these are very smart. They can do a lot of things that our previous equipment couldn’t do.”

Rahman also said that VPNs are primarily utilized by the university’s increasing number of remote staff members who must access Rider’s resources from afar and communicate outside of its private networks.

Reca said that most of the university does not regularly need a VPN, seeing as “safeguards and protections” are built into Rider’s networks.

Multi-factor authentication gives each VPN user a second layer of security, so even if a password is misplaced and obtained by a “bad actor,” there is another measure preventing them from accessing the account, according to Rahman.

By design, multi-factor authentication makes it slightly more difficult for people to access their accounts, and Rahman said that he had received some complaints about the new process; however, the added security is a necessity.

“It’s not like we’re doing it because we’re having fun with it. We’re legally required to do it,” said Rahman. “You have to have a mechanism more than the password to validate who the people are. ... That’s what the insurance companies are requiring us to do. That’s what the federal government is requiring us to do.”

Beside VPNs, the university has other digital protections as well, but Rahman could not discuss them for security reasons.

Rahman said the university can expect an email from the Office of Information Technology in the near future, communicating the office’s future plans and intentions behind its decisions.

“We figured that communication is key. People need to know a little bit more,” Rahman said.



Jake Tiger/The Rider News

Moe Rahman, Rider’s chief information officer.

Rider rolls out additional mental health initiatives

By Julia Train

In July, Rider received a \$200,000 state-funded grant to use toward mental health initiatives for under-represented students, including the LGBTQIA+ population, athletes and students with autism spectrum disorder.

The counseling center has teamed up with local partners, and added support groups, mentors and counselors in order to use the money to provide resources these communities could need.

One of the partnerships is with The PRIDE Center in Ewing, New Jersey, and two of its LGBTQIA+ counselors, Jonah Friedman and Carson Eckhard.

“We believe that through the partnership between The PRIDE Center and the counseling center,

we are taking a significant step toward creating a campus where each and every LGBTQIA has to feel seen, valued and empowered,” said Anissa Moody, interim director of the counseling center and staff psychologist.

Before receiving the grant, Moody and her psychologists were aware of The PRIDE Center and made referrals for students, but now, they are able to actively work together through individual support services, mentorship, and facilitating safe spaces for students to find others with similar interests.

Prideful initiatives

Two portions of the services added are Roy G. Biv, an LGBTQIA+ support group led by Friedman and Eckhard, and “Shine On Expressive Threads,” an inclusive clothing drive.

The clothing, which contains a variety of styles, is donated and kept in a closet in the Joseph P. Vona Center so students can “shop” in it to find clothes that express who they are.

“Sometimes we find in our work that students or parents may not be in agreement so they hold back resources and funds and only at school you can be your true self,” said Moody. “So we’re providing a closet full of very interesting creative clothes so [students] can be [their] true self.”

Freshman political science and sociology major Caroline Clark, a transgender woman, is in a situation similar to what Moody described.

She heard about the initiative during an LGBTQIA+ “meet and greet” during Welcome Week and needed gender-affirming clothes, so she decided to try it out and was the first to do so.

Although she’d rather dress gothic when given the chance, and there weren’t any pieces in that style, she walked away with four items: a shirt, a pair of pants, a skirt and a dress.

“I would say it was a very positive experience. The staff there was not only accommodating they were actively happy to help out,” said Clark.

An aid to athletes

In order to have a more intentional approach toward mental health in the athletic department, an embedded counselor and sports psychologist were added.

According to Moody, a third of Rider’s students are athletes.

“They’re expected to be students who have to make a certain grade point average. They’re also at some level, working staff of a college because they are student athletes representing the college. They have a lot of pressing demands on their time and oftentimes lead to a more stressful lifestyle,” said Moody.

Not only will individual support be provided, but so will supportive spaces, workshop programming, teletherapy and meetings with coaches.

Support for students and staff

For students with autism, the counseling center partnered with St. Joseph’s University’s Kinney Center, which is providing individual consultations and training and support to Residential Life, Public Safety and Campus Life staff members.

“It’s a huge, huge boost to our professional development skills or resources [and] it really helps us to be more inclusive and supportive,” said Moody.

Additionally, group and individual support will be provided for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Another piece of the grant supports the university’s peer education program, which the counseling center is currently in the process of interviewing for in hopes to reach more students.

At the moment, the counseling center has an outreach team of four graduate assistants and wish to have three or four undergraduates as well.

Moody also plans to use part of the grant to create a private teletherapy space for students who want to have remote sessions with their therapist but don’t have privacy in their dorms.

“Dean Christine Mehlhorn and Nick Barbati are working along with Mike Reca to identify a space where students can have privacy and we can outfit that space using grant funds,” said Moody.

Some of the funds will also be used to renovate Zoerner House by changing the lighting, repaint walls and get more comfortable furniture that aren’t desk chairs.



Photo courtesy of Caroline Clark

Freshman political science and sociology major Caroline Clark shows off her ‘new’ outfit from “Expressive Threads.”

Friday the MAACTeenth: AJ's revenge



The women's basketball team for the 2023-24 season.



The men's basketball team for the 2023-24 season.

By **Tristan E. M. Leach**

EXCITED students rushed under the inflatable skeleton archway and into the lobby of Alumni Gym, where a graveyard scene met the eyes of students and guests of the impending night. Inside the gym, AJ the Bronc waited to begin the thrilling event: MAACness.

On Oct. 13, the Rider Cheer Team, Dance Team and Pep Band came together to celebrate the upcoming men's and women's basketball seasons. This year's MAACness theme was "Friday the 13th," and AJ came dressed as Jason Voorhees, the killer from the popular slasher films named after the infamous day. The dance and cheer teams wore blood-splattered T-shirts, and in the audience, students and guests dressed in horror film attire.

Before MAACness truly began, the energy on the court made its way into the audience. Students partied in the bleachers and were hyped up by the dance team. The sounds of laughter and cheering filled the gym, a great start to the much-anticipated night.

This year's festivities started with a short film of AJ and members of the university acting out some famous horror movie scenes. Nick Barbati, assistant vice president for student affairs, made an appearance by acting out the shower-death scene from "Psycho," which was a crowd favorite. After the short film, a highlight reel was played showcasing the best plays from the men's and women's teams last year. Students and guests cheered when their favorite player appeared on the screen.

Then, it was time to see the real thing as team introductions began. From behind a curtain setup on a small stage, each team member walked out to a song of their choosing. Both the men's and women's teams threw T-shirts into the crowd, with many enthusiastic students diving to catch the goodies. Team members from abroad proudly walked out in their home country's flag, a tradition at Rider that was met with heavy applause and cheering. The coaches of both teams were also introduced to the crowd.

Games took place throughout the night, with the ever-popular "Big Shoes to Fill" game being the first to be seen. Two students raced to put on an oversized basketball uniform and then make a basket, all while keeping their balance in huge shoes and basketball shorts. "Basketball Musical Chairs" made a return as well with six competitive students having to make a



The Rider Cheer Team receives a generous donation of \$1,000 from **Aaliyah Yang '23**, a former member of the team.

basket and then rush to one of the remaining chairs. After some good-spirited competition, the cheer team took to the court. Before it started however, Aaliyah Ying '23 surprised the team with a generous donation of \$1000. In the bleachers, students clapped and the team gave Ying a huge group hug. The cheer team wowed the audience with stunning acrobatic tricks and gravity-defying flips.

Rachel Seigerman, a senior arts and entertainment industries management major, has been on the team for three years. Seigerman found her last MAACness to be bittersweet, but was proud of the team for all the hard work put in.

"We met with our choreographer a couple of times," said Seigerman with a smile. "We had countless nights of just working on the routine, cleaning things. We had people getting sick, people missing, but ultimately we came together as a team and we did what we know best."

After the cheer team stunned the crowd, this year's Cranberry Court nominees were introduced. Fourteen hopeful seniors made their way onto the court with smiles on their faces. One by one, each nominee introduced themselves to the crowd.

Lindsay Sherman, a senior elementary education major, was one of the nominees.

"I think [being nominated] is a really big honor. It is really exciting that someone thought of me for something like this," said Sherman with a giggle.

Yusef Collins-Bryant, a senior music production major, was also nominated for the honor of Cranberry Court.

"[Being nominated] feels incredible. I feel so honored to be nominated and I love the energy here today," said Collins-Bryant.

For the basketball skills competition, one member from each team was picked after competing against their own teammates. This year, senior guard Molly Lynch from the women's team and senior forward Mervin James from the men's team went head to head. In the end, it was Lynch who won the competition, marking the third year in a row that the women's team has won the challenge.

When asked how she felt about the win, Lynch said, "Undefeated. We're undefeated."

As the night drew to a close, the dance team made their way to center court. Dancers took their places and the audience screamed with anticipation. In an electrifying seven-and-a-half minute performance, the team captured both the energy of the night and the theme. The performance included references to classic horror movies and popular slasher films, with prop knives being used and bloody makeup applied. Students and guests cheered as the dance came to a close with the team members hitting the floor in a mummy pose.

Marissa Stellato, a senior dance performance major, reflected on the night and the success of MAACness.

"The dance was fantastic. The energy from the audience made our performance even better. [MAACness] is such an amazing experience," said Stellato.

The night was wrapped up with a reminder that on Oct. 28, the first game of the basketball season will come to Rider when the men's team plays Georgian Court for a homecoming exhibition.



The Rider Dance Team performs an energetic and spooky number.



The women's team wins the skills challenge for the third year in a row. This year's win was represented by senior guard Molly Lynch.

Scan the QR code to watch *The Rider News' MAACness video* by *Bridget Hoyt*



Opportunity October: Khalid Alargha

By Hannah Newman

TWO different lives lived, multiple countries crossed and one story in the making.

In 2015, life blindsided 13-year-old Khalid Alargha when he had to drop everything, leave his home country of Syria during a civil war and reunite with his father, who had spent the last two years fighting for his family to follow him overseas.

“Coming to the United States, a land of freedom and a lot of rights, a land of opportunities, is a dream come true. Everybody aspires and chases after that dream,” said Alargha, a senior global supply chain management major. “Unfortunately, many people within the United States born and raised here do not see the true weight and gravity behind that.”

As a native of the oldest populated city in the world, Damascus, Syria, Alargha attended private school his entire life and had a stereotypical upbringing. He woke up for school, hung out with friends and received a good education.

“Everything was great. Full of joy, you know? There's always an opportunity to flourish and learn a new thing when you are younger and I was very fortunate to attend private school because you get to learn a lot more than public schools,” said Alargha. “Unfortunately, the education system within private schools was much better than the public school system.”

Before tragedy struck

In 2011, Alargha's father and uncle visited the U.S. for the first time for business purposes and fell in love with what America had to offer. His father knew that opportunity was ripe on American soil, and it was only a matter of time before he would come back to the U.S. to build a life for him and his family.

When Alargha's father returned to Syria in 2011, the country as he knew it had transformed into something unrecognizable.

A civil war had ignited, as the Syrian regime on the side of President Bashar al-Assad was withholding human rights and controlling citizens.

With the shift in reality from 2011-13, Alargha's father decided to take a job in the U.S. and work on getting the rest of his family there for a more secure life. The family included Alargha, his mother and two younger sisters.

They lived in the shadows and tried to run as far away as possible from what was just outside of every door, as warfare became normal in Alargha's life and every day was fear ridden and filled with nothing but hope for survival.

“At the time, in 2013, I was 11 years old. I had stopped attending school in seventh grade because it was literal warfare. You know, missiles, people getting kidnapped,” said Alargha. “You would see or hear about someone getting killed or kidnapped everywhere you went.”

Public utilities were also held hostage and became outlets for checking people's identities and take who they needed to serve in the military.

“Even with transportation around the city, everywhere you would go there's an interior checkpoint and they would check everybody's IDs, and they would run them ... everybody has to walk places and stay in the shadows and not even get anywhere near the military checkpoints,” said Alargha. “Militaries were patrolling the entire town, the entire city. It was very scary to live in.”

A life of living “in the shadows” and gripping onto the hope for a miracle suddenly changed for the Alargha family in 2015 after Alargha's father's team of lawyers in the U.S. were able to win a case that brought his family to the country.

“Two and a half years after not seeing him, not being with him. I was 13 then and it was just like a profound experience. You know, obviously I missed him, I was very close to him.”

Without any Syrian airports open due to the war, the Alargha family had to take a flight out of Lebanon to the United Kingdom, then connecting to the U.S.

However, the reality of living on the edge intensified as their journey to the U.S. began and attacks struck all over the European region making flights unreliable.

“At the time, there were some, I don't know what I would call it, but I'll just say terrorist attacks going on, in that European region [the United Kingdom],” said Alargha. “On the day of our flight, one happened recently. So they blacklisted us from coming so we couldn't even take that flight. We had to wait in the airport for 24 hours and wait for the lawyers to re-book our tickets.”

Exhaustion from running hit its peak as only a miracle caused their journey to continue. He and his family were able to get a flight to Istanbul, Turkey, which was one step closer to America and his father.

“Landing in Turkey was not easy at all, there is no language spoken in the airport besides Turkish, not even Arabic, not even English. So it was really hard to communicate and get around. We were lucky enough to find a computer and get in contact with my dad to let him know what had happened and where we were,” said Alargha. “It felt like a miracle.”

The beginning of a new life

Landing at the gates of John F. Kennedy International Airport opened so much more than the airplane doors. It opened up another chance at life for Alargha.

Montclair, New Jersey, became home to the Alargha family upon arrival to the U.S.

Alargha was in the eighth grade at the time. The intimidation of starting high school in a different country translated into the feeling of excitement.

“It felt like you're reading a book and turning the page to a new chapter,” said Alargha. “I did not look behind, I just kept going.”

He was introduced to other foreign students who came from various countries, which bridged the gap in diversity between Alargha and his surroundings. As eighth grade went on, Alargha became a mentor to the students that were coming into his school standing in the same shoes he did, which allowed him to build more intimate relationships with his peers.

“I was able to meet my best friend as of right now [named] Dallas,” said Alargha. “He came from Brazil, and I was appointed to give him the orientation so we kind of clicked on the fact that we're both foreigners with very minimal conversation, minimal English and not very well spoken.”

Alargha noted that in Syria, students did not move from class to class. Students were assigned one classroom with the same students and the teachers switched out for different subjects. The idea of having to be with a plethora of different kids in a day was something that enticed Alargha.

Adversity set in for Alargha when English had to become his primary language. “I was hearing and translating everything in real time to Arabic so anything that involves writing and reading was very difficult,” said Alargha.

After completing the required English as a Second Language course, Alargha met his mentor, an English teacher who was also Syrian and stood as an inspirational figure to him throughout his high school career.

“He spoke such perfect English and was my role model growing up. I let him know: ‘I want to be at your level of English because I don't like where I'm at right now.’ He guided me through it, he wrote my college recommendation letter and helped me with my college essay that got me into Rider,” said Alargha. “I still aspire to be like him.”

Despite the hindrance in English comprehension, making friends came easy to Alargha as he met one of his best friends, senior global supply chain management major Abdel Abudiak. The friendship started after Alargha impressed him by solving a Rubik's cube behind his back at lunch one day.

“The most inspiring aspect of knowing Khalid for so long has been witnessing his steady commitment to personal and professional growth,” said Abudiak. “Seeing him take on challenges with a strategic mindset and a positive outlook when it comes to certain things has been truly inspiring to me.”

When it came to college, Alargha knew he wanted to pursue a career related to business, which is how he

ended up at Rider, knowing that the university was one of the top ten business schools in the state.

Despite the setbacks from COVID-19, Alargha and his roommate, Abudiak, were determined to meet as many people as they could upon arriving on campus.

The roommates received an email about a fraternity barbeque and were intrigued by the idea of Greek life.

After being reached out to by the brothers of Sigma Phi Epsilon, Alargha and Abudiak joined, although Alargha did not have the GPA to run for the executive board.

The brothers encouraged Alargha to work on raising his GPA which resulted in Alargha's position as vice president of recruitment in spring 2021.

Falling in love with the leadership position, Alargha became an orientation leader that summer, which set him up for his position as president the following year.

Alargha's efforts in Sigma Phi Epsilon grew contagious to the brothers, which pushed him even further in his efforts to grow in all areas of his life.

Junior exercise science major and brother of Sigma Phi Epsilon Reese Manfredi said, “Khalid is someone who is constantly looking to improve himself in all aspects of life. He has been so focused on his studies and his professional development has been so impressive. After attending two conventions for our fraternity, I was able to watch Khalid network so well with undergraduate students and alumni of our national fraternity.”

Abudiak, who is also his current roommate, remains in disbelief about where Alargha started in life as opposed to where he is now.

“He's transformed challenges into opportunities, and his ability to navigate change has been truly remarkable seeing that he grew up in Syria for the majority of his life,” said Abudiak. “Witnessing his journey from initially joining, to eventually becoming the president of the organization, has shown not only his commitment to personal development but also his ability to take on increasingly challenging roles and responsibilities.”

As graduation approaches, Alargha keeps his two lives distant but his experiences continue to be a critical part of who he is today.

“I'm someone who's always intrigued by new experiences and challenges. It's very pivotal in my life,” said Alargha. “My time in Syria, I think of it as a past life. I haven't really processed it yet you know, I think the only way for me to process it is for me to go back. I haven't gone back since.”



Photo courtesy of Reese Manfredi

Junior exercise science major **Reese Manfredi** (left) and senior global supply chain management major **Khalid Alargha** (right) pose for a photo at a Sigma Phi Epsilon leadership conference.

gha reflects on moving from Syria



Hannah Newman and Eric Buckwalter/The Rider News

ΣΦΕ

A spectrum: bisexuality and pansexuality awareness

THE word “spectrum” is frequently used when discussing things like gender and sexuality within the LGBTQIA+ community. In this context, the term illustrates that both gender and sexuality can be fluid, adjustable and specific to the individual. While the LGBTQIA+ community and its allies might be aware of this concept, many people outside of the community are not.

Like many people, my journey exploring my sexuality was confusing, and oftentimes I couldn’t exactly pinpoint what I felt. That was until I knew of pansexuality.

Pansexuality means that I like all people, regardless of their sex or gender. Essentially, the prefix “pan-” means “all,” and, unlike bisexuality, it does not limit a person to liking the two binary genders: male and female.

Once I became aware of this terminology, I dove deep into research so I could better understand myself and my feelings. I have heard pansexuality described in many ways. For example, in “Schitt’s Creek,” David explains his pansexuality in terms of wine, saying that he’s interested in the wine, not the bottle. Ola, a character from “Sex Education,” explains that she is attracted to a person, not any particular gender.

While these explanations helped me understand myself and feel represented, my research also opened my eyes to the prejudice that people who identify as bisexual or pansexual face.

Many people say that bisexual and pansexual people are promiscuous and that labeling them as bisexual or pansexual is just an excuse for their behavior. Comments like these are hurtful and homophobic. Much like being gay or transgender is out of a person’s control, so is being bisexual or pansexual.

Some people within the LGBTQIA+ community feel like pansexuality implies that bisexual people are transphobic since they don’t like all people. This is untrue. As I previously mentioned, sexuality is a spectrum. Even with labels to describe your sexuality like bisexuality or pansexuality, attraction and love are complex. They don’t often fit into a neat definition or set of rules. People just like who they like. Terms like bisexuality and pansexuality help some people identify themselves and better understand their own preferences, even though they can change.

There are many people who don’t even know what pansexuality is. Whenever I come out to someone, I almost immediately have to explain what pansexuality means. I always explain it the same way: I am attracted to people for both their physical appearance and their personality, not the sex or gender they may present or identify as. To me, those factors are irrelevant and I don’t have a preference for one gender over another.

While I think expressing myself and my experiences are important for a better understanding of the LGBTQIA+ community, everyone’s journey with their own gender and sexuality is unique to them. I can express my experience, but it won’t necessarily be applicable to everyone else’s experiences. The most important thing to understand is that love is love.

These labels can be helpful, but don’t let them limit you or your expression. Knowing yourself is challenging and can be daunting, but take your time and don’t stress about what group you may or may not belong to. You are a unique individual and your gender and sexuality will be just as unique.

*Bridget Gum-Egan
senior English major*



Rashe Mishra/The Rider News

Bisexuals and pansexuals can feel unseen and unheard in the LGBTQIA+ community.



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JUNIOR JOURNALS

Accessibility in Europe and how it differs from the US

In September 2023, my family and I took a “last hurrah of summer” trip to Madrid.

Being disabled, I was curious to see what accessibility looked like in Spain and how it compared to accessibility in the U.S., especially with Europe’s reputation for being more walkable than North America.

As someone with moderate cerebral palsy, I do not use a mobility aid; however, traveling to large cities can sometimes be hard on my joints with all the walking.

Although my condition might be considered “less severe” to some people, I still think about how much walking I am going to do on trips, and going into the vacation, I was worried about slowing my family down or preventing them from seeing everything they wanted to.

When I first stepped out of the airport in Madrid, one of the first things I noticed was the amount of Ubers and buses waiting to take people wherever they needed to go.

I also noticed that most of the Ubers waiting were large vans that seemingly had a step, but no wheelchair ramp.

Public transportation in Madrid was rated as a three out of five on WheelchairTravel.org, stating that their metro system wasn’t fully accessible, but it was easy to get around the city in a wheelchair.

New York City was rated as a two out of five on the website, and said to avoid the subway and stick to buses.

“Despite New York’s status as the ‘city of the world,’ it is lagging in many critical areas of accessibility,” said WheelchairTravel.org. “The city’s subway system is complicated, crowded and only partially accessible.”

Alongside public transportation accessibility, Madrid also offered accommodations for visually impaired individuals.

In my experience, most U.S. crosswalks do not have audible crosswalks. While in Madrid, my family and I heard many crosswalk signs tell people when it was time to cross the street and when it was time to wait; we figured out that this was to help people with visual impairments know when it is safe to walk across.

This year in Chicago, a federal judge ruled that the city’s crosswalks violated the federal Americans with Disability Act, and that they needed to improve its crosswalks to help visually impaired individuals, according to an article by CBS News.

In terms of mobility assistants, like walkers or wheelchairs, I have always had reservations about how the famous cobblestone streets of Europe would be able to accommodate their wheels.

I only saw one person using a wheelchair while I was walking in Toledo, Spain, and they seemed to be having no major issues navigating the unique bumps in the road, although their disability experience is their’s to tell, not mine.

Although I only saw one wheelchair user on my trip, approximately a quarter

of Americans and Europeans have some kind of disability, according to the Centers for Disease Control and the Council of European Union.

The ways in which I have described Europe and America being different are not to say that one way is better than the other.

The thing about accessibility is that every disabled person’s needs are different and no disabled person will ever have the exact needs of another.

What we have to remember above all else is that we must be willing to fulfill all the accessibility needs of all disabled people.

Sarah F. Griffin
junior journalism major



Photo Courtesy of Sarah F. Griffin

Sarah F. Griffin posing during her trip to Madrid in September.

JUNIOR JOURNALS

The new 'Little Mermaid' is better than the original

“The Little Mermaid” starring Halle Bailey and Jonah Hauer-King is absolutely beautiful, and I am tired of everyone ignoring this fact.

Every time I have watched this movie, I mention how I could write an essay on how perfect this film is. Here’s my chance.

First off, I am in love with Jonah Hauer-King and his Mr. Darcy-esque approach to Prince Eric. His elevated personality and overall depth as a character that was developed in this live-action adaptation blew me away. I loved the insight we got into his world and the people within, especially Grimsby, the loveliest old man ever. Grimsby saw Eric’s feelings towards Ariel, ones he had yet come to terms with, and helped him along to realize how Eric truly feels about Ariel.

The most important fact of the entire film is that Halle Bailey is simply Ariel. When we are introduced to her she exudes mermaid energy: her long, colorful locs; sweet demeanor and restless adventurous spirit. She has become the perfect mermaid princess for new generations. Don’t even get me started on the vocal choice she made to opt up in “Part of Your World,” or her new song, “For the First Time.” To achieve being a real mermaid, one must have their own siren song, and Bailey did just that.

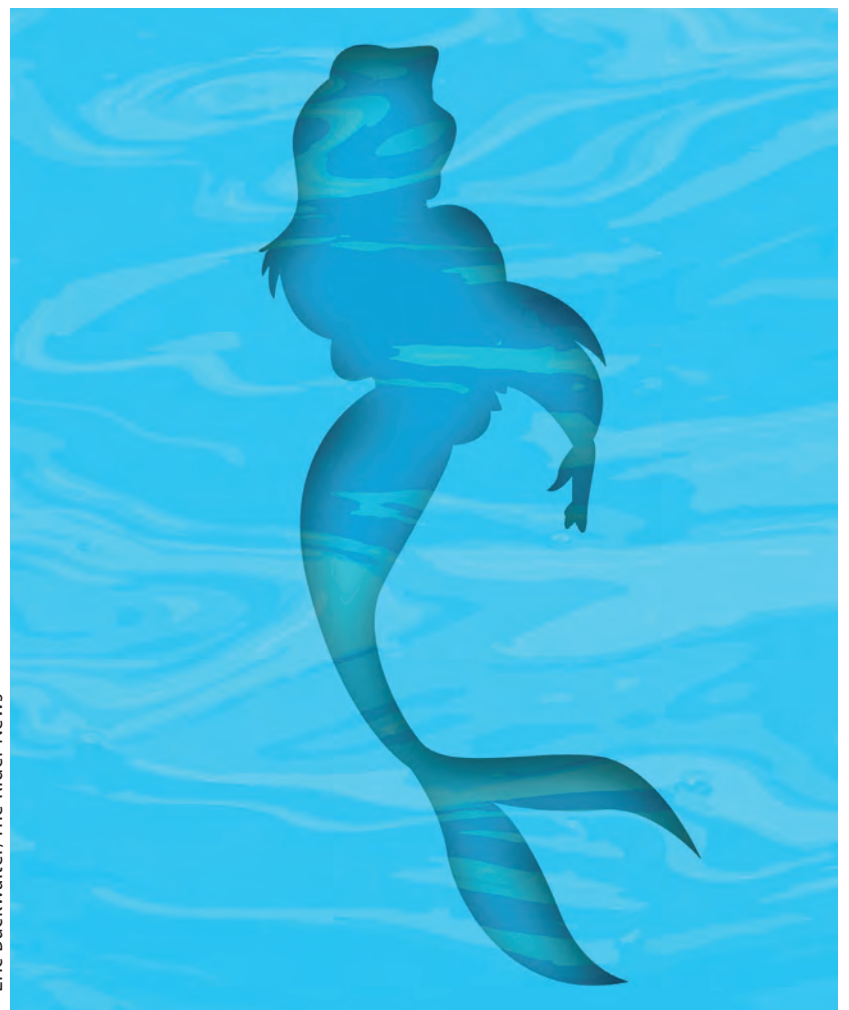
Pure genius was sprinkled in one moment that created a ripple effect for the rest of the film. Having Ursula, played by the magnificent Melissa McCarthy, and adding to the spell on Ariel that she will not remember that she needs to kiss Eric. In the original, Ariel was constantly looking to get close to Eric and seduce him, whereas in the 2023 version, Ariel is still attracted to Eric, but does not act on it. Instead she is authentically herself, as is Eric, which ultimately draws him to her.

Hauer-King’s Eric is developed in a way that helps audiences understand why Ariel falls for him in the first place. He is gorgeous, but love is more than what’s on the surface. When she discovers that Eric’s library is filled with knick-knacks of the sea, she is reminded of her grotto, which is filled with trinkets from the human world. They both share the same passion to escape and go explore the world. Even the music that plays behind the scenes sounds like sister tracks. These two were literally ‘written in the stars’ through the director and composer’s choice of paralleling the two in all their actions.

“Kiss the Girl” has raised my expectations of dating to an astronomical degree. The scene is already cute enough with Scuttle, Sebastian and Flounder making appearances, but Eric amplifies the sweetness of the scene through his gentleness towards Ariel, who is still oblivious of his feelings. Then, as the music breaks for a moment, Eric begins teaching Ariel where the constellations are. She then teaches him how to say her name through the stars he showed her. Are you joking? I, too, am teaching myself where constellations are so I can woo a man by teaching him how to say my name through the stars.

If you have yet to see this movie, do not walk—run to your laptop, Roku or whatever you use to watch Disney+, and watch these two sea rovers fall in love.

Sophia Porter
junior acting major



Eric Buckwalter/The Rider News

Sophia Porter believes the new recreation of “The Little Mermaid” beats the original.

MAAC BASKETBALL

Men's basketball places first, women's ranked 10th

By Benjamin Shinault

On the morning of Oct. 17, the results for Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference preseason poll were announced, and for the first time since the 2009-10 season, a Bronc was voted as the preseason player of the year, with senior forward Mervin James being named the conference's best player.

Last season, James had season averages of 12.9 points per game, 6.8 rebounds and 1.5 assists while shooting 48.2% from the field.

The honors did not stop there for the men's team, as they were also voted first in the MAAC's preseason rankings. The last time that the Broncs placed first was before the 2018-19 season.

The women's team ranked 10th in the preseason rankings poll. The Broncs were ranked second to last, only ahead of the Saint Peter's Peacocks who finished last season at 0-30. With a bunch of the top contributors from last season's team transferring to other programs and some graduating, Rider will look quite different.

The poll also revealed preseason All-MAAC teams and Rider had two players land on the list, as James and senior guard Allen Powell earned All-MAAC first team honors.

Powell joined the Broncs in 2019 and is coming off a tough shooting season where he finished with a field goal percentage of 36.8%, with shots at 29.2% from beyond the arc. But based on past seasons, especially his 2020-21 season where he shot 44% from three and 40.5% from the field, Powell has the potential on the offensive side of the ball to deal damage in the MAAC.

Senior guard Makayla Firebaugh was placed on the All-MAAC second team, the only player representing Rider women's basketball. In last year's preseason rankings, she was placed on the third team.

Last season, Firebaugh finished sixth in scoring in the MAAC with 14.3 points per game, making last



Carolo Pascale/The Rider News



Senior forward **Mervin James** (left) was named preseason player of the year, and senior guard **Makayla Firebaugh** (right) earned third-team honors.

year her best offensive season as a Bronc. Firebaugh led the Broncs in total points with 444, exactly 100 points more than the team's second-highest scorer.

Firebaugh also saw an uptick in her field goal percentage last season, improving her efficiency to 35.6% from 31.7% the year prior.

Men's basketball will kick off its season on Oct. 28 at home against Georgian Court in an exhibition matchup at 1 p.m.

Women's basketball will host TCNJ on Nov. 1 at home at 7 p.m.

FIELD HOCKEY

Broncs best Sacred Heart, fall to Lehigh

By Kadie Diguseppe

RIDER field hockey split its two games over the weekend winning 2-1 over Sacred Heart on Oct. 13, then losing to Lehigh 2-1 in overtime on Oct. 15.

Friday night lights win

Under the glow of Ben Cohen field, the Broncs faced their divisional opponent: the Sacred Heart Pirates.

The Broncs came out strong with a goal in the first two minutes by freshmen forward Willemijn Ephriam on the direct insert during their first corner of the game, making it her fifth goal of the season.

Throughout the game, Rider was quick to defend the ball one-on-one with the Pirates off of free hits.

"We've been working on staying a lot lower, playing more patient defense and communicating with each other so the people," said Head Coach Alicia Govannicci.

[The team has] been doing a good job of playing together instead of just individually."

Rider's chemistry was shining through all game long with the Broncs being able to communicate opportunities to double team and give and go to the goal.

Junior forward and captain Lyric Scott said, "Building team chemistry on and off the field has helped us and trusting our coach. It all just meshes together very well."

On the second goal of the game, Ephriam's shot was deflected by Sacred Heart's goalie to give sophomore forward Valeria Perales a perfect hit into the cage, giving the Broncs a 2-0 lead at halftime.

Rider, however, did let up one goal to Sacred

Heart on a corner in the third quarter, but played strong defense all fourth quarter to secure the conference win.

Rider ended with 16 offensive corners during the game.

"Our offense has improved tremendously. One of our main goals is capitalizing and we've been improving on that in every practice, every game and working on our corners as well," said senior forward Carli Ciocco.

"We just keep working hard, keep pushing forward and we're going to keep earning corners. We're going to keep shooting and scoring," Ciocco added.

Senior goalkeeper captain Carlee Fulton had two saves during the game.

Broncs fall flat

The Broncs traveled to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, on Oct. 15 to play an-out-of-conference game against Lehigh.

The first quarter was back and forth between the two teams with both taking shots wide, on goal and getting corners.

Lehigh broke through and scored the first goal of the game seven minutes into the second quarter, making the score 1-0 at halftime.

For most of the second half, the match was back and forth again until two minutes left in regulation, Perales scored the first goal of the game for the Broncs assisted by senior midfielder Kiera Guckavan tying the tally at 1-1.

The Lehigh offense dominated overtime with three corners and scored the winning goal to end the game in their favor.

Rider ended the game with five offensive corners and eight shots on goal.

Fulton had eight saves in the game, giving her 51 saves in the season.

The Broncs are 6-8 on the season and travel to Connecticut to play a conference game against Fairfield on Oct. 20 at 3 p.m.



Kenneth Seward/The Rider News

Junior forward **Lyric Scott** looks to attack on the offensive end.

MEN'S SOCCER

Rider loses second straight after lossless September

By Aidan Brager

AFTER a 5-1-3 start to the season, Rider men's soccer lost its second consecutive game, falling 5-3 to the Iona Gaels on Oct. 11.

The game couldn't have kicked off worse for the Broncos, who gave up a penalty shot just three minutes into the game to go down 1-0.

Iona barely gave the Broncos a chance to catch their breath, knocking in a header off of a corner kick to make it 2-0 just a minute later.

"They hit us pretty hard pretty quick," said Head Coach Chad Duernberger. "Credit to Iona, they came in with an energy ready to go that we struggled with."

Despite the deficit, Rider wasn't discouraged and the Broncos picked up the pressure, their effort paying off when they were awarded a penalty kick just moments after Iona's second goal.

Senior forward Babacar Diene stepped up and finished the penalty, cutting the score to 2-1.

Diene emphasized the importance of chances like this as one of the team's leading goal scorers.

"Everytime I go out to play, I give 100%," said Diene.

Iona continued its rapid scoring, putting in another goal less than a minute later to go up 3-1.

"It's a testament to them. When you score goals at the right time in games it's a big blow to teams," said Duernberger.

The constant goal scoring halted for some time, with both teams trading chances until the final minutes of the first half. Rider attempted to claw its way back into the game after an early deficit with an onslaught of corner kicks and shots.

Eventually, the Broncos earned a free kick. With five minutes left in the half, senior midfielder Adel



Kaitlyn D'Alessio/The Rider News

Junior back **Martin Chladek** sets up a play for the Broncos.

Al Masude placed the ball beautifully from 25 yards out in the left corner to cut the deficit to one goal heading into halftime.

The start of the second half played out just as the end of the first did with both teams battling for chances.

The Gael's tough defense translated to great offense, and in the 68th minute, a cross into the middle of the box found the back of the net, as Iona extended its lead to two with just 20 minutes remaining.

But three minutes later, Diene answered with his second goal of the game. Rider was hoping it could use this as momentum for a comeback, but it was

to no avail; Rider wouldn't score for the rest of the game.

The Gael's scored in the 81st minute to ice the game. Rider ended up losing 5-3 in a matchup where they just couldn't get ahead in 90 minutes.

The game was the Broncos' second straight loss after an unbeaten streak that lasted more than a month.

"For us we just have to take care of games going forward, that's it. And our guys know that," said Duernberger.

The Broncos will travel to Buffalo, New York, on Oct. 18 to face Canisius. The match begins at 4 p.m. and will be streamed on ESPN+.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Broncs tie Iona in defensive battle

By Benjamin Shinault

RIDER women's soccer has remained unbeaten this October.

In the Broncos' most recent match on Oct. 11 against the Iona Gaels, they scored in the final 90 seconds to steal a 1-1 draw.

Fresh off two wins against Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference rivals, the Broncos were rolling when the bus stopped at Mazzella Field in New Rochelle, New York, to take on the last-place Gaels.

The first half of the match was even as both squads finished with four shots on goal. The stars of the first half for both teams were their goaltenders, as both of them accumulated four saves to keep the match scoreless heading into the break.

Coming out of the locker room, the Broncos and the Gaels continued to battle it out as both teams were without a goal until the later stages of the match.

In the 76th minute, the first goal of the game was scored by Iona off of a penalty kick, and the Gaels took the lead.

With time dwindling, senior goalkeeper Ellie Sciancalepore threw the ball down the field to graduate student forward Chloe Fisher who then found an open freshman midfielder Ava Ferrie. Ferrie fired the ball past the Iona goalkeeper to tie up the match at 1-1 with less than 90 seconds left in the game.

Time expired and the Broncos and Iona ended in a draw. Head Coach Drayson Hounsone, despite gaining a point and not losing the game, was not entirely impressed with his team's performance.

"Overall, it was a disappointing performance ...



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

Women's soccer Head Coach **Drayson Hounsone** letting his excitement all out for his team.

we struggled in every aspect," Hounsone said.

The Broncos have been playing a lot recently. Since Sept. 30, they have played four games and Hounsone believes that this spike in play is beginning to have effects on his team.

"We looked desperately tired and need the week off to recover, which we will do and be ready to go in a week's time against Canisius," Hounsone said.

The Broncos now stand at 5-6-2 on the year and

3-3-1 in conference play with five games remaining in the regular season.

Rider will next face off against Canisius on Oct. 18 at 4 p.m. at Ben Cohen Field. The game can be watched on an ESPN+ broadcast.

Sports

ONLINE

'WENT CUTE INSTEAD OF AGGRESSIVE'

It was a rough weekend for Rider volleyball, not only did it drop both road games, it failed to win a single set.

FIND MORE SPORTS COVERAGE ON THERIDERNEWS.COM



WRESTLING

PREVIEW: Broncs hope to build on 9-5 turnaround



Head Coach **John Hangey** looks on during a match from last season. He hopes he can build off a strong 2022-23 season.

Carolo Pasclae/The Rider News

By **Logan VanDine**

AFTER a disappointing 2021-22 season, Rider wrestling turned things around in a major way this past season, going 9-5 on the year with some impressive performances from upperclassmen.

As the Broncs now prepare for their first matchup of 2023 on Nov. 5, Head Coach John Hangey, who's entering his seventh season as the head coach, provided some insight on how his team is looking as the Broncs hope to make a much deeper run in the Mid-Atlantic Conference Championships and the NCAA Tournament this season.

"They look really good," Hangey said. "They look energetic; they had a very good summer and that's important because the pressure is off during the summer. You can work on things to get better, you can work on technique."

The Broncs have many key upperclassmen back for 2023: seniors Tyler Klinsky, Shane Reitsma, McKenzie Bell and Quinn Kinner; junior David Szuba and graduate students Richie Koehler, Mike Wilson and Jake Silverstein.

Hangey recalled a meeting he had with most of his wrestlers about how he hopes this season plays out.

"I told them enough is enough. You all had success at a very high level in your lives with the expectation of the NCAA's, and amongst that group of kids, we had three wins at the NCAA's and that's not gonna get it done at the next level," said Hangey. "They are all very capable of having success at that level so it's now time. It's long beyond the time for you to do what you're capable of doing to do what your dreams and your goals are and to stop sitting back to make it happen."

The Broncs this year also have some new wrestlers on their roster, bringing in 10 freshmen.

"I really like our group of freshmen, I really do. They're coming in, they're staying quiet, keeping their mouths shut, working hard, learning from the upperclassmen," said Hangey.

Freshman Gio Alejandro, who wrestled at Saint Joseph High School in Metuchen, New Jersey, said

that the team and Hangey have helped him prepare for the season ahead.

"Everything is good with the team, all the older guys are good leaders and they really push you as well making you feel welcome," Alejandro said. "Coach Hangey has helped with everything in the wrestling aspect and making sure everything is going good with classes. Everything he teaches in the room is very helpful for me, and making me get better every day."

Hangey touched on his tenure as well as being the head coach for the Broncs so far, and gave his job performance an interesting grade.

"I give myself a C+. We've had some All-Americans, and we've had some hiccups in some dual meets I would like to have back, haven't won a conference championship so there's work to be done. I got to be honest with myself, evaluate myself, make some adjustments so we can get these things done," Hangey said.

Hangey also gave his thoughts on his team's turnaround in 2022 going 9-5 after just having four the previous season in 2021.

"I would say getting Ethan Laird and McKenzie Bell back off of redshirt was a major help for that team, it injected some energy and some point scoring from dual meets, tournaments and stuff like that," said Hangey. "But also if anyone could get injured that year, they did, it was like a rash that I hope never happens again. It made us appreciate the work that you put in so you can achieve the success that you hope for."

Hangey also opened up about if he thought he would be the head coach of the Broncs for such a long period of time.

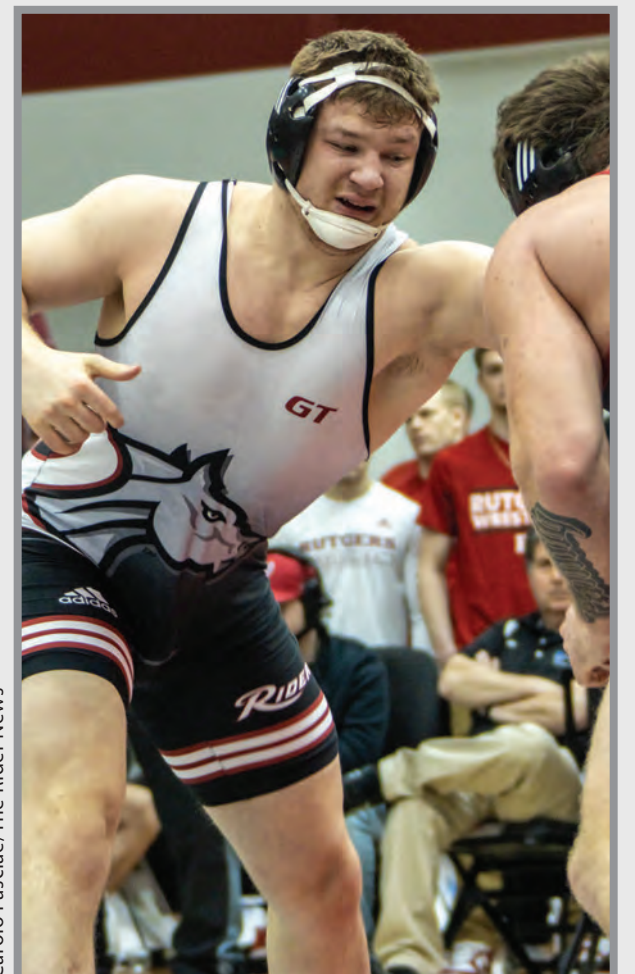
"Yes and no. It's something that goes by so fast, you have to cherish all the time that you have," Hangey said. "I had 17 [years] as a head assistant, and it still seems like I started yesterday. I love it and wouldn't change it for the world."

As the season approaches, Hangey gave his thoughts on the team's schedule, which consists of four Big Ten Conference schools, and listed which

matches he was looking forward to the most.

"I would say Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Rutgers and Pitt at the end of the season," he said. "My kids will have the competition they need to win a conference championship and put themselves in position to earn All-American status."

The Broncs' first match of the season will be on Nov. 5 at Princeton, with their home opener against Michigan scheduled for Nov. 19 at 2 p.m.



Carolo Pasclae/The Rider News

Junior **David Szuba** grapples with an opponent in Alumni Gym.