

Faculty layoffs avoided; curriculum under evaluation

By Jake Tiger

RIDER'S administration announced Oct. 26 that there will be no faculty layoffs this fall, and it will instead take steps to strengthen its low-enrollment programs rather than trimming them, according to an email sent to faculty members by the university president and provost.

"We did a very detailed analysis, and at the end of that analysis, I did not see where we could lay off faculty," said Rider Provost DonnaJean Fredeen in an interview with The Rider News. "I was looking at actual individual faculty assignments for the last three semesters and even doing that I didn't see a place where we could be saying we have ... too many faculty."

There had been mentions of layoffs and program eliminations since July, but months of fear and tension from Rider's professors culminated in a collective sigh of relief.

"[The professors are] very happy that they're going to get to keep their jobs," said Quinn Cunningham, president of Rider's chapter of the American Association of University Professors. "Beyond that, we would still like new leadership. We still don't necessarily think that this is the greatest leadership for Rider."

According to Fredeen, the administration is urging departments to "tighten up" their curriculums in lieu of layoffs, cutting down on classes with low enrollment and little overlap across different majors.

"When I look at our academic portfolio right now, I think we have a very rich course offering," said

Fredeen. "I really think our focus at this point needs to be ... where do we need to be investing in terms of current programs, as well as where we need to be investing in terms of new programs?"

Rider President Gregory Dell'Omo and Fredeen spent a majority of October meeting with each of the university's departments to discuss their outlooks and how their course offerings can be reassessed, according to Fredeen.

"The faculty aren't quite sure what the president-and-provost morale tour is," said Cunningham. "I don't think anyone really understands what that's supposed to be or what's supposed to come of it."

Talks of reductions began July 27 during a summer webinar in which Dell'Omo detailed his plan for Rider's future – particularly financially.

Dell'Omo said each program would be evaluated, claiming the university could no longer "offer every low-enrollment program simply on the basis of its individual academic value."

Shortly after the webinar, the administration also contacted the AAUP requesting \$1 million back over the next two years or else layoffs would be likely; the union declined to give the money back.



Kaitlyn D'Alessio/The Rider News

AAUP President Quinn Cunningham (bottom right) and other union members demand the removal of Rider's current leadership.

The two parties had recently negotiated a new collective bargaining agreement in September 2022 after multiple protests and a narrowly avoided strike.

The internal rift became more apparent on Aug. 31 when the AAUP held a silent protest at Dell'Omo's university convocation. Union members quietly sat through the presentation while holding signs commanding the president to resign.

"There's still a need for a change in leadership, in our opinion," said Cunningham. "There's some

Over 900 students affected by ADP struggles

By Amethyst Martinez

IN what Rider's chief financial officer described as a "perfect storm" at the disbursements office this semester, the university is looking to change its payroll software for students after hundreds were affected by ADP's system, causing employees to receive late paychecks, some delayed by months. Other student workers have received no pay since the start of the fall semester.

Students were met with an email notification just before 9:30 p.m. on Oct. 26 from CFO James Hartman, who began the notice by apologizing to students affected by the payroll system's shortcomings this semester.

The email, which was sent a day after The Rider News published an editorial outlining how some students affected by ADP's system have not been paid in months, offered a short-term solution for catching up on their paychecks quickly.

The email pointed employees to a QR code which linked to a survey for students to fill out, and asked that all unpaid time be submitted by Halloween night at 11:59 p.m. As of Oct. 31, more than 170 students reported unpaid hours, according to survey information circulated to supervisors.

Hartman also urged employees not to send any more paper timesheets via email for their backpay, a solution once offered to students who were missing money.

The email stated, "[the survey] will allow us to easily track all unpaid requests, and get as many paid

as possible by Friday November 10th."

In an interview with The Rider News following the email, Hartman said that currently, the university employs close to 1,000 students, and payroll issues have been "pretty much across the board."

"I would describe this as sort of like a perfect storm of stuff," said Hartman.

Some of the reasonings behind the issues faced on ADP's interface include: students who work two on-campus jobs unable to get their time approved by multiple supervisors, an issue with contracts that required disbursements to adjust every single one manually (which Hartman said included over 900 contracts for student workers) and a small payroll department to begin with.

After a multitude of employees have departed from the university over the past few months, two jobs, controller and payroll manager, have opened up in the past few weeks. The former university controller, Jim Strauss, who oversaw general accounting at the university, has left for a CFO position at another institution, and Angela Palumbo, payroll manager, is set to leave the university on Nov. 3 after resigning.

Hartman said that although the controller position being open shouldn't affect payroll operations much, with Palumbo's resignation, the disbursements office is now down to two individuals to handle hundreds of issues within the current system.

A year of struggles

Prior to the implementation of ADP last August,

all timesheets were input manually by the payroll department for students.

Along with student issues, supervisors have also experienced major difficulties with the platform.

In an article by The Rider News in October 2022, Kristine Brown, associate vice president for university marketing and communications, attributed the move to ADP as an effort to increase efficiencies, reduce costs and improve service to employees.

SEE DISBURSEMENTS PAGE 3



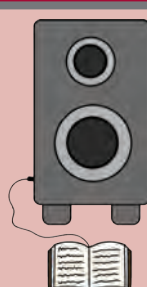
Amethyst Martinez/The Rider News

The Payroll/Disbursements Office implements Banner WTE as the new payroll system.

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Men's basketball dribbled to a win over Georgian Court.
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Text-to-speech audiobooks can help many students learn easier and faster.
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FRIGHTFULLY FUN SCREAM SCREEN
107.7 The Bronc welcomes back its annual Halloween event.
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SECURITY BRIEFS

BY AMETHYST MARTINEZ

Broken arm

Obstructed entrance. On Oct. 29 at 2:08 p.m., while on patrol, Public Safety discovered the gate arm to the Beckett Village lot was broken in half, partially obstructing the entrance. The gate arm was removed so that vehicles could access the lot. It was later reported to Public Safety that a C&W Services janitorial employee accidentally struck the gate arm with one of their vehicles and broke it. Facilities Management was made aware so that the gate arm could be repaired.

Rooftop report

Ladder access. On Oct. 27 at 2:17 p.m., Public Safety was dispatched to the Science and Technology Building after a report of someone sitting on the ledge of the roof. Public Safety arrived on location and spoke with the caller who reported seeing the person get up and walk away from the ledge. Public Safety searched the roof and found no one present. It was discovered that the person accessed the roof via a utility ladder, which was secured.

Making money

Seeking donations. On Oct. 26 at 2:38 p.m., Public Safety was dispatched to the area of Sweigart Hall for a report of individuals soliciting money. Public Safety arrived and met with the student who reported two males asking people for donations. The student provided a description of the males and Public Safety began to search the area. The males were seen walking toward the main parking lots. They did not stop when Public Safety asked and proceeded to the parking lots where they entered a vehicle and left campus. Public Safety was in contact with TCNJ regarding the issue and discovered they had been on their campus as well. TCNJ Police were able to positively identify them.

-Information provided by Public Safety Capt. Matthew Babcock

'Making Connections' gives guidance to underrepresented students

By Julia Train

In January, Rider received over \$20,000 from Janssen Pharmaceuticals and launched the "Making Connections" program in order to support underrepresented students in science, technology, engineering and math, also known as STEM majors.

Once a month these students, called Janssen Scholars, are able to listen to professionals in a variety of scientific fields talk about their career journeys and give advice during what's called the "Making Connections Speaking Series."

Kyle Houser, the coordinator of STEM student success, along with two science students, planned the series, which aims to introduce individuals from historically underrepresented groups to a plethora of careers in the field.

"We asked the students who they're interested in hearing from at the start of the semester, and then we tried to find people who lined up with this," said Houser. "One of the reasons that we started this project was to give students more people who they could hear from about careers in science and also how some of the information that they're learning about in the classroom is applied in real world contexts."

So far, the speakers have mostly been medical personnel of different levels, researchers and professionals with a variety of science backgrounds, such as biology and chemistry.

They've welcomed recent graduates who are now working in research and community members in related fields who are employed at medical facilities like Henry J. Austin Community Health Center and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

The next speaker will be an athletic trainer from Rider.

"We benefit as much from the speaker events as [the students] do. It might not be related to what classes we're taking, but it's just as beneficial. [The speakers] always have good things to share ... and they kind of

Photo Courtesy of Kyle Houser



Underrepresented students in STEM majors join "Making Connections" for career advice from professionals.

tell us about what they did, how they were successful in their time or just the path that they took," said Corrine Walton-Macaulay, a senior health science major and student director for the program.

Universities often host professionals from a number of fields to talk to students about their journeys and careers; however, what makes this series stand out is that it's geared toward underrepresented groups.

In order to address that need, all of the speakers invited are either Black or Hispanic.

In its first year, the series' primary target audience was Black and Hispanic students; however, this year it opened up to include first-generation and low-income students and those who have been historically disadvantaged in STEM fields.

Although Houser contacts the speakers, he has two student directors who reach out to their peers in the program.

The two directors, Walton-Macaulay and junior computer science major Michael Robinson, focus on building direct relationships with Janssen Scholars.

They're paid to help plan and promote the "Making Connections Speaking Series" and conduct student outreach within the program, especially to those who

are in introductory courses.

"If I were in that position [of being in those courses], I would want someone to help push me just because it's not an easy major to be in," said Robinson.

Robinson coordinates the program's social media, which Houser and the two student directors are actively working on improving and reaching a wider audience.

He noted that although most of the speakers are in the life science fields, he still learned from them about networking and the internship process.

While Robinson focuses on the broader part of student outreach, Walton-Macaulay focuses on speaking directly to students.

In addition to attending "Making Connections" events, she reaches out to students, focusing on building a relationship, and makes sure they're doing well in their classes.

"I feel like I could be a mentor towards those freshmen and be someone that they could look up to. A big part of what we do is trying to get them to realize what [they're] learning in class is relevant ... and getting them to see there's people who look like [them] in these fields," said Walton-Macaulay.

Native American Heritage Month

View 'n Chew
Nov. 1, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

Celebrate Native American Heritage Month at Daly Dining Hall. Native American singers and dancers will perform pieces from their culture along with traditional cuisine using recipes from the Mitsitam Native Foods Cafe in the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

Rider adds new programs after 2022 cuts

By **Caroline Haviland**

AFTER eight undergraduate majors and programs were cut from Rider's repertoire last summer, the university is still looking to outwardly grow with a STEM studies major in elementary education and a Bachelor of Social Work program in the department of sociology and criminology.

In an email sent to the university on Aug. 9, the new STEM studies major was announced as "building a pipeline of qualified teachers, particularly those in the STEM fields."

Susan Dougherty, chair of the Department of Teacher Education, was quoted within the release saying, "Students in this program will not only have academic preparation in STEM topics but plenty of real-world experience before starting their professional careers."

A separate email sent to the university on Sept. 20 announced the Bachelor of Social Work program, stating it intends to "prepare students to deliver social work services to individuals, families, organizations and communities in diverse settings, including health care facilities, schools, the criminal justice system and social service organizations."

Students in the program will be required to complete 400 hours of supervised fieldwork as a part of Rider's Engaged Learning Program while fulfilling the required courses for the curriculum.

According to the program's director, Irma Sandoval-Arocho, it is expected to be offered at the university in fall 2024 due to the accreditation process. The STEM studies major will also be open for enrollment in fall 2024.

Sandoval-Arocho, who began working at Rider this semester, has become a full-time faculty member assigned to the program in addition to Heather Lee, the director of field education.

"There are part-time faculty members that have traditionally worked with the minor in social

work that will likely continue offering courses," said Sandoval-Arocho. "One other full-time faculty member who has a social work background will teach courses in the program."

They hope to stand out from other BSW programs by providing specific tracks that have not been offered elsewhere.

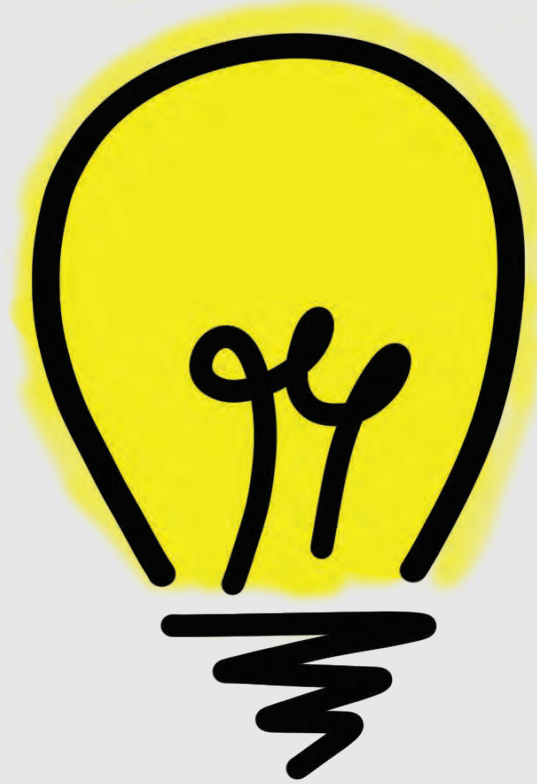
"We intend to offer a community outreach and an engagement track hopefully to be called Technology for Social Good Track, which is the other end of the spectrum for social work where social workers can use podcasts, blogs and social media to achieve social justice," said Sandoval-Arocho.

She encouraged Rider students to partake in the new program, saying, "Life can change in an instant, and social workers are there to help. We go into the homes and non-traditional spaces. ... This differentiates us from other professions, as it's such a robust and flexible field."

Kristine Brown, the associate vice president of university marketing & communications, shared a statement with The Rider News on the importance of new academic programs in the university's curriculum.

"Adding new and relevant academic programs that are in demand is important as these new programs generate enrollment and revenue for the university. Creating new programs also helps to give our students a better chance at job placement after graduation for the most in-demand careers," said Brown.

To learn more about the Bachelor of Social Work program, contact Victor Thompson at vthompson@rider.edu or visit rider.edu/social-work. To learn more about Rider's elementary education STEM studies major, visit rider.edu/elementary-ed or contact Dougherty at sdougherty@rider.edu.



Julia Train and Eric Buckwalter/The Rider News

Disbursements dilemma leads to student payroll switch

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

In an interview with The Rider News on October 30, 2023 Hartman said the reasoning behind the move was to put everyone into the same platform instead of separate ones for staffers and student-workers.

Since the implementation in August 2022, students, especially those who work more than one on-campus job due to multiple supervisors having to approve their timesheet, have faced serious issues with the system over the past year.

"From the time we rolled it out... [ADP has] been working with us to try and make it work, try and make it work," said Hartman. "And it just didn't."

On behalf of the university, Brown said, "This has been an unfortunate situation that many people have been working to rectify. Progress has been made and we believe the new system will alleviate future problems."

A new payroll system for students

With these issues, however, Hartman described a "light at the end of the tunnel." He said Banner Web Time Entry, a payroll service owned by Ellucian, has been going through a test period for certain groups of student employees and is expected to be implemented next week for the entire student body.

Naa'san Carr, Student Government Association President, is one of the students who were in a trial run of Banner WTE. He described ADP's issues as "unacceptable," but said he has faced no issues with the new interface, except for an instance where he turned in his timesheet and his supervisor wasn't notified.

"I sent an email to payroll urging them to send a message out to the student body because...this is unacceptable," said Carr.

He reiterated that SGA has been in talks with the university regarding the seriousness of students being unpaid, and said that what was needed from Rider was "more transparency."

"We need a faster response to what we've been getting over the past few years," said Carr.

Faculty and staff will remain on ADP, while all student-workers are making the switch.

Despite Carr's position in SGA, he said that, although he hasn't faced struggles from the missing paychecks himself, he recognizes the consequences possible for others, especially as Carr himself is a first generation college student.

"For most people, in most cases, not getting their paycheck is not making a payment on their tuition," said Carr, who said he used to pay his tuition payments by working on-campus. "Students aren't getting paid, and that affects the student experience as a whole...[If] you mess with people's money, that's not a good situation."



Eric Buckwalter/The Rider News



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

James Hartman hopes the move to Banner WTE will alleviate some of the university's issues.

CHECK OUT THIS WEEK'S SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

NEWS

NEW PAYROLL SYSTEM INTRODUCED TO STUDENT WORKERS



Student workers will make the switch from using ADP to Banner WTE to log hours.

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FEATURES

GETTING INTO SCHOOL SPIRIT: HOMECOMING WEEKEND



Food trucks and organization tables filled the SRC parking lot for Homecoming weekend.

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OPINION

TEXT-TO-SPEECH AUDIOBOOKS CAN REVOLUTIONIZE CLASSROOMS



Student shares how text-to-speech resources can help her and other students learn.

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SPORTS

BRONCS MOVE ON TO SEMIFINALS



Women's soccer pulled off an upset to advance in the MAAC Tournament.

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CALLING ALL CREATORS

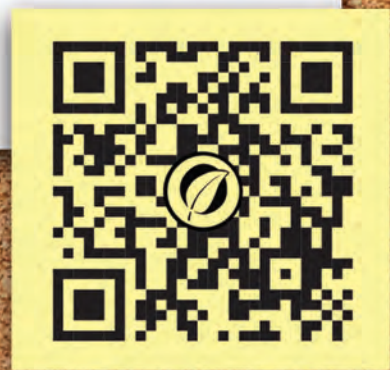
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107.7 The Bronc's fang-tastic Scream Screen



Photo courtesy of Michael Deem Jr.

This school year's Cranberry Court nominees competed in a costume contest ahead of the crowning ceremony.

By **Madison Lewis**

A WEEK-LONG delay was not enough to stop the annual Rider tradition of “Scream Screen VIII” from instilling fear and fun in the eager attendees. “Scream Screen” 107.7 The Bronc’s yearly contribution to the spooky season, commenced at 6 p.m., where vehicles were lined up in anticipation and in hopes of getting a perfect view of the 880-square-foot blow-up screen in the center of the visitor and CZR parking lot.

Clubs on campus, as well as local staples in the Rider community, set up tables and decorated their cars to lure costume-clad guests into filling their free Student Government Association reusable Halloween tote with all treats no tricks.

There was pumpkin painting with the Transfer Student Association, a costume demonstration made entirely of garbage worn by senior musical theater major Bailey Poe, the fan favorite, mini golf and many other activities.

After eating all their candy and divulging in the bountiful activities, attendees could sink their claws into some frights and bites with food options such as DeLorenzo’s The Burg Pizza, Maui Lu’s Hawaiian BBQ, PJ’s Pancake House, Bronc Bites, Thai Cha Chack and Yooo Cuz.

Among the festivities, sophomore radio and podcasting major Owen McCarron enthusiastically hosted the Cranberry Court costume contest at 7 p.m. where the people with the top three costumes were selected.

As the atmosphere grew darker and more haunting,

“Toy Story of Terror” played for the young souls to enjoy, followed by a bone-chilling 2021 horror film voted on by the community: “The Black Phone.”

Despite the apparent successes of the event, students had suggestions to improve the overall viewing experience.

“They kept [the name of the horror film] hidden. ... I would at least like to know what movie it was,” said sophomore game design major Isaree Kumtrakool. “Because if it’s a movie I don’t want to see, then it’s going to be pretty difficult to get [my car] out.”

John Mozes, the general manager of 107.7 The Bronc, commended his team of students for adapting to the new date after the event was postponed due to weather.

“All the artwork, all the audio imaging, all the email blasts, everything had to be changed,” said Mozes. “What I’m really proud of my students and what they did really well, was they did all that in 24 hours. So we made the decision [to postpone]. By Thursday everything was changed.”

McCarron summed up the essence of “Scream Screen” and why it’s an annual tradition.

He said, “It’s all about ... involvement. It’s all about getting the students out and having fun, making sure you’re not sitting in your dorm ... that’s really what [the radio station does] over here.”

Julia Train, Benjamin Shinault and Logan VanDine are section editors for The Rider News and are involved in 107.7 The Bronc. Train, Shinault and VanDine had no part in the writing or editing of this story.



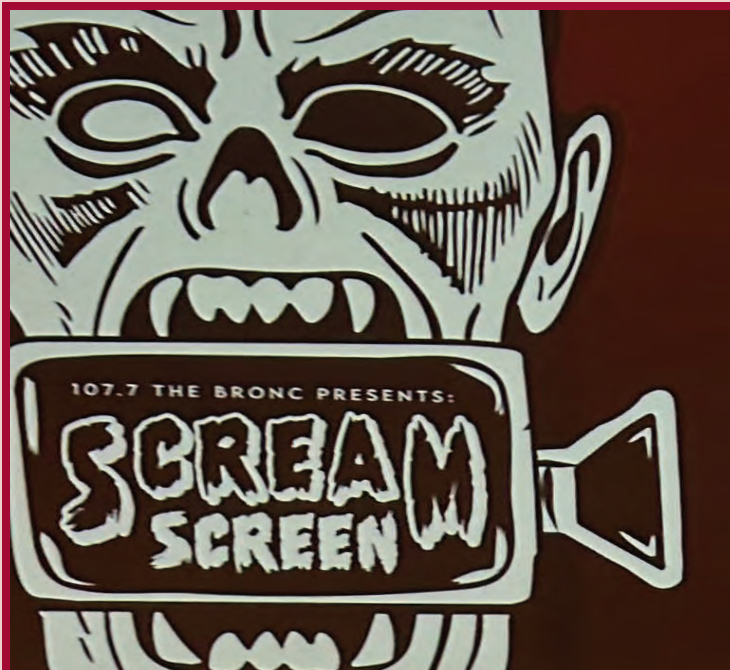
Madison Lewis/The Rider News

Kayla Faynor (left), a junior dance major, and Kayla Plunto (right), a graduate student in organizational leadership, participate in Trunk or Treat.



Madison Lewis/The Rider News

Senior musical theater major **Bailey Poe** made a costume entirely of plastic bags to demonstrate the waste of plastic.



Madison Lewis/The Rider News

The event’s screen displays a spooky graphic before the showing of “The Black Phone.”



Madison Lewis/The Rider News

Fan-favorite food trucks came back to Scream Screen.



Peter G. Borg/Rider University

Senior music production major **Yusef Collins-Bryant** (left) and senior business administration major **Charles Mule** (right) are crowned this year's Cranberry Court winners.



Hannah Newman/The Rider News

The band **Amp'd** performs at the Homecoming Tailgate. It played a mixture of tunes from the '70s, '80s and some newer hits. The attendees sang and danced along to the music.

Homecoming Weekend welcomes Rider community home

By **Hannah Newman**

THE celebration of cranberry and white took flight on Homecoming Weekend on Oct. 27 and 28. The food trucks lined up bumper-to-bumper as campus organizations lined the perimeter of the parking lot for Rider's annual Homecoming Weekend that kicked off with Scream Screen.

The next day, Broncs gathered in the Bart Luedeke Center parking lot at the Ghoulish Gathering Broncs Tailgate where students and families were welcomed by food trucks and live music.

Bronc families got to experience what life at Rider is like with their choice of food trucks such as a cupcake bar and hibachi tables to purchase snacks from, as well as live music behind the Student Recreation Center.

Students and families were able to purchase tickets in advance that granted them one meal truck ticket, which they were also available on site.

Food trucks present consisted of La Coqueta, DeLorenzo's, 1911 Smokehouse BBQ, Thai Cha Chak and House of Cupcakes.

In addition to the trucks, there was a wine and beer cash bar.

For children 12 and under, a Halloween costume contest was held that featured many future Broncs already dressed up as their mascot.

Upon announcing the Cranberry Court winners, Broncs got to sit, lounge and enjoy the live music and

food with their families.

Junior elementary education major Lexi Soliman said, "I'm always so excited to show my family what Rider is all about on Homecoming Weekend, and this year is even better with how gorgeous the weather is."

Organizations from all over campus came ready to show their community and beyond what they're all about with games, activities and items to purchase that will either support a cause or further the development of their organization.

Organizations like the Graphic Design Club, fraternities and the cheerleading squad all came to bring students and their families more information, insight and activities, from coloring to tote bag painting. Senior graphic design major and president of the Graphic Design Club Jenna Krauss welcomed students and families to the clubs with pumpkin coloring.

"I'm most excited to just see everyone have a good day celebrating being at Rider," said Krauss.

Not only were the clubs at Rider able to showcase their love and devotion to their club, the Business in Action program, which provides first-year business students with the chance to implement what they learn in the classroom to real life projects revolving around the workforce in business. Students must work together to develop a small business idea that will sell a product of their choice.

Students had the chance to display their small

businesses for parents and students to see, making a vendor sale available in the midst of all the fun.

At 12 p.m., the 2023 Cranberry Court winners were called to the stage and the 12 candidates introduced themselves one last time before the winners were announced.

The anticipation was palpable as the crowd zeroed in on the candidates one by one before the big reveal.

The 2023 Cranberry Court winners were senior business administration major Charles Mule and senior music production major Yusef Collins-Bryant.

"I feel great, it's an honor. This is one of my mom's first times here and I got to show her what I do, which is very rewarding," said Mule.

Collins-Bryant reflected on the fact that he hadn't dressed up for Halloween in 14 years but won the costume contest portion of the Cranberry Court competition.

"Winning cranberry king with Charles reminds me that I have genuine love and support here and that all the work I have done at the university really means something and others see it too," said Collins-Bryant.

The anticipation built up as the Ghoulish Gathering Broncs Tailgate and the men's basketball exhibition game vs. Georgian Court University began at 1 p.m.



Hannah Newman/The Rider News

The Rider Cheer Team gathers for a group photo at the Homecoming Tailgate.



Peter G. Borg/Rider University

The nominees of this school year's Cranberry Court pose with the winners, **Mule** and **Collins-Bryant**.

Text to speech: inclusivity in academics

On Oct. 18, I went to see my philosophy professor to clear up my last-minute questions for the midterm the next day.

After he answered my questions, he instantly earned cool-professor points when he pulled up his desktop and showed me that he had changed his computer assistant's voice to that of Taylor Swift. This wasn't a random piece of information – we had previously shared our appreciation for the singer with each other.

After this encounter, I got to thinking: I would probably be doing much better with understanding “The Complete Works of Plato” and “A New Aristotle Reader” if there were official audiobooks that Rider provided for all students.

As someone with a minor processing disability, I use the app SpeechBot to create audio versions of all my readings for school that do not already have an audiobook; however, the app is not perfect, and there have been quite a few times where the app has gotten the order of lines wrong, forcing me to go back and reread the lines that AI confused.

Although I know that I am an adult and part of my responsibilities is finding a way to read and understand all my school work, I don't think it should be on me to find tools like expensive audio textbooks in order to succeed, especially because the tools I do find are not up to par.

It seems like Rider is starting to agree with me.

In late October, the Franklin E. Moore Library announced that they are bringing the Palace Project app to the university.

The Palace Project, which is funded by the New Jersey State Library, provides access to over 19,000 “Reading for Fun” ebooks/audiobooks,” stated Electronic Resources & User Access Librarian Sharon Whitfield in a university-wide email on Oct. 18.

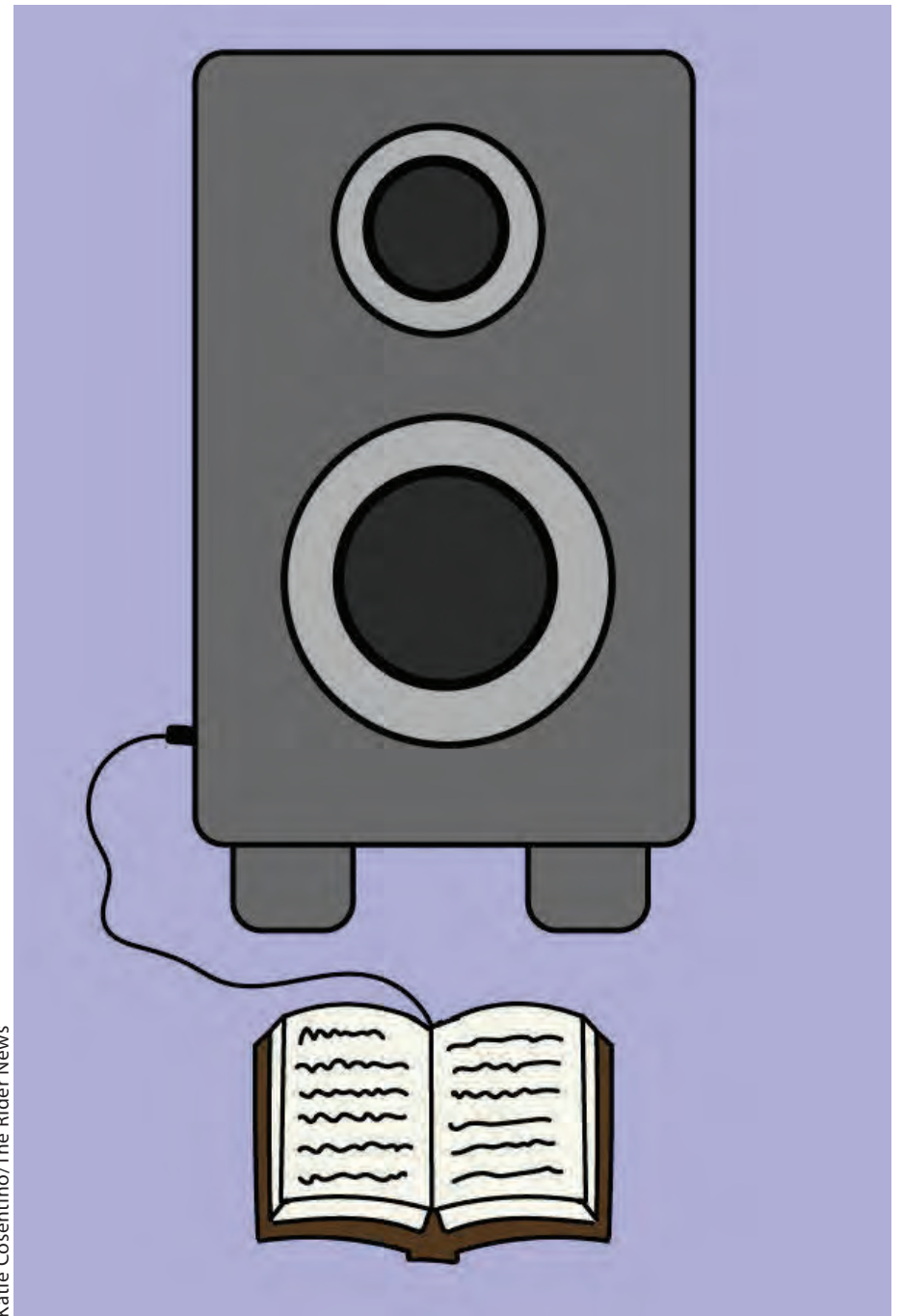
I'll hand it to Rider: this is a good start; however, I hope that they know there is still a large load of work that needs to be done if they want to be inclusive of students with processing disabilities or anyone who has a little trouble understanding what they read.

Nineteen thousand books are not nearly enough; we need every book that Rider's courses require.

One other major issue with the library's plan is that currently, there is no list available on the university's website of the books that are a part of the app.

Unfortunately, we live in a world where being completely inclusive of disabled people is a process. While it is good that Rider is attempting to continue the process, I encourage them to realize that what they are doing is the bare minimum, and I hope that they are smart enough to keep moving forward.

Sarah F. Griffin
junior journalism major



Katie Cosentino/The Rider News

Text to speech can help students learn faster and easier.



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SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Tutoring to teaching: Gaining confidence

If you would have told me four years ago that I would be applying to graduate school, excited to teach composition and writing courses to college undergraduates, I'm not sure I would have believed you.

And if you said that it would happen because of tutoring, I might have squinted and tilted my head to the side.

Tutoring has a stigma tied to it. In high school, tutoring meant that you weren't smart enough; that you needed extra help because you couldn't meet the expectations on your own, and therefore you were a less important student. I had a tutor for my geometry class my second year of high school because everything felt too hard and I thought I wouldn't be able to pass without outside help.

It was that same mentality that brought me back to tutoring in college. During my freshman year in the middle of the pandemic, I found myself taking English literature courses that were both exciting and challenging. I didn't think I could write upper level papers on my own even though I knew I loved to write.

But when I reached out to Rider's writing studio for help, something changed. Tutoring wasn't something that I did because I was weak, and it never actually was about that. Tutoring was a support system that helped me realize that I was always capable; I just needed a bit of collaboration from someone more experienced in college writing to take me to that next level.

And quite frankly, tutoring has become my entire life since then.

After working with Rider's incredible set of professional writing tutors for a year and a half as a tutee, I took Megan Titus' "Theories of Writing and Tutoring" class to learn more about becoming a tutor. I found myself rethinking every session I'd ever had, seeing things from the other side of the table, and realized that tutoring requires a lot more questioning than teaching. If you can ask a student good questions that help them restructure their thoughts, you can help them regain their confidence.

Confidence is a huge factor in whether we feel able to write anything in college, whether it's a major essay assignment or a short 250 word discussion post. If we don't think we can write, then we'll never see the incredible things that we can do with the power of language. We'll never see ourselves write that lab report, or that business proposal or that literary analysis essay. We'll forever limit ourselves and our potential, regardless of whether we believe we're meant to be writers or not.

I currently work as both an embedded tutor for composition courses and a student writing consultant in Rider's writing studio, and I've been officially tutoring for over a year now. In both of these roles, I get to work with a diverse group of students who come from all sorts of backgrounds. I get to connect with them, learn what interests them, watch them grow and accomplish incredible things in and out of the classroom, and leave them at the end of the semester knowing that they're ready to take on the next challenge that comes their way.

That kind of growth doesn't happen overnight, of course. There are some sessions where I remind students that it's not always easy, that I was in their shoes and still am when I get tutored (yes, I still attend tutoring sessions for my own classes). It takes a lot of trial and error, multiple drafts and a rough day or two before the writing becomes what you hope.

But having the confidence to try, get back up again, reach out for help, to look at things from a new angle, that's what will move us closer to our intended destination.

Without tutoring, I wouldn't have found that confidence. I wouldn't feel able to reach out to my professors for guidance or take another stab at that essay that felt never ending. I definitely wouldn't have felt good enough to become a tutor myself. Now, I'm on a mission to help all of my students gain that same confidence. I'm constantly learning more from weekly training sessions and articles about tutoring and writing, and I'm even working on a research study for my honors thesis about fostering student confidence in composition classrooms as I apply for graduate school.

I couldn't have done any of this without the incredible support system of the Academic Success Center, the writing studio, the embedded tutoring program, my incredible advisor Titus and my family for introducing me to tutoring back in middle school. I hope that all Rider students can experience this same transformation through the power of tutoring.

Visit the Academic Success Center on the top floor of the Bart Luedeke Center and schedule an appointment on TracCloud or by emailing academicsuccesscenter@rider.edu.

Ailyn Del Rio
senior English major

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

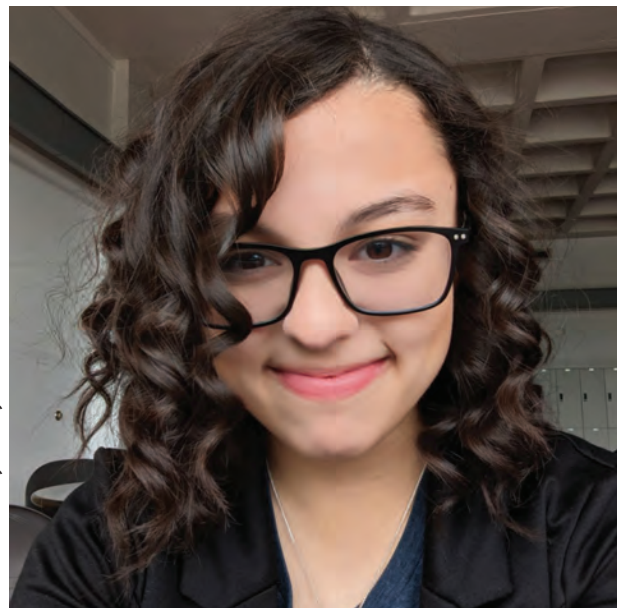


Photo Courtesy of Ailyn Del Rio

Ailyn Del Rio enjoys helping students learn and grow through tutoring.

SOPHOMORE SIGHTINGS

Student teaches to clean your beaches

I AM sure many of you have visited your local beach before and discovered miscellaneous items that you know don't belong on the sandy shoreline, such as bottle caps, plastic straws and a more recent development – masks. Where does all this pollution come from? The answer is us.

Every time you leave a plastic wrapper on the sand instead of throwing it out, it breaks down over time and eventually ends up in our oceans. This summer, the Environment America Research & Policy Center, a nonprofit organization, found that about half of the beaches in the U.S. are contaminated with items that are unsafe not just to the little creatures on the shore, but to the ones in the ocean as well.

Two weekends ago, I had the wonderful opportunity to attend a local beach sweep at Belmar Beach in New Jersey, hosted by the eco-friendly club here on campus, Broncs Go Green, in partnership with a nonprofit organization dedicated to cleaning up beaches called Clean Action Ocean. Students were encouraged to come with family and friends and bring gloves, hard-soled shoes and reusable buckets to reduce plastic bag waste.

My friend and I attended the sweep for around an hour and a half, and in that time, we found over 30 pieces of trash from different waste categories, such as plastic, paper and metal. We were given a sheet of paper to keep track of the different items we found and what category they belonged to. Although I was aware of the immense ocean pollution we face as a nation, I did not expect to uncover as much waste in the sands as I did.

Several of the items we found hidden underneath the sand included plastic and metal bottle caps, cigarette holders, small pieces of plastic and disposable face mask. What was even more disappointing than the trash was the interaction we had with a local boy who, even though he stood approximately 10 feet away from a trash can, expected us to throw away the plastic Dunkin' cup he had in his hand just because he saw we were cleaning.

After being told to throw it out himself, the boy proceeded to drop the cup in the sand, saying, "There, I littered. Will you pick it up now?" Immediately, my friend and I dismissed him and he picked his cup up and walked to the trash can to throw it out himself. The impression this interaction left me with was one of disgust for the indifference people seem to have when it comes to the pollution of our oceans and how they continue to shamelessly pollute beaches.

Our oceans make up the majority of our planet and the pollution left on beaches eventually finds its way into the ocean. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 80% of pollution in the oceans comes from land.

I encourage you to get your gloves and hard-soled shoes on and help clean up your local beaches, or at least clean up after yourself the next time you enjoy a nice day at the beach.

Grace Bertrand
sophomore journalism major



Photo Courtesy of Grace Bertrand

The Belmar beach in New Jersey after the sweep.

CLUB ICE HOCKEY

Rider falls to Rowan, defeats Drexel at home

By Rebecca Taylor Bludgus

RIDER club ice hockey's 10-game winning streak came to an end on Oct. 27, falling to Rowan 3-2; however, the Broncos redeemed themselves the next day, beating Drexel on Oct. 28 with a score of 5-4.

'It wasn't our greatest'

During the battle of the RUs, the Rowan Profs knocked the Broncos off their high horse for their second loss all season and first since their opening game.

Rowan got on the board early in the first for a lead that was never relinquished, with a period ending 2-0 in their favor and Rider leading in shots on goal 14-13.

The Broncos first goal of the game was set up by junior goalkeeper Trevor Giwerowski who received a rare goalie secondary assist with freshman forward Brendan MacAinsh who popped it into the goal, making the score 2-1.

Rowan got on the power play as graduate center and alternate captain T.J. Evan got sent to the box for tripping.

The one-man advantage allowed Rowan to get the power-play goal bringing its lead to up 3-1.

Determined to close the gap in the third period, Rider had a number of great attempts and scoring opportunities but were just not quite there as the Rowan goalkeeper was a menace in the net all night.

With 21.6 seconds left, Evan made the game 3-2 during a cluttered play in front of the net with senior left wing and alternate captain DJ Sucher and graduate student defenseman and captain Eddie Coyne on the assist.

The Broncos ultimately fell to the Profs 3-2, who were their first real challenger so far.

"Today's problem was we didn't get outskilled, we just got outworked, preparation wise, it wasn't our greatest," Coyne said.

In the four games before this past weekend, the Broncos had a total of 29 goals averaging about seven goals per game.

"We did all the little things wrong today," said



Tristan E. M. Leach/The Rider News

Senior forward **Anthony Zito** repping a pink jersey for Pink in the Rink night in its game against Drexel Oct. 28.

Head Coach Conner Fox. "We weren't prepared, we weren't committed, we weren't ready to work and when that happens, the puck doesn't find its way in the net."

Broncs takedown Drexel

The Oct. 28 matchup had both Rider and Drexel trying to come back from losses from the night before.

Before the game, there was acknowledgement about the game's Pink in the Rink night in support of breast cancer awareness, with Rider wearing pink jerseys for the game.

Pink in the Rink night was a collaboration with the Mensa Singer Foundation, whose mission is to "ensure children in families affected by breast cancer have continued access to their youth hockey program and support system," according to its Instagram.

The first period was scoreless with Rider maintaining a heavy offensive presence.

Fifty seconds into the second period, Drexel was the first on the board only for Rider to respond 17 seconds later with a goal from senior forward Dom Cerceo along with senior center and alternate

captain Mark McDermitt, 2-1 but Drexel tied it two minutes later.

The Broncos took advantage of two more power plays, one having a 5-on-3 advantage with a goal from Schneider with the help of Coyne and sophomore forward Alex Blaszak, who then scored the next goal a minute later.

Drexel got a power-play goal of their own for the last goal of the period, 4-3 end of two.

Nine minutes into the third, McDermitt scored a power-play goal, making the game 5-3.

The Dragons got a major advantage after senior forward Anthony Zito received a five-minute major and disqualification for spearing.

With three seconds left, Drexel put the game within one on a goal with Giwerowski having the original save, but allowing the score on the rebound.

With 1:36 left the Broncos managed to finish the job with a final score of 5-4.

Rider will return home on Nov. 10 against Maryland at 7:30 p.m. at Ice Land Skating Center in Hamilton, New Jersey, for the Military Appreciation game.

FIELD HOCKEY

Broncs miss playoffs for first time in 23 years

By Kadie Diguseppe

RIDER field hockey split its two games over the weekend, winning 2-1 over Long Island University on Oct. 27, then losing 2-0 to Hofstra on Oct. 29. With the win and loss, the Broncos' season has come to an end, missing out on the playoffs for the first time in 23 years.

Last home game win

At Ben Cohen field on a beautiful autumn night, the Broncos faced the LIU Sharks for their last home game of the 2023 season.

Rider allowed the Sharks only one goal halfway through the first quarter, controlling the ball for most of the frame.

After the single goal, Rider forced a corner to start the second quarter, which resulted in a junior forward Lyric Scott goal after a deflection off of the LIU goalkeeper, tying the score 1-1.

The Broncos kept that energy when top goal scorer, sophomore forward Valeria Perales got a great pass from sophomore forward Semra Said, and sent in Rider's second goal with a shot from her knees.

"At the beginning of the season, we were a little unsure about when to press and when not. I think throughout [the season] we made better decisions on when to cut the ball, when to seal it, when to go and when to hold back," stated Said.

LIU had a couple chances during the second half of the game but Rider's defense was on lockdown, particularly sophomore defender Megan Normile.

Said added, "We played great today. Our press was great and I think we deserved the win."

When senior goalkeeper Carlee Fulton was asked how she felt about her final home game as a senior, she described it as bittersweet.

"I love that we won. Everyone hustled and put their heart out on the field. It was so nice to win on this field one last time," Fulton added.

Head Coach Alicia Govannicci reflected on the success of her team and how they took her critiques into account and applied it to their gameplay.

"I'm most proud of the heart and the hustle that they put out there today on the field. That's something that we talked a lot about this week that we've been missing in some games," she said. "We came back from behind and we got the job done. For that, I'm very proud of them," Govannicci said.

Rider finished the game with five shots, three shots on goal, five corners.

Broncs lose final game

The Broncos traveled to Hempstead, New York, on Oct. 29 to play their last game of the regular season at Hofstra.

Rider started off the game with a corner, but freshman forward Willemijn Ephraim's shot sailed wide.

Hofstra's offense picked up in the second quarter as they scored the first goal of the game on a give-and-go with six minutes left in the first half, giving Hofstra a 1-0 lead at halftime.

During the second half, senior midfielder Kiera Guckavan tried to get something going for the Broncos by giving Rider a corner in the third quarter, but nothing came of it.



Jayden Walker/The Rider News

Sophomore forward **Valeria Perales** setting up a play for the Broncos.

"We've made a lot of improvements throughout the season. We started out pretty slow and we finally found a formation where we clicked," said Govannicci.

Rider ends its season with a record of 7-11 in Govannicci's first season at the helm, and did not qualify for the playoffs.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Broncs roll, defeat Georgian Court 75-53

By Benjamin Shinault

THE ever-iconic sounds of the Rider Pep Band and the occasional echo of trash talk found its home once again in Alumni Gym as Rider tamed the Georgian Court Lions, 75-53.

On Oct. 28, Rider men's basketball opened up its season on Homecoming Weekend with an exhibition matchup against the Georgian Court Lions, a Division II program from Lakewood, New Jersey.

For the Broncs, it was their first opportunity to play around with the starting lineup and take a peek at some potential difference-makers on the bench.

Head Coach Kevin Baggett sent out a starting five of senior guard Allen Powell, graduate student guard T.J. Weeks, senior guard Corey McKeithan, senior forward Mervin James and senior forward Tariq Ingraham.

The scoring started with a beautiful floater from Weeks that found itself in the bottom of the net, his first in cranberry.

"It was great to see all the fans out there and listening to them and I think that's what caused all the pre-game jitters," Weeks said with a laugh. "But once you get the first bucket and first stop ... it'll be tough for [Georgian Court] to stay with you the whole game."

McKeithan, a Rider returner, was ready to make his way back onto the court for yet another season.

"The vibes were great for us and I felt it as soon as we stepped out," said McKeithan with a grin. "We just looked around and said, 'Everybody's here.' It's exciting."

After the make from Weeks, Georgian Court seemed to stick with the Broncs. Early on in the

first quarter when Rider only led by one, Baggett called a timeout and talked with his team.

"Everybody was just getting their jitters out. They haven't played their first game with the crowd, playing amongst one another ... I just told them to settle down and do what we can do. We got better as time went along," Baggett said.

After that timeout, Rider did not look back as it went on a run, never giving up its lead again.

A huge contributor to the run and the dominant win was freshman guard DJ Dudley. The San Diego native and McDonald's All-American finished with 16 points, five rebounds and 5-of-8 shots made from the field.

Baggett was impressed with Dudley's head-turning performance, and told fans to not be shocked when they see what Dudley can truly do on the basketball court.

"I'm not surprised. He's a mature young man and he's been playing with grown men for a long time, and we knew he was talented when we recruited him," Baggett said. "He laid it in the first time he touched the ball, so that's DJ. We see it everyday."

Going into halftime, the Broncs were up by 24 points and were shooting 43.9% from the field and 35.7% from beyond the arc. Their top scorer heading into the locker room was Powell, who had eight points with six coming from his second home, the 3-point line.

Defensively, the Broncs held the Lions to only



Jayden Walker/The Rider News

Freshman guard **DJ Dudley** shined in his debut with 16 points.

21 points and a lackluster 28% on field goals. Rider created eight turnovers which transitioned into 11 points.

Coming out of the locker room, their dominance continued as the Broncs' lead swelled to 28 and their biggest run was penciled in at 18. Despite all this, Baggett wasn't entirely impressed with the Broncs' offensive game, especially his second unit.

"Obviously, it's still early ... guys off the bench have to do a little better job of executing and coming in, protecting the ball, but aside from that we will go back and watch film and get better come Monday."

The Broncs' bench unit accounted for 36 of Rider's 75 total points but the reserves also turned the ball over eight times, which to Baggett, was a glaring problem that needs to be fixed before the next game.

The Broncs' first regular season game will be on Nov. 6 when they take on Immaculata at 7 p.m.

MEN'S SOCCER

Rider catches fire, wins three straight

By Aidan Brager

RIDER men's soccer picked up two wins on the road against Mount Saint Mary's on Oct. 25 and Marist on Oct. 28 with the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference tournament lurking.

'I'm beyond thrilled'

On Oct. 25, Rider men's soccer got its second-straight victory, winning 1-0 against Mount St. Mary's in a low-scoring, but shot-heavy affair.

The game kicked off with Rider following its usual plan, which consisted of putting early pressure on its opponent's back line.

After some good play in the midfield, graduate student forward Zaki Alibou crossed the ball into the box and senior forward Babacar Diene connected with it, giving the Broncs a 1-0 lead just three minutes into the game.

Diene's play has been stellar this season, as he leads the team in goals with six, two more than second place.

The two teams competed evenly throughout the rest of the first half, with both teams taking four more shots on goal, but neither putting one in the back of the net. The Broncs and Mountaineers entered halftime still at 1-0.

In the second half, the hungry Mountaineers picked up the pace and the pressure, attempting many shots on goal. They scored almost double Rider's shots in the second half and finished with a 9-5 advantage.

The Broncs held on to their 1-0 lead as the final whistle blew, earning their second straight win after an almost month-long skid which featured two draws and two losses.

With the win, the Broncs were able to clinch a spot in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference tournament. Head Coach Chad Duernberger voiced his pleasure after the match to GoBroncs.

"I'm beyond thrilled this group has secured a place in the MAAC Tournament after tonight's result," Duernberger said to Rider Athletics.



Kaitlyn D'Alessio/The Rider News

Freshman midfielder **Saad Chaouki** (left) and sophomore midfielder **Luke Kirilenko** (right) squeeze down on an opponent.

Broncs down the Foxes

Rider won its third straight game on Oct. 28, beating the Marist Red Foxes away from home with a score of 2-1.

The game featured a bit of a different start than the Broncs are used to, as their early pressure led to a score from Marist rather than Rider.

After a mess in front of the Broncs' goal following a free kick, Marist knocked the ball into the back of the net, going up 1-0 within the first minutes.

But this was no challenge for the Broncs as they have been overcoming adversity the entire season, and it showed with their almost immediate response to the goal.

Just four minutes later, Diene, the team's leading goal scorer, went one-on-one with the goalkeeper and knocked in a low shot, tying the game at 1-1 just before the ten-minute mark.

This was Diene's seventh goal of the season, continuing his phenomenal goal scoring run.

The game continued this way through the rest of the first half, with both teams trading chances on goal. In the 43rd minute, sophomore midfielder Momo Diop landed a stellar 25-yard shot on goal, giving the Broncs a 2-1 lead headed into halftime.

In the second half, Marist played aggressively in an effort to tie the game up with a barrage of corner kicks and shots, but it was to no avail. The second half started and ended with a score of 2-1, becoming the Broncs' third straight win.

After the match, Duernberger was pleased with his team's effort both in this match and the whole season.

"This group continues to amaze me. We had a lot of great individual efforts tonight and I'm happy to see this team continue to grow late in the season," Duernberger said.

Rider will look to continue this form on Nov. 1 as the Broncs take on Saint Peter's at home at 7 p.m.

Sports

ONLINE

'WE HAD SOME REALLY BIG PLAYS'
Rider volleyball won two of its last three matches. Read up on how the Broncs did it.

FIND MORE SPORTS COVERAGE ON [THERIDERNEWS.COM](https://www.ridernews.com)



WOMEN'S SOCCER

Rider moves to quarterfinal after 1-0 upset



The Broncs are heading back to the quarterfinal round of the MAAC Tournament for the first time since the 2020-21 season.

Kaitlyn D'Alessio/The Rider News

By **Dain Smith and Richard Saile**

RIDER women's soccer is headed back to the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Tournament semifinals for the first time since the shortened 2020-21 season.

On Oct. 25 against Mount St. Mary's, the Broncs were able to clinch a spot and a few days later on Oct. 29 the Broncs won their tournament game.

The clincher

The Broncs lost their last regular season matchup to Mount St. Mary's, 1-0.

Despite the shutout loss, Rider still secured its 11th consecutive MAAC Tournament berth on Oct. 25 and entered as the sixth seed at 6-8-2 with a conference record of 4-5-1.

The only goal of the match came from the Mountaineers in the 78th minute when Mount St. Mary's scored off a header that managed to get past All-MAAC second team senior goalkeeper Ellie Sciancalepore.

The Mountaineers continued to control the ball for the rest of the allotted time, but in the end, Rider had a chance near enemy territory with a corner kick but the ball could not find the back of the net to tie it up.

In total, the Broncs had more shot attempts than Mount St. Mary's, but were even on shots on goal with both the Broncs and Mountaineers having four.

Head Coach Drayson Hounsoume said, "We have to

do whatever we can to win, we beat them 1-0 already. Our first half performance against them was good, second half goals changed the game and when we scored they changed things a little bit so we will be preparing like when we played them two weeks ago."

Hounsoume proceeded to say what he learned from the loss to Mount St. Mary's.

"It reminds you that the game comes down to moments, it's not who has the most possessions, it's not who has the most shots," Hounsoume explained.

Broncs advance

On a windy, rainy afternoon on Oct. 29, Rider traveled to Buffalo, New York, to take on the Canisius Golden Griffins. In a rematch of last season's opening round game, the Broncs were back against the same team that ended their season last year.

The game started with Canisius coming out aggressive offensively and the Broncs defense preventing the early shots-on-goal from the Griffins. The first and only goal of the game came in the 19th minute by All-MAAC third team graduate student forward Chloe Fisher scoring on a header towards the far post inside the 18-yard box assisted by freshman midfielder Ava Ferrie off a cross.

The goal was Fisher's fourth of the season and her MAAC-best fourth game-winning goal of the campaign. The Broncs were up 1-0 at the end of the first half, but Canisius did not go away easy.

In the second half of the match, the Griffins came out aggressive and pressured the Broncs defense with 16 of their 22 shots and three of their four shots on goal in the last 45 minutes.

The closest the Griffins got was in the 55th minute where Sciancalepore jumped up and pushed the ball over the crossbar, denying the chance for the Griffins to tie the match.

Another opportunity came in the 57th minute when the Griffins' leading scorer tried to hit a shot from a sharp angle and forced Sciancalepore to make a huge stop as the sixth-seeded Broncs held on to upset three-seeded Griffins 1-0.

Sciancalepore made four saves in the shutout, her fifth of the season, and 15th of her career which is second all-time in Broncs history.

The win gave the Broncs their first MAAC Tournament victory and first semifinal appearance since the shortened 2020-21 spring season when the Broncs defeated Manhattan 2-1.

"It was a great win today and I'm super proud of the effort. I think Canisius is an outstanding team with some excellent players so to travel up and win 1-0 on their turf is very hard to do," Hounsoume said. "Our group showed great character to handle and absorb pressure. We'll rest up and get ready."

The Broncs now advance to the semifinal and travel to take on top-seeded Quinnipiac on Nov. 2 at 2 p.m.

#7 Forward

Chloe Fisher
All-MAAC Third Team

#1 Goalkeeper

Ellie Sciancalepore
All-MAAC Second Team

