



# Student killed in car accident

By Benjamin Shinault

**R**IDER student Samuel Beale, 20, died April 14 in a single-car accident on Interstate 295 in Hamilton, New Jersey, according to a press release.

Beale, of Kenil, New Jersey, was a sophomore economics major who lived in Kroner Hall, Rider President Gregory Dell’Omo said in an email to the university community on April 15.

Around 8 p.m. Sunday, Beale’s Nissan SUV veered off the road heading north on I-295 and struck a concrete bridge support and guardrail around mile marker 60.6, according to police.

Police wrote that Beale sustained fatal injuries, and the crash remains under investigation.

Those who knew Beale will remember him as a shy and reserved person, but when surrounded by his close friends, he was a fun, outgoing individual who was usually holding a can of Monster Energy.

Beale enjoyed his alone time, but when approached, he welcomed conversation with a big smile.

“Really unassuming on the surface, but like, just kind of a ridiculously silly person on the inside,” said sophomore political science major Joe Seewald, who was roommates with Beale for two years.

Seewald described Beale as kind, considerate and impossible to get mad at.

Beale would always ask Seewald if he wanted to watch a movie with him in their dorm – one of Beale’s favorite activities.

“His favorite movie was ‘Once Upon a Time in Hollywood,’” said Seewald. “His GrubHub name was Cliff Booth after the main character. I guess maybe he thought of himself as Rider’s Cliff Booth.”

Cliff Booth, played by Brad Pitt, is one of the most daring stuntmen in the film’s fictional rendition of Hollywood.

In the universitywide email, Dell’Omo said, “His presence touched the lives of so many within our University community, and his loss will be deeply felt by all who knew him. ... I encourage our community to support one another, and remember Samuel for the friendship, kindness and joy he brought to so many.”

The email encouraged those who need help to contact the Counseling Center in Zoerner House along Lawrenceville Road.

Beale is survived by his parents, James Beale and Nicole Tesmer.

Details on funeral arrangements will be shared by the university as they become available.



Photo courtesy of Joe Seewald

Joe Seewald (left) with his roommate and friend Samuel Beale (right) prior to the recent solar eclipse.

# Rider sheds partial light on endowment

By Amethyst Martinez

**U**NIVERSITIES across the nation have begun releasing their investment policies and endowment details in an effort for more transparency, typically amid calls from college communities holding institutions accountable or student demands for schools to divest from politically fraught holdings.

Rider has not faced many calls to release investment policies and endowment information, leaving the school’s multimillion dollar investments a secret to the public — until now.

## Endowments

Rider’s endowment, which is small in comparison to older and more prestigious universities, sat at around \$63 million, according to its 2023 investment year-end report.

This number may sound big, but many universities have much, much more.

Princeton University, one of Rider’s New Jersey neighbors, has one of the largest endowments in the country, standing at around \$34.1 billion at the end of the 2023 fiscal year that ended in June, according to the school. Harvard University has a \$45.5 billion endowment, making it the wealthiest higher education institution in the world.

University endowments are donations from a multitude of people in the university community, such as alumni, Board members and even staffers. These endowments are then invested into companies, organizations and funds around the world in order to achieve long-standing financial viability.

A portion of the annual returns – money earned from its investments – can be used by the school for expenses, typically for scholarships at Rider. Donors have the option to say exactly where they want the

money to go – specific departments, infrastructure, etc. – or allow it to be used freely by the university.

James Hartman, Rider’s chief financial officer, said that over 400 individual endowments were a part of the university’s holdings, with most tied to specific purposes at the donor’s discretion.

He estimated that around 80% is designated specifically for scholarships, with the other 20% earmarked for program and educational support, and then unrestricted funds, which have no conditions attached. Annually, Rider gives around \$3 million in endowment returns toward scholarships, he said.

## Transparency in higher ed

Until now, Rider’s investment policies have never been publicly released. These policies guide where the endowment assets are invested.

Public calls-to-action for these policies have affected higher education institutions everywhere, with many divesting in certain industries in order to achieve not only accountability, but more money. These industries include gun suppliers, fossil fuels and more.

Responsible investing has been at the forefront of many investor’s minds as companies and institutions across the world have made changes to their policies due to social justice movements, sticking to their public values and following increased calls for transparency.

On April 11, more than 200 students attended a rally calling for California’s Pomona College to divest from Israel, according to Inside Higher Ed, a symptom of the ongoing Israel-Hamas War that has caused increased activism on campuses across the United States in opposition to the war.

At Smith College in Massachusetts, students occupied an administrative building for nearly two weeks this spring, after the school’s Board of Trustees rejected a petition to divest from weapons



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

Rider’s Chief Financial Officer James Hartman explains parts of the endowment fund.

manufacturers supplying Israel’s military, according to local news reports.


Rider’s policies, which are signed off by the Board of Trustees and implemented by its investment firm, decide important values to the university, such as diversity, equity and inclusion and environmental sustainability. These are examples of “ESG’s,” or environmental, social and governance considerations, which investors can use in the process of picking where money goes.

Hirtle, Callaghan & Co, Rider’s current investment firm which manages the endowment, created an ESG profile of the university in 2023, where Rider received a score of AA, the benchmark sitting at BBB. One of the investment profile’s greatest strengths is low carbon risk, which is 49.45% less than the benchmark.

Currently, Rider’s Board of Trustees Investment Subcommittee is expected to propose new investment policies – possibly containing more emphasis on socially-responsible investing – this




**INSIDE** **BRONCS FAR BELOW .500**  
*Rider softball had a difficult week, losing to Iona and going 1-3 against Siena.*



**PAGE 11**

**COLE BRINGS PLENTY**  
*Student reflects on the tragic death of Cole Brings Plenty.*



**PAGE 8**

**'HANGUL 101' WITH KIM**  
*Rider CDO taught Korean handwriting for Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.*



**PAGE 6**



# Model UN wins 15th year in a row

Photo courtesy of Barbara Franz



Rider's Model UN team represented Poland at the National Model UN simulation in New York City.

By Hannah Newman

**R**IDER'S 2024 Model United Nations team brought home its 15th Outstanding Delegation award from the National Model UN simulation in New York City, the highest award in the conference representing Poland.

The team has a 57-year history at Rider and has become a tradition, giving students a chance to participate in a simulation of what the United Nations does in real life.

Head delegate and senior global studies major Paola Carlesso said, "This year we were Poland and Poland right now was a really interesting country to be considering what is going on in the world. It was really nice to be considered a power player in a lot of the issues we were dealing with."

Students of all majors join with a hope to elevate their leadership and team building skills while representing their designated country and university.

Delegates were partnered with different committees that represent various topics, some including social development, atomic energy and environmental refugee which diversified the student experience as they applied

their skill sets to different parts of their country.

Junior global studies major Nina Weber was a delegate for the Commission of Narcotic Drugs and explained that although not everything goes as planned, resilience is pivotal to the process toward success.

"This year was very hectic, we had some scuffles with some other delegates there because some schools that attend are getting graded but sometimes that's just the name of the game," said Weber. "You have to be able to figure out, 'should I work with this delegate? Should I stay away from them? What is the overall vibe on the committee?'"

On April 16, the team hosted a teach-in where delegates discussed their experience at the conference and what they took away from it both as a group and individually.

Carlesso mentioned that a big takeaway for the team was learning the importance of being professional, which is essential to any area of discipline.

"We really try to instill leadership to our delegates so that when they get to committee, they are able to be the ones who are leading the working groups and getting the work done," said Carlesso.

Before attending the conference, each partnership in every committee must write a position paper, an essay that explains their designated country's position on issues they are dealing with.

The Model UN Environment Assembly won one Position Paper Award for their submission.

"It didn't feel real, the first thing we did was find Paola," said freshman political science major Nick Smith. "Just being new [to Model UN] and winning that award was the most fulfilling reward of my life so far, I felt the stress of the entire week just leave my body."

Students who spoke at the teach-in highlighted that no matter where a student is in their college experience, Model UN is beneficial to all.

Senior cyber security major Jarod Cox said, "Considering this is the first and only turn I'll be doing Model UN since I'm graduating, it was really incredible to be able to talk to so many people in a span of just a couple of days and feel like there was a sense of comradery. It [the experience] changed me so much to the point where I am so much more confident in talking to people in general and being myself."

## Alum funds public policy internship expenses

By Julia Train

**A**T the end of 2023, Edward P. Manning '82 gifted Rider \$200,000 to establish The Manning Fund for Public Service, which will offer financial support to students who secure unpaid internships or professional opportunities in government, the public sector or within nonprofit advocacy groups.

Manning's idea for the fund came from personal experiences when attending Loyola Law School in Los Angeles. During that time, he was able to complete a two-month internship working on social justice issues at a nonprofit in Washington, D.C. because of a stipend he received.

"I wouldn't have been able to do that without the stipend that they gave me ...and so I realized how important it is for students," said Manning. "Without some financial assistance, a lot of students can't afford to do those kinds of internships where you don't get paid and a lot of them don't pay. They're critically important for students who want to go into public service."

At the end of March, the first two recipients, who were the only applicants, were announced. Christina Natoli, a junior political science major and Ginamarie Capozzoli, a senior criminal justice major, will each receive a \$2,250 stipend to help them with internship-related expenses.

Capozzoli missed the original mass email, but her mother saw it and forwarded it to her.

She immediately sent her resume and a letter explaining her financial needs to Micah Rasmussen, director of the Rebovich Institute for New Jersey Politics and Kelly Bidle, dean of Rider's College of Arts and Sciences, who chose recipients. A few days later, she had an interview to talk about her two internships.

She spends one day a week in Philadelphia at the Immigrations and Customs Enforcement and another day at the United States Postal Inspection Service in Trenton, New Jersey.

At ICE, Capozzoli works with tracking court cases for convictions and making sure immigrants' passports are following them along the process with proper documents. At the United States Postal Inspection Service, she helps investigate mail-related crimes, such as mail theft.

After graduation, Capozzoli hopes to work in some aspect of law enforcement.

"I love my two internships. I love ICE and I love Postal. I would love to work there, but since the processes are so long for federal governments, I'm also looking at prosecutor's offices within my area to possibly be a detective," she said.

Natoli sent her resume and letter over on Feb. 25 and heard back about an interview four days later.

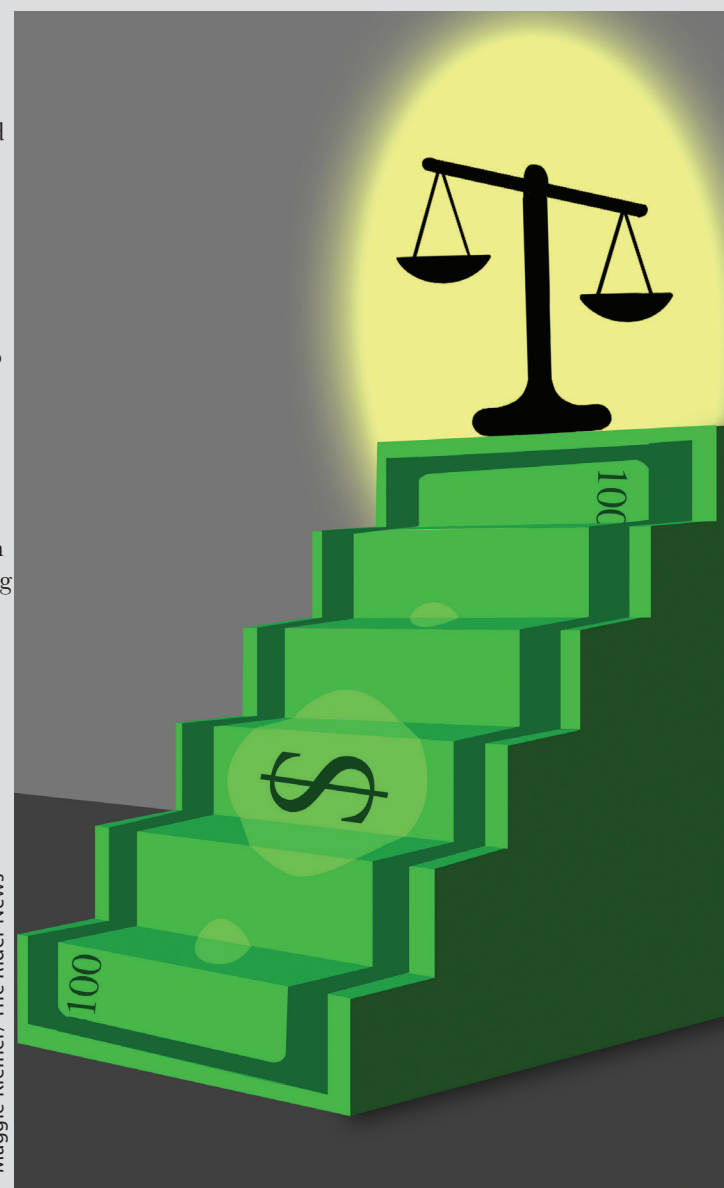
Natoli's been interning at the Office of the Attorney General in Trenton in the criminal justice department within the appellate division. She's been working with cases that are out on appeal, by looking at case files and going to appellate court.

"I'm planning to go to law school, so this internship was definitely really helpful for me," said Natoli. "It really meant a lot to me that I'm embarking on this next journey. I had someone who is a little bit further along in that I could recognize the importance of stipends like this in furthering those goals."

Although Manning wishes he could be more involved in his alma mater, he can't due to living in Sacramento, California, and being a partner and co-owner at KP Public Affairs, a combined public relations and advocacy firm that's a part of the national public affairs and lobbying firm, Public Policy Holding Company.

Manning wants to ensure that as many students as possible have the ability to experience the benefits internships offer, since they're often a gateway to a student's first job.

"I wanted to make sure students weren't left out of that opportunity because they couldn't afford to do the internship and not be paid," said Manning.



Maggie Kleiner/The Rider News

The Manning Fund scholarship provides financial aid to students who are pursuing careers in public policy.





# Public Safety body cameras: a potential reality?

By Sarah F. Griffin

**P**RINCETON University, The College of New Jersey, Montclair State University, Kean University and Stockton University all require their public safety officers to wear body cameras while on duty.

Meanwhile, Rider University, Georgian Court University and Seton Hall University don't. Is there a difference between how safe students feel based on the usage of body cameras on campus?

On college campuses, instances that some consider to be ordinary are recorded daily: professors record their lectures for students who missed class, students record videos of their peers and some universities may record students in common areas.

It is a regular occurrence for college students to interact with Public Safety officers.

A debate has arisen: should Public Safety officers be required to wear body cameras when they interact with students in case something goes wrong?

## New York Times investigation

The New York Times published a podcast Jan. 29, 2024, titled, "The Failed Promise of Police Body Cameras," hosted by Sabrina Tavernise featuring Eric Umansky.

Tavernise and Umansky discussed the idea of police officers wearing body cameras while on duty, and some instances where officers who were wearing body cameras were accused of misconduct.

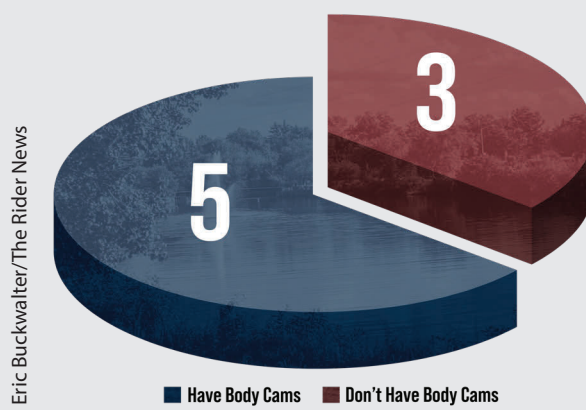
Some police departments may not embrace the idea of body cameras because of privacy concerns, Umansky said.

With the national debate around police body cameras continuing to grow fierce, more attention has been given to the idea of Public Safety officers on college campuses wearing body cameras as well.

Despite not being required by state law, some New Jersey college's Public Safety departments already mandate officers to wear body cameras on duty.

Rider's Director of Public Safety James G. Waldon

Do New Jersey Colleges Have Body Cameras?



Eric Buckwalter/The Rider News

Five neighboring universities require their public safety officers to wear body cameras, but three do not.

said Rider was considering mandating body cameras on Public Safety officers.

"We're in the process of evaluating that for our department. That evaluation hasn't finished," he said. Incoming Student Government Association President Christina Natoli said that they do not have enough information about the topic at the time, but consider campus safety a primary discussion point.

TCNJ, Montclair State University, Kean University, Stockton University, Georgian Court University and Seton Hall University student government declined to comment.

## Student opinions

A Rider freshman political science major, Eden Nadella, who uses he/they pronouns, said he felt "pretty safe on campus."

"I haven't had a moment where I kind of worry about walking around; however, I make it a point that if I'm out late at night to have somebody with me,

like a friend or my girlfriend— but if I'm walking around during the afternoon I don't have any fear," they said.

Nadella described his instinct for safety as good and said he took precautions like carrying pepper spray when he has to walk alone at night.

Nadella described an instance from the fall semester where they felt unsafe at Rider.

"A person was sleeping in Kroner Hall's living room — that struck me, especially because I live in Kroner. Knowing he was sleeping in there while we were moving in definitely didn't feel right. He didn't have any ill intentions, but it's just the principle that this man could just be in there."

Nadella said he thought Public Safety should wear body cameras because dangerous situations "wouldn't be left to the 'he said, she said' thing."

"It's more a question of if the university can afford body cams," Nadella said.

Soumya Khandavalli, a junior liberal arts major with a minor in psychology, said that Public Safety could do a better job for the most part.

"Personally, I think they're doing well with giving tickets on cars, but I don't think they respond fast enough when people call them," she said.

Khandavalli described an instance where she was left displeased with Public Safety's handling of the situation.

"I had rats in my room, and they laughed it off," Khandavalli said. "They were like 'What are we supposed to do about it?' I said, 'You could call an exterminator, that would be a great start.' But I guess they thought I was joking because they cut the phone."

Khandavalli described a hesitant openness to the idea of Public Safety officers wearing body cams: "I'm okay with it, but if a Public Safety officer came up to me and their body camera was on, I'd like to know."

# Taking the classroom to the aquarium

By Caroline Haviland

**S**TUDENTS in Marine Ecology with Gabriela Smalley had the opportunity to get a behind-the-scenes look at Adventure Aquarium in Camden, New Jersey, earlier this semester.

Smalley, an associate professor of earth and chemical sciences, came to Rider in 2004 with a background of research in plankton ecology. She takes her students in this higher level marine course on the aquarium trip every year.

For her other lab courses, she has brought students to various places, like a local research institution that does climate and ocean modeling, to get them out into different settings.

"Showing them different options of what they can do with a marine science or environmental science degree is important. They could go into research in graduate school or into environmental consulting or aquarium-type careers," said Smalley. "These trips are hands-on which is easier to learn from to see what others do in the field."

Grace Mangold, a sophomore marine science major, was very excited to be one of the participants on the trip, as she felt it was a great experience that allowed her to learn what it would be like to work at an aquarium.

Mangold added on to this, saying, "I was in complete awe of how well kept everything looked, and how big was the variety of sea creatures."

The tour guides gave the students in MAR 401 a look at any sick animals being kept in "quarantine tanks," said Smalley, to prevent a spread of disease.

Additionally, they were shown a room designated for the reproduction of jellyfish for the aquarium's public exhibits.

The aquarium tailors its tours for different age groups; for these students, they were provided with a career-gear inside look, as many of the participants desire to eventually work in the setting. The students got to see the food supply for the sea creatures, the water treatment operation that filters the tanks and the area that most of the staff works in.

"The tour guides did talk to us a little bit about the hands-on opportunities available through an internship there which was really great," said Smalley. "To get even a little bit of an idea of what things look like behind the scenes and what type of work would be involved is good for them to know."

Photo courtesy of Michelle Pellegrino



Photo Courtesy of Michelle Pellegrino



Students in Marine Ecology went to Adventure Aquarium earlier this semester.



Photo courtesy of Michelle Pellegrino



# Meet the trustees.

## Annmarie Woods

By Tristan E. M. Leach

**G**RINNING beneath a blond bob with sparkling blue eyes is Annmarie Woods. A woman with many loves and passions, Woods' life and work are full of joys.

Born and raised in New Jersey, Woods always found her way home. Woods grew up the oldest of four children and went on to have three of her own, "one of the greatest joys of her life," Woods explained.

### Before Rider

Years before having her children and many before joining Rider's Board of Trustees, Woods attended Regis College in Weston, Massachusetts, at the time a small all-women's college, and earned her undergraduate degree in political science. For a time, Woods took a job in the field but her passion for numbers called her.

"I originally worked in Washington D.C., but had a passion [for] finance and [I] had the opportunity, after working in Washington for a little, to get involved in the investment management business at a mutual fund company up in Boston," said Woods.

Thirty eight years later, Woods is still enjoying her work. Currently she is a wholesaler at Guggenheim Investments. Woods' job is to sell investment solutions to a financial adviser who then would sell those solutions to a consumer.

"Almost like when somebody sells shoes to Macy's. Somebody brings that shoe to Macy's and then Macy's sells it to you," said Woods with a chuckle as she explained her job.

The bubbly Board member found her way to Rider through her passion for finance and a love for music.

### Coming to Rider

Woods first heard about Rider several years before her term began on the Board of Trustees. Karin Klim, who ran 'Planned Giving,' a finance program at Rider that allows alumni to leave money and other gifts to Rider after their death, had worked at Merrill Lynch with Woods for a time. When Klim left Merrill Lynch, she and Woods stayed in contact. Klim knew Woods had a passion for performance art and introduced Woods to Westminster Choir College.

"I was blown away. I couldn't believe it and watching all the young people. The singing, the coordination, the bells, the readings. I was mesmerized and that was really my first introduction to Rider," said Woods.

After seeing that initial performance, Woods



Photo courtesy of Annmarie Woods

Annmarie Woods poses with her grandson Troy Dinkel.

became a sponsor of the event, "An Evening of Readings and Carols." Woods took clients of her's from Merrill Lynch to the performances and once got to participate in the dramatic readings that are done during the performance. She said that the opportunity was one of the thrills of her life.

### Women's council

Not too long after she became involved with Westminster, Woods was asked to join the Gail Bierenbaum Women's Leadership Council as a mentor. Woods noticed that there was a lack of women in the financial world being represented and agreed to join.

Francesca Roehm, a junior entrepreneurial studies major, has been a member of the Women's Council since her freshman year. Roehm emphasized the importance of having a space for women on campus to empower them.

"The mentor/mentee program helps women get professional experience by speaking and working with other women. Seeing women in [a mentee's chosen] field is very encouraging," said Roehm.

Woods' decision to join the council allowed for the young women to see that the world of finance is not just a male dominated field.

Roehm said, "[Woods] is always super involved in the activities. She loves [Women's Council] so much and you can tell she loves being a mentor."

### Woods on the Board

Woods' love for involvement at Rider did not go unnoticed by trustees, who asked if she would ever be interested in becoming a trustee member.

"I was humbled that [trustee members] would ask me, but also [trustee members] recognized that I really have fallen in love with Rider. I'm involved, I give back. I was honored that the opportunity presented itself," said Woods with a smile.

Her first term began in July 2020 and has served on the Board since. She currently serves on the Organizational and Sustainability Committee, which Woods characterizes as broad. Woods serves on the subcommittee known as the Investment Committee. Her extensive background in finances has been an advantage for Woods and her fellow committee members.

Currently, Rider is pursuing ESG investments, a type of investment that focuses on environment, social and corporate governance. Woods said that she agreed with the choice to pursue ESG, especially with Rider's commitment to the environment and DEI, diversity, equity and inclusion.

"The principles of ESG need to be part of what [the Board of Trustees] do," said Woods.

She emphasized that the Board of Trustees and their investment manager are currently in the process of creating a formal ESG statement to incorporate into the policy that the Board of Trustee members follow when it comes to investment choices. With the amount of DEI on campus, including the Center for Diversity and Inclusion and the Women's Leadership Council, Woods is hopeful that all three sectors of ESG will be taken into consideration. The hope is to have the final statement prepared to be presented to the whole Board in June 2024.

Overall, Woods' goal as a Board member is to lay the foundation of financial stability for Rider and those who call it home. Her dedication to the university and the students who attend it has kept her passion and joy aflame and she does not plan on putting that flame out anytime soon.

*Kaitlyn Seawood is social media editor and Felicia Roehm is opinion editor for The Rider News. They are both members of the Gail Bierenbaum Women's Leadership Council. Neither had any part in the writing and or editing of this piece.*

# Why Rider keeps investments confidential

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

summer, according to university leaders. Rider's current investment policy focuses strictly on growth and diversification, and does not explicitly promote ESG or ethical investments.

### Why now?

The university released the investment profiles, policies and endowment information to a spring semester In-Depth Reporting class, a year after the initial request by a faculty member of the Department of Communication, Journalism and Media for a class project.

Hartman said that last year wasn't a "good time," and the administration and the university's new investment firm couldn't pull it all together then. This year, however, proved different.

"We thought, 'Why not,'" said Hartman. "And a lot of schools like Rider, they just don't put it out there. ... It's been a culture over time, unless you're really proud of your endowment."

Over the last semester, the class scoured through documents, where stipulations were created by the Board of Trustees on how the information could be used, along with who could view it.

The actual investment documents, which show Rider's complete portfolio of holdings, along with full valuations of assets and the percentages of endowment allocations, were unable to be taken out of the classroom, and promised to be destroyed at the end of the semester.

Other documents, such as the school's investment policy and ESG profile, could not be downloaded by students, shown to anyone else or reproduced.

Mark Nurse, a Board member who has a career in investing, stated the risk of releasing this information could lead to "losing a competitive edge."

"I don't think we were keeping it confidential to concerned parties. ... We still issue a 990 [federal tax document] every year, which is available to the broad public to see how the university is doing," said Nurse. "This is a very competitive business, portfolio management."

Hirtle, Callaghan & Co. investment manager Garrett Wilson agreed with Nurse's point, stating that only releasing overviews is important in investing.

"They give you that 30,000-foot look, which is very helpful for people to understand how things are

invested," said Wilson. "As soon as you go into more detail, you're always going to have someone passing opinions about that. And so I think it's important to make sure you deliver what's necessary."

Although Rider has stayed quiet on where it has invested in the past, the school is now ready to be more open, according to Rider President Gregory Dell'Omo.

"It's an evolutionary process," said Dell'Omo. "I think that's one of the reasons why we agreed to do this course. ... Our Board, we're moving in a direction to talk about it a little bit more openly. And that wasn't because they wanted to hide it. It's just that our endowment has been such a small amount."

*In-Depth Reporting students will be publishing more endowment articles for their semester-long projects on the class website next week.*



# NEDA empowers students to love their bodies through music



Destiny Pagan/The Rider News

Left to right: sophomore Spanish major **Joe Giambelluca**, freshman psychology major **Marissa Smith**, freshman psychology major **Kirsten Mackney** and junior film and television major **Denise King** choose songs to include in the body positivity playlist.

By Grace Bertrand

As “Born This Way” by Lady Gaga sounded from the second floor of Lynch Adler Hall, Rider students were able to join together in music, empowerment and body positivity on March 11 to create one giant playlist full of selected feel-good songs.

The National Eating Disorder Association chapter at Rider hosted a “Catch the Vibes Playlist” event where attendees collectively made a shared body positive playlist on Spotify as they learned about music that can positively impact mental health.

The NEDA is an American nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness, providing resources and screening tools for those struggling with eating disorders.

Creating opportunities to engage students through the NEDA Campus Warriors program, an outreach initiative across several colleges and universities in the nation, the group has been able to raise awareness about eating disorders.

NEDA president and originator of the chapter at Rider, sophomore psychology major Libby D’Orvilliers, was a volunteer with the organization for about three years before she decided to start a chapter at Rider at the start of the spring semester.

“I heard about the Campus Warriors program during my freshman year of university and that’s when I decided that I wanted to bring it here, so it’s been in the works for a little bit of time now,” said D’Orvilliers.

When it comes to the idea of the body positivity playlist making event, D’Orvilliers revealed that she’s been wanting to incorporate music into one of the club’s events for a while in a fun

way that gets everyone involved.

“Music is really empowering when it comes to mental health. It can really help out a lot of people who are struggling or just help you validate your emotions to make you feel good,” said D’Orvilliers.

Throughout the night, students scanned a QR code that took them to the shared Spotify playlist where they could then add a song of their choice that they felt was empowering.

Some highlighted songs of the night were “Self Care” by Mac Miller, “Scars to Your Beautiful” by Alessia Cara and a classic, “She’s So Gone” from the “Lemonade Mouth” soundtrack.

In addition to making a body positive playlist, the chapter also used the event as an opportunity to host elections for its executive board.

Freshman psychology majors Kirsten Mackney and Marissa Smith both attended the event.

“I think that the club is a great representation for campus in just spreading awareness about all kinds of eating disorders, body positivity and just being an open and inviting space for people to come,” said Mackney.

The NEDA encourages anyone who is interested in learning more about spreading awareness about eating disorders and body positivity to come to any future meetings.

“Our club is open to everyone. Eating disorders don’t discriminate,” said D’Orvilliers.

*Libby D’Orvilliers is circulation manager for The Rider News and president of NEDA. Madison Lewis is a copy editor for The Rider News and secretary of NEDA. Neither had part in the writing and editing of this story.*

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# Students battle for boba

By Marissa Spencer

**R**IDER'S Asian American Student Association held its semiannual "Boba Night" April 11 in the Bart Luedeke Center's Cavalla Room at 6:30 p.m. The Asian American Student Association is a division of the Center for Diversity and Inclusion on campus.

The CDI is home to a plethora of on-campus organizations, including identity, ethnicity, gender, religious and other affinity-based groups. By creating a more equitable school environment through its representative chapters and events, the CDI promotes diverse connections for students.

AASA strives to enhance cultural understanding between Asian American students and those of other nationalities.

"Boba Night" began with the eager guests being greeted by the ambiance of K-pop tunes from groups such as BTS and Blackpink blaring throughout the conference room.

As the students shuffled in, board games were provided to up the ante for what AASA had in store later on in the night. AASA provided boba tea of the RSVP'd students' choice from downtown Princeton's Kung Fu Tea on Nassau Street.

In order for the guests to receive their boba, they engaged in a friendly competition. The games began with a the-floor-is-lava challenge. The guests were divided into two competing teams to see who could make the trek along the conference room on borrowed time.

The teams were given a limited amount of "paper" steps to make their way to the finish line. If the piece got damaged, the group had to start over. All players on each team had to make their way across the room successfully to take home the prize. After a close call towards the finish line, team number two took home the victory.

The winners then enjoyed their delicacies as the remaining team finished. After this challenge, guests enjoyed infinite rounds of "boba pong," Monopoly, and word riddle games with their boba teas in hand.

President of AASA, junior psychology major Michelle Velazquez, talked about their passion for the club and its mission to promote interest on campus.

"We have 'Boba Night' every semester," exclaimed Velazquez when describing the popularity of the event. "It's my favorite event," they added, eager to uphold this occasion again.

Overseeing a group of culturally passionate individuals is no easy feat. Balancing classes, promoting events and regularly holding and attending meetings can be daunting for a college student.

"It was really scary at first," said Velazquez upon inquiry about the chapter's executive board elections. "I knew I had to step up to the job," they added. "Boba Night" may be the club's most anticipated



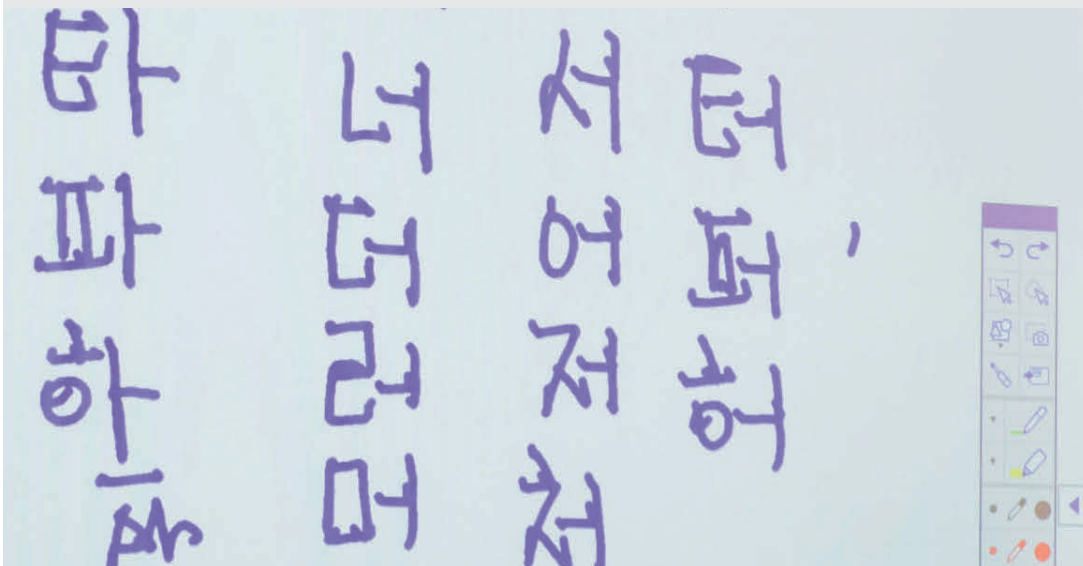
Destiny Pagan/The Rider News

Students that attended AASA's event pose for a group photo.

and revived event, but Velazquez and the other e-board members plan to continuously promote their mission within the Rider community by advocating for cultural education through an array of events coming to campus in the near future.

Rider students can join AASA by contacting a member of the board or attending the next event. Rider's AASA chapter can be found on social media platforms under the username: Rider\_AASA.

# 'Hangul 101' with CDO sparks cultural appreciation



CDI Director and Chief Diversity Officer Heeyoung Kim teaches students how to write in Korean.

By Madison Lewis

**L**ANGUAGE is the root of interpersonal connection and can lead to cultural appreciation, a phenomenon discovered by a handful of Rider students who chatted, and even argued, about how attractive Korean-drama protagonists are after learning how to write their names in Korean.

A small, yet engaged, group of students congregated in the Center for Diversity and Inclusion's living room and were given paper with the Korean alphabet and other helpful phrases as part of a "Hangul 101" program on April 10.

Heeyoung Kim, the CDI's director and chief diversity officer, taught the students Hangul, the official writing system throughout Korea, as attendees followed along and wrote the characters on their own. While they wrote, Kim passed around the Korean written adaptation of "Beauty and the Beast."

After learning the 24 letters of Hangul, students asked Kim to write all of their names, while everyone discussed various topics surrounding Korean culture, such as how to pronounce "tteok-bokki" and why writing names in red ink was considered "bad luck."

Kim was an international student from Korea who ventured to the United States to obtain a doctoral degree in 1999, and said she did not want to be alienated by the people around her and to learn about American culture.

The Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month event, created and hosted by the student workers in CDI, not only taught students about writing Korean letters, but allowed participants to discuss their appreciation of food, media and literature from Korea.

Kim said, "Learning different cultures is starting from the food and the languages."

According to Kim, the Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month celebrations on campus are promoted through a universitywide email announcement, a QR code outside the CDI and on Instagram.

Kim called the advertising strategy a "huge improvement," because the programs received more traction and attendees than previous years.

The intended audience for this event, according to Kim, was everyone. According to Dr. Kim, about 43 to 45% of Rider students are from different ethnicities and races other than whites while 85% of faculty and staff are caucasian, which limited student exposure to different cultures.

Kim described hesitations surrounding students coming to culturally influenced events, but said that "seeing someone you know like Dr. Kim" could ease some of the uncertainty and encourage a student to seek out exposure to new cultures.

Sophomore accounting major Leila Johnson, who goes by she/they pronouns, said they are a quarter

Korean and has the Korean name Park Daesun. She said she went to the event because there was "not a lot of Korean representation on campus yet," as well as to support Kim.

They said there were more Korean clubs forming that they held executive board positions on, such as Korean Pop Culture Club, the Korean Culture Association and the Asian American Student Association.

Johnson agreed that there are students who would appreciate more events surrounding Korean culture. "I saw [the CDI living room] getting louder and louder talking about K-dramas. There is definitely an interest and a buzz when it comes to Korean culture on campus."

Johnson learned Korean and English at the same time, but lost the Korean language while growing up in the U.S., and intended to "brush up" on the language.

She said that she was disappointed the university did not have a Korean class and would be interested in seeing one on campus.

Kim discussed the possibility of a Korean class on campus if people were interested in speaking out, and she was proud that the students who participated in the Hangul event were so excited to take action.

"Hangul 101," though only an hour-long activity, not only taught basic language skills, but created a foundation of cultural appreciation and interest in a few eager students.

Destiny Pagan/The Rider News





Senior marketing major **Zachary Fernandez** speaks at a Norm Brodsky College of Business event.

Photo courtesy of Zachary Fernandez

## Senior Spotlight: Zachary Fernandez

By **Tristan E. M. Leach**

In his cranberry-red tour guide T-shirt, Zachary Fernandez flashes his signature smile as his tour group gathers. Fernandez's energetic and strong voice catches the attention of anyone in his presence, an attribute that he has learned to use to his advantage. Now, the senior marketing major is preparing to take his skills into a world of entrepreneurship.

Before finding a home at Rider, Fernandez wasn't sure what he was looking for when it came to higher education.

"I always say Rider found me. I saw that [Rider] had a business school and I could be a finance major or a marketing major or a supply chain major, and that was attractive to me," said Fernandez.

Though the business school became the sticking point for Fernandez, he still wasn't set on the idea. For Fernandez, it was about finding a major that would allow him to interact and work with people. A self-described "people person," Fernandez was looking for something that would allow him the opportunity to be up-close and personal with others.

"By the time I was applying to colleges, I was actually applying as a potential development psychology major. I thought I wanted to go into psychology and become a child psychologist. And at other schools I applied to the business program," said Fernandez.

As schools began to send him acceptances, Fernandez settled on going into business, but he wasn't sure which major he wanted to pursue. Fernandez knew he had multiple options and skills at his disposal, so it was just a matter of picking which ones to harness.

During his first semester at Rider, Fernandez majored in business administration, but he decided he would prefer to double major in marketing and finance.

Since making that choice, he hasn't looked back. Fernandez explained his reasoning for the double major as being able to understand both sides of the same coin. If he knew how the financials of a company worked then he could also understand their reason for marketing in certain ways. He would also learn how to market himself and his multiple business ideas.

So far, he has created, planned and presented his ideas. Fernandez is looking to create a vending machine that is essentially a one-stop shop for a person's grocery needs. His sophomore year, Fernandez pitched an idea at Rider's Concept Competition: a three-tiered vending machine that utilizes mapping technology to show other vending machines in the area and what products they have. Fernandez called this the "Convenience Corner."

Another idea that he is particularly excited about is a healthier protein-filled ketchup. Fernandez noticed the everyday use of ketchup and the love for the condiment. However, when taking a look at the ingredients used by condiment companies, Fernandez was mortified.

"It's an entirely organic ketchup; so there's none of that garbage that you'll see in other brands. Those have high fructose corn syrup and some ketchups use coloring to get [ketchup] to be a deeper red," said Fernandez, "[Mine] would be a cleaner ketchup, where I use natural ingredients to have protein in each serving."

His passion for helping others and creating a better quality of life has led Fernandez down a path of leadership while at Rider. A second-year community assistant, tour guide, vice president of professional activities for Delta Sigma Pi and a member of two on-campus clubs, Fernandez is nothing short of being involved at Rider.

For Fernandez, each role has been pivotal to his growth as a person and leader. One person who can attest to Fernandez's skills is Lauren Turnbull, a junior finance major. Turnbull has worked with Fernandez on the executive board of DSP and as a fellow CA for the 2022-23 school year.

Turnbull said, "He's great, all of his residents speak

very highly of him. He genuinely cares about the students and his residents, which makes him a great CA. I'd say he's one of the best on campus."

When he isn't putting in his time on duty, Fernandez can be seen giving tours or helping out a fellow brother of DSP. His choice to put in the work no matter what has made Fernandez a stand out member in the Rider community.

As graduation approaches, Fernandez looks to start his full-time job at J.P. Morgan, where he will be an internal audit analyst. Fernandez also hopes to get his real estate license to gain more experience in another aspect of the business world.

Until graduation in just a few weeks, Fernandez is enjoying every minute at Rider. He credits each experience and person he has crossed paths with as the reason for his success.

Fernandez said, "I just want to thank the entire Norm Brodsky College of Business as well as the Rider community. I have been fortunate enough, lucky enough to find a second home here and a large part of that is thanks to the people."

*Senior Spotlight is a series created by The Rider News to celebrate upstanding seniors on Rider campus prior to their graduation.*



**Zachary Fernandez** (far left) poses with fellow staff of Ziegler-Moore.



**Zachary Fernandez** poses in front of a landscape in Ireland.



# Student mourns death of Cole Brings Plenty

**A**s a society, we often hear talk about a lack of representation in the media, there aren't enough minorities in television, books, movies and other forms of media and entertainment that we all love. When we see someone who looks like us or someone we love, we celebrate the little victory of that person making it. This was the case of actor Cole Brings Plenty.

Brings Plenty was a 27-year-old of Mnicoujou Lakota and Cheyenne River Sioux descent. His tribal descents come from what is now South Dakota. Brings Plenty was proud of his heritage, playing several characters in mainstream television shows including "1923," a spin off of the popular "Yellowstone." His representation of Indigenous persons and specifically Lakota and Sioux peoples has become a beacon of light for Indigenous people in the United States. Brings Plenty was helping to create a place at the table for Indigenous peoples, until it all came to a sudden halt.

On April 5, the news broke that Brings Plenty had been found dead in a wooded area of Johnson County, Kansas. According to an article written by CBS News, Brings Plenty had a warrant issued for his arrest on charges of aggravated burglary, domestic battery and criminal restraint. The warrant was issued after a woman was heard screaming for help in a Lawrence, Kansas, apartment building. Brings Plenty was named a suspect after a traffic camera caught his car leaving the city after the incident occurred.

His family and friends have urged the public to stop speculating that Brings Plenty was "on the run." His uncle, Mo Brings Plenty, wrote in an Instagram post, "It is important for everyone to refrain from making assumptions or speculating in any situation. Jumping to conclusions without verified information can not only harm individuals' reputations, but also compromise the integrity of our ongoing investigations."

The accusations brought against Brings Plenty are not unique. In July 2023, a report released by the Congressional Research Service stated that 82% of American Indian/Alaska Native men reported experiencing violent victimization in their lives. On top of this, 3.5% of missing persons in the U.S. are American Indian/Alaska Native despite the American Indian/Alaska Native population only making up 1.1% of the entire U.S. population.

Mo Brings Plenty knew what many of us refuse to acknowledge: that if a murdered person is a member of a minority and has even a smudge on their character, they are written off as deserving of what happened to them. Cole Brings Plenty has no priors and has, up until now, not made the news for anything besides his acting and activism.

Cole Brings Plenty went to Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. with Mo Brings Plenty and other activists to educate lawmakers on the importance of passing a bill that would help investigate Indian boarding schools and their policies. Cole Brings Plenty took great pride in his heritage and his people, making components of his death all the more painful.

When he was found, Cole Brings Plenty's long, black braided hair had been cut. For many Indigenous people, long hair is a symbol of culture, heritage and spirituality. The cutting of his hair is a great insult and further removes him from the person he was before his death.

On April 8, a nationwide movement labeled "Braids for Cole" took place. Across the U.S., people, no matter their culture, heritage, race or gender, braided their hair for the actor. A symbol of mourning and acknowledgement.

I do mourn Cole Brings Plenty and any other missing Indigenous person who will never come home. Growing up mixed and in a family that not only acknowledged, but celebrated my Tlingit heritage was formative to who I am today and to the activism and writing I do everyday.

*Tristan Xóotsk'i Tláa Leach*  
senior journalism major



Rashe Mishra/The Rider News

People are heartbroken after the murder of Cole Brings Plenty.

## THE Rider News

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 THE Rider News

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Eric Buckwalter/The Rider News

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SOPHOMORE SIGHTINGS

# Friendly staff makes dining experience outstanding

**I** AM a firm believer in the age-old saying that “a little kindness goes a long way.” It seems that Rider’s dining staff ensures that their kindness reaches every diner that comes in for a meal. Some of the most pleasant interactions I have had on campus were with the staff at Daly Dining Hall and Cranberry’s. Students should reciprocate this kindness, not only on special occasions and holidays, but every day.

As someone who gets up very early in the morning, one of my favorite ways to start off the day is with a warm cup of coffee and a quiet breakfast. From the moment I step into the double doors of Daly’s when it opens at 7:30 a.m., still wiping the sleep from my eyes, I am greeted at the front counter with a bright and cheery “Good morning sweetie, how are you today?” followed by an additional chorus of “Good mornings” from the rest of staff as I move throughout the dining hall. This automatically puts a smile on my face and sets a positive tone for my day. Since it is early in the morning, Daly’s is on the quieter side, but what could potentially be a lonely dining experience is full of smiles, well-wishes and upbeat conversations with the staff. It sounds simple, but these warm greetings help me start my day off on the right foot. On the days I do not stop by Daly’s, I often feel like I missed out on an opportunity to connect and enjoy the homey, welcoming atmosphere that I simply can’t get by eating cereal alone in my dorm.

These simple acts of kindness, alongside the relationships I have formed with the staff, truly sets my meals on campus apart from other dining experiences. These positive interactions translate to other dining locations on campus, such as Cranberry’s, where the staff members at the market always greet me with a smile, know me by name and know that I am usually picking up sparkling water on my way to class. On my way out, they tell me to have a good class, giving me a boost of confidence to tackle the rest of my schedule or exam head-on.

Too often I hear my peers complaining about the dining options on campus, saying there isn’t enough variety, or they miss their mom’s cooking. While nothing can replace a good home-cooked meal from your parents, I would argue that the staff at Daly’s creates a welcoming environment that leaves diners feeling comfortable and able to enjoy their meals, much like a meal at home. While the food at Daly’s may not be your mom’s secret recipe meatloaf, the staff puts their heart and soul into the food they create and serve and it fills my heart to have a fresh cooked meal; even if it’s not my mom making it.

Additionally, the dining staff at Rider are constantly open to feedback on how they can best assist students to make their dining experience as enjoyable as

possible. They achieve this through holding Food Forum events where students can share their ideas and thoughts directly with a group of staff members who take all suggestions and feedback into consideration. They even have the option for diners to use the Chatback text messaging system to message dining questions and concerns to staff directly as a means of being open to feedback.

The staff at Rider’s numerous dining locations across campus create a welcoming atmosphere at all times, whether I am popping in for a midday snack or my early morning coffee. The dining experience at Rider is outstanding and deserves more recognition and appreciation. So, next time you stop into Daly’s or Cranberry’s, be sure to take a moment and thank the staff for all that they do for students. Remember that kindness goes both ways and that a simple thank you and a smile can go a long way.

*Libby D’Orvilliers  
sophomore psychology major*



Josiah Thomas/The Rider News

Rider’s dining staff goes above and beyond in making sure diners feel welcome.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

# Elevator issues spark accessibility concerns

**T**HE week before spring break, I was sitting in my class on the top floor of the Fine Arts building and I needed to use the restroom. As per usual, I dropped my things off and was about to go downstairs to the gender inclusive/accessible bathroom on the first floor, which is the only bathroom that is wheelchair accessible in the building, when another student came in panting. She told the class that she and about five other students had just gotten trapped in the elevator. Instantly, panic set in.

Most of my classes have been in the Fine Arts building. In that time, the elevator has broken around 10 times with me in it, stranding me on the bottom or top floor. I have missed class, been unable to use the restroom or leave the building, had to change entire classrooms and, in extreme cases like a few weeks ago, had to be carried down the stairs. However, I am not the only one affected by this problem, nor are the elevator problems isolated to the Fine Arts building.

Marina Jean-Baptiste, a sophomore behavioral neuroscience major, also relies on the elevators, as she frequently uses a wheelchair to navigate campus and has limited mobility even when she is able to walk. Jean-Baptiste experienced issues with both the elevators in the science and Fine Arts buildings a few times. She once tried going up the stairs, which caused her so much pain and fatigue that since then, she skipped class or other activities when the elevators weren’t working.

“It’s a little disheartening that the elevators aren’t something that I know for sure are going to work all the time,” said Jean-Baptiste. “Sometimes it feels like a gamble going to class or to the radio station, because I don’t know if I’ll actually be able to access it.”

Jean-Baptiste was grateful that she has not gotten trapped on upper levels of buildings and she hasn’t been informed of any protocol for that situation. She believed that something as simple as doing routine checks of the elevator may solve some of these issues.

“Rider is big on community, so it would be great if they would consider disabled people with everything from elevators to campus events, so all students can have access to campus life,” said Jean-Baptiste.

Having been stuck on upper floors of buildings, in my experience the plan is to use the fire evacuation chair, which is regulation, and that public safety officers are supposed to be trained on how to use these chairs.

To clarify, I don’t want to point the finger at Public Safety or facilities. Both of these groups of people do everything they can to help me in these situations and are very good at fixing the problem, at least temporarily. They have also shown equal levels of frustration and empathy when I do become stuck because of some malfunction.

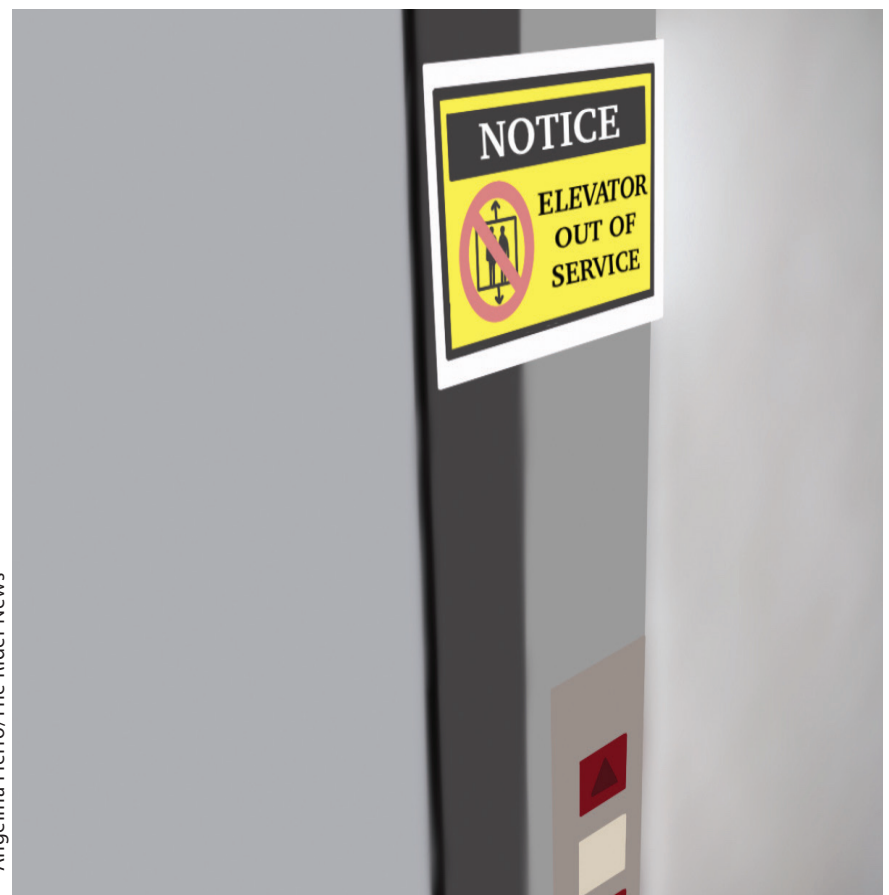
According to Michael Reca, vice president of university operations, over this past winter break facilities identified the problem in the elevator which involved the control system. They have since ordered the parts and submitted all the necessary paperwork.

“Unfortunately, we have to shut the elevator down for four to six weeks to completely overhaul the controls and systems to make the required repairs,” said Reca. “That work will begin at the end of this semester in mid-May and be completed by mid-summer.”

In the meantime, facilities said that they are monitoring the performance of the elevator weekly and when requested, for instance, when it breaks.

But how many people need to get stuck in the elevator? How many times does it need to break? How many classes can I or other students miss? How many classes can be changed to another floor or building? What needs to happen for Rider to finally take accessibility seriously and actually be the diverse and inclusive school it claims to be?

*Bridget Gum-Egan  
senior English major*



Angelina Fierro/The Rider News

A student was stuck on third floor due to a broken elevator the day before spring break.



## LACROSSE

# Broncs' losing streak extends to four

By Logan K. VanDine and Rich Saile

**W**ITH the regular season coming to an end, it was important for Rider lacrosse to get back to its winning ways.

Hoping to rebound, the Broncs saw their losing streak extended to a season-high four as they fell to Mount St. Mary's at home 15-6 and on the road to Niagara 18-13 now sitting at 8-7.

## 'We played terribly'

After the last two games on the road, the Broncs returned home to Ben Cohen Field and looked to snap their two-game losing streak against Mount St. Mary's. That losing streak extended to three as the Broncs fell in a lopsided matchup to the Mountaineers 15-6 on April 10.

The first half set the tone of how the game went for the Broncs as they were outscored 11-2 at halftime to put them in an immediate hole.

Despite the offense coming to a little bit of life in the second half, scoring four points with three of them coming in the fourth quarter, it was too little too late as the loss dropped Rider to 8-6.

"We played terribly offensively. Our defense played great, Jamie [Kubach] with double-digit saves for the third or fourth straight game, our defense gave us an opportunity," a frustrated Head Coach Evan Mager said.

In the afternoon, the Mountaineers outscored the Broncs in the net 25-15. Despite Rider's lackluster offensive performance, graduate student attacker Kylee Garcia had a strong game as she led the team with two goals, which made it 42 on the year for her.

"She showed she can play at this level, her and Katie [Walsh] have been a pair for years, so they know each other really well and they support each other," said Mager.

## Four in a row

On April 13, Rider traveled to Buffalo to take on the Niagara Purple Eagles looking to snap its losing streak. The first goal of the game was scored by the Broncs off a turnover by Niagara and off an attempt by Garcia. Niagara quickly responded with a goal off a free-position shot to tie the game at one apiece.

After Niagara won the draw control, both teams missed a shot to take the lead until the Broncs turned the ball over, which resulted in a goal for Niagara to give them the lead 2-1. The Broncs cashed in on a turnover from Niagara to tie the game back at two, thanks to a goal by junior midfielder Selena Carrington off an assist from graduate student attacker Emily Wesoky.

The Broncs regained the lead at the start of the second quarter with Garcia's second goal of the game to put the Broncs up 3-2. Both teams scored a goal in the next two minutes of the game, including a goal from freshman midfielder Elena Bontatibus.

Niagara scored the last four goals of the half in just over six minutes to gain a one-point lead going into halftime.

Coming out of the locker room, it was Niagara who took control the rest of the way, outscoring Rider 10-6 in the second half to go on to win 18-13.

"We knew when we entered the conference season, the games would all be very difficult with so many tough teams in the MAAC," said Wesoky about breaking out of the losing streak.

The Broncs are back at Ben Cohen Field to take on the Fairfield Stags on April 17. The game will be broadcast on ESPN+ and will tip off at 4 p.m.



Maggie Kleiner/The Rider News

Graduate student attacker Kylee Garcia dodging defenders.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL

17

Wednesday

Ben Cohen Field  
3:50 P.M.

Lacrosse vs. Fairfield

APRIL

20

Saturday

Herb & Joan Young Field  
12 P.M. & 2 P.M.

Softball Double Header  
vs Fairfield

APRIL

20

Saturday

Michael P. Brady  
Track & Field Complex

Rider Invite:  
Track Meet

APRIL

21

Sunday

Herb & Joan Young Field  
12 P.M.

Softball vs. Fairfield



## SOFTBALL

# Broncs fall 10 games below .500

By Kadie DiGiuseppe

**R**IDER softball fell short in the last game of a series with Iona on April 10 and then gave up two more losses to Siena on April 13, but found a way to pick up a much-needed win on April 14 over Siena.

## 'We fell short'

In the last game of a series against Iona, the Broncs and the Gaels stayed scoreless until the fourth inning when the Gaels drove in the first two runs of the game off a single and a double.

In the sixth inning, the Broncs finally got on the board after junior catcher Kristyn Gardner's fly out to right field gave sophomore outfielder Maddie Luedtke room to run home.

Only down by two runs in the last inning, Rider tried its best to come up with something at the plate but was unsuccessful, ending the game with the 3-1 loss.

Senior pitcher Anna-Marie Groskritz and junior pitcher Kathryn Schmierer combined for seven strikeouts during the game.

In the first game of the weekend at home against the Saint Bernards, Siena jumped to an early 1-0 lead over the Broncs during the first inning.

The Broncs' defense in the following innings was on fire, including senior infielder Jessie Niegocki's diving catch and the outfielders catching every ball that came their way.

During the last inning, the Siena offense overtook Rider and scored five more runs to gain a hefty lead.

Rider tried to fight back during the last inning but came out scoreless and ended the game down 6-0 in favor of Siena.

Starting pitcher Groskritz had three strikeouts during the game.

During the first inning of their second game with the Saint Bernards, the Broncs allowed another run, which let Siena take a 1-0 lead.

Siena put up another run scored in the second, two more runs scored in the third and one more in the fourth while Rider still couldn't put a run together.

After two doubles in the fifth scoring four more runs, the Broncs found themselves down 8-0 at the top of the fifth.

Two groundouts and one pop out solidified another loss for Rider.

Sophomore pitcher Fallyn Stoeckel, who started for Rider, had two strikeouts.

## 'We just wanted to win'

Looking to recover from their last couple losses, the Broncs faced Siena one last time the following day and started the game with a quick-inning courtesy of Niegocki's three-strikeout inning.

The Broncs didn't score any runs during the first inning but quickly turned things around in the second inning.

Luedtke, Gardner and freshman catcher Kendall Reda-Fehsal all got on base before freshman infielder Kiersten Buchanan drove in the first run of the weekend for the Broncs after her single to right field.

Junior infielder Olivia Burroughs followed Buchanan at bat and drove in Gardner for another run.

Buchanan scored shortly after Gardner courtesy of Stoeckel's single to left field, which gave Rider a 3-0 lead.

"Having those losses gives you that incentive," said Groskritz.

Rider's defense stayed strong for the next couple



Maggie Kleiner/The Rider News

Freshman infielder **Kiersten Buchanan** reaches home plate.

of innings, but for the rest of the game, the Broncs went scoreless.

Siena scored its only run in the last inning and Niegocki had another diving catch to seal the deal on the game, giving Rider its first win over Siena 3-1.

Niegocki and Stoeckel combined for five strikeouts during the game. According to Luedtke, the team stepped up its game for the last matchup.

"The difference on Sunday was our defense was better and we had more timely hits," said Luedtke.

Groskritz echoed this sentiment, saying that the team needs to continue this trend moving forward.

The Broncs will travel out of conference to Morgan State University on April 17 and will be back home over the weekend to play conference opponent Fairfield on April 20 and 21.

Rider will stay in Lawrenceville for its games on April 23 against Mount St. Mary's at 2 p.m.

## BASEBALL

# Rider simmers down, wins series at Marist

By Benjamin Shinault

**A**FTER losing the Liberty Bell Classic to Delaware and seeing its winning streak dissipate, Rider baseball had to shift its focus to its Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference rivals, the Marist Red Foxes.

In the series, the Broncs put up 30 runs over the course of three games and by the end of it, Rider sits at second in the MAAC.

## A season high

On April 12, the Broncs kicked off the Marist series fresh off a blowout defeat at the hands of the Delaware Blue Hens 18-2 in the Liberty Bell Classic on April 10. Two days later, Rider put up a season-high 17 runs on the Red Foxes to win 17-12.

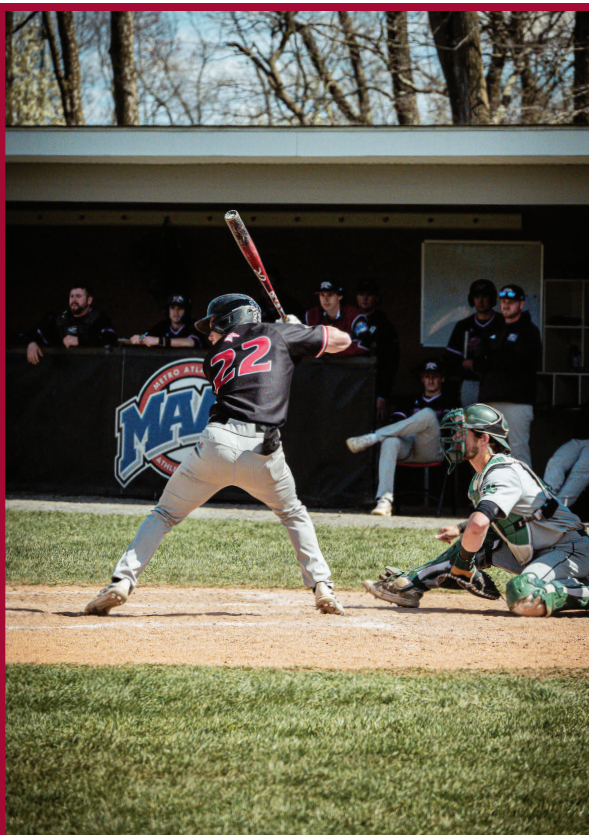
The Broncs also had a season-high 19 hits, with only one member of the starting lineup not recording a hit. With all that considered, Marist's offense was not too far behind Rider's fantastic day at the dish with 12 runs and 15 hits. All in all, the baseballs that day must have looked like beach balls to the hitters.

Sophomore pitcher PJ Craig was the starting pitcher for Rider. Craig gave up nine hits, eight earned runs and five walks, but he was still able to give the Broncs five innings. With Craig's tough day on the mound, Rider's bullpen was able to pick him up and only allow four more runs and six more hits over the next four innings of the game.

Sophomore outfielder Erich Hartmann had five hits on the day and graduate student first baseman Luke Lesch followed close behind with three. Senior catcher Brian Skettini had two hits but also had five RBIs coming from an RBI double to left field that scored two in the third inning, a fielder's choice that got two runners across and then a solo home run in the eighth inning to secure the win.

## Eleven straight wins

Another day, another MAAC win for the Broncs. After defeating the Red Foxes 17-12, Rider came out



Josiah Thomas/The Rider News

Sophomore outfielder **Anthony Paskell** waits on a pitch.

and instilled dominance once again over the Red Foxes with an 8-3 victory on April 13 to extend their MAAC winning streak to 11.

Differently than the first matchup between these two teams, Rider's pitching was the star of the show this time around as junior pitcher Brian Young took to the mound at McCann Field in Poughkeepsie, New York. Young had total control over Marist as he finished the day with seven strikeouts, seven innings pitched and only four allowed hits.

"A well-pitched game day by B.Y. [Young]," Head Coach Barry Davis said.

Over Young's last four starts, he has thrown 23 innings, allowed just eight earned runs and struck out 23 batters. The Broncs have won three of those four games.

A day after a two-hit and four-RBI performance, junior catcher Matt Shepherd equalized the day after with a three-hit performance. Some offensive spark plugs for the Broncs in game two of the series, were freshman infielder Joe Tiroly who had a two-run home run in the top of the ninth and graduate student infielder Jack Winsett, who had two base hits.

## 'We've battled all weekend'

Rider's program's best start to its MAAC schedule came to a halt after 11 wins on April 14 when the Broncs lost to Marist 6-5. The team had plenty of fight toward the end as it put up five runs in the top of the ninth while they were down by six, but they came up just short.

The game was started by sophomore pitcher Clayton Poliey who threw five innings, allowed just five hits and one earned run and struck out four. Rider's pitching as a whole only allowed six hits in total and struck out seven. Poliey was relieved by sophomore pitcher Christian Aiello, who allowed no hits in his two innings on the mound.

"We pitched well," David said. "Poliey and Aiello were outstanding."

Rider's offense was dormant for the whole game until the top of the ninth, when it put up its only runs of the game. Those runs came from RBI singles from Winsett and freshman infielder Matt Leahy and RBI doubles from freshman outfielder Kyle Neri and sophomore outfielder Anthony Paskell.

"A late rally fell short, but I like our team and where we are," Davis said to Rider Athletics.

Rider has a chance to build up its winning streak once more when it takes on the Princeton Tigers on April 17 at 3 p.m.

The game will be broadcast on ESPN+.



# Sports

ONLINE

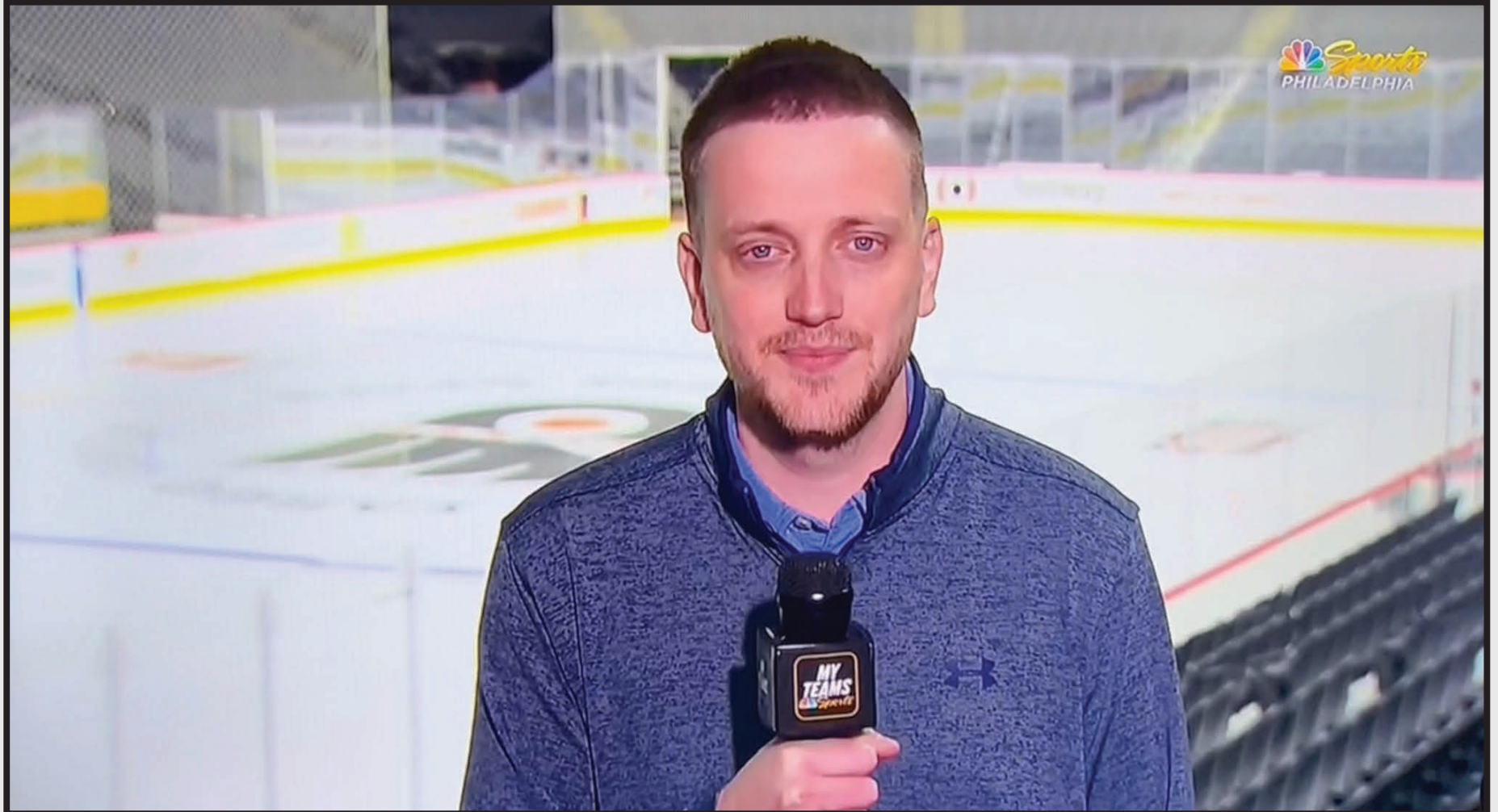
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FEATURE

## Rider alum to longtime Flyers beat reporter



Rider alum **Jordan Hall** has been on the beat for the Flyers since 2016, covering the team for NBC Sports Philadelphia.

Photo courtesy of Jordan Hall

By **Logan K. VanDine**

**M**OVING from the desk chairs of Rider to the stadium seats of the Wells Fargo Center has been quite the journey for Rider alum Jordan Hall '12, who says he has the university to thank for getting him into his position as the Philadelphia Flyers beat reporter for NBC Sports Philadelphia.

### 'I really wanted to pursue this'

Hall first fell in love with journalism in high school, where he started contributing to his school's newspaper.

"I first really got into [journalism] during my junior year of high school. That's when I kind of realized I really wanted to pursue this field," said Hall, who attended Delaware County Christian School in Newtown Square, Pennsylvania. "My dad really helped me out. He knew that I loved sports ... and I really enjoyed creative writing. He really wanted me to start realizing important life skills from communication skills," said Hall.

When it came time to pick where he wanted to take his journalism talents at the college level, Rider was not in his first plans.

"I originally wanted to go to Temple. I'm from the area, a lot of my classmates went to Temple, and Temple was very well known for its journalism program," he said. "I applied and I didn't get in because I definitely struggled in high school ... that was a kind of a dose of reality and I was saying to myself, 'Okay what's next?'"

### 'This was perfect'

What awaited Hall was an opportunity to take his sports journalism skills to a smaller school.

"My family and I visited [Rider], we ... learned about the journalism program, people from that department, The Rider News spoke to us, and I realized right away this was perfect."

When Hall started at Rider, the first thing he really wanted to get involved in was the school newspaper.

After Hall went to that first meeting, he immediately picked up a soccer story to write.

"It [is] just so cool seeing your name in the paper. I remember picking up the paper and picking up stacks of them to give to my parents, showing people, and it was just a really cool moment," Hall said.

As a freshman in his first semester, he was able to expand his role within The Rider News.

"When they were looking to promote others for higher positions, they were looking for an assistant sports editor," said Hall. "I picked up a story every week, and they saw my involvement, and they gave me an assistant sports editing position, which I was so thrilled about."

Hall also hoped to become a full-time sports editor for The Rider News.

"I was co-sports editor with Josh Veltrie, who's a super successful Rider graduate. ... I did [it] until I graduated and I absolutely loved it," Hall said.

Being heavily involved with The Rider News opened the door for Hall to start finding internships, and he did just that with Comcast SportsNet.

"I knew coming around in my junior year I wanted to pursue as many internships as possible. ... Growing up in the Philadelphia area, Comcast SportsNet was something that I watched growing up," he said. "I reached out, I applied, I put together a portfolio of my work at The Rider News and went in to interview, and I was fortunate to get the internship."

Through the internship, Hall gained experience in multiple aspects of journalism.

During his internship, Hall worked on photo editing, writing blogs and more. He then went on to have five internships at NBC Sports Philadelphia. Hall took his talents to a new level when he became the Philadelphia Flyers beat writer.

### 'Hopped on the beat'

"My first year on the beat was 2016. I was part-time with NBC for four years and ... I was freelancing with this company called the Sports Exchange," Hall said. "It was at the tail end of the

2015-2016 season and my boss said, 'We really need you to cover the Flyers,' and I hopped on the beat full-time, and I was thrown into the fire, but I love it."

Charles Bausman, a sports media professor, praised Hall for taking on internships that led him to where he is right now.

"Jordan was smart to pursue internships. Once a student gets their foot in the door, it's up to the student to succeed," said Bausman. "Jordan obviously did a great job as he moved through Rider and landing internships."

Hall credited Rider for the opportunities that allowed him to become a beat reporter for the Flyers for almost eight years.

"What I loved about Rider was that it was sort of a blessing in disguise for not getting into Temple," said Hall. "Temple is such a big school and I feel like getting involved right away might have been delayed."

Bausman said he could not be more proud of Hall for covering a professional team in such a crowded field.

"To see Jordan succeed in a demanding business and on a competitive beat is something to be proud of. Philadelphia is a tough media market with a smart fan base that knows every aspect of the four major teams," he said.

When asked if he sees himself doing anything beyond beat reporting, Hall gave a humble answer.

"I do enjoy the beat-writing aspect of it, especially where I work," said Hall. "I have a lot of freedom to write different types of stories: I can write features, I write breaking news, I can write columns. If I have an opinion, I'm allowed to express it, and that is what I love about the beat writing position."