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Students urge Rider to raise awareness for Israel-Hamas war

By Jay Roberson

RIDER Socialist-Leftist Union has consistently discussed and educated the Rider community on the latest Israel-Hamas war at club meetings since the Oct. 7 attack on Israel, but decided it was time to take action by raising money for Palestine on April 1 and 3.

Some of the last events held by the university on the war was the Israel-Hamas teach-in on Oct. 12, and a vigil on Oct. 18. Since then, some clubs and organizations on campus have held events.

Executive board members of the RSLU agreed that there has not been much awareness at Rider surrounding the most recent war.

Adrienne Bishop, president of RSLU and freshman psychology major, said, "In the weeks following Oct. 7, there were one or two events hosted by the school. Then administration kind of moved on. We didn't like that...we just want to keep awareness up."

According to Libby Newman, the chair for the department of government, politics and law and facilitator of the October Israel-Hamas teach-in, there are no more events surrounding the war planned for the rest of the semester.

Students at universities across the nation, even as local as Princeton University, have staged protests calling out administrators for their lack of attention to the war.

Professor of political science and facilitator for the Israel-Hamas teach-in Jonathan Mendilow explained that there is very low interest from students at Rider regarding the war, which has led to a lack of conversation surrounding the topic.

"We are near two big universities, one of them an Ivy League and the other a state university. Both of them have a large Arab and Israeli population... You can join [protests], it's not closed," said Mendilow.

Vice president of RSLU junior psychology major

Lex Wright, who uses they/ them pronouns, stated the club has been planning the fundraiser for months.

"We decided if we wanted to help, we could just set up a table with different links and QR codes to organizations which you can donate to help citizens in Palestine," said Wright.

RSLU fundraised for the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, American Near East Refugee Aid, Palestine Children's Relief Fund and Muslim Aid USA.

Public relations manager of the club and sophomore graphic design major Spencer Nelson said, "We're advocating for change, even if that's just in our community right now. We want to do our best to educate people and get on top of subjects that are happening right now and how to get people involved in that."

Mendilow feels that because the U.S. declared a war on terrorism in 2001, the country owes support to its ally Israel in their war against the terrorist organization Hamas.

"The interesting thing is we're [Rider] not involved as partners or as people who are engaged in the actual conflict. We're very interested bystanders. If we're intelligent enough, we're looking in that mirror saying, 'Here is a problem that needs a solution,'" said Mendilow.

Though most members of the Rider community are not directly involved in the war, Bishop said that



Jay Roberson/The Rider News

Rider Socialist-Leftist Union public relations manager **Spencer Nelson** (left) and vice president **Lex Wright** (right) display QR codes linking to different organizations while educating community members.

there should still be events held to educate the Rider community.

"The university has not offered enough support and it's really shameful," said Bishop. "We expect better from an institution that we pay hundreds of thousands to go to."

RSLU members said they hope that the university will make an effort to educate the Rider community on the Israel-Hamas war amidst a confusing and scary time.

Nelson said, "They could advocate for a lot more resources... This is taking a toll on people's mental health because people don't know what's going on and it's stressing them out, because they don't know how to help."

On-campus fraternities move to Poyda for fall 2024

By Jake Tiger

RIDER has decided to move its five on-campus fraternities into Poyda Hall from University House next fall due to a need for more space, separation and flexibility, according to Rider administrators.

After they moved back into University House last fall and ended a vacancy that began with the COVID pandemic, challenges arose and it was clear a change needed to be made, according to Dean of Residence Life Roberta Butler.

University House was initially home to Tau Kappa Epsilon and Sigma Phi Epsilon, but when Theta Chi re-established its chapter in 2018, Rider had to squeeze a third fraternity into the building — one too many, according to Butler.

"It wasn't designated for three separate organizations," said Butler. "That's not the density ... it was necessarily built for."

While Rider's fraternities are set to move into Poyda, they won't have the whole building to themselves, instead sharing it with standard residential students. Each fraternity will have its own sectioned-off wing on separate floors of the residence hall with the rest of the rooms remaining the same.

Members of Rider's fraternities expressed that,

while they enjoyed the compact and tight-knit feel of University House, they were excited about their new, larger home.

Sophomore global supply chain major Kyle Gerber, Sigma Phi Epsilon's vice president of recruitment, said University House was "outdated" and the house had to share one washer and one dryer.

Junior exercise science major Rohit Chatterjee, Sigma Phi Epsilon's president, said, "It was a new experience. ... It felt like having housemates. It didn't really feel like a dorm to the guys."

Chatterjee lives off campus but said, if he wasn't in class, he was in University House spending most of his time with his brothers, similarly to the president of Theta Chi, sophomore finance major Jason Aretino.

Aretino lives in Poyda this year and was optimistic about the rest of his brothers moving into the space.

"I've liked it here, haven't had any issues," said Aretino. "The overall experience will probably be better and we'll have more people around."

A driving factor behind the decision was the maneuverability it offered the university, as the many beds not filled by fraternities in Poyda could easily be occupied by students seeking a suite.

In University House, unfilled beds stayed that way with



Kaitlyn D'Alessio/The Rider News

Poyda Hall was renovated in summer 2023.

INSIDE

HISTORIC MAAC START

Rider baseball has flipped the script, remaining undefeated in MAAC play.



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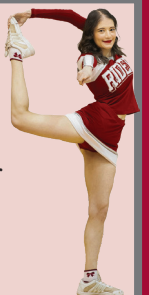
BEYONCÉ'S 'COWBOY CARTER' Beyoncé's new album is redefining Country music.



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SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Senior arts and entertainment industries management major Rachel Seigerman gives Rider cheer all she has.



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SEE 'POYDA' PAGE 2

SECURITY BRIEFS

BY CAROLINE HAVILAND

Motor Mishap

Two-vehicle accident. On March 28 at 6:32 p.m., Public Safety was dispatched to a motor vehicle accident that occurred near the South Entrance. Upon its arrival, Public Safety met with both drivers involved. One of the vehicles had started to slow and pull over to the curb before coming to a stop. The second vehicle then drove up, striking the stopped vehicle. No injuries were reported. The incident is currently under investigation by the Lawrence Township Police.

Dryer on Fire

Olson Laundry Fire. On March 29 at 4:04 p.m., Public Safety was dispatched to Olson Residence Hall for an activated fire alarm. Upon Public Safety's arrival, they were informed by students evacuating the building that smoke was coming from the basement laundry area. When Public Safety made it into the basement, they found smoke that was coming from one of the dryers which caught on fire. The Lawrence Township Fire Department was contacted before Public Safety extinguished the flames with a fire extinguisher. The Fire Department arrived on scene, ensured the fire was out and vented the smoke. Once the building was deemed safe, the students were allowed to reoccupy Olson Hall. Facilities Management was notified and the dryer was removed.

Stolen Property

Misplaced microwave. On April 1 at 1:45 p.m., Public Safety was dispatched to Switlik Residence Hall for the report of a stolen microwave. Facilities Management called Public Safety after noticing that the microwave located in one of the hallways had been stolen. The plate that tethered the microwave to the wall had been pried off the wall. Public Safety is currently investigating.

-Information provided by Public Safety Capt. Matthew Babcock

Cunningham re-elected for second AAUP term

By Amethyst Martinez

AFTER a chaotic fall semester filled with faculty layoff fears, silent protests against the university president and low morale, Rider's American Association of University Professors chapter has re-elected Quinn Cunningham as its president for the 2024-2025 school year.

Cunningham, an associate professor, was first elected last spring following professor David Dewberry, who also served two terms.

Following a semester where unease became familiar until the administration's October announcement to not lay off any faculty, Cunningham said that union struggles should begin to settle down.

"It was a little tough in the fall, but I think it's been a good year overall," said Cunningham. "I hope to sort of continue trying to be a good representative of our faculty."

Now, with a signed contract, all union members will receive raises over the next three years, with a 0.25% increase next fall and a 2% increase the following two years.

"Actually seeing this contract kind of be followed through will be a big thing for our members," said Cunningham.

Since her arrival in 2014, the professor has seen the university struggle for a decade, from tense contract negotiations with the union to possible strikes. The contract, which will remain in effect for the next three years, gives faculty members and administration the opportunity to build trust following a highly tumultuous past few semesters.

"It's been really interesting, I've learned a lot," said Cunningham. "We should be relatively calm for at least a few more years."

Last year, Cunningham told the Rider News that she hoped to bring positivity back into the union — a feat Dewberry said she is accomplishing, despite problems still remaining.

"Quinn's re-election is a testament to how hard she's worked...and her collaborative spirit," said Dewberry.

He said that now, union members are waiting for a change of the administration's leadership.

"There's a sense in the air that it's going to be soon," he said. "We're just waiting for this to pass."

President Gregory Dell'Omo's contract expires in 2025, to which he has remained mum about a tenure extension.



Kaitlyn D'Alessio/The Rider News

Rider's American Association of University Professors chapter president Quinn Cunningham protests at the 2023 convocation. Cunningham was re-elected for a second term during the 2024-2025 school year.

Poyda move offers admin flexibility, students AC

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residential students not wanting to move into a spare room in a densely packed fraternity house, according to Butler.

The InterFraternal Council fraternities in University House are given a quota each semester, needing to fill six rooms with two beds each. The number of brothers living in the building would "ebb and flow" each semester, with some fraternities having too many beds and some not having enough, Butler said.

This spring, Rider filled 34 of 42 beds in University House, according to Butler.

With the move to Poyda, each fraternity will now have 14 rooms totalling 28 beds, which the university is hoping will create larger, more connected communities, according to Kadi Diallo, Rider's director of student involvement and first year programs.

The five fraternities currently occupying University House are Sigma Phi Epsilon, Theta Chi and Tau Kappa Epsilon, which make up the institution's IFC, as well as a handful of brothers from Lambda Theta Phi Fraternity Inc. and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., which are multicultural and historically Black fraternities, respectively, Diallo said.

After being made aware of the decision, each of Rider's IFC fraternities were given a choice: move into Poyda or have brothers "scattered" around campus, according to Gerber.

Diallo said Tau Kappa Epsilon was the only fraternity that decided against moving into the building.

Tau Kappa Epsilon's president, junior music theory major Anthony Fontana, was unavailable for an interview with The Rider News.

Butler said the perks of Poyda were another significant reason why the administration chose to transition fraternities there, as the recently renovated building could better accommodate fraternities.

Rider overhauled Poyda in summer 2023, outfitting the residence with new lighting, flooring, paint and air conditioners.

"So many of the men in the beginning of the [fall]



Photo courtesy of Rohit Chatterjee

Members of Sigma Phi Epsilon stand in front of University House, where on-campus fraternities currently live.

semester experienced challenges because it's hot in the building," said Butler of air conditioner deficient University House. "Those were some of the things we looked at. ... What was the building that was going to give them the most perks while continuing to be fair and equitable across [campus]?"

Butler also cited the adjacent parking lot as another convenience for brothers living in Poyda.

The university did not have the fraternities in mind when it chose to upgrade the residence hall last summer, Butler said.

The administration was undecided on the future of University House, as it will depend on the number of beds needed next fall. If not used as housing, the building would be rented to an outside organization, according to Butler.

MEET THE RIDER NEWS STAFF:



SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT THE RIDER NEWS' YOUTUBE PAGE

Panel shares how Gen Z can be activists

By Julia Train

OVER 100 Rider students, faculty and staff sat scattered throughout the Bart Luedeke Center's Cavalla Room to learn about activism, political power and Gen Z in a panel discussion featuring David Hogg, co-founder of March for Our Lives and Leaders We Deserve; Astead Herndon, a New York Times political reporter, and Rider alum Karla Lopez-Rosa, an immigrant rights activist.

Hosted on March 28, the event was co-sponsored by the Norm Brodsky College of Business and the College of Arts and Sciences in collaboration with Tapestry, as part of the 2024 Business of Media Lecture Series.

Tapestry is an initiative that engages Rider students in media learning and teaching opportunities that "recognize underserved populations and cultures."

The event was moderated by Adam McMahan, an assistant professor of political science, and Aaliyah Shoulders, a junior film and television major.

A video by junior film and television major Faith Robinson-Hughes was used as an opener for the discussion, surrounding the history of activism within marginalized communities. Questions for the panelists were written beforehand by Shoulders and McMahan.

On the stage was Hogg and Lopez-Rosa '23, who is now a Constituent Service Representative and Field Representative at the office of New Jersey Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman. Herndon joined the discussion via Zoom.

The booking price for each guest is confidential, according to Juanita Carroll, Tapestry's lead adviser and co-founder.

Hogg is also a New York Times bestselling author of "#NeverAgain: A New Generation Draws the



Julia Train/The Rider News

Members of Tapestry pose for a photo after the event with the panelists.

Line," a novel he co-wrote with his sister, Lauren Hogg, about their experiences of the 2018 tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. He was a senior and his sister was a freshman at the time of the school shooting in Parkland, Florida, which claimed 17 lives.

The event connected the three professionals' specializations — political power, gun control and immigration — to share their perspectives on activism and Gen Z's abilities.

"Our mission is to tell the stories of underrepresented populations ... we want to hear those stories, we want to see how we can be advocates and allies," said Carroll.

Hogg's traumatic experience led him to advocate for gun control, co-founding March for Our Lives, alongside other students from his high school.

Six years after the original march, the youth-led

movement has chapters throughout the country and holds rallies to demand change after other school shootings. The volunteers also work to file briefs in court cases and have helped to pass over 300 gun safety laws.

According to its website, March for Our Lives aims to create a world where gun violence is obsolete.

"We don't have to agree on everything to make progress," Hogg said, reflecting on what he's learned while advocating for the issue.

On Zoom, Herndon spoke about his experiences covering Donald Trump's rallies and challenges as a journalist in today's political climate. He recalled colleagues being spat on and booed for remaining seated as they worked instead of standing up during the national anthem.

Herndon has been a journalist since 2015 working as a general assignment and city hall reporter at the Boston Globe and transitioned to political journalism when Trump became president.

"I've always been in the midst of that kind of crisis and in the midst of real structural challenges the country was facing ... the biggest challenge for being a journalist is owning that role of responsibility and using it ... we are constantly, in political reporting, pulled between ethical poles of dealing with respect, appearance, accuracy and trust," he said.

Lopez-Rosa talked about her experience as a constituent service representative for Coleman, along with immigration's impact on New Jersey and herself.

"Often, I have to remind myself why I'm doing it, why it matters and the people who are impacted at the end of the day," Lopez-Rosa said.

Asha Burtin, a copyeditor, is a member of Tapestry and had no part in the writing or editing of this article.

Library staff looks for silver lining amid cuts

By Hannah Newman

MOOORE Library had a budget of \$1.25 million when Sharon Whitfield, an associate professor-librarian, started working at Rider in 2019.

That figure has now been slashed in half.

In 2020, budget cuts befell the university during the pandemic, the library facing its largest one in that time frame, according to Whitfield. Now, the staff is looking for ways to reconstruct leadership, services and resources on a smaller allowance.

Alongside the cuts, employment inconsistencies have intensified the challenges of Moore Library's operations as remaining workers have continued without a dean since October.

"We really had to prepare for how we can change our services and reframe them in order to still meet the informational needs here at Rider," said Whitfield. "It [budget cuts] was a real pivot for us."

A breaking budget

The budget was cut 20% in 2021, with \$100,000 worth of journals, over \$60,000 in standing orders and canceled databases with a high cost per view gone as a resource for students, according to an email to The Rider News from Melissa Hofmann, an assistant professor-librarian, which also stated that the budget was cut 30%, or about \$300,000 in 2022.

It has since been cut an additional 20%.

"We moved from what we call a 'just-in-case model' to a 'just-in-time model,' and that means we would no longer hold onto journals simply to hold onto them, but to really be more cognizant of how and what is getting used," said Whitfield. "A lot more data analysis came into play."

She said the strategy in determining what sources are worth keeping or not lies within a system based on the cost of library loans.

"We really look at our resources almost with a threshold of a cost per use," said Whitfield. "We look at a \$30 threshold and we use the \$30 because literalists have said that it's about how much it would be to do an interlibrary loan."

Changing deans

The cuts have been alongside a constant change of leadership, with the Interim Dean of Libraries Jason Barr leaving in September for a job at Columbia University. Alongside his role in the library, he was also the dean of the College of Education and Human Services.

"We've adapted to a lot of 'bottom-up' leadership, just working together to see how we can prioritize in all of our areas of expertise," said Whitfield. "It comes with a lot of setbacks like communication barriers. Without having a dean to communicate what we're doing to the entire university comes with communication gaps with our services."

With Barr gone, DonnaJean Fredeen, the university's provost, has taken over. Fredeen noted that there will not be a dedicated dean for the library in the near future.

Hofmann expressed that without specified leadership in library work, an immense pressure has been put on the shrinking staff in terms of making effective decisions for operations.

"If we don't have leadership that has some semblance of library work and can drive priorities forward, it becomes difficult, because we've been leaning from the bottom up, which isn't always most effective," said Whitfield.

In addition, Rider's archivist, Robert Congleton, retired in June 2023. The position will not be filled, according to Hofmann.

She also mentioned that the library has lost six librarians and nine staff members in different fields of expertise, bringing the remaining faculty to run on "bare bone."

Although there have been roadblocks without formal leadership, Whitfield mentioned that the staff has managed to work well on improving the library, specifically student spaces.

"We wanted to rethink what the library actually meant on campus," said Whitfield.

The library has been working toward getting grants. Recently, it received a virtual reality grant that has given it the chance to work with classes in the Norm Brodsky College of Business.

Educational resources have grown, too, as textbooks for some courses can be found within the library, relieving some of the financial burden of textbook purchases.

Facilities has assisted with cleaning out the periodical room in hopes to make more space on the library's floor.

Not only have resources improved, but the desire to utilize the library's spaces has also elevated, as the librarians mentioned advancements made internally with power towers by tables and whiteboards that were added last summer.

"There were a number of years that we were not getting people to come to the library, and now we regularly get between 2,000 to 3,000 people coming to use our library services," said Whitfield. "In the past nine months, we had over 4,000 study room reservations."

With a future that does not foresee a dean for library operations, it is in the hands of the campus and staff to dictate what the next steps will be in implementing further improvements.

"We're going to keep focusing on feedback, but I'm not sure we have alignment between the institutional vision and ours," said Whitfield.



Hannah Newman/The Rider News

Sharon Whitfield and Melissa Hofmann look to create comfortable spaces in the library for students.

Meet the trustees:

Joan Mazzotti

By Amethyst Martinez

WHEN Joan Mazzotti packed up her boxes and moved to Rider College for school in 1968, she had no idea of the career in store for her, or that she would become the university's Board of Trustees' first female chair decades later.

Mazzotti left her Italian Catholic household for something new, picking Rider out of a booklet that was once handed out at high school counseling offices. Pulling out her color-coordinated binder now, in 2024, Mazzotti had notes of her entire career and life.

Once a political science major who graduated in 1972, Mazzotti, pushing her royal blue glasses up the bridge of her nose, recalled it as one of the most important times to be on a college campus.

"The entire culture of campus communities changed," she said.

From the Vietnam War protests at Rider and across the nation, to the May 4 killings at Kent State University in 1970, where Ohio National Guard members shot into a crowd of university demonstrators, killing four and wounding nine students, college campuses had become the epicenter of change.

Her experience as a first-generation college student shaped her love for the university due to how accessible it was for students like her to attend then and now.

"Our family believes deeply that a college education; it should be accessible to all, and I think Rider embodies that," said Mazzotti.

After her time at Rider, Mazzotti attended law school at Villanova University, graduating in 1975 and starting a two-year fellowship at the American Law Institute, where she focused on the legal aspects of museum administration.

Afterward, she was offered a job with Aramark, a large facilities and food service company, which she described as male-dominated.

"I always tried to empower women in the company. I even started a women's network," said Mazzotti. "There started to be a little bit more of a critical mass of women, so I did that."

After 23 years in the company, Mazzotti moved on to a role that evoked more passion: executive director of Philadelphia Futures, a nonprofit organization in the city that worked with low-income students coming out of the lowest-performing high schools.

"I wanted to live out my values," said Mazzotti. "We had remarkable results because they were primarily students of color, and we had amazing college acceptance and college graduation rates."

Around the same time, Mazzotti served her first term on Rider's Board of Trustees as a member from 1996 to 2005, acting as the first female chair from 1998 to 2002. Board member positions are nine years long, and some of the main obligations are working with the endowment, approving the budget and making decisions

Photo courtesy of Joan Mazzotti.



Joan Mazzotti's graduation portrait.

about school presidencies and for the university.

Mazzotti retired from Philadelphia Futures in 2017 and looked for her next endeavor. After Rider President Gregory Dell'Omo asked her to return in 2018, she took a position on the Board once more and began as the chair again in 2023.

"It's our love for the university that brings you back here to serve on the board and put your time in," she said.

Mazzotti laughed, saying that she was the first woman chair at the university, and then the second, due to her two terms.

"When President Dell'Omo asked me in 2018, I had just retired," said Mazzotti, smiling. "Got me at a good moment."

Her involvement at the university has formed her legacy, according to Mazzotti, from scholarships to awards to relationships.

With self-proclaimed feminist DNA, she has worked toward women's empowerment in all of her life's sectors, including her time as a Rider Board member.

One way she did that was with the creation of the Mazzotti Awards in Women's Leadership, where faculty and staff women leaders would form a community and empower one another. Chosen from across the university, 41 women have gone through the program on leadership development so far.

Her biggest accomplishment, however, may be the Joan C. Mazzotti and Michael C. Kelly Endowed Scholarship, which is a need-based

Photo courtesy of Joan Mazzotti.



Joan Mazzotti graduating from Rider in 1972, with the campus in the background.

award for first generation Black and Latino students, given by Mazzotti's family and named after her and her husband.

The first to receive the scholarship, Zeina Ly, graduated in 2023 and still keeps in touch with Mazzotti.

"We met over grilled cheeses, and from then on, we continued to stay in contact whenever she was on campus," said Ly. "I got the financial relief from the scholarship, but we also built a great relationship on top of that."

Since then, Mazzotti has helped her with career advice like professionalism and networking, according to Ly. Now, Ly works at Bloomberg in the financial sector of the company.

"I know that I wouldn't be in the position that I am now if it wasn't through the fate [that] they invested in me through that scholarship," said Ly. "I want to emphasize that beyond the tangible benefits, the connection that we've grown has been a very cherished aspect of that."

Outside of Rider, Mazzotti loves spending time with her family, many details showing the life she's built— from being neighbors with recently retired Eagles player Jason Kelce, watching Phillies games with her husband and continuing her lifelong dedication to education.

"We really believe in Rider's mission, and the students it serves," said Mazzotti. "I've been very fortunate in my work life, and I was here [at Rider.]"

Photo courtesy of Joan Mazzotti.



Joan Mazzotti in the red vest at the Alpha Xi Delta House for 1972 senior dinner.

Photo courtesy of Joan Mazzotti.



From left to right: Michael Kelly, Zeina Ly and Joan Mazzotti in Rider's business building.

TRISTAN E. M. LEACH PRESENTS

APRIL HOROSCOPE

What do the stars have in store for you this month?

Aquarius (Jan.20-Feb.18)

This month, communication is going to become easier and clearer, Aquarius. You may feel the want and need to share your feelings, thoughts and works of art. Take that leap and have fun this month. Talk and listen to yourself and others.



Pisces (Feb.19-March 20)

In April, you may feel called to do something you would never think to do. This feeling may scare you at first, but trust this idea. It is time to start living for yourself, Pisces. Do the things that scare you and remember that these experiences can only help you grow.



Aries (March 21-April 19)

It's your season, Aries. As spring becomes warmer and the days get longer, you may feel comfortable. Live in this comfort and accept who you are. Allow yourself to rest in your season and work on your inner growth.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

As with last month, Taurus, you may feel hindered by others and their goals. Your goals are uniquely yours, dear. Don't let yourself be put off by what others want for or from you. The full moon is in your house this month, Taurus. Use that power to work on your goals.



Gemini (May 21-June 21)

It's time to focus on your loved ones, Gemini. In April, take time to check on your friends and make time to be with them. Your friends have always been there for you and it is important to do the same for them.



Cancer (June 22-July 22)

April is all about balance, Cancer. A chapter of your life is coming to an end, and this may make you feel overwhelmed and all over the place. Take some time each day to assess how you feel and allow yourself to sit in those emotions.



Leo (July 23-Aug.22)

You have been working so hard, Leo. In this spring month of April, take a weekend for yourself. Turn off your phone, disconnect and allow yourself to breathe. It is time to put yourself first, dear Leo. You deserve it.



Virgo (Aug.23-Sept.22)

As Aries season comes upon you, Virgo, it is time to focus on your finances. You may find your finances or your capability to make those finances interrupted. This doesn't mean that you are going to fall on hard times; however, it is time to make better choices with your finances.



Libra (Sept.23-Oct.22)

This month, you may feel your emotions more heavily than usual. You have strong emotions, and it is OK to express them, Libra. Be careful how you express these feelings, as not everyone will appreciate them.



Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.21)

For the last two months you have focused on the "what-ifs" and "maybe someday." It is time to let go of this thinking. It is only holding you back, Scorpio. Take the leap and do the work that will make you feel good.



Sagittarius (Nov.22-Dec.21)

Love is in the air, Sagittarius. You may find yourself seeking a romantic connection or find that someone is looking to make a romantic connection with you. Don't turn down this opportunity if it is what's right for you.



Capricorn (Dec.22-Jan.19)

It is time to focus on your family and home life, Capricorn. April calls for you to work with the people you share a space with. It is not a bad thing to want to improve your home life and your familiar relationships.



Designed by Rashe Mishra

Loung Ung speaks volumes with "First They Killed My Father"

By Grace Bertrand

CAMBODIAN author-activist Loung Ung's personal narrative spoke for itself in a captivating hour-long discussion. Stirring up emotions in an auditorium full of college students and faculty, Ung recounted the gruesome retelling of her national bestselling book, "First They Killed My Father."

"Love does not torture. Love does not harm. Love does not kill. Love does not murder two million Cambodians out of a population of seven million," Ung started off.

On March 28, The Julius and Dorothy Koppelman Holocaust/Genocide Resource Center of the Center for Diversity and Inclusion joined with the College of Education and Human Services to present Ung in the annual "Koppelman Scholars Showcase."

As a survivor of the killing fields of Cambodia, Ung was stripped from her family at the crisp age of five when the Khmer Rouge, the radical communist movement in power at the time, invaded her home. Detailing every last piece of the memories she has from her childhood in Cambodia, she painted an incredibly vivid picture of the inhumanity she experienced at the hands of her family's killers.

Remembering her final moments with her father, Ung said, "When it was my turn, he picked me up and I had the instinct of heart to wrap my arms around my father, to remember how my feet felt dangling in the air as his arms tightened around me, to rest my face against the nape of his neck and to tell my father I loved him as he put me down and walked off into the sunset with the soldiers on either side of him."

Looking around, it was clear Ung's words had filled most of the eyes in the auditorium with tears.

Faculty fellow of the Julius and Dorothy Koppelman Holocaust/Genocide Resource Center Howard Joffe explained the idea of inviting Ung to



Grace Bertrand/The Rider News

Cambodian author **Loung Ung** on Zoom in front of an audience in Sweigart Hall's Rue Auditorium.

the Scholars Showcase, saying, "It could not be better timed in my mind. We were so lacking in education on issues of this day."

Educating many aspiring storytellers in the audience, Ung also shared her personal experience with transitioning her words on a page to the big screen.

In 2017, "First They Killed My Father" was made into a movie directed by Academy Award winner Angelina Jolie, with the screenplay written by Ung and Jolie in collaborative efforts.

"Making the movie was a pain that I was not expecting," Ung said.

In preparation for filming, Ung had to travel

back to her home over 40 years later to tape with over 20,000 extras, all of whom were survivors or descendants of survivors themselves.

Admiring Ung's strength of having to relive her past trauma whilst making this film, sophomore business major Alyssa Rodriguez, who attended the event, highlighted learning about topics she wished were taught in classes more.

"We don't realize how much those events impacted people personally. It happened so long ago and some people still have to live with the trauma and memories, but so many of us forget about those events all together," Rodriguez said.

Attending universities to share her story is not something new for Ung, although it does still invoke the same emotions it did when first writing her book.

Grateful for the opportunity to present a book that's so personal to her now as a career, Ung said, "I did not know it on that day, but 24 years later, it would go on to be in print and be taught in universities and colleges — a book that I submitted to my team of five publishers and received 24 rejections for."

Per the CDI's mission of fostering an understanding and appreciation for different cultures and ways of life, more events like this one are planned for the future, with the hopes of embracing and sharing new voices that deserve to be heard now more than ever.

In honor of Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage month, the CDI will be hosting a series of events all month long honoring the culture, history and traditions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States.

April is Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage month. Check out CDI's website to see future events for this April.

Community and confidence building in 'Zumba with Eve'

By Madison Lewis

COLLEGE is often associated with the pressure to exceed expectations, alongside an accompanying fear of judgment by peers. To alleviate the mental load and to introduce healthy movement into their weekly routine, Rider students can enroll in the weekly program "Zumba with Eve."

Rider alum Eve Sylvester '23, who has participated in the dance form since middle school, shares her passion for Zumba with eager attendees every Thursday in the Aerobics Room of the Student Recreation Center.

Immediately after entering the studio, Sylvester turned on the music. She gave a short disclaimer that participants should replicate her moves to their own comfort level and ability, assuring attendees that they can take water breaks at any time.

Sylvester encouraged students to fan the flames of self-expression by demonstrating a fast-paced routine in real time, where some returning attendees immediately recognized the moves.

Junior acting major Emily Paruk, who has attended Zumba classes since her freshman year, said, "They do not explain the moves beforehand. You just jump right in ... you just go right in and you learn it."

Sylvester switched up the material occasionally to ensure students were satisfied. She explained that she uses pre-planned choreography, but half the time, she choreographs the set herself.

Although there are dancers that seem like experts, novice students are seldom discouraged, some even seen laughing good-naturedly at themselves when they misstep.

The attendees departed from the class, sometimes chatting with people they had not known even an hour before.

Paruk said that she cemented the weekly Zumba routine into her schedule by coming to the classes alone, subsequently developing friendships.

Sylvester basked in the environment she created for

newcomers, saying, "I just love to see the new faces and that [the newcomers] get to experience my class as something new."

Fostering such an inclusive environment was not a single-handed task; the returning members add a positive and judgment-free air to the already nurturing atmosphere.

"I love that I have built that little community that comes to my class ... [the returning people] end up knowing the dances and it's awesome ... It is like my little dance group," said Sylvester.

When asked about who she recommends her class to, Sylvester changed her positive tone into a more excited declaration.

"Everyone," the former exercise science major, who graduated from Rider in 2023, exclaimed. "If you are interested in working out and do not know where to start, I think group exercise classes, specifically Zumba, are great places to start ... there is that community and it does not even feel like you're working out."

Everyone had a different reason to join the world of Zumba, with Sylvester comparing it to a "runner's high" and Paruk calling it a "little treat" in her day.

Whatever the reason, or whatever skill level a person enters the room with, Zumba is not an activity to be performed perfectly. There are no expectations in the room full of people looking to escape from the same pressures of college and life in general.

Interested in taking a class? Students can register for "Zumba with Eve" on BroncNation.

Eve Sylvester '23 teaches Zumba every Thursday with new members and her 'dance crew.'



Photo courtesy of Griffin Honthy

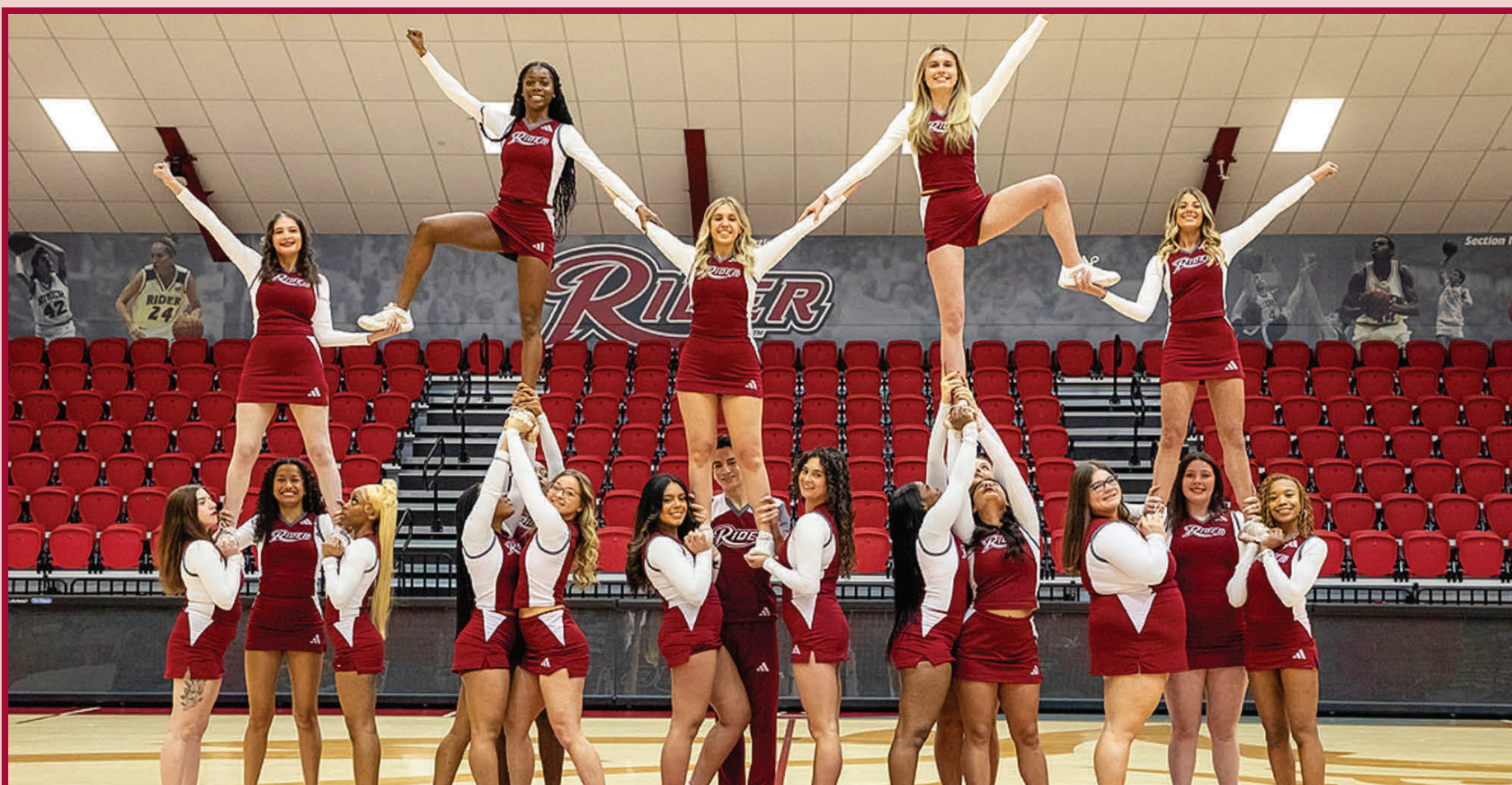


Photo courtesy of Rachel Seigerman

Senior arts and entertainment industries management major **Rachel Seigerman** (top left) poses with the Rider cheer team in their cranberry and white uniforms.

Senior Spotlight: Rachel Seigerman

By **Tristan E. M. Leach**

WITH red-painted lips, Rachel Seigerman, smiles as she is hoisted into the air. From the top of the pyramid, she is supported by her fellow teammates as she holds a split. The crowd cheers as she lands a perfect flip; it is moments like this that Seigerman lives for.

Seigerman, a senior arts and entertainment industries management major, has always fostered a passion for the arts. When she was applying to colleges, Seigerman knew she wanted to pursue the arts, but she wasn't sure which direction to go.

"I loved [Rider's] focus on the arts. As I got to know [Rider] I liked that the AEIM program, which is arts business, falls under the arts at Rider, where at other schools [AEIM] would fall under the business program," said Seigerman.

For Seigerman, the opportunity to participate in multiple facets of the world of art was the draw.

Seigerman first heard about the program through a mutual friend, who felt Seigerman would enjoy it. She described the program as the perfect combination of business and arts.

The AEIM program turned out to be a fit for Seigerman. Her classes have given her real-world experience and have allowed her to dip her toes into different types of work that goes into the arts. Seigerman said that her favorite class was Arts and Education Outreach, a class that teaches the value of the arts in school programs and other places.

"I've always loved working with kids in the arts. It is my passion to watch them grow through the arts and be able to tell their story. I've gotten to witness that firsthand," said Seigerman with a smile.

AEIM isn't the only great opportunity that Rider has provided for Seigerman. Starting her sophomore year, Seigerman became a member of Rider's cheer team, allowing her to continue her career as a cheerleader, which began when Seigerman was 11 years old.

"I always wanted to be a cheerleader. I started in what's called Pop Warner Cheerleading, which is a type of sideline cheerleading. At the end of Pop Warner Cheerleading, there was a couple competitions and I was like, 'Oh, I really like this competition aspect,'" said Seigerman.

Soon enough, Seigerman's chance to be on a competitive cheerleading team fell into her lap. The team she was on for the last 12 years and for which she is now a helping coach, Jerzey Jewelz, moved into the building where Seigerman was taking gymnastics.

"I fell in love with [cheerleading]. The dynamics, the hard work that it took. I love the glitz and the glamour that came with [cheerleading], but I also love the teamwork and the family aspect behind it," said Seigerman.

Seigerman is a flyer, a cheerleader who is lifted into the air and is at the top of stunts or pyramids. For three years, Seigerman has cheered for Rider's basketball teams. Even during stunts that had the audience holding their breath, Seigerman and the rest of her teammates wore smiles of joy.

"When you're with a team, you're trusting everyone around you to do their job and to have you, basically, in their hands. That's when you really count on each other, and that's what I love about cheerleading is the bond that it brings," said Seigerman.

Vicki Trucksess, cheerleading coordinator, is an alumna of Rider and returned in the 2018 season as a volunteer coach. This is her first year leading the team. When talking about Seigerman, Trucksess described her love and passion for the sport.



Photo courtesy of Rachel Seigerman

Rachel Seigerman poses for her senior media day photos as a Rider cheerleader.

"She is by far one of the most dedicated athletes that I have ever had the privilege and opportunity to work with. No matter what is needed... Rachel is always the first person to jump to take that opportunity to help out," said Trucksess.

Seigerman credits cheerleading with teaching her how to overcome her fears and helping her grow as a person. Cheerleading did another important thing for Seigerman: show her the importance of mental health, especially in athletes.

In the last few years, Rider has started the important discussion around mental health in athletes, and the pressure that college athletes face in the classroom and in their sport. Seigerman is a member of Morgan's Message, a nationwide nonprofit organization that advocates for the mental health of athletes and the importance of encouraging athletes to talk about how they're feeling.

Seigerman proudly wears her Morgan's Message T-shirt and speaks freely about mental health and the importance of advocating for yourself and others. Cheerleading and everything that comes with it have shaped Seigerman into the woman she is today.

After graduating in May, Seigerman hopes to work for a nonprofit organization that focuses on the arts and providing those artistic opportunities to children. Seigerman carries the belief that art is for all and that the only thing stopping someone is themselves.

Seigerman said, "I always live by the saying 'When words fail, arts speak.'"

This article is part of the 'Senior Spotlight' series created by The Rider News to highlight exceptional women on Rider's campus.



Photo courtesy of Rachel Seigerman

Rachel Seigerman does one of her signature cheer moves.

Beyoncé's 'Cowboy Carter' is making history

In an Instagram caption on March 19, Beyoncé announced her eighth album, "Cowboy Carter," which was released on March 29: "This album has been over five years in the making. It was born out of an experience that I had years ago where I did not feel welcomed ... and it was very clear that I wasn't. But, because of that experience I did a deeper dive into the history of Country music and studied our rich musical archive."

Many believe that this part of her statement had to do with the racist backlash she received from country music "fans" after her performance at the Country Music Awards with The Chicks in 2016, when they performed her country tune "Daddy Lessons," from her pivotal 2016 album "Lemonade."

Fast forward eight years later, and we have an album that has redefined so many sounds within the genre, an album that will forever serve as commentary on music's history. "This ain't a Country album. This is a 'Beyoncé' album," stated the singer in her Instagram caption.

The elaborate 27-track album starts with the song, "AMERIICAN REQUIEM," which appears to sample "1812 Overture," by the composer Tchaikovsky, a song that is often played on July 4. Beyoncé sings, "Nothin' really ends/For things to stay the same, they have to change again/Hello, my old friend/You change your name, but not the ways you play pretend/American Requiem/Them big ideas (Yeah), are buried here (Yeah)/Amen," in the first verse followed by a chorus singing "Can we stand for something?/Now is the time to face the wind."

The grand opening of a song with vocals that feel reminiscent of Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody" sets the stage for how robust the album truly is. As she sings about America's requiem, which is essentially its death, this layered message directly applies to the singer, a Black woman from the South who was criticized for her audacity to take up space in the genre, despite its origins, and how she has chosen to break down the barriers that people have tried to place in front of her, which redefines America in a way that many people are not comfortable with. She sings, "Got folk down in Galveston, rooted in Louisiana/Used to say I spoke, 'Too country'/And the rejection came, said 'I wasn't country 'nough'/Said I wouldn't saddle up,/but/If that ain't country, tell me what is?," in the second verse of the song.

It is hard to pick out one or two tracks that truly stand out in this project, as each track truly tells a story of its own. Beyoncé covers popular classics on this album, like track two, "BLACKBIRD," a rendition of the hit Beatles song accompanied by rising Black women in country music, Tanner Adell, Brittney Spencer, Tiera Kennedy and Reyna Roberts. Paul McCartney stated that the song was written in 1968 in response to the Little Rock Nine, as he explained that the word "blackbird" was a play on the words "Black girl," as "bird" is a word used to refer to a girl in England.

Beyoncé also sings a new and direct rendition of "JOLENE" on track 10, a take on the Dolly Parton classic. The features on this album are so interesting, with appearances from Willie Nelson, Dolly Parton, Post Malone, Miley Cyrus and Linda Martell, a name that may not be familiar to many, but one that is important.

Martell was the first commercially successful Black woman in Country music, and the first to sing at the Grand Ole Opry in 1969. Martell states, "Genres are a funny little concept aren't they?" at the start of track 12, "SPAGHETTII," featuring the artist Shaboozey. This high-energy hip-hop track serves an important role in the album, signifying the importance of Southern hip-hop, a pioneering sound that came from artists like OutKast, Lil Wayne, T.I., Goodie Mob and more.

The songwriting credits for each song continue to roll out as the days go by following the release of this album, ranging from rising stars like Ryan Beatty, known for his collaborations with the group BROCKHAMPTON, and rising pop and R&B artist RAYE.

The collaborations on this album were so deliberate with more credits from producers like The-Dream, Stevie Wonder, D.A. Got That Dope, Pharrell Williams and more. This project is steeped in history, with "SWEET HONEY BUCKIIN'" being a Jersey club remix of the 1961 Patsy Cline classic, "I Fall to Pieces," as well as the genre as a whole having its roots in Black traditions, as instruments like the banjo were brought from Africa by enslaved people.

The album closes with the song "AMEN," a reprise to "AMERIICAN REQUIEM," suggesting that we are stuck in a cycle, and in order to break it, we must learn our history in order to not repeat it. Throughout the album, Beyoncé defies what can and "cannot" be done within a genre, whether that be singing in different languages, such as her rendition of the Italian concert piece "Caro Mio Ben" in the 11th track, "DAUGHTER," or the Tina Turner-esque song "YA YA." We should allow this album to serve as a lesson on not just country music's history, but history as a whole, and the music that has reflected that.

Asha Burtin
senior music production major



Maggie Kleiner/The Rider News

Beyoncé's new album has made waves in Country music.

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JUNIOR JOURNALS

On the 'Rhodes' to the 40th Wrestlemania

THIS weekend, on April 6 and 7, tradition continues for the 40th year as WWE's "Wrestlemania XL" comes to Philadelphia.

As a two-night event, this year's "Wrestlemania" has two separate headlining matches. On Saturday, the show's main event will be arguably the biggest tag team match in the event's four-decade-long history. World Heavyweight Champion Seth Rollins will team up with Royal Rumble winner Cody Rhodes to challenge The Bloodline: WWE Champion Roman Reigns and his cousin The Rock.

The rules of this tag team match are unique, as they determine the stipulation for Sunday night's main event Reigns versus Rhodes for the WWE Championship. If The Bloodline wins the Saturday tag match, then the championship match will be contested under "Bloodline rules," which essentially means there will be no rules. However, if Rhodes and Rollins are able to defeat Reigns and The Rock, then every Bloodline member except for Reigns will be banned from ringside. This will include Jimmy Uso, Solo Sikoa, Paul Heyman, and of course, The Rock.

When "Wrestlemania" last took place in Philadelphia in 1999, The Rock came up short against Steve Austin in the main event, losing his WWE Championship. A full 25 years later, The Rock has returned to "the showcase of the immortals" in an effort to prevent the same from happening to his family.

The story that faces this year's "Wrestlemania" started over a year ago when Rhodes won the 2023 Royal Rumble, earning himself the right to challenge Reigns for his WWE Championship at "Wrestlemania 39." This chapter was cut short when a cheated sneak attack from Solo Sikoa cost Rhodes both the match and the championship.

In a rare achievement, Rhodes won the 2024 Royal Rumble and became only the third man ever to win the Royal Rumble match twice in two years. However, The Rock soon tried to convince Rhodes to give up his guaranteed championship match so that he could face his cousin Reigns instead.

Rhodes ultimately vowed to finish his story, formally challenged Roman Reigns to a "Wrestlemania" championship match, and made an enemy out of The Rock in the process.

When Rhodes arrives in Philadelphia this weekend, he will not only have a second chance at winning the most prestigious prize in professional wrestling, but he will face his newest rival in The Rock's first match since 2013.

For a long time, Rhodes was not a notable figure in professional wrestling. When I attended "Wrestlemania 29" in 2013, the same night The Rock had

his most recent match, Rhodes had his match canceled mid-show due to time constraints. Rhodes was not deemed important enough to feature on the event.

All these years later, Rhodes has turned himself into maybe the most unanimously loved wrestler I have ever seen in my years of watching.

Fans were heartbroken last year, myself included, when Rhodes was cheated out of the WWE Championship. It is rare for a wrestler to have a chance this big to right their wrongs and overcome the biggest odds of their career. The Rock is perhaps the most famous wrestler in history. Roman Reigns is one of the longest-reigning world champions of all time. Rhodes is someone who has had to fight tooth and nail for over 15 years to stand where he will stand this weekend.

I, and just about every wrestling fan in the world, will be in Rhodes' corner hoping he overcomes the odds and wins his first WWE Championship.

Stories like this are what makes professional wrestling so special. Some dedicated fans can watch a wrestler across a decade-long journey to get to the top of the mountain. Yet at the same time, new fans can tune in at any point in that journey and still immerse themselves into the story and root for their heroes. Currently, Rhodes is near the end of his journey. In just a few days, he will find himself at the mountaintop. All that will be left to do is plant his flag.

This weekend, on the grandest stage of them all, one of the biggest stories in wrestling comes to a close. Professional wrestling is unpredictable, but millions across the world will be tuning in in hopes of seeing Rhodes finish his story and defeat Reigns once and for all.

*Elijah Nevelin
junior marketing major*



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

This weekend, WWE will have the 40th Wrestlemania.

THEATER REVIEW

Cabaret of connections leaves audience smiling

THE Spitz was abuzz this weekend as the cozy, 90-seat black box theater housed a welcome crowd of eager listeners to Rider Student Theater Company's "The Six Degrees of Sierra Boggess," a cabaret undertaking the challenge of joining seemingly unrelated acts through unexpected commonalities. With a stunning display of talent set against a wacky and witty concept, a palpable effort from the creative team and cast came to fruition for viewers to enjoy.

Running March 29 to 31, the playful cabaret, directed by sophomore acting major Olivia Dostal, featured musical numbers and the occasional spoken scene from 16 bodies of work, each adding to a chain of connections originating from Boggess, a Broadway superstar.

The production's premise was based on the parlor game "Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon," where players attempt to connect a person in Hollywood to the actor. Each link between the person and Bacon adds a degree; if an actor has not worked with him but has worked with someone Bacon has as well, the actor is two degrees away.

It is a game I used to apply to Broadway actors like Boggess as a middle school theater geek, even testing how many degrees of separation existed between myself and her, so a nostalgic excitement was piqued when I heard about RSTC's homage to my longtime favorite Broadway performer and adolescent idol.

Boggess' robust resume connects her to endless theater legends, even including multiple Broadway billings each alongside stars like Tyne Daly, Norm Lewis and Chip Zien. She is best known for her appearances in multiple high-profile productions of Andrew Lloyd Webber's "The Phantom of the Opera," and has graced the stage in contemporary works such as musical adaptations of "The Little Mermaid" and "School of Rock," but this short list does not scratch the surface of her extensive career.

For this reason, I envisioned the cabaret to be a showcase of these varied roles.

In practice, the concept was executed differently than I had imagined. The show began with a song from "The Little Mermaid" and connected it to "Les Misérables" through Boggess' stardom in both shows using the degrees of separation logic, then swiftly moved to the next concept without further mention of Boggess.

The stream-of-consciousness-style cabaret, while not exactly what I expected, delivered an entertaining throughline for source materials ranging from Broadway classics like "Sweeney Todd" and "Funny Girl," to sitcoms like "The Office" and "Glee." The production's unique concept not only grabbed the audience's attention, but kept it, with what I found to be an amusing and relatable exaggeration of the trains of thought I frequent, somehow finding its way from "Sunday in the Park With George" to "Shrek the Musical."

Performances were backdropped by a charming scrapbook-style slideshow illustrating how one vignette led into another, demonstrating relationships like two musicals being written by Stephen Sondheim. This montage set the tone for the night, with further eye-catching illustration provided by two symmetrical walls of colored pieces of paper connected by string, each page revealing the next musical or TV show when uncovered by a performer.

The almost entirely freshman and sophomore cast of altos and sopranos made its way through a collection of character songs and ballads alike with grace and chutzpah, navigating the broad expanse of subgenres with precision. Among the company were powerhouse belters and masterful mixers, even singers who jumped dexterously between octaves to accommodate songs written for a baritone range.

A few of the many notable performances included Emily Taylor Kaufman's boisterous portrayal of Fanny Brice from "Funny Girl," singing "I'm the Greatest Star," in which the sophomore musical theater major commanded the room with an unwavering belt and mesmerizing embodiment of the larger-than-life character. Also worth mentioning was sophomore and freshman musical theater majors Bella Mraz and Julia Almendra's duet, "Move On," from "Sunday in the Park with George." They created a captivating scene, largely highlighting Mraz's skillful soprano range and the pair's on-stage chemistry.

While the goal of making as far a connection as possible to Boggess was achieved, the title may have been misleading; I couldn't help but feel a bit "bait and switched" by the promise of "connecting Broadway's network of performers to Sierra Boggess" made by RSTC's description of the event on its website and Instagram page. Throughout the night's stunning performances, I was slightly distracted by the expectation of some eventual connection back to Boggess' vast body of work. If nothing else, I guessed that the closing song at least would bring us back to Boggess.

Despite this supposition going unmet, the closing song, a stirring rendition of "Being Alive" from "Company" by the full cast, featuring freshman musical theater major Regan Wright as Bobby, moved the audience to its feet for a standing ovation before the cast had even started bows.

What I anticipated being a tribute to one of my favorite performers was not quite that; nonetheless, I left The Spitz with a smile on my face, more than happy with a night of outstanding performances and creativity by my peers.

*Bridget Hoyt
senior communication
studies major*



Courtesy of Morgan Lane Thompson

Emily Taylor Kaufman performing a high-energy song from "Funny Girl."

BASEBALL

Broncs off to historic MAAC start

By Benjamin Shinault

WITH a series sweep over the Saint Peter's Peacocks, Rider has won its first six Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference matchups to give it a record of 6-0, a program-history best. The Broncs welcomed the Peacocks and sent them home with their feathers ruffled, putting up 26 runs over the three games.

Friday doubleheader

The clock struck noon and Rider was ready to play baseball. Sophomore pitcher PJ Craig laced up his cleats and stepped on the mound. Coming off a rocky outing against Quinnipiac where he allowed six earned runs and 10 hits, Craig was slightly better against Saint Peter's, only allowing eight hits and five earned runs in his 5.1 innings pitched.

Craig was on cruise control until the fifth inning, when the Peacocks were able to put up five runs, giving them a 5-3 lead over Rider. In the top of the sixth, the Peacocks put up one more run, but that measly three-run deficit didn't last, and graduate student first baseman Luke Lesch brought Rider back into striking distance with a two-run double.

With Rider down one, Saint Peter's was able to grow its lead by one with an RBI single to center field off a pitch from freshman pitcher Jake Dorety. Down by two entering the ninth inning, the Broncs charged ahead and trampled the Peacocks, putting up three runs in the bottom of the ninth to give them the walkoff win 8-7.

Graduate student infielder Jack Winsett was the one to win it after bringing in sophomore outfielder Anthony Paskell.

"It was good to battle back and get three runs in the bottom half. It was a momentum swing a little bit," Head Coach Barry Davis said.

With the Broncs riding high from their walkoff win, the offense translated smoothly into game two as the Broncs had 10 base hits and 10 runs.



Josiah Thomas/The Rider News

Freshman outfielder **Kyle Neri** gets into his stance.

The Peacocks got off to a good start against Rider sophomore pitcher Clayton Poliey. Saint Peter's was able to put four runs up on the board in the early stages, but after that, Rider was able to crawl all the way back and stay within striking distance. The Broncs did not hold back when they struck the Peacocks as they went off to score seven more runs and get the win 10-8.

A bulk of the runs that gave Rider the win came in the fifth and sixth innings. Junior catcher Matt Shepherd hit one out to bring Rider within two and then after, the Broncs used infield singles to ultimately crawl all the way back and sweep the doubleheader.

'I fought back'

Reigning MAAC pitcher of the week, junior Brian Young, did his best to defend his title as he coasted through the Peacocks' lineup March 30. Young, making his seventh start of the season, might have had his best. Young struck out nine Peacocks, a career high, and threw four consecutive scoreless innings.

"It was good to get out there and do my job and give my team a chance to win," Young said.

Over his past two starts, Young has struck out 16 batters and has only conceded four earned runs.

"His numbers are not reflective of how he has pitched lately, which has been very good," Davis said of Young's mid-season turnaround.

Despite the brisk weather and playing a day after a doubleheader, the Broncs were still successful at the dish, totaling eight runs once again, the tenth time this season that Rider has reached eight runs.

Sophomore outfielder Erich Hartmann and Paskell both had solid games, as they had two RBIs each between themselves.

Rider was able to get on the board first with two unearned runs in the bottom of the first. Saint Peter's scored three runs in the third inning but were only able to add one more in the eighth. By then, they were already down big, as Rider was atop by three entering the ninth. Rider walked away with the 8-4 victory, winning its seventh straight and remaining undefeated in MAAC play.

"We're excited to be 6-0, I mean the goal is to get into the tournament, and with a start like this, you want to obviously take that momentum and move forward," Davis said.

Rider will hit the grass again at home on April 5 when it takes on the Siena Saints. The game will be streamed on ESPN+ at 3 p.m.

SOFTBALL

Rider takes two of three from Canisius

By Kadie DiGiuseppe

COMING off a three-game losing streak, Rider softball picked up some wins on March 29, falling short again in a match against Canisius the next day and bringing its record to 9-18.

'We have what it takes to win'

The Broncs were swinging but couldn't put a run together until the offense exploded in the fourth inning.

Starting senior pitcher Anna-Marie Groskritz held the Golden Griffins to no runs and no hits at the end of the fourth inning.

Freshman infielder Kendall Reda-Fehsal started the inning off with her first home run of her Broncs career to right field.

Sophomore outfielder Maddie Luedtke doubled to right center and junior infielder Olivia Burroughs followed with another double, which scored Luedtke.

After freshman outfielder Shelby Dyer's sacrifice bunt and senior infielder Jessie Niegocki's double drove in two more runs, the Broncs were up 4-0 going into the fifth inning.

However, the Broncs let up a solo home run, then went down on strikeouts and groundouts during the last two innings, ending their first game with a 4-1 victory over Canisius.

Groskritz pitched a full game with six strikeouts and only allowed three hits.

During the second game of the day, both teams came out swinging, tying the score at two apiece to end the second inning after Luedtke's two-run home run that also scored Reda-Fehsal for Rider.

Canisius hit a home run in the third inning, but sophomore utility player Jadeyn Merrill drove in Niegocki for the third run for Rider, tying the score back up 3-3.

The fourth and fifth innings remained stagnant between the two teams, but Rider came up big in

crunch time and got its bats swinging.

The Broncs allowed one more run to score for the Golden Griffins in the sixth inning but quickly answered.

Freshman catcher Abby Cruz started the rally for the Broncs when her single to right field scored Luedtke.

Senior outfielder Laneya Wright's and freshman outfielder Tristen Wren's singles drove in freshman infielder Kiersten Buchanan as well as freshman infielder Olivia Smith for two more runs.

Wright and Niegocki stayed aggressive on the bases and scored the last two runs for Rider, solidifying the 8-4 win.

Pitchers junior Kathryn Schmierer, sophomore Fallyn Stoeckel and Niegocki combined for three strikeouts.

"We came right out of the gate hype and ready to attack, and that attack stayed throughout all seven innings of both games. The energy never died," said Niegocki.

Uphill battle

With its last game of the series against Canisius, Rider found itself in an early deficit after a Golden Griffin three-run home run during the first inning.

Merrill drove in Niegocki for the Broncs' first run of the game, but the Broncs were still down 3-1 to end the first inning.

Rider was knocking on the door in the bottom of the third after Niegocki scored another run off of Reda-Fehsal's RBI single to left center, bringing the game to a close 3-2.

The Broncs let up another home run in the fifth inning that scored two more runs for Canisius.

While trailing 5-2 in the seventh inning, Rider knew it had to put something together for a possible comeback win. The last inning ended with Rider putting one more run on the board after Buchanan's

single up the middle scored Smith, ending the game 5-3 in favor of Canisius.

Groskritz and Stoeckel combined for six strikeouts during the last game.

The Broncs will stay in conference play next week when they travel to Manhattan College on April 6 and 7 then to Iona on April 9.



Maggie Kleiner/The Rider News

Sophomore outfielder **Maddie Luedtke** celebrates as she reaches second base.

LACROSSE

Lacrosse picks up first two MAAC wins

By Dain Smith and Rich Saile

RIDER lacrosse earned its first-ever Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference win on March 27 after taking down the Manhattan Jaspers 14-11 and wasted no time getting its second with a 19-15 victory over the Marist Red Foxes on March 30.

First MAAC win

On a rainy day at Ben Cohen Field, the Broncos were searching for a good start and they got just that with junior midfielder Selena Carrington finding sophomore midfielder Katie Walsh to jump out to a 1-0 lead.

The Jaspers didn't take that lightly, outscoring the Broncos 4-0 over the rest of the quarter to take a 4-1 lead in the first.

Going into the second quarter, the Broncos were trailing 5-2, but then the Jaspers started to slip.

Walsh hit her stride after a talk with Head Coach Evan Mager, scoring two straight goals.

Graduate student attacker Anna Devlin scored to tie up the match and then take the lead 6-5 for the first time in the game. The Jaspers were still in it, tying the game up once again before the end of the half.

Walsh went on to score another two, with Carrington adding on with a goal and giving Rider a 10-8 lead before the final quarter.

Leading 10-9 early in the fourth, Garcia scored two in a row, stretching the lead to 12-9.

The Broncos sealed the deal with junior attacker Toni Gismondi and Walsh scoring, putting the score at 14-10.

"Where we were successful was just pulling



Maggie Kleiner/The Rider News

Graduate student attacker **Kylee Garcia** setting up a play for the Broncos.

together and pushing for each other, being able to celebrate different things," said Mager on his team's strong offensive performance.

Back-to-back wins

On March 30, the Broncos hosted the Marist Red

Foxes in the second of a back-to-back home game stretch against MAAC opponents.

Rider won the opening draw control and scored the first goal of the game from Gismondi. After a series of turnovers by both teams, the Broncos were able to score another goal off a Marist turnover to go up 2-0. The Broncos added three more goals from Walsh and graduate student attacker Kylee Garcia.

The Red Foxes started out the second quarter with a goal to cut the Broncos' lead down to two. The Broncos quickly responded with a goal of their own in 42 seconds, forcing a turnover off Marist. Rider took advantage of a ground ball pickup from freshman midfielder Marybeth Smith, which led to another goal from Gismondi. Rider took the lead going into the locker room up 9-7 at halftime.

Coming out, the Broncos scored two more goals in a span of two minutes and 14 seconds. The Red Foxes ended the third quarter scoring the last goal as Rider took a 14-11 lead going into the fourth quarter.

The Red Foxes scored the first goal of the fourth quarter off a turnover by the Broncos as the Red Foxes cut Rider's lead to two. The Broncos responded with two goals in 80 seconds from both Garcia and freshman midfielder Elena Bontatibus to put the Broncos back up by four points. Garcia and Bontatibus each added another goal as the Broncos went up seven points, which sealed their second straight win as Rider went on to win 19-15.

Rider will look to extend its winning streak to three games as they travel to New York to take on the Iona Gaels on April 3. The game will be broadcast on ESPN+ at 2 p.m.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Broncs and Peacocks: a brewing rivalry

By Benjamin Shinault

THREE weeks have passed since Rider men's basketball was sent home from the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference tournament in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

This marks the second straight season that the Broncos have failed to escape the quarterfinal round of the tournament and the second time in as many years that they have been defeated by Saint Peter's despite being the higher seed.

The loss in the tournament hurts a lot more this year, Rider entering the tournament on a seven game winning streak to close out the regular season and beat Saint Peter's in the final game of the regular season in a hard fought and chippy 61-56 victory at Alumni Gym.

An interesting tidbit about Rider entering the tournament before facing off against Saint Peter's is that the Broncos always seemed to dominate the Peacocks in the regular season as both times last season and now this season, Rider has swept the regular season series. Over the last four regular season matchups between the two teams, Rider has averaged 69.5 points per game, but when they play under the big lights at Jim Whelan Boardwalk Hall, the average sinks down to 55 points per game.

Once again delving into the stark differences of regular season play and MAAC tournament play, the Broncos are 44-36 against the Peacocks in the regular season but are 3-7 against them in the postseason with a 2-6 record in the quarterfinal specifically.

"They outplayed us, they outtoughed us, they were more physical," Head Coach Kevin Baggett said after 2023's defeat.

Saint Peter's was known for its stout defense in both years. In 2023, the Peacocks defense was ranked second in the MAAC and 20th in the nation. Now, the 2024 season, the Peacocks defense was second in the MAAC again and 13th in the nation. But how come the Broncos can average close to 70 points in the regular season against the same Peacocks team but can't translate that same offensive approach in the MAAC tournament?



Josiah Thomas/The Rider News

Jason Thompson '07 and the Broncos' frustration was present on March 14 as they fell once again to Saint Peter's in the MAAC tournament.

That remains unanswered. Baggett also has his history with the MAAC tournament, as his record all-time in tournament play is set at 6-9 and has yet to lead Rider to the championship round. An all-around struggle for each member of the team.

Tournament play takes grit and no matter the seeding, a team must rise to the occasion. The last time the Broncos won a game in the MAAC tournament was back in 2022 when they took down both Manhattan and top-seeded Iona. After the historic upset of the Gaels, Baggett spoke out about what it meant to win that game and his words spoke

profoundly on the fight that team had that year and the fight that Rider has seemed to struggle to find over the last two seasons.

"We keep saying and we've kept saying that we believe in this team. Again, this is why we're up here again tonight because we've believed all year long."

The Broncos have never won the MAAC championship and their last appearance was back in 2008. Rider must learn to utilize its regular season aggressiveness during tournament play, but until then, Rider fans are unlikely to see a banner hanging high in Alumni Gym.

Sports

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WRESTLING

Kinner ends Rider career as All-American



Senior Quinn Kinner rejoices as he becomes an All-American at the NCAA tournament.

Photo courtesy of Dustin Tillman Photography

By Logan K. VanDine

WITH Rider's wrestling season now in the books, history was made by Quinn Kinner during the NCAA Tournament, which took place in Kansas City from March 21 to 23.

The senior became an All-American during his blood round of the tournament which always occur on Friday night's during the tournament to become Rider's 20th All-American and the ninth Bronc in the last 10 seasons to accomplish such a feat.

'I kept the faith'

"It was a wild year that was full of ups and downs. It definitely was not the year I had planned going in," said Kinner. "I was just disappointed at times but shout out to the people around me. My coaches, teammates, family, God and I kind of just stayed steadfast knowing that ... something like this was going to come around as long as I kept the faith and kept the hope."

When Kinner's bout that clinched him the All-American title was over, he talked about all the emotions that not just he was going through, but his coaches, teammates and family.

"That 30 minutes after winning the blood round were emotions that I will never forget. It's a mixture of the craziest adrenaline rush of your entire life: pure joy, pure thankfulness, pure disbelief," Kinner said. "That was the greatest feeling I've ever felt."

Head Coach John Hangey, who finished his seventh season, said he could not be more proud of Kinner.

"It wasn't a perfect season by any stretch," said Hangey. "There were ups and downs, and he dealt

with them, but when you have to deal with adversity like what Quinn had to deal with, it prepares you for moments like he had."

'I got hot'

According to Kinner, finishing the regular season on a high note after a slow start was a big factor in why he was able to get this prestigious honor.

"Right at the right time of the year when I needed to, I got hot and a lot of that cumulates to the coaches knowing what they're doing," said Kinner. "They know how to prepare people for the NCAA tournament, they know how to get you ready, give you confidence and help you practice a lot harder."

Kinner also mentioned, however, that some of his goals remain unmet by his time as a Bronc.

"I can say this with full confidence, I dreamt of an NCAA title and when I came to Rider ... Even though I fell short of that goal, becoming All-American is something that I'm still incredibly proud of," said Kinner, who finished in eighth place at the NCAA tournament.

'I feel her presence'

During Kinner's All-American-clinching season, he also met adversity when he lost his niece Winnie Prescott in November, which was something that motivated him at the NCAA tournament and throughout the whole season as well.

"I cannot say this enough: I genuinely feel her presence. We write her name down on my tape and I feel calmer, I feel I have peace, I feel like I have extra strength to fight with and I feel like she's walking that

entire story with me," an emotional Kinner said. "I've learned how to deal with grief right at the beginning of the year, because when she died I used that as motivation. After I lost in the first round, she was right there with me and I can hear her telling me, 'Quinn you can do this.'"

Kinner also had the guidance and the encouragement of his coaches.

"I cannot express enough how much these coaches have changed my life," Kinner said. "Coach Hangey is like my second dad, and Bedelyon and [Ryan] Wolfe are my older brothers. that's how close I feel to them."

Hangey also echoed what Kinner said about their relationship.

"Having a father-son and mentor relationship really does make a difference when they're out fighting for themselves because they reach deeper inside, and that's my job," Hangey said. "So I think it's really important that we try to connect with our kids in that way, because they deserve the success like what Quinn got."

With Kinner's collegiate wrestling career at Rider now finished, he wants this to be his legacy as a Rider Bronc.

"I would hope I would leave a legacy as a teammate and captain who loved the people around him, a teammate and captain who loved this university, a teammate and captain who loved his peers and his teammates, a teammate and captain who loved and respected his coaches and a teammate and captain that loved and respected wrestling and all it had to offer," said Kinner.



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