



## Musical and MAACness take center stage



Peter Borg/ Rider University



 SEE STORIES ON PAGES 6 AND 7

## University comforted in modern COVID culture

By Shaun Chornobroff

**T**HIS time a year ago, as the leaves changed color and Halloween approached, Rider University was still feeling the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in its everyday existence.

The COVID-19 Implementation Team was sending regular communication; a dashboard was updating the community weekly on cases and mask and social distancing requirements were enforced throughout the school.

A year later, with masking and social distancing requirements gone, the weekly dashboard is now extinct and new variants constantly emerging. The implementation team which led the university through the pandemic is unfazed, but aware of the possibility of another outbreak in the current state of the pandemic.

“I am honestly not as concerned because what the information is telling us is that for most people, this is still relatively mild,” said Debbie Stasolla, one of the leaders of Rider’s implementation team and the school’s vice president for strategic initiatives and planning and secretary to the board. “... That doesn’t mean some people aren’t going to get very sick, but in the scheme of things, it isn’t as life-threatening because so many of us are also protected or have natural immunity.”

In Mercer County where Rider is located, cases have been relatively steady with positive cases over the past two months.

Rider’s volleyball and club ice hockey teams have both had games altered with key players missing or games canceled as a result of positive COVID-19 diagnoses.

While the university is no longer keeping track of positive faculty COVID cases, The Student Health Center has recorded 18 positive cases, according to Rider’s Director of Student Health Services Elizabeth Luciano. However, Luciano says her numbers may not be a true representation of the positive cases around campus since an increasing number of students are being diagnosed through at-home tests or outside providers.

Even with students being diagnosed through a variety of modalities, Luciano and Stasolla still urge them to report positive results to the health center so they can be excused from classes.

“You are sick and you need to be out, yes, we tell you to reach out to faculty on your own, but faculty will want to hear it officially too,” Stasolla said.

As students find new ways to be diagnosed, or are even diagnosing themselves, the risk of disclosure may be more prevalent than ever, with students potentially not alerting the university of a positive

test in this new social climate surrounding the virus.

However, Stasolla says this fear is something the implementation team was battling throughout the pandemic.

“That is always part of the reality we have to deal with. Not just with students. There could be employees who do the same thing, who don’t want to admit they’re sick,” Stasolla said. “I would like to think over the past two years we’ve been hitting students and employees hard about the idea of not coming to campus, class or work if you’re symptomatic, until you know what your symptoms are.”

With the cold and flu season now approaching, sicknesses that resemble COVID-19 may be on the rise. Stasolla explained that this time one year ago, the school saw more cases of strep throat than of COVID-19. But if you are questioning whether or not you are COVID positive, Stasolla will push you to one place: the Student Health Center.

“It’s hard to tell, do I have COVID? Do I have allergies? Is it a cold? Is it strep? Is it [the] flu? Is it some other respiratory illness that I have? It’s hard to tell,” Stasolla said. “We’re encouraging both on-campus and off-campus students to utilize the health center when you have those kinds of questions that are not sure what to do next.”

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*A senior studied abroad at a business conference at Oxford University.*



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## SECURITY BRIEFS

BY SHAUN CHORNOBROFF

**Student Seizure**

Actively seizing. On Oct. 5 at 9:05 p.m., Public Safety was dispatched to Wright residence hall for a report of someone seizing. Upon arrival, they observed the student actively having a seizure. Lawrence Township Police and EMS were contacted and transported the student to the hospital.

**Aggressive emails**

Digital threats. On Oct. 7 at 3:38 p.m., Public Safety was advised that the staff member working in the administration building had received a threatening email from a former student that was harassing in nature. Public Safety is actively investigating the incident.

**Don't stand so close to me**

Can't touch this. On Oct. 7 at 8:55 p.m., Public Safety was contacted to come to the Bart Luedeke Center theater for a possible violation of a no-contact Order. When they arrived, they met with one of the students in question, who provided a copy of the order. Public Safety reviewed the document and determined the order was not being violated. The student was then allowed to re-enter the theater.

- Information provided by Public Safety Capt. Matthew Babcock

# Rider welcomes local politician for Unity Day

By Olivia Nicoletti and Kaitlyn McCormick

In the spirit of unity, New Jersey General Assembly member Verlina Reynolds-Jackson, featured High School Musical's song, "We're All In This Together," during her keynote address for Rider's Unity Day on Oct. 11.

Reynolds-Jackson, a democrat, was brought in by the Rebovich Institute for New Jersey Politics at the request of organizers for the 24th annual Unity Day hosted by the university's Multicultural Studies Program.

Micah Rasmussen, a political science professor and the director of The Rebovich Institute, said in a statement to The Rider News, "Because Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson represents Lawrence Township in the New Jersey General Assembly, she is Rider's representative, too. We are eager to build a relationship with her, and what better way than for her to visit campus and engage with our students?"

Born and raised in Trenton, Reynolds-Jackson, in her own words, "grew up in a melting pot of different cultures and perspectives."

Throughout her youth and adolescence she involved herself in the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), a social movement that works to eliminate racism and empower women. This gave her the platform to "speak up and speak out."

"I initially got involved in politics to advocate for my family, my friends, and my broader community. I saw that I could do more — so I did more," Reynolds-Jackson said. "Since the beginning I have always sought to use public policy in government to empower my community and to give a voice to the voiceless."

Last year she took the opportunity to sponsor legislation in teaching about inclusion and diversity.



Andrew Xon/ The Rider News

Verlina Reynolds-Jackson speaking at the Rebovich Event on Oct. 11.

She believed that if parents "guide instructional lessons, they will help prepare students for a new world now and shape a dynamic workforce for the future."

Responding to a question from senior political science major Sean Cavanaugh inquiring of any future plans to run for governor, Reynolds-Jackson explained that her path toward politics was not always concrete. Her initial aspirations were in early childhood education, but she said that "whatever God wants [her] to do, she'll do."

One of the biggest points made in the assemblywoman's speech was the importance of not only voting rights, but voter engagement.

Reynolds-Jackson spoke of the 19th Amendment which enabled white women to vote, but did not allow for the involvement of women of color and other minority demographics. She noted that full

voting rights were not extended until the passing of the 24th Amendment, and that there are still many voting issues present in the U.S. today.

Reynolds-Jackson cited issues of voter purging, lack of access to polling places and even deceptive flyers and robo-calls as barriers to voter engagement.

Using past United States House of Representatives for Georgia's 5th congressional district John Lewis as an example, she said "his legacy is ours" and it is this generation's job to "be good troublemakers."

In line with her passion for voting rights, Reynolds-Jackson is one of the primary sponsors of the John Lewis Voting Rights Act of New Jersey, intended to ban deceptive practices and make voting more accessible.

"I've sponsored several legislation to ensure John Lewis' work and our work as a state to expand voter rights and access to the polls," Reynolds-Jackson said.

In light of the upcoming election on Nov. 8, Reynolds-Jackson indicated that she has seen efforts across the state legislature and across the country to silence voters, "to impede elections, to reverse the years of sacrifice and hard work and dedication," and emphasized the importance of voter participation.

Reynolds-Jackson's left attendees with plenty of material to consider the overarching importance of diversity and inclusion: "Our democracy thrives in its diversity, and in how we nurture it. Diversity is getting everyone to the table, but inclusion is facilitating an environment that allows everyone to embrace their unique voice and their perspective while they're there."

# Unity Day cancellation sparks frustration

By Kaitlyn McCormick

FOLLOWING concerns of violence and disruption, a Unity Day reproductive rights panel was canceled this week by Rider organizers. The panel, titled "The Dobbs Decision and You," was scheduled for Oct. 11 as an installment in a series of events sponsored by Rider's Multicultural Studies Program for its 24th annual Unity Day.

The June 24 U.S. Supreme Court decision of *Dobbs v. Jackson* effectively overturned the previous long-standing precedent of *Roe v. Wade*, ruling that the U.S. Constitution does not grant the right to abortion. Since the landmark decision, reproductive rights have been at the forefront of national public discourse, especially following abortion bans and restrictions passed in multiple states.

In an Oct. 5 email obtained by The Rider News, College of Arts and Science Dean Kelly Bidle expressed concern about the event to Unity Day organizer Pearlie Peters, Rider's director of Multicultural Studies (MCS).

"I read with dismay that you are planning to have a Dobbs panel regarding the revocation of abortion rights for women. ... At this time, I am sure you are unwilling to consider changing this topic, but I would strongly encourage you to do so, as I don't see how it fits the theme of Unity Day nor the MCS program for which the College [of] Arts and Sciences provides funding," the message read in part.

In an interview with The Rider News, Bidle

expressed that a great deal of her concern was due to the duplicative nature of the event, because the Gender and Sexuality Studies (GSS) program had scheduled a reproductive rights panel for Oct. 19, sponsored by the college.

Bidle's email also mentioned the potential reactions a reproductive rights panel would garner, asking, "Further, as a hot-button topic, are you prepared for the likely event of protests at the event?"

Bidle said to The Rider News, "If you're going to have something like this, you have to be prepared."

While Bidle's aforementioned communication with Peters raised no mention of safety concerns or potential violence, Peters cited these cautions as reasons that the panel was ultimately canceled in what was described as a collaborative decision by those involved with Unity Day.

Peters said, "It was a controversial topic that may have instigated or caused violence from some factions of campus and it was felt best to not present it to the Rider community because of the potential for violence and disruption by some political factions."

Junior English major Bridget Gum-Egan, who was the scheduled student panelist for the Dobbs discussion, said she was "very frustrated and upset" about the cancellation.

"I think it's really important to talk about all kinds of issues that affect every single minority group," Gum-Egan said.

Political science and multicultural professors

Frank Rusciano and Roberta Fiske-Rusciano, who were scheduled to speak alongside Gum-Egan on the panel, shared the same grievance about the cancellation.

Fiske-Rusciano said, "We were very disappointed and certainly wish that this very important topic could have been addressed at Unity Day. It's a central issue, especially to our college generation, but for all of us." She also mentioned that the contexts of the cancellation were very "delicate."

Rusciano said, "It was not our position to tell people what to think," rather to foster a collaborative environment for discussion, even trying to find students with varying viewpoints for the panel.

While Peters, Rusciano and Fiske-Rusciano declined to name any specific organizations on Rider's campus, they explained that the potential threats of disturbance were heard secondhand through "the Rider grapevine amongst faculty."

Erica Ryan, an organizer for the GSS panel scheduled for Oct. 19, called "Talking About Roe," said that she is "not concerned" about distractions and is confident that there will be healthy discussion regardless of the varying opinions of students or attendees.

*Bridget Gum-Egan is a copy editor for The Rider News and was scheduled to be a student panelist on the Unity Day panel about the Dobbs case. Gum-Egan had no part in the writing or editing of this story.*



# Pub undergoes name change after donation



Courtesy of Rider University

The Muller family standing in front of the new sign at the pub in Cranberry's that showcases the renaming of the restaurant.

By Olivia Nicoletti

**N**EW burger, new beer and potential new business. The pub in Cranberry's gained some personality this weekend after the family of Paul and Beverly Muller donated \$500,000 to Rider Athletics. In exchange for the donation, the university renamed "The Pub" to "Muller's Pub", as well as introduced a burger and beer named after the family.

The name change occurred after the Muller family put forth money toward the multimillion-dollar Rider

Arena Project, where Rider plans to turn Alumni Gym into a modern NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) Division I facility, according to the university website.

On Oct. 6, the family came to celebrate the pub's new name, ringing in their featured burger and beer.

The River Horse Brewing Company, located in Ewing, created the beer "Dr. Muller's Revenge IPA" and the pub introduced the Muller's Burger which, according to the pub menu, is made up of sirloin,

short rib and brisket, topped with mac and cheese, bacon and barbecue sauce.

Secondary education major and bartender at the now Muller's Pub Daniel Hamlin said, "The burger is a fun take on what I think of as a barbecue bacon burger and adds a new dimension to pub food that wasn't there before. The beer is good ... It's my favorite beer that we have on draft for sure."

Paul and Beverly Muller's story at Rider does not begin here. These high school sweethearts both attended the Lawrenceville campus right after graduating. Beverly Muller continued through four straight years obtaining her degree in 1971. Paul Muller was sidetracked with other plans in life, but eventually received an honorary degree almost 50 years later in political science, according to the university website.

Their four sons graduated from Rider as well: Paul Muller III '92, J. Christopher Muller '95, Thomas Muller '98 and Mark Muller '06.

Hamlin said, "I feel that the name change has definitely brought a lot more attention to the pub ... We are getting all new merchandise and even have a new beer that's pretty good, so I think the name will stick and be a great legacy for them."

Zach Fernandez, a junior finance and marketing major, echoed that by declaring his love for the new burger.

"It's my favorite burger there ... There is a marriage between ingredients there. We're talking about base barbecue sauce, fantastic. Bacon on top of that, right there alone you have a rodeo burger. Now you add this macaroni aspect to it, it works beautifully, it really does," Fernandez said.

The Muller family all attended the university and understand the importance of having a space dedicated to bringing people together.

Paul Muller said in the university press release, "I am thrilled that my family's name will be forever associated with such a happy and memorable gathering spot for so many students and alumni."

# Wrestling receives largest gift in program history

By Shaun Chornobroff

**O**NE of Rider's most successful athletic programs got a hefty infusion of cash as the university's wrestling team received a \$500,000 gift from an alumni that will more than double the size of the university's wrestling training facility.

The donation, made by former All-American wrestler Tim Morrison '83, is the largest in program history and was gifted in honor of legendary Head Coach Gary Taylor, who died on Sept. 14. As the training center will now be named after Taylor.

"When people think of Rider Wrestling they think of Gary Taylor," Rider wrestling Head Coach John Hangey said in an email to The Rider News. "Coach Taylor's legacy will be fortified through this incredible naming gesture from Tim Morrison and his family."

Morrison was Rider's second ever All-American when he earned the accolade in 1983, and a part of building a program that rose from the cellar of college wrestling to one with national respect during Taylor's 39-year tenure.

Morrison's three sons, Tim '08, Robert '11 and Clint '15 all went to Rider and wrestled under Taylor.

"Gary Taylor recruited me to wrestle in 1979, and later my three sons," Morrison said in a press release from the university. "He instilled us with inspiration and motivation. He was a true mentor to me and my family. During the time we spent with Gary, we got to see his devotion to Rider wrestling and, most importantly, his devotion to the individuals that he coached. It is our honor to make our gift in tribute to Gary and all he has done for my family and for Rider."

In his nearly four-decade stint as head coach, Taylor won 14 conference championships and coached 15 different wrestlers to All-American status, as well as establishing Rider as a team that was consistently ranked within the top-25.

The wrestling room's expansion will take the space that is currently occupied by the school's

strength and conditioning center. Rider is hoping to accrue an additional \$250,000 to "raise the scope" of the project, according to the press release.

"This is a transformational project that will provide a top-tier Division I training facility for all current and future Rider wrestlers. It will help with the future of Rider Wrestling as it will raise our profile in the eyes of top recruits nationally," Hangey said.

Before Hangey was the leader of the Rider wrestling program, he was not only an assistant under Taylor, but wrestled under him as well, developing a deep bond and admiration for him in the process.

"Coach Taylor was an absolute family man, his world revolved around his wife Nancy and daughter Danica. He also had a sincere love for Coca-Cola, playing and writing music and Harley Davidson [motorcycles]," Hangey said. "He was the absolute best mentor anyone could have ever asked for and I was fortunate to have had the relationship I did with Coach Taylor, he will be sorely missed."

While Taylor will be sorely missed, thanks to his legacy and the donation from the Morrison family, he will be forever immortalized in the eyes of Rider wrestling.



Courtesy of Rider University

Tim Morrison along with his family who made the donation to Rider Wrestling to rename the gym after Gary Taylor.



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# CHECK OUT THIS WEEK'S SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

## NEWS

### FINAL COVID-19 UPDATE



CORONAVIRUS REGULATIONS SLIM DOWN AS CAMPUS ADJUSTS TO LIFE AFTER THE PANDEMIC.

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## FEATURES

### URINETOWN



URINETOWN TAKES THE STAGE AS THIS SEASON'S OPENER FOR THEATER ENTERTAINMENT.

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## OPINION

### STUDYING AT OXFORD



SENIOR LILLIAN FRAZIER HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY ABROAD OVER THE SUMMER AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY.

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## SPORTS

### BARBIERE RETURNS



AFTER FOUR SEASONS AS A PLAYER, JAKE BARBIERE RETURNS TO RIDER, THIS TIME AS AN ASSISTANT COACH.

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# Sisters of ZTA hold annual Tricky Tray

By Julia Train

**O**n Oct. 10, Zeta Tau Alpha (ZTA) raised \$11,117 for breast cancer awareness and education. The sorority held its annual Tricky Tray fundraiser for their philanthropy, where attendees were able to put tickets in over 50 raffle baskets.

All profits from the \$5 entry fee, raffle ticket sheets, the “birthday board” and t-shirts went directly to the national Zeta Tau Alpha Foundation and will be distributed to organizations related to their philanthropy.

“When you’re in Greek life, you’re trying to do something for others and be better than just yourself,” said senior musical theater major and ZTA President Riley Martin.

ZTA is a women’s fraternity, meaning that it wasn’t founded by a man and they aren’t paired with any fraternity, like sororities.

Minutes before 11 a.m., friends and family of ZTA members, along with chapter alumni, lined up outside of the Cavalla Room waiting their turn to purchase their tickets and enter the room.

Across from the line was a birthday board, where attendees would purchase a raffle ticket in order to pick a date on the board. If the date was picked, the winner could get either a \$25, \$50 or \$100 giftcard.

Inside, 16 round tables were set up with white tablecloths and pink floral centerpieces surrounded with pink ribbon pins that said, “Think Pink” and a piece of paper with a QR code that led to the event’s program.

Jazz music played in the background as guests strategically placed their tickets in pink paper bags in front of baskets on the left side of the room. Some chose to put all of their tickets in one bag, in hopes of winning their favorite basket. Others waited until the last minute to place their tickets in multiple bags, hoping to win as many as possible.

In the front of the room there were two screens playing a slideshow of pictures from past ZTA events.

On the right, were tables with bagels, cupcakes with pink decorations, fruit, coffee and pink plates and silverware.

“ZTA fundraises separately in order to be able to fund the larger fundraising events, such as Tricky Trays,” said junior English major Bella Pusio.

Martin said, “The fraternity continues work for their philanthropy throughout the year, but October is when they do the bulk of their work. In addition to Tricky Trays, they also host the Mr. Pink pageant and Making Strides walk.”

On Oct. 1, the fraternity shared their CrowdChange link for the month, which is a platform similar to GoFundMe. Within nine days they raised \$3,719.

At the National ZTA Convention in July, the chapter received an award for raising over \$10,000 last school year.

“Hopefully we can do better than that this year,” said Martin. “But that was really crazy that any of the ZTA chapters in the country haven’t broken that, but the little New Jersey school has.”

“While fundraising and awareness is important, so is education,” said junior business administration major and director of philanthropy Mollie Brislin.

“We like to bring in guest speakers, like one we brought in last year that told us about genetic testing to see if you have the gene for it so that you can take precautionary measures,” Brislin added.

The chapter’s Vice President, Caroline King, had her aunt, a breast cancer survivor, fly in from Chicago to speak with the women about her experience. Breslin’s grandmother is also a survivor, along with some of her best friends’ moms.

“A lot of the members have joined ZTA because of our philanthropy. A lot of them have either personally suffered from the effects of breast cancer or a loved one has,” said King, a senior english major. “One in eight women actually will suffer the effects of breast cancer which is a really startling statistic.”

King and Breslin work with the Think Pink chairman and chapter treasurer Angelina Leunes in order to plan the events. Leunes, a junior communications major, has been breast cancer fundraising for seven years, starting in high school with her cheerleading team selling t-shirts and socks.

“As a woman, I feel like it’s my duty to give back and be fundraising for these women,” Leunes said.

*Olivia Nicoletti and Hannah Newman are sisters of ZTA and editors for the Rider News. Neither had any part in the writing or editing of this story.*



Photo Courtesy of Julia Train

Junior public relations major **Caroline Quattro** (left), and senior elementary education major **Jayme Schneider** (right) pose with the Birthday Board.



Photo Courtesy of Amanda Cambareri

Junior communications major **Amanda Cambareri** (left) and sophomore psychology major **Lindsay Josepin** (right) pose in front of the Think Pink sign.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**THUR, OCT. 13**

**Staceyann Chin**  
5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
Sweigart Hall 115

**TUES, OCT. 18**

**Scream Screen Blood Drive**  
11 a.m.  
Cavalla Room

**WED, OCT. 19**

**Dog Therapy Event**  
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
SRC Atrium

**FRI, OCT. 21**

**Scream Screen**  
6 p.m.  
BLC Parking Lot





Kaitlyn D'Alessio/The Rider News

The women's basketball team celebrates junior forward Raphaëla Toussaint's win in the skills challenge.



Kaitlyn D'Alessio/The Rider News

The cheer team wowed the audience with new tricks and a stunning routine.

## Madness for MAACness: Bronc Zoo gets filled for basketball

By **Tristan Leach**

**A**s the chilly October air settled over the night, a line stretching past Daly's Dining Hall could be seen forming. The doors of Alumni Gym swept open, and eager students rushed inside as another MAACness began.

On Oct. 7, the beloved tradition returned to campus, marking the opening of season for Rider basketball. The theme for this year's MAACness was Disco Fever and several events were held throughout the night to look forward to.

When students and guests entered the gym, they were welcomed by Rider dance and cheerleading teams. AJ the Bronc was also out on the court sporting a white suit reminiscent of John Travolta's from "Saturday Night Fever." As excited attendees poured in, some of the dancers and cheerleaders came to hug their friends and family members. The joy of the event was infectious.

Dajia Wilson, a sophomore criminal justice major and returning member to the cheer team was amongst the excited greeters on the floor.

"As a cheerleader I love the energy that MAACness brings. With all of us on the floor, the cheer team, dance team, basketball teams, we're all having fun. It's mainly the energy," said Wilson.

To kick off the night, AJ and some members of the dance team performed a dance to disco music. After the introduction of the mascot, it was time to count down to the 2022-2023 basketball season. Some attendees could be heard shouting "Happy MAACness," after the clock ran out.

Just as the year before, a reel of the best moments from the previous season played. Students cheered for their favorite player as their face flashed across the

screen. This was the perfect set up for the introduction of the men's and women's team.

Each team member came out from behind a curtain perched on the stage at the far end of the court. The members were introduced with their name, where they're from, position and height as friends and family members cheered for their loved ones. Each player tossed a Rider t-shirt into the audience and people leapt from their seats in hopes of catching one. After all the team members were introduced the head coaches and assistant coaches came onto the court.

Throughout the night, there were some fun competitions. The games included musical basketball chairs and a quick change game, where two participants put on an oversized basketball uniform and then tried to make the basket first. The prizes for these competitions were Visa gift cards.

In between games, several other events took place. It was announced that for the first time a number from the women's team was being retired. This event is scheduled for Nov. 7 and will honor Stella Johnson, who graduated in 2020 and was drafted into the WNBA. Lynn Mulligan, the head coach for the women's team, thanked everyone who was in attendance for making it possible for the school to honor past team members.

Next, it was time for Rider Cheerleading to perform. The team pulled out all the stops with new tricks that had the audience oohing and aahing.

Rachel Seigerman, a junior arts and entertainment industries management major and returning member on the cheer team, said, "I'm always excited about MAACness because it is a chance for the cheerleading team to come out and show off. A lot of people don't know that Rider has a cheerleading team. We get to do

a really fun, cool routine to wow Rider."

After the performance from the cheerleading team it was time to meet this year's nominees for Cranberry Court. The winners will be announced at Cranberry and White Affair.

Before the end of the night, AJ the Bronc donned his basketball uniform for the final competition of the evening, a skills contest between the men's and women's team. Four members of each team competed against each other, then the winner of those two would face each other. This year, it came down to junior forward Raphaëla Toussaint of the women's team and senior guard Dwight Murray Jr. of the men's team. In the end, Toussaint won, earning another victory for the women's team.

To end the night, the Rider Dance Team took the floor. The team performed a mix of disco and modern music. The routine featured many tricks and a costume change that had the audience screaming. At the end of their performance, the team took a bow and the night was officially over.

McKenzie Jones, a senior criminal justice major, is the president of Rider Dance Team. Jones has been on the team since her freshman year and has participated in three MAACness events.

"I think what sets MAACness apart from other schools is that we're so unique in what we do," said Jones. "I feel like everyone contributes to the high energy and positivity of getting ready for the MAAC season."

Lianne Litchfield, a sophomore film and television major, said, "I thought it was very loud and very fun."

Students and guests shared Litchfield's sentiment as they left the gym chatting excitedly with each other.

Let another great season begin.



Kaitlyn D'Alessio/The Rider News

The Rider Dance Team busted a move with AJ the Bronc to open the event.

### MAACNESS PHOTO GALLERY

Check out more photos of both the men's and women's basketball teams, the Rider Dance Team and Rider cheerleaders from MAACness.



FIND THE GALLERY ON  
THERIDERNEWS.COM  
OR SCAN THE QR CODE



# Urinetown welcomes you to town

By **Caroline Quattro**

**O**N Friday Oct. 7, the cast and crew of “Urinetown” opened their curtains to the public for their weekend long run. Multiple performances were sold out, filled with roaring laughter and concluded with roaring applause and a standing ovation from the crowd.

The musical is set in an unnamed city that has been overcome with a severe drought that has imposed poverty on society for decades, therefore forcing citizens to pay to use the restroom. Order is maintained by a violent police force that confines lawbreakers to Urinetown. This led the impoverished citizens to begin a revolution to overthrow the toilet tycoon who has monopolized on them. Over the course of the show, the audience begins to realize that Urinetown doesn't actually exist and is just the inevitable: death.

Contrary from the description above, the show is a comedy. The musical is ultimately a parody on musical theater as an art form and satire reflecting American social and political issues. There is a balance of both art and satire presented in the show. As expected by the title, it is also stuffed to the brim with potty-themed references.

The costume design was done by costume shop supervisor Jim Parks and his assistant, sophomore acting major Emily Porter Siegel. On stage they were able to show the clear divide of the elitists and the less fortunate through variations of colors and textures.

“Before I start any design, I like to do a thorough reading of the script, but I try not to watch any other productions of the show so that I don't find myself subconsciously replicating another designer's



Photo courtesy of Peter Borg

Urinetown opened on Oct. 7 and played three performances before closing on Oct 9.

work,” said Porter Siegel. “Then I'll make a sort of moodboard collage, including not only ideas for costume pieces, but any images that remind me of a character. Only after the vibes have been thoroughly gauged do I start making a list of components and pulling potential outfits.”

The show was packed with various dance numbers performed by the entire company.

“My favorite piece in “Urinetown” to work on was ‘What is Urinetown’ because this number incorporated several styles of dance that highlighted the cast’s many abilities,” said sophomore BFA musical theater major Maddy Winker, who served as the assistant choreographer for the show. “We began with the traditional hora, followed by the hand jive from Grease, and concluded with my own choreography in a balletic style. This number was fun and also got to highlight each cast member's tricks in the semicircle moment at the end.”

As a junior theater design and technology and arts

and entertainment industries management double major, Rylee Berger was able to take on double duties by carrying the titles of both Production Stage Manager and Assistant Technical Director for “Urinetown.”

“I love getting to see the show develop from a group of people sitting around a table talking about it to a full-fledged production with a cast, lights, sets, props, sound, costumes and more,” said Berger. “As PSM, I started working on this show in June, having initial meetings with the director and the production team, working on a calendar, and performing a production analysis. As we moved into rehearsals, I got to see the cast put the show on its feet and, while working in the shop and performing my ATD duties, got to see the show built from the production side. During tech, it

is always so cool to see those two worlds converge, and having a foot in both of them on this production made tech week all the more inspiring.”

Under Berger's direction, Juliette Manners, a sophomore musical theater major was able to execute her job efficiently without any interferences making the show run to the best of its ability.

“All of my crew members learned their responsibilities very quickly and they execute them daily without me having to remind them; I check to make sure all tasks are completed, but I am happy to find I rarely have to correct mistakes. This gives me the ability to oversee the entire backstage process and to dedicate my time to solving new challenges when they present themselves,” said Manners.

After four sold out performances the cast closed its doors on Sunday Oct. 9, but it's safe to say that this pee-ridden performance will not be forgotten.



The cast of Urinetown performs in a full dress rehearsal.



The cast of Urinetown sings an ensemble piece.



Senior musical theater major **Nicole Simpkins** and junior musical theater major **Thomas Higgins** share a duet.

## URINETOWN MAKES A SPLASH

See Page 9 for Zachary Klein's review of the first show of the theater season!



Photo courtesy of Peter Borg

Photo courtesy of Peter Borg

Photo courtesy of Peter Borg



# Less restrictions equals events on campus

**W**HEN I started at Rider, everyone was still required to wear masks, every professor had a Zoom link just in case of an emergency and people were getting tested for COVID-19 every day.

Even though that was only a year ago, people are no longer required to wear masks and more professors hope to see their students in person. While the first priority is always safety, this has created a more positive educational environment and a college experience that resembles the one I desired when I decided to attend Rider.

As a sophomore, classes are more challenging and my schedule is busier, but more events are in person, more students are returning and everyone can see each other's faces. Last year, the freshman class had 677 students, but this year's class had 823. Life is returning to campus, and more people are shying away from being online. My twin sister is a supplemental instructor and tutor for a math class and her boss continuously tells her to have sessions in person instead of on Zoom. More professors' office hours are in person as well.

This semester, Rider has brought back many fun traditions including Rock Fest, Cranberry Fest, Rider's Drag Show and R Factor. COVID is still around; however, more students and faculty want to enjoy all of Rider's opportunities.

This year, I have already met so many more people by getting involved in different clubs and organizations by having fewer restrictions. I am very grateful to have met such incredible people in just the first month of classes.

I am involved in the Rider Dance Ensemble, and I remember last year most of our meetings were on Zoom and some rehearsals were also through a screen. It has been a nice change to dance in person instead of online this year because doing anything over a screen was a challenge, but especially trying to learn a dance when you were confined to a small space or not clearly seeing every movement. There were also a few instances last year in a dance program when we had to have class on Zoom. A dancer, unfortunately, got COVID at an audition. A few others caught COVID, and everyone had to quarantine. Even though we all wore a mask, it wasn't enough to prevent it. Also, COVID made the audition more difficult for not just the dancers, but also the choreographers because they couldn't see everyone's faces clearly due to the masks. This year for auditions, no one will be required to wear a mask, and that makes it easier for everyone in the room.

I am also involved in the Gail Bierenbaum Women's Leadership Council and last year, everything was equally in person and on Zoom. Last month, during one of our first events, I got to see people I have only seen on screen. Many of the individuals I spent so much time getting to know online looked very different in real life. There were also a lot of activities to get to know one another, and I already felt more involved in the council just from that event alone. Technology is great, but not everyone can make the same connections they have in person through a camera. Being able to try transition back into life pre-COVID has been a breath of fresh air.

*This editorial expresses the unanimous opinion of The Rider News Editorial Board. This week's editorial was written by Opinion Editor Felicia Roehm.*

*Felicia Roehm*



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

Sophomore film major **Will Dusingberre** performing at the annual R Factor Finals.



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

Cover band **Steal The Sky** performing at the annual Rock Fest.



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

A group of students enjoying Rock Fest.

## **THE** Rider News

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## SOPHOMORE SIGHTINGS

## 'Urinetown's' satirical genius gives unique edge

**G**OING to the bathroom is something everyone takes for granted. No matter where we are, it always seems like someone is looking for a restroom. Now imagine a world where this basic human right is taken away and the citizens of a community are unable to appease their bladders.

That's the world pictured in "Urinetown."

The first Rider production of the year opened Oct. 7 at the Bart Luedeke Center (BLC) Theater, and it was quite the experience. It's unlike any musical I have ever seen from the plot, to the book, down to the lyrics of the songs. Everything in this show is comedy taken to another level. I would even call it a satirical heaven filled with incredible stupidity that somehow works.

When "Urinetown" premiered on Broadway in September of 2001, it presented a dystopian society that was not far off from what was going on in the world at that time. Fast forward 21 years later, the show is still relevant in today's ever-changing society.

As climate change continues to impact our environment, the show's plot line, which highlights the issue of not having enough water, is something that politicians should listen to. From the first lines of the script written by Greg Kotis, we learn that this community has to pay a fee to use the restroom in order to regulate the water supply.

"Urinetown" is more than just a show about toilets, though. By telling hundreds of jokes, including some about itself and the concept of a musical as a whole, Kotis along with composer Mark Hollman are able to tell a compelling story about a community who wants nothing more than just to live life uninterrupted. This means intertwining family, friendships and romantic relationships to carry the plot forward.

Penelope Pennywise, played by senior musical theater major MK Leonard, and Bobby Strong, who was portrayed by junior musical theater major Thomas Higgin, run "Public Amenity #9" where citizens can pay to use the facilities. These amenities are run by the Urine Good Company and owner Caldwell B. Cladwell played by junior musical theater major Evan Blackwell.

When Caldwell's daughter Hope, played by senior musical theater major Nicole Simpkins, sides with Strong and the citizens in a rebellion, things take a turn for the worse. Throughout the show, there is fear of being transported to an area called Urinetown. The citizens hide out in a secret location while Strong negotiates a deal with Cladwell. During this time, the citizens kidnap Hope and hold her hostage. Cladwell and Strong are unable to reach a deal, and so the latter is taken to Urinetown by Officer Lockstock, played by junior musical theater major John Doty, who is also the narrator of the show. The audience then learned that Urinetown isn't a real place; it simply means death.

After Hope is released, she proceeds to seize her father and take over as the president of Urine Good Company. Because she does not use her father's tactics, everyone dies of thirst and loses "hope" (a brilliant example of the satire) that Urinetown can survive into the future.

Capturing all this humor and plot action is not an easy task for a director, but seasoned actor, director and educator Todd Buonopane managed to get all the areas in order. All creative aspects, notably the dystopian-esque sets designed by Yoshinori Tanokura and the heterogenous, but appropriate costumes designed by Jim Parks, being juxtaposed with neat choreography by Buonopane, fit the direction that the show headed in. However, with sets and costumes staying stagnant for virtually the entire show, there were times where it was difficult to see transitions through.

For most of act one, I was unable to tie together everything that was going on. I liked every individual aspect, but did not see the cohesion that was necessary for things to make sense. The jokes registered, the songs were memorable (mainly because of the insanity of the lyrics) and the performances were captivating. But the glue between the plot and the performers was not adhering. Once act two started, however, there was one song that changed that — "Run Freedom Run."

As the orchestra, led by musical director Peter de Mets, started playing this catchy tune, I noticed a shift in the style of music from contemporary to gospel. While Higgins and the ensemble belted out this anthem, I knew this was what I needed. The cohesion was forming between the plot and the actors on stage, and the rest of act two, especially standout performances by Simpkins and Blackwell, but with contributions from the entire cast, led to a smooth finish to a fantastic production.

"Urinetown" is a true example of a show that should not be judged by its name or plot. With the right factors in place, a great production of this show can be produced, and Rider was able to accomplish an exceptional presentation of this show. It was a great kickoff to their 2022-23 season. Most importantly, you'll be grateful you are able to use the restroom freely after the show and not have to save up pennies just to do something that is necessary.

Zachary Klein  
sophomore journalism major



Photo courtesy of Peter Borg

## A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## A student's experience studying abroad at Oxford

**A**s an economics and international business major, travel was not new to me before this summer. I spent the fall semester of 2021 in Budapest, Hungary. Yet, the Oxford trip for the Moonshots and Moneymaker's Conference felt different. This was not just for fun; I considered it a week of business with high expectations not only set by me but by Professor Lisa Teach and Norm Brodsky. Entrepreneurs from all over were there with the focus of how they could turn their money-making business into a moonshot — a self-sustaining business with endless possibilities. This was the big league, and I would be in a front row seat to witness the action. I was initially quite nervous about this trip. Due to the pandemic and my prioritization of other activities, I did not have any practical experience in networking or at an environment such as the M&M conference. Throughout the Inside the Mind of an Entrepreneur class, I actively worked on speaking up more and developing thoughtful questions to ask the speakers. This trip seemed like the culmination of those efforts, and I went into it with a specific focus on making connections with as many entrepreneurs as I could.

One of the entrepreneurs who stood out to me the most was Vern Solomon. He was the first entrepreneur I spoke to at the conference, and from our initial meeting, he offered advice that I carried with me throughout the week. His most impactful words of advice that stuck with me were, "Never let anyone feel as if you don't deserve a seat at the table," and he explained how he went into this conference with "no expectations," so that he can be open to anything and not limit his learning. Vern shared how he carries this philosophy with him through any business meeting or event, and I loved this mindset. As a student preparing to graduate and enter the business world starting from the bottom, I need to remember that I carry important knowledge and skill sets that may differ from others and thus provide value to conversations.

One of my favorite things about Vern is his drive to stick to his guns. Without completely disregarding advice from others, he never accepted just any suggestions, even if they came from Lewis Schiff or Norm Brodsky. Vern listened to the logic, processed the suggestion, and then formed his own decision (even if it disagreed with the recommendations). I like the idea of being able to hear advice without feeling required to use it. Staying firm with my decisions is a quality I hope to adopt. A key takeaway from Solomon: trust my decisions and the value I bring to any situation. After the conference, networking is no longer scary to me. In fact, I discovered that I really enjoy networking and even excel at it to a certain extent. Instead of going into conversations with a formal and business-focused mindset, I kept conversations casual, asking questions that genuinely interested me and learned about the entrepreneur as an individual. This strategy had been proven successful at the conference as I left with a handful of significant connections and the confidence that if I reached out to my connections, I would be able to gather advice, assistance or potentially an internship opportunity.

My favorite times throughout the conference were when I had opportunities to go on an outing with the delegates for dinner, cocktail parties and tours. Here, I could really get to learn more about entrepreneurs on a personal level. Everyone was always open to chat, and those who already knew me could include me in a conversation with others I had not met yet. From a leadership point of view, I see the value of holding social opportunities to build a sense of community and camaraderie which will simultaneously promote collaboration and innovation. Even simply watching the entrepreneurs interact provided valuable examples of how to network

and business deals in the making.

One special tradition Oxford follows is the expectation that when you enter the dining hall for your meals, you must sit in the immediate open seat — a vast difference from American meal culture with small groups keeping to themselves.

The tradition resulted in a different discussion group for each meal, making each meal a completely different experience. I really liked this practice and the conversations and connections that came from it. Knowing that this was a tradition made the cultural experience even more significant. As someone who appreciates history, I also enjoyed the learning opportunities from the tours and the speech at the formal dinner.

From the walking tour, I learned that cars ride on the left side of the street because, during the jousting days, the rider would need to hold the weapon in their right hand as the left hand was considered evil. The walls surrounding the dormitories were not just for aesthetics, but to keep the students safe. After a certain period of time, it was required that the library hold at least one copy of every book published in England. The tour gave me a new appreciation for the area, and it was a nice break from all of the sessions we were going to. There is value in knowing this history; as a visitor (and for a brief time a guest student), you could feel the academic possibilities in the air. It felt as if every student there was incredibly intelligent and destined for greatness. I believe in manifestation and think an environment that this trip created contributes to innovations.

I am extremely grateful I had the opportunity to attend the Moonshots and Moneymakers Conference in Oxford. Initially I was second-guessing myself after applying to join the trip, but I am glad I put myself out there in a new experience that I certainly learned a lot from. I learned from an entrepreneur's perspective that investing in yourself is always a good idea. Delegates were willing to pay a large amount of money, taking the risk to put themselves out there and represent their companies, all for the chance to meet new people, make connections, and gain new skills to advance their companies. I hope to take this mindset away from my trip: the willingness to pursue personal advancement and maintain it throughout my career. I highly recommend taking advantage of opportunities such as this: be it study abroad, a competition class or any unconventional opportunity as these are the most memorable and rewarding experiences offered to us as Rider students.

Lillian Frazier  
senior international business and economics major



Courtesy of Lillian Frazier



## VOLLEYBALL

# Rider continues to slide, extends losing streak



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

The Broncos are 2-5 through the first seven games of MAAC play, their worst start since 2013.

By Jake Serrano and Carolo Pascale

**O**VER the weekend, the Rider Broncos volleyball team was defeated in two conference matches. The Broncos lost in three sets to the Niagara Purple Eagles on Oct. 8 and then followed by dropping to the Canisius Golden Griffins 3-1 on Oct. 9, giving the Broncos their third and fourth straight losses.

## Falling in Niagara

Traveling nearly seven hours, the Broncos tried to muster momentum, but were unable to hold it against Niagara, losing in three straight sets.

“Our standards and expectations have not changed, but we have just been unlucky with being healthy for the past three weeks,” Head Coach Jeffery Rotondo said. “We’ve had 12 players out the past three weeks, so we have been juggling lineups. However, we should never accept losing matches, regardless of our lineup or personnel.”

## MEN'S SOCCER

# Broncs show life, emerge with draw and win

By Benjamin Shinault and Matthew LoPuzzo

**I**n its pair of games, Rider men's soccer snapped a two-game losing streak and dowsed a 19-day, scoreless dry spell to improve to 2-6-2 on the season.

The Broncos leapt out of the loss-column on Oct. 5 with a 0-0 tie against Iona, before claiming a 3-2 victory in the waning minutes of their Oct. 8 match with Fairfield.

## 'I am proud of how we competed'

Even with the return of senior back Guillaume Sarrabayrouse to the Broncos starting lineup, Rider still could not rummage for a win. On a rainy afternoon, the Broncos hopped on the bus to New Rochelle, New York to face the Iona Gaels. Still without Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) offensive player of the year Zaki Alibou, the Broncos continued to struggle with their attack as they ended with a draw to Iona.

“When you get a shutout you would have to say the defense played well,” said Head Coach Charlie Inverso.

The defense was unquestionably present for the game on Wednesday as the Broncos only allowed five shots on goal. The same could be said for the Gaels as they only allowed one shot on goal and six shots in total. It's safe to assume that the Broncos have desperately missed the offensive power Alibou provides.

“There is no timeline on Zaki's return but we have to keep moving on,” said Inverso.

With the tie, the Broncos were still searching for their first goal since Sept. 18 when they scored twice against the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT).

“The positive was that despite having Iona down our end in the first 20 minutes, we held off and came away with a point,” said Inverso.

In the 30th minute of Wednesday's game, Sarrabayrouse had a shot at getting one by Iona goalkeeper Juan Alfaro Monge, but the former MAAC defensive player of the week knocked it out to keep the match scoreless.

After a fast, back and forth start in the first set, the Broncos held a 13-9 lead off of five consecutive points, but just as Rider had taken the lead, the Purple Eagles roared back with a 7-1 point run to earn back the lead.

The first set stayed close, but Niagara escaped the set with a 25-21 victory via a three-point run.

The second set was dominated by Niagara. The Purple Eagles continued to pile on the points and closed out the second with an impressive 8-0 run, winning the second set 25-13.

The Broncos were in a dogfight in the third set. It was much closer with Rider rattling off two five-point runs and Niagara posting one of their own, but once again Rider was outlasted, losing off of back-to-back points 28-26.

Even with the loss, the Broncos were led by freshman outside hitter Kianny Santiago with 14 digs, sophomore setter Sydney Bond with 15 assists and sophomore hitter Christina Blount with six kills.

## 'We are nowhere near that right now'

The second game of Rider's two game trip to Buffalo was against the Canisius Golden Griffins on Oct. 9, and while the Broncos played better, their effort was only good enough to win one set as they fell 3-1 against the Griffins.

“We have these moments of good play, just sustaining that level of play and being consistent have been difficult. Part of it is youth, I think part of it is frustration and the mixed-up lineups playing next to someone different,” Rotondo said. “Overall, we need to improve our focus throughout a match and remain coachable throughout practices and games. As a staff, I think we need to improve our communication within games, helping the athletes to be in a good space to compete freely.”

Later on, sophomore midfielder Jack McGeehan came close to scoring in the 62nd, getting a shot off just outside of the 18-yard box, but it sailed too high and the cursed sound of the crossbar rang throughout Mazzella Field.

Overall, this type of hard fought game by the Broncos left hope for Inverso about where the team is headed.

“This program has always competed and played hard which was why last Wednesday versus Manhattan was such a disappointment,” asserted Inverso. “Record wise we are definitely struggling, but except for one match, I am proud of how we competed.”

## A temporary turnaround

Coming into the game at 1-6-2, the Broncos were on the ropes and grasping for any type of momentum heading into a tough stretch of conference play. Going up against a struggling Fairfield team, the Broncos had a chance to finally get on the right foot. The Broncos, courtesy of junior midfielder Adel Al Masude's three-assist masterclass, finally grabbed its first conference play win on Oct. 8.

“The win turned our season around temporarily, but that feeling only lasts for 24 hours. Now we have to play the remaining games as if the season is on the line each time we go out,” said Inverso.

The Broncos came out hot by finding the back of the net early when senior midfielder Guillaume Sarrabayrouse scored off a pretty feed by Al Masude, which gave the Broncos their first lead in conference play.

“I'm happy to get my teammates involved to win this game because at the end, it's the win that matters,” Al Masude shared about his three assist game.

Despite the Broncos still missing Alibou on offense, Al Masude was able to take charge and help the team get the victory.

“[Alibou] was the offensive player of the year for a reason. Now as a guy who played last season, it is sure

Canisius was able to slowly gain the lead and pull away from Rider in the first set. While already having a 9-8 lead, the Griffins went on a 6-2 run that pushed their lead to five points. Canisius would also go on a three point run later in the match, which set them up to win the first set 25-18.

The second set, just like the previous game against Niagara, was controlled by the Griffins. They got out to a quick 4-0 start, and went on another four point run once they were up 15-10. Down by eight, the Broncos tried to stage a comeback with four points off the serve of Santiago, but Canisius was able to hold on and win the set 25-20.

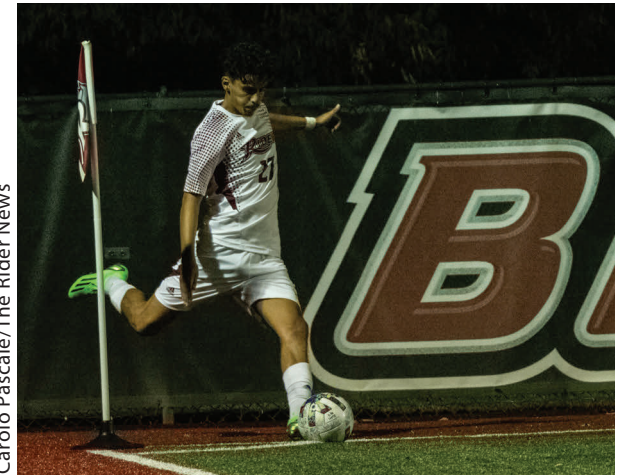
One positive note about the Broncos' long weekend came when they made a comeback in the third set to win their first their only set of the weekend.

After the Broncos started with a 3-0 lead, Canisius went on a torrid 9-3 run to take the upper hand. After some back and forth, Canisius gained the advantage again when they earned a double-match point with a 24-22 score. However, this time the Broncos showed resilience, capping off the set with four consecutive points with back-to-back kills by senior opposite Morgan Romano.

The fourth and final set of the match was all Canisius again, dominating the Broncos and securing the win 25-21.

“Look, we were picked second, and we are nowhere near that right now,” said Rotondo. “I am sure there is some frustration on the players side, but we need to stop feeding into our emotions and just put our heads down and go to work for the last 5 weeks.”

The Broncos are now 4-13 on the season, and will look to snap their four-game losing streak against the Manhattan Jaspers, who they beat 3-1 earlier in the season. The match will take place back home at Alumni Gym on Oct. 12.



Carolo Pascale/The Rider News

Junior midfielder **Adel Al Masude** had three assists against Fairfield, his first assists of the season.

that I did my best to step up as a leader and to show the way,” said Al Masude.

This showed up in the 29th minute when senior back Lenny Cidolit scored on a header from a dime from Al Masude.

The game got chippy during the second half, with both teams having a combined five yellow cards.

Despite having a two goal lead, the Stags were able to claw their way back into it.

“The old cliché about 2-0 leads being tough to hold on still holds true,” said Inverso.

Inverso's statement held true when Fairfield's Alex Oliveria scored two goals in the 57th and 77th minute to knot things up at two apiece.

With four minutes left, the Broncos found themselves with a corner kick and graduate student back Regis Dulck sealed the game with a header courtesy Al Masude, bringing him to three assists on the night.

The Broncos will return home on Oct. 12 to take on Quinnipiac for a chance to jump up more in the MAAC standings with hopes of playoffs still in the distance.



Andy Mead/Rider Athletics

Assistant Coach **Jake Barbieri** bats leadoff for the Broncs in 2021.

## BASEBALL

## Former champion finds himself back in cranberry

By **Benjamin Shinault**

**J**AKE Barbieri has been the epitome of consistency since he first stepped on the diamond for Rider baseball.

Barbieri joined Rider baseball back in 2018 and was an immediate contributor for the Broncs. He started in 35 games in his freshman season, primarily as a third baseman and racked up 12 RBIs at the plate.

Fast-forward five years, and Barbieri added yet another milestone to his already decorated Rider legacy: becoming a volunteer assistant coach for the upcoming baseball season.

“As an upperclassman on the team the past two years, I tried as much as possible to be a middleman between the coaches and some of the new players to help mature them but show them I have their backs,” said Barbieri.

Over Barbieri’s time at Rider, he built a strong relationship with both the coaches and players, which will benefit him as an assistant coach.

“You build relationships with these guys and they become family, and I want the guys on this team to be successful and help them achieve that however I can,” said Barbieri.

Whether it’s on the gridiron, on the court or in this case, on the diamond, there is always a different type of coach — one that will get in your face or one that will take a more subtle approach. Barbieri wants to be an advocate for each player.

“I’d say I’m definitely a player’s coach. I did play with a lot of these guys the past few years, so I like viewing myself as a middleman for the coaches and players,” said Barbieri.

During his collegiate career, Barbieri played at an elite level. Over his five-year playing career, he registered 15 multi-hit games, batted a team leading .314 average and appeared in two Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Championships, winning one in 2021.

“[Barbieri is] very versatile as a defensive player, and a consistent hitter who could hit anywhere in the lineup,” said Head Coach Barry Davis.

Just as Barbieri was versatile while playing, he also plans to be so within the coaching staff.

“He will assist in several areas. He will be our first base coach, coach the outfielders and assist with the infielders and hitters,” said Davis.

Barbieri, while playing for the Broncs, made the MAAC All-Academic team three times and made the MAAC All-Tournament team in 2021 when Rider won the title. He finished his playing career with 114 hits, 46 RBIs, 12 stolen bases and four home runs.

Arguably most impressive was Barbieri’s impact as a teammate, always acting as a guiding, uplifting force in the dugout.

“[Jake] is always picking up players when they are having a bad day at the plate or in the field,” said senior first baseman Luke Lesch. “He is always trying to make other people around him better.”

With an opportunity to pass down his accumulated wisdom, Barbieri aims to lift his unique group of former teammates and promising freshmen to another MAAC Championship.

“At the end of the day, I was in their shoes the past five years dealing with injuries with all the highs and all the lows that come in baseball,” said Barbieri. “I want them to understand that there’s a lot more to life than just baseball and not only help them become better players on the field but become better people off of it and that they know I’m always there for them.”

## WOMEN’S SOCCER

# Broncs falter, shut out in back-to-back games

By **Carolo Pascale**

**A**FTER securing its first two Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) victories against Saint Peter’s and Manhattan, Rider women’s soccer hoped to keep the winning ways going in a two-game homestand against Iona and Fairfield. While both games were incredibly close, the Broncs were shutout by both the Gaels and the Stags in two consecutive 1-0 losses on Oct. 5 and Oct. 9.

### A single play turns the tide

To say that this game was a battle of attrition would be an understatement.

Coming into the matchup between Rider and Iona, the teams records in conference play were only separated by a single win, with Rider having two to Iona’s one. On top of that, each team had a leading goal scorer with four goals on the year, with Rider having two players with four goals, those being senior forward Makenzie Rodrigues and senior midfielder Lindsey Maslow.

The fact these teams were so evenly matched coming into the game made it seem like it was going to be a slugfest. In the end, it was a battle of who made a mistake first. Unfortunately for the Broncs, they would blink first, leading to the shutout loss.

“I think our defenders matched up with their forwards and I think their defenders matched up with our forwards. So I think it was a close game,” said Head Coach Drayson Hounsome. “We’ve given them a goal for a second phase of a corner, which is an error on our part, and that’s that’s the difference maker.”

The first half saw junior goalkeeper Ellie Sciancalepore make a terrific save on a loose bouncing ball just before the 29th minute, which kept the game deadlocked at zero into the end of the first half.

After an even first half, about three-and-a-half minutes into the second, Iona was given a free kick essentially at the goal line on the left side. Sciancalepore was able to make the first save and bat the ball away, but the rebound was gathered up by the Gaels and fired just under the crossbar to make the score 1-0 in the 48th minute.

“I think we just could have done better at just getting our marks on the cross,” said freshman defender Olivia Smith. “We worked on this during practice, so it’s kind of disappointing seeing that happen because it almost happened last game.”

After Iona took the lead, the Broncs pushed for a goal but weren’t able to capitalize off any of their attempts, ultimately losing the game and being shut out for the first time since Sept. 3 against Temple.

By the end of the game, the stats were nearly identical with Iona only leading 9-6 in shots and 4-3 in shots on goal. One major difference in the game was the number of offsides for Rider, being called five times in the game.

“There were a few times that they caught us offside when usually other teams wouldn’t be offside. So that definitely took a blow,” said Rodrigues.

### A staggering defeat

After the 1-0 loss to Iona, the Broncs had to face one of the conference powerhouses in the Fairfield Stags. Rider wasn’t able to outrun the Stags as the Broncs were once again shutout 1-0, and outshot by over 20 shots.

The Broncs weren’t able to do much against the fast-paced Stags as they ran riot in terms of shots. Fairfield was already piling on the shots, registering six through those first 15.

The Stags finally scored in the 29th minute off a cross in front that was perfectly placed at the six yard box where a Fairfield forward was able to smash a shot past a diving Sciancalepore to go up 1-0.

By the end of the first half, Fairfield had racked up 13 shots while Rider only managed one.

“We were offside quite a bit, so that’s something we just spoke to the team about, like those were a

wasted opportunity,” said Hounsome. “So that’s lack of discipline, maybe a lack of soccer smartness. That would have given us more shots.”

Sciancalepore, despite allowing the goal, already had six saves in the match.

The second half didn’t go much better for the Broncs as the Stags once again rifled shots at the Rider net. By the 55th minute, Fairfield had already laid 20 shots on the Broncs defense. However, Sciancalepore stayed strong in goalmaking superb saves that kept the Stags from running wild.

As the game continued, Sciancalepore entered double digit save territory and was pushing her career high total of 14 saves she set last season against Monmouth, as well as the programs all-time single game saves record of 16. One of her second half highlights came in the 75th minute when she made her 12th save of the game on a partial breakaway to steal the ball away from a rushing Stag.

By the end of the game, the Broncs had only taken two shots, none of which went on target. Meanwhile, Fairfield took 26 shots, a staggering amount that the Broncs haven’t seen since Sept. 8 against Fairleigh Dickinson.

Sciancalepore finished the game with 13 saves, just one off her career high and three off the program record.

“It would have been huge to break the record and definitely it would be an honor. But you know, I’m still proud of today,” said Sciancalepore.

The Broncs now fall to 3-2 in MAAC play and 5-5-2 overall. Rider will go back on the road to face another conference powerhouse in Quinnipiac on Oct. 12.

## ONLINE

## FAIRFIELD FLICKS

Checkout women’s soccer’s photo gallery from the Oct. 7 loss to Fairfield.



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# Sports

ONLINE

**'THIS IS OUR HOUSE'**  
Check out field hockey's photo gallery from its 3-1 win over Fairfield on Oct. 7.

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Carolo Pascale/The Rider News

The Broncs were able to continue their winning ways with two major conference victories against Fairfield and Sacred Heart.

FIELD HOCKEY

## Broncs continue to prosper after historic win

By **Trey Wright**

**F**OLLOWING an upset victory over No. 25 ranked American on Oct. 2, the Rider Field Hockey squad kept the momentum rolling this past weekend, defeating bitter rival Fairfield 3-1, and shutting out Sacred Heart 2-0 on the road.

### 'You don't lose on this field'

Big upsets are commonplace in college sports, but two back-to-back big wins prove a team is ready to throw down in conference play. That was the case as Rider squared off against Fairfield, defeating their top Northeastern Conference [NEC] competitor in a key 3-1 win on Oct. 7.

"There's no room for error right now since we lost to Saint Francis; everyone knows that our backs are up a little bit to the wall," said Head Coach Lori Hussong, "This was a really good start to get back in the right direction, but every game that we play in the NEC is going to be a challenge because there is nobody that's a slacking team."

Prior to the Broncs' first home game since the semester started, a very special ceremony was held in honor of Play for Cathy night, a breast cancer awareness event, with senior midfielder Hannah Hartwell, a cancer survivor, receiving a standing ovation.

"It's really a beautiful thing to see everyone come together and support a cause so big," said Hartwell, "To see so many people have your back, and to have a team that supports you, it's really, really important."

Donning pink socks on the pitch, the Broncs got the scoring going midway through the first quarter, with freshman midfielder Indy Zoontjens tipping in a pass from fellow freshman forward Serma Said, trickling past the Fairfield goaltender off of a penalty corner to

take an early 1-0 lead.

The Stags responded three minutes later with their own corner, sailing a shot past Broncs senior goalkeeper Kaitlyn Tomas to even the score.

Things looked heated in the waning seconds of the first quarter, with a barrage of corner shots coming from Fairfield, but Tomas and the rest of the Rider defense held serve in the backfield.

Up front, Zoontjens took the lead back 1:12 into the second quarter, scoring her second goal of the game and seventh of the season.

For Zoontjens, this was the sixth game in a row she has recorded a goal or assist.

"It was a bit stressful, because it was an important game, [but] the first goal took a little bit of the pressure off," said Zoontjens, who went on to extend the streak to seven games against Sacred Heart. "I think we can only go up from now. We had a big loss a week ago, and now we have back-to-back big wins."

A string of five penalty corners would swing in the Stag's favor late in the third quarter, but once again, Tomas and the Broncs defense held firm to protect the lead.

That lead doubled with eight minutes remaining in the game, with Said netting a goal of her own to seal the deal for the Broncs, who would close out Fairfield 3-1, being over .500 for the first time since Sep. 9.

"I believed in my team, and I knew that if I got their backs, they would have mine," said Tomas, who stopped nine of 10 shots. "I stepped up and did my job, because they were playing so great in front of me."

"There's no easy goals, and this is our house," said Tomas. "You don't lose on this field."

Hussong said, "The last few games have been phenomenal for Kaitlyn [Tomas], and we hope she's going to keep springboarding forward."

### Sacred Heart shutout

It was back on the old dirt road after a brief spell at home, but nonetheless Rider found victory over Sacred Heart, shutting out the Pioneers 2-0 for their third consecutive win.

Both goals came within the first 10 minutes of the opening quarter, with freshman forward Valeria Perales burying a shot a few hairs under five minutes into the match, and senior midfielder Maeve Riehman doubling the lead 9:41 into the game.

SHU looked to cut the lead in half midway through the third quarter, when a penalty stroke was awarded to them, but junior goalkeeper Carlee Fulton deflected the attempt to preserve a shutout.

"The real hero of the game was goalie Carlee Fulton," said Hussong, "When [Fulton] came into the game and stopped Sacred Heart's penalty stroke in the second half, it inspired our team to dig down and fight harder."

"Had they scored the tone and the momentum of the game would have been in Hearts favor," said Hussong.

The Broncs indeed locked down and dug into the pitch, and the Broncs held on to their seventh win of the season, simultaneously earning their third shutout in 12 games.

"We need to stay focused and ready to cash in on our chances to score," Hussong said after the match. "We are a mixture of young and old but we've got tremendous leaders in Sierra [Giuliano], Kiki [Van Ommeren], Kaitlyn and Maeve who have experienced the pressure of conference play and are leading by example."

The Broncs, now with a record of 7-5, travel to Stone Hill for the first time in program history at 3 p.m. on Oct. 14.



(T-5TH IN GPG IN NCAA)  
(7TH IN PPG IN NCAA)

### VALERIA PERALES #9

G	A	PTS
12	4	28

## RISING STARS



(T-32ND IN PPG IN NCAA)

### #14 INDY ZOONTJENS

G	A	PTS
7	5	19



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