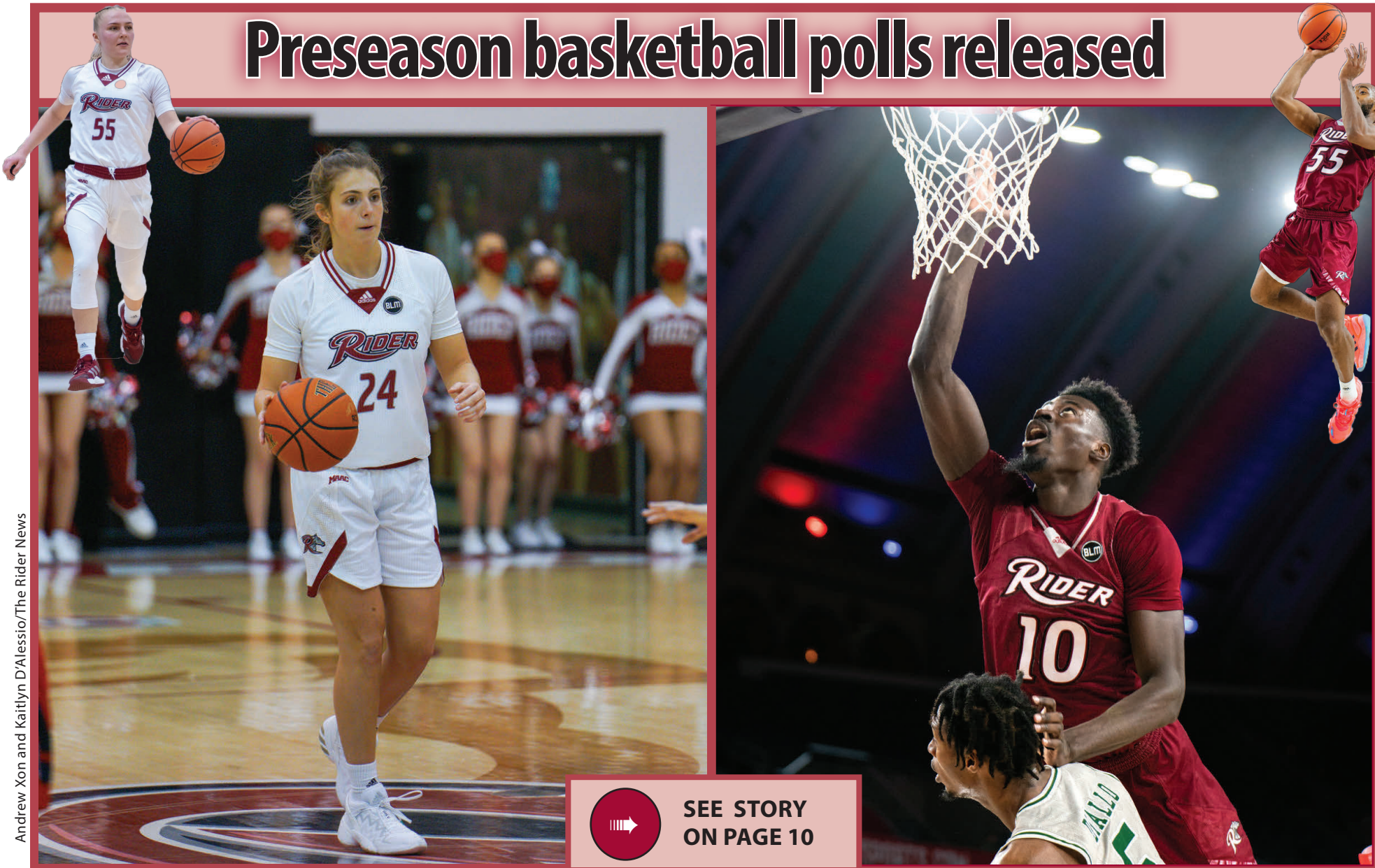


## Preseason basketball polls released



Andrew Xon and Kaitlyn D'Alessio/The Rider News

 **SEE STORY ON PAGE 10**

## Teacher charged with possession of child pornography

By Kaitlyn McCormick

**W**ESTMINSTER Conservatory of Music teacher José Sánchez was arrested on Oct. 7 following a child pornography investigation, according to law enforcement officials. This arrest comes just over a year after the arrest of another teacher at Rider's conservatory, accused of sexual assault of a minor last September.

Sánchez, 58, of Monroe, was charged with second-degree file sharing of child pornography and third-degree possession of child pornography, according to an Oct. 11 press release from the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office.

Sánchez was charged with viewing and sharing child pornography following the execution of a search warrant at a West Windsor residence on Oct. 7 by the prosecutor's office's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Unit. Sánchez's electronic devices were seized for forensic examination, according to the release.

Detailed in a since-deleted teacher biography on Rider's website, Sánchez was a graduate of the Juilliard School in New York and once served as the director of the Children's Orchestra from the Institute of Culture in Mazatlán, Mexico.

Sánchez was a violin instructor for the Westminster Conservatory, a branch of Rider University that offers children's music lessons and classes out of its Princeton campus. According

to prosecutors, he also provided music lessons to children from a private West Windsor studio.

According to Rider's Director of Communications, Rachel Stengel, the conservatory is currently in the process of identifying Sánchez's students and contacting their parents to either cancel or reschedule their lessons under a different instructor.

Rider's Associate Vice President for University Marketing and Communications Kristine Brown said on Oct. 12 that Sánchez is no longer actively employed by the university. According to the prosecutor's office there are no further updates on the case.

Second-degree child pornography crimes carry a five to 10 year sentence in state prison and a fine of up to \$150,000; the third-degree crime carries a sentence of three-to-five years in state prison and a fine of up to \$15,000, according to the release.

In September 2021, another Westminster Conservatory violin instructor, Dezheng Ping, was arrested and charged following accusations of sexual assault of a 12-year-old student in 2016.

Though Ping was placed on leave at the time of his arrest last year, recent accounts show that he has been active with the conservatory, including being listed on the Sept. 15 program for a "Conservatory at Nassau: Violin and Piano" faculty recital event advertised on Facebook.

Brown said, "Dezheng Ping has not provided any private music lessons through the Westminster Conservatory since Sept. 2021. Because his legal case is ongoing, he has not yet been terminated. He performed at a public recital not held on campus in Sept. 2022."

According to the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office, Ping is scheduled for court at 9 a.m. on Oct. 16 in the courtroom of Honorable Judge Paone.

Stengel confirmed Saturday that employees are required to undergo pre-employment screening, which includes national and state background checks.



Photo courtesy of Rider University

**José Sánchez**, Westminster Conservatory of Music teacher, charged with possession of child pornography.

**INSIDE**

### FIVE IN A ROW

Rider field hockey continued its hot streak by adding two more wins.



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### "THE TRY GUYS"

Since internet personality Ned Fulmer's cheating scandal, "The Try Guys" will never be the same.

PAGE 8

### LET'S MEET THE GREEKS

The multicultural fraternities and sororities hosted an event on Friday.



PAGE 6

## SECURITY BRIEFS

BY SHAUN CHORNOBROFF

### Fraudulent Fire

Oh GEEz. On Oct. 11 at 3:22 p.m., Public Safety was dispatched to Gee Residence Hall for a fire alarm activation. Upon arrival, Public Safety checked the building and did not detect any immediate signs of a fire or the cause of the alarm. It was discovered that someone had intentionally activated the alarm by pulling the pull station. The alarm was reset and the residents were allowed back into the building. The incident remains under investigation.

### Gashed Gates

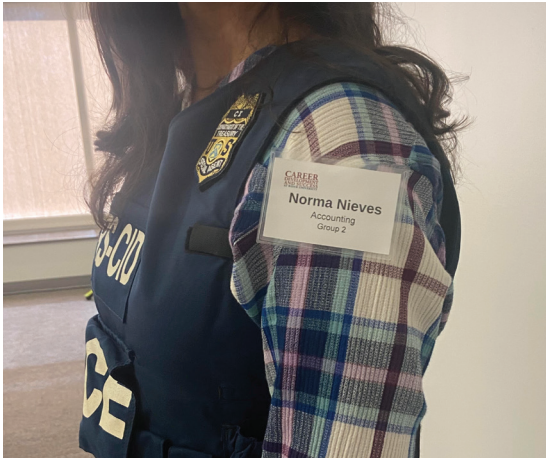
Violent vehicles. On Oct. 13 at 11:00a.m., while on patrol, Public Safety noticed one of the gate arms to the Bart Luedeke Center staff parking lot had been damaged. It appeared that a vehicle had struck the gate arm, breaking it and pushing it aside. No one reported any damage to their vehicle and there were no witnesses in the area. Facilities Management was contacted to repair the gate arm.

### Patrol the pipes

Monday flooding. On Oct. 17 at 4:33 a.m., while on patrol, Public Safety heard water flowing by the Fine Arts parking lot. Upon further investigation, they observed water flowing from the ground and into a nearby storm drain. Facilities Management was contacted and advised of the situation who reported that a water pipe had broken underground.

- Information provided by Public Safety Capt. Matthew Babcock

# Training day: Broncs learn from federal agents



Sarah F. Griffin/Rider University

Norma Nieves, senior accounting major, participated in the IRS training day.

By Sarah F. Griffin

**T**HE International Revenue Service (IRS) hosted a training day on Rider's campus on Oct. 14 for students interested in going into the law enforcement field.

IRS Criminal Investigation Special Agent Tom Rudnicki said, "Programs like this are important because they give us a chance to conduct our research at universities and colleges all over the nation and get the word out about what it means to be a special agent."

Rudnicki, a field agent, said the program will benefit students because "It will certainly give them insight into what it is that we do and how we go about our jobs."

He added, "When we get to come out to the colleges and universities and conduct our outreach, it's certainly an aspect of that sheds light on the jobs

we actually do so people can get a real life visual of what it is that a special agent for IRS Criminal Investigation does in a given day."

Rudnicki said that even though most of his work is done in the field, he and his partner, who declined to be interviewed, "Try and make ourselves as widely available as possible, and we are always looking to branch out into other schools."

According to Rudnicki, many of the students attending the event were accounting majors. "To be an IRS special agent, you need an accounting degree or some sort of business degree, or you could have any other degree and at least fifteen credits in accounting. We try to have a good mix of students that are full accounting majors or in business, with the minimum accounting requirements," said Rudnicki.

Of the students that went to the event, Rudnicki said, "I think they were very highly motivated. Rider has always been a very successful school for us — I believe this is our fourth or fifth time here — and we look forward to coming back and showing the next class what we do as well because it's good to garner interest, and we've always had a great reception here."

Rudnicki emphasized how Rider has always been a successful school to have events like these.

"Rider is as friendly and warm a university as we have ever been, so we plan on coming back, and the students demonstrate the reason for that every time we get to meet them, by their enthusiasm and how well they do in the training," Rudnicki added.

Mandy McLean, a senior criminal justice major who is planning on being a lawyer or FBI agent after graduation, participated in the IRS event. "I just felt like it would be beneficial for me because

I want to work for the federal government in the future," said McLean. "Today I actually learned a lot of important things, mainly just what it is like to be an officer working day-to-day and the different things they put into their cases."

One of the activities that McLean said was the most beneficial was the mock interview section, where participants had to "go and speak to a client." McLean said the training helped her in "setting up [her] career path."

Zachary Schmid, a freshman criminal justice major, also participated in the training to see if he was interested in the IRS.

"I plan on joining law enforcement after graduation, so when I saw this project was going to take place, I was definitely going to do it," Schmid said.

After completing the training, Schmid said, "I learned about how the IRS deals with an extreme amount of numbers; the amount of papers and patience is extraordinary. I can tell you it's not an easy job; these agents are top-tier."



Sarah F. Griffin/Rider University

The participants gathered on campus to take part in the IRS training day.

# How teacher assessment removal affects Rider

By Shaun Chornobroff

**D**ESPITE having bipartisan support, in late September, New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy made the decision to conditionally veto legislation eliminating the controversial Educational Teacher Performance Assessment (edTPA), even though he is openly in favor of the exams removal.

The conditional veto is the first step in the removal of the edTPA as a state requirement, but it also is the catalyst of shifting the responsibility of placing an assessment on future educators from the state onto individual schools.

"I wholeheartedly agree that the current edTPA requirement for teaching candidates is counterproductive and should be eliminated, but also believe that other types of performance-based assessments can ensure that teaching candidates are ready to enter the classroom," Murphy said in a statement announcing his veto of the bill.

The aftermath of Murphy's Sept. 23 decision has trickled down to Rider, as many in the schools education curriculum that are currently student-teachers and were not expecting the edTPA to still be a requirement, are now scrambling to complete the evaluation required for all future educators in

the Garden State.

By the spring of 2024, schools around the state will have to have their own individual assessment for student-teachers, putting Rider's College of Education in the awkward position of having to prepare for the future in the midst of having to help their students catch up in the present.

"We don't quite know when edTPA is going away," said Rider's Dean of College of Education and Human Services Jason Barr. "... I don't think we'll take until 2024, but right now it's every semester we have to assess. We weren't sure about this semester, [but] students are doing it. We're not sure about next semester. We got students coming to us and saying 'oh, I didn't think we have to do this' that now still have to do it. And until Murphy signs the bill and we get some guidance from the Department of Education (DOE), it's still happening."

### 'It's so burdensome'

The edTPA has long been a source of criticism for those within the education community due to its intensive workload and very specific requirements.

"There was so much around what [students] needed to do to make [the test] acceptable for

Pearson, which is the company that scores it, that students are worried more about the compression of their video than they are about teaching the students in student teaching," said Barr.

Angela Rizzo describes the edTPA as a "giant mega portfolio." The senior education major said she expected the program exam to be removed, but now finds herself adapting to a test that is on its way to being obsolete.

"You have to put more focus into actually figuring out what goes where and keeping track of your field than actually doing the exam," Rizzo said. "It is also so overwhelmingly unnecessary, the amount of things that you have to do for this that you wouldn't do in your daily teaching."

Rizzo's trials are something that administrators within the education department have heard before.

Susan Dougherty, an assistant professor in Rider's education department explained, "The problem we find with edTPA is it's so burdensome. It takes an incredible amount of time. The act of putting together this portfolio has to be very precise and specific and follow all kinds of rules. There's handbooks and handbooks about the handbooks. It's just so much; it's very artificial."



# Rider weighs in on New Jersey edTPA controversy

CONT'D FROM PAGE 2

While Barr said he sees positives in the edTPA; the dean has also seen the toll it can take on his students.

"I think it added an undue level of stress that was not necessary," Barr said. "... Student teaching is a great time to try something new, experiment and fail and learn from those failures and make your mistakes. edTPA took away from that experience of being able to be a teacher with another master teacher, and learn and hone your craft."

## What's Next?

Elizabeth Mitchell may be an outlier when it comes to thoughts on the edTPA. While many are critical of the assessment, the

senior elementary education major said although it is stressful, she doesn't feel rushed by the assessment's requirements and understands its importance.

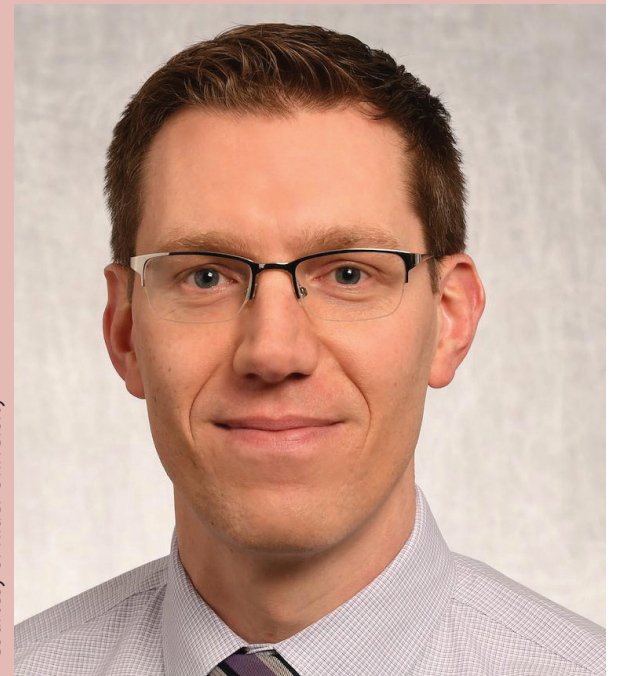
"I think in theory, the edTPA itself is a good summative assessment of what it takes to be a teacher," explained Mitchell, who is currently student teaching in Hopewell, New Jersey and in the midst of the edTPA. "I think the idea of putting together video plans and reflection papers, and lesson plans that are very detailed and thought out is a very good way to assess teachers. I think where people get a little caught up in getting annoyed with it is the repetitiveness of the assessment."

Both Barr and Dougherty

confirmed that a committee has been formed to look at different options to replace the edTPA. While Rider may develop its own evaluation system, Barr said it is still too early to know what it may look like.

The edTPA costs \$300, but Barr said the exam Rider comes up with will be free of charge for students.

"There's still going to be an assessment of teacher performance, that's what is most important," Barr said. "We're not doing away [with edTPA] and students are not doing whatever they want within field placement."



Courtesy of Rider University

College of Education and Human Services Dean **Jason Barr**.

Courtesy of Peter Borg

Sophomore criminal justice major **Janaya Ross** and professor **Kathleen Browne** examining a fish as part of a hands-on learning exercise.

Courtesy of Peter Borg

Students teamed up with New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection during science class on Oct. 12.

## Electrofishing at Rider's lake

By **Amethyst Martinez**

**A**t the epicenter of campus, the Rider lake's algae buildup and hammocks nearby have drawn almost every student to its wonder: whether that be good or bad. On Oct. 12, students of a Future of Natural Resources class and their professor Kathleen Browne ventured out to collect data on the creatures that reside in the infamous lake.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Division of Freshwater Fisheries came to Rider and helped the class gather the fish and collect data, according to Browne.

"Since 2014, we've been looking at the adult fish population every three to four years, depending on when the DEP can come out and help us," said Browne. "We gather as many adult fish as possible, we identify them and then we do some data analysis."

The project varies from year-to-year, but this year, students weighed and measured the fish, in addition to checking to see if there was any crossbreeding among the species.

"We're going to look at length as a way to estimate age, because it turns out, they grow in predictable ways, right?" said Browne. "We use up a conversion table to figure out for this specific length, what is its likely age, and then we'll look at age distribution to see if we do have a variety of ages, which would be a good sign. If we only have one age for example, then that's probably not a good sign. ... Even if they're reproducing, their offspring isn't necessarily surviving, at least from the snapshot of data that we collect."

Browne said that if they do see a trend of one age amongst their data, that would indicate that there are too many predators, or that the environmental conditions aren't healthy enough for the fish to survive.

"I think it's more predators in our case than anything else, because the water quality is pretty good," said Browne.

According to Browne, there are five species of fish in the lake: largemouth bass, brown bullhead catfish, American eels and two varieties of sunny fish called pumpkinseed and bluegill.

DEP fishery biologist specialist for the Lower Delaware Watershed

Warmwater Fisheries Management, Invasive Species, & Federal Aid Chris Smith, along with other DEP staff, explored the lake in their boat and fished using a method called electrofishing to temporarily stun the fish, according to Browne.

"They chose to use 'electrofishing', which they use all over the state in streams and lake[s]. It is a non-lethal approach that momentarily stuns fish so they can be quickly scooped up, [and] added to a tank on board their boat where they revive," said Browne.

After the DEP went out and collected adult fish, the students were on the grassy sidelines waiting to inspect, measure and weigh the aquatic creatures.

Kiley Kearney, a sophomore psychology major, said she hasn't experienced hands-on education like this in any of her college classes.

"You can really tell the difference in person versus just viewing [the fish] on a screen, so I thought that was really cool," said Kearney.

Browne said that they released the fish back into the lake once they were done measuring them offshore, and the fish that they handled seemed completely revived when they went back in.

Another thing that Browne pointed out was the algae buildup in the lake that many have noticed in recent months, which she said was caused by too many nutrients in the water.

"Every lake water body in New Jersey has trouble. For obvious reasons, too much algae right now is what we see in our lake ... but that doesn't mean it's toxic. For fish, we actually have a pretty healthy lake," Brown said before jokingly saying to not to tell anyone in her classroom since that's what they're currently investigating.

Browne said that hands-on experiences such as this can really strengthen a student's understanding of these topics.

"Willingness to touch a fish and measure them and all that stuff tells me that students find it more engaging than just being lectured at ... or some who are seemingly nervous about touching and holding a live fish, [and] they'll do it anyway, so that is a great outcome," said Browne.

# Commuters review their experiences on campus

By Olivia Nicoletti

**A**ROUND one-third of the Rider community is made up of commuters. From near and far, students make the trip to campus each every day to try and build a home away from home.

Rider offers advice to those who live off campus via the official university website where students can receive guidance throughout their commuting experience.

Emili Dimoski, a junior elementary education and multidisciplinary studies major, resided in Montville, New Jersey for the beginning of her commuting experience, but has recently moved to Plainsboro, New Jersey.

Dimoski lived on campus her freshman year and the first semester of her sophomore year, but moved off campus due to the lack of single-room options at Rider.

"I'm someone who likes to be more by myself, so I wanted to be in a one bedroom apartment by myself this semester — this has been the best thing for me," Dimoski said. "Living on campus, there wasn't anything other than an apartment with four or five other people or a double. If I did get a single, then I would have to share a bathroom, and I also really didn't want to do that."

She strategically planned her schedule to have classes on only Tuesdays and Thursdays so she would not have to make the drive all week long.

Dimoski said her least favorite experience since she started commuting is the lack of parking available to her.

Other commuters echoed that statement. Melanie Tsai, a senior majoring in elementary education and multidisciplinary studies, said that she can never find a parking spot when she gets to campus and notices that others who should not be parking in the commuter lot are continuing to do so.

Commuting from West Windsor takes Tsai approximately 20 minutes to drive to campus, but she finds it frustrating to see the wrong people using the spots designated for commuters.

She emphasized that her biggest concern about commuting is "the inconvenience of having to pack for a whole day."

For junior business in healthcare management major, Max Marchiano, he started his commuting experience at the start of the fall semester.

He resides in Bordentown, New Jersey and emphasized the increase of gas prices and how that changed how he goes about his day-to-day life. He said that it makes him "debate whether to go home in between classes." He echoed that, and said it makes him think, "if [he] really needs to leave just to come back a couple hours later."

He too, has recognized the problems regarding limited parking in the commuter's lot.

Marchiano said, "If I don't come a couple hours before class I have to park all the way back where they combine the C/Z/R decals."

Gregory Bridge, a senior global supply chain management major, disagreed and said that he has no problem finding spots to park in.

He has been a commuter since he transferred to Rider two years ago. From Milford, New Jersey, his biggest complaint is not the parking situation, but that he lives far away so it is "putting a lot of extra miles on [his] car."

Regarding the increase of gas prices, Bridge said, "Gas prices don't really affect my commuter experience. I don't usually even pay attention to what gas prices are because I still have to buy gas anyway, and it doesn't matter much to me what the prices are."



Olivia Nicoletti/The Rider News

Many commuters utilize the commuter lounge on the first floor of the Bart Luedeke Center.

# Hurricane Ian fuels ongoing climate conversation

By Kaitlyn McCormick

**R**ECENT spats of extreme weather, notably Hurricane Ian which caused catastrophic damage in Florida this September, have sparked an increasing concern in the conversation surrounding climate change.

Ian, which made landfall near southwestern Florida on Sept. 28, was a Category 4 storm that originally tormented the Caribbean before striking Florida and then making landfall again near Georgetown, South Carolina, according to the National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service.

Environmental science professor Daniel Druckenbrod explained in an interview with The Rider News that while climate change shouldn't necessarily be regarded as the sole causation for extreme weather, a correlation is often worth studying.

"Generally [with] severe or extreme weather events, we can say that climate change often makes them more likely to have happened ... and the way scientists can have some confidence about those sorts of statements is often retrospectively," Druckenbrod said.

One of the most direct links to climate change, Druckenbrod explained, was how an increase in atmospheric heat impacts weather. "That greater warmth leads to more energy to create storms in general," he said.

Druckenbrod also said that the increase in heat energy compounded with a correlated increase in water vapor in the atmosphere are ingredients for "horrid hurricane formation."

Now add sea level rise, which Druckenbrod says has risen about half a foot since 1900 and is expected to increase, that not only impacts hurricane formation, but the related storm surges as well.

"We tend to think of risks from storms like Hurricane Ian as high winds ... but then it's high water and drowning deaths [that] are a great concern as well," Druckenbrod explained.

Even more notably, and arguably surprising, Druckenbrod mentioned that according to scientific evidence, the number and frequency of hurricanes aren't changing over the years, rather the intensity of them is.

"We are seeing that there are more intense hurricanes ... the number of large hurricanes is increasing, the number of small hurricanes are decreasing," Druckenbrod said. "There's some evidence," though he mentioned that it's not as clear cut, "that maybe hurricanes are intensifying more rapidly, and maybe moving more slowly."

The aftermath of Ian in Florida has been catastrophic, with photos and videos reporting massive destruction and entire losses of property, sparking an outpouring of support from across the country.

Professor Cynthia Newman has connections in Florida through friends in Fort Myers where the storm was particularly strong, as well as her mother, who lives in Bonita Springs, which is in the surrounding area.

Newman said that while her mom's property was fine, extreme events like these often have the potential to bring out the better parts of people as they come

together to support each other.

"There's always [that] goodness in humanity," Newman said.

On Sept. 29, Rider's President Gregory Dell'Omo sent out a message of solidarity to the university community.

"A number of members of our community, as well as their families and friends, are from the storm-impacted areas. Student Affairs is reaching out to students who live in the areas impacted by Hurricane Ian to provide support and resources," the statement read in part. Links to Rider's counseling services and the Dean of Students office were also included in the email.

Associate Dean of Students Christine Melhourn said that while there was no way of knowing how many students had family or friends impacted by the storm, her office reached out to 39 graduate and undergraduate students from Florida to offer any needed support.

According to Druckenbrod, majors in the sciences are only going to rise in importance as "we grapple with climate change in the years to come."



Courtesy of Rider University

Environmental science professor **Daniel Druckenbrod** weighs in on the science behind Hurricane Ian.

# Junior education major gets the classroom perspective early



Tristan Leach/The Rider News

Junior elementary education major **Lindsay Sherman** poses for a headshot during an interview with The Rider News.

By **Tristan Leach**

**G**RINNING in a cranberry Rider crewneck, Lindsay Sherman excitedly bounced in her chair. Her eyes widened with excitement and her eyebrows rose with her voice as she talked about her love for life at Rider.

Sherman, a junior majoring in elementary education, is what some would call booked and busy. The dedicated junior is a sister of Alpha Xi Delta (AXID), content tutor, tour guide, president of the Student Education Association (SEA), treasurer of Rider's Unified Sports and a general member of the Council of Exceptional Children (CEC).

Her whole life, Sherman has loved school, picking not only her major, but her clubs, to fit her passion.

"There are so many reasons I want to be a teacher, [and] I think the main reason is I genuinely love school," said Sherman. "I've always loved learning. I'm the first person to raise my hand in class. I love participating in education."

Sherman's love for education has landed her in some premier positions on campus. Not only is she president of SEA but she is also an Andrew J. Rider scholar. The hardworking junior has maintained straight As and has achieved a 4.0 GPA.

"You get a letter saying you're in the top one percent of your college. I'm in the top one percent for my grade," said Sherman. "Which is very exciting, but very hard."

Sherman has been an Andrew J. Rider scholar, the highest undergraduate achievement at Rider, since her freshman year of college and continues to work hard to keep this achievement.

Working hard is all Sherman does. Outside of

school, she runs a sewing company by the name of Sunshine Stitches Co., tutors kids, sings at parties and charity events.

Despite her extremely busy schedule Sherman puts her all into every task. Whether it's attending a sorority function or giving a tour, she is laser focused and ready to give the most.

Sherman rushed sororities last spring semester and ultimately ended up in AXID. The dedicated sister joined for the philanthropy aspect and to meet more people.

Amongst her sisters is Amanda Conover, a junior elementary education major.

"There are so many qualities that I think makes Lindsay a good sister of AXID," said Conover. "She's so compassionate toward other people and is very empathetic. She is always there for you."

Her hard work has paid off in her professional career too. Sherman and other education majors all participate in practicum classes. These courses prepare students for field work or student teaching, and this semester, Sherman was assigned her dream grade level: kindergarten.

Laurel Meskill, a junior elementary education major, is Sherman's roommate and one of her best friends.

"What makes Lindsay a very good candidate for a kindergarten teacher is that she has this personality where she is very bubbly but she knows when things need to be controlled. She knows when to let kids be kids," said Meskill.

Every Thursday morning, Sherman and her two roommates get up around 6 a.m. and get ready for field work. Sherman and her friends pick out dresses that make the others say "That is just so sweet!"

Sherman jokingly mentioned that she "manifested" the job. The truth is that her love for school, good grades, kind nature and hard work have landed her in her dream job, even if it will only be for a semester. Sherman isn't looking at that fact in a negative way, however. She sees it as the perfect opportunity to learn how to be a good teacher.

Sherman said, "My dream is to work as a kindergarten teacher in my hometown."

Sherman is originally from Westfield, New Jersey and has found inspiration in family, friends and teachers she has worked with. Whenever the work feels like it is too much or that the stress is about to win, Sherman thinks of those people.

"My mom is a big inspiration, she works in a school. She's a paraprofessional and I used to go with her to bring your child to work day. And that just showed me how much I love teaching," she explained.

So she continues to work hard, achieving the highest grades and putting her all into the homework that even Sherman finds difficult. For Sherman there is no reason to quit or stop trying. Once she has her mind set on something she will do it and Sherman has and will continue to.



Photo courtesy of Lindsay Sherman

**Lindsay Sherman** holds a bundle of flowers outside of the Alpha Xi Delta sorority house.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Wed,  
Oct. 19**

**Dog Therapy**

6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. | SRC Atrium

**Fri,  
Oct. 21**

**Scream Screen**

6 p.m. - 11 p.m. | BLC Parking

**Mon,  
Oct. 24**

**RHA Pumpkin Painting**

5 p.m. - 7 p.m. | BLC Firepit

**Thur,  
Oct. 27**

**Staceyann Chin**

5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. | Sweigart Hall 115

# Multicultural greek life welcomes Rider students

By Asia McGill

As a campus tradition, Meet the Greeks made its return on Oct. 14, located on the Campus Green. This event showcased a variety of organizations from Greek life, accompanied by stroll, step and salute performances.

Eight multicultural sororities and fraternities were featured at the event as well as some guest organizations from other universities.

Informational tables lined down the field with each organization along with its members available to introduce themselves to interested students and passersby.

"To me, Greek life means being able to show off the culture of Greek life, the culture of our fraternity... and to show everyone what Greek life is really about," said senior business data analytics major Noah Bernstein.

Bernstein is a member of Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity Inc., which won the Chapter of the Year Award, Bernstein said, "The most prestigious award an organization can achieve."

Each organization shared similar stories of how they joined Greek life, like junior criminal justice major Cassandra Shummy who, like many, never imagined for it to become such a meaningful aspect of her life.

"When I came on to campus as a freshman at the height of Covid-19, campus was kind of dead... I went to one informational [event] and the ladies that were there, they just made me feel so welcome," Shummy said.

Becoming a member of an organization often generates deep connections and an overall sense of community.

"Since joining Greek life I met a lot of cool people from [Rider] and other campuses in New Jersey, and honestly people from all around the country," said Tyler Approvato, a senior information systems major and president of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc.



Photo courtesy of Asia McGill

Sisters of Delta Sigma Theta participated in Meet the Greeks.

These connections within organizations are what members refer to as brotherhood and sisterhood, which stand as a consistent theme throughout each fraternity and sorority.

"Our principles are scholarship, service, sisterhood and finer womanhood," said senior sociology major Carly Bethea-Fuller. Bethea-Fuller explained the importance of womanhood and carrying yourself properly, "It means a lot to me," she said.

The message of womanhood and women's empowerment spreads widely across sororities and commonly is used as a pillar for Greek life women.

"We believe in educating, elevating and empowering all women," said senior public relations major Natalie Mingua. "We take education very seriously and we try to implement that as well as professionalism."

As the time for the show approached, organizations left their informational tables as the event they all prepared for what was beginning soon.

The show began at around 6 p.m. as the crowd quickly filled up to the front of the stage. Students gathered before the platform as colorful strobe lights cascaded across the field and vibrations from the music danced throughout campus.

The first performance was by special guest fraternity Omega Psi Phi, strolling underneath a purple and gold strobe light to symbolize their colors. Strolling and stepping is a cultural tradition that originated from historically Black organizations within Greek life, and is utilized as a symbol of respect, power, and unity. Organizations that participate in this style of performance are recognized as the Divine 9.

"I feel like it's very important to be in a Black sorority, especially at a PWI [predominantly white institution]... it's finding your people... it's very important to be in a D9 [Divine 9] sorority to me," said senior elementary education major Danielle McClish.

The show progressed with dancing and chanting from more organizations, along with audience dance breaks encouraged by hosts Omar Ortiz and Ohene Sah-Adubofour.

The crowd stuck it through the night as the temperature dropped to a low of 49 degrees, but it did not seem to bother audience members who continued to dance along with Greek members.

Meet the Greeks came to a close with the last stroll performed by Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., along with a dance battle of audience members called to the stage.

For any students interested in becoming a member of a Greek organization, please visit the school website under "How to Get Involved," or visit the social media page of an organization.

## Lambda Theta Phi celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

By Julia Train

Julian Nieves, a junior finance major, joined the IOTA chapter of the Latin fraternity, Lambda Theta Phi, in the fall of 2021. He was immediately elected the vice president's apprentice, which meant he had the role, but was still learning about the responsibilities. This year, he's the president of the chapter.

Nieves' father became a brother in 1992 when he attended Rider. His father never pressured him into joining, but Nieves constantly heard stories about the fraternity because he grew up with his dad's brothers coming over often.

When Nieves joined, Lambda Theta Phi was in the midst of reshaping their identity into who they are today, which led them to win "Chapter of the Year" last semester over 14 other fraternities and sororities.

"We have a lot of members that are truly about brotherhood and community service and that's what we pride ourselves on...doing a lot of service and helping people," said Nieves.

The fraternity's national philanthropy includes working with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI) and visiting different high schools to help prepare students for college and "empower the Latin male through scholarship, brotherhood, opportunity and protection of identity and equality," according to Lambda Theta Phi's national website.

The IOTA chapter's philanthropy partner was recently switched over to One Simple Wish, an organization that "grants wishes" to children in need. The one prior was located in Vineland, New Jersey, about 77 miles away, and the brothers wanted something more local, according to Kristopher Aponte, a senior sports media major.

The chapter hasn't worked with them yet, but they have made multiple \$400 donations and are working to start volunteering.

"It's fairly new so we're still putting the pieces together as we go," said Aponte.

During the month of September, the chapter partnered with community service organizations, including Meals on Wheels, and collected clothes for a clothes drive with The College of New Jersey's chapter of

Lambda Theta Phi. They also partnered with the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen to volunteer, and donated 100 ziploc bags filled with plastic cutlery and napkins.

"We have individuals who are dedicated to selfless service," said Nieves. "At the end of the day, all of our members are there for the community and the betterment of society as a whole."

While the first half of Hispanic Heritage month, that took place from Sep. 15 - Oct. 15 was service-centered, the second half is filled with programs to celebrate and encourage hispanic heritage.

While Nieves didn't grow up celebrating his culture much because he grew up in a predominantly white town, Andrew Shummy, a sophomore business administration major, was heavily involved with hispanic culture. He grew up surrounded by Cuban and Peruvian traditions.

"I'm Latino, but I don't look Latino because I'm white," said Shummy. "I'm Cuban and Peruvian so I just always identified as white, rather than Hispanic."

Last week, the fraternity held an event every day to celebrate the month and recruit members. They partnered with Global Social Studies Society to celebrate Dia de los Muertos, hosted a hispanic dancing night, videoed an Instagram Live to teach viewers how to cook hispanic food and ended the week at "Meet the Greeks" on the 14th, showing off their new salute.



Photo courtesy of Julian Nieves

The brothers of Lambda Theata Phi pose for a photo at Meet the Greeks.

On Oct. 29, the chapter will unveil the "Fallen Brother Project" to honor two deceased brothers. The area originally paid tribute to them, but the chapter wanted to renovate it with a new bench, plaques and flower beds. They raised \$6,000 with a total of 14 donations in order to purchase the needed equipment. Each plaque will have the name of one of the two brothers as well as the fraternity's letters.

Right now, the fraternity is raising \$25,000 for a permanent endowed scholarship through Rider for anyone that joins that fraternity. The total amount will be kept by Rider and distributed each semester toward members' tuition.

Donations can be made on the Rider University website.



Hannah Newman/The Rider News

The logo for Crumbl Cookies hangs on the entrance wall.



Hannah Newman/The Rider News

Owners **Emily Pacho and Jericho Pacho** stand outside their location in Princeton.

# Community welcomes new sweet treat to town

By **Tristan Leach**

**O**n Oct. 14, a new place to get sweet treats opened in Nassau Park Pavilion. The cookie chain known as Crumbl Cookies has taken the United States by storm, and has now found a home in New Jersey.

Crumbl Cookies originally got its start when cousins Jason McGowan and Sawyer Hemsley teamed up to create the perfect chocolate chip cookie.

The cousins spent thousands of dollars on ingredients and wrote recipe after recipe. Finally, the cousins achieved their goal and wanted to share their cookie with the world. The first Crumbl Cookies location opened in Logan, Utah. The shop originally only served the ‘perfected’ chocolate chip cookie, but soon the menu grew. The idea of a rotating menu would set this cookie store apart from others. Slowly, many locations popped up around the U.S. and the once single location became a huge success.

This past Friday marked the opening of the Princeton store. Eager customers were already waiting outside on the sidewalk. A pink ribbon was set up for the ceremony that officially marked the opening of the store. Pink and white balloons framed the door and the pink LED sign that read “open” was just waiting to be turned on.

At precisely 8 a.m. Emily and Jericho Pacho, the owners of the location, and members of the Mercer County Town Council, gathered outside to give a speech and cut the ribbon.

“It’s been a long time in the making but we’re glad that we’re finally open. We wanted to thank the

community and the people of West Windsor and Princeton for supporting us,” said Jericho Pacho at the ribbon cutting ceremony.

The Pachos, along with the four town council members, grabbed onto the giant pair of scissors and cut into the ribbon. The store was officially open. Those customers who arrived early were the first ones in, picking from that week’s menu of five or six cookie flavors. The first 15 customers in the shop walked away with a free T-shirt that can also be purchased at the store.

Owners Jericho Pacho and Emily Pacho first heard about Crumbl Cookies while working in Saudi Arabia. Jericho Pacho was told about the Utah-based franchise by a colleague. When the couple moved back to the United States, they made the three hour drive to Rockville, Maryland and Venna, Virginia to try the cookies.

“We loved them [the cookies], then we talked to the franchising person at Crumbl and we decided to move forward with it,” said Jericho Pacho.

Though there would be several delays before the opening of the store, the Pachos were not deterred. They continued on with meetings with their general contractor, finding suppliers and hiring crew members. The crew at the Princeton location consists of 70 people, not including Jericho and Emily, who work in the store.

The inside of the store has an open concept kitchen. White, black and pink walls are decorated adorably and match the sweetness in the air. Crew members can be seen baking, decorating and working

the register from the sidewalk. The cookies are made from scratch daily and crew members will make more of each flavor everyday.

“The menu is a weekly rotating menu. So we have two staple cookies: the milk chocolate chip and the pink sugar,” said Jericho Pacho. “Then there are four flavors that are rotating.”

The appeal of an ever changing menu and a new sweet shop is what has pulled people in. Andrea Mandel, a member of the Mercer County Town council, purchased her favorites after the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Mandel said, “We feel this is a very sweet introduction into West Windsor and we’re looking forward to them being very successful.”

Crumbl Cookies’ newest location was and is already a success. Students from Rider have already made their way to the store.

Kayla Ailey, a junior psychology major, went to get a box of their favorites later that Friday night.

“I went the first night that Crumbl Cookie opened and I think it was really good and really welcoming,” said Ailey. “To have something this close to Rider University is really cool.”

For Rider students, the newest sweet treat is just down the street, and it is Crumbl Cookies.

Scan the QR code to see the opening ceremony of Crumbl Cookies.



Hannah Newman/The Rider News

The owners, **Emily Pacho and Jericho Pacho** (center), cut the ribbon with Mercer County town council.



Hannah Newman/The Rider News

Crumbl Cookies features a weekly rotating menu. This method of new flavors has attracted fans from all over the country.

# What happened to "The Try Guys"



Angelina Fierro/The Rider News

**T**HE Try Guys podcast 'TryPods' episode 181 was labeled "OK, let's talk about it." Of course I clicked, because I, and millions of other people were wondering, what really happened?

I clicked on the video and listened to Keith Habersberger, Zach Kornfeld and a producer, Miles Bonsignore, explain the situation at hand. For those who don't know, Habersberger and Kornfeld are a part of an internet sensation known as The Try Guys, often referred to as "the guys" by fans. The group was once a foursome, including Eugene Lee Yang and Ned Fulmer.

However, the group of four is now a trio. After years of cultivating the "Try Guys" image, the foursome who gained popularity in the early 2010s while working at BuzzFeed before venturing off on their own lost a member when Fulmer departed the group.

About a month ago, it was revealed via the internet that Fulmer, the man whose brand was loving his wife, had cheated on her. While it was quite a shock, this is no cause for an hour-long podcast and endless posts from the official Try Guys Instagram and Fulmer himself. Here was the problem: Fulmer cheated with an employee of his company, a person who worked under him.

Allegedly, Fulmer was the unofficial HR representative for his company. Regardless of whether or not this was his position, Fulmer still didn't report the relationship to his company. After the fans got a hold of tangible evidence of the affair, a waiting game began to see what the other guys would do.

The other members released a 5-minute video announcing Fulmer had legally been released from the company along with the employee he engaged in a relationship with. The video was heartbreaking: Lee Yang, Kornfeld and Habersberger were ending an eight-year work-partnership and friendship. You could see the pain in their eyes, their voices raw with sadness and anger.

While I found this extremely saddening, I had to admire the other guys. In a world where it is not common for men to be held accountable for their actions, Habersberger, Kornfeld and Lee Yang, all men, were doing what companies that are decades older than their own have failed to do.

Fans of the guys took to social media praising the group for their action and willingness to own up instead of hiding behind closed doors. The guys have always been very anti-bullying and harassment of any kind, working hard to kill off toxic masculinity. The Try Guys have made videos about periods, childbirth and going a day wearing weights that act as breasts to understand the physical pain of people who go through these unique experiences everyday.

In a world where toxic masculinity and "being a man" is the end-all-be-all for so many people, the guys continuously act in rebellion against the stereotypes. That is precisely what the guys did with the explanation video. They were honest and refused to lie about the events that took place.

That is also where the problems started.

I was sitting on my girlfriend's couch scrolling through Twitter when Saturday Night Live's (SNL) account popped up. The tweet was a video titled "what happened," and had three actors who were dressed to look like Kornfeld, Habersberger and Lee Yang. I took the bait and watched the 3-minute skit. The "comedy" sketch turned out to be a simplification of the events that took place. SNL made the whole situation look like Fulmer was let go from his company because of the affair.

I won't be the first or last person to admit that this sketch got my blood boiling. The guys were suffering from what was basically a break up, and two families were suffering the repercussions, and now, SNL wanted to make it all a joke?

Angered fans found an episode of the TryPod where Fulmer talks about having a friend from college who is a writer from SNL. It was later found that Fulmer's friend did indeed write the sketch, and Try Guys fans were going after SNL.

For many, it wasn't a shock that the show was defending what a man had done. After all, there have been multiple allegations against cast members, all men, for everything from grooming to sexual assault. Various articles released since 2021 alleged Horatio Sanz, a former cast member of SNL, of sexual assault and grooming of a teenage girl. SNL was in for a rude awakening: the internet was on the Try Guys' side.

What the Try Guys and SNL's tasteless skit has taught me is that in this world is that there are two types of people: the ones who know how to be honest and choose to embrace the truth and the ones who will twist the truth because they simply can't handle it.

*Tristan Leach*  
junior journalism major

## THE Rider News

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## JUNIOR JOURNALS

## Taylor Swift &amp; queerness: the confines of celebrity

**SINGER-SONGWRITER** Taylor Swift's work has consistently prompted speculations of queerness, but the announcement of a new song titled "Lavender Haze" has resulted in fervent accusations of "queerbaiting" from many fans — and they may have a point.

One faction of Swift's following, dubbed the "gaylors," has been speculating her ties with the LGBTQ+ community for years, citing evidence such as seemingly queer lyrics and a series of close friendships with celebrities like supermodel Karlie Kloss and actress Diana Agron. However, the gaylors have come to a boiling point following the most recent explanation of Swift's first track "Lavender Haze," announced off of her album "Midnights," set to debut Oct. 21.

Swift explained in an Instagram video posted Oct. 7 that the track title was inspired by a "Mad Men" episode, which prompted her to research the term and its meaning, finding that it was apparently a phrase used in the '50s to describe being in love and having that "all-encompassing love glow."

"If the world finds out that you're in love with somebody, they're gonna weigh in on it," Swift said. "Like my relationship for six years; we've had to dodge weird rumors, tabloid stuff, and we just ignore it."

Many queer fans, subsequently, were dismayed after hearing what they know to be a historically queer symbol attributed and connected to Taylor's straight-presenting relationship. Lavender and its ties to queer history notably includes the Lavender Scare in the '50s, as well as the 1969 term "Lavender Menace," coined by Betty Friedan, a National Organization for Women co-founder who believed that lesbian representation would hurt the goal of the feminist movement at the time. Even colleges and universities across the country (including Rider) host Lavender Graduations for their queer students.

I find it hard to believe that Swift, who has an eye for symbolism and often recalls well-known phrases and literary allusions in her work, would have zero knowledge of lavender being a queer symbol, especially after having her identity consistently speculated in the public sphere, but maybe ignorance is just the most convenient explanation. This most recent chronicle in the gaylor series brings to light a bigger conversation about the ways celebrities interact with queerness and the ways audiences interact with celebrities.

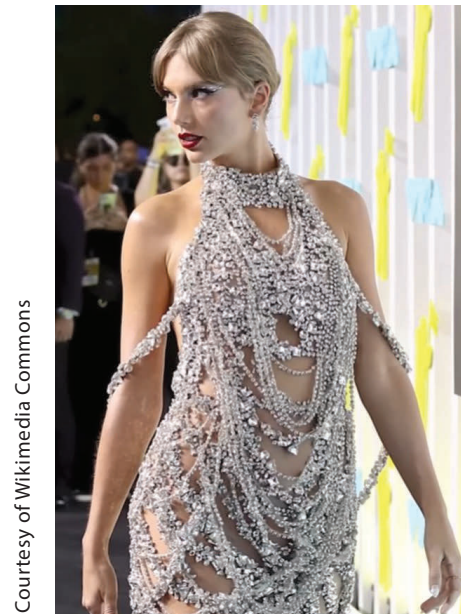
As a queer woman, I would hope it goes without saying that if Swift were intentionally using queer themes and queer symbols inauthentically on the sole basis of exploiting queer listeners, there is no doubt that that would be deserving of backlash. But who are we to speculate her identity, and why should people feel entitled to an answer?

There is a fine line, especially in the ways social media is utilized to consistently analyze and pick apart celebrity identities, between having a curiosity or desiring to see representation from a favorite artist and conjuring up a delusion of sorts about the identity of a person that you do not know.

We have developed a culture of parasocial relationships with celebrities and also assigned so much meaning to them and their work that when they do not live up to the pedestals we've placed them on, there is no other emotion to feel than anger and dismay.

This "Lavender Haze" fiasco seems, albeit, like a flop brought on by general ignorance and apathy of queer history, but I think it can still be argued that it makes sense that queer listeners would pick up so quickly on any subtext of queerness. Audiences do, after all, make meaning of the work presented to them, colored by their own personal experiences, regardless of the artist's original intent.

Purposeful misrepresentations of queerness are wrong on all fronts, which is why the best way to find explicitly queer representation through music is to listen to and support openly queer artists.



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Kaitlyn McCormick  
junior journalism major

## GREEN CORNER

## The Fight for America's National Lands

**I**n about a 45-minute drive, any student on Rider University's campus can be in the Pinelands National Reserve, a United States Biosphere Reserve established in 1978.

The New Jersey Pinelands, located in South Jersey, is an over 1 million-acre PineBarren forest housing many indicator species, endangered flora and fauna, as well as over 700,000 permanent residents. The forest itself is a Pine Barren, however, it was named the Pinelands as a political term.

It is a biological marvel, under constant study and surveillance by biologists, environmentalists and ecologists. The Pinelands National Reserve was the first in the nation passed through the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978.

On a local level, the fight for the Pinelands has been going on since the 1870s, as Joseph Wharton of Philadelphia acquired 150 acres of the Pine Barrens. His plan for his newly-acquired land was to pump the Pine's unique water from the forest into Philadelphia. This idea received immense backlash from the public, eventually being countered by the New Jersey government banning the exportation of water. His estate and land is now known as Wharton State Forest, giving new life to the Pinelands. Another major impact on the Pine Barrens was the writing of "The Pine Barrens," a book by John McPhee. This book was rich with the region's history, natural wonders and its people and cultures. McPhee accomplished many things with his book, but what he did not expect was the growth of love and support for this diverse region.

Evan Newborg, a sophomore gaming design major and Pinelands native, said, "I don't even need to step outside to see a group of deer walking by, and when you do step outside in the summer months, all you can hear is the sound of bugs chirping. There is something really nice about being so close to nature all the time, even when in the comfort of your own home."

The Pinelands Commission, established in 1979, was signed into law by Governor Brendan T. Byrne, protecting the region from development and distraction of the ecological wonder. Newborg added, "I think the Pine Barrens are important to protect because it is one of the last untouched pieces of nature in New Jersey, and there isn't anything else like it. In a state between [New York City], Philadelphia and Washington D.C., I feel that it is important to make sure that there is still some nature left for people to explore and that the species that live in the Pine Barrens are still able to call it home."

The Lenni Lenape, a richly developed Native American tribe who inhabited the modern-day Pinelands were banished from the region in 1758. The English Government ordered all Native Americans living along the Raritan River to leave their homes and move to a reservation in Burlington County, then were once again ordered to leave in 1801. This destroyed the tribe, some leaving to move west, while others remained in the northeast.

Many Lenape now live in Oklahoma; however, over 2000 Lenape remain in the Pinelands, calling themselves the Delaware Nation. Their lands were brutally ripped apart by Europeans and the crude United States government. This is, unfortunately, a trend still seen across the nation.

If you are interested in learning more about these issues in the modern-day United States, and missed the Green Film series presentation of: 'Public Trust,' a film by Patagonia, you can still view the feature by going to the website: Patagonia.com.

Madison Beucler  
Rider University Eco-Rep



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

## FIELD HOCKEY

## Rider propels winning streak to five games



Carolo Pascale/The Rider News

Rider has outscored opponents 20-3 over its five game win streak.

By Logan VanDine

**F**OLLOWING a slow start to the season, along with playing most of their games on the road, Rider field hockey has seemingly found its stride, winning both weekend games against Stone Hill and Bryant and seeing their streak of victories extend to five.

### 'A total team win'

Despite Stone Hill coming into the game with a record of 2-7, the Broncos still wanted to come out strong. Thanks to a 4-0 lead in the opening quarter, the Broncos cruised past the Skyhawks taking the first of two weekend matches by a final score of 8-0 on Oct. 14.

The scoring started fast for the Broncos in the opening minute of the game, as freshman forward Semra Said notched the first goal to give Rider an

early 1-0 advantage.

The scoring did not stop there, this time being senior midfielder Sierra Giuliano who initially ripped a shot on a corner that missed before scoring on the rebound to make it 2-0. The Broncos added two more in the first, making the score 4-0.

After being held to just a single goal in the second quarter by freshman forward Valeria Perales, the Broncos sealed the win for good in the third quarter with junior midfielder Kiera Guckavan putting the icing on the cake by scoring the eighth and final goal of the game giving the Broncos their fourth straight victory.

"Today's game was a total team win where several players had a hand in putting the ball into the cage. Our attack played with confidence and took advantage of their opportunities and our defense played tough," Head Coach Lori Hussong said. "We are improving and our younger players are gaining more confidence and experience as the season goes on."

Perales said that this was a major step forward from her previous matchup against Sacred Heart, both as a team and as an individual.

"I think that this game was a great improvement from the last one. We made a great game by passing and transferring the ball. That made the opponent open spaces and gave us the opportunity to create offensive plays and score the goals," Perales said. "For me, my play was a little down. I wasn't really feeling my best, but thanks to my teammates I was able to score two goals. Over the whole game I got the chance to get more focused and give my teammates good chances to score or to create a positive chance for us."

### Five straight for the Broncos

After her team extended its winning streak to five-games with a 4-1 win over Bryant, Hussong said she

"could not be more proud" of her team.

After the Broncos fell behind 1-0 early in the first, they held the Bulldogs in check from there, scoring two goals in the second and one each in the third and fourth to get themselves to 5-1 on the season.

"Today's game was extremely physical in nature, and our team kept their composure and after a slow start stepped up to the challenge. Bryant played tough, and despite the score, gave us everything we could handle," Hussong said.

Said, who was responsible for two of the Broncos' four goals, expressed her happiness in her performance along with her team's play as well.

"Today's win was a well-deserved win because this was one of the most physical and mental games we played. We played with fire and with heart, which is really important especially when they scored the first goal," Said explained. "We didn't let them bring us down, we kept fighting, and turned the game around in a spectacular way. The first quarter was tough because we weren't awake, but after the first 15 minutes we brought our energy up and fought because we were the leaders of the game."

With the Broncos now at 9-5 and on a five-game winning streak, Hussong knows that her team is playing hard and tough and the results have proven it.

"Overall, we are so happy for our team as they are working so hard to qualify for the playoffs. Their team camaraderie and team-first mentality is really a key to our success and every single player is accepting their role and giving all they have to each other. We couldn't ask for anything more," she said.




The Broncos will look to make it six in a row when they head to New York, to take on Long Island University on Oct. 21 and then return home on Oct. 23 to face Wagner.

## MAAC BASKETBALL

## Men's basketball places third, women's tied for sixth

**THE Rider News**  
\*The Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) held its 2022-2023 Basketball Preseason Awards Show on Oct. 18\*

**RIDER BASKETBALL**  
**MEN'S & WOMEN'S RIDER PRESEASON AWARDS**

Men's Preseason Awards	Preseason Rankings	Women's Preseason Awards
 <b>Dwight Murray Jr.</b> All-MAAC First Team   <b>Mervin James</b> All-MAAC Third Team   <b>Allen Powell</b> All-MAAC Third Team	Men's  <b>3rd</b>  Women's  <b>T-6th</b>	 <b>Makayla Firebaugh</b> All-MAAC Third Team

Carolo Pascale/The Rider News

By Jake Tiger

**O**N Oct. 18, the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) released its 2022-23 preseason basketball poll, including Preseason All-MAAC teams and early rankings for both the men and women.

Rider men's basketball came in at third in the preseason poll, only being surpassed by Iona and Manhattan, who ranked first and second respectively.

"Every year is different," Rider men's basketball Head Coach Kevin Baggett said in a recent conversation with media. "We've got some returning guys that still have that fire ... now we've got to get all the other guys who are new on our roster ... going and understanding the sense of urgency this year."

Meanwhile, Rider women's basketball tied with

Marist for sixth in the MAAC's preseason rankings.

Considering Rider's disappointing finish last year, this did not come as a shock to women's basketball Head Coach Lynn Milligan.

"We finished ninth last year, so I can't say that I'm surprised," said Milligan in an interview with The Rider News. "If anything, maybe it puts a little chip on some of our shoulders."

Junior guard Makayla Firebaugh was the sole Bronc to make a preseason team for women's basketball, earning Preseason All-MAAC third team after being selected to the second team in last season's preseason poll.

On the men's side, three players were recognized in the preseason poll, including senior guard Dwight Murray Jr. being given Preseason All-MAAC first

team distinction for the second consecutive year.

"I'm already missing him knowing this is going to be his senior year," said Baggett. "Everything that he brings to our program: his leadership off the court ... who he is as a person on the court."

In addition, senior forward Mervin James and senior guard Allen Powell both made Preseason All-MAAC third team, their first-ever All-MAAC awards.

After over seven months, Rider basketball will make its return on Oct. 29 when the men's basketball team hosts Cabrini University for an exhibition match. The women's basketball team will follow suit on Nov. 2 when it invites The College of New Jersey to Alumni Gym.

## WOMEN'S SOCCER

# Broncs shutout in four straight games

By Carolo Pascale and Hannah Newman

**A**FTER a pair of tough 1-0 losses last week, the Broncs squared off against two top Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) opponents in Quinnipiac and Niagara on Oct. 12 and Oct. 15. This week went similarly to the previous, as the Broncs were rocked in a 5-0 loss to the Bobcats, and were shut out again against the Purple Eagles three days later, falling by a score of 1-0 for the third time in the last four games.

Rider has now been shut out in the past four matches, the longest scoreless drought in the program's 25-year history. The four-game skid the Broncs are currently on ties last year's four-game losing streak as the longest since the 2017 season, where the Broncs lost seven-straight to start the year.

## Bobcat-astrophe

Coming into the game against Quinnipiac, the Broncs had come off a heartbreaking loss to Fairfield, where Rider was outshot 26-2. The shooting disparity continued as the Bobcats also put up 26 shots in a 5-0 shutout against the Broncs.

Head Coach Drayson Hounsoume said, "The team competed hard and didn't quit for 90 minutes."

The Bobcats came out hunting for a quick goal, getting off four shots inside the first 15 minutes of the match.

In the 17th minute, the Bobcats were awarded a penalty kick after a player from each team got tangled up inside the box. Broncs junior goalkeeper Ellie Sciancalepore correctly chose which way MAAC preseason player of the year Rebecca Cooke was going to go and kept the game even.

"I wasn't worried about the PK [penalty kick], nor was I mad about the call," said Sciancalepore. "I had a bit of confidence going into it, having played against their PK shooter for a few years now and becoming familiar with how she likes to shoot. From there, I picked up that she was going bottom right and I made the save."

Quinnipiac continued the pressure and scored its first goal in the 23rd minute, then scored again in the 34th, giving themselves a 2-0 lead which the Bobcats

would take into halftime.

By the end of the first half the Bobcats had amassed 13 shots while Rider had one.

The second half of the match didn't go any better for the Broncs as they allowed three more goals in the 47th, 50th and 74th minutes that inflated the Bobcats lead to 5-0.

The Broncs were able to take six shots in the second half, but Quinnipiac put up 13 again, making it four straight halves where Rider allowed 13 shots or more.

Despite the team's rough outing, Sciancalepore made double-digit saves for the second straight game, stopping 12 of the Bobcats 17 shots on goal.

"Losing is never fun, and losing is never ideal, but we have a group of girls who are hungry for a win now," said Sciancalepore. "We have the personnel and the desire to go far this year in MAACs, and these games are only a form of motivation moving forward."

## 'This game needs to be motivation'

After a penalty kick gave Niagara a 1-0 win, the Broncs refused to leave their Senior Day game feeling defeated. With the thought of playoffs weighing on their minds, Rider proceeded to move forward leaving adversity behind them and playoffs coming in their near future.

"Nobody wants to lose, and although the past few games have been tough, we see this as an opportunity moving forward. We have goals as a team and playing in the MAAC's is one of them," said Sciancalepore.

On Oct. 15 at Ben Cohen Field, the fight to get closer to the playoffs began strong as the Broncs put their best foot forward on the field. After four saves by Sciancalepore, and hard fought play from the Broncs, the first half ended goalless for both teams.

Freshman center back Olivia Smith said, "We were dominating the first half, and had many opportunities, and we just couldn't get the ball in the net."

The only goal of the game came from a penalty shot as a result of a handball in the box, which gave Niagara the victory in the 76th minute.



Carolo Pascale/The Rider News

Junior goalkeeper **Ellie Sciancalepore** made 12 saves against Quinnipiac.

"I think this game needs to be motivation for our future games because in the position our team is in right now we need to win our next three games to get into the playoffs for the MAAC," said Smith.

Hounsoume felt this loss was not in the hands of his team and the drive to reach the playoffs remained strong after a fourth consecutive loss.

"A 'questionable' handball call was decided by the official and the opposition were awarded an unexpected penalty kick," said Hounsoume. "We played well Saturday and deserved to get something from the game but in soccer you don't control the outcome."

Despite coming out of this game defeated, the Broncs did not let this result lessen the value of their Senior Day.

"The next three games determine whether we achieve that goal or not, and with a group of girls who are hungry for a win, we are excited looking at the three games ahead," said Sciancalepore.

The Broncs will continue the battle to playoffs on Oct. 19 at Mount St. Mary's, taking on the Mountaineers at 7 p.m.

## MEN'S SOCCER

# Rider stays streaky with tough loss and tie



Carolo Pascale/The Rider News

Senior midfielder **Matt Araujo** scored his first goal of the season in the 2-2 tie against Niagara on Oct. 15.

By Benjamin Shinault

**F**RESH off a week with one win and one draw, Rider men's soccer took a step back against Quinnipiac, getting shut out 3-0 on Oct. 12, and drawing 2-2 against Niagara on Oct. 15, as the Broncs' search for consistency continues.

## 'We had a defensive breakdown'

The Broncs held their own through the first half of Wednesday's game against Quinnipiac, only allowing three shots; However, a momentary lapse on the defensive end nullified their entire body of work.

One of Quinnipiac's three first half shots was a goal scored by Sam McCann in the 38th minute, which put Rider down early. McCann posed a problem for Rider's backline throughout the match,

giving them pre-Halloween nightmares.

"When you go down a goal, the most important thing is you want to make sure you don't get stretched out to concede another goal," said Head Coach Charlie Inverso.

Later on, Rider was exposed, allowing the Bobcats to attack for much of the second period. Rider wasn't able to put a shot on target for the game's final 65 minutes.

Rider has struggled with putting the ball in the back of the net all year. The Broncs came into the game, recently coming off a cold-streak of 19 straight days without a goal.

"We've been struggling all year with scoring," said Inverso. "We had the ball down their end enough times in the first half."

Junior midfielder Adel Al Masude took the bulk of those shots as he finished the game with five in all, four being on goal.

Throughout the game, most Rider shots sailed high over the net and a couple banged off the crossbar.

McCann scored his second goal of the game in the 55th minute off a well-executed header, resulting in another goal for the Bobcats.

In the latter stages of the second half, Quinnipiac's Alexander Stjernaegaard floated around the 18-yard box when the ball came his way, firing away with his right foot to put the nail in Rider's coffin.

At the conclusion of the game, the main conflict affecting this year's men's soccer team remains true: scoring.

## 'We believe in this team'

Coming off of Wednesday's tough defeat, the Broncs were able to bounce back by ending in a 2-2

draw with Niagara on Saturday.

"We believe in this team. There is still a lot of soccer left," said Inverso.

The Purple Eagles struck first in the contest, with Nuukele Gboe punching in a goal in the eighth minute of play, putting Niagara up 1-0.

Soon after that, junior forward Babacar Diene scored a goal in the 11th minute, putting the ball just inside of the right post.

The match remained scoreless throughout the rest of the first period, but in the 71st minute of the second half, Niagara took the lead on a header coming from Gabriel Mikina.

Once again, Rider matched the score as senior midfielder Matt Araujo found the equalizer from 10 yards out.

"The team's energy after the second goal was much more positive," noted Araujo.

Despite the Broncs not having their most prolific scoring season and being low in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) standings, they are still very much in it.

"We came back twice under crazy conditions," said Inverso.

In past games, Rider struggled greatly with matching the play of the other team, but this wasn't the case on Saturday.

"We are treating every game as if it is a final game in order to make the playoffs," declared Araujo. "We also felt confident that we could beat the first place team in the standings."

Rider now sits in eighth place in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC). The Broncs' next game will be against Mount St. Mary's on Oct. 19.

# Sports

ONLINE

**'WE WILL NEED TO BE MORE CONSISTENT'**  
*Volleyball was swept in straight sets in back-to-back matches versus Quinnipiac and Fairfield.*

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Kaitlyn D'Alessio/The Rider News

Rider hosted Drexel for its annual Pink in the Rink night. For the second year in a row, the Broncos defeated the Dragons on the special night.

## CLUB ICE HOCKEY

# Broncs extinguish Dragons in dominant showings

By Jake Tiger

In a valiant, two-way display of its skills, Rider club ice hockey handily vanquished the Drexel Dragons, claiming a pair wins and outscoring them 14-2 across back-to-back games on Oct. 14 and 15th.

Rider's weekend saw a 5-0 shutout victory in Ice Land on its Pink in the Rink night, before hitting the road just to slay the Dragons a second time by a score of 9-2.

### Pink in the Rink

On Oct. 14, a 2-1 Rider team plodded out of the locker room and onto the ice, sporting uniforms with an unusual, yet meaningful splash of color.

Each player was garbed in a specially-made pink and black jersey for Rider hockey's annual Pink in the Rink night, which raises awareness and funds for breast cancer awareness.

In honor of the important evening, Rider hockey donated \$300 to the Mena Singer Foundation, a charity that ensures that children with cancer have the money and support to continue participating in athletics.

"Obviously, it's a little bit special," said graduate student forward TJ Evan. "With all the fans and passion coming out to support us, that's all we can ever ask for."

The night was further sweetened by a strong performance from the Broncos' as Evan captained his team to a 5-0 throttling of the visiting Drexel Dragons.

Besides Pink in the Rink night, the game was of particular importance to Head Coach Sean Levin, as he took on his older brother, Justin Levin, the Dragons' general manager.

"The emotion is very high as it relates to, like, knowledge of their coaching staff ... and my brother being part of the organization," said Sean Levin. "[It] definitely adds some bragging rights and feels good to get one."

Fortunately for Sean Levin's Broncos, they would be

the victors of the fraternal feud, dominating through all three periods.

The game's first score came just over three minutes after the puck met the ice when Evan tapped in his second score of the season to put the Broncos ahead 1-0.

The Broncos kept up the attack immediately after Evan's goal, getting four more great looks at the cage, but a set of skillful saves by the opposing goaltender denied the second score, and Rider's momentum was stymied after a brief scrum broke out in front of Drexel's goal.

However, the Broncos eventually got their 2-0 lead before the first period concluded, as junior forward Dominick Cerceo sounded the horn with 52.1 seconds remaining after capitalizing on a deflected save.

Rider continued to separate itself in the second period, beginning with a highlight play from senior defenseman Eddie Coyne. About 3 1/2 minutes into the period, Coyne struck paydirt on a power play, doing so with a long-distance drive from just inside the Dragons' blue line.

Fifty-nine seconds later, sophomore forward Mark Marron put the Broncos up 4-0 after another attack sliced through the Drexel defense and into the nylon mesh.

For Rider's fifth and final goal of the night, Cerceo stuck again, beaming a vicious one-timer into the back of the net before the Dragon's goaltender could flinch.

"We've preached ... the importance of playing structured hockey," said Sean Levin. "We took away their ability to be creative and maximize their speed, resulting in them chipping the puck away."

With a 5-0 advantage, Rider simply protected its lead for the remainder of the contest to secure the shutout. Sophomore goalie Trevor Giwerowski was completely impenetrable throughout the game, boasting a flawless 24 saves on 24 shots.

"I think, honestly, we didn't play our best hockey,"

said Sean Levin. "I think we'll have a better game [tomorrow], because I don't think we played well, whatsoever."

### House of the Dragons

Riding the momentum of a 5-0 defense of their home ice, the Broncos ventured to Philadelphia on Oct. 15 to complete a two-game grounding of the Dragons, ultimately taking them down 9-2.

"The focus leading into Saturday's game was less X's and O's but more awareness of what to expect from Drexel after a back-to-back," said Sean Levin. "We knew if we played slow and lazy in our own zone we would end up giving them scoring chances."

Rider's offensive onslaught and airtight defense gave the Dragons little room to breathe, as Drexel was unable to score until the third period, three minutes after the Broncos subbed out Giverowski for freshman goalie Shaun Mika. Giwerowski posted a perfect shutout through five combined periods of play.

"We knew they would play with more urgency after losing Friday," said Sean Levin. "Our game plan focused on our defensive zone play. Drexel does a great job getting on a team's defense on the forecheck."

As for the Broncos' downpour of goals, senior forward DJ Sucher and junior defenseman Nick Pedulla led the way, each scoring a goal in the first and third periods to bookend the nine-goal effort. Up to that point, both Sucher and Pedulla were scoreless on the season.

"This weekend was a big test to see if we as a team are committed to putting in the work to be successful," said Sean Levin. "It was a step forward but we are far from being a complete team."

Having taken strides against Drexel, the 4-1 Broncos' next challenge will be the Liberty Showcase in Lynchburg, Virginia, where they will play in three games from Oct. 21-23.

Carlo Pascale/The Rider News



## PHOTO GALLERY

CHECK OUT PICTURES  
 FROM PINK IN THE  
 RINK NIGHT!

