



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

On Nov. 7 an unknown man entered Lincoln Hall.

Student recalls Lincoln Lurker experience

By Madison Lewis and Shaun Chornobroff

TWO female Rider freshmen walked into Lincoln Hall in the late morning of Nov. 7, unsuspecting of an unknown man trailing behind them.

The unceasing commotion of the never-ending revolving door of students in the residence halls, as they rush to and from classes leaves the possibility of students instinctively holding the door open for someone they assume is their classmate.

“I didn’t think anything of it because it was a residence hall and many people live there,” said one of the freshmen that let the intruder in behind her.

When the man started to ascend towards the third floor, however, the young women had an uneasy feeling, though they were unaware of his motive, they said. They had never seen this man before, and not many people lived on their wing of Lincoln.

What followed was shocking.

‘I tried my best to stay calm’

One of the freshmen decided to check the peephole on her door, and that’s when she saw it: the man had one shoulder on the wall, and his hand was rapidly moving in front of his crotch.

“During this situation I tried my best to stay calm and told my roommate what I saw and called Public Safety to alert them,” said one of the freshmen, who did an email interview on Nov. 8 with The Rider News. The student requested anonymity to describe the incident.

Johnny Rodriguez-Brito, 26, of Ewing, New Jersey, was arrested on charges of third-degree burglary, peering — a fourth-degree offense under the umbrella of trespassing — and a charge of harassment, according to the Lawrence Township Police Department.

“I’m just glad he was caught and put in jail,” the freshman said. “No one should have to experience something like this.”

‘That was when we both started panicking.’

According to the freshman, one of the students had to act as a barricade due to their room not being able to be locked from the inside. The victim’s door had to be accessed through a pin on the inside of the door frame, but opening the door to secure the room was not a viable or safe option for the female students.

The freshman also said they observed the man looking under the door.

“I’m pretty sure he was able to see our shadows from underneath the door,” the freshman said. “That was when we both started panicking.”

Rodriguez-Brito was arrested and processed, but as a result of the Mercer County Prosecutor’s Office not filing a motion to detain him, Rodriguez-Brito was released while his trial awaits, according to Mercer County Prosecutor’s Office Spokesperson Casey DeBlasio.

The prosecutor’s office was not able to provide The Rider News with Rodriguez-Brito’s mug shot as a result of technical difficulties within the system. Neither Rider’s Public Safety or a university spokesperson had access to the photo.

“Report anything suspicious at any time right away so that it can be investigated,” said Kristine Brown, Rider’s associate vice president for university marketing and communications. “No matter where you are on campus or what you’re seeing or feeling, it’s better to contact Public Safety, have them look into it and be reassured that everything’s OK.”

The man claimed to be a delivery driver dropping off food, according to Public Safety, but the female freshmen suspected that this was a lie since the man was not in possession of any food and was exhibiting odd behaviors, such as lurking in front of the door.

“The man saw us walking to Lincoln and literally ran to catch the door before it closed. If he could do that, then anyone can



SEE LINCOLN PAGE 2

Pretrial intervention for Westminster violin instructor

By Amethyst Martinez

RIDER’S Westminster Conservatory of Music employee Dezheng Ping pleaded not guilty to one count of third-degree endangering the welfare of a child and one count of fourth-degree criminal sexual contact on Nov. 15 after a hearing in front of a judge.

The violin instructor was arrested last year after he was accused of inappropriately touching a 12-year-old child during a music lesson at Ping’s home.

Ping, who attended his arraignment at the Middlesex County Courthouse on Tuesday, waived his right to an indictment and was ordered by Judge Joseph Paone to a pretrial intervention program and psychosexual evaluation, along with a \$50 victim of crime compensation assessment and \$75 safe neighborhood assessment.

Ping was also ordered to have no contact with the victim in the case. If the pretrial intervention conditions are met, the judge said the criminal case will be dropped against Ping in 24 months.

An investigation by the Plainsboro Township Police Department and the Middlesex County Prosecutor’s Office alleged in 2016 that Ping inappropriately touched the child during violin lessons in Ping’s residence, which was in Plainsboro, New Jersey, at the time, according to a September 2021 press release from the Middlesex County Prosecutor’s Office. He was arrested on Sept. 23, 2021.

Ping was placed on leave after his 2021 arrest, but performed at a faculty public recital “Conservatory at Nassau: Violin and Piano” in September of this year.

Kristine Brown, Rider’s associate vice president for university marketing and communications, told The Rider News last month: “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.”

Another Westminster Conservatory of Music violin instructor, José Sánchez, was arrested on Oct. 7 following a child pornography investigation, according to law enforcement officials. Both Ping and Sánchez taught music lessons to young students on Rider’s Princeton campus.

Brown said on Oct. 12 that Sánchez, who was charged with second-degree file sharing of child pornography and third-degree possession of child pornography, is no longer actively employed by the university.

After Sánchez’s arrest, the conservatory was identifying his students and contacting their parents to either cancel or reschedule their lessons under a different instructor.

The Westminster Conservatory of Music is a branch of Rider University that offers children’s music lessons and classes.

INSIDE

ROLL BRONCS

Men’s basketball stomped TCNJ in its home opener, winning by a score of 87-50.



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SAFETY CONCERNS

Students do not feel safe on campus due to recent “Lincoln Lurker.”

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IMPRESSIVE EQUESTRIAN

Dahlia Devivo stuns her peers by balancing athletics and a professional modeling career.



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Students, staff react to Lincoln intruder incident

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get in without swiping an ID to unlock the door,” said one of the female freshmen who was followed into Lincoln.

When Public Safety was alerted of the incident and encountered the man, they escorted him off campus. At a later time Public Safety made the decision to contact the Lawrence Police Department for assistance, according to Public Safety Director James Waldon.

Later that night, Rodriguez-Brito was arrested on the trio of charges relating to the incident, according to Public Safety and Lawrence Police.

Remaining vigilant

Student Government Association President Andrew Bernstein encouraged his peers “to continue to report incidents of concern to Public Safety and to engage in practices that keep Rider safe, like fully

closing residence hall doors upon exiting a building.”

Rider’s Associate Dean for Residence Life Roberta Butler gave a simple message for the university community.

“We give the same information to students and staff. We ask that everyone remain vigilant,” said Butler. “Don’t hold doors for anyone you don’t know and lock your doors. If [you] see anything suspicious, call Public Safety to report it.”

Joseph Bennis, a freshman cybersecurity major and a resident of Lincoln Hall, commended Public Safety on their hasty response time and for their transparency in the following email that was sent warning students of the incident.

Bennis provided his input on how the school could prevent further incidents: “Dorm rooms [should] be unlocked with [the student’s] ID, just like how most hotel rooms are unlocked.”

In an effort to confirm her role in extinguishing

Rider’s safety issues, Butler assures the students that she is training the community assistants.

“Unfortunately, situations like the one that just happened are not unique to Rider,” Butler said. “They do happen on campuses everywhere. It is always a reminder for us as a community of the part that we each play in managing the security of our communities. All areas of campus are invested in maintaining our security and we just need to continue to be vigilant.”

For one of the freshmen involved in the incident, it’s a lesson she now knows all too well and one she learned in a way she never hoped to.

“Pay attention to your surroundings,” she said. “If you notice something happening that usually doesn’t and you start getting a bad feeling, do something, because that’s your gut telling you something is off.”

New challenge enforces cleaning up on campus

By Amethyst Martinez

RIDER’S Office of Sustainability is giving a challenging task to the student body: collect 100,000 pieces of litter.

The office is encouraging students to use Litterati, an app that performs data collection, to track how much and what kind of trash students are logging and picking up around the university.

Eco Rep Bailey Adams, a junior environmental science major, said that the office has been trying to get students to use the app for around a month now.

“[The] hope is to make [Rider] cleaner, but also help with data collection since that is something legality wise with legislature and new laws,” said Adams. “While you’re out collecting trash, you’re marking down what you pick up so that at the end of it, they can analyze the data.”

Using it is easy: just download the app Litterati, put in the code BRONCS when setting your challenge and log litter seen on campus by taking a photo, tagging the litter, posting it to the app, then discarding the trash in the correct manner.

Freshman acting major Skyler O’Kelley has been leading the scoreboard on the app, with almost 100 pieces of litter picked up around Rider’s campus.

“Even before I knew that the app was a thing, I’ve been picking up trash on campus just out of habit,”



Photo courtesy of Bailey Adams

The Eco Reps are encouraging students to take part in a challenge through an application that keeps track of recycling.

said O’Kelley. “When I heard that they were doing Litterati, and what it was, I was like, ‘Oh this is such a great way for me to log what I’m doing because the app is meant to collect data on the type of litter.’”

According to Litterati’s website, the company provides the world’s litter data, while “empowering people to create a cleaner planet by turning information into actionable insight.”

O’Kelley said, “This just felt really awesome, and it felt like a great way to encourage other people to do it, because some people are like, ‘I don’t see the point

of just picking up trash’ and I’m like, well, now you can help collect data about the trash.”

The pickup location is set on Rider’s campus and a mile radius around it.

“I feel like people haven’t really been using it because it’s hard to get the word out, so we’re trying to. We’re getting posters made so it’ll be something that kind of ramps up in the spring when people are outside, because right now, it’s getting colder,” said Adams. “I do think that our facilities management, they are really good about picking things up in general, so this would be just kind of an after thing where if you see something, pick it up.”

The challenge ends in June, and the hope is for all students to participate.

“We want to be living and learning in an environment that is clean and healthy, and looks amazing, which is just great for our mental health in general, but also, it’s a lot easier for trash outside to get into waterways and back to the ocean,” said O’Kelley. “I think it’s really important that we do that so that we have a clean campus that we’re proud of, but also so that we’re helping the Earth and preventing trash and things getting into the waterways and then polluting the earth any further.”

Student recruiting returns to normal after pandemic

By Kaitlyn McCormick

CONTINUING its focus on increasing enrollment and “spreading the Rider word,” the university’s admissions program has jumped right into what seems to be the most normal year to date, following the culture shocks of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Taking advantage of the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) weekend that allowed many prospective students and parents a day off to come tour campus, Rider hosted two open houses on Nov. 11 and 13. According to Executive Director of Undergraduate, Transfer, International and Westminster Choir College Admission, Susan Makowski, the two days brought 780 students and their families to Rider’s campus.

While she admitted that it “may sound crazy,” following the social distancing of the pandemic, Makowski said that nothing gives her more joy than seeing a crowded Student Recreation Center (SRC) or Alumni Gym of students and their families.

“Our community is what makes Rider, and that’s what they see and feel, and that’s why they come here,” she said.

Makowski went into detail about a return to recruiting methods that hadn’t been in full effect since before the pandemic.

“We are getting back to a normalcy that we recall from 2019, because 2019 was really the last fall that we recruited fully without COVID impacting us,” she said.

In addition to changes in recruitment strategy, the university, like many, have consistently turned to the pandemic as an explanation for drops in enrollment. Recent numbers, however, have shown comparative improvements.

Resulting from recruiting practices employed in 2020, there were 8,791 applications for Fall 2021, 7,204 admits and 638 enrollments, according to statistics provided by Vice President of Enrollment Management Drew Aromando. The following year, however, saw increases across the board to 9,340 applications for Fall 2022, 7,858 admits and 779 enrollments.

According to Associate Vice President for University Marketing and Communication Kristine Brown, this increase was partly due to the investment the university made to purchase names from institutions such as College Board to advertise to students, purchasing 169,896 for the Fall 2021 enrollment period compared to 241,716 for Fall 2022, based on the numbers provided by Aromando.

Brown also shared statistics on Nov. 15 showing that applications were up 15% over last year to date, and slightly over pre-pandemic rate. Open house visits have also increased by 100% this year compared to last, date-to-date, with almost 1,000 more visitors.

The university’s website has also seen a 103% increase in visits this academic year in comparison to the previous. According to Brown, the most visited enrollment pages include the Open House, Lifting Barriers and Academic Program Finder sections.

Brown also noted that there have been longer average browsing times reported.

This season, Makowski’s team was able to reach about 90% of the schools they recruit at in person, very few of which kept recruiting limited to Zoom and online interactions. Rider’s reach is expansive, covering all of New Jersey and five Pennsylvanian counties that run along the Delaware River, as well as parts of Delaware, Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York to name a few East Coast states. The office also has recruiters in California, primarily the southern region and Texas, as well as more states across the country and separate pockets that athletic coaches recruit in.

In high schools closer to Rider and uniquely partnered, however, some students are able to receive an instant admissions decision.

“While we are meeting with the students, they’ve already applied, we review their application and we’re able to make the decision for them right there in their high school setting at that moment,” Makowski said.

Makowski emphasized the importance of the university’s full embracement of admissions events, something she says other schools don’t always provide.

“Knowing that we have a campus that supports us is awesome,” she said. “We had, since day one, people on this campus supporting, [saying], ‘Yeah, get visitors here. We’ll figure out how and we’ll make it work.’”

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Olivia Nicoletti/The Rider News

Sophomore math and secondary education major and pantry manager **Alex Laurella (left)** and Service and Civic Engagement Graduate Assistant **Giulia Santisi (right)** stocking the shelves of the food pantry.

Rider pantry continues to serve students in need

By Olivia Nicoletti

BEGINNING in 2018, The Rider Food Pantry has had the opportunity to expand from just perishable goods to cleaning supplies, school supplies, frozen items and personal products.

Since the 2022 spring semester, staff and volunteers at the pantry have noticed an increase in student usage following the economic inflation around February of last year.

There have been 140 students using the pantry so far this semester, equating to 340 visits. In the 2020-2021 academic school year, 93 students used the pantry and there was 1,080 visitations.

Students are required to swipe into the food pantry following their first visit when they also fill out a first-time user form. According to Service and Civic Engagement Graduate Assistant Giulia Santisi, it is because the pantry runs solely off of donations and grants, so they use this system to report when applying for further grants.

So far this semester, they have had a “consistent amount of donations,” according to Santisi, and the donations usually increase during the holiday season.

The pantry is not able to accept cash or check donations, but there is the opportunity available to anyone wishing to contribute to donate online. Whether anonymous or not, whatever amount they put forward gets added into a fund where Santisi can then go and purchase items that the pantry is in need of.

In prior years, the pantry tried to have 12 of each item, but due to recent inflation and increase of student usage, some items have a higher stock rate.

Every week, Santisi goes to select stores to retrieve items in order to keep the pantry stocked.

The pantry operates on a point system, where different items are separated into sections and the students get a specific amount of points to use in each. Students are greeted by a volunteer that guides them throughout their experience in the pantry.

“The volunteers monitor the process, but it’s

also to build rapport with the student and break the stigma around pantries,” Santisi said. “I noticed when they go in they’re tense and when they’re leaving, because of those interactions, it breaks [the stigma], it makes it a human experience. [It becomes] just someone asking for help and receiving it with a kind soul.”

The pantry is located in the Joseph P. Vona Center, which Santisi described as “the hub” due to the overall student support in the center.

Bins for donations are located all around campus for students, faculty and staff to contribute, and volunteers collect the items approximately once a week. Additionally, a commuter shelf was recently made in the pantry for students who do not have the resources to supply themselves with food throughout their day on campus.

This resource goes hand-in-hand with other programs the university offers, such as Broncs Against Hunger, a program that allows students who have meal plans to donate their guest meal swipes to those in need. Last fall, the program ran into an issue of students donating too late in the semester, and because the swipes do not roll over to the following semester, a lot of the donations went to waste.

There are posters around campus for interested students to scan the QR code and donate their surplus guest swipes to Broncs in need.

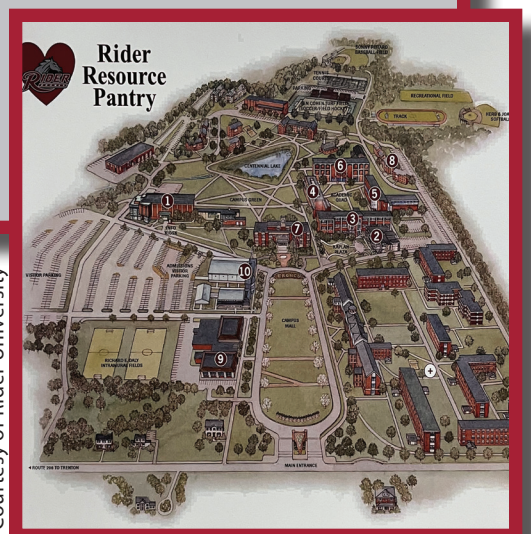
Students who request meal swipes have a meeting with the faculty in order to ensure that they are covered in other areas and know other options for support they have on campus.

Volunteers and staff contribute their time to the pantry each week in an effort to make a change on campus and give back to the community.

Alex Laurella, a sophomore math and secondary education major and pantry manager, is responsible for a lot of the “behind the scenes” work. His job consists of doing inventory and making fliers to hang around campus.

“I love the pantry and helping volunteers when they come in. I love that it makes me see that I can make a difference, especially in our community,” Laurella said. “It’s really fulfilling honestly to just know that you’re making a difference.”

The donation bins are located in the Bart Luedeke Center on the ground floor in front of the Info Desk and on the first floor in the Student Affairs Suite, Lynch Adler Hall on the first floor near the elevator, Bierenbaum Fisher Hall on the first floor next to the printing station, Anne Brossman Sweigart Hall on the first floor near the Data and Analysis Lab, Science and Technology Center on the first floor next to the printing station, Fine Arts Building on the first floor next to the printing station, Franklin F. Moore Library on the ground floor outside of Human Resources, Centennial House in the main lobby, Joseph P. Vona Center outside of room 23 (outside of the pantry) and the Student Recreation Center on the first floor next to the printing station.



Courtesy of Rider University



Olivia Nicoletti/The Rider News

BRONCS AGAINST HUNGER

THE RIDER PANTRY



Burgeoning model balances college, career and club sport

By Hannah Newman

FROM the stables to horse shows, to a camera screen for fashion week, senior criminal justice major Dahlia Devivo has become the epitome of versatility after beginning her career as a model at 19 and keeping it alive throughout her college career.

Devivo started horseback riding at the age of 12 and made visits to the stables weekly until she got to high school where she took on track and basketball, pausing her time horseback riding due to the immense expenses it came with.

After high school, Devivo knew she wanted to continue horseback riding. After exploring her options to do so at Rider, she felt that the club sports teams were highly recognized and taken rather seriously for not being at the Division I level. The comfortable environment and opportunity to compete was the key to Devivo committing to Rider.

“When I was looking for colleges, I saw that Rider had an equestrian team, and that’s honestly what drew me to Rider. I really liked the accepting community and team aspect I found here,” said Devivo.

In addition to joining the equestrian team, Devivo has taken on two leadership roles: social media chairman and treasurer.

“As a competing member, she has training requirements each week she has to meet in order to compete in the upcoming events,” said equestrian team adviser Lisa Tindall. “Dahlia does a great job in both her roles on the executive board and has demonstrated her commitment to the team. I think Dahlia sets an excellent example and has done well with her time-management skills.”

Not only has Devivo found her home at Rider, but she was also able to continue her modeling career and even elevate it during her college years.

Since 2019, she has been working as a freelance model, networking her own opportunities and finding her way through the fashion industry. She participated in Philly Fashion Week in 2020; however, due to COVID-19, it was put online. Although many models backed out of this event after adjustments that better suited COVID-19 were made, this experience was a breakthrough for Devivo, receiving the recognition she needed to begin her career on her own.

“It’s a very dangerous industry. It’s very easy to be scammed. You really have to learn the warning signs of what is legitimate and what isn’t. I would bring my

dad to everything I had to attend when I first started modeling,” said Devivo.

Devivo then began to model brands of clothes such as Lola Jay Designs and take on any opportunities that she was offered to model. She allowed the learning process of independence to guide her in building a substantial portfolio while learning the ins and outs of cast calls, professional photography and fashion.

“Once I started modeling, I realized that I really loved being involved with the people that are really interested in fashion and the production and creativity behind it,” said Devivo.

Despite the growing career in fashion and escalating love for equestrian, Devivo is currently studying criminal justice, which is something that also piqued her interest at a young age. With a history of curiosity for law and order, she decided to pursue this interest, giving herself the stability of something to fall back on as she continues to pursue her passion for fashion and modeling.

“Back in high school I really didn’t know who I was. I was into very different things. I loved fashion, but at the time I really didn’t know that was something you could attend school for. Although I really liked fashion, I have always been interested in law and order ever since I was little. Having criminal justice and an equestrian team at Rider allowed me to follow my interests as I continue to model,” said Devivo.

Devivo has allowed her journey to contribute to building herself as a person. She continues to travel down the fashion road, motivated to learn new things while rejecting the negativity that comes with working in this industry.

“I definitely am looking toward fashion for the future and want to remain involved in it,” said Devivo. “I’ve used modeling as a gateway into the fashion industry, and I have been able to see all aspects of fashion such as the design and production process, the photographers as well as the other models, which has been a great experience so far. Modeling has taught me about myself as well as persistence. I think I’ve learned, if you really want to do something, it’s you that has to do [it]. It has brought me to a new level of independence.”



Photo courtesy of Dahlia Devivo

Senior criminal justice major **Dahlia Devivo** strikes a pose for the camera.



Photo courtesy of Dahlia Devivo

Devivo poses in front of green vines in a monochromatic outfit.



Olivia Nicoletti/The Rider News

Devivo sits on her horse and brushes its mane.



Photo courtesy of Dahlia Devivo

Devivo puts her sunglasses on her head for a photo.

First year admissions counselor puts her people skills to work



Photo courtesy of Zachary Klein

Olivia Orlando, admissions counselor, poses outside Office of Admissions.

By **Zachary Klein**

Applications rushed into the Rider University Office of Admissions, and first-year admissions counselor Olivia Orlando got her first taste of the hectic pace expected at this time of year. Her desk cluttered with papers and computer flooded with emails as Orlando felt the stress of her first application cycle.

Orlando, a 2021 arts and entertainment industries management graduate of Rider, was brought on the team full time as an admissions counselor in March 2022 after serving as a tour guide while she was an undergraduate and a graduate assistant upon receiving a degree. The promotion was part of the natural progression for someone who dedicated so much time to the department.

"I had a really good reaction [to getting the job] just because I already knew the staff and felt really comfortable with them," Orlando said.

Orlando, whose current territory included Atlantic, Cape May and Ocean counties in New Jersey as well as Delaware, also covered all applicants who planned to go through an audition process. This included those applying for musical theater or acting programs. She is responsible for applications from states Rider does not usually receive applications from but might for an audition program.

"Most likely our musical theater and acting applicants are coming from out of state, so we might have a random person from Nebraska apply to Rider... I'm the point person for them," Orlando said.

A native of Cranford, New Jersey, Orlando came to Rider looking to gain a memorable college experience

while also establishing connections that would propel her to where she wanted to go in a career. When she became a graduate assistant, she immediately started to take initiative in several of the areas she worked on with the campus visit team, explained Senior Assistant Director for Undergraduate Admissions Hannah Ford.

"I would describe Olivia as someone who is constantly thinking of new ideas and wanting to push herself," Ford said.

Ford directly supervised Orlando in all areas as a tour guide, graduate assistant and now as an admissions counselor. The visit team handled elements of prospective students coming to campus. There were many aspects to planning these types of events, but Orlando was responsible for group tours, "Bronc for a Day" and "Explore the Arts Day," which are events for potential incoming student to explore campus and the specific programs offered.

"Explore the Arts Day is the day where students can just come and explore the arts at Rider," she remarked. "They could sit in on a class with the faculty and even do a master class with the faculty or some sort of presentation will be held."

Besides planning and hosting events on-campus with the visit team, Orlando and all the admissions counselors also traveled off-campus to high schools and college fairs in the areas they cover. Orlando recently visited Delaware where she met students at up to four high schools per day and at larger college fairs at night. She also conducted Zoom interviews for those who were unable to come to her events or those who live in a state where Rider will not travel. These one-on-one meetings with students picked up recently as the Common Application opened on Aug. 1.

Orlando loved connecting with her prospective students and talking to people about Rider in general. As someone who graduated in three years but decided to stay and obtain a master's degree, she loved the school and campus and wanted to share her passion with those looking to attend Rider.

"I really do like to establish connections with students earlier on, even set up Zoom appointments with them if they're from out of state and want to talk about it further," Orlando said.

Even though she's only been an admissions counselor for seven months, Orlando has been convincing students to attend Rider long before she started working in this field. Senior arts and entertainment industries management major and current lead tour guide for the

admissions office Maddie Caccavale has known Orlando since they performed in a summer theater production in their hometown of Cranford in 2016. She said Orlando had a large impact when she was looking at colleges not only school-wise but also which major she would pursue.

"I was scrolling through Instagram one day and saw Olivia just committed to Rider for that major," Caccavale said. "So, I texted her and asked her a bunch of questions and ultimately ended up committing to Rider."

Ford and Caccavale both consistently highlighted Orlando's character and skills being the secret to why she has done so well and so much in such a short period of time. An admissions counselor would not be described as an easy job as there was significant human interaction with a difficult group of people – teenagers and their parents.

But Orlando planned events as an arts and entertainment industries major at Rider and the skills she learned in the classroom were effectively translating into ones she had planned for admissions. Ford wanted to make sure that she was doing whatever she could to help Orlando achieve her goals.

However, it was not just the professional relationships that define Orlando's character. Her outgoing personality allowed her to have great personal relationships with the people she works with. Orlando was a member of the admissions office book club and attended a conference with Ford and other counselors over the summer in Orlando, Florida. She also maintained relationships with many of the tour guides, including Caccavale, who continued to use Orlando as a great resource.

"She's such a go-getter, and she's so friendly, like she will never make you feel dumb," Caccavale said. "She is the most kind and compassionate person and so easily approachable."

For Orlando, her favorite part of the job was knowing that some of the students she had met on the road and at admissions events would come to Rider and make it the same place she loved for all these years. She found this part incredibly rewarding and hoped to see students she interviewed on campus.

"The most rewarding part for me is simply knowing I was able to impact the students so much to the point where they're coming to the university," Orlando said.

And that was her number one goal.

SGA gives students advice on navigating college

By **Jay Roberson**

NAVIGATING college can be stressful to manage by yourself. Many Rider students have to manage finances, school work, internships, jobs and more. Thankfully, the Student Government Association (SGA) intends to make this navigation easier for students by starting something called One-Pager Wednesdays.

SGA is putting out these weekly posts that give students information and advice on frequently asked questions that pertain to being a college student at Rider. The idea was put into action by senior digital marketing major and Vice President for Communications Kayla Wagner and her communications team to further support Rider students.

"The overall goal with One-Pager Wednesdays was to get information out to students about topics that are frequently asked about that is creative and engaging," Wagner said.

All One-pager Wednesday posts can be found on SGA's social media. They did this in order to make helpful advice more easily accessible for students.

Andrew Bernstein SGA president and senior political science major stated, "I think one of the really good things about it, besides being simple and easy to access because it's under social media, is that it is stuff that students run into everyday." Since it is so easy to access and view, SGA hopes that students will find these sources useful in navigating life at Rider.

The first One-Pager Wednesday included details on how to submit a work order. Senior public relations

major Madison Boyd and communications aide spoke about the importance of One-Pager Wednesdays. "We want to provide individuals with a plethora of information. Whether it is about using ADP or submitting work orders, we want to help as many as possible," Boyd explained. SGA intends to post every Wednesday in order to provide helpful information to the student body.

"There was a lot of disconnect with a lot of incoming students of what things we have out there and utilizing it to make things better for everyone," said sophomore psychology major and communications aide Cece Cream. The goal of One-Pager Wednesdays was to fill in the gaps that are missing for students. Many are too afraid to reach out for help or don't know where to find it, and these posts give students the opportunity to learn about their resources.

One-Pager Wednesday's aren't only helpful for first-year students, they can also be useful to upperclassmen who have been at Rider for a long time. "The different topics that we do them on are frequently asked questions whether you're a first-year student or a senior," said Wagner. "There's a lot of information to find out about Rider in different spots, so it's helpful to have it in one place." Even though students may be close to graduating, there is always more to learn in order to enhance your college experience. One-Pager Wednesdays is an opportunity to learn more about Rider and a way to find answers to frequently asked questions.

In the future, SGA hopes to continue to expand the information they cover and already have a lot prepared

for the upcoming months. "I think there's even potential to expand it to even things, like, here's steps to get your tickets for athletics games. You know, how to navigate the Broncs tickets website," Bernstein said. "Also just trying to get in touch with every office. How to study abroad, how to connect with the financial aid office and everything like that."



Photo courtesy of Kayla Wagner

Kayla Wagner, Vice President for Communications for SGA, wants her team to further support Rider students.



Photo courtesy of Lindsey Mulrooney

Lindsey Mulrooney, a senior management and leadership major, identifies as a bisexual woman and is a proud ally.



Tristan E. M. Leach/The Rider News

Lindsey Mulrooney, works on a discussion post for one of her business classes.

Senior's Op-Ed sparks discussion about inclusion for LGBTQIA+ students

By **Tristan E. M. Leach**

FOR Lindsey Mulrooney, self expression and being one's authentic self is one of the most important things a person can do. Mulrooney, a senior management and leadership major, who identifies as bisexual, also advocates for doing what a person is passionate about. Like many other college students, Mulrooney chose her major to match her interests and talents.

"I chose to be a business major because I was an English and math kid, and business seemed like a place where I could use both of those," Mulrooney said. "It just made sense to me career-wise to level the experiences that I'd had."

Mulrooney entered a world where sexuality is seemingly an unimportant topic or taboo and has a long-running joke that there are no other queer business majors. While this is not the case, she admits that she does not know many others who fit this description.

This was what prompted her to write an opinion editorial for The Rider News. In her piece, Mulrooney detailed what it is like to be gay in a "straight major." Mulrooney wrote that in general, she felt comfortable being out on Rider's campus and attended LGBTQ+ events. "When I got to college it was the first environment where I was fully out. It became an important part of me in college, being a part of that community and also to advocate for it [the community] was really cool to me," Mulrooney said.

However, when it came to her major and those required classes, she was less open and made an effort to avoid the topic of sexuality. For many, there is the view that sexuality and representation are not a factor in the world of business.

Lianne Litchfield, a sophomore film and television major, has two minors in the business college, a minor in marketing and a minor in social media strategies. Litchfield expressed that while her major allows room for expression of sexuality and gender, her minors have never really given the time or thought to the LGBTQ+ community.

"I don't think that they're [the business college] intentionally non-inclusive, it's just really something that isn't spoken about in the business world," said Litchfield. "I think it could be spoken about a little more, it could be brought up a little more."

It was Mulrooney's editorial that caught the attention of students, staff, faculty and even Gene Kutcher, the dean of the business college. Mulrooney was shocked but very happy to see the response and dialogue her article had generated. Kutcher asked to meet with Mulrooney to discuss how to better the

business college when it came to inclusivity and making queer students comfortable.

"Dean Kutcher scheduled a meeting with me pretty much right away and then wanted to listen. That meeting he really listened, he asked me questions, he wanted to know more about what I wrote about, what I was feeling and what I had experienced and then potential solutions," said Mulrooney. "Then we had this very long and lovely conversation about all that, and then I gave suggestions I felt students would find helpful."

In 2020, Rider University received a four out of five star rating on the Campus Pride Index. This rating shows how inclusive a university is for LGBTQ+ students. Rider prides itself on being a safe space for members of this community, but for some students, it is still a question not of safety, but of being comfortable.

Mulrooney went on to speak about the power of professors and faculty taking the SafeZone training, having the SafeZone sticker on their office door and adding their names to the ally list. She pointed out that when a queer person sees a professor with this sticker they are more likely to feel safe, heard and seen.

Rider has many safe spaces for LGBTQ+ students such as the Center of Diversity and Inclusion (CDI) or Spectrum Pride Alliance, known simply as Spectrum. Mulrooney is treasurer for Spectrum and is proud to create a space for fellow students to be "their gayest selves." She has been a member of Spectrum since her freshman year and was thrilled to find herself in a position to continue the safe space that Spectrum has created for so many.

Kayla Ailey, a junior psychology major, is a friend of Mulrooney's and vice president of Spectrum.

Ailey said, "Lindsey is a really good representation of the LGBTQ+ community because she is a business major who wants to pursue a career in business. You don't usually get to see a lot of people who are gay and in business."

Mulrooney hopes that the business college and Rider in general will continue to work toward being more inclusive for all students and people.

"I think some things that would be nice to see is professors in general that are actively identifying or taking the SafeZone trainings," said Mulrooney.

When May comes, Mulrooney will graduate and start her life in the business world officially. Her goal is to be more open about her sexuality and be an ally to others while working in a world that doesn't often offer opportunities for self expression.

"I think that ... whether I am at school or moving into a career, making it known that I am an ally and an advocate", said Mulrooney. "I am a member of

the community, but also an ally within the community for the groups that I don't identify. It means a lot, the fact that I've had students tell me 'Your comfort and openness has made me more comfortable with my identity.'"



Tristan E. M. Leach/The Rider News

Lindsey Mulrooney, poses for a headshot with The Rider News.



Photo courtesy of Jackie Nirvana

Lindsey Mulrooney with friend and Vice President of Spectrum, **Kayla Ailey**.

Students are concerned about their safety on campus

THE recent reports of suspicious people coming to Rider and the concern of anyone being able to enter any academic building had created worry about the safety of students, faculty and staff.

There are many concerns among students, one of which is the lack of light when walking around at night. Some campus locations are dark and need street lights so students who may be walking back from a night class or from hanging out with friends can be aware of their surroundings. Although there are blue lights around for students to use in case of an emergency, they aren't bright enough and are quite dirty.

A few places that need streetlights are the dormitories in the back of campus such as Conover, the bridge that goes over the lake and the pathway to Cranberry's after crossing the bridge. Especially for people who take shortcuts and aren't always walking on the pathways, there needs to be more light to see the surrounding areas and who else could be around them.

For dorms, students need an ID to get in, but students hold open doors for others without a second thought, especially if the person looks often like a college-aged student. Door propping is also an issue that the university is encouraging students to stop. Although everyone loves convenience, leaving a door open can lead to intruders or someone being followed into a building.

On Nov. 7, students were notified from Public Safety through email that someone followed two students into Lincoln Hall and was found on the third floor, but the "Lincoln Lurker" is merely one of the incidents that happened on campus. Students believe that issues like propping doors should be taken more seriously because, although it might not seem like a big deal, it allows anyone to come in and can put others in danger.

Students also feel that there isn't a sense of urgency when it comes to safety. There have been alarm systems disarmed and doors broken that have yet to be fixed by the university.

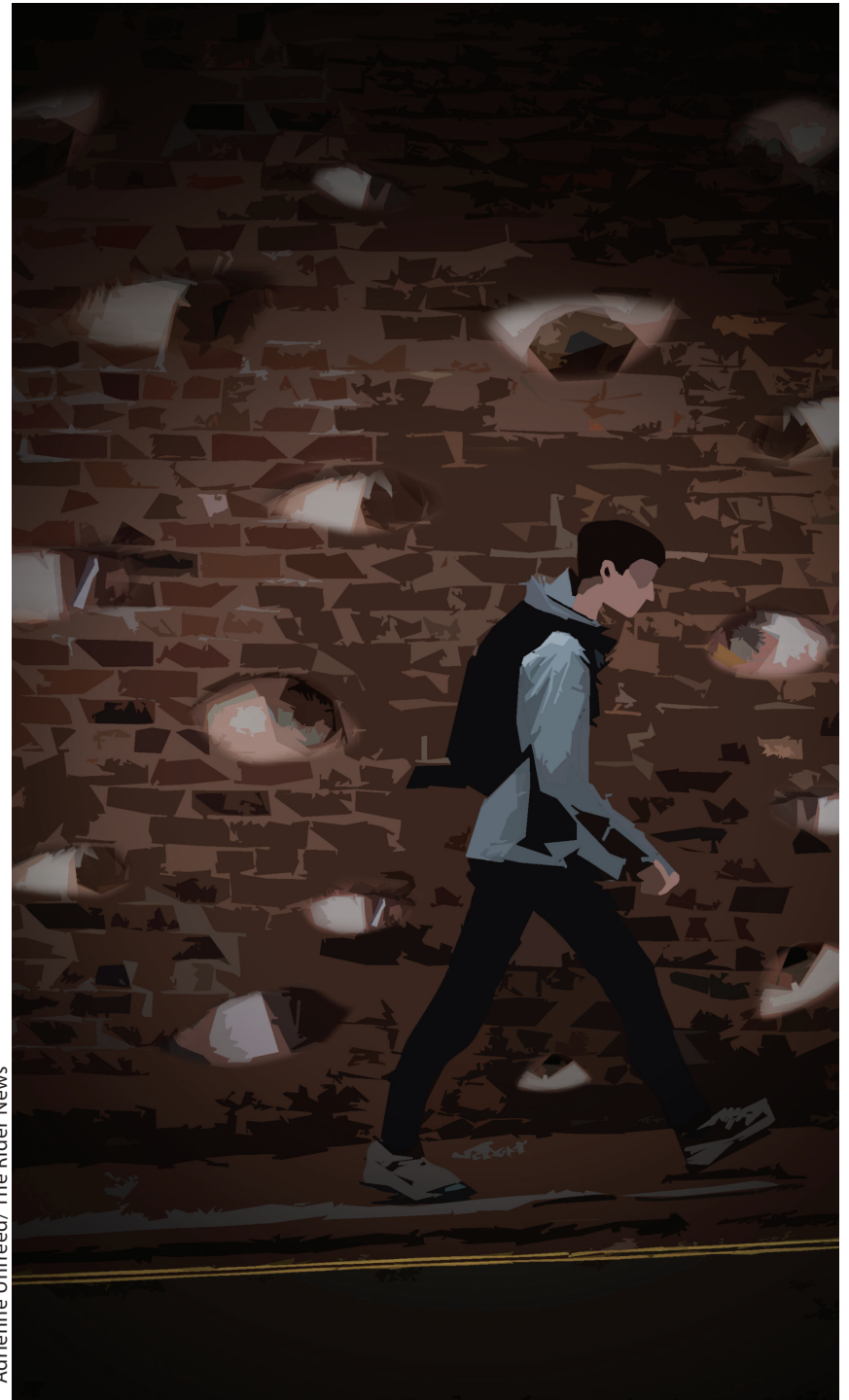
Every student has the ability to see any records or information about crimes on campus, and that access was granted to students in 1990 when The Clery Act was passed by Congress. The Clery Act "requires public and private colleges and universities to disclose information about certain crimes that occur on or near campus," and it came about because in 1986, Jeanne Clery was raped and murdered in her own dorm room.

Her parents helped pioneer The Clery Act in her memory, ensuring all students can know about the history of crime or suspicious behavior on or around college campuses.

Rider Public Safety is urging students, faculty and staff that "if you see something, say something." Report any suspicious behavior or activities to Public Safety by calling 609-896-5029.

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



Adrienne Unfreed/The Rider News

THE Rider News

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JUNIOR JOURNALS

There is more to musical theater than meets the eye

As a student who came from California, I always get one question: “What are you doing here?” From there I launch into the same story I’ve told at least 50 times. I was a musical theater major who gave up the art, but Rider still wanted me. Everyone walks away satisfied with my explanation, but the truth is, I’m not even satisfied with my answer. The reality of my life at Rider is that theater brought me here and I ditched it.

Theater was in my blood from the minute I was born. My dad was a stage manager, and both of my parents sparked my love for arts and stage performing. They spent thousands of dollars to send me to ballet, voice lessons, acting classes and eventually an arts school. For an awkward kid who never really fit in, this felt like a dream come true. I had a dream to be on Broadway, and now here was the perfect training before college.

In the eighth grade I was accepted into Orange County School of the Arts (OCSA). I was to join the Musical Theatre (MT) conservatory, and I did with a twinkle in my eye. What I was met with was a world of favoritism, fat shaming and being left out. Still, I had hope. I met some of my best friends and had amazing opportunities that some could only dream of.

I woke up every day at 4:45 a.m. to drive over an hour and a half to get to OCSA. From eight in the morning till half past one in the afternoon, my friends and I went to our required classes: math, history, English and so on. After a short break it was time for conservatory classes. Some of my teachers were extremely inspiring people who made me feel good about myself and taught with compassion. The others? My classmates and I feel bad about ourselves, unless of course, you were one of the favorites of the conservatory.

It was no secret who the favorites were. There were favorites in every grade from seventh to senior year. Hand selected by the directors of the main stage productions, those students were guaranteed to be favorites both on stage and off. They got the best solos in group pieces, the best scenes in acting and the best costumes for in-class performances. OCSA claimed that everyone got equal opportunities, but I watched the same four girls and guys continuously get the lead roles. The only time this wouldn’t happen was when a new director came in or when a professional came in for Performing with the Pros.

By junior year of high school I was done. I felt defeated by the MT conservatory and OCSA in general. One day my mom and I were sitting in the parking lot when I turned to her and said, “Do I have to do theater in college?” My mom looked astonished by my question. She sat there, smiled at me and said, “No. It’s your college career, but honey, what would you do?”

I thought for a few weeks about that. I had always loved writing but I wasn’t exactly a creative writing type of person. And then it hit me — journalism. I presented the idea to my parents, and both of them agreed it was a great idea. Rider had originally scouted me for theater, but when I changed my mind, I was still wanted.

Senior year of high school came, and while my classmates talked about how stressed about pre-screens they were, I sat there. One day one of my teachers asked me how college applications were going for me, and I said, “I finished them. I heard back from Rider University; I’m going to go there and study journalism.”

I was proud of myself for making my own choice. I moved to New Jersey and left my musical theater past where it belonged, in the past. I always wonder if I disappointed my parents and the teachers that believed in me.

Musical theater is not an easy field of work. I tip my hat to anyone who has not let the constant “no’s” defeat them. I applaud those who work in the professional theater world and battle the many problems in the community. I smile at the children who do community theater and hope that they aren’t met with the same hurt as me.

Leaving California meant that I left behind including a part of myself that will stay forever in the past.

*Tristan Leavh
junior journalism major*

Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons



GREEN CORNER

How to be sustainable regardless of your budget

ACTIVITIES such as clothing shopping and choosing what to eat are necessities in our lives even though they often account for some of our most wasteful habits. Buying in bulk to save money, but having to toss it all away when it goes bad contributes to one of the biggest producers of methane: food waste. Our clothes go in and out of style so quickly that it is easier and more affordable to buy into fast fashion and always have a closet of the latest trends on hand. So, do we actually have a choice to be more sustainable?

As college students, a majority of us are actively trying to watch how much money we spend and stretch our dollars further. Sometimes the items in stores that are marketed as sustainable cost a bit more than what you would traditionally buy, and you have to weigh out where that extra money stems from. Maybe the company is charging more because they use biodegradable materials or they pay fair wages and only use ethical labor practices. But maybe the extra cost comes from “greenwashing,” a term that describes tricking consumers into thinking they are choosing a more sustainable option when the product is really just average.

One way to check the status of a company is to find out if they are B Corporation certified. B Lab is an organization that compiles data from companies in all areas concerning the environment and ethics and gives them a rating for each category. To become a certified B Corporation, a company must “meet high standards of social and environmental performance, accountability, and transparency.”

It can feel daunting to do research before purchasing a product, and in some cases if you want to choose a more sustainable product, it may be more expensive in the short term, but last longer as they tend to be reusable products with better quality. A lot of times you can get around this cost by shopping second hand. Local thrift stores have a wide variety of kitchen appliances, decor and even electronics such as televisions in great condition.

Thrifting has proven very trendy in recent years with college students, especially surrounding clothing. When asked about his opinion of thrifting, Andrew Dysart, a senior finance and data analytics major said, “Thrifting is something that I have been doing more when clothing shopping. It’s cheaper and helps the environment. I think more people in general should thrift for clothes.”

Create your own style with thrifted clothes from across the decades, or go on a hunt for discounted designer brands. Whatever you are searching for, it is always fun to find! Maybe you have your eye set on something specific: in that case, try out an online thrifting platform like Depop, Poshmark, or Helpsy. When shopping on Helpsy, be sure to use Rider’s link or type in the code “RIDERHELPSY” at checkout to support our Office of Sustainability!

Sometimes the most sustainable options are even the easiest and cheapest. The most sustainable practice when it comes to consumption is reduction, which means buying less so you waste less. Think about an item before you purchase it and how it will impact your overall sustainability. Do you need it? Is there an

option that is better or will last longer? This will also help keep costs low, which makes sustainability the easier choice from a consumer's standpoint.

Choosing the more sustainable option can feel like more work at times. Xander Praski, a senior actuarial science major, said, “Convenience is often prioritized over sustainability.” Lucky for us, our location at Rider provides some easy and local eco-friendly options. Keeping it local by shopping at farmers markets and picking produce in season are great ways to keep down the gas-guzzling miles of transport associated with your food.

Terhune Orchards is local to Lawrenceville and has implemented several sustainable practices on their farm such as solar energy, crop rotation, and technologies for optimal irrigation. They even have pick-your-own days when you can select your own produce right off the plant! The Trenton Farmers Market has a refillary where you can shop for items such as grains and spices with your own containers and skip the cost of packaging. Not only does this help your pocket, but it also helps keep unnecessary plastic packaging out of the landfills.

What if we continue on our current path of consumerism with little mind for the environment? Mainstream companies and businesses will flourish and maybe individual shoppers could save a little money in the short term, but the real cost will be paid by the earth. Extensive climate research has pointed to the fact that if global temperatures rise beyond 1.5°C by the year 2100, impacts such as sea level rise, storm frequency and intensity, and biodiversity loss will be exacerbated. With our current actions, the expected global temperature increase by 2100 will exceed 2°C. We need to act fast and take our future into our own hands. Make an investment in the future of your planet by choosing to be a more sustainable consumer with better research and adding fun alternatives like thrifting and local farmers markets into your shopping habits.

*Bailey Adams
rider eco-rep*

Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons



Kaitlyn D'Alessio/The Rider News



Junior guard **Makayla Firebaugh** scored the overtime game winner against St. Francis Brooklyn on Nov. 13.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Rider smoked by Drexel; stun Terriers in overtime

By Jake Tiger

RIDER women's basketball experienced the peaks and valleys of competition in its first full week of action, as the Broncos followed up their worst loss in over three years with a victory in a thrilling overtime slugfest.

In Philadelphia, Drexel thrashed Rider 84-58 on Nov. 10, but in New York, the Broncos went toe-to-toe with St. Francis Brooklyn on Nov. 13, ultimately coming out on top thanks to a game-winning three from junior guard Makayla Firebaugh.

'It's all on us'

After opening the season with a disappointing loss at home, Rider traveled to Drexel, only to be dealt an even more lopsided defeat, falling 84-58 to the Dragons. It was Rider's worst loss in the history of the matchup, and the Broncos have not beaten Drexel since November of 1994.

"We have to work on being tough," said senior guard Jessika Schiffer. "[We have to] come to battle with the other team and not give up after the first 10 minutes. We have to start stronger ... keep punching, and not fall down and stay down."

The loss saw Rider go 6-of-24 from three, while surrendering 17 turnovers. The Broncos also notched two blocks and one steal, as their poor defense was routinely exploited.

Drexel's 84-point effort is the most allowed by the Broncos in regulation since their 89-65 loss to Princeton on Nov. 6, 2019.

Drexel guard Keishana Washington, the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) preseason player of the year, put on a devastating performance. The graduate student dropped 34 points on the Broncos, including 26 in the first half.

"She was obviously somebody that we had our eye on," said Milligan. "She came out the first game [of their season] and sent a message probably to the whole CAA, that they voted right."

On the other hand, Firebaugh, Rider's top guard, struggled to find any sort of offensive rhythm, despite a strong start. She had a team-high nine points after the first quarter, but couldn't find the bottom of the net for the rest of the game.

Firebaugh had a bad sequence of missed three-pointers in the second quarter, sailing three consecutive attempts completely over the rim, possibly due to the depth issues of playing in a larger arena.

"The arena definitely was an issue with [the misses] just because it's a bigger, wider area, but it's all on us to come in and be ready to shoot ... in different places at different times," said Firebaugh.

After a scoreless first half, Schiffer managed to cobble together a solid performance, scoring all 13 of her points in the second half on 3-of-6 shooting from three.

However, Schiffer merely made a dent in the Dragons' lead, as they unflinchingly soared to the blowout win and left Rider searching for its first of the season.

"Every time we got something done, we gave up an

easy bucket. We just didn't get stops tonight. That's really what it was," said Milligan.

'We needed this'

The Broncos halted their season-opening slide in the most dramatic way possible, rebounding from a 17-0 run by St. Francis, and striking the Terriers down with a game-winning, overtime three-pointer courtesy of Firebaugh.

"I would've bet the house on that she was going to make that shot," said Milligan. "She's built that way; she's built for those moments."

Firebaugh scored 21 points on 6-of-12 shooting from three to lift the Broncos to their first win. Through the first two games of the season, she had only scored 20 points to go with 1-of-10 three-point efficiency.

The win was a roller coaster ride, as the Broncos appeared to be in the driver's seat early on, jumping out to a 12-4 lead in the first.

Down seven points early in the second quarter, St. Francis dropped in a three-pointer to spark a 17-0 run, and the Terriers suddenly went into halftime with a 29-20.

"We let the second quarter and some of the calls... get in our head a little bit so we just needed to reset," said Milligan. "We needed to get back into our own pace, our own rhythm and execute."

The Broncos regrouped in the locker room, and flipped the script on St. Francis in the second half. Rider went on a 16-2 run and pushed the game to overtime behind seven fourth quarter points from Firebaugh.

"Coach [Milligan] just kept reminding us, like, 'Be you... play your game. That's all you need,'" said Firebaugh.

The teams traded baskets in a tightly-contested overtime period, until St. Francis rebounded a missed layup by Rider, and began dribbling out the clock with a two-point advantage and less than a minute remaining.

With a 70-68 lead and victory in their sights, the Terriers tried their best to keep the ball away, but Schiffer swiped at a careless dribble, scooped up the ball and called a timeout with 19 seconds left.

Graduate student guard Amanda Mobley caught the inbound pass, crossed halfcourt and dished it to Firebaugh on the left wing.

Firebaugh took two dribbles and stepped back into a three with two defenders draped all over her. The shot arced high into the air, and splashed down into the hoop to put Rider up 71-70.

Nine seconds remained and the Terriers made one final attempt, but their desperation floater rimmed out and Rider's comeback was complete.

Having earned their first win, the Broncos will look across the pond, heading to Dublin for the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC)/Atlantic Sun Conference (ASUN) Basketball Challenge.

"We needed this," said Firebaugh. "It's nice to go into Ireland with a win like this."

Rider's first of two games will be against North Florida at 1:30 p.m. EST on Nov. 18.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Broncs beat TCNJ, secure first regular season victory

By Matthew LoPuzzo

THE word to describe the 2022-23 regular season home opener for the Broncos was domination, as they crushed local foe TCNJ 87-50 on Nov. 12.

"We really continued to get better as a team individually, collectively and just executing the things that we worked on leading to the game," said Head Coach Kevin Baggett.

After almost upsetting the reigning Big East regular season champions Providence in their season opener, the Broncos had a chip on their shoulder and were ready to get back on track against TCNJ.

Graduate student forward Ajiri Ogemuno-Johnson got the Broncos rolling with an easy layup to start things off, and from there, Rider was in cruise control for the rest of the game.

The main producers for the Broncos were senior guards Dwight Murray Jr. and Allen Powell scoring a combined 31 of the 85 points for the Broncos.

"I felt like we came out with the energy and we were talking more. We knew we had a goal out there to keep them under 50 and that's what we did," said Murray, following the 17-point performance where he shot 85% from the field and 50% from downtown.

Junior forward Tariq Ingraham struggled against Providence's sturdy paint defense, totaling three fouls and zero points in eight minutes, but the junior bounced back with 10 points and seven rebounds.

"Honestly it's just fun to be back out there again," said Ingraham.

The Wake Forest transfer showed what he could bring to the Broncos, using his big frame to bully his way into the paint and get points at the rim.

The Broncos displayed most of their new additions in Saturday's matchup, with one being senior Rhode Island transfer guard Allen Bertrand. After being slotted into a lineup that's been together their entire collegiate career, he seemed to fit right in.

The first half came to a close after redshirt senior Tyrel Bladen inked his second bucket of the game to push the Broncos lead to 46-27. The Broncos went into the locker room shooting 56% from the field and 50% from three.

A little before the 10 minute mark in the second half, Baggett opted for some fresh faces on the court. Freshman guards Anthony McCall, Jack McFadden and transfer sophomore guard Adetokunbo Bakare all saw the court late.

The Broncos also flashed paint dominance in the game with 54 out of their 87 points coming from inside the paint.

The first home game of the regular season belonged to the Broncos, with it being a good way to send the team off to Dublin where they'll be facing Stetson University at 5 a.m. EST on Nov. 18.



Freshman guard **Anthony McCall** was the only freshman to play in the first two games of the regular season. (Carolo Pascale/The Rider News)

CLUB ICE HOCKEY

Rider stifled by Lions; wallops rival Delaware



Hannah Newman/The Rider News

In his second game back from injury, senior forward **DJ Sucher** scored two goals against Delaware on Nov. 12.

By **Jake Tiger** and **Hannah Newman**

WITH cranberry hard hats and carved lumber in tow, Rider club ice hockey continued to build toward the .500 mark, nearly chopping down the fearsome Penn State Nittany Lions 3-2 on Nov. 11 before bulldozing the Delaware Blue Hens 3-1 on Nov. 12.

The 1-1 weekend brings the Broncos to 6-7 on the season, as they gradually recover from a 3-6 start.

'We need more bus drivers'

Following a pair of wins, Rider was faced with a formidable foe in the 7-1 Nittany Lions.

Despite starting sophomore goalie Trevor Giwerowski, senior forward DJ Sucher and junior defenseman Nick Pedulla all returning from injury, the Broncos succumbed to Penn State, allowing two goals in the third period to suffer an avoidable 3-2 defeat.

"I'm pretty disappointed," said Head Coach Sean Levin. "There's no more moral victories for us. ... We let this get away from us. We really did. I thought this game was ours."

A pattern emerged in the loss, as the Lions scored their first and second goals within 30 seconds of the

start of a period, the latter going in just 13 seconds into the third period.

"[The early goals are] the result of us being lazy ... and that's very unfortunate," said Levin. "I think it's a level of focus, and it's a mental aspect. ... We have, sometimes, too many passengers on the scene. We need more bus drivers."

Aside from giving up a goal in the opening seconds, the Broncos were consistently on their heels for almost the entire first period, Penn State dominating the puck and the shot column.

However, the Broncos appeared to crack the Lions' code during the first period intermission. The Rider offense came to life in the second, sending 10 shots at the Penn State goal after only mustering four in the first frame.

Sophomore forward Cole Schneider fired in two goals within a six minute span, bringing his season total to a team-high six and giving the Broncos a 2-1 lead.

"We started off really shaky in the first few minutes of the game, and I think just building up our offensive forecheck and putting in some more zone time really helped us ... draw a few goals towards the middle," said Schneider.

Rider's defensive woes resurfaced at the start of the third period, and Penn State tied the game at 2-2.

Fifteen minutes later, a stray pass by senior defenseman Brendan Convery was stolen by the Lions, and a shot passed by Giwerowski to put the Broncos down 3-2 with four minutes remaining.

Rider tried and failed to recoup their losses, but the Lions' blue line refused to break, and Rider's defensive collapse would result in a bitter defeat.

"We really preach that we win as a team and lose a team, and unfortunately tonight, we're on the wrong side," said Levin. "We've got to start finding some victories."

'Back on the ice with the boys'

Coming out of their game against Penn State unsatisfied, Rider refused remain lifeless. The Broncos traveled to Delaware on Nov. 12 to redeem themselves against the Blue Hens.

The team secured a 3-1 win, courtesy of Sucher who led the team in goals with his third and fourth scores of the season.

"It felt great getting those two goals and being able to help the team get our sixth win of the campaign. After being out the last few games, I was just anxious to get back on the ice with the boys," said Sucher.

Sucher secured the first goal of the game, giving Rider the lead through the first period.

Their dominance was further strengthened after junior forward Anthony Zito scored the second goal with a single shot attempt as the second frame was nearing an end.

"What we saw Saturday was a little sense of urgency, not beating Penn State was disappointing and the team knew that this was a really important game for us to come out strong and play from the get-go," said Levin.

As the second period was inches away from leaving the Broncos with a 2-0 lead, the Blue Hens cut the Broncos lead in half, scoring their first goal with nearly two minutes left. This new score forced the Broncos to re-strategize, knowing their chances of winning could fluctuate within seconds.

The taunting thoughts of their last game weighed heavy on their shoulders and strengthened their drive going into the third period.

"I saw the strongest connections in this game in the third period," said Giwerowski. "The team came together and bought in blocking shots, getting pucks out and really simplified our game in the third."

With four minutes left in the third period, Sucher brought back his determination, finalizing the game's score with a 3-1 win for the Broncos and a steady comeback from their game the day prior.

"Personally, I just want to improve my play each game and continue to produce for the team. We are currently ranked 23rd in our region, which is something we are obviously not satisfied with," said Sucher.

The Broncos face the Blue Hens again on Nov. 18 at 8 p.m., this time on their home ice for the team's annual Greek Night. The rematch will be streamed on Twitch.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Smith slides through freshman season with ease

By **Hannah Newman**

FIRST year finished, first goal scored and 12 games started, freshman center back Olivia Smith has become a leading player for Rider women's soccer in their 2022 season.

Smith has been taking on the field for 13 years. When she was young, she began playing for her town team in Kearney, New Jersey, growing as a player there for nearly four years. When she was 10, her father signed her up for club soccer where her love for the game began to flourish.

"At first the change of pace really challenged me, but as the years went by, I really started to develop and truly understand that soccer was much more than trying to get the ball in the back of the net," said Smith. "Once I started grasping soccer in that way, I grew a big bond with the sport and realized I wanted to continue playing after high school."

With 46 goals scored in her scholastic career, Smith was selected for the State Top 20 (New Jersey) and All-Region team (East region), for soccer her junior and senior year of high school.

Smith chose Rider not only for their soccer program, but for the academics and school environment. Although Smith was able to meet some of the expectations she had for herself coming into college as an athlete, she has exceeded the expectations of her teammates and coach.

"Olivia is extremely composed on the ball and when the ball is at her feet, she plays like an upperclassman. That gives us even more confidence as a back line. Her style of play and poise also gives us a lot of positive momentum," junior goalkeeper Ellie Sciancalepore said.

Women's soccer Head Coach Drayson Hounsoume echoed Sciancalepore's sentiment with how good

Smith was in her freshman season, and how happy the team is to see how she's grown since arriving on campus.

"We are very excited to see how Olivia has developed in such a short period of time. She is better now than she was in September and in September was better than August," said Hounsoume.

Smith's growth into one of the team's best defenders showed throughout the season. Her freshman season saw her play 15 games, while starting 12 of them. She played more than 90 minutes 10 times throughout the year, highlighted by playing the entirety of the 110 minute Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) quarterfinal battle against Canisius on Oct. 30.

"She is making better decisions and quicker decisions, so her possession and passing have improved. We will continue to encourage her to work on some of the defensive decisions that occur in the game and I am sure she will continue to develop," said Hounsoume.

Alongside her extended playing time, Smith scored the first goal of her young collegiate career against St. Francis Brooklyn on Sept. 11.

"Honestly the goal felt unreal," Smith said after the Sept. 11 game.

With her freshman season now over, Smith says she was able to achieve many of the goals she had for herself going into college; however, she continues to leave room for improvement.

"I would say my greatest achievements so far as an athlete are my adjustment to the speed of play, getting significant playing time, and having my first collegiate goal," said Smith. "I have achieved some of my goals like getting significant playing time but I still feel like I'm not the best player I can be. I want to become

more consistent with how I play and I think fixing the little things can really enhance how I play."

Sciancalepore also believes that Smith will continue to improve on her impressive play next year.

"It's been fun playing alongside Olivia and she has been an awesome addition to the team. I think as we move forward, her decision making will only get better and quicker. With time, I think she will certainly be one of the best backs in the league," said Sciancalepore.

On top of wanting to be a better player next year, Smith's eyes are on the present moment that has brought her some incredible memories already.

"Contrary to the competitive environment, all the laughs and jokes on and off the field have really made my first season something I will never forget," said Smith.



Carolo Pascale/The Rider News

Freshman centerback **Olivia Smith** scored her first collegiate goal on Sept. 11 against St. Francis Brooklyn.

Sports

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Larry Slater/Rider Athletics

Junior **McKenzie Bell** upset then No. 11 Parker Filius in a 9-6 decision on Nov. 13. The victory was his highest against a ranked opponent since 2020-21 MAC Semifinals.

WRESTLING

Broncs conquer Purdue in opening weekend sweep

By **Trey Wright**

OPENING up the 2022-2023 calendar with back-to-back meets in the Midwest, the Rider Wrestling team passed their first tests with flying colors, taking down Mid-American Conference (MAC) opponent Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE), and derailing Big Ten titan Purdue.

Slamming down Southern Illinois

Starting off a season on the road is a big challenge for a team with a new core, but the Broncs came, saw and conquered SIUE on Nov. 11, edging out the Cougars 21-19, sealed at 197 with a technical fall from graduate student Ethan Laird.

Junior Tyler Klinsky immediately set the Broncs in the right direction, earning a major decision at 125, and redshirt senior Richie Koehler followed with a 9-7 decision at 133, propelling the Broncs to an early lead.

Rider's lead was dented by four after a major decision against senior Bryan Miraglia at 141, but the Broncs responded with two straight wins from redshirt junior Quinn Kinner at 149, and sophomore Colton Washleski at 157.

The two teams traded decisions from 165 to 174, with SIUE getting back into contention with a fall against junior Asa Terrell at 184.

However, Laird put the Cougars back in their cage at 197, scoring a technical fall at 4:05 into his bout to stamp Rider's first 1-0 start since 2019.

"We had some good performances and some not-so-good ones tonight but a win is a win," said Head Coach John Hangey. "It's good to have Ethan Laird back in the lineup and seal the deal with his performance. We will need a better overall team performance moving forward."

Laird has been a key component of Rider

wrestling's winning formula. Last season, he posted a near flawless 11-1 record, and finished third at the World Team Trials.

"The team's mindset is very focused and confident," said Laird after the meet. "We know we have a really good team that can make some noise this year, and winning the Keystone Classic and UPenn this weekend will be just another step in the right direction for the team."

A garbage time effort from SIUE came up just short, with sophomore David Szuba suffering a fall to make the score 21-19 in favor of Rider, extending their streak of winning opening conference meets, stretching back to their first MAC season in 2018.

Big Ten beatdown

Following Rider's inaugural win of the 2022-23 campaign, the first major obstacle stood upon the Broncs' horizon: a black and gold Victorian-era freight train named Purdue University, who had previously defeated Rider 33-3 in 2021.

However, the Superman strength from Szuba, and fearless underdog mentality from junior McKenzie Bell, stopped the locomotive dead in its tracks, with further performances from Rider's wrestlers paving the way to a 23-13 smackdown on Nov. 13.

The meet started off rough, with Purdue taking down Klinsky at 125 to take an early lead, before Koeler tied things up with a sudden victory at 133.

The first highlight of the meet took place with a dark-horse victory from Bell, upsetting No. 11 Parker Filius in a 9-6 decision at 141, setting the stage for a top-tier slugfest between the two schools.

Bell's upset win over Filius marked the highest-ranked opponent he was able to take down since upsetting No. 4 Allan Hart of Missouri in the 2020-21

MAC Semifinals.

Kinner would extend the lead 10-3 at 149 with a 13-0 major decision, but Purdue came roaring back to tie it 13-13 with two weight classes left in the duel. What followed were two dominating bout victories from Laird and Szuba, with the former taking the lead with a major decision to make the score 17-13.

Szuba closed the case for Rider at 285, with the Brick, New Jersey native scoring a fall 73 seconds into his bout against Hayden Copass, and pinning the Boilermaker to complete the underdog victory for the Broncs.

"It's definitely a great boost of confidence for the team, it really put in perspective what we can accomplish this season," said Szuba. "If everyone wrestles the way we all know we can, this Sunday will be a cake walk. Just ready to fire on all cylinders."

The victory marked Rider's first win over Purdue since Jan. 3, 2010, the same year the Broncs had six wrestlers qualify for the NCAA Tournament.

"The guys wrestled well today, I felt we carried the pace in most of the matches," said Hangey after the meet. "We got several big performances, McKenzie beat a nationally ranked kid, Ethan put us in position to close out the match and David did a great job getting the fall to seal the win."

In their meeting last November, the Boilermakers demolished Rider in a 33-3 effort.

"This is a big growth moment for our team and will help us down the road in other tough matches," said Hangey.

The Broncs, starting off 2-0 for the first time since 2019, look to keep the momentum rolling going into the first tournament of the season, with the Keystone Classic next on the docket Nov. 20 in Philadelphia.

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