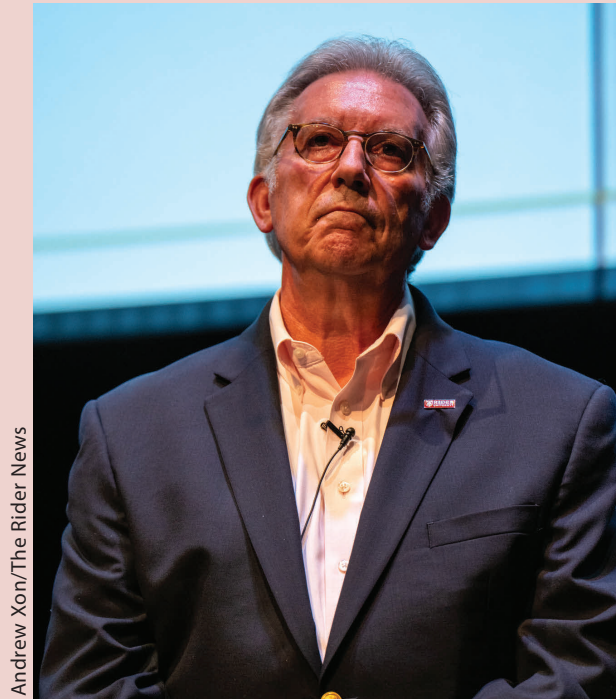




Strike avoided: AAUP, administration reach agreement



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

President Gregory Dell'Omo at the annual fall convocation meeting.

By Shaun Chornobroff

AFTER months of rigid negotiating that carried into the school year and led faculty to picket during move-in days, Rider's faculty union and the administration agreed on a tentative contract on Sunday, Sept. 11, avoiding a strike and allowing the university to resume normal operations pending the deal's completion.

The finalization of the five-year deal relies on ratification from Rider's chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) and the

university's board of trustees.

"Representatives from the Administration and the AAUP met throughout the summer to negotiate the terms of a new collective bargaining agreement. Those negotiations culminated in a mutual agreement on [Sept. 11], in which the parties agreed on a broad range of changes," said Rider's Associate Vice President of Marketing and Communications Kristine Brown.

The sides met at 1 p.m. on Sept. 11, and by 4:30 that afternoon, the university sent out an announcement that an agreement had been reached.

"I think what helped us get an agreement is the support of our membership, the actions that we've done and also the support we got from the American Federation of Teachers national and a New Jersey [level]," AAUP President David Dewberry said in a phone interview with The Rider News after negotiations ended. "It certainly helped demonstrate that we have the resources and resolve to do what we need to do to get a fair deal."

Both the union and the administration declined to give specifics of the deal at this time, with multiple AAUP leaders stating they want to present the terms to members before revealing them to The Rider News.

Prior to forging a deal the administration and the union had to agree upon multiple temporary extensions, and in that time union members wore cranberry AAUP T-shirts as a form of protest at the fall convocation on Sept. 1, and participated in informational picketing on Sept. 4 and 5 while students were moving into their dorms.

At its Sept. 8 meeting, which occurred the day before negotiations resumed, Dewberry estimated more than 200 people attended the meeting which

he said is by far the largest union meeting during his tenure at the school.

"They sent a message to the negotiating team that they were ready to take any and all actions including a strike to get a fair contract," Dewberry said. "I think that message was heard by me, the negotiating team and I have no doubt that it reached the administration on that end, and I think that's part of the reason we saw a shift in their approach through the negotiations."

Despite striking a deal, Rider's recent financial woes still give Dewberry cause for concern.

"It's nice to have a contract, but if the finances are as bad as the administration has portrayed them, we still have room to be concerned for the future of Rider and we hope we get good leadership that can foster that and work towards that," the union president said.

As Rider recovers economically from long-standing financial insecurity that was only exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and ushers into what it hopes is an era of financial stability, the administration hopes this deal can improve what has been a struggling relationship between Dell'Omo and university faculty.

Brown said, "While, by its nature, the collective bargaining process can invoke a certain level of anxiety as deadlines approach, the fact is that the parties have a long history of working collaboratively at the table to reach mutually acceptable solutions to what are frequently complex matters."

Brown said the administration offered to establish labor management meetings with union representatives with the intent "of proactively focusing on continuing to build upon the relationship between the parties. We are hopeful that the offer will be accepted."

Technology issues overshadow first day of classes after OIT outsource

By Kaitlyn McCormick

MANY Rider professors had to quickly pivot their lesson plans on the first day of classes last week as students and faculty were met with an onslaught of technical difficulties following restructures and cuts to the school's Office of Information Technology (OIT) Department.

Film and television professor Cynthia Lucia had to alter her class on Wednesday due to a faulty projector bulb in Fine Arts 205 that prevented her from showing movie clips to her film students.

"My whole lesson was sort of planned around showing film clips on my DVDs with chapters marked," Lucia said before detailing how the class ended up relying on their own silenced devices and pressing play at the same time while relying on the sound from her laptop.

Lucia said the technicians who came to help her classroom's issues were "very responsive... I think that maybe they were caught by surprise as well, and I know that there is a real problem with understaffing right now."

Communications professor Jessi Oliano also had projection issues in the same classroom for her history and Principles of Graphic Design class on Wednesday, which was "really unfortunate" due to



Andrew Xon / The Rider News

Classroom 205 located in the Fine Arts building that experienced technology issues.

the amount of visuals she had prepared to share with her students.

"We're such a visual department in general ... so [not] having those visuals to use as examples is very hard," Oliano said. "Luckily I brought my laptop ... and I walked around the room and showed examples, and that is very not ideal."

While the issue has since been resolved, she did note that the experience was frustrating, especially on the first day of classes.

Junior graphic design major Jenna Krauss had multiple classes in different rooms that were clouded by technology issues.

Krauss explained, "It just seemed a little ridiculous to me that it was the first day and already so many professors are running into problems in these classes."

"It's frustrating, I think, probably both to teachers and students," Krauss continued.

Unlike Lucia's recount, Krauss described the technicians who came to help Oliano's class as very "hot and heavy."

"They completely disrupted professor Oliano's class," Krauss said.

Technology and system issues were just one of the many topics on the bargaining table between Rider's chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) and the university's administration as they continue to hash out a heated and extended contract negotiation.

AAUP President and communication professor David Dewberry said that when faculty are faced with these issues, it is in turn "hard to fulfill the educational mission" they commence in the classroom.



INSIDE

TREADING WATER

Rider field hockey followed up its 2-0 victory with a 3-0 loss.



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NEW "ZEN DEN"

SGA President introduces new area for students to relax.

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YAS QUEEN! DRAG RACE IS BACK

SEC welcomes back the beloved tradition, Drag Race.



PAGE 7

SECURITY BRIEFS

BY AMETHYST MARTINEZ

Knock Knock.

Who's there? On Friday, Sept. 9, 2022, at 2:29 a.m., Public Safety was dispatched to Ziegler Residence Hall for the report of an intoxicated student banging on doors. When Public Safety arrived on location, they found the student on the second floor of Moore Residence Hall. The student did not initially comply with Public Safety's requests. Once the student began to comply, it was discovered that the student's condition required further medical assistance, so an ambulance was called for further evaluation. The student was subsequently transported to the hospital and a search of their room yielded alcohol and drug paraphernalia. The matter was referred to the Office of Community Standards.

Saturday Shenanigans

Not a sober Saturday. On Saturday, Sept. 10, 2022, at 10:21 p.m., Public Safety was dispatched to Switlik Residence Hall for the report of underage, intoxicated students. Upon their arrival, Public Safety met with Residence Life staff that had responded to a room for a noise complaint. Public Safety spoke with the students inside of the Residence Hall room where it was discovered that the students had been drinking at an off campus party, but were not currently consuming alcohol. The incident was referred to the Office of Community Standards.

Marijuana Malodor

Something smells. On Monday, Sept. 12, 2022, at 11:42 p.m., Public Safety was dispatched to Lincoln Residence Hall for the odor of suspected marijuana. Upon their arrival, Public Safety was informed by the Residence Life staff that several residents of the building were complaining of the odor of marijuana coming through the building's duct work. Public Safety and Residence Life proceeded to check the building, but were unable to locate the source.

- Information provided by Public Safety Capt. Matthew Babcock

University managing transition to smaller OIT department

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

Rider's Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer Jim Hartman sent a communication to the university's faculty and staff on Sept. 7 regarding the issues.

"Over the summer the Rider OIT team has now become an integral component of the Ellucian Managed Services team that will continue to service the IT needs of Rider as Rider itself continues to evolve and change," the statement read.

The communication also explained that the university is "in the process of rebuilding and refocusing a smaller IT organization to support a changing Rider community," now backed by Ellucian resources.

The email included bullets outlining a 24/7 call center, information regarding "support of teaching and learning," including classroom support hotlines, as well as additional information about technology support and cybersecurity support and management.

Also outlined in the email was what the



Andrew Xony/The Rider News

Projector located in room 205 in Fine Arts that was experiencing trouble during the first day of school.

department needs from faculty and staff: "Given the changes we all are going through, it will be very difficult to provide last minute services beyond break-fix. ... We need you to let us know as early

as possible about events, potential issues and needs you may have upcoming. We continue to receive last minute requests for services, and we want the community to understand that this isn't sustainable," the statement read.

While Associate Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer Douglas McCrea was unavailable for comment, Associate Vice President for University Marketing and Communications Kristine Brown provided a written statement about Ellucian and Rider's OIT.

"The Ellucian team has committed to maintaining open lines of communication with the Rider community as the work evolves," the statement included. "This new relationship and model of service is ultimately in the best interest of Rider that will continue to help the university move forward and support our academic mission. We ask for everyone's continued patience as the work to improve technology services to our community progresses."

According to Dewberry, the outsourcing of Rider's IT department was just another bad decision on the part of the administration.

Students enter new academic year with tuition increases

By Amethyst Martinez

RIDER students and their families were notified of a \$500-per semester tuition increase for the 2022-23 school year, with the price rising an extra \$500 per semester for all undergraduate students, via an email sent out by President Gregory Dell'Omo during the summer.

Outlined in the email, Dell'Omo described the thought process into the decision as "the need to continue investing in the quality of your educational experience with the need to maintain affordability."

The email also mentioned that, even with the increase, tuition along with fees do not cover 100% of the university's operating costs, which has led to the reliance upon additional funding sources such as donors to close the gap.

This tuition increase comes at a time when many Americans are facing the effects of inflation across the country. Drew Aromando, Vice President of Enrollment Management, cited multiple reasons for why the adjustment was made to pricing.

"Rider University's approach to pricing includes a focus on overall affordability and the current economic environment, key strategic initiatives, recent enrollment trends and competitor data," said Aromando.

Rider claims to invest over \$84 million in financial aid for students every year, in addition to state and federal aid. "We are very proud of our ongoing commitment to providing financial aid," said Aromando. "Every student and family's financial circumstances are unique."

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many colleges froze tuition prices for a certain amount of time; Rider froze its tuition for one semester in fall 2020. Since then, tuition has continuously upticked to meet the need for rising university costs. The 2022-2023 cost of new student attendance is \$56,905 a year for those living on campus and \$41,475 for commuters, according to the Rider University website.

Andrew Bernstein, Rider's Student Government Association (SGA) president, said, "My sincere hope is that it doesn't have a negative effect on incoming and current Rider students ... I'm grateful that it's not a higher rate than it is, but I know it will still affect people's pocketbooks."

Other universities around New Jersey have also seen stark tuition increases. Higher education institutions such as Rowan University, Rutgers University and The College of New Jersey all raised their prices for their undergraduate programs.

Many students were also impacted by Rider's new deregistration policy, which deregistered over 400 students if they failed to meet certain requirements, mostly due to financial issues, for the fall semester.

The university has pushed students to reach out to campus resources if they're struggling to afford their bill.

Aromando said, "Students are encouraged to visit One Stop Services, who will work one on one with students to make sure we are maximizing all eligible resources to meet the cost of a Rider education."

Bernstein echoed the sentiment that students should reach out for help if they are faced with a tuition pricing issue.

"The great services we have here, like financial aid, are really what we're trying to point students towards to help combat this," said Bernstein. "We always, of course, welcome students to voice their concerns to us. We obviously can't directly change the cost of tuition, or pricing faces that are associated with that, but it's certainly something we can bring into conversations if we hear that feedback from students."



Andrew Xony/The Rider News

Rider students face a tuition raise going into the 2022-2023 school year.

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Westminster Foundation updates of potential buyer

By Kaitlyn McCormick

WESTMINSTER Foundation President Constance Fee released a statement to the foundation's Facebook page on Sept. 6, updating the community about a potential buyer for the Princeton campus property who may be able to help achieve the foundation's goal of relocating Westminster Choir College (WCC) back to the area.

"The Trustees of the Westminster Foundation have been in conversation for many months with a firm that is prepared to back the repurchase of our beloved Princeton campus and provide the opportunity for the choir college to return to its dedicated facilities," the post read in part.

According to the announcement, a local real estate and investment firm, ML7, made a bid to purchase the property as well as the choir college earlier in the year. The firm is owned by Jeff Siegel, who's family is credited as "longtime supporters of WCC and the broader Princeton community," by the foundation.

While the foundation says Rider's administration responded to the bid, further negotiations are at a standstill until the current claim on the property from the Princeton Theological Seminary has been resolved.

Associate Vice President for University Marketing and Communications Kristine Brown provided the following written statement: "Rider has received many inquiries as to purchasing the Princeton property, including from ML7, but is not in a position to sell until the litigation being pursued by the Princeton Theological Seminary is resolved."

The suit from the seminary claims that it has beneficiary rights to the Princeton campus.

Although Fee could not disclose much more about the announcement than what was outlined in the initial posting, she did note that waiting for the seminary's claim to reach resolution has been "like a log jam" preventing much of the proceedings in the negotiating process. She also explained that the communication came at a time when the foundation was finally given permission by Siegel to share his name with the public.

"We realize this update may raise questions that can only be fully addressed as plans develop and legal issues are resolved. ... As always, we deeply appreciate your vital support over the past six years. We value your continued support, as a committed, coordinated effort will be crucial in reaching the next phase," the foundation's post concluded.

The foundation and university are still awaiting a decision from the New Jersey Appellate Division of Superior Court regarding a previous dismissal of a pair of



Courtesy of Constance Fee

Westminster Foundation President **Constance Fee** updated members of the Westminster community regarding a potential plan for repurchase of the Princeton campus.

lawsuits to block the relocation of WCC to the Lawrenceville campus. The hearing took place in Trenton on May 16.

"I am just tremendously grateful to my faculty colleagues in the middle of this situation right now and to both Westminster and Rider students," Fee said.

U.S. News ranks Rider in review

By Olivia Nicoletti

RIDER outdoes the competition once again in the 2022 U.S. News & World Report of the best regional universities in the north.

Since last year, the university has moved up five spots, putting Rider at 22nd overall. In New Jersey, Rider was placed third out of 15 total institutions, according to the university website.

"Rankings such as those announced by the U.S. News & World Report this week are just one of the many important factors that prospective students and families look to when making college decisions," said Associate Vice President for University Marketing and Communications, Kristine Brown.

Rider moved up three spots in the category of "Best Value Schools" since last year, now ranked No. 25.

"The recent U.S. News rankings speak to the support, attention and success Rider provides to students. Our dedicated faculty is at the heart of student academic success, and in a similar sense we have our staff to thank for making our campus environment such a prosperous community," said senior political science major and Student Government Association President Andrew Bernstein.

In the category of 'Top Performers on Social Mobility,' Rider rose 25 spots and now holds the rank of 82nd best school in the U.S.

According to the university website, this is a reflection of Rider's strength at "helping economically disadvantaged students finish college."

Additionally, the undergraduate business programs at Rider were also recognized for being outstanding.

"That's why we're so proud that once again, Rider rose in several categories, which reflects our institution-wide commitment to high quality teaching, experiential learning and affordability," Brown said. "Being named a best college and a best value helps to differentiate Rider from other institutions and provides independent confirmation of just what an outstanding academic institution we are."



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

U.S. News ranks Rider third best school in New Jersey among other high ratings.



Adrienne Unfried/The Rider News



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

Students swarm the stage and dance as 'Steal the Sky' takes the stage.

Rock Fest returns with performances from 'Steal the Sky'

By Julia Train

Several minutes before Rock Fest began, over 100 students were lined up along the driveway leading up to the Ben Cohen Turf Field parking lot. Groups of students formed clusters as they joined their friends that were waiting for them.

As soon as the clock hit 7:30 p.m., Rock Fest was underway, and the line started moving.

Students hurried to the tables containing free shirts. Past the table was a tent with artists drawing caricatures and a station where students could make molds of their hands. A slide, basketball game, mechanical bull and an inflatable obstacle course lined one side of the parking lot. On the other side were food trucks with crepes, barbeque, cheesesteaks and more.

Near the entrance were face and body painting

tables. Students walked away with their painted faces in a variety of designs and colors.

Madeline Shaw, a junior acting major, said, "The band is better, and the lighting and special effects is really cool and brings it together."

At the back of the parking lot was the stage where "Steal the Sky," a Philadelphia-based cover band, performed throughout the night. They covered a mix of pop, rock and dance music from today's hits, like Masked Wolf's "Astronaut in the Ocean" and classic songs, like Joan Jett and the Blackhearts' "I Love Rock 'n' Roll."

Before COVID-19, the festival was held at the end of the spring semester as a summer send-off with a band and bonfire on the Campus Green. As COVID-19 has started to dissipate and people are getting comfortable being in crowds again, more has been

added to the event.

"I think a lot more people are more comfortable now with COVID kind of going away," said Shaw.

"Now there's a dance pit, inflatable games and food trucks," said Sofia Fileccia, a senior criminal justice major, while in a large line for the Ben & Jerry's truck.

As the sun set, the purple and green stage lights flashed upon the trees in the parking lot. Students shifted their focus from the food trucks to the activities and band. The crowd in front of the stage slowly grew as students sang along and danced to the music, both in the audience and lines.

When the band finished with their set, the night ended with a fireworks display as Katy Perry's "Firework" played from a speaker.



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

Students pose while fireworks fill the sky as the night comes to an end.



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

Student receives face art, one of the many activities open for attendees to participate in.



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

Students gather around the stage while to enjoy the live music performed by 'Steal the Sky'.



Photo courtesy of Jayme Schneider

Students spread a Rider University flag in front of Old Town Dubrovnik in Croatia.

Students reflect on summer studying abroad

By Hannah Newman

SUMMER of 2022 was filled with opportunities for Broncs to study abroad, expand their education and understanding of the world. This summer, trips to England, Croatia and Sweden were offered to students with each country providing several programs for a variety of majors to explore their interests under the guidance of experts in designated fields.

England

The Norm Brodsky College of Business selected 20 students to join the seven day Moonshots and Moneymakers Conference with the Birthing of Giants delegation of entrepreneurs, designed to bring forth different aspects of entrepreneurship, in Oxford, England.

Senior finance major Michael Langeveld explained what the conference offered business students.

“At the Moonshots and Moneymakers conference held at Oxford University, myself and other Rider students learned about entrepreneurship through classes and lectures, observational analysis with industry executives and through practical entrepreneurial study workshops and seminars. We were able to network and converse with highly accomplished CEOs and Business Executives from a diverse range of industries,” said Langeveld.

Students stayed on a college campus in Oxford where they interacted with the staff and exchanged different perceptions of business strategies pertaining to generational differences.

“Not only did we get to live and learn at St. Edmund Hall, but we got to learn more about entrepreneurship in a week than we could in a semester or even a year. Having lived through the triumphs and challenges of being an entrepreneur, they all had amazing advice and insights for the students. Some also sought our advice as the younger generation for their businesses,” said junior business administration Mollie Brislin.

Norm Brodsky, 64’, gave two students a full scholarship for the trip, and gave the rest a half scholarship to attend. Brodsky, the namesake for the college of business, joined the students on the trip, and stayed in the college dorms with them.

“It was one of the most amazing trips I’ve ever been on,” said Brodsky. “We brought over 50 entrepreneurs, and the students really blended in with these people. Two students have already gotten a job so far, and I am sure there are going to be a number more.”

Overall, many students felt that the experience contributed to the development of their future careers in the business world that, for some, is only months away.

“Oxford was truly an incredible experience ranging from the beautiful historic scenery to all the people in attendance,” said senior marketing major Blake Oramas. “Everyone there wanted to learn, better themselves and connect with others, especially their students.”

Croatia

Students whose studies are framed around education got the opportunity to see the school curriculum of Croatia firsthand. The trip was geared toward strengthening methods of teaching for education in America.

Students explored two different towns and four different schools — two that were vocational and two that were private.

At each school, students were given a tour of the building and time to speak with the principals and teachers. They were also given the opportunity to interact with Croatian students in their classrooms, ask them questions and play with them during their recess.

Senior elementary education major Jayme Schneider was inspired by the Croatian educational experiences that she saw.

“I will remember this experience for the rest of my life. It has impacted my learning experience greatly. Getting to experience something that was so different made me look at education systems much differently. Experiencing education systems outside of the United States has encouraged me to try new methods of teaching and incorporate what I have learned abroad into my own lessons in the future,” said Schneider.

Students on the trip saw diversity in education systems and learning environments that brought forth a new understanding of how to be an effective educator.

“I loved everything about this trip, but my favorite part was really being able to go into schools in Croatia and compare our education systems to theirs,” said senior education major Carly Solomon. “I learned so much from their schools and can’t wait to apply that to my own classroom one day. I would definitely recommend this experience to others in my major.”

Sweden

The program in Sweden was offered to the Baccalaureate Honors Program (BHP) and guided by a developmental psychologist and play therapist with a goal of introducing students to the several differences in play.

Students were taken to a variety of places in Stockholm where they observed the elements of how children play. Observation locations consisted of attractions such as museums, playgrounds, zoos and amusement parks.

Senior elementary education major Danielle Spalding expressed her appreciation for the experience and its contribution to building a better education.

“I had an amazing time on the trip because, as an elementary education and psychology double major, I felt like the focus of the trip met my interests. There was a nice balance between planned activities and free time, and I felt like it allowed me to grow as an early childhood educator,” said Spalding.

Senior elementary education major Melissa Juarez recapped her study abroad journey with encouragement after traveling to Croatia.

“I definitely recommend this experience to others as it was super eye-opening and an overall amazing experience to create new friendships and learn about a new country,” said Juarez.

The Rider News editor Tristan Leach is a member of BHP and was on a study abroad trip to Sweden this summer. Leach had no part in writing or editing this story.

Audience bows to the queens at Rider's Drag Race



Student drag queen, **Ms. Kaela J** (McKaela Jones, a senior marine science major), lip synced to Diana Ross's "I'm Coming Out."

By **Tristan Leach**

THE music pulsed through the speakers. Students and staff found their seats while excitedly chatting with each other. As the lights dimmed, the audience cheered and screamed.

On Saturday, Sept. 10, the Rider Drag Race was brought back by Rider's Student Entertainment Council. The show was held in the Yvonne Theater and featured five professional local drag queens and three student drag queens.

Before the show had even begun, the audience was having their own performance. As Whitney Houston's "Somebody Who Loves Me" blasted through the speakers, students sang and danced in their seats. The energy of one of Rider's most popular events was infectious; joy and laughter was already filling the nearly packed theater.

After the famous song ended, the show began. This semester's show was hosted by returning professional, VinChelle. The drag queen sported a floor length mono-chromatic dress and red accessories. VinChelle expressed her joy at returning to Rider and her hope for a wonderful time.

"I have on seven pairs of tights and I can't see; we're gonna have a good time, honey," the queen yelled into the microphone. The audience cheered and clapped as VinChelle handed off the microphone.

VinChelle kicked off the night with a performance of Mariah Carey's "Emotions." The performance included a quick change into a rainbow sequin bodysuit that had the audience screaming with anticipation. VinChelle made her way into the audience; excited attendees recorded as the queen sang her heart out.

After VinChelle finished her opening number, she passed the stage onto another professional drag queen. Going by the name Morgan Wells, the queen sported a Marie Antoinette-inspired pink and silver dress. Lip syncing to Whitney Houston's famous "I'm Every Woman," the drag queen pulled out all the stops,

strutting around the stage and pulling out a fan to emphasize the drama. At the end of Wells' performance, VinChelle praised the drag queen for making her whole costume by hand.

Next up on the roster was Jolina Jasmine. The blonde drag queen sported a pink and white bodysuit covered in feathers, pearls and rhinestones. Jasmine performed "Waiting for Tonight," a popular Jennifer Lopez song. The queen not only came into the audience, but also performed several tricks that had the audience screaming and cheering.

"[Rider's] different because of the age setting. I normally work in night clubs where everyone is over 21 and people tend to drink a lot," said Jones. "I feel like here I have a lot of audience engagement because there's no alcohol involved, so I feel like I have all the attention from everybody in the room versus trying to grab attention from people who are out socializing."

After the stunning performance by Jasmine, VinChelle took a moment to take an Instagram story. The pink wigged performer asked the audience to scream "YAS VinChelle!" VinChelle then introduced her drag niece. Drag culture includes the element of found family and creating your own. Often young drag queens are adopted by older members of the drag community.

Going by the name Daught Landell, the queen entered through a door at the side of the theater in a red bodysuit with a cut up acid wash fabric overlaying the piece. Landell performed a remix of Missy Elliot tunes. The queen entered the audience, stopping along the way to twerk on an audience member or two. Students screamed and cheered as Landell ended the performance. She asked a student for help in removing her red, thigh-high, high-heeled boots, and then told the student to keep them.

After Landell was returned Morgan Ashe. Ashe sported a tan pantsuit and was tastefully covered in body glitter that shimmered in the spotlight. Ashe performed "Vibeology," a song popularized by Paula Abdul. The queen strutted her way into the audience and used her black fan as an extension of her body.

Then it was time for the student drag queens to come out and show off their stuff. Up first was Ms. Kaela J (McKaela Jones, a senior marine science major). She sported a green sparkly romper and a pair of black heels. Kaela J lip synced to "I'm Coming Out" as performed by Diana Ross, and at the end of her set gave a motivational speech about loving yourself.

"The reason why I decided to do Drag Race is to show that drag is an art. It's for anybody. It means love, empowerment, joy, spreading art and you can do that through love, and that's what the show is about. That's why I decided to do it, and it was absolutely amazing," said Jones.

Second on the list of student drag queens was Astral Projection (Cassie Rudolph, a freshman game design major). Projection performed Marina and the Diamonds' "Primadonna." The queen wore a galaxy-themed outfit with a blue and silver sparkly mask.

Lastly was Sassy Boss Diva (Joe Giambelluca, a senior Spanish major) who performed Britney Spears' "Hit Me Baby One More Time." The drag queen sported an orange wig with a yellow tutu and a pink Planned Parenthood T-shirt.

The night was far from over with all five professional drag queens coming back for one more performance. Wells returned to the stage in a black and green dress and cape adorned in LED lights while lip syncing to Katy Perry's "Firework." Jasmine started off her performance of CeCe Peniston's "Finally" in a gold tulle robe covered in stars and then wowed the crowd with a rhinestone bodysuit.

Landell was up next in a black mini dress with a black bodysuit underneath. For her second number of the night she performed "Show Me Love," popularized by Robin S. The queen at one point took an audience member's phone and videoed her performance. Next, Ashe returned to the stage to wow the audience in a gray, black and silver bodysuit. For her second set the queen performed Whitney Houston's "I'm Your Baby Tonight."

The crowd was riled up and ready for more. To close out the night, VinChelle, who had changed into a floral dress with beads around her neck, performed a Destiny's Child remix. The audience was on their feet as the music blasted through the speakers.

At the end of the show, VinChelle called out each drag queen one by one to take a bow. The audience clapped and cheered as the queens danced their way off

the stage and into the lobby for some photos with adoring fans.

Grace Kohansby, a senior global studies major, said "I chose to come tonight because I wanted to be with my friends and have a good time."

Students certainly shared Kohansby's feelings when it came to having a good time. With smiles on their faces and laughter ringing in the air, students left the theater and excitedly talked about Rider's next drag show.



Professional drag queen **Morgan Wells** stunned the audience in her Marie Antoinette inspired dress.

Scan the QR code to see the Rider Drag Show photo gallery on theridernews.com



GREEN CORNER

Remember to vote as Election Day is approaching

FOR Rider students, busy schedules, classes, lack of transportation and living away from home may create challenges when it comes to voting, but don't let that stop you! Midterm elections are coming up on Nov. 8 and performing your civic duty has become more important than ever.

Generation Z makes up approximately 10% of eligible voters. However, less than half of people aged 18-24 are registered to vote, and even less will show up at the polls. Your voice is important and needs to be heard.

This November won't have a presidential election, but midterms are still extremely important. This year, all 50 states will elect representatives. 36 states will elect governors and 34 states will elect senators along with a wide variety of local and state offices. The Democrats currently have a slight lead with 50 seats in the Senate — a lead because Vice President Kamala Harris acts as the tie-breaker — and also hold a lead in the House of Representatives at 220-211 (Currently there are 4 vacancies due to resignations and deaths).

Likewise, it's important to remember that seats in local school boards are also up for grabs. These positions have become significant due to their power in determining what gets taught in local K-12 schools and what may be prohibited.

For New Jersey, the deadline to register in person, by mail or online is Oct. 18. The deadline to request a mail-in ballot is Nov. 1, while the deadline to mail your ballot is Election Day, on Nov. 8.

When it comes to defending our environment, women's rights or other issues on the ballot that you are passionate about, one of the greatest impacts you can have as a young person is using your vote. You can educate yourself by using sites like League of Conservation Voters (lcv.org) and Inside Climate News (insideclimatenews.org) to learn about the issues and solutions.

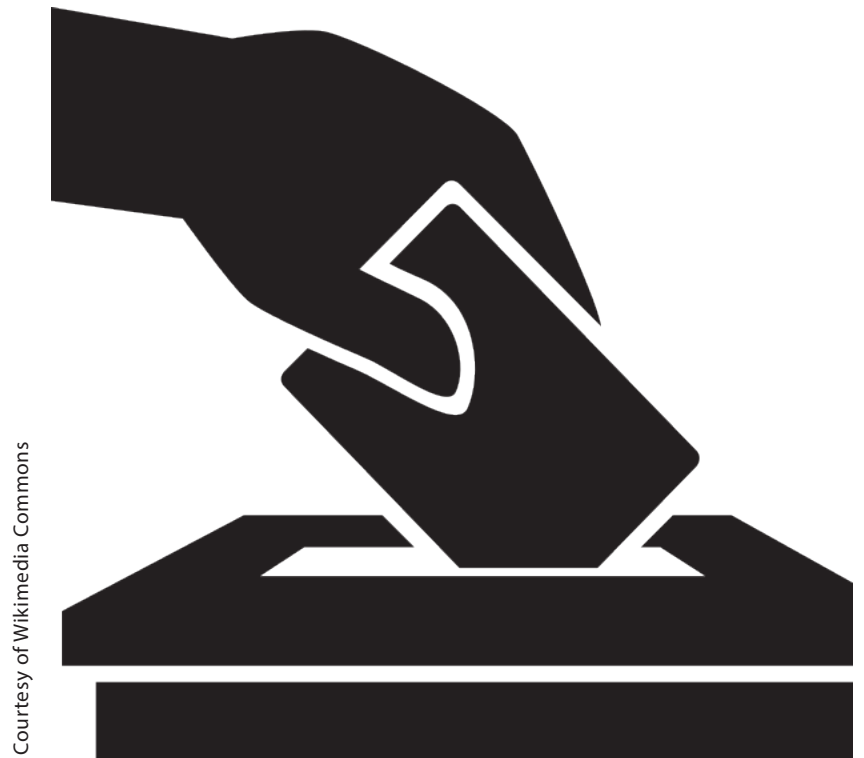
You'll also need to register to vote if you haven't already. You can vote in your home state by absentee ballot or you can register to vote in New Jersey, but you can't do both. Go to vote.org to find information on registration, deadlines and absentee voting.

It's important to make time in your calendar and remind yourself when it's time to vote. Don't wait until the last minute or you may not be able to make it to the polls.

In order to remain eco-friendly on Election Day, carpool to the polls. Again, set this up early, remind yourself and your friends of the plan to get out your vote. If you want to take it a step further, volunteers are always needed at the local polling locations!

Lastly, politics can be confusing. Use bipartisan tools like factcheck.org, which "monitors the factual accuracy of political ads, debates, interviews, speeches and news releases." It's a great resource to learn more about the accuracy of political statements and increase your understanding of elections.

*Scott Silvester
GA Sustainability*



A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

SGA announces the new "Zen Den" to help students destress

WITH the start of the new year, the Student Government Association (SGA) is excited to announce the completion of a longtime, student-centered project: Rider's very own relaxation room- named the "Zen Den."

This space, located on the first floor of the Bart Luedeke Center (BLC), next to the Student Affairs Suite, is a labor of love that will serve the mental and emotional health needs of all Rider Broncs. A versatile space, it will be great to unwind in-between classes or destress after a long day. Given the need to provide mental and emotional health support services to students, especially throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we're confident that this space will address many of the unique experiences of our student body, including difficulty focusing, overstress and neurodiversity, among many others.

We invite you to check out the space and attend our official Open House on Sept. from 12:30 -1:30 p.m. There will also be a chance to learn more about Counseling Services.

We extend a big thank you to Rider's Student Affairs, Facilities, Counseling Services and Student Accessibility and Support Services teams who helped make this project a reality! Our appreciation goes out to Dr. Leanna Fenneberg, Vice President Mike Reca, Executive Director Walter Eddy, graduate student Haley Ashe and Rider alumnus Samuel Hoffman for their leadership in this endeavor, and all those involved in the physical construction and work that went into the space.

*Andrew Bernstein
senior political science major*



Courtesy of SGA



THE Rider News

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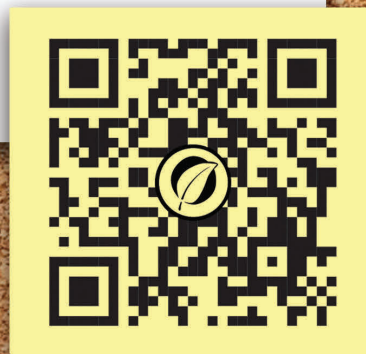
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IN THE LONGSTREET HOUSE BASEMENT

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FOR MORE INFORMATION



WOMEN'S SOCCER

Broncs finish non-conference play with a 0-1-1 weekend

By Carolo Pascale

RIDER women's soccer rounded out their non-conference schedule with a winless weekend, falling to Fairleigh Dickinson (FDU) 5-1 on Sept. 8 and tying with St. Francis Brooklyn 1-1 on Sept. 1.

The house always wins

The Broncs' first game of the weekend saw them travel up to Teaneck, New Jersey to face in-state foe, Fairleigh Dickinson. Rider struggled against the winless Knights, giving up a royal flush of five goals for the first time this season, falling 5-1 on Sept. 8.

"We missed too many tackles and were out of position defensively, so we need to improve defending individually and as a group," said Head Coach Drayson Hounsome.

The Knights got on the scoresheet fast with two goals in the first 20 minutes, matching the number of goals that FDU had scored through its six prior games.

But just 17 seconds after the second Knights goal, the Broncs got on the board when senior midfielder Lindsey Maslow scored her second goal in three games in the 20th minute. The goal, Maslow's second of the season, is a new single-season high for the midfielder, doing so in just six games.

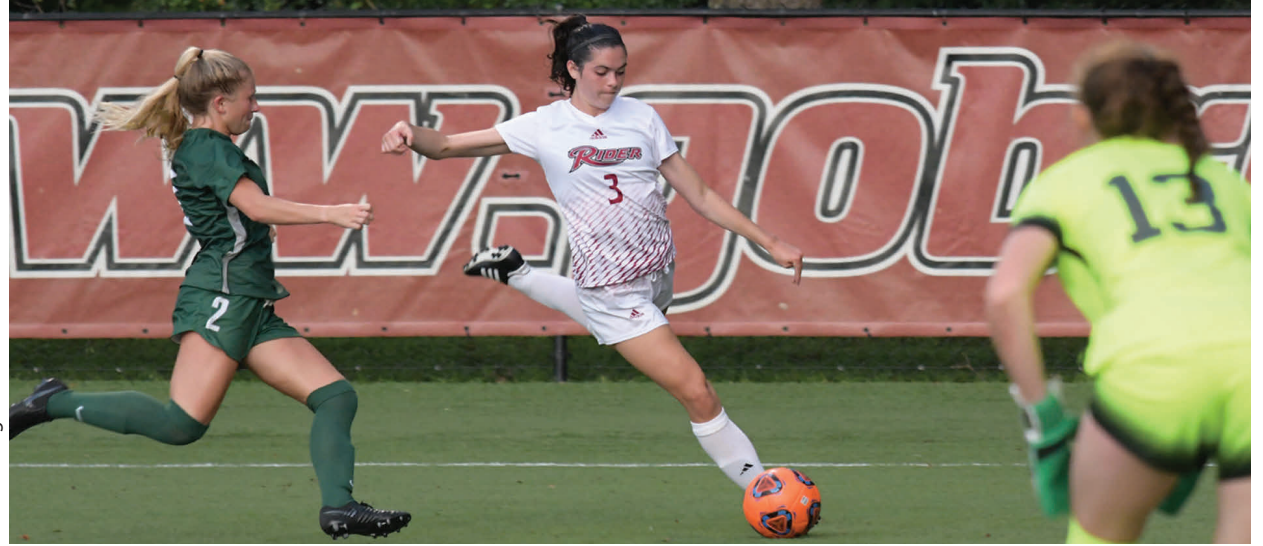
"Lindsey is playing with confidence, so it is great to see. She has really stepped up so far this season," said Hounsome.

Down by only a goal, the Broncs had a chance to tie, but the Knights didn't let off on the offensive pressure, pushing their lead back to two goals in the 35th minute with a goal off a penalty kick.

In the second half, the Broncs didn't fare much better, with FDU scoring two more times in the 63rd and 87th minutes to extend the lead to four goals.

"FDU did a good job of getting a lot of numbers on the attack, which helped them in getting to loose balls, which ended up creating scoring opportunities," said Maslow. "The score line would have easily been different. The other team just did a good job on capitalizing on their chances."

Despite the score, for a second straight game, the Broncs put up 15 shots. Five of them came from Maslow, with four of them on goal.



Peter G. Borg/Rider Athletics

Senior midfielder **Lindsey Maslow** scored her second goal of the season against Fairleigh Dickinson on Sept. 8.

'We deserve more respect in the conference'

In the final non-conference game of the season, the Broncs traveled to take on St. Francis Brooklyn in the Big Apple, but neither team could reap the fruits of their labor with the game ending in a 1-1 draw on Sept. 11.

"Not our greatest performance today, but the game gave us areas that we still need to improve on," said Hounsome.

In the 33rd minute, the Broncs once again gave their opponents a penalty shot opportunity. But this time, Broncs junior goalkeeper Ellie Sciancalepore stood tall, saving the shot and the resulting rebound, keeping the score at 0-0.

"Every PK is different, and that's what is most exciting about them," said Sciancalepore. "You have to take a new approach for every kick. But, knowing that St. Francis Brooklyn watched our game vs. FDU, where FDU converted a [penalty kick], it was important to remind myself of that and to prepare for the kicker to take a similar approach to FDU's [penalty kick]."

Despite the save from Sciancalepore, Rider conceded in the first half with just a second left on the clock, when a shot deflected off a Broncs defender

and into the net, giving the Terriers a 1-0 lead.

In the second half, the Broncs were given a chance on a freekick in the 68th minute from about 23 yards out. Freshman defender Olivia Smith nailed a perfect shot to secure her first collegiate goal and tie the game at one.

"Honestly the goal felt unreal," said Smith. "It was exciting, but I'm more happy that we didn't lose and I was able to contribute more on the attacking end since my position is center back."

The tie held, giving the Broncs their second tie in three games.

Rider closed out their non-conference play with a record of 3-2-2, and with Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) play on the horizon, the Broncs are looking to start out hot.

"With a strong team that is finding our groove, I think we will be able to come out and prove a point in the MAAC this year," said Sciancalepore. "We all have to leave it out there on the field and find a way to win. We have a full week to tidy some things up, and then we just have to go out and show why we deserve more respect in the conference."

The Broncs first MAAC play game of the season is coming up on Sept. 17 when the Broncs travel up to Buffalo, New York to take on the Canisius Griffins.

Men's soccer photo gallery

Check out more photos on theridernews.com or scan the QR code



Photos taken by Kaitlyn D'Alessio (top row) and Carolo Pascale (bottom row)/The Rider News

VOLLEYBALL

'Mental sloppiness' results in underwhelming showing

By Luke Lombardi

On Sept. 9, Rider volleyball took a trip to Washington D.C. for its final non-conference tournament of the season, going 1-1 in matches with Georgetown and George Washington University, before ending the weekend with a loss to Binghamton on Sept. 10.

The Broncos started off the weekend well. After a disappointing performance in the Georgetown/George Washington Tournament the previous weekend, Rider came out motivated defeating Georgetown three sets to one.

After starting off with a set one loss, the Broncos turned things around and didn't look back. Senior opposite hitter Morgan Romano led the team with 18 kills, while senior libero Pamela Loh had 14 digs which was a team high.

After gaining a win in game one, the team was feeling good.

Freshman outside hitter Brynn Johnson said, "It felt good. It felt refreshing. I think right now what we're focusing on is consistency because we have really good moments where we all do a great job and play together."

They followed up the win with a heartbreaking loss against George Washington in five sets.

No team in this match won two sets in a row and every set but one came down to four points or less.

Romano continued to look in mid-season form as she finished this match with 23 kills.

"It's definitely good to get back up to my numbers that I was at to help my team and be able to produce and know that they can count on me if they need me to put a ball away, but I definitely could have done better too in that game," Romano said. "My hitting percentage wasn't as high as I wanted it to be either. It's definitely good knowing that my setters know that



Rafael Suanes/Rider Athletics

Senior libero **Pamela Loh** had 14 digs against Georgetown on Sept. 9.

they can trust me and my other hitters know that they can trust me and that I can produce for them."

Unfortunately for the Broncos, their last game of the weekend against Binghamton was a nightmare.

They lost 3-0 with no set being extremely competitive. Rider was out-blocked 12-3 in the match, which was a common theme all weekend.

Head Coach Jeff Rotondo said, "I'll be honest, it's not talent. I think it's mental sloppiness and that's what we're dealing with and we're kind of working through that. All they're thinking about is 'Don't get blocked' and they're getting blocked a lot."

Even with the tough preseason, the players are looking forward to finally having a home game.

"It's definitely going to be nice being home because we have been away for a while and we've had a lot of games. Our preseason is one of the longer preseasons out of other conferences for volleyball, but it's definitely nice [that we're] going to be home on our home court, seeing our home crowd. It's going to be more comfortable. I feel like it's going to be really good for us and I'm very excited for Saturday," said Romano.

Rider looks to finish their preseason on a positive note when they play Princeton on Sept. 14 before hosting St. Peters in the conference opener on Sept. 17.

FIELD HOCKEY

Broncs split weekend matches on the road



Peter G. Borg/Rider Athletics

The Broncos went 1-1, shutting out Towson, before being dealt their own scoreless outing by La Salle.

By Logan VanDine

LOOKING to build on a strong start to its season, Rider field hockey attempted to start off its seven-game road trip on a good note, but split games against Towson and La Salle.

Taking it to Towson

Heading into its Sept. 9 matchup with Towson, Rider was looking to bounce back after a tough overtime loss to Appalachian State.

The Broncos were able to turn their luck around as they started off their road trip with a 2-0 victory over the Tigers.

The game started out scoreless until the Broncos were able to break the ice in the fourth minute of play. A perfect penalty corner that helped freshman forward Valeria Perales sink the Broncos' first goal of the game and the freshman's sixth goal of the season.

After a scoreless second quarter, the Broncos again took advantage of a penalty corner as senior midfielder Sierra Giuliano scored the second and ultimately final goal of the game, which helped lift the

Broncs to victory.

"I feel our team played tough defensively and offensively. Our corner execution was much better than our last game. Towson had a very good attacking game, and we were happy to see our defense hold strong," Head Coach Lori Hussong said.

Hussong also spoke highly of her team's defensive performance, as senior goalkeeper Kaitlyn Tomas added six saves and another shutout to her stellar 2022 resume.

"Our back line defense stepped up and did a great job in limiting follow up shots on goal, and Kaitlyn played outstanding in goal today. She was confident and aggressive in helping our team to a well-earned shutout," Hussong said.

Tomas deservedly gave herself some credit for the team's defensive performance, while being sure to highlight the Broncos' collective effort.

"I was proud of how I played against Towson. There were moments where my team needed me to come out and be aggressive to prevent possible goals, and I did that. I am also very proud of my

entire team; our defense was strong, and offense came through and scored off our penalty corner," Tomas said.

Tomas also talked about the importance of her team bouncing back with a victory after being shutout in their previous game against Appalachian State.

"It is very important; this was our first shutout of the season. We've got to keep doing what we are good at, capitalize on our opportunities and win every game we play," Tomas added.

'Out-hustled'

Hoping to make it two in row on the road to close the weekend, the Broncos were disappointed as they failed to score and fell to the La Salle Explorers on Sept. 11, 3-0.

The Broncos were hoping that their strong offensive and defensive performance would carry over when they head to La Salle, but after a scoreless first quarter, the Explorers struck first in the second and twice more in the third quarter; that was all La Salle needed to send the Broncos to their second loss of the season.

"LaSalle out-hustled us all over the field today and capitalized on their opportunities. We did not play our best hockey today, but we were encouraged by our fourth quarter play," Hussong said.

After being shutout in two out of their last three games, Hussong gave a blunt assessment of her squad.

"We know it's going to take time to get to the level that we need to be for conference play, and we need to work hard the next few weeks to improve," she said.

"Goals have been hard to come by lately after a promising start, but the silver lining is that we are getting our shots and have had opportunities to score in both games that we have been shut out. We need to take time to improve on staying poised and placing the ball around the goalie, not through the goalie, when we get our chances," Hussong added.

The Broncos will get some much needed time off as their next matchup will be against Lock Haven on Sept. 18.

Sports

ONLINE

'WE FOUGHT HARD TONIGHT'
Men's soccer continues to slide with more poor execution leading to a 2-1 loss to Rutgers.

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



Graphic by Carolo Pascale/The Rider News

Senior forward **Makenzie Rodrigues** has made her mark at Rider, leading the women's soccer team as a captain and top scorer, while being heavily involved with the community off the pitch.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

'Perfectionist': Rodrigues tackles the student-athlete balance

By **Jake Tiger**

ON Aug. 25, the final whistle sounded and Rider women's soccer crescendoed into a chorus of jubilation, as its massive group-hug slowly became a chaotic mosh pit of cranberry. The Broncs had just beaten Villanova for the first time in the team's history, thanks to the boot of forward Makenzie Rodrigues, who punched in the eventual game-winner in the 51st minute.

Rodrigues, a senior captain and focal point of Rider's offense, is a valve in the heart of her team, playing a more vital role than ever in her already illustrious career as a Bronc.

However, while her play on the field is invigorating, Rodrigues' work ethic and unwavering commitment to the double life of a student-athlete is just as worthy of a highlight reel.

Rodrigues hits her goals on and off the field.

"I think I've always been kind of a perfectionist," said Rodrigues. "I just wanna succeed in whatever I do, which can be a blessing and a curse."

From the outset of her freshman campaign, Rodrigues made it clear she would be a problem for years to come.

In her first season, the Seattle native contributed four goals in 17 starts – good for second on the team – earning her a spot on the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) All-Rookie Team, and since then, the ever-tenacious Rodrigues has improved significantly each and every year.

"I think as a rookie coming in, I worked hard and I've never stopped working hard each year," said Rodrigues. "You can expect to remain a starting player, but that's not how you keep a starting position."

As a sophomore, Rodrigues was even more productive despite only playing in six of nine games, finishing the year first in the MAAC in goals and shots with six and 25 respectively.

The star forward scored on a staggering 24% of her shots in the shortened 2020 season, including a two-game stretch in which she punched in four goals on just nine shot attempts.

"[Rodrigues] has had to work hard to get where she is and that is what separates her," said Head Coach Drayson Hounsome. "She has the work ethic and desire to improve her game. ... It's been a pleasure to coach her."

While the star forward dominated the pitch as an undergraduate, Rodrigues felt as though her resume and presence off the field were lacking in comparison, despite being a political science major with a double minor in French and legal studies.

"I think it's easy to get wrapped up in just being an athlete and a student," said Rodrigues. "My freshman year, I wasn't really in any clubs and I felt a little disconnected from other people on campus."

Rodrigues has since become quite the recurring figure at Rider, as the self-proclaimed perfectionist sought to concoct the ideal student-athlete balance. Her current role as president of Rider's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee has even created connections with students from other campuses.

The two-time MAAC All-Academic Team honoree is also a Student Government Association senator for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and a writing tutor, as she strives to make the most of a potentially lucrative college experience.

"It is what you make of it," Rodrigues said of her

time as a Bronc. "I just think those experiences have made me a better person and a better player. Taking advantage of what's already there is really important."

Upon graduating, Rodrigues plans to pursue a career in communications and political science, but only if professional soccer is not in the cards.

"I'm definitely looking to play overseas after I graduate," said Rodrigues. "I think there are opportunities there and I'd be open to going to a bunch of different places."

With her refined play in the non-conference portion of the schedule, a post-Rider career seems more and more likely.

On Aug. 28, just three days after the win against Villanova, Rodrigues followed up her historic goal with her first career hat trick, leading the Broncs to a 6-0 suffocation of Delaware State.

"It's been great so far in non-conference play," said Rodrigues. "It's been a big difference from last year because last year we didn't win any away games. It's mainly the same group of girls, we've just kept that belief in ourselves and it's already starting to pay off."

Through seven games, Rodrigues' calculated aggression has placed her second in the MAAC in goals, shots and shots on goal, but in what will likely be her final season as a Bronc, Rodrigues has her sights set on a storybook ending.

"I definitely have set [winning the MAAC] as a goal this year since it might be my last year," said Rodrigues. "There's definitely pressure there... but I think it's a good pressure."

Outside photos provided by Makenzie Rodrigues and center photo provided by Fidele Jules/Rider Athletics.



MAKENZIE RODRIGUES #13

YR	GP	G	A	PTS	SH	SH%	SOG	GW	MIN
2022	7	4	1	9	32	12.5%	16	2	567
CAREER	46	19	7	45	128	14.8%	64	3	3688

- 2019 MAAC ALL-ROOKIE
- 2X MAAC ALL-ACADEMIC
- 20-21 ALL-MAAC TEAM
- 20-21 MAAC CO-OFFENSIVE POTY

Carolo Pascale/The Rider News