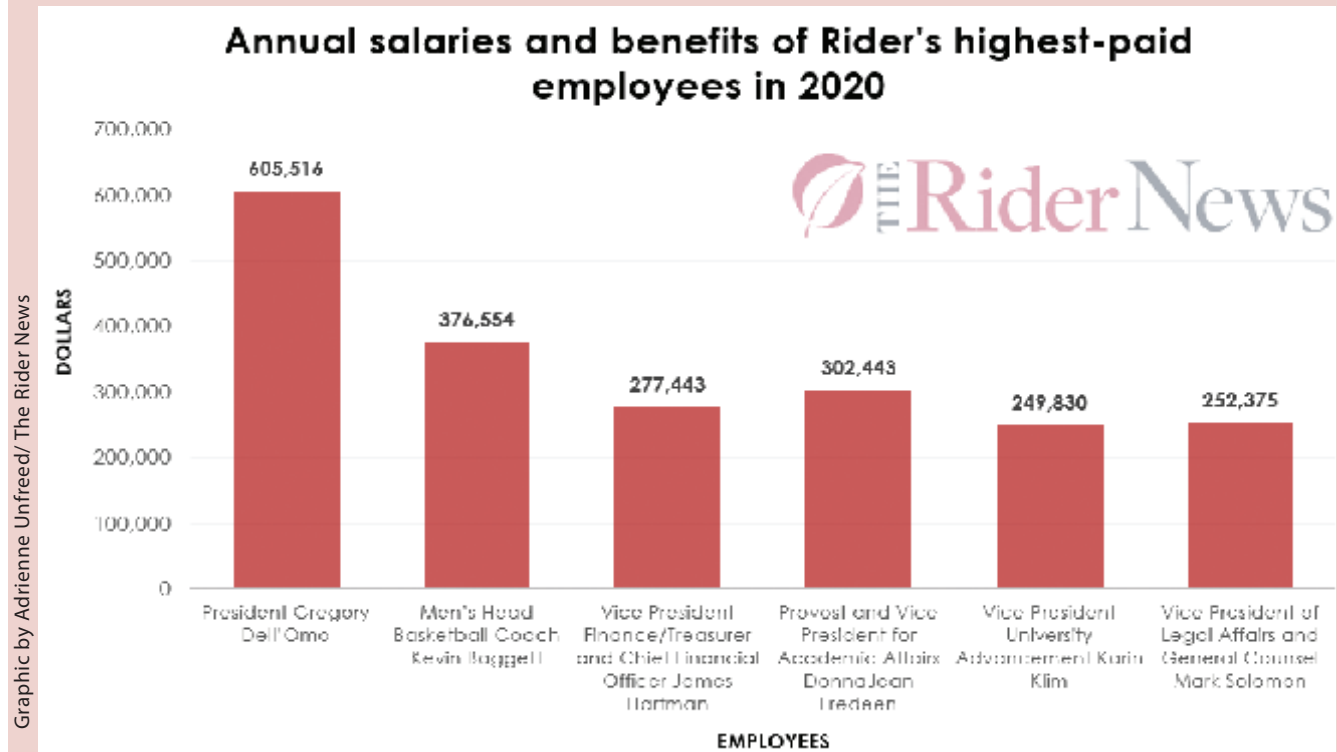




Tax forms show drop in pay for number of top Rider employees



Graphic by Adrienne Unfreed/The Rider News

compensation — a 3.3% drop from the previous year — and \$605,516 between compensation and nontaxable benefits in the report.

Of the \$64,656 Dell'Omo receives in nontaxable benefits, 46% of that is attributed to his residence adjacent to campus, which the university provides and requires him to take, according to the tax forms.

Even though Dell'Omo took a pay cut in the 2020 fiscal year, the university president consistently received increases in his compensation in prior years. Arthur Taylor, a former president of Rider's chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), said he was not overwhelmed by the president's willingness to take a pay cut.

"That's good, that's a start, but it doesn't match faculty sacrifices or sacrifices of other members of administration who aren't in that top echelon of vice presidents," Taylor said.

A number of other members in the president's cabinet saw their reportable income decrease without bonuses from the year prior. Rider's Vice President of Finance, Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer James Hartman saw more than a 17% decline in reportable compensation after a decrease in his base salary and bonus or incentive compensation in the 2020 fiscal year, and after receiving \$41,533 in bonus and incentive compensation in the previous year, according to university tax forms.

In addition to Hartman, who experienced the largest drop in compensation among cabinet members listed on the report, four other members of the president's cabinet experienced at least a 15% decrease in their reportable compensation from the year before. Mark Solomon, the university's general counsel, had his reportable income decreased by 10.6%.

The university's second-highest paid employee was men's basketball coach



A graph depicting the decrease of annual salaries for Rider employees.

By Shaun Chornobroff

AS Rider felt the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and attempted to put itself on a financially responsible path, the most recent IRS records show that a number of university cabinet members, including Rider President Gregory Dell'Omo, took reduced salaries during the pandemic's height.

The Rider News acquired a copy of the university's 2020 IRS 990, which tracks the university's spending in the fiscal year that spans from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

After Rider distributed more than \$200,000 in administration bonuses and incentive compensation in the 2019 fiscal year, the university did not list a single dollar spent in bonus and incentive compensation in its most recent tax forms, filed on May 16.

"Senior administrators, including the president, took a pay cut in 2020-2021. Cabinet took a 20% pay cut during the summer months and 10% for the remainder of the year. ... These steps were explicitly taken to help mitigate the university's financial challenges," Associate Vice President for University Marketing and Communications Kristine Brown said.

Although he received a more than an \$18,000 increase in his base salary, Dell'Omo saw his total compensation decline from the previous year.

Dell'Omo, the university's highest-paid employee, earned \$532,400 between his base salary and other reportable compensation and \$620,112, when including nontaxable benefits in the 2019 fiscal year.

In the 2020 fiscal year Dell'Omo was listed as making \$514,685 in salary and reportable

Rider's board of trustees approve faculty union contract

By Shaun Chornobroff

LONGSTANDING negotiations between Rider's administration and the faculty union came one step closer to an official end on Sept. 26 with Rider's board of trustees voting to approve a five-year contract.

The board of trustees' approval is a crucial step in putting the contract, which was agreed to with Rider's Chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) weeks earlier, official.

"Our continued goal throughout this process was to reach a fair balance between the interests of the administration and the bargaining unit members. The short and long-term changes to our faculty contract will help the university strengthen its financial health while still providing faculty, coaches, librarians and athletic trainers with competitive terms of employment," Rider President Gregory Dell'Omo said in a university-wide email announcing the agreement.

The deal further eliminates any prospect of a strike, something that students were alerted of being

a possibility before the sides came to an agreement on Sept. 11.

"Given recent university-wide communications and conversations [Student Government Association] (SGA) has had between administration and faculty, we are very pleased that both parties have come to an agreement without interrupting the start of the fall semester," SGA President and senior political science major Andrew Bernstein said in a statement to The Rider News. "Looking ahead to the future, we're hopeful that the resulting contract will retain, and even attract, high quality faculty—because what these negotiations have shown is that providing for the academic enrichment of students is, and should be, the unifying force across a college campus."

After a pair of one-year extensions during the pandemic, the contract is the first multi-year agreement between the union and the university since 2017. Despite the agreement, the union remains far from satisfied.

"A five-year contract will give some relief from

the constant process of negotiating, but it's hard to find any relief from a ratified agreement when it is far from what our people wanted. And some of our colleagues will receive layoff notices very soon. It's especially tough because they are facing layoffs through no fault of their own," said AAUP President David Dewberry.

Rider's Associate Vice President for University Marketing and Communications Kristine Brown said no decisions have been made regarding layoffs at this time.

In his email announcement, Dell'Omo made it clear that the agreement is only the first step in shaping Rider into the institution he envisions.

"We still have much work to do to strengthen the University's finances, by growing enrollment and auxiliary revenue and undertaking continued fundraising efforts," Dell'Omo wrote. "I hope that our entire community can continue working together toward these important goals."

INSIDE

GOLDEN GOAL

Rider club ice hockey opened the season with a stunning 3-2 overtime victory.

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WESTMINSTER STUDENTS DISAPPOINTED

Two Westminster students feel disheartened by the Rider Administration.

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PURPLE COW SHARES ITS STORY

Local couple that have created a community staple that students know and love.

PAGE 5



CORRECTION

In a Sept. 21 opinion article comparing Coca-Cola and Pepsi, The Rider News incorrectly said Pepsi sponsors the Super Bowl halftime show. It was announced in May that Pepsi would no longer be sponsoring the performance.

SECURITY BRIEFS

BY SHAUN CHORNOBROFF

Noisy Neighbors

Sunday Blues. On Sunday, September 18 at 12:37 a.m., Ewing Township Police responded to an off campus residence for the report of a noise complaint. Upon their arrival, the police spoke with the resident of the house about the loud music they were playing and advised them to turn it down. The Ewing Police then notified Public Safety about the incident. The matter was referred to the Office of Community Standards.

Burnout

Fast and 'fireous! On Thursday, September 22, at 11:05 p.m., Public Safety was dispatched to the parking lot behind Longstreet House for the report of a vehicle fire. Upon their arrival, Public Safety observed a small vehicle fire coming from the front end of the vehicle. The area was secured, and Public Safety was able to put the fire out with a fire extinguisher.

- Information provided by Public Safety Capt. Matthew Babcock

Tax forms show Rider's biggest expenses

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

Kevin Baggett, who made \$339,050 in base compensation, and when accounting for all forms of compensation and nontaxable benefits, accrued a total of \$376,554 in the 2020 fiscal year.

This was a slight decrease from the previous fiscal year for the veteran coach, who made \$380,578 the previous fiscal year, tax forms show.

This past season, Baggett coached the Broncs to a record of 14-19, but led Rider to its best performance in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Tournament, making it to the semifinals, which included an upset victory over top-seeded Iona.

Two professors, marketing professor Cynthia Newman and psychology professor Gary Brosvic, were among the university's 10 highest-paid employees, but Hartman explained that the professors, along with Baggett, are members of the AAUP; therefore, their payment is handled differently in comparison to cabinet members and other employees.

The 990 form shows the biggest expenditure Rider faced in the 2020 fiscal year was a \$1,466,544 payment to Ellucian, an information technology company that runs DegreeWorks and specializes in work with college campuses. In addition, the university paid 160over90, a national marketing agency with a location in Philadelphia, more than \$1.1 million.

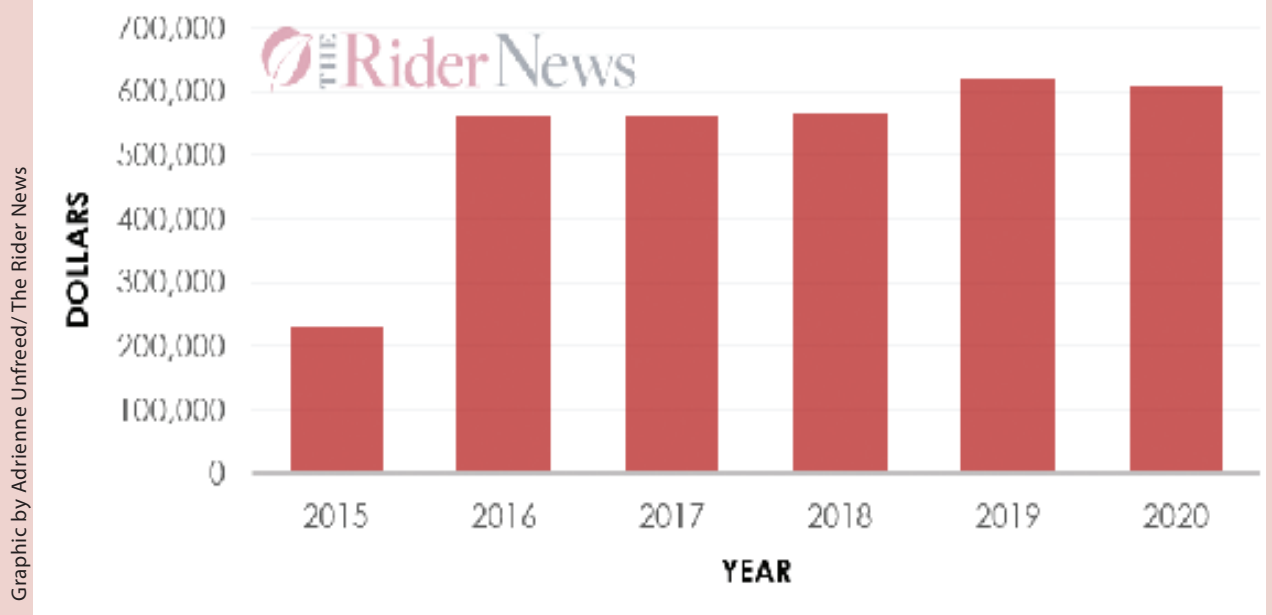
Brown explained that while the number paid to 160over90 may be large, the company also acquires advertising for the university.

Rider also paid \$484,500 for a pipe organ repair, and in the heat of the COVID-19 pandemic, the forms indicate that the university paid Resource Management Group \$414,498 for "COVID-19 related services."

"That was one of the many challenges of COVID," Brown said. "In addition to keeping

people healthy and safe, it required an immense amount of sources financially for a whole host of different reasons. The pandemic resulted in a lot of expenses for the university that weren't obviously planned for since the pandemic is not usually planned for."

President Gregory Dell'Omo's annual salary plus benefits since 2015



Graphic by Adrienne Unfreed/The Rider News

A graph depicting the compensation, including benefits, for Rider President Gregory Dell'Omo since 2015.

University names new part-time director of veteran affairs

By Kaitlyn McCormick

RIDER welcomed a new part-time director of the Dr. Eugene Marsh Center for Veteran and Military Affairs this semester following the voluntary separation of a full-time predecessor last spring.

The new director, Matthew Samson, started his tenure with Rider this fall after earning his master's in organizational leadership from the university last spring and retiring from 21 years of active-duty service in the United States Air Force. Samson said his mission is to work on Rider's retention rate, specifically for military-connected students.

"Not everybody finishes school," Samson said. "So my goal is to really help everybody, every single military-connected student reach graduation."

According to Kristine Brown, Rider's associate vice president for university marketing and communications, the retention data for "undergraduate, new, first-time freshman veteran students" between fall 2021 and fall 2022 is 77.7%.

Samson has been working closely with the students of the Rider University Veteran's Association (RUVA) as he adjusts to his new position.

RUVA President, senior criminal justice major Darren Rush, spoke about his excitement to welcome Samson to Rider.

"He's already working hard on giving more programs out for military-connected students, really allowing them to feel connected to the community," Rush said.

RUVA's Vice President, junior psychology major Jasmine Pristas, said, "Once you get to know him, he's really nice and really friendly. I'm really happy to have him on board."

Both Rush and Pristas, who have military connections through their fathers, stressed how impactful Rider's Veteran and Military Affairs Office has been throughout their careers at Rider.

"If it wasn't for that office and all the amazing people that are involved in that office, I don't think I would be who I am today," Rush said.

This experience is exactly what Samson wants to cultivate for future students.

"It's really important, I think, to have veterans and military-connected students have a place where they can come and be comfortable with each other and just be able to get to know others that are in the same background as them," Samson said.

He also emphasized how much he wants to use his new role to teach students. "That's a big part of what I want to do here," Samson said. "Mentoring and empowering and not just being the leader here, but teaching them how to lead."

Samson's position follows the departure of Thomas Reddington, the previous full-time coordinator of the office, who was approved for Rider's voluntary separation program last spring. Reddington served 24 years with the U.S. Marines before attending Rider and working his way up from a student volunteer to the head of the Veteran and Military Affairs Office.



Photo courtesy of Matthew Samson

Matthew Samson became the new director of the Dr. Eugene Marsh Center for Veteran and Military Affairs in the start of the fall semester.

SGA introduces 'Zen Den'

By Olivia Nicoletti

THE Student Government Association (SGA) welcomed students to a new spot on campus where they can sit back and relax during the school year.

On Sept. 15, the SGA staff hosted an open house to introduce campus to the “Zen Den” located on the first floor of the Bart Luedeke Center (BLC).

“I was very excited to see such a great turnout. Students seemed really intrigued and happy with the space,” said senior political science major and SGA President Andrew Bernstein. “We owe a huge thanks to Counseling Services for helping us promote the space and holding workshops for students during the open house.”

The lounge will be available to students through the semester during all hours the BLC is open.

According to sophomore political science major and SGA Academic Affairs Chairman Christina Natoli, although it’s a space open for all, there will be constant quiet hours “to relax and get away from all the noise on campus.”

“I’m confident that students will see the benefit of having such a space on campus and will continue to utilize it,” Bernstein said.

Hayley Ashe, a graduate student and former health and safety chairman, said the idea originally came about at a Counseling Center event held a couple years prior where they addressed the need for inclusive spaces that are more sensitive to the needs of neurodivergent individuals on college campuses in the age of growing diversity among college student populations.

“This project has been in the works for the past few years, however, my committee last year met with different university departments, such as Facilities, the Counseling Center and Student Affairs, as well as students, to tailor the room to the specific needs of the student body,” Ashe said.

The Zen Den was fully funded by SGA and designed by SGA members. Samuel Hoffman, Andrew Bernstein, Hayley Ashe and the SGA Health and Safety Committee dedicated time to researching what they wanted the room to look like and what the budget needed to be to achieve those desired results, according to Ashe.

Natoli said, “SGA really tried to cater to the students’ preferences and utilized student funding in a way that directly benefits the campus community.”

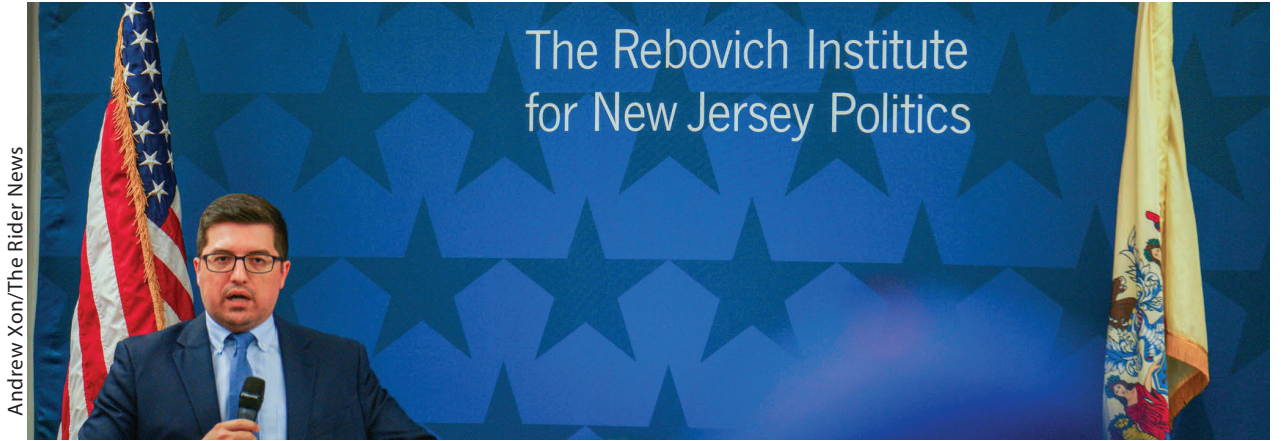
Bernstein said, “We all know how stressful classes, work, and other commitments can be, so it’s nice to have a space where students can take a break from all these stressors and focus on themselves. We really wanted to emphasize the importance of addressing students with all different mental and emotional health needs, especially in the wake of COVID-19.”

Natoli echoed that and said, “I think the Zen Den is an innovative and remarkable project, and I’m so thankful that we had such hardworking student leaders to make it happen.”



Photo courtesy of Hayley Ashe

New Zen Den provides a calming space for students.



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

Matt Rooney comes to Rider’s campus to talk about politics and his successes.

Conservative figure Matt Rooney comes to Rider

By Olivia Nicoletti

MATT Rooney, the founder of New Jersey’s No. 1 source of conservative news via his website savejersey.com, started his introduction speech by cracking a joke at the Rebovich Institute of New Jersey Politics event held on Sept. 27 on Rider’s campus.

Maria Castillo, a junior political science major, took the liberty of publicly welcoming Rooney to the event. Along with her statement that he is recognized as a “force in New Jersey state politics,” she added that former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie recognized Rooney for his “tireless efforts.”

As he took the stage, he debunked his and Christie’s current status. Rooney said, “and for the record, Chris Christie would not say that about me today. ... It happens — you fall in love and you fall out of love.”

After the audience shared a laugh over his misfortunes, he continued to share that he was “absolutely tickled” to be invited to speak at the event.

Micah Rasmussen, the director of the Rebovich Institute, said prior to the event’s beginning, “[Rooney] and I have been planning a talk like this for years, and my hope is that participants will find it as illuminating as I anticipate. We have something to learn from those we agree with, and sometimes even more from those with whom we don’t.”

Rooney then began his introduction by saying that he is a part of an “endangered species” in New Jersey, rather known as the conservative group.

His journey began at Rutgers Camden School of Law where he graduated in the class of 2010. He was later admitted to practice law in New Jersey in 2011 and then in the District of Columbia in 2012, according to Castillo.

He jumped on the opportunity of telling another joke by echoing this statement. “I am a conservative divorce lawyer, which makes me an even more niche creature for you to interact with this evening,” said Rooney.

Rooney focused his studies on family law matters, such as divorce, custody disputes and alimony.

Currently, Rooney serves as a Trustee for the Camden County Bar Association.

His claim to fame began with the website he founded for politics in New Jersey. Rooney said, this “was back in the era of Jon Corzine [a former New Jersey governor], so there was plenty to talk about.”

He said he did not start the website with intentions of popularity, but rather to share his opinions, make money and jokingly stated, “to pay off his student loans.”

He opened the Q&A portion of his speech by saying that any question was welcomed. Rooney said the audience can even ask his favorite color. He then followed up by making another joke — that he is a sagittarius, and likes long walks on the beach.

Graduate student Austin Ferguson asked, “How important do you think it is to differentiate between national republicans and New Jersey republicans when it comes to people who hesitate to vote for New Jersey republicans?”

Rooney answered this by relating religion to politics.

“When Jesus sent forth the Apostles, they have fundamentally the same message, but they were speaking different languages,” Rooney said.

This led into his explanation for his respect for Christie, even going as far as to relate him to Bill Clinton. Rooney commended his abilities to get a message across. He continued to say that many people said they would vote for Christie because “the guy tells you what he really thinks.”

In full, Rooney came to the conclusion that he respected communicators who personalized politics. He continued by stating, “the problem with a lot of people...especially a lot of leaders, is that they think the way you win elections is to be as unoffensive as possible.”

He followed that and said, “but that is a tactic that doesn’t work in any marketing context I’ve ever seen... if people see you are making a genuine attempt to express yourself and you’re not just trying to pull talking points... they’ll respond to that.”

TKE fraternity returns to campus

By Olivia Nicoletti

THE Epsilon Zeta Chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE) fraternity is returning to campus on a social probation following the cease and desist sanction that has been active on the Rider chapter since March 2022.

Allegations of misconduct and policy violations in the spring semester led to further investigations resulting in an administrative suspension, according to the Vice President of University Marketing and Communications Kristine Brown. The university did not give any further information of the misconduct.

“Rider’s Office of Student Involvement determined this investigation would require a member review, in conjunction with the TKE national headquarters,” said Brown. “Since then, an extensive member review has been conducted. Based on the findings of the joint review, the university concluded it was appropriate to lift the administrative suspension of the chapter. The Epsilon Zeta Chapter of TKE has been reinstated as an active, recognized and registered organization at Rider.”

According to Brown, TKE will be placed on immediate social probation, which prohibits the chapter from participating in any Greek social activities or off-campus events, and will also be

restrained from recruiting any new members during the fall 2022 semester.

The Epsilon Zeta Chapter will, however, be able to host formal chapter meetings, and approved on-campus philanthropic events and community service projects. The social probation will remain in place until the university deems there is demonstrated progress by its members to prioritize the health and safety of the chapter, according to Brown.

Nick Barbati, associate dean of campus life and TKE’s chapter adviser, said, “We look forward to partnering with TKE Headquarters to work closely with our students to ensure a successful return to activity that benefits them as individuals as well as the greater Fraternity & Sorority Community.”

Brandon Rios, a senior Global Supply Chain Management and Sports management major and the president of TKE, echoed that statement, “I feel great and confident heading into this next semester on campus. We have a great group of guys who have a true desire to help our community and to grow as men. Moving forward I expect the Epsilon Zeta chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon to do more than just fulfill the expectations of our community, but to surpass them.”

CHECK OUT THIS WEEK'S SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

NEWS

VETERAN AFFAIRS



RIDER NAMED A NEW PART-TIME DIRECTOR OF THE DR. EUGENE MARSH CENTER FOR VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS FOLLOWING THE DEPARTURE OF A FULL-TIME PREDECESSOR LAST SPRING.

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FEATURES

R FACTOR

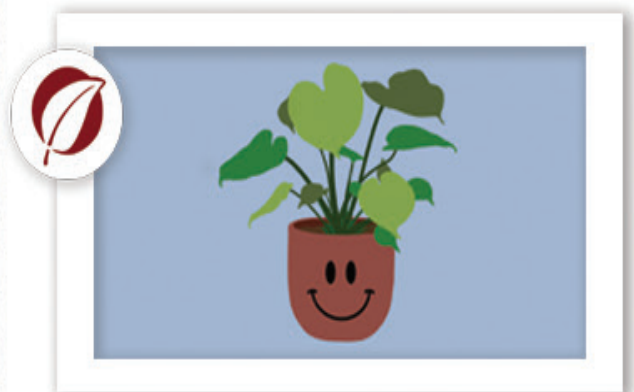


AFTER TWO ROUNDS OF ROUSING, WILL DUSINBERRE IS CROWNED R FACTOR CHAMPION.

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OPINION

GREEN CORNER



DOING SOMETHING SMALL BY PUTTING JUST ONE PLANT IN YOUR HOME IS A GREAT REMINDER THAT THE EARTH IS IMPORTANT AND WE MUST TAKE CARE OF IT TOGETHER!

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SPORTS

VOLLEYBALL



RIDER VOLLEYBALL ESCAPES THE WEEKEND WITH A WIN AND A LOSS, DESPITE LOSING SEVERAL KEY PLAYERS TO COVID-19 EXPOSURE.

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Beloved community staple of Lawrenceville shares their business story



Hannah Newman/The Rider News

Tom and Cindy Pearce pose for camera behind an ice cream case.



Hannah Newman/The Rider News

Freshly served ice cream in three different flavors sits on the counter ready to be eaten.

By **Tristan Leach**

On Main Street of Lawrenceville, New Jersey, there is a purple house with hanging plants and flowers covering the porch. The grass around the house is covered with black chairs and tables where people of all ages can enjoy ice cream: this is the home of Purple Cow.

Priding itself on being a place of community, owners Tom and Cindy Pearce just celebrated the shop's 12th anniversary. The friendly couple spend their days scooping ice cream, making banana splits and serving up freshly made sundaes.

Before the two started Purple Cow, they were on a much different career path.

Both found themselves working in the corporate world, with Tom working for the financial firm, Merrill Lynch.

"I took a package and got laid off. Our minds started turning of what we could do differently, and that's when we came up with the idea of ice cream," said Tom Pearce. "There was no ice cream in this little hamlet of Lawrenceville, so we thought it would be a perfect opportunity to do something."

The couple scouted the available buildings in the town, nearly picking the building next to what is now home to The Gingered Peach, a local bakery. But the duo fell in love with a bigger location with a homely front yard and porch.

Cindy Pearce said, "We were just testing the waters a little bit. We were looking into it and found out this building was also for rent, and we said, 'You know, if we're going to do this, we want one that's bigger.' This is just such a great location for the people across the street, Rider up the road. There's so much that we can attract."

Next came picking the name of the shop. Katie Pearce, Tom and Cindy's daughter, had painted a picture of a purple cow in kindergarten. This became the perfect inspiration when it came to naming the shop. However, there was a bump in the road. In the Midwest, there was also a chain of ice cream stores called Purple Cow. Tom and Cindy Pearce had already been using the name for a year when they received a cease and desist letter.



Hannah Newman/The Rider News

Amongst their charity work, the Peaces donate thousands of dollars to the local fire department.

There were two options: stop using the name or pay the chain a hefty amount of money. Instead of giving in, the Pearces found a trademark lawyer who managed to get the couple free use of the name.

From there, the husband and wife got to work on scouting someone who could provide the sweet treat that their business would be based around. "Everything we've tried to do at Purple Cow is quality related. We want the best ice cream," said Tom Pearce.

Finding the right ice cream has proved to be successful with hundreds of people pouring into the shop. Students like Jayme Schneider, a senior elementary education major, often visit for their favorite flavor, moose tracks.

"I feel that [Purple Cow] is so homey," said Schneider. "The workers are so welcoming and want to talk to you all the time. It makes you feel comfortable whenever you go."

While the promise of a delicious sweet treat attracts customers, the community that Cindy and Tom Pearce have built is what keeps them coming back. The walls of the shop are painted in bright rainbow colors and are decorated with an assortment of pieces from this found family of customers and community members. Artwork made by an artists

colony hangs in the dining room. There is a wall solely dedicated to the little league sports teams the shop has sponsored.

Next to their soda machine is another wall covered in photos; this wall is dedicated to the fire department of Lawrenceville.

The couple has donated an estimated \$30,000 to the department since starting the business. Cindy and Tom Pearce do not take the tips left in the jar next to the register; instead, they give the money to a children's charity, breast cancer foundations or the fire department.

"Because we love being part of this community, we have been contributing donations to local businesses. So it's really what the community means to us. We just love Lawrenceville," said Cindy Pearce. "Really, the community supports each other."

Tom and Cindy Pearce are beloved in the community, with regulars cooking dinner for them and bringing in art work for the shop. Behind the counter is a display case of purple cow art work. Paintings, ceramic figures, crocheted cows and more line the stuffed shelves.

Business is not slowing down anytime soon, and Tom and Cindy Pearce like it that way. Their love for the community and the community's love for them is endless and keeps the small township of Lawrenceville alive.

Cindy Pearce said, "If we have a legacy, I hope that kids, when they come in here years from now, they'll say 'Do you remember when we used to go to the Purple Cow?' because it's fun, and that's what my hope is."

Scan the QR code for the interview with Tom and Cindy Pearce.



Hannah Newman/The Rider News

The purple exterior of the ice cream shop matches the color of their most popular ice cream flavor, 'The Purple Cow.'



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

Sophomore film major, **Will Dusinberre**, performed two show stopping numbers. One for the semifinals and another for the finale. His remarkable performances won him R Factor champion.

Students compete for title of R Factor champion

By **Asia McGill**

FINALISTS showcased their vocal talents on Sept. 23 for their performance in the Yvonne Theater as they competed in the finale of 13th annual R Factor singing competition.

The line to enter was spilling out the door of the Fine Arts Building and stretched to the end of the Science & Technology Center. There was no question that the event was highly anticipated.

As the doors closed promptly at 7:30 p.m., a gust of excitement could be felt in the Yvonne Theater.

The show kicked off with an introductory video from each finalist and their coach, which was broadcasted through television screens on both sides of the theater.

R Factor judges Heather Thompson, Rider's Associate Dean of Campus Life Nick Barbati, Dani Knights, Ezra Hill and special guest judge Brad Fischetti, of the band LFO, took their seats. With bated breath the first contestant entered from stage right.

The first contestant was Ida DeMarco, a junior arts and entertainment industries management major, who wowed the audience with her performance of "Talking to the Moon" by Bruno Mars.

DeMarco's melodic voice caught the attention of all of the judges. "It was so captivating," Knights said.

Up next as the second performer was KC O'Brien, a junior supply chain management major, singing country hit "H.O.L.Y." by Florida Georgia Line.

O'Brien's performance warmed the heart of his coach, Barbati. Barbati complimented his growth as a singer and told him "I believe in you."

Third in line to perform was Michaela Smith, a sophomore communications major who held impressively long notes singing "Jar of Hearts" by Christina Perri.

Smith's expressive stage presence elicited great emotion to her performance. "You were feeling the words," Fischetti said from the judges' panel.

Senior music education major Azhaneet Blackwell entered as the fourth performer singing "I'm Here"

from the Broadway musical, *The Color Purple*. The emotional piece moved the audience.

"I could've seen you on Broadway," Fischetti said.

Christine Ruggieri, senior English major, returned as a previous contestant to the R Factor stage as the fifth performer. She took the challenge of singing despite being "a bit under the weather," with the song "Anyone" by Demi Lovato. Her performance impressed the audience, earning her a standing ovation.

"You said you were sick?" Knights said. "I can only dream of sounding like that."

Sophomore musical theater major Breanna Lemerise entered solo as the sixth contestant in the absence of her singing partner who was sick, Nicholas Grzywacz, a freshman acting major. Lemerise sang "Shallow" by Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper.

Although the two auditioned as a duo, Lemerise sang the original duet song as a solo, with Thompson complimenting her, "You totally made it yours."

The seventh contestant of the night was sophomore film major Will Dusinberre, who had a large fanbase cheering for him before he performed "Unchained Melody" by Elvis Presley.

Barbati said, "There was a moment I had to remind myself I wasn't listening to a record."

The final contestant of the night was Jennie Mae Sprouse, a sophomore music production major singing the viral Tik Tok song, "Heather" by Conan Gray.

"I think you have such a beautiful voice," Hill said.

The pressure was on as audience members voted for who they thought should be the top finalists.

The vote for the third finalist came to a tie between O'Brien, Lemerise and Blackwell. The third finalist was ultimately Lemerise, who was competing against Ruggieri and Dusinberre in the finals.

Before the final round, several people who have made an impact on R Factor were inducted into the R Factor Hall of Fame.

Amongst the inductees was Barbati, who started the contest 13 seasons ago. Barbati never allowed himself

to be inducted, purely because he believed the show was never about him. Barbati's eyes filled with tears as he spoke of his love for R Factor and all that were involved.

"The production team, the judges, past inductees and others who really help with the show, all pool together every year and we come up with the candidates we'd internally vote on. I always just wanted to celebrate other people," said Barbati in a follow-up interview.

Lemerise engaged the crowd with a sing-along of a childhood favorite "This is Me," from the Disney Channel original movie "Camp Rock."

Next, Ruggieri got the crowd on their feet again with her strong voice in the song "Never Enough" by Loren Allred.

Finally, Dusinberre amazed the crowd with his smooth and gentle voice by singing "Strange" by Celeste.

While the votes were being counted, the audience was entertained by previous R Factor winner, Mo Mamoud, as he sang "Beautiful Crazy" by Luke Combs.

When all of the votes were in and finalized, it was announced that the winner of the 13th annual R Factor was Dusinberre.

"Will is just spectacular. He is a ready made mega star that happens to be a Rider student. He recalls the voice of Elvis Presley, the stage presence of Madonna and the looks of James Dean. I think he's just the total package and I think he is a real true star," said Barbati.

"Thank you guys so much," Dusinberre said from the stage. "You guys are awesome."

"I think it [R Factor] is a really cool experience for people who may not get to perform on campus," Dusinberre said in an interview with The Rider News. "This is an outlet to sing, perform and be on stage because I know a lot of people who did it who aren't music majors. I'm not a music major, so it gave me a nice outlet to be able to perform."

Additional reporting done by Tristan Leach



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

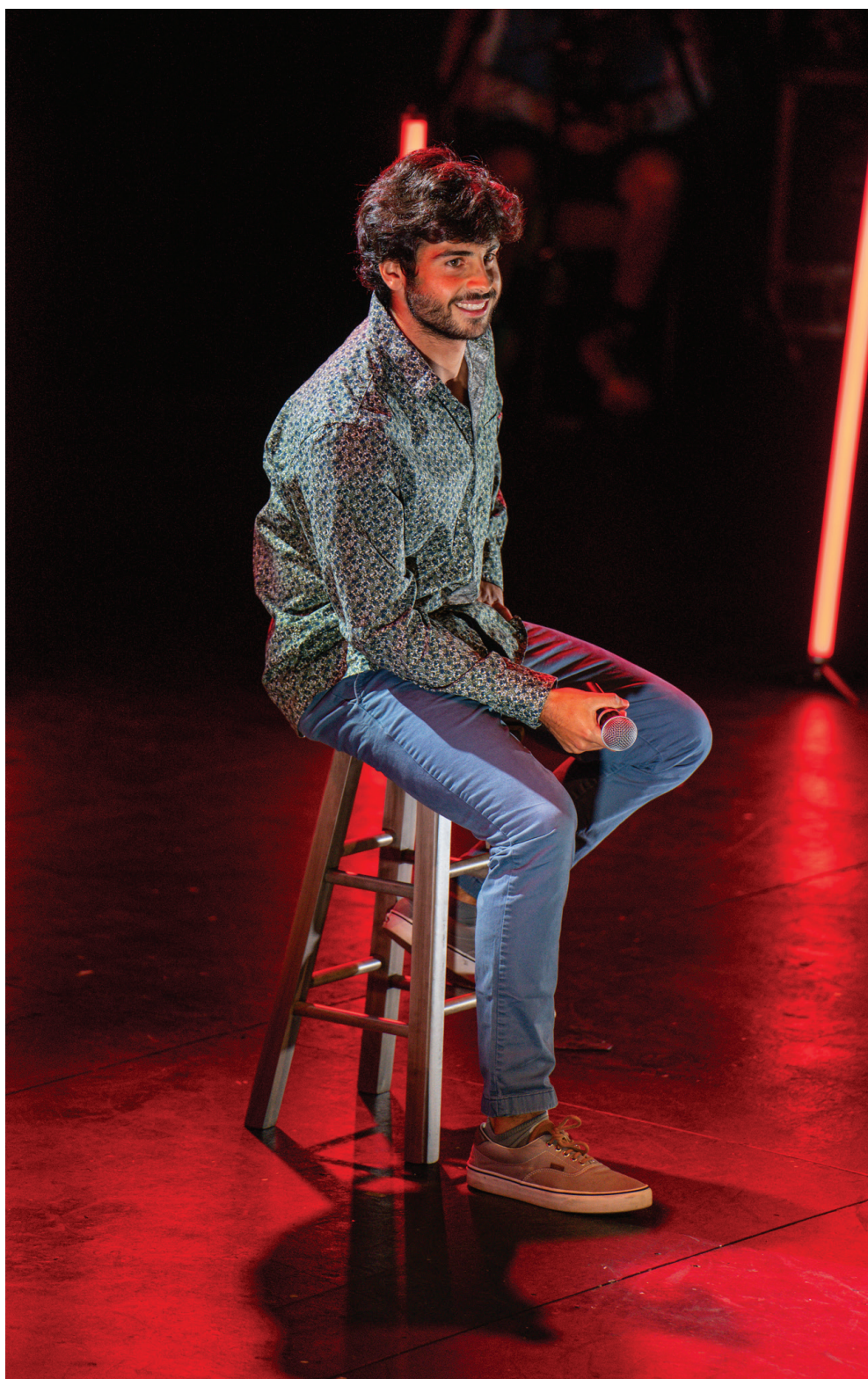
This is season 13 of the Rider tradition, R Factor.



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

Junior arts and entertainment industries management major, **Ida DeMarco**, kicked the night off.

Season 13 R Factor finale: Photo gallery



Andrew Xon/ The Rider News

Junior supply chain management major, **KC O'Brien**, sang a popular country song by Florida Georgia Line.



Andrew Xon/ The Rider News

Michaela Smith (middle), a sophomore communications major, stands with hosts **Danielle Tyson** (left), a senior broadcast journalism major and **Darren Rush** (right), a senior criminal justice major.



Andrew Xon/ The Rider News

Sophomore musical theater major, **Breanna Lemerise**, performed a duet as a solo after her partner had to drop due to illness.



Andrew Xon/ The Rider News

Azhaneet Blackwell, a senior music education major, sang "I'm Here" from the Broadway musical, "The Color Purple."



Andrew Xon/ The Rider News

Nick Barbati, sits with his fellow judges and gives feedback to a contestant at this seasons R Factor performance.

Westminster students "feel completely unheard and unseen"

WHEN Westminster Choir College (WCC) merged with Rider University in 1992, it maintained its own Princeton campus and world-renowned status. But Rider President Gregory Dell'Omo's unsuccessful attempt to sell the school in 2018, and his subsequent decision to move all WCC students and classes to Lawrenceville in 2020 in hopes to sell the valuable Princeton land, have been controversial to say the least.

Two Westminster students on the board of Sigma Alpha Iota, Westminster's professional music sorority, recently explained to The Rider News that they are extremely disappointed with the recent changes that make them feel less like WCC students. They both chose to go to Westminster for the name, the history and traditions, but many of those traditions are being demolished. Kyra Pitagno, senior voice performance major at WCC and president of Sigma Alpha Iota, expressed her concerns for the path that Rider's administration has set for the historic choir college.

"It feels very much like the culture of Westminster is trying to be diminished, as a student who's a senior, who has been here for years," said Pitagno. "I have just seen a massive decline in the prioritization."

Ashley LiBrizzi, a junior vocal performance and sacred music major who is also on the executive board of Sigma Alpha Iota, feels that when Rider took over Westminster, the university had no idea what it was inheriting. "I think they definitely need to educate themselves on Westminster because I really don't think they know what they have," LiBrizzi said of Rider's administration.

One of the traditions abolished was the separate commencement ceremony at Princeton Chapel. The removal of this tradition means Pitagno and LiBrizzi have a different experience than prior Westminster students. "It just doesn't make us feel like we're a part of Westminster Choir College anymore," said LiBrizzi.

In a Sept. 6th interview with The Rider News, Dell'Omo expressed his viewpoint on the matter.

"It's no different than any other program that we say 'This has potential; let's figure out how to grow it and make more investments as it grows.' We've got to get beyond saying this is a special problem," Dell'Omo said. "It's been a part of Rider University for 30-plus years now, and we treat it like it's any other program — understanding that it has a unique history, has a unique sort of presence. We get all that, but it's not a Westminster issue, it's a Rider University issue."

When Dell'Omo made the decision to move WCC to Lawrenceville, Pitagno and LiBrizzi were promised by the former Dean of Westminster Dr. Marshall Onofrio that nothing would change. They believed they would still have separate graduation, travel around the world and their degrees would say Westminster Choir College instead of Rider University. Now, they are not giving international performances, graduation ceremonies are combined and the diplomas given to WCC graduates in May said Rider University instead of Westminster.

Charles Isben, who did an independent study of Westminster's history, confirmed that new diplomas were given to the graduates; however, he hopes it was just a mistake and nothing more. "I'm inclined to think this was an unintentional error, instead of one final jab by the administration, the reason being that the corrected diplomas were printed on 11-by-14 [inch] paper, matching the diploma covers we were handed at commencement, whereas the Rider-only diplomas we received were printed on 8.5-by-11 [inch] paper. I hope this means Rider merely accidentally sent all of their students a Rider-only diploma — before realizing they had forgotten about the Westminster students — instead of hoping they could get away with breaking one more promise," said Isben.

Pitagno and LiBrizzi exhibited similar fears.

Pitagno said, "We have no idea what could happen with our degree."

LiBrizzi said, "And once again, that is extremely unfair, because they assured us that we were going to have all these traditions still, that we were going to have the name on the certificate, and like, now they're just gaslighting us and doing whatever they want."

LiBrizzi's second major was sacred music, which was one of the 25 majors cut over the summer. "I was absolutely torn and extremely upset over it. I almost feel like they're purposely trying to dissolve us in a way," said LiBrizzi. "Westminster was historically built for sacred music; it was meant for church musicians. And the fact that the one major that Westminster was historically founded upon, sacred music, just got scrapped, like, that was just absolutely upsetting."

Joel Phillips has been a professor at Westminster for almost 40 years and said that there has been less enrollments each year since Westminster was moved to Rider's campus. Phillips said, "The dean's call for workload estimated an expected 95 freshman and transfers to arrive in fall 2015, Dell'Omo's first fall. At that time WCC was fully enrolled at around 430 students, which includes grad[uate] students."

These numbers have decreased dramatically as Dell'Omo's plans for the college were revealed, including an attempt to sell the historic choir college.

"As a result of these bombshell announcements and the ensuing uncertainties, instead of the expected fall 2016 enrollment, WCC enrolled only 62 freshmen. The uncertainties continued with lawsuits by students, faculty, donors, and alumni and a lawsuit filed by the Princeton Theological Seminary against Rider," said Phillips.

Dell'Omo began to lay off faculty of Westminster hoping to sell it to another company; however, that deal was unsuccessful. Due to the changes and the undetermined future of Westminster, the fall 2017 enrollment was only 37 freshman students. "What has happened to WCC was entirely avoidable and the outcome totally predictable. The same leadership has made many other decisions that are just as terrible, and now Rider itself, not just WCC, is in serious financial difficulty," said Phillips. Students were also promised that a wing would be added to the Fine Arts building just for Westminster students to practice and have a choral space of their own; however, that promise has not yet been fulfilled. Kroner Hall has been made into a living-learning community for Westminster students with practice rooms in the basement, but any other major is still able to live there.

Dell'Omo explained, "It's just like any other program. You see programs starting to grow, you make the investments to continue that growth. I think we've done a lot to move them over here. ... We continue to add more space, but we have to get the enrollments up."

In March of 2022, the Rider News reported that in fall of 2021, only 16 Westminster freshmen joined Rider's Lawrenceville campus, a 78% reduction from the 72 freshman enrolled in 2016, before Dell'Omo announced plans to sell the school.

In the fall of 2022 Westminster admitted only 18 freshmen with a total of 79 students receiving undergraduate degrees.

Pitagno and LiBrizzi are worried there may not be a future for Westminster.

"I am nervous that Westminster, worst case scenario, will have no future because the things that made Westminster stand out, and John Finley Williamson, the founder's visions, are being so tampered with that I think incoming students will not see what made Westminster a place that so many musicians and music educators chose to study at," said Pitagno.

Both Pitagno and LiBrizzi love Westminster and are extremely grateful for the professors who have stayed and have continued to show them what is special about WCC. It is one of the reasons why they are still here, and they both know it wouldn't be the same without the incredible faculty.

"Rider University's administration needs to understand our desperate attempts to save Westminster's future by giving us the facilities we need, and by attempting to understand Westminster's culture and Westminster's legacy and history," said Pitagno.

Felicia Roehm



Angelina Fierro/The Rider News

THE Rider News

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GREEN CORNER

Power of plants on a college campus

On a college campus such as Rider's, we make up a community that, when working together, could meaningfully impact how we leave the earth. I believe our first step in leaving a positive legacy is to connect to our environment through the beauty and benefits of nature.

Aeryn Gilmore, a senior psychology major, sums it up perfectly with her personal experience. "Watching my parents drastically expand their garden in the past two years has made me realize how connected people can become to the earth. Caring for plants takes patience, understanding and resilience — key aspects of life. The more effort we put into the earth, the more connected we shall feel and benefits we shall receive." One of the best ways to connect to nature is to bring it into your home or here on campus into your dorm.

Having a houseplant in a living space is a great reminder to take little steps in our daily lives that make a big impact on our environment. Although Rider has a policy that doesn't allow live trees in your dorm room, there are many other plants that can be added to your living space.

While caring for your plants, you can reduce your plastic use by utilizing a reusable water bottle and participating in Fill it Forward with other Rider students. Your plants will thank you if you water them using Rider's filtered bottle refill stations. Another great way to water your plants is to collect the cold water at the beginning of a shower in a bucket or container, or even use the water you might have forgotten for a couple of days in a water bottle. Maybe you are an avid coffee drinker or an aspiring chef on campus. Any of your spent coffee grounds or food scraps, such as eggshells and banana peels, could be composted and used to feed your plants.

Indoor houseplants are a great addition to any space, and their benefits are endless. A study by the National Institute of Health found that students had improved productivity with plants in their classrooms. They were said to have greater concentration and focus, as well as a more relaxed mood compared to the absence of plants. Maybe try out a plant in your study area. It just might help you focus and stay calm the next time that five-page essay is due by midnight.

We all know dorms can get stuffy, especially with the changing of seasons, but did you know there are houseplants that purify the air? Your plant will clean the air for you while you sleep. Talk about earning its keep! Some of the best plants for air quality are pothos and snake plants. Many other plants will benefit you too, such as aloe, which is known for its ability to help relieve minor burns and cuts. Athletes on campus who are in the sun for practices and games for hours would benefit greatly from an aloe plant.

Plants are rewarding to care for, and they can help improve the mental health of college students. College is a place full of classes, sports, work, clubs — the list of obligations never ends. But that is why it's so important to take a few moments each week to unwind and relax, which is how most plant owners would describe caring for their plants. When talking about her philodendron brasil, Elise Spedding, a senior public relations major, said, "Having a plant is like taking care of a pet. You get really happy when you see a new stem or leaf growing."

The beauty of houseplants is the flexibility they offer. There is always going to be a plant that will fit your lifestyle while still benefiting you. Whether you are interested in a plant for a low-light setting where a pothos would thrive, or a plant that you could admire but forget about for a length of time, like a succulent, plants are varied enough to fit the unique needs of college students. You might find that keeping houseplants and trading cuttings among friends is your newest hobby here at Rider. If so, keep an eye out for emails from the Eco-Reps about upcoming BroncsGoGreen meetings this year for our plant propagation workshop that has been a hit in the past.

*Bailey Adams
junior environmental science major*



Angelina Fierro/The Rider News

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

SGA focuses on mental health of students with "Rider Cares" Resource Posters

In highlighting our commitment to mental health, the Student Government Association has finalized a project to better inform students about mental and emotional health resources.

The "Rider Cares" Resource Posters found in campus-wide bathrooms provide updated contact information for local and on-campus services, ranging from confidential counseling, screening services, to emergency hotlines. We encourage you to explore the options available for mental and emotional health support because no matter your experiences, you are not alone! Please consult Rider's

Counseling Services (conseling@rider.edu or 609-896-5157) for additional information on mental wellness, self-care, and for scheduling appointments.

We owe a big thank you to all the offices involved in providing feedback on this project including the Facilities team for their help installing these posters.

*Andrew Bernstein
senior political science major*



Courtesy of SGA

RIDER CARES

Asking for help can be difficult. You have options. You are not alone. The following resources are here to assist you if you need to talk about your **mental health, your safety, or how to report something.**

For additional resources:
linktr.ee/rider_sga

ON-CAMPUS RESOURCES

Counseling Center

(609) 896-5157 | counseling@rider.edu | Zoerner House
Make an appointment: Call or Email

Student Health Center

(609) 896-5060 | healthcenter.rider.edu | Payda Hall
Make an appointment: Call or Email

REPORT ON CAMPUS

Public Safety

Emergency: (609) 896-7777
Non-Emergency: (609) 896-5029

Dean of Students Office

(609) 896-5101 | deanofstudents@rider.edu

Title IX Compliance

(609) 896-5081 | titleix@rider.edu

OFF-CAMPUS RESOURCES

The Trevor Project for LGBTQ+ Lives

(866) 488-7386 | thetrevorproject.org | Chat, call text

988-National Suicide Prevention & Crisis Lifeline

Dial 988 | 988lifeline.org

RESOURCE KEY

Counseling
A trained professional can provide guidance and emotional support.

Confidential
On-campus resources where your confidentiality is maintained.

24/7 Hotline
Call or text any time for assistance.

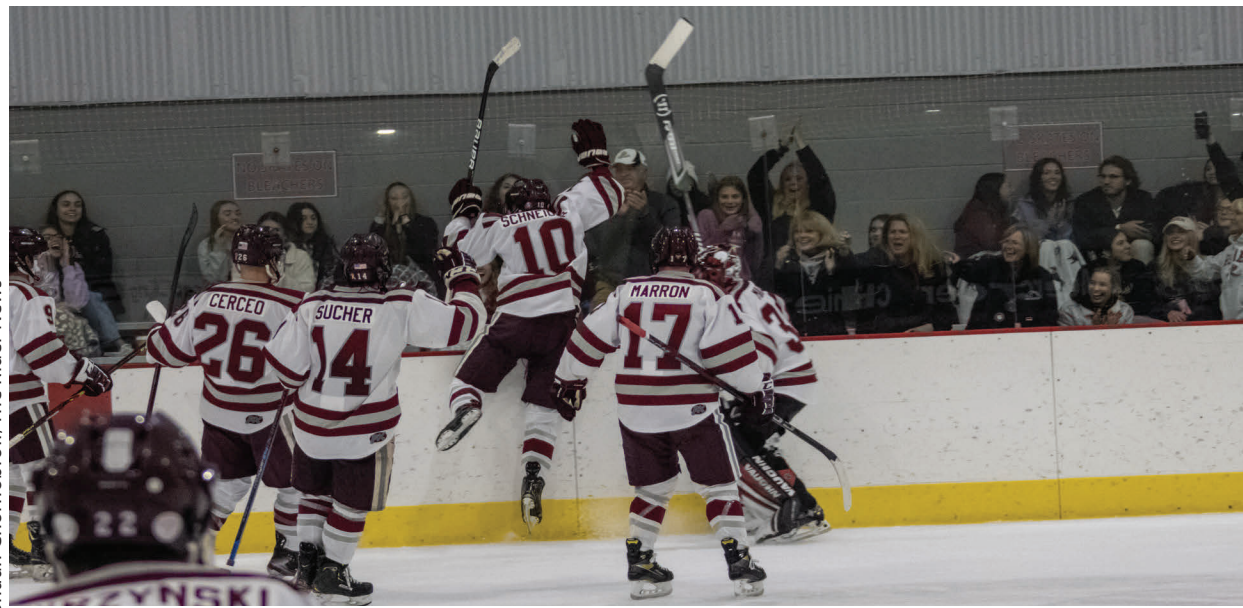
Report
Resources that can help you report an incident.

Scan the QR code for Rider's incident reporting forms:
rider.edu/report-and-support

Courtesy of SGA

CLUB ICE HOCKEY

Broncs win overtime thriller to open season



Shaun Chornobroff/The Rider News

Sophomore forward **Cole Schneider** scored the overtime winner against Montclair, his first goal of the season.

By **Shaun Chornobroff**

CONSIDERING Rider was facing off against a Montclair State team that it routinely decimates, it would be natural to assume that the Broncs club ice hockey team would cruise to a victory in their Sept. 23 season opener.

Despite having the advantage of playing on their home ice and having almost 30 more shots on goal, Rider had issues finding the back of the net and relied on a mixture of established veterans and new faces to eke out a 3-2 overtime victory over Montclair on their home ice to begin the 2022-23 campaign.

"I've been coaching for 10-plus years; a win's a win," Rider Head Coach Sean Levin said after the handshakes between the two teams had concluded. "You don't ask how, just how many. Sure, you'd draw it up differently, 43 shots to 15, you hope to score [more]. We didn't do well in the power play, but if you told me 'coach, you got a win,' I'm going to take the win."

A quick goal, a big collapse, a great escape

Rider got off to a racing start with graduate student forward TJ Evan putting the Broncs ahead 1-0 just over three minutes into the game.

After Evan's goal, the Broncs continued to pepper

the Montclair State net with shots, but were unable to extend the lead in the remainder of the first or in the second period.

Then, with 15:30 remaining in regulation, junior forward Mark McDermitt had a huge moment in his debut as a Bronc. Using crafty stickwork to bypass the Red Hawk defense, McDermitt flicked the puck past the Montclair State goalie and into the roof of the net to give the Broncs a two-goal lead.

But as quick as Rider went up 2-0, the lead dissipated.

Barely a minute after McDermitt's goal, Montclair responded with a power play goal, and then with 5:46 remaining on the clock, the Red Hawks knotted up the score at Ice Land Skating Rink.

"It is what it is; it's hockey. We didn't really respond as well as I would have really liked — obviously we gave up the second goal to tie it up, but hopefully this is a teachable moment, an opportunity to really learn," Levin said.

With the game once again even on the scoreboard, neither team was able to pull ahead in regulation, meaning a three-on-three overtime period was ahead.

A hair over a minute into the overtime period, junior forward CJ Perkins rushed the net, but was turned away by the Montclair State goalkeeper. Behind the net to receive the puck was forward Cole

Schneider. The sophomore, who scored his first collegiate goal against Montclair State almost a year earlier, secured a victory over them, swiftly tucking the puck in for the goal.

"It's always a great feeling putting in game-winners," Schneider said with a smile after the game.

A recipe for success

Along with McDermitt's goal, the season opener was the first chance for a number of new Broncs to make an impression, including Shawn Mika. The freshman goaltender got the start against Montclair, and outside of the two third period goals, was stout for the entirety of the game.

"It was a fun experience. A lot quicker, a lot more physical than what I'm used to, but it was fun to be out there on the ice," Mika said.

Mika made 13 saves, and despite his stats not being overwhelmingly impressive, he walked away from his college debut with a victory and was a stable force in the net for Rider in some crucial moments, impressing his coach in the process.

"It was his first game, [he] probably had some jitters. He's played a lot of hockey in his life, but he made a couple of good saves," Levin said. "When we started to get lazy defensively, he made a couple of good saves for us. He wasn't tested maybe as much as other games, but he made some timely saves and got the win."

With contributions from new faces like Mika, McDermitt and freshman defenseman Austin Sperduto, who had an assist in his first college game, complementing the standout and reliable play of Rider's more established faces like Evan or Schneider, the Broncs may have already found its recipe for success this season.

"We're a young team, but with some good crafty leadership. We get that together with some timely goaltending and the power play can get wrapped up, we're going to be a good team," Levin said.

Both of Rider Ice Hockey's next two games have been postponed, according to the team.

Carolo Pascale, sports editor of The Rider News, works closely with the hockey team and had no part in the editing or writing of this story.

MEN'S SOCCER

Rider routed by Princeton to enter MAAC play 1-5-1



Jake Tiger/The Rider News

The matchup against Princeton was the third time that the Broncs have been shutout this season, also being blanked by Seton Hall and Virginia.

By **Jake Tiger**

FOR the finale of an arduous non-conference schedule, Rider men's soccer hiked up to Princeton for one last test ahead of Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) play. The outcome was a 3-0 walloping from start to finish, as the Tigers preyed on a patchwork lineup, leaving Rider praying for an answer.

"They were the better team tonight," said Head Coach Charlie Inverso. "I think we were trying to overplay, and we had said in the scouting report that

we didn't want to overplay."

The Broncs played without graduate student forward Zaki Alibou and junior midfielder Adel Al-Masude, two critical cogs in their offense. Al-Masude currently leads the team in goals with two, while Alibou, the reigning MAAC Offensive Player of the Year, has had injuries limit him to just 87 scoreless minutes of play on the season.

"We have injuries every year going into conference play," said senior back Brendan Fischer. "It's something we're able to deal with but it was definitely a factor. ... All 18 guys should be able to function on the field."

The Tigers attacked early and often, launching a 21-shot barrage that dwarfed Rider's total of six.

Within three minutes of kickoff, they had fired off a triplet of shots at senior goalkeeper Guillaume Veinante. Veinante saved the first two attempts, but the third strike skipped by him and the Broncs were already behind.

"I thought we gave away a horrendous goal in the early minutes and that put us on our heels," said Inverso.

Early goals have been a consistent problem for Rider, with 13 of 16 goals allowed coming in the first half. Inarguably, the statistic has defined Rider's season thus far.

"We worked pretty hard, came up with a decent gameplan, but in the end, a couple of easy mistakes... that kinda put us down early," said senior back Brendan Fischer.

Rider was able to hold Princeton to one goal in the

first, so an equalizer was well within reach, but the shorthanded and disfluent offense had only managed one shot up to that point.

At times, players voiced their frustrations with each other on the field, as their lack of chemistry led to feisty reactions and diluted results.

Unfortunately for the Broncs, a second-half comeback was not in the cards, with the Tigers punching in goals in the 53rd and 61st minutes to make it a 3-0 game.

Five minutes after Princeton's third score, Veinante was subbed out for freshman goalkeeper Ben Collins who had yet to see any collegiate minutes between the posts. Inverso said the coaching staff has a lot of confidence in Veinante going forward, and simply wanted to give Collins some experience.

Fischer said, "A lot of new guys got minutes coming off the bench, myself even. There's positives to be had going into conference play... but obviously losing three-nil is never a good thing."

With the defeat, Rider dropped to 1-5-1, its worst start since 2018. However, the record is understandable given the strength of opponents such as Seton Hall, Virginia, UPenn and Rutgers.

"We started 1-5-1 not too long ago and we made it to the finals," said Inverso. "We took on a really tough pre-conference schedule and it only made us better."

The battle-tested Broncs hope to win when it counts, as they begin MAAC play by hosting Manhattan on Sept. 28 at 7 p.m. The game will be streamed on ESPN+.

VOLLEYBALL

Broncs rattled by COVID, split weekend matches



Kaitlyn D'Alessio/The Rider News

After the 1-1 weekend, the Broncs now have a 2-1 record in MAAC play and a 4-9 record overall.

By Hannah Newman

ADVERSITY may have been present, but did not remain persistent for the Rider Broncs volleyball team. After facing a 0-3 loss to Iona followed by a 3-1 victory vs Manhattan. The team was blindsided this weekend after several players missed time due to COVID-19.

"This weekend was not an easy one, as we dealt with the loss of seven players due to COVID. It felt eerily similar to the 2020 campaign and protocols, even though we never had a positive case that year," said Head Coach Jeffery Rotondo. "We lost both of our setters to COVID, as well as other starters who were contributing well."

Set up for failure

On Sept. 24, the Broncs took a tough loss to Iona, dropping all three sets despite the best effort of their COVID-ravaged roster.

"We felt we had a chance in each match, even with [senior opposite Morgan Romano] having to set for

us. We had a lot of opportunities to play with a lead versus Iona in sets one and two, but continued to find a way to let them back to even on the scoreboard," said Rotondo.

The first set was a slugfest, consisting of 10 ties and a climactic 24-24 standoff. Iona took command of the final two points, giving the Gaels a 26-24 victory.

The second set continued with a 12-12 tie until the Broncs pulled ahead, scoring five-straight points with three kills off the arm of senior middle hitter Morgan Koch.

However, the Broncs' rally was cut short, as Iona retaliated with six-straight points, granting them the lead and eventually the second set.

In the final set, the Broncs came back with six consecutive points bringing them to a 12-9 advantage, but that was interrupted by Iona who completed the victory with an 8-1 run.

"For me, setting and running the offense was a challenge and something different for me," said Romano. "I always knew my setters had a tough job,

but I definitely have more appreciation for my setters after having to do what they normally do."

Settling in

After facing a difficult challenge against Iona, the Broncs refused to let the rest of the weekend continue the same way. On Sept. 25, the Broncs redeemed themselves with a 3-1 win against Manhattan.

In the opening set both teams were nearly parallel climbing up the scoreboard. The Broncs took the lead at 16-14 until the Jaspers took a 5-0 run that gave them the lead. The Broncs refused to let this run determine the outcome of their game. A 6-0 run from Rider tied the set at 22-22 making the fight to break neutrality a reason to heighten determination.

"Our game against Iona which we fell short of, I felt we were getting used to our new lineup and personnel we had on the court," said freshman middle Carley McAleavy. "There were a couple of things we needed to clean up in order to be successful in that match but we cleaned up those aspects of the game when we played Manhattan."

After taking the final three points from the opening set, the Jaspers snatched the lead. The Broncs took the end of the opening set as motivation to enter set two where they came back their strongest, taking the lead 10-3. From this moment on, the Broncs were sure to secure their place in this set finishing it off at 25-18.

Rider kept the same energy going into set three, dominating 25-14, led by seven-straight points on the serve of freshman libero Keegan O'Connor.

"Today vs. Manhattan, we came out flat and holding back, almost afraid to lose and hoping Manhattan would just give us the match. We settled in after the first set, and continued to build some momentum each set to close it out in four," said Rotondo. "Still, we would have liked to go 2-0 this weekend, but there is no way 0-2 would have been an acceptable outcome this weekend, so we have to live with the 1-1 record and get back to some really focused and intense practices this week."

The Broncs' are currently 4-9 on the season and sit 2-1 in MAAC play with another two-game weekend on the horizon, taking on Siena on Oct. 1 and Marist on Oct. 2.

FIELD HOCKEY

Field hockey falls to Drexel; shuts out Georgetown



Peter G. Borg/Rider Athletics

The Broncs concluded their non-conference schedule with a six-goal weekend, bringing them to 19 goals on the season.

By Logan VanDine

THE Rider field hockey team was looking to right the ship as they headed to their weekend road trip on a two game losing streak and were able to get back to the .500 mark, splitting games against Drexel and Georgetown.

'We need to score more'

Hoping for vengeance after a heartbreaking loss to Lock Haven on Sept. 18, the Rider field hockey team stayed in the Pennsylvania area and took on Drexel. In yet another heartbreaker in overtime, the Broncs lost

to the Dragons 3-2 on Sept. 23, extending their losing streak to three.

The Dragons instantly proved to be a challenging opponent for the Broncs. Just three minutes into the game, they struck the first goal of the match, making it 1-0, until the Broncs responded with a penalty corner shot that freshman Valeira Perales was able to sink for her seventh goal of the season, successfully tying the game.

Each team added one more goal, but with the score deadlocked until the end of regulation, the Broncs were in another familiar spot: overtime. Luck did not favor the Broncs as the Dragons sealed their victory with a quick overtime goal.

"I was very happy with the team's performance, other than not scoring more goals than them. The bottom line is we need to score more. When we have that many chances, we need to score more goals," Head Coach Lori Hussong said.

If there was any silver lining in the team's crushing defeat, it was Hussong being able to get her young players involved more, which is something that she has been impressed with this season.

"We had outstanding play on the attack from Indy Zoontjens, Sierra Giuliano, Semra Said and Valeria Perales," Hussong said. "And on the defensive end Maeve Riechman, Kiki Van Ommeren and Amanda Zambrana played steady and smart. Kaitlyn Tomas played well in goal."

Freshman midfielder Indy Zoontjens, who scored two goals in as many days, talked about how positive of an experience it's been for her this early in her

career.

"This has been a great experience, and we will be prepared when it's time for the conference season," Zoontjens said.

Handling the Hoyas

Looking for better fortune after a crushing overtime loss, the Broncs bounced back as they convincingly shut out the Georgetown Hoyas 4-0 on Sept. 25.

After a scoreless first half, the Broncs broke the ice as Zoontjens ripped a shot in the third quarter on a penalty corner for her first of two goals.

The Broncs sealed the game with three goals in the fourth quarter that helped send the Broncs back to .500 with a 4-4 record.

"Georgetown played tough throughout the game. It took us a little while to get our legs moving and get our attack going," Hussong said. "Today's win was much-needed. It will definitely give us confidence as we move forward into conference play next week."

The defense was also able to pitch a shutout, which was something Hussong was very impressed with, especially after three straight losses.

"Our defense held tough and earned another shutout, and Kaitlyn Tomas was outstanding in goal, coming up with some huge saves to keep us in the game before our attack got going. Amanda Zambrana and Sierra Giuliano held our midfield together," said Hussong.

The Broncs will now get some time to enjoy this victory before they play Saint Francis on Sept. 30 and No. 22 ranked American University on Oct. 2.

Sports

ONLINE

GALLERIES GALORE

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Carolo Pascale/The Rider News

Senior midfielder **Camryn Dees** was named MAAC Offensive Player of the Week for her one goal, two assist effort against Saint Peter's on Sept. 24.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Dees shines, Broncs earn first conference win

By **Carolo Pascale**

AFTER three long weeks, Rider women's soccer finally returned home to the turf of Ben Cohen Field looking to break its five game winless streak and earn its first Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) play victory of the season. With the large home crowd behind them, the Broncs toppled Saint Peter's in a dominating 3-0 shutout win on Sept. 24.

"We were able to work on a ton of things," said Head Coach Drayson Hounsome. "We had to make changes, we made changes, we changed formation and I think the team responded in a positive way. A shutout scoring three goals, three points — it's almost a perfect Saturday night."

Right from the get-go, the Broncs were active and on the attack, forcing the Peacock's goalkeeper to make multiple tough saves inside the first 12 minutes of the match. By the 15th minute, the Broncs had already gotten off four shots, with one from senior midfielder Lindsey Maslow going just left of the goal.

Rider kept the pressure on, and off a corner kick, senior midfielder Camryn Dees placed a perfect shot from just left of the 18-yard box off the post and into the top right corner of the net, giving the Broncs a 1-0 lead in the 23rd minute.

"It's good to see us score off a short corner. We've worked on that a gazillion times, and it doesn't often come off, but tonight it did," said Hounsome. "She was able to catch it beautifully and put it in the top corner."

Continuing off the one goal lead, like clockwork, the Broncs put another goal on the board just three minutes later in the 26th minute. This time, Maslow was able to break away from a defender on a thru ball pass from

Dees and used some quick finesse to get around the Peacocks goalkeeper on the 1-on-1, giving the Broncs a quick 2-0 lead.

With the second goal, both Dees and Maslow already had three points on the night, Maslow's first being the assist on Dees' goal.

"I think we were playing a lot better as a team, and we're moving the ball a lot better," said Dees.

But the Broncs' strong first half wasn't over yet, when in the 43rd minute, senior forward Hailey Russell got a pass from Dees and fired a bullet of a shot from about 30 yards out that went just under the crossbar and in, giving Rider a comfortable 3-0 lead. The goal was Russell's first of the season and was Dees' second assist and fourth point of the night.

"It definitely feels good," said Russell. "I've been struggling a little bit to get it in the net, so getting one in there definitely is going to help with the rest of the season and build my confidence."

At the end of the first half, the Broncs held a 3-0 lead and four shot advantage over Saint Peter's, leading 10-6. The formation change Hounsome mentioned created more offensive chances for the Broncs, as well as finally playing in front of a home crowd.

"So we reduced the number of forwards, but it kind of allows you to maintain possession a little bit better, which means we've had more of the ball," said Hounsome. "I think part of it is being back home playing on our field which is a nice big field that suits us better than some other fields which are smaller and narrower and a little bit tougher for our style to play on."

The second half didn't see any goals by either team, but Rider came painstakingly close on several

occasions. Senior forward Makenzie Rodrigues missed a shot just wide of the top-right corner in the 50th minute, graduate student midfielder Anna Barkey's header was robbed by the Peacock's goalkeeper in the 60th minute and Russell was denied by the crossbar in the 77th minute.

Once time expired, the Broncs had finally secured a win for the first time in five games and earned their first MAAC win of the season. Rider took the final edge in shots and shots on goal, with 15 shots and seven hitting the net, while Saint Peter's took 13 shots and could only muster two on target.

"We said to them before the game that the only thing that mattered was that we had to be better than Saint Peter's," said Hounsome. "So we will take that, that tonight we were better than Saint Peter's where it mattered."

Dees finished with four points on the night, while Maslow had three. Dees was also named MAAC Offensive Player of the Week for her performance in the match.

"One of the things with changing the formation is it gives players like her the ability to flourish more," said Hounsome. "She doesn't have to do as much defending and she can really get on the ball and create things and do things and she did that tonight."

In goal, junior goalkeeper Ellie Sciancalepore had a relatively easy night, only having to make two saves, while earning her fourth clean sheet of the season.

The Broncs, now 1-1 in MAAC play and 4-3-2 overall, go back on the road once again to take on the Manhattan Jaspers on Sept. 28.

MAAC OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

CAMRYN DEES #6

<u>G</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>PTS</u>	<u>MIN</u>	
TOTALS	1	2	4	77

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