



Rider awaits result of lawsuits hearing



By Stephen Neukam

In front of a standing-room-only courtroom, packed with Westminster College (WCC) students, alumni and faculty, lawyers representing Rider and those opposing the consolidation of the school argued their cases for nearly three hours in the Mercer County Civil Courthouse in Trenton on Feb. 14.

The hearing, which was presided over by Judge Robert T. Lougy, was held to consider the university's motion to dismiss two lawsuits against it over its actions with WCC — one suit comprised of WCC alumni and faculty and the other of 71 current students. As the hearing concluded, Lougy said he did not make decisions from the bench, leaving both parties to wait for a ruling in the near future.

The university moved to have the suits dismissed for a number of reasons but predominantly on the argument that the plaintiffs in both cases do not have sufficient standing to bring the lawsuits forward.

Angelo Stio from the law firm Pepper Hamilton represented the university at the hearing, along with Vice President of Legal Affairs and General Counsel Mark Solomon and two other lawyers. Rider's latest tax documents show that the school contracted Pepper Hamilton, which represents the school on a number of legal issues, for \$340,683 in 2017. The university declined to disclose the amount it paid the law firm in 2018 and 2019.

The students, faculty and alumni, the university argued, are not party to or third party beneficiaries of a number of agreements concerning WCC, including the 1991 merger agreement between WCC and Rider. Therefore, the parties lack the legal standing to enforce the terms of the contracts.

Attorney Bruce Afran, representing the students, faculty and alumni groups suing the university, argued adamantly that if those he represented did not have the standing to challenge the university, then no one did.

The plaintiffs also argued that there is a significant public interest in the preservation of WCC as a college and conservatory, which students and faculty are direct beneficiaries of.

In a particularly powerful moment in the hearing, Afran motioned toward the audience behind him and pointed out freshman sacred



Dylan Manfre/The Rider News

Lawyers for Rider and those suing the school argued in a hearing that considered the dismissal of the lawsuits on Feb. 14.



Omega "still a family" even after sudden move across campus



The Rider News

The majority of former Omega House residents have since been relocated to Poyda Hall, a first year experience residence hall.

By Hailey Hensley

In November 2019, just a few days before freshman acting and dance double major Josiah Jacoby departed for Thanksgiving break, he and every other resident of Omega House received an email stating that they were to be moved from their residence hall before the semester came to a close.

The majority of Omega residents for the fall 2019 semester were freshman students in the College of Fine and Performing Arts. The building had been allocated as part of the Living Learning Community specifically for students in that college.

Students faced the move with immense confusion and concern, as the move was scheduled to occur during finals week.

The students had previously been told by university administrators that they would not have to move and that scheduled renovations would occur during the summer of 2020.

The Rider News previously published an article that discussed the situation as

it evolved and shortly after the publication of that article in December 2019, all Omega residents were moved to Poyda Hall for the remainder of the fall semester.

"I moved into Poyda [Hall] at the end of the fall semester and then I moved again [to Lake House] on move-in day for the spring semester. I requested to be put in Lake House since I knew a spot was opening up," said Jacoby. "They [Residence Life] made me move to Poyda first because they said they weren't sure if a spot would be open in Lake [House]."

Jacoby clarified that the majority of former Omega residents were placed in Poyda Hall and stayed there without requesting a move to any other residence hall. He emphasized that the university worked with the students and strived to accommodate their various requests when it came to housing.

"Overall, it does suck what happened to us [former Omega residents] but they [the university] did really try to help us. They didn't completely abandon us, which I really did think when I first found out [about the move]," said he stated. "They helped us move and then they worked with a lot of us to get us where we really wanted to go."

The former Omega House community assistant junior musical theatre major Tessa Douglas was moved to Lake House, the other residence hall associated with the Fine and Performing Arts Living Learning Community.

"While I am very sad to have left Omega, I'm glad that I was moved to a similar community in Lake House. I am really excited that a few of my former Omega House residents moved over to Lake House with me."

Douglas made it incredibly clear that despite their new locations, she still felt very close to all of her residents, both current and former. Douglas stated that she still tries to keep in contact with them whenever possible.

"While I don't get to see my Omega [House] residents every day, I do enjoy seeing them around campus and catching up with them," Douglas said. "I still have this beautiful relationship with them and we're still a family, just a family who has a little more space now."

INSIDE



RIDER STARTS STRONG

The baseball team begins its season with a three-game sweep.

PAGE 10

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Professor writes about WCC's ongoing consolidation.

PAGE 8



CRAZY IN LOVE

"MAD About You" steals hearts just in time for Valentine's Day.

PAGE 6

SECURITY BRIEFS

BY STEPHEN NEUKAM

Unhinged

A graceful entrance. On Feb. 13 at 8 a.m., Public Safety received a report that a door in Sweigart Hall was falling off of its hinges. Officers met with the female student complainant who said that as she was entering the door that faces the Fine Arts Center it fell to the ground. Facilities Management was on the scene when officers arrived and no one was injured. There is no estimate for the cost of repair.

Watch your profanity

Mystery message. On Feb. 13 at 2:30 p.m., an employee from Gourmet Dining in Daly Dining Hall reported to Public Safety that a note with inappropriate language on it was found after it was left on a table at around 8:10 p.m. There is no known suspect.

Raindrops keep falling

Watch your head. On Feb. 13 at 6:55 a.m., a Public Safety officer was doing a routine walk through Hill Hall when he found water on the ground in a first-floor hallway. He then observed water leaking from the ceiling and found water leaking from a pipe in a second-floor men's bathroom. A work order was submitted to repair the damage.

— Information provided by Public Safety Capt. Jim Flatley

Legal teams for university and consolidation challengers battle in court

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

music major Jordan Klotz, who is a party to the student lawsuit, and told the court that Klotz will be affected by the consolidation of the school.

Afran also argued that the university's move to dismiss the cases was its attempt to clear itself of any opposition in its plans for WCC.

The university argued that an injunction related to the sale of the property would be unnecessary because there are no immediate plans to sell the Princeton campus.

The lawyers for Rider also put forward a slippery slope scenario, giving the hypothetical that if the court allowed the plaintiffs to sue the school that students could then challenge any contract the university had entered into, including suing "a food service provider if they do not like the food in the dining hall," according to the university's legal memorandum.

Afran dismissed this claim, saying that the future of an institution and the effect it has on students, faculty and alumni is incomparable to displeasure with dining facilities.

Klotz was pleased that Lougy decided to take more time to consider the arguments and pointed out that the court "seemed to be very impartial."

"We see no reason why our case should not be heard in a trial," said Klotz. "After all, this isn't a lawsuit about dining hall food that we don't like, a comparison that the university legal team made in an attempt to discuss our complaint. This is about the fundamental upheaval of an institution that is 100 years old and has been in Princeton for 85 of those 100 years."

In a statement to The Rider News, Vice President for University Marketing and

Communication Kristine Brown remained optimistic about the school's chances of having the suits dismissed.

"We look forward to the judge's decision and remain confident in our legal position that Rider is permitted to move Westminster Choir College to Lawrenceville," said Brown. "We continue to be highly focused on our work to successfully transition Westminster's programs to the Lawrenceville campus in the fall and our efforts to ensure a strong and sustainable future for Westminster Choir College."

Constance Fee, president of Westminster Foundation, the organization opposing Rider's plan to relocate WCC, was confident in the arguments made for her organization but made it clear that they would continue legal action no matter the decision the court comes to.

"Based on the arguments the attorneys presented, the pointed questions asked by the judge, and the strength of the responses, I believe the motions to dismiss will be denied and that we will move ahead to trial, but we won't know anything for certain until the judge issues his decision," said Fee in a written statement. "Whatever the outcome, I can assure you that we will move ahead with determination to the next step in the legal process."

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

THURSDAY, FEB. 20

Accounting and Finance Career Fair
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
SRC Courts

Can you say that? Free speech and inclusion on campus today
11:30 a.m.
Mercer Room (Daly Dining Hall)

From Rider to Washington: Stories and Careers in National Security
6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Lynch Adler Hall 202

Women in Scientific Endeavors (WISE) Professional Development Event
6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Science and Technology Center 310

SUNDAY, FEB. 23

Black History Month Gospel Fest
5:45 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Cavalla Room
Bart Luedeke Center (BLC)

ADVERTISEMENT

GOSPEL FEST



FEBRUARY 23

**5:45 to 7:30 p.m., Cavalla Room
in the Bart Luedeke Center**

A closing celebration of Black History Month, with gospel song, dance and spoken word. Dessert will be served after the show. Experience enormous joy and excitement as performers from Rider end Black History Month on a high note! This event is free and open to the public.

**Don't miss
Soul Food Sunday!**

4:30 p.m.

**Daly Dining Hall (Lawrenceville campus)
Westminster Commons (Princeton campus)**

Enjoy the culinary delights of the cultural contribution of "soul food" from early African-American generations that continue to satisfy our palates today! Join us for dinner on the Lawrenceville and Princeton campuses!

RIDER.EDU/BLACK-HISTORY-MONTH

CENTER FOR
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION
Unity + Diversity = University



Partially funded by the Mandatory Student Activity Fee. Approved by Campus Life - 2/24.

Panel discussion tackles race and class in various films

By Austin Ferguson

THE Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI) continued its slate of events for Black History Month with the Conversation Cafe on Feb. 18.

Before the event, CDI's Executive Director Pamela Pruitt reinforced the overarching theme of CDI's events for Black History Month.

"Freedom and equal opportunity," Pruitt said. "Blacks in America have had that struggle to make sure that we continue to strive for 'Blacknificent,' which is the theme, to let everyone know that we are good people, we are brilliant people, we are excellent."

The event took place in the Rue Auditorium in Sweigart Hall with the purpose of discussing contemporary issues in race and class, especially in regard to media.

Moderated by the Assistant Director for CDI Jonathon Sun, the panel for the Conversation Cafe consisted of sophomore criminal justice major and CDI student employee Roberto Dacosta-Reyes, Assistant Professor of English Kelly Ross, Graduate Assistant for Residence Life Nikkaya Roper and Associate Professor of Music Justin D. Burton, who has completed research revolving around critical race theory.

Together, the panel tackled modern issues in race, class and gender, with an emphasis on race, through recently popular films that dealt with those issues. The list of movies discussed included "I Am Not Your Negro," "Moonlight," "Hidden Figures," "Black Panther," "The Hate U Give," "The Green Book," "BlacKKKlansman" and the first season of the FX mini series "American Crime," subtitled "The People vs. O.J. Simpson."

The panelists first gave insight on "I Am Not Your Negro," which was director Raoul Peck's vision of American author James Baldwin's unfinished book, "Remember This House," which was intended to detail Baldwin's accounts of the assassinations of his friends and activists Medger Evers, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X.



Carolo Pascale/The Rider News

Sophomore student employee at the Center for Diversity and Inclusion, **Roberto Dacosta-Reyes**, emphasizes the presence of class.

Dacosta-Reyes, Ross and Burton all expressed admiration for Baldwin's work before his untimely death due to stomach cancer in 1987.

"It's because of people like James Baldwin that help us make these films about injustice normalized and people can actually think about it without the films being heavily criticized for being too radical," Dacosta-Reyes said.

Ross added, "[Baldwin] really confronts classism and racism, which is part of what makes it such a fascinating film."

Burton was both fascinated and frustrated with how well Baldwin's messages echo in today's society.

"Why do we need Baldwin in 2016 to wake us up," Burton began. "When he already said these things? One of the frustrating things about Baldwin is how we can replay him now, and we're dealing with the same stuff. It's an indictment that we would be woken up by James Baldwin decades after he tried to."

After tackling similar themes of injustice and the black experience in negative lights in other films, the panelists offered their opinions on "Black Panther," which shows the epitome of what Sun called "black imagination" in terms of defining black excellence.

Roper expressed her admiration for the film.

"With this movie, it was such an empowering

thing for me. When [Black Panther] came out, the black community felt so hyped. This was for us, we were represented. Wakanda wasn't just villages or huts, it was buildings and so much technology, like Vibranium," Roper said.

Roper also highlighted the final dialogue between the characters of T'Challa and Kilmonger.

"It kind of represents the black community when it comes to change," Roper said. "When one person wants to bring change, bring good to something, there will always be someone in your own community who suffers pride or jealousy and wants that for themselves."

The only film that the panel found quite a bit of criticism for was "The Green Book," which Burton outlined what he found problematic with the fundamentals of the 2018 drama.

"The perspective is entirely a white one," Burton said. "It's entirely about how a white man comes into contact with a black man and becomes better because of it. Mahaersha Ali's character was flat ... and that's because [director] Peter Farrelly made a movie about race without consulting anybody who knew anything about race. God, I hate that movie."

The Conversation Cafe finished with the panel discussing how everyone, including students and faculty on Rider's campus are able to tackle issues of race on a daily basis.

"We notice what's going on, but we're not really doing anything," Roper said. "It's figuring out the gap and how to fill that gap."

Ross added, "Specifically with media, my friends who are directors always say, 'Go see movies made by directors of color and go see movies directed by women, because they are out there... but they're not getting widely released and they're not getting rewarded.'"

CDI's next event for Black History Month will take place on Feb. 23, when it will host Soul Food Sunday in Daly Dining Hall at 4:30 p.m.

Gaming and interactive media design program settles in with new director

By Tatyanna Carman

DIRECTOR of the game and interactive design program William Lindsay arrived at Rider to offer students "exposure to the tools, understanding of the workflow [and] understanding of the context of gaming in society" in September 2019.

Lindsay also worked as a freelancer in game design, interactive media and electronic component for 15 to 20 years after receiving a Master of Fine Arts degree in integrative electronics. He said it allows him "to get off the screen a little bit."

"So the business I have been running for years, it's trying to engage people or teach people who work in media arts, digital arts or game design to teach themselves to move forward, so basically I just design these kits, usually electronic kits sometimes software packages, that are very [do it yourself] where you basically construct your own tools to move forward with what you do," he said.

Lindsay has worked freelance work for an escape room, Major League Baseball franchise Texas Rangers, Nike and smaller companies.

"And then in the Texas Rangers' ballpark in Texas... I actually worked with a couple [of] designers on this, years back," Lindsay said. "They have a 28 [foot], I think it is, tall giant letter 'T' and there's these pads on the floor and it's in a kids' activity center and the kids can sequence. It's a game where if they jump on the pad simultaneously, it lights up like a carnival game where the weight would go up in the air and would ring a bell. And if they do it perfectly, it lights up the 'T' and then does a little music sequence. So that's the kind of freelance work that I do. It's a mixture of game and electronic and digital."

Prior to teaching at Rider, Lindsay worked and co-authored a game design program at Albright College in central Pennsylvania. He said that from that experience, he learned how lucrative the digital art component was in the game industry because of how transferable the skills are.

"An example of that would be if you're learning 3D modeling and reading an animation for game



Courtesy of Rider University

The director of the game and interactive design program, **William Lindsay**, also freelances for companies such as Nike and Major League Baseball franchise Texas Rangers.

design, right now that has become a hot topic in architecture and interior design, so suddenly you have three industries that your skills are suited to," he said. "So for me right now since this is the very beginning of the program the interest is in exposing the students to the entire workflow process of game design and using all of those skills and then also seeing how those skills are transferable."

Freshman game and interactive media design major Nichole Hall said that she has been playing video games since she was 3 years old and around middle school she realized she wanted to make games of her own.

"I predominantly want to write for the games I make, as in creating scripts, constructing characters and building settings," said Hall. "The program here lets me branch off and focus on that, but also provides me with the building blocks of all the other aspects of creating games. Being able to focus more on the artistic side of development was a huge factor in why I chose the major here."

Hall also explained that interactive media is also an art and adds another aspect of art to the campus.

"I think this program adds even more art to our

already inventive campus. We have so many talented people in so many different branches of the arts like music, theater and photography and many more. Interactive media is easily art too, so this program brings an entirely new kind of art form to the community," she said.

Lindsay said what he hopes graduates of the program gain from it.

"I am not particularly interested in teaching specific tools the way a two-year program might teach you 'OK, you are going to learn Maya software for modeling and then Unity for the game engine' because those tools are changing so fast. I think it is more important to teach students to teach themselves the next step. So I am more interested in having them walk away with that confidence and the ability to just see a new technology and make some decisions about it and then teach themselves to work with the new technology."

Lindsay also shared that he believes the game and interactive media design major helps people understand how multidisciplinary the program is. He tells prospective students that he's not merely recruiting, but he also explains the necessity for a creative and analytical mind in the gaming field, which is not for everyone.

"Your first semester here, you're exposed to introduction to digital art and then at the same time you're exposed to your first programming language and it's not for everybody. I think there are certain kinds of people that work very well across discipline and that's what works well with Rider," said Lindsay. "I think that is the good fit here. So I hope that people from other programs and other disciplines grow to see that, how that exchange works. Components of game will work well with other fields to simulation design and sciences, arts and rendering and engineering, so there are other places that we can work [together]."

Lindsay also shared that the program may get a motion capture system in the next year, which caught the interest of the dance department, which shows an "opportunity to work together."



CAN YOU SAY THAT?
**FREE SPEECH
 AND INCLUSION**
 ON CAMPUS TODAY

Thursday, February 20 | 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Mercer Room in Daly Dining Hall

Lunch will be provided, RSVP required

When we talk about free speech on campus, whose freedom are we talking about? Whose speech? Do students have a right to question their professors? How should state legislators and college administrators respond to students engaging in free assembly or protest? In this session, facilitated by representatives PEN America's Campus Free Speech Project, we'll dive into the complex questions surrounding free speech, diversity, and inclusion on campus.



Dr. Jonathan Friedman oversees PEN America's advocacy, analysis, and outreach in the national debate around free speech and inclusion in higher education. His research has been published in leading academic journals and he regularly provides commentary on campus free speech issues for national news media.



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Find out more about Rider's commitment to inclusive excellence at:
rider.edu/inclusive-excellence-plan



RIDER
 UNIVERSITY

“Mad about” the cast of “MAD About You!”

By Megan Raab

RIDER'S School of Fine and Performing Arts started its spring 2020 season off with a bang at the Bart Luedeke Center Theater. “MAD About You!,” a cabaret directed by Franklin Trapp of Forestburgh Playhouse, was a celebration of love, loss and everything in between.

The stage was set, completely black, with a big, fluorescent heart mounted on the upstage wall. The heart was masterfully lit by junior technical theater major Shawn Jobin, changing to fit the mood of each song. The show opened with sophomore musical theater major John Viggiano singing the title song, with the addition of the full ensemble. It set the stage for a fun-filled, bubbly act.

The first act focused on the joys of love, featuring some amazing numbers. The peak of this act came near the intermission when junior musical theater major Dean Klebonas, joined with the ensemble, gave a powerful performance of Queen’s “Somebody to Love.” The ensemble’s harmonies were perfectly blended and supported the wide-ranged, passionate performance going on in front of them. Klebonas showed off his star quality.

To follow that number, sophomore musical theater major Aly Batty stepped into the spotlight to give a raw, vulnerable performance of “Unruly Heart” from “The Prom.” It was a beautiful, tender moment which lead into a lovely performance of “Marry You” by Bruno Mars to close the act.

The intermission gave way to a change of atmosphere, with the hearts on the walls now shattered and a playlist of angry music filling the air. The second act focused on the heartaches and breakups that accompany love. It featured songs that were raw and



“MAD About You!” explored the highs of love in the first act and the trials and tribulations of heartbreak in the second act.

A lifetime of service: How one Bonner scholar will make a career of giving back

By Giovanna Troilo

KELSEY Espada, a senior public relations major, was just 6 years old when she began serving her community in the Bronx, New York.

“I used to go to a soup kitchen every weekend with my family,” said Espada. “I did something called ‘Feed the City,’ – we got a bunch of people to donate trays of food and we’d serve families on Thanksgiving Day every year.”

Despite a childhood full of volunteerism, Espada did not actually know what the Bonner Community Scholars Program was when she signed up for it.

“I had applied, and then I got an email that said ‘you’re going to interview day,’ and I was like, ‘I have to get interviewed?’” Espada recalled.

Espada was soon accepted to the Rider chapter of the Bonner program, a nationwide service organization based in Princeton. She would go on to do over 1,200 hours of on-site and on-campus community service over her four years at Rider.



Senior public relations major **Kelsey Espada** has been volunteering and assisting her community from a young age. She was able to continue giving back by joining Rider’s Bonner Scholar program.

Each Bonner scholar is placed at a site they visit weekly; Espada, then studying pre-medicine at Rider, was placed at the Homefront Family Campus Family Preservation Center (FPC) in Ewing Township, “a temporary living space for homeless families in Mercer County.”

Since her first semester assisting during evening childcare, Espada was reminded of the impact of her service when she met a child who was nonverbal.

“When [the child] had first come in, he was around 3 years old, and he wasn’t talking at all,” she said. “The staff would say, ‘Kelsey, don’t even try,’ and it motivated me more to try to help him.”

Espada and fellow Bonner, senior elementary education major Jillian Sing, would lead to the child everyday, and



Senior musical theater major **Terren Mueller** (left) and sophomore musical theater major **Nicholas Contois** singing “You Wanna Be My Friend?” from “Closer Than Ever.”

emotional, and others that were more fun and uplifting. We got to see the male ensemble shine, led by junior musical theater major Nick Contois, in a super fun rendition of “Wash That Man Right Outta My Hair” from South Pacific. Contois’s lovely baritone was featured in many numbers and the audience could not get enough of it. Each of his songs was better than the last and he radiated love every time he was onstage. In the men’s number, the audience could not stop watching sophomore musical theater major Jack Wood, and so enjoyed watching him get further redemption in “Gives You Hell” by All-American Rejects.

By far, the highlight of the second act was junior musical theater major Sydnie Roy’s heartfelt rendition of “Where Do You Start” by Johnny Mandel. Her performance was striking. She was incredibly vulnerable and her sultry voice sounded beautiful with the band — she absolutely stole the show.

The actors all had great chemistry and the fun they were having was contagious. There were many moments where they came into the audience to spread the love and joy with the crowd, making them want to jump up and dance with them.

“It’s been a really collaborative process. Since there’s no script, we’re getting the chance to create the show, which is something you rarely get the opportunity to do,” Contois said about the rehearsal process.

Batty added, “My favorite part about being in this show is the wide variety of genres we get to sing. The cast is all so talented and they have been such a joy to work with.”

Their joy translated so well through the fun choreography and their radiant souls. “MAD About You!” was truly a great way to start the spring mainstage season.

teach him the alphabet. By the end of the year, the child spoke.

“It was the happiest day,” Espada said. “He started saying anything and everything.”

Espada’s service with Homefront continued through her sophomore and junior years, during which she took up leadership opportunities with Bonner, including becoming the co-site based team leader of the Family Preservation Center (FPC) team.

During her junior year, Liza Peck, support service liaison at FPC, offered Espada an internship at the Homefront office.

“[Espada] has offered incredible support to our evening childcare staff by managing a strong Bonner team while assisting in all aspects of childcare,” Peck said. “She has grown into an empathetic leader as well as a strong team player.”

Espada’s experience as a Bonner ended up changing the course of her Rider journey; she changed her major and became senior Bonner Intern, the lead intern of the program.

Espada plans to continue her nonprofit work by applying for a full-time Volunteer Coordinator position with Homefront after graduation.

But Espada is not the only Bonner whose service changed the outlook of their professional life.

Many Bonner alumni, including Chelsea Jenkins (‘14), Matt Williams (‘13) and Gaby Mendoza (‘18), have pursued work in local nonprofits and educational institutions.

Joan Liptrot, director of the program, spoke of one alumnus, Shariq Marshall (‘18), who decided that he wanted to help others in his career during the annual service trip to West Virginia – required for all first-year Bonners.

“He looked at me and he said, ‘this is what I want to do,’” said Liptrot, emotional in reflection.

Marshall, with the help of Liptrot, went on to work with ArmInArm, a nonprofit organization in Trenton, where he currently holds the position of Operations and Volunteer Coordinator.

“You don’t realize how much you’re learning about yourself when you start out,” said Liptrot. “This program is what the students make of it.”

Liptrot is confident in Espada’s ability to become an “amazing nonprofit professional.”

“I love reality game shows, and there’s always the floaters. But they never win,” said Liptrot. “In the end, it’s the people who jump in with both feet and play hard. That’s life – and Kelsey’s not a floater. She’s always seen the big picture.”

Painted on the wall of the New World Resource Center reads one of the Rider University Community Values: “Real leadership is derived from service to others.”

For Espada, and all of the Bonner Scholars, this could not be more true.

“Service has always been part of my life,” said Espada. “I didn’t realize how much of an impact it actually had on me, and that I would end up wanting to do it for a career. I just want to give back to communities that are similar to the one that I was once in.”

“Rider Rhymes” rouses Rider students with raw raps

By Cassandra Stathis

THE words “Rider Rhymes” decorated the walls, the music shook the floor and the stage stole the center of the room with chairs surrounding it. Students and staff continued to fill the room as extra rows of chairs were added.

The event consisted of three rounds. In the first round, each artist sang an original piece that they wrote. In the second round, the artists had to freestyle to a beat chosen by one of the judges. For the final round, the artists had to rap to a random beat of a popular song that they chose from a bowl filled with slips of paper.

Sophomore psychology major James Green, one of the hosts of the event, spoke about the battle.

“It has always been a way for local and upcoming artists just to go out there, have fun and showcase their talent. It is an opportunity for them to develop and improve as well, considering that they have all eyes on them.”

The moments where the crowd’s reactions had an immediate shift towards an artist or a lyric they had sung was one of James’ favorite moments.

“The reactions also had the ability to form discussions amongst each other,” said Green.

This is Rider Rhymes’ third year, and James said that he has seen positive changes over the years.

“More people, both audience and contestants, are getting involved as time goes on,” said Green.

Rider Rhymes’ contestants showed their individuality through their stylish nicknames, music and dance. Patrice Ri’Kay, otherwise known as senior musical theater major Patrice Hrabowski, stunned the crowd with her operatic vocals, providing a unique sound to the battle.

Senior marketing major Schron Blanchard, another performing artist, spoke about the nickname he goes by.

“My brother Irvin said I should just call myself ‘Next-G.’ I liked it and it kind of stuck,” he said. As an artist, Blanchard wanted to “represent a love for the craft and the artwork itself.”

Through the first round, students sat and made small remarks of approval and disapproval towards each artist and their lyrics. The energy in the room turned all the way up when last year’s Rider Rhymes winner, sophomore theater major Cymere Nobles, came up onto the stage.

The crowd immediately stood up from their seats and started yelling and cheering. He said “The two things I focused on the most were my breath control and how I was going to engage the audience,” to make himself feel more comfortable on the stage.

Nobles had also worked hard to prepare himself for the competition.

“Over winter break I actually began working on different abstract ideas for my

performance,” he said. “However, I began to feel discouraged because I felt like I was not living up to my potential.”

Nobles also spoke on his continuous source of inspiration. He explained that there are two sides to himself and his music is essentially the bridge that connects them both.

“I believe the inspiration from both sides of myself bleeds through my art,” he said.

In the second round, a crowd favorite, the artists poked at each other and created rap battles between one another. The crowd was screaming and cheering for their favorite artists. The competing artists continued to give it their all in the final round.

While the second round was highly competitive, the mood and energy for the third and final round were more light-hearted and humorous.

Even with a very large and vocal crowd, Blanchard explained, “It’s a lot of fun, definitely intimidating though.”

“I was nervous before I performed, but once I touched the stage all of the nerves went away,” said Nobles.

Nobles has a clear vision of how he wants to portray himself as an artist.

“The least I can do is be the most authentic version of myself and hopefully inspire others to do the same,” he said.

Nobles proudly became Rider Rhyme’s first back-to-back champion. “I was prepared to give you guys a show,” he said.



The Cavalla Room turned into an arena-style stage for “Rider Rhymes,” the annual rap competition to showcase student talent.

All photos by Gerard Blandina/The Rider News



Senior musical theater major **Patrice Hrabowski**, otherwise known as Patrice Ri’Kay, added operatic stylings to her “Rider Rhymes” performance.



Senior marketing major **Schron Blanchard** wanted to represent “a love for the craft and the artwork itself.”



Junior theater major **Cymere Nobles** takes the stage to defend his winning title.



Nobles, the winner of last year’s “Rider Rhymes,” performs for the crowd with high energy.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Professor expresses feelings on WCC move

THE recent campus reports on Lawrenceville renovations make no mention of the continuing court cases challenging both the legality and feasibility of relocating Westminster Choir College's (WCC) students, staff and programs.

Unlike those campus communications, the court briefs filed by students, alumni, faculty and others to block this move reveal the substantial harm already sustained by Westminster from President Gregory Dell'Omo's decision to sell the college to an unprofitable former manufacturer, and his subsequent decision to move its programs to Lawrenceville.

Westminster, at full enrollment in recent years, has seen enrollment plummet by two-thirds. Significant for students, outstanding faculty continue to leave, and not because faculty "come and go," an explanation offered by a key Rider administrator in a meeting with Westminster faculty.

The briefs also delineate in detail the physical infrastructure in place in Princeton, including the new Cullen Center, a world-class facility for student training and performance. This infrastructure, built and refined over the years, is absolutely essential in fulfilling the college's mission of preparing students for careers in the musical arts. Many are completely skeptical that renovations to the Lawrenceville chapel will be the equal of the Cullen Center.

The costs and challenges of duplicating a complete conservatory of music on the Lawrenceville campus are enormous. The effort is fraught with an enormous risk to Westminster's students, programs, performance contracts and reputation. Four prior studies of relocating the Westminster campus, commissioned by Rider under different presidents, reached these conclusions and the idea was scrapped.

Nevertheless, the president and Board of Trustees are pursuing Westminster's re-creation on the Lawrenceville campus, with

a targeted completion date of September 2020. This is an act of bravado, a Hail-Mary pass, in my view as a thorough plan essential in establishing a target date for this complex project did not exist when that date was chosen. I say this as a former manager and student of organizations. Look for rushed and good-enough work, deadline extensions and a further decline in student applications.

For the record, Rider's faculty union was open to considering the option of moving the Westminster campus to Lawrenceville. Reasonably, it wanted to study the relocation studies completed for the university as a starting point for discussion. That request was flatly denied by Dell'Omo, clearly indicating that he was not open to joining with the faculty in a true collaborative process. Rider faculty are incorrectly perceived by this administration as not committed to creating a healthy future Rider.

Speaking of faculty, they are the heart of every university. It's quality and treatment by the university matter and its treatment is crucial in faculty recruitment and retention — issues vital to students. Over the years and especially in recent years the faculty has been willing to help the university in hard economic times by deferring cost-of-living increases and agreeing to reductions in benefits and research support. University staff below the top have also sacrificed economically, as well. These sacrifices continue today.

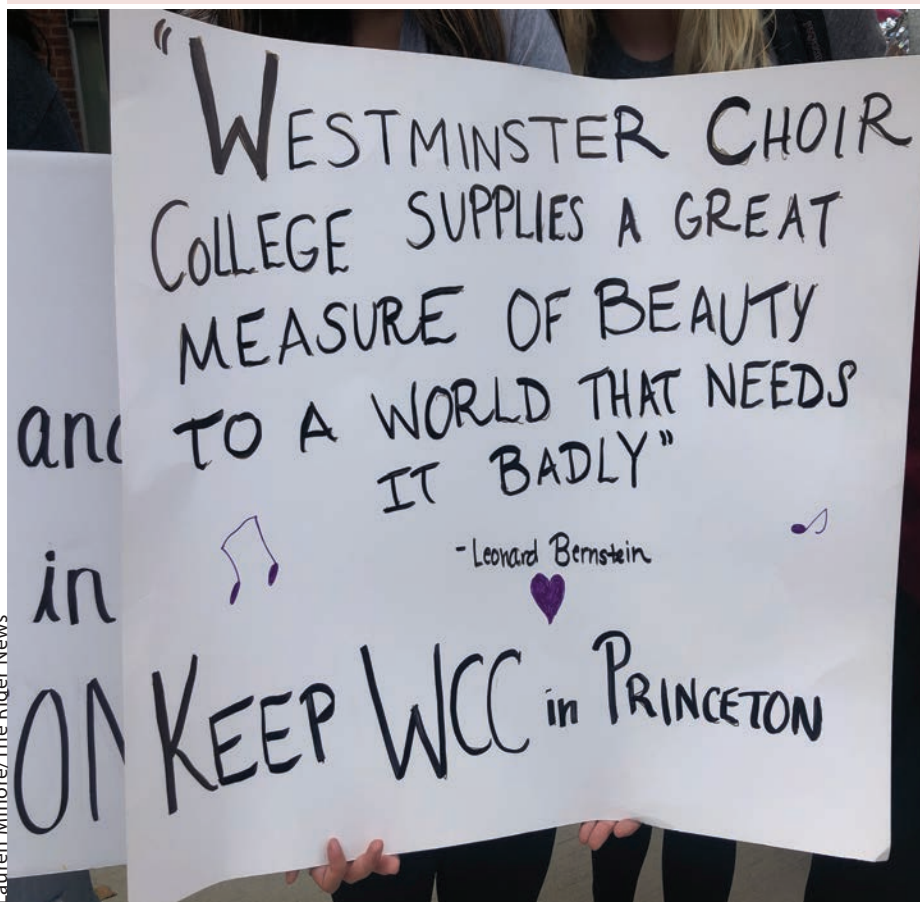
It's easy to guess how faculty and staff are feeling about the president's decision to spend \$20 million and likely more, in addition to the millions already spent, on an undertaking that many believe is absolutely unnecessary.

Given Rider's limited financial resources some believe this to be absurd.

Gerald D. Klein, Ph.D.
Professor of Organizational
Behavior and Management Emeritus



Lauren Minore/The Rider News



Lauren Minore/The Rider News

THE Rider News

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JUNIOR JOURNAL

What's love go to do with it?: The reality of dating in 2020

THE day of love, no matter what variation, has recently passed. Some people may have spent the day with their significant other, with some time alone for “self-care” or maybe for some it was spent like any other day. Beyond cupid’s day, people date successfully or unsuccessfully everyday, which begs the question, how much has the dating scene changed compared to decades past? How has the culture behind dating changed and influenced our idea of marriage and love?

Dating looks very different now for younger generations like millennials and generation Z compared to older generations. According to Pew Research Center, 32% of baby boomers believe that gay and lesbian marriage is bad for society, opposed to 15% of those a part of generation Z sharing that sentiment. It also said that 23% of boomers believed that couples cohabitating without being married is bad for society, compared to merely 12% of generation Z. It has shown that younger people have a more progressive way of looking at certain aspects of dating.

The differences in dating can also be attributed to technology. Now we have the blessing and curse that is dating apps such as Tinder, Bumble, Hinge and Grindr that are geared toward young people. As a young person that has used two of the four apps, it goes to show how normalized the use of dating apps has become. There are so many apps nowadays, it is hard to keep count. SurveyMonkey reported that 75% of young adults, ages 18 to 24 years old use Tinder and 31% use Bumble. Those numbers show a lot about what is being valued in dating.

“I believe [dating apps] make dating seem more rushed. Like a lot of people just rush into a relationship or don’t know if the person they’re dating is even right for them because they rush into it,” said junior film, TV and radio major Jada Peterson. “I feel as though people get in relationships because they are lonely or they just don’t want to take the [time] to work on themselves but have someone else do it for them or distract them from it. In the past I feel as though [people] wanted to grow with their partner and work on themselves and each other.”

Sophomore film, TV and radio major Estaban Collado said that one of the main differences in dating in 2020 is the pace. He said that he has friends who have been dating for two years and have yet to meet each other’s parents.

This may, as a result, change perceptions of marriage. The New York Times reported that the median age of marriage for women is 27.4 and 29.5 for men in 2017. In 1970, the median age was 23 for men and 20.8 for women. That means, if it were 1970, there’s a good chance I would be married by now, which is a daunting thought.

Both Collado and Peterson believe that marriage is more so challenged now than in previous decades.

Collado said it’s “because commitment is something rare to find. People don’t really care about marriage. It’s just not emphasized like it used to be.” Peterson supported that by saying that people do not really talk about it and it is not displayed much in social media, which shows that it is not something people think about as much.

There is also a shift for some young people on what love is and is not. For instance, unconditional love, or in modern terms, a ride or die. These ideas are often shown in romantic comedies and older Disney princess films. Peterson said she does not believe in the heightened version of unconditional love seen in film and said that it “rarely happens.”

“I believe that relationships take time and you need to know your partner well enough to love them unconditionally even with their faults. I believe you can be attractive when you first meet them but I don’t think it’s love yet,” Peterson said.

I think that it is healthy to challenge ideas like unrealistic unconditional love and marriage. In previous years, marriage was upheld and perceived as a requirement and a measurement of worth, especially for women. People should explore other facets of life and not just focus on such aspects because it’s not meant for everyone. In addition, certain forms of unconditional love are unhealthy. Boundaries should be established in a relationship and love should go hand in hand with accountability. Although some people believe love and marriage were purer in the past, TIME published an article comparing domestic violence rates in the 1960s. It said that couples should stay in abusive relationships because their fighting can “balance out each other’s mental quirks.” I’m not saying that all relationships in the ‘60s were like this, but it shows how different the norms are for relationships now, compared to the past. This illuminates how perceptions of what relationships used to look like requires a deeper look. Technology, a shift in culture and normative behavior are both factors into what makes dating today so different. So whether you are a technophobe or a dating app fiend; whether you are traditional or progressive or even apathetic when it comes to relationships, dating in 2020 is whatever you make of it.

Tatyanna Carman
news editor
junior journalism major

“Boundaries should be established in a relationship and love should go hand in hand with accountability.”
Tatyanna Carman

GREEN CORNER

Climate change and politics: Voting for a better Earth

COMING into 2020, you may have had some hopes and dreams about how your spring semester college experience would go. A brand new year and perhaps some different experiences on the horizon. For many college students, thoughts of participating in their first primary and general election are exciting but overwhelming. When it comes to having a voice in the country’s leadership, the pressure can seem daunting. How does one pick the elected officials that best align with our own values? What if we, like so many other young people today, have concerns about the future of the planet and put a heavyweight on where the candidates stand on the environment? How do we get the right information to make an informed choice at the polls?

Already this election season has seen the results of the first two democratic primary states. Some citizens and especially college students are still unaware of who’s running and where they stand on issues. At its peak, the Democratic party had 29 total candidates in the race. After the New Hampshire primary on February 11th, the field whittled down to just 8 candidates. Despite predictions and polling, the race is still largely undecided. Thus, it’s important for students to begin finding their candidate. Particularly on the issue of climate change, young people tend to have a deeper passion for the effects of climate change than other generations. Some of the world’s leading scientists, according to the United Nations, estimates we have only 12 years to prevent a half degree in the global temperature rise. This is a crucial voting issue for much of the electorate.

Even though the final eight candidates have thorough plans on how to deal with the impending climate crisis, there are significant differences between the individual plans and I hope to highlight a few of the major issues that so you can be a climate conscious voter.

After Iowa and a big win in New Hampshire, Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders has emerged as one of the race’s front runners. When it comes to climate change, he has remained relatively consistent in his support of the Green New Deal. The Green New Deal is one of the most notable climate policies that seeks massive mobilization by the government to both invest in a green future and restructure the entirety of American society to be more sustainable. However, given the sheer size of the plan it would require a lot of political negotiation to pass. Sophomore sociology major Gina Ceccarelli recognized that issue and said she thinks that “The Green New Deal is bold, but even if only parts of it get passed, it would be a step in the right direction.”

Maine Senator Elizabeth Warren is a similar candidate to Bernie Sanders in her support for the Green New Deal. She has also worked with professionals

in the field to develop a “blue new deal” plan that will help restore the ocean. Ultimately both candidates have stuck to their progressive roots and put forth the most expansive climate policy. Between the two there are relatively minor differences and they would bring about similar change, but Sanders also received a significant endorsement from the Sunrise Movement, a group of young people building a movement centered around the Green New Deal.

The major distinction in climate policy, however, is the divide between the two senators and the rest of the more moderate candidates running. Former Vice President Joe Biden, Mayor of South Bend, Indiana, Pete Buttigieg and Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar have all tied themselves to much more limited plans with longer enactment times. Unlike the progressive candidates, these three have pushed out the goal of 100% sustainable energy and complete decarbonization until 2050, with the exception of Buttigieg who pledges to complete the renewable energy transformation by 2035. Sanders and Warren, however, have promised to be 100% renewable energy by 2030 and will invest more than any other candidate to push full decarbonization by 2050.

Ultimately, the divide between factions in the Democratic party has boiled down to feasibility, as the three moderate candidates have made the case that it simply cannot be done in the time and financial constraints of the American economy. The progressives in the race have pushed back, stressing that this would create new jobs, industry and revenue for the government allowing a financial return on the initial hefty investment. Junior elementary education major Amelia Vallecilla believes that, “no matter what plan we decide on, something has to be done and it should be addressed as quickly as possible — we must save the planet.”

No matter which way citizens vote, climate conscious voters will find more common ground with any of the Democratic candidates than that of the current president. However, it is important to be aware of the policy nuances between candidates to not only inform individual votes, but to give citizens a broader perspective of the discussion being had between policy makers that take seriously the threat of the impending climate crisis.

Matthew Schantin
Eco-Rep

BASEBALL

Broncs start 2020 with sweep

By Shaun Chornobroff

THE baseball team opened up its 2020 season with a sweep on the road against Charleston Southern.

Pitcher Pete Soporowski started his senior season with a dominating performance, allowing only one run in six and one-third innings, en route to a 5-1 win in the Broncs' season opener.

Soporowski spoke highly of the team's first few games.

"The overall performance was pretty strong for us,"

Soporowski stated. "It's a great feeling to win, but we aren't satisfied yet. It's a long season and we are going to continue to build off of this, day in and day out."

Sophomore infielder David Bermudez proved to have driven in the game winning run in the fourth inning on a sacrifice fly to right field. Bermudez was Rider's most consistent hitter in the game, going 2 for 2, with three RBI.

Bermudez gave his thoughts on Rider's performance in the series.

"To win three games this weekend was great," the sophomore infielder explained. "None of us feel like we played our best baseball, we are focused on getting better and improving each time we take the field."

The second contest of the day was a 12-inning thriller that Rider escaped from with a 6-4 victory.

Rider took a 4-3 lead in the 12th inning when a wild pitch from Charleston Southern's Jordan Bridges scored freshman infielder John Volpe, who was in the game as a pinch runner.

Senior outfielder Joe Simone's two-run single to right field in the same inning pushed Rider's lead to 6-3, and ended up being enough to win the game.

Simone would explain his approach during the at-bat.

"Coach always talks about hitting the ball and good things will happen," Simone said of his late game heroics. "My approach at the plate was to hit the ball hard and I was lucky enough to find a hole, it was a great team win."

Kyle Horton led off the bottom of the 12th with a home run, but that was all the Broncs' would allow as they won their second game of the day.

Despite scoring six runs, Rider only scored in two different innings.

In the sixth inning freshman Scott Shaw, came in as a pinch hitter and drove in two runs to get the Rider on the board. It was the infielder/outfielder's first career at bat.

Later that inning, a wild pitch scored senior catcher Chris Roan to tie the score at three.

Rider Head Coach Barry Davis spoke of the team's ability to bounce back in the game.

"We battled all day," Davis said. "Allowing three runs in the fifth, we bounce back and match it with three in the next inning, that's always a good sign."

Rider's bullpen was dominant in the double header, only allowing one run in 10

and two-thirds innings.

The next day, Rider secured a sweep over Charleston Southern with a 7-6 victory.

The game lasted only six innings due to weather, but the last inning was exciting to say the least.

The teams entered the last inning knotted up at 2-2, but senior infielder Zack Fick punished two early inning walks with an RBI double to make the score 3-2.

In the next at-bat a wild pitch and a passed ball scored Fick and freshman pitcher/outfielder Brendan O'Donnell to make the score 5-2.

After Volpe and senior infielder Kyle Johnson both walked, Shaw's single loaded the bases, to bring up senior outfielder Sebastian Williamson.

Despite, being in an 0-2 count, Williamson drove two runs in on a single to push Rider's lead to 7-2.

Rider loaded the bases again but back-to-back strikeouts ended the offensive outburst.

Although they scored seven runs, Davis was not satisfied with Rider's offense.

"We cannot expect five runs every time we need them," Davis explained.

"What we hope to attain is consistency in our at-bats and show the ability to hit in various situations, we have a long way to go offensively to be where we want to be."

After a pop out in the first at-bat, two walks and a single meant the bases were filled for Charleston Southern in the bottom of the sixth inning.

Josh Asbil, who only had one home run last season, took advantage of a 3-1 count with a grand-slam to right field, bringing Charleston Southern within one run.

The next three at bats were a single, a strikeout and a hit-by-pitch, which set up first and second with two-outs.

Rider junior pitcher Joe Papeo forced Kyle Sandstorm to fly out to center field securing the series sweep for the Broncs.

The Broncs' offense was consistent all weekend, scoring 18 runs in three games, but their defense may be a cause for concern in the future.

Rider allowed only 11 runs in the series, but had six errors in their first three games.

Davis acknowledged the early struggles, but had confidence in his players.

"No concern, errors happen," Davis said. "It was the first weekend, it was the first time on a field other than turf, if there is an area that can be an issue early it can be defense."

Davis concluded the statement by complimenting his pitching staff.

"That being said, we gave up 11 runs and only one was unearned," Davis said. "The pitching helped tremendously in this case."

Rider hopes to continue its hot start when it travels south for a three-game series against East Tennessee State from Feb. 21 to 23.



Senior pitcher **Pete Soporowski** struck out four batters and allowed one earned run in six and one-third innings in Rider's 5-1 win over Charleston Southern on Feb. 15.

GALLERY

Men's basketball vs Quinnipiac, Feb. 16



Top left: Freshman guard **Christian Ings** dribbles in a halfcourt setting with Quinnipiac guard Rich Kelly defending him. Bottom left: Senior center **Tyere Marshall** defending Quinnipiac forward and MAAC leader in rebounds per game Kevin Marfo. Right: Redshirt junior forward **Frederick Scott** shooting over a defending Kelly.

Gerard Blandina/The Rider News

WRESTLING

Broncs clinch MAC East with win over Clarion

By Mike Ricchione

Redshirt seniors Dean Sherry and Ryan Cloud got pinfall victories for the Rider wrestling team en route to clinching the Mid American Conference (MAC) East Division in a 25-13 win against the Clarion Golden Eagles on Feb. 16.

It was the last home dual for Rider (11-3, 7-1 MAC) and with the MAC Tournament being on the campus of Northern Illinois, that meant that Sherry and Cloud closed out their careers at Alumni Gym on pinfalls.

"It feels spectacular," Cloud said. "I've been working really hard and it's been a long five years so to end on a win in the right fashion, just closes it out the right way, [it] gives me good closure."

In their first year in their new conference, the Broncs clinched their own division and was one dual back of clinching the whole conference, behind only Missouri.

"Obviously feels good," Head Coach John Hangey said of clinching the division. "MAC conference is very, very competitive. It's very gritty, it's very talented, it's about a lot of great qualities so we're proud of that. It's not where we want to be at the end, obviously we're looking for bigger and better things so we have to improve on our performance today but it's nice to be in our first year, inaugural year to claim the East title for sure. Sets the standard so to speak.

Clarion recorded bonus points quickly at 125 pounds when Jack Gromacki won via major decision, 15-4, against redshirt junior Jonathan Tropea.

The Golden Eagles ranked wrestlers, Brock Zacherl and Greg Bulsak, recorded decisions against Broncs graduate student Gino Fluri and junior Ethan Laird, respectively, at 149 and 197 pounds respectively.

Zacherl was ranked as high as 11th by InterMat while Bulsak and his opponent, Laird, both had their highest ranking at No. 10.

Redshirt sophomore George Walton said Christian Sequete pushed his buttons, as both men gave up points for unnecessary roughness while working Sequete for the major decision, 20-7, at 184 pounds.

"I don't like to get like that during the match," Walton said. "I just felt like the kid [Sequete] was trying to push my buttons so he did. It just made me react in a certain way that I don't really want to react ever again."

Redshirt seniors Pete Lipari and Jesse Dellavecchia, who are both hoping for an



Carolo Pascale/The Rider News

Redshirt sophomore **George Walton** defeated Clarion's Christian Sequete 20-7 on Feb. 16.

extra year of eligibility from the NCAA, pitched shutouts in their decisions over Brayden Palmer and Taylor Ortz at 141 and 157 pounds, respectively.

Redshirt freshman Richire Koehler started at 133 pounds and got the 6-2 decision over Seth Koleno in his dual season debut.

There's only one more tune-up for the Broncs before the MAC Tournament when they travel to Maryland on Feb. 22.

Rider already faced Maryland this season. The Terrapins were the Broncs' semifinal opponent at the Virginia Duals. Rider won 24-8.

The Maryland dual is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. on Feb. 22 and can be streamed on Big Ten Network Plus.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Milligan breaks Rider win record at Manhattan

By Dylan Manfre

AFTER dropping its first conference games to Saint Peter's and Marist, the women's basketball team is out of first place and searching for answers to its struggling performances.

Rider began its attempt at fixing its problems with three road games in seven days.

The Broncs were able to write their wrongs against Siena on Feb. 13 to begin the road trip. They turned the ball over less, fouled less and played like the squad fans have become accustomed to seeing this season in a 69-38 victory.

A big push for Rider was converting 28 Siena turnovers into 32 points. It helped bolster the lead to as many as 33 points throughout the game. Head Coach Lynn Milligan repeatedly said the Broncs' intensity on defense translates into their offense.

"We always want to push the pace," Milligan said. "We're a disciplined transition team. We're not a run-and-gun, chuck-it-at-the-basket [team], but we're going to try and create transition opportunities for ourselves and Amanda does that really well, Stella does that really well, Lea runs the floor really hard, so we have a lot of people who can play that way."

They held Siena to five points in the second quarter and took a 37-14 lead into intermission.

Senior guard Amari Johnson had yet another double-double with 16 points and 12 rebounds, however, another big item to her stat line was the zero fouls.

No Rider player had more than three fouls in the game, which is a big sign of them turning things around.

Senior guard Stella Johnson mentioned that after they lost to Marist, the team did a bit of an identity check and players looked themselves in the mirror.

"We got a little comfortable in our 14-game win streak," Stella Johnson said. "I think we're back to being a humble team and walk on to every court being like 'We have to earn this win every time.' I think we're back to being that kind of team."

She also mentioned the trust in each other needed to be reestablished in order to connect on the court.

"We trusted each other and we have to know our scout," Stella Johnson said. "I think that part of that got away the past few games so just everyone listening, making the switches [and] knowing the personnel are some of the details that cost us the past two games."

The Siena matchup showcased the return of



Courtesy of Rider Athletics

Senior forward **Lea Favre** scored 14 points in Rider's 55-50 win over Manhattan on Feb. 15.

Rider's defense. Against Manhattan on Feb. 15, it was the offense that caught back up to speed in a 55-50 win.

Senior forward Lea Favre, who leads the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) in field goal percentage, shot 50% from the field, connecting on seven of her 14 attempts.

Rider is 15-0 when Favre shoots 50% or better, so having her convert easy layups down low in the paint is may just be what the Broncs need to be successful.

"Obviously Lea [Favre] is a big part of what we do," Milligan said. "Her teammates get her the ball in really successful spots for her and nobody wants to make shots more than Lea. She gets very disappointed when she misses shots. But she's going to keep taking them and we're going to keep trying to put her in those successful spots."

Stella Johnson said that it is players like Amari Johnson and Favre connecting on all cylinders that drive the team to be better.

"I feel like Amari [Johnson], Amanda [Mobley] and Lea [Favre], they're really the backbone of this team and everyone that comes off the bench," Stella Johnson said. "If we're looking for another scorer or get that defensive stop or rebound ... we expect everyone to make an impact."

Early in the second quarter, Stella Johnson landed awkwardly on a Manhattan player's foot and was

taken out of the game to receive extra tape from the trainer.

She promptly returned to the game and led all scorers with 27 points.

"I shot a little floater and I didn't think she let me land so I landed on her foot and twisted my ankle but [Athletic Trainer Gina Dain] wrapped me up quickly and I got back," Stella Johnson said.

The Broncs will have five games remaining on their schedule after the conclusion of the current road trip against Quinnipiac, which they will face on Feb. 20 at 6 p.m. in Hamdon, Connecticut.

Milligan said it will be harder to beat the Bobcats on their home floor and always loves the challenge of coaching against her longtime friend Tricia Fabri.

"They're playing really well, they're young, obviously they're well-coached and they have some great players," Milligan said. "We're going to have to go up there and be ready to battle. There's no doubt about it. What I always respect about Trish [Fabri] is the culture of the program she's built and the longevity of success she's had. That's not easy to do."

Fabri was one of the multitude of people who congratulated Milligan after she got her 163rd victory at Rider making her the all-time leader.

Milligan passed her former coach Eldon Price, who she referred to as a "second dad" and still keeps in touch with to this day.

Sports

INSIDE

RIDER CLINCHES MAC EAST TITLE

Mike Ricchione recaps Rider's division-clinching win over Clarion on Feb. 16.

FIND THIS STORY ON PAGE 11

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Rider slams its way to weekend win



Gerard Blandina/The Rider News

Redshirt junior forward **Dimencio Vaughn** slammed it down over Quinnipiac guard Tyrese Williams in Rider's 79-63 win against the Bobcats on Feb. 16.

By **Austin Ferguson**

In what has been an unpredictable season in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC), the men's basketball team split the weekend with a loss at Siena on Feb. 14 and a win against Quinnipiac on Feb. 16.

The Broncos traveled to Albany, New York, on Valentine's Day to take on Siena, which was undefeated at home in 10 games. With the intensity of the upcoming matchup evident, the game was flexed from a 7 p.m. start to 9 p.m. in order to have the game aired on ESPNU.

The first half proved how dominant the Saints have been at home this season. Siena was the first to score and built a lead as many as 22 thanks to a 13-0 run to end the period with the Saints leading 39-17.

Siena guard and MAAC Preseason Player of the Year Jalen Pickett led the Saints with 17 points in the first half on 7-of-9 shooting, including going 3-for-4 from three-point range. Redshirt junior forward Frederick Scott led Rider in scoring with just five points in the first frame.

Despite the 22-point Broncos deficit at halftime, Head Coach Kevin Baggett was impressed with the composure of his squad.

"Nobody dropped their heads," Baggett said. "They all realized that each and every one of us had a part in us being down this far and figured out, 'one possession at a time.'"

After the Saints extended their lead to 25 in the first minute of the second half, the Broncos, especially Scott and senior guard Stevie Jordan, pushed the lead down to just 11 points.

With 11:45 to go in the second half, redshirt junior forward Dimencio Vaughn finished a three-point play to bring the game within single digits.

Following what was a 13-0 run for Rider, Siena regrouped and re-established a large lead. The Saints were up again by as many as 16 points and ultimately won, 73-64.

"We scored 47 points in the second half. If we play like that in the first half, we'd be better off," Baggett said.

Scott led Rider overall in scoring, finishing with 21 points on the night.

The win for Siena boosted its home record to

11-0, which it later improved to 12-0 after a win over Manhattan on Feb. 16.

The Broncos came back to Lawrenceville, New Jersey, on Feb. 16 looking to carry their momentum of the second half against Siena against Quinnipiac, which was in the midst of a four-game skid.

Due to illness, redshirt senior guard Kimar Williams was not with the team for its Feb. 16 game against Quinnipiac. Starting in his place was graduate guard Willy Nuñez, Jr., making his third start of the season.

Vaughn was able to keep junior guard Rich Kelly off tempo to begin the game as he forced a miss from three and a traveling violation in the Bobcats' first two possessions.

Vaughn got into a rhythm of his own, hitting a 3-pointer to start the game's scoring. Kevin Marfo hit one of two free throws to get the lid off of the basket for Quinnipiac.

On Rider's next possession, Nuñez, Jr. was fouled on a 3-point attempt, which he made. Nuñez, Jr. converted the free throw to complete the four-point play and put the Broncos up 7-1.

Rider kept rolling with another stop on defense and a crafty lay-in from Jordan to increase the Broncos' lead to 9-1, forcing Quinnipiac Head Coach Baker Dunleavy, son of former NBA player and coach Mike Dunleavy, to call a timeout.

Quinnipiac began to make shots out of the timeout but the Broncos didn't slow down on offense as they led 15-9 into the first media break.

Out of the break, a mid-range jumper from Vaughn and a corner three from Scott rocketed the Broncos into a double-digit lead. After a defensive stop, Vaughn drilled a 3-pointer, drawing another Bobcats timeout as Rider was up 23-9 just over seven minutes into the game.

The Broncos extended their run to 12-0 over the previous five minutes with a floater from Nuñez, Jr.

With eight minutes to go, after a Jordan free throw, Marfo scored the first Quinnipiac points since the 15:32 mark.

Kelly went into the paint for a layup attempt that was spiked by Randall, which in turn gave Ings an open lane for a dunk, putting the Broncos up 31-13.

Out of the under-eight minute media break,

Marshall drew a foul and made a free throw to extend Rider's lead to 19.

A touchdown-like pass from Marshall to Jordan to give the Broncos a brief 21-point lead before allowing a 3-pointer to Kelly. Vaughn answered to put Rider back up by 20 with five minutes left in the half.

The pace of the game slowed down significantly over the next five minutes to Quinnipiac's advantage as the Bobcats were able to score 11 unanswered points in that span to close the half down 36-27.

Rider had a red-hot start to the game that was brought to a grinding halt with a stagnant offense in the closing five minutes of the half, not being able to score in that span.

The Broncos began the second half just as they did in the first; hot. Rider went on a 9-0 run over the first three and a half minutes, which ended with a basket from Quinnipiac guard Matt Balanc.

Marshall answered Balanc's bucket with an and-one layup on the other side of the floor. Marshall was short on the free throw but Rider was up 47-31.

Following a free throw that didn't fall short for Marfo, Randall bottomed his second 3-pointer to boost the Broncos' lead back to 18 points.

Vaughn finished two highlight dunks against the Bobcats, the latter of which sent waves through the Rider social media community when he soared over Quinnipiac guard Tyrese Williams, knocking him to the ground.

"Honestly, I didn't see [Williams] under me," Vaughn said. "I was going to dunk it anyway."

The last 10 minutes of the game were smooth sailing for the Broncos. Rider led by as many as 22 as the Broncos coasted into victory, 79-63.

Baggett was extremely happy about Rider's defensive efforts.

"Good defensive effort from start to finish... I care about getting stops, which I thought we did a really good job," Baggett said.

Rider will spend the next week on the road in two away matchups against Iona on Feb. 21 at 7 p.m. and Saint Peter's on Feb. 23 at 2 p.m.