



Rider details action plan for coronavirus outbreak

By Austin Ferguson

RIDER'S administration recently unveiled its plan and advice for the school's community amid international concerns over the outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease of 2019 (COVID-19).

COVID-19, commonly referred to mononymously as coronavirus, had its first confirmed cases in China around New Year's Eve in 2019. Since then, confirmed cases have appeared around the world, including in the United States.

As of March 3, seven deaths in Washington state had been confirmed to be the result of COVID-19 and two confirmed cases of infection were present in New York, raising alarm to citizens throughout the country.

On Rider's campus, the administration presented its plans and precautions to the community in an attempt to quell the fears of those with apprehensions about the disease.

The university's first campus-wide acknowledgment of COVID-19 came on Jan. 28, in a joint statement from Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Cindy Threatt and Director of Student Health Services Elizabeth Luciano. The campus-wide email identified fever, cough and shortness of breath as key symptoms to COVID-19, while also advising students that handwashing, staying home when they are sick and limiting contact with students who are sick helps to mitigate the risk of contracting viruses and diseases.

On Feb. 7, Vice President of Student Affairs Leanna Fenneberg and Vice President for Human Resources Robert Stoto announced Rider's cooperation with the guidance of the New Jersey Department of Health, advising that anyone who had traveled to China in the 14 days prior would have to contact university representatives. The statement also noted that students, staff and faculty who were scheduled to travel from China would be postponed until further notice.

Despite the precautions being taken, Fenneberg and Stoto reassured the risk of the virus was low.



Carolo Pascale/The Rider News

Students should report to the Health Center if any flu-like symptoms are present in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak.

Court dismisses lawsuits challenging WCC consolidation



Stephanie Jessiman/The Rider News

Judge Robert Loughy granted Rider's motion to dismiss two lawsuits against it on March 2.

By Stephen Neukam and Lauren Minore

In a victory for the university's bid to move Westminster Choir College (WCC) to the Lawrenceville campus, the New Jersey Superior Court this week granted Rider's motion to dismiss two lawsuits that challenged the school's consolidation plans.

The suits, one comprised of faculty, alumni and donors to the college and the other filed by 71 current students, opposed Rider's move to relocate WCC.

Judge Robert Loughy granted the motions to dismiss because the WCC students, faculty, alumni and donors were not a party to or beneficiaries of the 1991 Merger Agreement between Rider and WCC, as well as two other agreements, and did not have the ability to challenge these three contracts.

"The Court cannot and does not conclude that the parties to the relevant agreements intended to benefit Plaintiffs," the court's decision said. "As separate non-profit corporations in 1991, WCC and Rider University were free to make their own contracts regarding the merger of the two schools. Plaintiffs do not have the ability to challenge the contract that was created."

In addition, Loughy noted that the lawsuit by WCC faculty, alumni and donors did not allege the university was acting in bad faith.

"As the owner of WCC, Rider University is free to make those business

decisions so long as it does not act arbitrarily," Loughy wrote. "Without allegations of arbitrariness or bad faith, the Court is reluctant to involve itself with [Rider University's] business judgment."

In a statement to the university community, Rider President Gregory Dell'Omo urged "every member of our community" to look forward to the future in light of the court's ruling.

"The decision affirms our long-held confidence in our legal position and will allow us to focus even more of our efforts and resources on ensuring a strong and sustainable future for Westminster Choir College and Rider University," said Dell'Omo.

Despite Dell'Omo's call for unity, those opposed to the move do not plan on halting the legal process after the court's announcement.

According to President of the Westminster Foundation Constance Fee, the alumni and faculty group working to stop the sale or movement of the school, both parties will appeal the decision of the court.

"Dear Westminster Family and Friends, please rest assured that today's announcement concerning the lawsuits is just the beginning of the legal journey, not the end," a statement from the Westminster Foundation read. "Nothing whatsoever has changed in our commitment to this effort. We are in it for the long haul. We will not back down and we will not give up."

Professor of Music Theory and Composition and Rider's chapter of the American Association of University Professors Assistant Grievance Officer Joel Phillips echoed the statement and questioned the university's decision to spend millions of dollars to "duplicate existing facilities."

"I am disappointed by the ruling, but undaunted," Phillips said. "Of course we will appeal."

Freshman sacred music major Jordan Klotz, who was signed onto the student lawsuit, said that the fight to keep WCC in Princeton is at "just the beginning."

"We are a resilient community," said Klotz. "People don't always understand what Westminster is about, but we will continue to work to do justice to our beloved home."

The ruling did not consider any complaint related to the land where the Princeton campus is located. The court established in its decision that the land is a trust and said that the fact of whether the land should be granted to the Princeton Theological Seminary after the school's movement "is an issue for another day."

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BRONCS PUSH FOR FIRST

The women's basketball team's recent wins put it in a tie for first place.

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Life as a minority on a college campus and how it affects the workplace.

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AWOOO!

Rider's "The Wolves" explores individuality, social pressure and grief.

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SECURITY BRIEFS

BY STEPHEN NEUKAM

Snip Snip

Sharp reality. On Feb. 28 at 10 p.m., it was reported to Public Safety that a current and a former Rider student went to play basketball at the Student Recreation Center. The former student gave an employee his student ID in exchange for a basketball, and when he went to get the ID back he found out that the employee had cut his ID with scissors because he was no longer a student. He initially refused to give the ball back, but Public Safety resolved the issue.

Burnt

Dryer, dryer, pants on fire. On March 1 at 10:40 p.m., Public Safety was called to Wright Hall after a dryer in a laundry room singed two different students' clothes. The dryer was marked out of order and the clothes were photographed to document the damage.

Overnight Damage

Sideswiped. On Feb. 28 at 1:18 p.m., Public Safety received a report that there had been a motor vehicle accident hit and run in the R lot sometime between 1 a.m. and 1 p.m. There was a scrape mark down the driver side of the car. The damage was photographed.

— Information provided by Public Safety Director James Waldon

University will “take precautions” in the face of virus outbreak

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“While we are taking precautions, it is important to note that the risk of anyone infected with the 2019 Novel Coronavirus is very low in the United States,” the joint email said. “There are no confirmed cases in New Jersey. The larger concern for our campus community and the general U.S. population is the seasonal flu.”

The email also made an attempt to continue to foster an inclusive community without worry of harassment as a result of COVID-19's origins in China.

“As members of a diverse and inclusive community, it is particularly important that we be supportive of those in our community who have been affected by this global issue and that we create and maintain an educational environment that is free from discrimination and harassment,” the email said.

On Feb. 28, however, the university's tone changed with the rapid spread of COVID-19 throughout the country, with more deaths making the news cycles. An email from university President Gregory Dell'Omo addressed the situation in a message to the Rider community.

“The University continues to closely monitor the evolving worldwide outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19),” Dell'Omo began. “The situation is changing quickly. Because the health and safety of each member of our community are of the utmost importance, we want to keep you informed about the virus and any impact it may have on our campuses.”

Within the message, Dell'Omo stated that the university was proceeding with its

study abroad plans outside of mainland China, though it was ready for potential changes or cancellations in coordination with the development of COVID-19's outbreak.

All university announcements have encouraged students concerned about study abroad plans to contact the Center for International Education. Rider also cancelled all university-sponsored travel to mainland China.

Dell'Omo also revealed that Rider University has a webpage dedicated to COVID-19 and its effect on the university. On the webpage, frequently asked questions (FAQs) are present for both students and employees.

The employee FAQs page contains advice to staff and faculty to prepare for changes in work plans should the disease spread.

The page includes the consideration of coordination with other staff and faculty should employees become ill, plans for electronic course work on Canvas should a large amount of students become ill and advice to modify policies that “inadvertently encourage ill students to attend classes sooner than they should,” giving opportunities for ill students to work from remote locations.

The university's webpage dedicated to COVID-19 can be found at www.rider.edu/coronavirus.

Campus Pride Index rates Rider LGBTQ+ inclusivity 3.5 out of 5 stars

By Tatyanna Carman

RIDER scored a 3.5 out of 5-star rating as an LGBTQ+-friendly university on the Campus Pride Index in December 2019, which has a “report card” to evaluate LGBTQ+ policy inclusion, student life and campus safety.

Co-chairs of the LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee Cindy Threatt and Jonathon Sun said in their joint statement that the index requested that they submit examples of LGBTQ+ inclusion on campus. The assessment included dozens of questions responding to eight different LGBTQ+-friendly factors, half of which address sexual orientation and half of which address gender identity and expression, according to Vice President for Student Affairs Leanna Fenneberg.

“I am very proud of Rider's commitment to LGBTQ+ inclusion, and how this has been recognized through the 3.5-star rating by Campus Pride,” Fenneberg said. “We are one of only 358 colleges and universities across the country who have exercised their commitment enough to invest in explicit efforts for LGBTQ+ inclusion and the subsequent process of initiating an external review of our progress.”

She also said that the score makes Rider University eligible for the Campus Pride Index honor roll, which recognizes colleges and universities that score three stars and above.

Rider has added improvements for more LGBTQ+ inclusion such as establishing gender-inclusive housing, events like the LGBTQ+ dessert reception and an LGBTQ+ mentoring program.

“The rating aligns with Rider's commitment to inclusive excellence. As outlined in the Inclusive Excellence Plan, Rider is committed to promoting a safe and welcoming physical environment and campus climate that garner a sense of belonging, and that is explicitly inclusive of people who identify as LGBTQ+,” Fenneberg said. “This rating provides a clear indicator of this commitment that I believe will help members of the LGBTQ+ community feel this respect and sense of belonging.”

Prevention Education Coordinator Susan Stahley was one of the people who reviewed the submission for the Campus Pride Index. She also shared how she felt about this rating and the work it took to earn it.

“I know from talking with students that gender-neutral housing has helped folks be their authentic selves as well as knowing where gender-neutral bathrooms are,” Stahley said. “It has taken a village to make all of this happen and work is ongoing to increase opportunities for continued inclusiveness.”

Junior radio, TV and film major Demara Barnes shed light on her thoughts about the rating.

“I think that the scoring is accurate being that Rider is just now having more outlets and things for the LGBTQ+ community on campus and making it more comfortable,” she said. “However, Rider still needs to expand on the inclusion of



The Campus Pride Index is meant to evaluate a campus' overall LGBTQ+ presence and inclusion.

the LGBTQ+ community because we really don't have many events or anything on campus to spread our love and show our presence on campus.”

Barnes suggested that there should be more LGBTQ+ events like the Cranberry and White Affair to support other types of students on campus. Barnes is also a part of the Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI) and commented on how well it was including LGBTQ+ students on campus.

“[CDI] is doing the best they can to reach out to the LGBTQ+ community. With that being said, they really don't promote it unless it's during specific pride dates like Oct. 11, Coming Out Day and they do a pride walk. CDI is more geared toward inclusion of different races and cultures, but still making sure that they reach out to the LGBTQ+ community through their events,” she said.

Threatt and Sun said in their statement that the scoring report has raised awareness on LGBTQ+ issues on campus and increased participation with the Allies SafeZone Training, a voluntary program that supports and adds resources to the LGBTQ+ community.

“I think student accountability of campus policies is valuable and helps to design campus policies around the student experience,” Sun and Threatt said. “Having Rider's Campus Pride Index score, makes students' and other individuals aware of what Rider is doing and can be part of building a more inclusive campus.”

Fenneberg added that the Campus Pride Index was a benchmarking tool and is currently being reviewed by the LGBTQ+ advisory committee to prioritize the next steps and communicate with relevant offices.

“A couple of specific efforts I know are underway include supporting the expansion of Spectrums peer mentoring program, expanding the campus systems in

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Nina's Whisper: Intimate Partner Violence

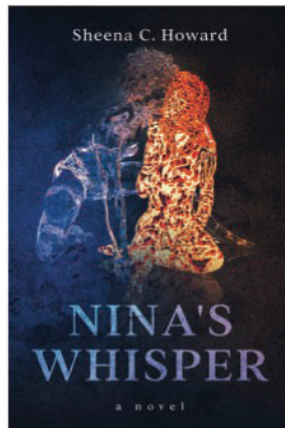
Thursday, March 5

11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

The Yvonne Theater in Fine Arts

Rider's own, Dr. Sheena C. Howard, presents *Nina's Whisper: Intimate Partner Violence*, a talk and Q & A session about her upcoming debut novel. The book, *Nina's Whisper*, is about a woman who struggles to triumph over domestic abuse at the hands of another woman. In the end, it is an inspirational tale that will anger, console and call you to action. During this event, Dr. Howard will address our preconceived notions around what domestic abuse is, looks like and who it affects.

Sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Center for Diversity and Inclusion



Release date - April 19



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rider.edu/events/womens-history-month

College of Education and Human Services interim dean reflects on new responsibilities

By Hailey Hensley

AFTER serving 10 years as Dean of the College of Education and Human Services (CEHS), Sharon Sherman chose to step down from her position and return to a teaching role in the university, according to a January 2020 announcement.

Upon her departure, former Associate Dean Jason Barr was appointed to serve as dean in the interim period, before a formal search for Sherman's replacement is conducted.

Barr eagerly described the importance of the College of Education and Human Services, smiling brightly as he enumerated the values the college seeks to instill in the future educators of New Jersey.

"We primarily teach teachers. We teach them how to become excellent public and private school teachers. We teach counselors and school psychologists, kind of all those professionals that were there when you were going through grade school," Barr said. "Our goal is to create a well-rounded teacher or professional once they leave the university."

Junior elementary education major Kayla Williams clarified that she had yet to really meet her new dean, but that so far her experience with him so far has been "pretty good."

Barr explained a major hurdle he feels is facing the college imminently: accreditation. Barr stated that early in his higher education career he found an interest in the facts and figures behind college and program-specific accreditation, which eventually led to him taking on administrative roles.

"I think that our biggest challenge, moving forward as a college is the level of accreditation for all our programs. In the next few years, a lot of our programs are coming up for accreditation... We have a brand new nursing program we're starting that needs to be accredited. So we're going to have a lot of external evaluation of what we do here," Barr said.

Barr also delved into some personal challenges he has faced in his new role as interim dean, the predominant one, he said, there are simply not enough hours in the day to do everything he would like to do.

"The personal challenge is really trying to be available to so many people. I recently got an email from a student asking me to participate in 'Faculty Family Feud' for Relay for Life and unfortunately, I can't make it, I have a family obligation," Barr said. "But it's all those little things. I want to meet with students, I want to talk to faculty and staff, I want to represent the college... so I'm always being pulled in all these different directions."

Barr then took the time to elaborate on the meaning and responsibilities of his new role as well as why he feels good administrators are imperative for student success.

"While I interact now less with students directly, I'm not teaching classes and I



Courtesy of Rider University

The Interim Dean of the College of Education and Human Services **Jason Barr** joined Rider's faculty in 2018 as associate dean.

don't grade papers. I don't see students in that way, but I see this job as a way I can help professors and make things easier for them in some ways. In that way, I impact a much larger group," Barr said. "So in my role, I can affect all students in the college. I might not talk to every single one of them, and I might not know every single one of them, but I have the opportunity to really move the college in a way that's going to help all the students."

According to Barr, he is unaware of the timeline for the selection of a permanent dean but says Rider administration wants to "get through this semester" first.

Dell'Omo, administration address economic and enrollment challenges at spring faculty town hall



Courtesy of Rider University

Rider President Gregory Dell'Omo unveiled a \$14.1 million deficit projection for fiscal year 2020.

By Stephen Neukam

At a faculty town hall meeting on Feb. 27, Rider President Gregory Dell'Omo and members of his administration unveiled current projections of a multi-million dollar budget deficit for the current fiscal year and teased a plan to even the budget by 2024.

The university is projecting a \$14.1 million deficit for the current fiscal year — in 2019, that number was \$12.2 million. Chief Financial Officer Jim Hartman said that one of the major differences of what the university planned for in its budget and what ended up happening was a decline in returning students — the freshman

to sophomore retention rate went down 1%, graduate enrollment was down 3% and the College of Continuing Studies enrollment fell 26% in the spring.

To make up for the changes, Hartman said, the university implemented university-wide budget reductions, mainly on supplies and professional services.

"You cannot keep on running an operation like that," Dell'Omo joked.

"We are working on a plan right now to present to the Board [of Trustees] and to the community — a plan to try to get us to break even by the fiscal year 2023," said Dell'Omo. "It's challenging. It is going to be an uphill battle but we think we have a plan in place that might be able to get us there."

Dell'Omo said he does not expect the plan to go in front of the board until the summer.

One of the main challenges that the school faces is changes in higher education. Particularly, Dell'Omo said, in affordability. In 2020, the university gave out \$78 million in scholarships — a number that will rise to \$85 million in 2021, according to Dell'Omo.

Included in these challenges is declining enrollment in higher education in general, declining numbers of high school graduates in the northeastern areas of the country, competitive pricing from public institutions, and competition with universities that Rider typically contends with.

Dell'Omo also announced that a task force has been assembled to address Rider's response to the COVID-19 virus. He also said the university has been working with local and state health officials as part of its planning. Dell'Omo said the university was prepared to confront the situation in a number of ways, including possibly closing the university.

Index results show Rider has room to grow in LGBTQ+ programming

which preferred name integrates, enhancing education to students, faculty and staff on LGBTQ+ identities and inclusion and more actively recruiting students, faculty and staff who identify as LGBTQ+," she said.

Fenneberg commended the work of a former Student Government Association (SGA) President John Modica toward initiating an LGBTQ+ advisory board, which influenced Rider's rating.

Sun and Threatt also added onto what how LGBTQ+ inclusion on campus can be improved.

"LGBTQ+ inclusion can be improved through structural policy changes, but must also include the day-to-day between students. Change cannot only be

bottom-up or top-down, there must be change in both directions. In doing so, change must include creating more inclusive policies that differentiate and recognize all facets of an individual's identity, and students must be able to recognize and normalize understanding of an individual's identity."

Spectrum Pride Alliance member Samantha Troilo declined to comment. Spectrum Pride Alliance members, Judy Wong, Alison Fisher and Adli Mercader could not be reached for comment.

Pep in your step: Getting to know more about Rider's Pep Band

By Christian McCarville

ATENDING a Rider athletic event would not be the same without hearing the thundering instruments of Rider's Pep Band. It always brings energy and fun to any event where it performs. The pep band breathes life into home sporting events, providing the soundtrack to the triumphant athletic achievements made by the Broncs.

The pep band is most commonly found at basketball games and it even travels with the team to the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) championships. However, basketball games are not the only events where one can catch the pep band performing. The band plays at various other athletic events including soccer games, as well as Relay For Life, Celebration of Lights and ArtBeast.

The presence of the pep band at home athletic events serves to enhance the event for the audience, while also motivating the Broncs to victory.

"When it comes to home games, I really think it gets everyone excited to be there," said junior elementary education major and Secretary of the pep band Pamela D'Addato. "We have specific songs that we see fans start singing along to, 'Sweet Caroline' to be specific, and the men's basketball team once started getting really into the way we were playing 'Seven Nation Army' one game."

The addition of live music during the games brings much more energy than any speaker could. Live instrumentation is sonically powerful and can intensify the environment of any sporting event.

"The band really brings energy because live music brings a different kind of energy into the air," said D'Addato. "When we play songs, the excitement of watching our team succeeding and the band supporting the team just creates such a thrilling atmosphere."

Senior political science major Antonio Lombardi, the president of the pep band, explains that while the band is a large presence at sporting events, they do much more than just provide live music for sports.

"Many of our students are not music majors, but are very talented in their musical abilities. By joining the band they can use it as an outlet to express their music playing abilities and meet like-minded individuals. Many of our own members have claimed that the Pep Band is their number one reason they enjoy being here at Rider," said Lombardi.

D'Addato also explained the personal connections and relationships that the band members share.

"Everyone there loves music and therefore we play music. Band, to me, really means family, because we all support each other," she said. "When one of us has an event or something going on, we all find a way to bring the support. Band is more than just showing up for practice and leaving. We all care for each other and look after one



Gerard Blandina/The Rider News

The Rider Pep Band can be seen playing at sporting events (such as basketball and soccer games), Relay For Life, Celebration of Life and ArtBeast.

another just like a sports team would."

Playing and practicing together results in the band being closely knit and strongly supportive of each other. Lombardi explained how this group unity has impacted him both personally and musically.

"When I am older and looking back at my time here at Rider, the pep band will definitely be one of the highlights of my college career," he said. "As a founding member of the band, going through the journey to get where the band is currently, took a tremendous amount of hard work and effort -- pushing myself to the limits and shaping me into the person I am today. Seeing the success and the presence the band has here at Rider has taken my breath away and makes all that hard work worth it."

For those looking to be a part of the pep family of talented musicians, all students are free to join the pep band. Practices are commonly held Monday and Wednesday nights in the Alumni Gym.

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Sophomore TV, film and radio major **Ben Campbell** plays drums for the pep band. "Many of our students are not music majors but are very talented in their musical abilities," said senior political science major **Antonio Lombardi**. Lombardi is currently the president of the pep band.



Gerard Blandina/The Rider News

Many different instruments are featured within the pep band. The pep band serves as a great outlet for those who are musically inclined and love to play their instruments. Members start with a shared interest of music and eventually form a powerful bond among their bandmates.

Team spirit and individuality is why "We are the Wolves"

By Jason Mount

QUEEN'S "We Will Rock You," along with a mix of other songs typically heard at sports games, echoed through the Yvonne Theater Feb. 27 to March 1 as people filed in. The mood was set for Rider's production of "The Wolves" by Sarah DeLappe.

Green turf was set in the middle of the stage and continued to drape in the back of the set, between six work lights hanging from the ceiling. At the front of the stage were two blue benches, adorned with a variety of water bottles, sports bags and backpacks.

"The Wolves" revolved around a female soccer team and the personal relationships they have with one another and themselves. The plot was supported by the fact that there is no single "lead character" said senior acting major Taryn Grey, who played No. 7.

"I have definitely valued the importance of the ensemble experience," said Grey. "There is no lead in this show, so it really helped us form a bond, knowing that not only were we all important to the plot, but that we all had each other's backs in the process too."

As the theater lights dimmed and the work lights switched on, the players entered the stage dressed in their soccer uniforms and began their warm-ups. This comprised almost every scene of the play.

Conversation flew amidst the team's drills, about what was happening that weekend, their families and the other teammates when they were not around. The dialogue was natural, as if the topics the girls discussed were true to their lives and opinions. It truly felt as though the actors had embodied their characters and were living with them.

Junior acting major Kate DeLong also saw "The Wolves," and also appreciated how fluid the lines were.

"I loved the authenticity of the acting," DeLong said. "I loved the way the actors took strategic pauses between lines. It made the tension and dialogue more realistic."

DeLong admired the staging of the production and felt the movements of the actors helped bring their roles to life.

"I really enjoyed the way the director staged the whole thing. It felt like I was looking into the real lives of these girls from an outsider's view," she said.

Grey agreed, and said that the feedback she got from her family and friends was positive about the characters of the show.

"Many people were thoroughly moved and impressed by the

show," Grey said. "Many commented on the complexity of the characters, in that even though they were all so different, no one loved or hated any of the characters, but that they were all likeable."

Through the dialogue and movement, the actors were able to portray an expert blend of humor and drama, while keeping the performance grounded in reality, making it relatable to the people who saw it.

DeLong felt the relatable content of the show helped convey the themes of togetherness and individuality.

"I think 'The Wolves' was a nice break from some of the more dated plays we get at Rider," DeLong said. "This play felt relevant to the world right now."

In "The Wolves," each character had some part of who they were that audience members could connect to, whether it be the stress of applying to college, pressure from parents, relationships or the death of a close friend.

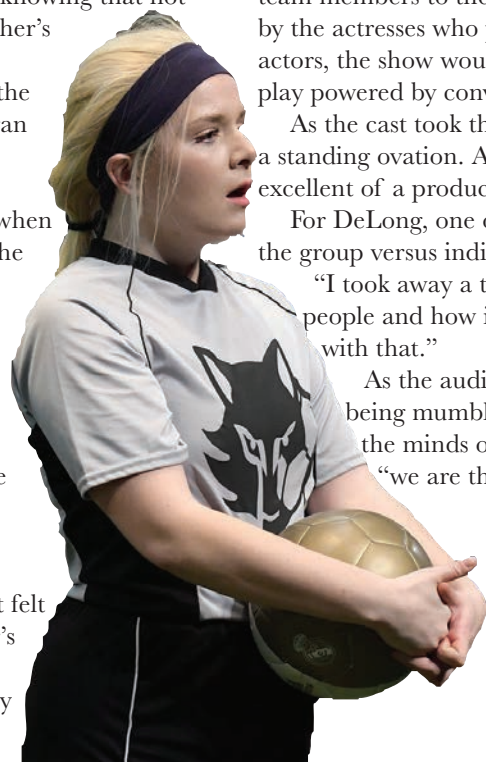
The more serious moments helped connect the intricately woven stories of the team members to the audience members who watched them, expertly conveyed by the actresses who portrayed them. Without the dedicated performances of the actors, the show would have fallen flat; it is the energy from the girls that kept this play powered by conversation intriguing for outside viewers.

As the cast took their bows, the audience immediately rose from their seats to give a standing ovation. Applause thundered throughout the Yvonne, proving just how excellent of a production "The Wolves" was.

For DeLong, one of the biggest themes for she saw in the production, alongside the group versus individual, was simple: grief.

"I took away a theme of loss," she said. "I saw how grieving can affect certain people and how it affects society as a whole, and how humanity tries to cope with that."

As the audience shuffled out of the theater, their thoughts of the show being mumbled in the general noise of the crowd, one thing echoed through the minds of certain viewers: the final cheer of the team, an empowered "we are the Wolves."



Senior musical theater major **Lucy Connell** played No. 11, the team captain of "The Wolves"

Alumnus builds coffee business from the ground up

By Cassandra Stathis

EARLY in the day, it is common to hear someone say "Don't talk to me 'till I've had my morning coffee." It is the best part of the day for many hardworking students and employees. But what exactly is the science behind coffee?

Rider alumnus Mark Maslanka '18 is very familiar with the process behind the caffeinated beverage, as he is the proud owner of his own coffee company, named "Science of Coffee."

Maslanka had a long history with coffee, even before college.

"Coffee was always something that brought me relaxation," he said. "And made me feel like one of the adults."

Maslanka's allure to the drink was the root of inspiration behind his company.

"The quality of coffee I produce today just blows me away," Maslanka said. "It brings me right back to those first couple sips when I was a kid in the car with my dad."

Maslanka planned to just experiment with his favorite drink in order to perfect his recipe.

"I mastered different methods from around the world in trying to produce the best tasting cup of coffee," he said.

Todd Weber, a professor of biology at Rider, had Maslanka in a past neuroscience class, and admired his work ethic when he was a student.

"Mark [Maslanka] had a pragmatic approach to getting work done when it needed to be done," said Weber.

Before Maslanka left Rider, he decided to leave one last gift with his professors. It was something from the heart that he believed they would appreciate.

"Mark [Maslanka] graced me with some of his coffee before he graduated. [It was] very fragrant, so much better than much of the coffee we get around here," Weber said.

Neuroscience and coffee may not seem like they have a lot in common, but Weber disagreed.

"I think it's very cool that Mark was able to meld his behavioral neuroscience background with a spirit of entrepreneurship to start a company around the most widely used neuroactive substance on the planet, caffeine," Weber said. "He's an ultimate scientific entrepreneur."

Maslanka had never expected his business to take off so quickly, so the success of his business came as a surprise

to him.

"I didn't think I'd be selling coffee to people across the country, I only started this as an excuse to roast more coffee than I could drink," he said. "I'm just along for the ride, waiting to see where it'll take me next. Everything up until this point has been purely from word of mouth besides the occasional stranger that stumbles upon my website. That's how you know it's good coffee."

Maslanka's company also sells photographs of nature and wildlife that he has taken.

"It's my way of showing others what untouched nature looks like deep in the wilderness. I love being able to remind people why it's worth trying so hard to conserve these creatures," he said.

The Rider alumnus credits his business' website with helping him get off the ground.

"My site has given me a large boost in credibility in life, with a very physical example of how hard I work on things I am interested in," he said. "It also got me into my current position where I am today."

Maslanka went on to discuss how coffee fits in with his work, describing the effects that different coffee beans have on the body.

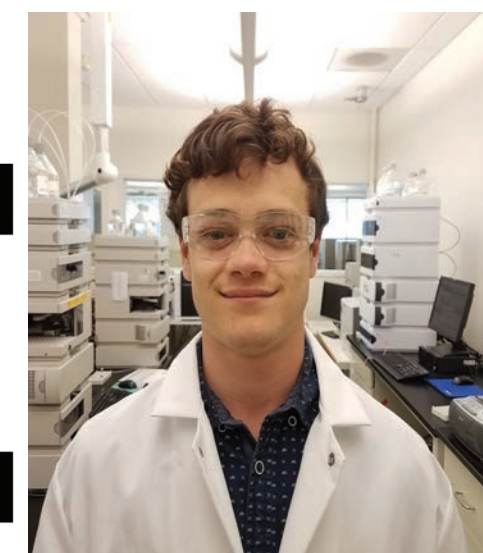
"One of the side projects I inherited is a 'coffee-omics' study, investigating metabolomic differences between different coffees grown around the world," he said.

During the hours he works strictly with coffee, he is "sourcing new beans in small batches from farms around the world and optimizing a roasting profile to enhance the development of the natural flavors unique to that origin."

"Science of Coffee" is the perfect blend of Maslanka's passions, balancing neuroscience and the environment in one successful business.



Courtesy of Mark Maslanka



Mark Maslanka '18 started brewing up his own coffee business while studying neuroscience at Rider. He eventually moved to Colorado where his business took off.

All photos courtesy of Rider University



"The Wolves" explored themes of individuality, teamwork, societal pressures and grief, all while taking place in an indoor soccer field. People who saw the production left happy, and described the characters as "likeable."

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

WED, MARCH 4

Film and Media Studies Program annual film symposium
9:45 a.m. to 10 p.m. | SWG 115

THU, MARCH 5

Film and Media Studies Program annual film symposium
9:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. | SWG 115

A Conversation with Janos Marton, Manhattan D.A. Candidate and Criminal Justice Reform Advocate
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. | NJM Community Room, BLC

2020 Census: New Jersey Complete Count
11:30 a.m. | Lynch Adler Hall 202

Nina's Whisper: Intimate Partner Violence (Talk and Q&A Session)
11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. | Yvonne Theater

SAT, MARCH 7

Rider Dances: "Moving in Our Community"
7:30 p.m. | BLC Theater

SUN, MARCH 8

Rider Dances: "Moving in Our Community"
7:30 p.m. | BLC Theater

Microaggression and Tokenism within PWIs

COLLEGE: a place of learning and growth to prepare a person for the “real-world” and the job market. It also is a time where people interact with others that come from different backgrounds, which is a learning experience in and of itself. However, that can come with some unintentional consequences. A microaggression is defined by the Merriam Webster’s Dictionary as “a comment or action that subtly and often unconsciously or unintentionally expresses a prejudiced attitude toward a member of a marginalized group, such as a racial minority.” This dictionary also defined a token, in this context, as a member of a group (such as a minority) that is included within a larger group through tokenism. Microaggressions and being a “token,” is present within predominantly white institutions, commonly known as PWIs, and also in the workplace. So, let’s talk about it.

Many people of color have been in a situation where they felt as though they had to represent their race or ethnicity when in a group of people that don’t look like them. They have heard strange backhanded compliments like, “you’re pretty for a…” insert ethnicity here. Psychology Today conducted a study on white American college students and their likelihood to say things that carry microaggressive messages. The study involved 33 African-American and 118 non-hispanic white undergraduate students aged between 18 and 35 years old at the University of Louisville. When it described the results, it said, “Specifically, White students who reported that they were more likely to commit microaggressions were more likely to endorse colorblind, symbolic, and modern racist attitudes. They also held significantly less favorable feelings and attitudes towards Black people. This was especially true for White students who thought that minorities are too sensitive about matters related to racial prejudice.”

Although this study took place in the University of Louisville, Rider junior communication studies major Regina Askew-Jones said she has experienced microaggressions at Rider, but said they were “subtle.”

She shared how she reacts to those types of comments.

“Honestly, it is not really a response. My reaction is just like a clutch of the pearls. Like ‘Wow, OK.’”

Askew-Jones also shared times of how she felt like a token and felt as though she was “representing her whole race.”

“That is the most annoying thing ever because the thing is that people think is that one person can represent a whole entire race of people or a demographic in general, which is so untrue,” she said. “Black people come in different forms, shapes, sizes. We all have different ideas. We are different people. We’re not the same person, so my perspective might be different from yours just solely because we are

different people, not because we’re black.”

Senior graphic design major Ameerah Flowers said she has become desensitized to being a token because it is so common to her, especially as one of the few black students in her classes at Rider. As a result, she described her experience has been neutral, due to Rider’s diversity, with the exception of Turning Point USA’s “White Privilege is a Myth” event.

Junior psychology major and member of the Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI) Alyssa Darden said she felt represented on campus because of her involvement in the department. She said she believed the Inclusive Excellence Plan, the relocation of the office for CDI to allow for more room and resources, mentoring and peer leader opportunities for people of color among other aspects helped increase diversity on campus.

Since college is a stepping stone to the real world, these issues are present in the workplace as well. There was a viral video that spread on Twitter about a group of white office workers touching a black woman’s hair at work, where she looked slightly uncomfortable. It created a conversation about whether or not her coworkers were wrong in doing that and why the black woman didn’t say anything to stop them.

“I have experienced microaggressions in previous jobs where I was described as looking ‘exotic’ by customers,” Darden said. “A customer also asked to touch my hair and asked where I’m from. In all of those instances, it made me feel like I was significantly different from others and that they were insinuating that I wasn’t American. Regardless, I kept a smile on and didn’t say anything because I was expecting a tip from them.”

Askew-Jones also touched on microaggressions and tokenism within the workplace and said that it comes with positives and negatives, where you can answer some questions pertaining to the black experience, but not all. She also gave advice on how to handle those types of situations.

“Be direct. Let them know in advance, ‘This is not what I’m here for. If you want to hire me because I’m black, don’t hire me. Hire me because I’m an asset, for what you’re hiring me for.’ Even though that you feel this way amongst people that you may go to school with or anything, you need to be direct and straightforward.”

Employers need to broaden their knowledge so they can get closer to enforcing real change. This includes having honest conversations at work to encourage all employees to think about and reflect on their own privilege and the ways in which they can commit to speaking up.

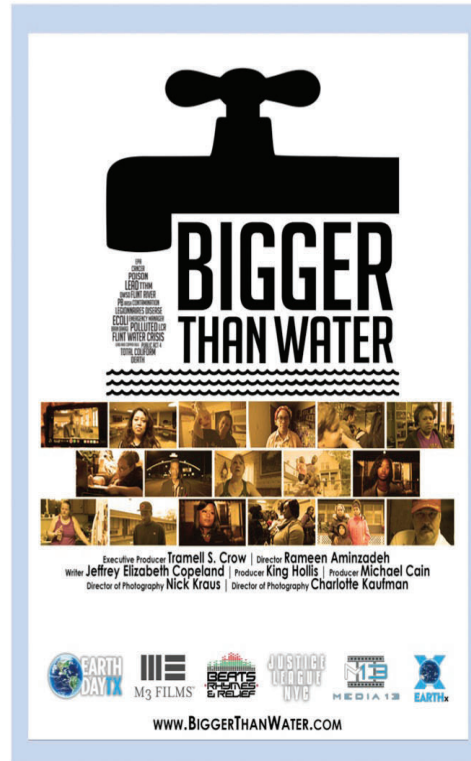
“Once individual team members commit to digging deep on their own role in systemic prejudice, bringing co-workers together across race for meaningful dialogues can further develop empathy and



THE GREEN FILM SERIES

Presented by the Office of Sustainability

SHARED READ EVENT!



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at 7:00 P.M.
Sweigart 115

Clean water is supposed to be every American's birthright, but when Flint city and state officials fail to properly treat a vital water system poisoning the entire city, residents fight back to fix their vital lifeline and thwart the effects that a politically negligent system created.

Film followed by a brief discussion



THE Rider News

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report from the Center for Talent Innovation.

In order for an issue like microaggressive comments and tokenism to get better is to one, directly voice discomfort when the comment is stated and two, continue to have a conversation about implicit prejudices. I know it is hard to be direct without sounding rude, however, your feelings are valid and should be treated as such especially by employers, coworkers and peers. Also as mentioned earlier, true and authentic diversity would help allow different voices and perspectives to speak on their experiences, which would further educate those who might not know about such subtle issues as these.

“We have to understand that we can't always solely blame the individual for their actions because most of the ignorance comes from misinformation, biases, and observed behavior from family members or the environment they were raised in,” Darden said. “It's our job to inform them and make them realize that what they're doing negatively affects us.”

This editorial expresses the unanimous opinion of The Rider News Editorial Board. This week's editorial was written by News Editor Tatyanna Carman.



GREEN CORNER

Fighting fast fashion fads

TAKE a moment and think about how many Rider T-shirts you have gotten that you only wore one time or have never worn.

Remember that colorful “It's a great day to be a Bronc” shirt you got at orientation? When you consider how year after year those same shirts are ordered in bulk, you start to realize how many end up never getting used. So, where does that waste go? This scenario is an example of the problems we face in today's fast-fashion industry. What is fast-fashion and why is it bad? Fast fashion is the rapid production of cheap garments that are produced by retailers to quickly replicate catwalk trends without regard to sustainability.

Fast-fashion clothing is efficiently produced and cheaper for the public, but it is coming at a greater cost for our planet and all living things on it. The industry is responsible for an enormous amount of waste that goes unseen, unchecked and underestimated. Textile waste is a growing problem that negatively affects freshwater sources, landfills and the livelihood of underserved communities that are in close proximity to the factories. The garment supply chain often stretches over many countries and we have no idea where our clothes came from, who made them and what the real cost behind the cheap tag is. These practices of quantity over quality have disrupted a quality fashion cycle and have led to a disposable fashion mentality — but don't have to play fast fashion's game.

“It is super easy to thrift your typical retail purchases. Thrifting is not only great for using your dollar to vote for sustainable fashion, but it also is putting your money into a good cause,” said Danielle Balsamo, the graduate assistant for the office of sustainability.

“Thrift stores are usually donating and rerouting the money made from

donations to a greater cause. The fast fashion industry, on the other hand, needs to be held accountable and develop a triple bottom line; planet, profit and product.”

At the Office of Sustainability, we have a mission to reduce, reuse and recycle all materials possible. Each year we try to find a way to reuse or recycle those old Rider T-shirts as the base material for reusable bags, jewelry and cleaning rags.

Luckily, sustainable fashion practices are not only good for our planet but can be great for your expression and style as well.

ThredUP is a great way to save money and be sustainable while shopping the latest trends or selling your own unwanted wardrobe pieces. If you are looking for something fancy to wear for a special occasion, Rent The Runway is a great place to start.

“For me, having the limitation of budget and materials makes my work more creative. With the restriction that I can't just buy everything I want for a production, I have to come up with solutions that feel more authentic,” says Rider's Fine and Performing Art Head of Costume Design Robin Shane who is a fierce supporter of the sustainable fashion movement.

There are also ways to avoid feeding the fast fashion monster at Rider, like recycling the textile waste, upcycling old clothing into a new look and swap styles with your friends. We have HELPSY donation boxes by Beckett Village and behind Hank and Bonnie Moore Hall for unwanted or unusable clothing and linen items.

You can join us at our clothing swap shops every semester, where you can bring your unwanted clothes and leave them for people to take as well as snatching up some new pieces that others bring.

*Alison Fisher
Rider Eco-Rep*

JUNIOR JOURNALS

Reading material for the homies

FATIMAH Warner is a woman with no name but a lot to say. Chicago rapper and activist Noname strolled onto the music scene with her jazz-influenced sound and spoken word rhymes. She did not hesitate to illuminate her obstacles as a black woman growing up in the southside of Chicago. Her music personifies protest, from her critic our nation's government, Chicago's high homicide rate and the transparency of her insecurities.

Entering high school, I became so conflicted with my race, gender and how I would maneuver through this life. Her neglect of conformity of rap, especially female rap, was inspiring. Noname knew she did not fit into a particular box but did not downplay those who fit into boxes perfect.

Today, Noname is an anti-capitalist rapper-activist and now head of a book club called “Noname's Book Club.”

“Noname's Book Club is an online/IRL community dedicated to uplifting people of color (POC) voices. We do this by highlighting two books each month written by authors of color. In addition to our social media presence, we feel it is highly important to have free in-person meet-ups to discuss the monthly picks in a safe and supportive environment. Currently, we have six local chapters with plans for continuous growth,” according to Noname's Book Club's official website.

It was inspirational to see this initiative becoming so widespread on social media. Seeing the book clubs taking place in areas such as Chicago (of course), Baltimore, Philadelphia, Boston and New York, all set in coffee shops, book stores or libraries. To see so many young black and brown individuals in vast numbers post their monthly books, book club merch or book club experience on Twitter was

refreshing because reading is still a desirable hobby and loved by many.

One of Noname's most remarkable projects was her collaboration with prisons advocating education for inmates. Noname has been very vociferous on her opinion on mass incarceration. She wants her fans to explore the intersection of race, justice mass incarceration in the United States and realize the Thirteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution, adopted in 1865, abolished slavery throughout the United States and ended involuntary servitude except as a punishment for conviction. With that, we see how this law is not colorblind, and in fact perpetuate a never-ending cycle of wrongful imprisonment and inhumanity.

“In 2020 we also want to raise funds to send our monthly picks to select prisons in various cities. It is extremely important to us to share work we believe in with as many folks as possible, and none of this is done without hard work,” according to Noname's Book Club.

For Women's History month, I wanted to speak of a woman not only who is of my generation, but a woman who is unapologetic in her skin and truth. Noname does not shy away from uncomfortable conversations whether in her politics or music. Being a journalist, I aspire to be that, to be raw and real in every sense without fear of critics and criticism. But, it is her vulnerability with her flaws and imperfections, using them as ammunition for verses and her activism.

In words of Noname, say no to Amazon and shop local.

*Qyr'an Hansford
Junior journalism major*



Courtesy of Creative Commons

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Rider climbs back into first-place tie

By Dylan Manfre and Shaun Chornobroff

WITH two games remaining on the schedule, the women's basketball team cleared a hurdle in its case to win its first-ever regular-season conference title.

Rider at Fairfield, Feb. 27

It does not come as surprising to senior guard Stella Johnson that games in late February are always a little tougher, especially on the road. Getting a 68-60 win over Fairfield showed this team has a lot of "grit" when their opponents may be slacking.

"Everyone is at the end of the season so everyone is getting tired... so I think it's a really good away game for us and a really good win for the team," Stella Johnson said.

The Stags made things exceptionally tough when they erased an 18-point Rider lead after they were outscored 22-7 at the end of the first quarter.

The previous game for Fairfield saw the Stags get blown out by 30, so for them to erase a double-digit lead probably was not on the original scouting report.

"I think in the first quarter, defensively, we were playing with our instincts and playing... really well," Head Coach Lynn Milligan said. "In the second quarter we were trying to guess a little bit too much and they made some shots. If we don't get stops, they're running back in zone [defense] and our pace is going to be a little bit slower. We were making twos and they were making threes unfortunately."

Reigning Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Rookie of the Year Lou Lopez-Senechal, along with teammate Katie Armstrong, were the main culprits in the comeback effort for Fairfield. It is no surprise that those two are players Rider did not want to get the hot hand.

Lopez-Senechal finished with 21 points and hit a deep 3-pointer late in the fourth quarter which brought her team within six, 66-60.

Armstrong finished with 15 points in 38 minutes of action, though she was rendered scoreless throughout the second half.

Senior forward Lea Favre finished with 13 points on 6-of-11 shooting for Rider and looked like the consistent player Milligan has been accustomed to seeing. Favre has led the MAAC in field goal percentage a majority of the 2019-20 season.

The Broncs got yet another surge from starting point guard Amanda Mobley who tied her career-high of 18 points, 11 of which came at the free throw line, another career high for the sophomore.

Rider vs. Canisius, Feb. 29

For the second time in her collegiate career, Stella Johnson recorded a triple double in a blow-out victory over Metro-Atlantic Athletic (MAAC) Conference bottom feeders Canisius.

Stella Johnson holds two of the three triple doubles in program history, with the previous one occurring on Nov. 17 of last season in a win against Mount St. Mary's.

Stella Johnson, who has been the leading scorer in the NCAA at 24.2 points per game a majority of the season, scored 15 points and had 10 rebounds to go along with a career high 12 assists.

On her tenth rebound that secured the triple-double, Rider's entire bench erupted in a loud cheer for its senior captain.

Despite her performance, Stella Johnson was all business after the game.

"It was cool, I always appreciate the love I receive from my teammates," Stella Johnson said of her performance. "It was a good feeling, but that's it."

Stella Johnson was one of many stars during Feb. 29's win.

Senior guard Amari Johnson shot 60% from the field for the second straight game and recorded her conference leading 15th double double with 15 points and 11 rebounds.

Rider also found dominance in the frontcourt with the duo of Farve and junior forward Daija Moses.

Favre tied her career high 24 points, which she had done twice previously in her career. She credited her performance to her teammates feeding her the ball.

"I mean it's pretty easy when you have Stella [Johnson] driving in and passing you the ball and you just finish wide open," Favre said through a laugh. "It was just finding the right openings, the right cuts and putting the ball in the basket."

Moses ran with the first-team starters for the first time since Nov. 23 and scored a career-high 13 points in addition to her four rebounds and three assists.

Milligan spoke highly of Moses' performance. "I thought Daija [Moses] did a great job," Milligan said. "When we can play small with Lea [Favre] and Daija we can be a little more versatile on the defensive end, so we thought Daija did a good job with that."

Moses started in place of senior center Aubrey Johnson, who only played four minutes in the game.

It was the first game Aubrey Johnson had not started this season, but Milligan said the center was fine and just being "preserved."



Gerard Blandina/The Rider News

Senior guard **Stella Johnson** notched her second career triple-double with 15 points, 10 rebounds and 12 assists against Canisius on Feb. 29.

Rider continues its postseason push on Mar. 5 when it takes on Saint Peter's at Alumni Gym.

Last Meeting

Saint Peter's stunned the Broncs handing them their first MAAC loss of the year on their home floor, 67-56 on Feb. 6.

MAAC Tournament

If Rider and Marist win their final two games, multiple tiebreaker scenarios can play out depending on how other MAAC teams perform. Fairfield, Quinnipiac, Iona and Siena could finish between the fourth and seventh seeds.

Rider and Marist have both swept Quinnipiac and the Broncs have swept Iona and Siena, which Marist has a chance to match with games against Iona on March. 5 and Siena on March. 7.

Regardless of Marist's outcomes against the Gaels and the Saints, Rider swept its regular-season series with Fairfield, which Marist split.

With Rider's success against Fairfield, all roads point to the Broncs owning the first-seed tiebreaker should they match the Red Foxes' record.

If they get the No. 1 seed, the Broncs' first game would be March 11 against the winner of the No. 8 and No. 9 seeds.

Men's swimming and diving, women's track and field win titles



The men's swimming and diving team took home the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) championship on Feb. 13 at the Bert Flickinger Athletic Center at Erie Community College in Buffalo, New York. The title is the team's ninth-straight conference championship. Photo courtesy of Rider Athletics.



The women's track and field team clinched the MAAC championship on Feb. 23 at the 168th Street Armory in Manhattan, New York. The Broncs won the championship on the last throw from senior **Ronetta Hunter** in the shotput event. The title win is the team's first since 2007. Photo courtesy of Rider Athletics.

BASEBALL

Broncs split games to stay above .500

By Shaun Chornobroff

After losing two of three games against East Tennessee State, the baseball team won two out of four against Lafayette and James Madison.

After a 10-4 loss on Feb. 23, Head Coach Barry Davis explained that the team had no choice but to be resilient.

Three days later, Rider responded with an emphatic 10-1 eight-inning win on the road against Lafayette.

"We competed for the entire eight innings," Davis said after the win.

Freshman pitcher Dylan Heine earned his first career win and was one of the five Bronco pitchers that contributed to the victory.

Rider's pitching was consistent and allowed seven hits.

The Broncs' offense was quiet for the first half of the game, but once again showed their ability to get hot at a moment's notice.

Rider was only up 2-1 heading into the sixth inning, but with one out and a man on first, senior catcher Chris Roan smashed a two-run home run to extend Rider's lead to three.

The home run was the first of Roan's career and the first for Rider this year.

Rider continued its offensive outburst by scoring six runs in the seventh inning.

After the win against Lafayette, Rider had a weekend series against James Madison University.

The Broncs started the series by losing a game that seemed to be going their way.

Freshman infielder/pitcher Luke Lesch, who was named Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Rookie of the Week, led Rider's offense with three RBI as the Broncs built a 7-2 lead after the top of the seventh inning.

Senior pitcher Pete Soporowski seemed to be on his way to another dominant victory, allowing only two runs in his first six innings of work.

But the seventh inning was the Broncs undoing.

Soporowski and junior pitcher Joe Papeo would combine to give up five runs in the seventh, allowing James Madison to tie the game.

In the next inning, Vincent Vitacco allowed a sacrifice fly to Conor Harigan, giving James Madison the lead and the junior pitcher his first loss of the season.

Davis was not overly disappointed after the game.

"We just need to find a way to close it out," Davis said. "It's baseball, these things happen from time to time."

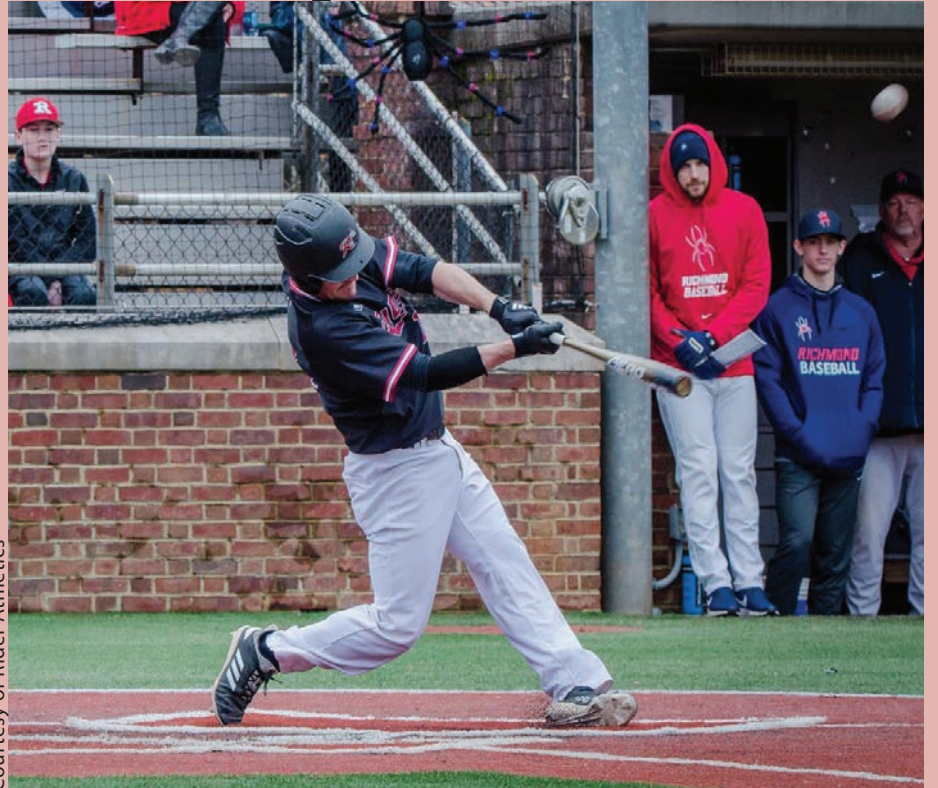
Rider responded two days later, winning the first game of a doubleheader 3-2.

Rider once again benefitted from a fantastic performance from Frank Doelling. The sophomore pitcher earned his second win of the season, allowing only one earned run and striking out six batters in seven innings.

In his last two starts, Doelling struck out 15 batters and yielded two runs in 14 innings. Doelling, who is in his first season, is unsurprised by his hot start.

"I came into the season with high expectations and lofty goals set," Doelling explained. "I'm just going to keep working hard to reach those goals and expectations."

Rider's offense received a boost from senior infielder Kyle Johnson who scored all



Courtesy of Rider Athletics

Senior catcher **Chris Roan** hit his first career home run against Lafayette on Feb. 26.

three of Rider's runs in the game.

For the second straight series, Rider dropped the rubber game of a three-game set, suffering an embarrassing 16-2 loss on March 1.

Rider only mustered five hits and did not get a run until a fielding error allowed two runners to score in the seventh inning when the Broncs were already down by eleven runs.

James Madison responded by scoring five runs in the bottom of the same inning.

Davis was very blunt when commenting on the team's performance.

"We need to be better than this, it's as simple as this," Davis stated.

One of the few bright spots in the game was freshman outfielder/infielder Scott Shaw, who was the designated hitter in the game and continued his hot start with two hits.

Shaw has a .385 batting average and four RBI so far this season.

Rider's next series will be on the road to face University of Delaware from March 6 to 8.

WRESTLING

Rider seeking NCAA bids in MAC tournament

By Mike Ricchione

As the calendar turns from February to March, the college wrestling world switches from the regular season to the postseason.

For the Rider wrestling team, the first stop on their playoff tour will be Northern Illinois. There, it will compete for the automatic qualifying bids for the NCAA tournament that are up for grabs in the Mid-American Conference (MAC) tournament on March 7 and 8.

One thing different from years past is that Rider wrestlers will have more bids to compete for. This comes from being in a bigger conference — the second biggest in Division I wrestling.

The MAC was awarded 41 automatic bids for this year's tournament.

Automatic bids for the NCAA tournament are determined by three factors: the coaches' poll, Rating Percentage Index (RPI) and winning percentage at the Division I level at the weight class.

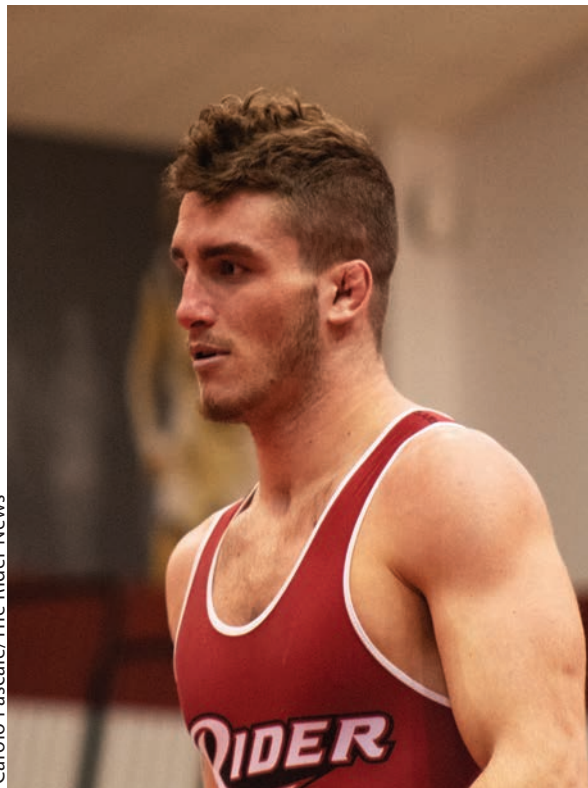
A conference is allocated as many NCAA tournament automatic bids needed to match the number of wrestlers who meet at least two of the three factors needed for an automatic bid.

To show how this would work, take redshirt senior Jesse Dellavecchia as an example. Dellavecchia meets all three benchmarks as he's ranked fifth by the coaches, seventh in RPI and has a winning percentage of .929.

Therefore, Dellavecchia counted towards one of the conference's six automatic qualifiers at 157 pounds.

This does not mean that Dellavecchia automatically qualifies for the national championships, however. He still has to wrestle his way there.

Dellavecchia is undefeated in conference competition thus far and is ranked No. 1 in the MAC



Carolo Pascale/The Rider News

Redshirt senior **Dean Sherry** is looking to repeat as a conference champion in the upcoming MAC playoffs.

Wrestling Coaches Rankings, but has only faced one out of the five others ranked at the weight.

That wrestler was Old Dominion's Larry Early, a returning All-American who is ranked fifth by MAC coaches. Dellavecchia beat Early, 1-0, during the Broncs' 22-10 win over the Monarchs on Jan. 19.

Dellavecchia is not worried about wrestling someone he has never faced before.

"That's how it's going to be at nationals and that's the big picture," Dellavecchia said. "You wrestle guys,

usually once a year anyway so just going into it, I'm going to focus on what I do best."

Redshirt senior Dean Sherry and junior Ethan Laird, who won last year's EWL conference titles at 174 and 197 pounds respectively, are ranked second by MAC coaches at the same weights.

Sherry and Laird each suffered one loss in the conference and look to avenge those losses in the tournament.

Sherry lost his EWL championship rematch to Edinboro's Jacob Oliver in a high-scoring affair, 13-11, on Jan. 17. Since then, Sherry has won six straight matches, including two by bonus points.

Laird's lone loss in the conference came against Clarion's Greg Bulsak via decision, 8-1, on Feb. 16. Although Head Coach John Hangey suggested that Laird was not exactly 100% at the time, he would have sat him if Rider had a larger lead after the match.

Laird did not wrestle in the Maryland dual as Rider forfeited the 197-pound weight class.

Although he did not wrestle, Laird was focused on getting healthy in preparation for the conference tournament.

"I didn't let those losses affect anything too much," Laird said. "So I know the stuff that I have is good enough to beat anyone in the country. I've just gotten healthy, feeling good, good mindset."

Redshirt sophomore George Walton replaced Michale Fagg-Daves at 184-pounds this season. He went 6-2 in the conference, including 2-1 against the MAC's top six wrestlers in his weight class.

Walton occupies the fourth spot in the MAC Coaches Poll.

To get Ricchione's full preview, find this story online at theridernews.com.

Sports

ONLINE

WRESTLING'S POSTSEASON PREDICTIONS
Mike Ricchione's full preview of the Broncos' upcoming postseason.
 FIND THIS STORY ON PAGE 11 AND ON [THERIDERNEWS.COM](http://THE RIDER NEWS.COM)

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Broncs look to sneak into third after wins



Gerard Blandina/The Rider News

Senior guard **Stevie Jordan** has a chance to break the Rider program record in both steals and assists on March 4 against Manhattan.

By **Austin Ferguson**

DOWN to fifth place in the standings, winning the rest of its games this season was paramount to a favorable placement in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) tournament.

With one game to go, the men's basketball team has an 11-8 record, lodging itself in fourth place with a chance for it to push to third by season's end.

Rider vs. Monmouth, Feb. 28

The Broncs defeated long-time rival Monmouth on Feb. 28, 79-67, behind strong scoring distribution and an attack on the boards.

Rider's largest driving force on both sides of the ball was senior big man Tyere Marshall. The center led all Broncs with 21 points and grabbed 15 boards in the process. The effort was his sixth double-double of the season.

Marshall credited his hard work to the hard practices Rider held leading up to the game.

"We were competitive, really competitive," Marshall said. "We were going after each other all week and that translated to the game."

Redshirt junior forward Dimencio Vaughn backed up Marshall with his fifth double-double of the year, scoring 16 points and pulling down 11 rebounds.

Head Coach Kevin Baggett was pleased with the Broncs' efforts.

"We needed that game. We needed it in the worst way," Baggett said.

Prior to its matchup against the Hawks, Rider had lost back-to-back games, both on the road. The Broncs also lost their last game against the Hawks, leaving West Long Branch, New Jersey, with a 90-84 defeat on Feb. 2.

Monmouth's most glaring weakness during the season was its absence of a true big.

Though its tallest player is 6-foot-11, senior Sam Ibiezugbe is its lone center on the roster and has not started a single game all season. The Hawks' acting big is forward Mustapha Traore, who stands at 6-foot-8.

The Hawks jumped out to a quick 7-2 lead, which Rider answered with a 6-2 swing of its own.

After a highly-intense stretch of back-and-forth play that saw a trio of emphatic dunks for the Broncs from redshirt senior guard Kimar Williams

and redshirt junior forwards Dimencio Vaughn and Frederick Scott, Rider gained control of the tempo and the lead with a 16-0 stretch that led to ending the half ahead, 39-28.

The Broncs kept their foot on the gas for the rest of the contest, leading by double digits the entire second half. Rider lead by as many as 16 en route to its decisive victory over Monmouth.

Rider at Fairfield, March 1

The Broncs traveled to take on Fairfield in Rider's last away game of the season. The matchup was also the last to take place in Fairfield's Alumni Hall, its home since 1959.

Unfortunately for Stags fans, Jordan and the Broncs sent fans home unhappy as Rider won, 65-51.

The Broncs' performance from the free-throw line, particularly Jordan's 13-of-16 mark, was key to Rider's 14-point victory.

Vaughn and Scott went a combined 9-of-12 from the charity stripe to round out a 22-of-28 performance from the free-throw line.

As he had continued to return to form, Jordan led all players in points and rebounds and tied team leads in assists, blocks and steals. Jordan tallied 19 points, seven rebounds, two assists, a block and three steals in the win.

Jordan's three steals helped him match the Rider all-time career record of 188, held by Ryan Thompson. Jordan also sits eight assists short of the Rider record held by Deon Hames with 598.

Fairfield held two leads during the contest, both of which came in the second half, which ended with 10 minutes left in the game when redshirt sophomore guard Tyrei Randall hit a 3-pointer that pushed the Broncs back into the lead for good.

Rider's MAAC Tournament Scenarios

The Broncs' 11-8 MAAC record is good enough to put them fourth in the standings with one game to go. At this point, Rider can improve to as high as third place, though it could also drop into the sixth seed and lose its first-round bye in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

In what would take a novel to explain, the performance of multiple MAAC teams will help decide where the Broncs will start the MAAC tournament.

Third Place

First off, Rider has to win its March 4 game against Manhattan. If that happens, Monmouth must win out to secure itself in the third spot in the MAAC. If the Hawks lose to Siena on March 6, the Broncs will own the tiebreaker with their better record over the Saints.

If Monmouth splits with a win over Siena, the tiebreaker will then point to performance against second-place Saint Peter's, which the Broncs again own the tiebreaker, splitting its season series with the Peacocks while the Hawks were swept by Saint Peter's.

Fourth Place

The Broncs currently sit in fourth place and are most likely to stay there.

If Rider wins its last game, it clinches at least a fourth-seed finish. If the Broncs lose their last matchup to Manhattan, it must hope and pray that Iona and Niagara do not win out.

Fifth Place

If the Gaels defeat Quinnipiac and Siena consecutively to end the season, they hold the tiebreaker with the Broncs as the only team to sweep Rider this season.

As long as Niagara does not win out, the Broncs will find themselves in the final first-round bye spot in the MAAC.

In the reverse situation, Niagara can leapfrog Rider if it wins out to compound Iona failing to win out.

Sixth Place

If the Purple Eagles and the Gaels win out, they will both hold tiebreakers over the Broncs, pushing them to the sixth seed and forcing Rider to play an opening-round game in the MAAC tournament for the first time since the 2016-17 season, when it finished in sixth place.

Rider's Next Game

The Broncs' last regular-season matchup will host Manhattan on March 4 for senior night, tipping off at 7 p.m.

Rider's game with Manhattan will be broadcasted live on ESPN3 at 7 p.m.