

COVID-19 extends break at least a week

COVID-19 Coverage Coronavirus Disease 2019



Stephanie Jessiman/The Rider News

By Lauren Minore

AMID an ongoing international crisis surrounding the novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), Rider University has joined a growing list of colleges and universities across the United States that have extended spring break an extra week in preparation of a possible transition to virtual learning procedures. The university announced on March 10 that classes would not be held March 23-27, in order to delay students' possible return to campus.

RIDER UNIVERSITY

In a campus-wide email on March 10, Rider announced the decision to extend its spring break, closing for an additional week through March 27.

The spring break extension was provided in order to give administrators and faculty members time to make academic and operational accommodations should in-person classes need to be cancelled to mitigate transmission of the virus.

"Deans, faculty and the Teaching and Learning Center, for instance, are preparing a number of technology-based and other solutions should we have to rely on remote instruction for a period of time," the email said. "And we continue our cleaning and disinfecting protocols in all buildings across both campuses."

According to the March 10 email, there were no confirmed cases of COVID-19 among students, faculty and staff on either the Lawrenceville or Princeton campuses.

Kristine Brown, university spokeswoman, confirmed to The Rider News that there were no students, faculty or staff self-quarantining.

"We know this is a challenging situation for all of us, and that disruptions and inconveniences will likely result because of this outbreak. Of utmost importance is the safety and welfare of all members of our University community," the university email said. "We also remain committed to continuing instruction to the extent possible so that you may complete your academic requirements this semester."



In a March 10 campus-wide email, university administrators announced an extra week of spring break to allow for operational and academic preparations to mitigate the transmission of the COVID-19 virus.

New Jersey Secretary of State talks grassroots census efforts

By Stephen Neukam

In a March 5 speech to the Rider community about the 2020 census, New Jersey Secretary of State Tahesha Way detailed the steps that the state has taken to prepare for the once-a-decade count and emphasized the importance of increased citizen engagement.

The event was co-sponsored by the Rebovich Institute for New Jersey Politics and the Public Relations Student Society of America.

Way, who is the top election official in New Jersey, also leads the New Jersey Complete Count Commission, which is a non-partisan group that is tasked with developing an outreach strategy for the state. The commission includes elected officials, faith-based and business leaders, community advocates and activists. It is these grassroots actors that Way said are integral in accomplishing a complete count and have been a centerpiece in New Jersey's strategy for this year's census.

"[Local committees] are the backbone of our grassroots efforts," said Way. "We have provided grant funding to 17 counties and 52 non-profit organizations to empower them to go out to their local communities and get out the count."

Way said in an interview with The Rider News that the importance of people engaging in their own communities to ensure a complete count can not be understated.

"We've been actively engaging others throughout local communities... to serve as those trusted voices because they know their neighborhoods best," said Way.

The state is offering paid jobs to further entice assistance in the census effort.

One of the top difficulties in generating an accurate count is what Way called "hard to count" populations. These populations have historically low response rates and may be in situations that make it hard to respond. For example, there are households that do not have access to the internet or a computer. One of these areas is Trenton, where estimates say only 34% of residents will complete the census, according to Way.

Included in these hard-to-count populations are college students. According to Way, full-time students should fill out the census where they reside most of the time. Also, foreign and/or international students get counted depending on where they go to school.

After an undercount in 2010, New Jersey lost one of its 13 Congressional seats. Way underscored the importance of getting an accurate count by presenting the census not as a civic duty but as an exercise for personal gain.



Gerard Blandina/The Rider News

New Jersey Secretary of State **Tanesha Way** spoke on the importance of a complete census count.

The census, she said, determines how and if the federal government will invest an estimated \$40 billion in the state. This money determines resources for housing, education, transportation and career training, among other areas.

In the interview, Way said that she wanted people to know three things about the census — it is easy, safe and important.

For the first time, people will be able to respond to the information online.

As tensions about immigration and immigration status raise politically around the country, Way also made clear that the census information is 100% safe and confidential — no state or federal agency is allowed to access a person's census answers.

Junior political science major and Oregon resident Matthew Schantin said that Way helped clarify some of the questions he had as a student about the census.

"I thought it was helpful to clear up misconceptions and cover general information," said Schantin. "As an out-of-state student, it was also helpful to get my questions answered by her or her staff."

News editor Hailey Hensley is president of Rider's PRSSA. She did not contribute to the writing or editing of this story.

INSIDE B-BALL EXTRAVAGANZA

Austin Ferguson previews the men's and women's MAAC basketball tournaments.

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I'M LOCKED UP!

The U.S. leads the world in the highest rate of mass incarceration.

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SWEET AS PIE

Dessert Wars serves tasty treats and crowns a winner.

PAGE 5



SECURITY BRIEFS

BY STEPHEN NEUKAM

Windshield Wipeout

Shattered. On March 4 at 1:17 p.m., Public Safety responded to a call about criminal mischief in the commuter lot. Officers met with a student who said that when he returned to his vehicle he found his rear window shattered. An investigation found that there was glass in the vehicle but there was no object found that may have caused the damage. The student said that he parked there the day before. A review of the video surveillance showed the vehicle but did not show any incident involving it.

Drama Central

Bring on Jerry Springer. On March 4 at 3 p.m., a female student made a report at Public Safety that at 2 a.m., her roommate had woken her up when she entered the room and they had a short argument. Her roommate left the room and later that morning they had another argument about the room temperature. The student reported that the roommate then made a fist and shook it at her. Later that day, Public Safety was dispatched to the roommates in Kroner after both students alleged they threatened each other. One student was in the process of moving out when Public Safety arrived. Both pairs of parents arrived at Rider and were updated. The student was moved out successfully and they were told not to communicate with each other.

Great Aim

Watch the window. On March 2 at 2 p.m., Public Safety responded to a report of a broken window at the Science and Technology Center. When officers arrived, they met with a staff member who said that an assistant professor and a class were in a first-floor classroom when they heard a loud bang. They realized that a double-paned window was shattered and that shards of glass were on the ground. The professor said that the window was impacted by a small round object.

— Information provided by Public Safety Coordinator Michael Yeh

Coronavirus prevention measures allow time for preparation

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The email reiterates Rider's commitment to this "resilient community" and promises that "we will get through this."

Brown emphasized that Rider will continue to update the community as plans evolve.

"We urge everyone to monitor their Rider email and rider.edu/coronavirus for the most up to date information," she said.

In regards to any plans for an additional week of classes at the end of the semester to replace the extra week of spring break, Brown said administrators will continue to monitor the situation and make plans accordingly.

Arianna Gruppuso, a sophomore public relations major and native of Los Angeles, is taking steps to prepare as if she is headed home for the semester.

"For me, I'm going to pack up my bags and plan to have everything I care about and bring it to California, as of now, I'm packing up to move back home," she said. "I'm going to plan on staying as long as I can, especially because we don't really know what the virus entails, because if I bring it back, I can bring it to campus."

Gruppuso acknowledged that going back to California puts her more at risk for contracting the virus, but is more concerned with her fate for the rest of the semester at Rider.

"I think that Rider needed to put out the statement sooner rather than later because the fact that I don't even know yet if I'm coming back after these next two weeks is stressful," she said.

Arianna Gruppuso's father, Anthony Gruppuso, disagreed with his daughter about the timeliness of Rider's announcement to extend its spring break.

"Quite honestly, I think they are on the earlier side," he said. "It's working out well for colleges because they're all having spring break around this time of year. I don't think they acted too late, I think they're right on schedule."

As for having her home in Los Angeles, Anthony Gruppuso, with a laugh, questioned what parent would not want to have their student home — until they get sick of them.

"I think my daughter prefers to be in class," he said. "I think maybe I'd prefer her to be in school. I think it's probably going to be online... I think they are doing the right thing because they have no other choice. Given that, I'm accepting of it."

Rider's announcement follows the lead of several other colleges and universities on both local and national levels.

Princeton University President Chris Eisgruber's decision to help mitigate

the growing risk of transmission by increasing practice of the concept of social distancing was announced on March 9. Princeton's approach includes "a mandatory, temporary move for all lectures, seminars, and precepts to virtual instruction starting on Monday, March 23."

Other colleges and universities to announce class cancellations include Hofstra University and Columbia University on March 8 and Rowan University and Monmouth University on March 9.

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Director of the Center for International Education (CIE) Sara Young-Singh, in an interview with The Rider News, discussed the implications of COVID-19 on Rider's current and upcoming study abroad programs.

"We evaluate each destination carefully with the guidance of the U.S. Department of State, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Overseas Advisory Council," Young-Singh said. "In consultation with university partners abroad and program providers, the CIE and Provost's Office provide guidance to Rider's upper administration who ultimately decide which programs are cancelled [or] postponed."

Young-Singh said that there was one student studying abroad this semester at Rider's partner university, John Cabot University in Rome, who was brought home on March 4.

"They are continuing their studies online with JCU as they moved all their classes online for the remainder of the semester," Young-Singh said.

The CDC issued a warning and announced that Italy was a Level 3: Avoid nonessential travel status COVID-19-affected country.

Young-Singh did not disclose whether or not the student was self-quarantining, but acknowledged that the student is studying remotely from home.

Brown added, "The student was not asked to self-isolate because she was not returning to campus. Our self isolation protocol only applies for students returning to campus."

Rider had 16 students studying abroad and one student who was still pending to go abroad in several countries including Australia, France, Hungary, Ireland and the United Kingdom, during the spring semester, according to Young-Singh.

One of Rider's partner schools, the American Business School located in Paris, recently notified students that they will be completing the semester online, according to Young-Singh.

"As a result of this decision, the students who are studying with the American Business School have been

given the option to return if they choose to, as their university will move to online courses after spring break," she said.

Another university partner in Japan has postponed its start date to April 2020, according to Young-Singh.

"The [short-term] China program was rerouted to study abroad in the May term to Taiwan. With the shift to May, the study abroad program to Taiwan is still accepting applications," she said.

Some study abroad programs were ultimately cancelled, however. Young-Singh said that the university decided to cancel a Spanish abroad program to Barcelona and a theater performance program to Croatia.

Young-Singh confirmed that the university decided to cancel any international travel programs during spring break and the Urbino, Italy, summer program as a result of the CDC Level 3 COVID-19 risk.

However, all students whose trips were cancelled are being fully refunded, according to Young-Singh.

Despite the growing risk of COVID-19, Young-Singh encouraged students with an interest in studying abroad to make the commitment "a priority, not a last-minute decision."

"When students plan early, the likelihood of their studying abroad is high," she said. "The commitment to studying abroad demonstrates one's commitment to their academic growth as a world citizen and personal growth as an individual."

METRO ATLANTIC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT

Rider's men's and women's basketball teams were scheduled to compete in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) tournament from March 10-14 in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

"The health and well-being of our teams and fans will always be paramount at any MAAC championship events," a press release said.

Although the tournament began on March 10 as originally scheduled, MAAC officials released a plan on March 5 which included a suspension of all handshake protocols, implementation of enhanced cleaning and disinfection and distribution of educational information about COVID-19 from the CDC in arena fan areas and team areas, among other measures.

COVID-19

A new virus caused a disease called COVID-19, which was first detected in Wuhan, China, in late 2019. Since then, COVID-19 has been detected in over 100 international locations, including the United States. On Jan. 30, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization declared the outbreak a "public health emergency of international concern."

The CDC lists fever, cough and shortness of breath as main symptoms of COVID-19 and indicate that symptoms may appear two to 14 days after exposure.

Reported illness severities have ranged from very mild, including some with no reported symptoms, to severe, including illness resulting in death, according to the CDC. Older people and people of all ages with severe underlying medical conditions had the highest risk of developing serious COVID-19 illness, according to the CDC.

The CDC has reported COVID-19 cases in 35 states and The District of Columbia, with a total of 647 presumptive positive cases and 25 deaths, as of March 10.

NEW JERSEY

New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy declared a State of Emergency and Public Health Emergency on March 9 in an attempt to "to ramp up New Jersey's efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19," according to a state press release.

"The State of New Jersey is committed to deploying every available resource, across all levels of government, to help respond to the spread of COVID-19 and keep our residents informed," Murphy said in the press release. "My administration will continue to work closely with our federal partners to ensure that local health agencies on the front lines of the state's response are equipped with the resources needed to further prepare our health care system for a broader spread of COVID-19."

New Jersey first reported a presumptive positive case of COVID-19 on March 4 and reported the first death linked to COVID-19 in the state on March 10. The deceased patient was a 69-year-old man from Bergen County with underlying health conditions, according to New Jersey State Commissioner of Health, Judith Persichilli, in a press conference on March 10.

"We are sad to report the first death in a case of COVID-19 in New Jersey. Our prayers are with the family during this difficult time. We remain vigilant to doing all we can — across all levels of government — to protect the people of New Jersey," a state press release said.

At the press conference, Persichilli confirmed four new presumptive positive cases, bringing the state's total to 15 on March 10. Of the four new cases, two were in Burlington County and two were in Bergen County — one of which was the individual who is deceased.

There were also 31 cases under investigation, according to Persichilli.

Fiction book “Nina’s Whisper” talks about abusive relationships

By Cameron Nadel

On March 5, Eisner Award Winner and decorative author Sheena Howard spoke to a Rider audience about her upcoming fiction novel “Nina’s Whisper,” a domestic suspense story about a single mother struggling to battle an abusive relationship at the hands of another woman.

Being a survivor of domestic abuse, Howard wanted to write a novel that brings both awareness to same-sex abuse and experiences that are underrepresented in society today.

“When I was writing the book, I wanted people to take away the dynamics of domestic abuse. We tend to think about abuse as physical, but even before you get to the physical part there are a lot of different forms of domestic abuse that I don’t think people realize,” Howard said.

People normally think that abuse does not stem from same-sex relationships because it is not discussed as much, according to Howard.

“In the book I make sure the main character looks back at the situation with hindsight as being 20/20. These small little incidents that don’t really mean anything, but eventually build up to the main character [Nina] realizing that she was in this awful relationship,” Howard stated.

Howard discussed that people who are in these abusive relationships have a hard time getting out of them because their feelings for that significant other are still there. They have been through so much with their partner, it does not matter if they are positive moments or bad moments, that connection and bond that was made is hard to break.

“Labels are a difficult thing to grapple with, sometimes a label can be freeing, and labels can also be restrictive,” according to Howard.

The character Nina, being a successful person and strong at will, is in denial of being a victim. Even through experiencing abuse at the hands of her partner, she still identifies herself as being someone who is not experiencing such trauma.

Howard adds a very interestingly dynamic twist within the book: the addition of Nina’s child Chasten.

“In the book the baby is really the catalyst for Nina to understand the negative things that are happening to her in the relationship,” Howard states.

Integrating a child within this abusive dynamic not only fleshes out Nina’s character, but also gives her another arc in the novel that does not feed on the disparaging relationship with her partner.

Not only did Howard write a novel telling this story, but she is also creating a graphic novel adaptation as well.

“When people read books they like to create the image of the characters for themselves, but I wanted to leave enough description about the characters so you can know who we’re talking about, and leave enough open, so people can create their own ideas of who the characters are,” according to Howard. The graphic novel adaptation will come out a year from now.



Cameron Nadel/The Rider News

Sheena Howard (left) and Rider student **Christianah Akinsanmi** (right) discussed the graphic adaptation of the novel on March 5 in the Yvonne Theater.

The main idea that Howard wants to give to readers is to look at the warning signs within a relationship that shows that it is becoming something ugly and it is never too late for someone’s voice to be heard.

“Just helping people to recognize that the range of domestic abuse, and warning signs so people can protect themselves, it was really something I was trying to hit home with this book,” Howard stated.

After the presentation sophomore film, TV and radio major Esteban Collado was asked his thoughts on Howard’s presentation

“I thought the presentation was really good, it was very insightful. I got to learn about a whole new aspect of domestic violence, and it breaks these heteronormative standards, and stereotypes of what domestic violence is,” Collado stated.

Professor Charles Ray of the the Legal Studies and Sports Management Department said this about Howard’s presentation.

“It was fantastic. I liked how insightful it was about something where students don’t have the opportunity or the platform to be able to hear not just from someone who is qualified to speak about the matter professionally, but also has gone through it,” Ray expressed. “Also, the idea that Dr. Howard is also a professor here, and really to me adds another layer of meaningfulness to it because it’s not like we have someone who’s coming here to speak about it, we have someone who’s actually here whose lived it, and has developed an expertise about it. So, I believe it was very valuable for our students.”

“Nina’s Whisper” hits bookshelves nationwide on Apr. 19, 2020.

University communications notified community of sexual assault incident

By Hailey Hensley

RIDER University issued a campus-wide warning for a reported on-campus sexual assault that occurred on the evening of March 8 in the Alpha Xi Delta residence hall.

On March 9, University Communications sent out an email notifying students that the incident had occurred. The email stated that the person involved was a student and known to the victim.

According to the email, a Title IX investigation is being conducted by the university and the case is also being investigated by the Lawrenceville Police.

Lawrenceville Police did not provide any further information due to the case still being open.

The university email stated that a no-contact order had been issued to the student involved.

Rider Vice President of Communications and University Marketing Kristine

Brown stated that federal law “requires that we provide information to our community so that they can act or protect themselves accordingly for... crimes that occur on campus. That’s the whole point of a timely warning. Where we can, we provide information about the type of incident, when and where the incident occurred, and what steps we have taken in response.”

Rider University Public Safety did not respond to requests for comment.

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Rider welcomes prospective students at Admitted Students Day

By **Giavanna Troilo**

THE sun shined bright over a lively Rider University on March 7 for the campus' second Admitted Students Day of the season.

With students and faculty all decked in cranberry and white, the event saw a sign-up list of over 500 prospective students and The Office of Admissions had all hands on deck for greeting, tabling and touring.

The spring 2020 semester has come with the rolling out of several new Admitted Students Day initiatives to make potential future Broncs feel right at home.

In addition to the smiling faces of both faculty and current students tabling for their respective departments and organizations, visitors to the Student Recreation Center gym enjoyed various Rider-spirited activities. One table had a bowl of numbered pins. Each prospective student received a pin, with 7-10 pins for each number. The adjacent sign read, "Did you meet your match?" in an effort to spark conversation between prospective students, as well as current students, who had a pin with the same number.

One exclusive section, with a bold sign in cranberry text reading "Insta-Cran," encouraged prospective students to enter the "student-only" section of the gym, where they could post questions on a board for current students to answer, or snap some Instagram photos in front of the class of 2024 balloon wall.

Johanna Blume, assistant director of student success, stood proudly with a table of cards and pride pins ready to discuss Rider's Inclusive Excellence Plan with visiting families. Blume explained that this semester is the first round of Admitted Students Days in which the inclusion plan is being advertised to prospective students.

"We wanted to have a table to be able to tell potential students and parents that these are the initiatives that Rider's trying to bring," said Blume. "We want inclusion and diversity here."

Blume showed the cards detailing the initiatives Rider put into place in October, including the Vision for Inclusive Excellence and the Plan Goals.

"We have our six guiding principles that we're trying to hold the campus to. We have such a big opportunity to be influential, and we're letting students know 'hey, if diversity is important to you, then this is where you should be.'"

Allie Koury, coordinator of Student Involvement and co-coordinator for The Rider Allies SafeZone program, mentioned the necessity of prioritizing inclusion and inclusion training in higher education.

"I think that the Inclusive Excellence Plan is so important, and it's really going to bring us to an entire other level in the higher education field," said Koury. "We have this plan and we're executing--it's a really exciting time."

Overall, Koury, who spent the morning running around and representing Student Affairs, stated that the event was a sure success, and that several visiting



Giavanna Troilo/The Rider News

Prospective students and their families were provided with refreshments and a variety of campus activities and tours.

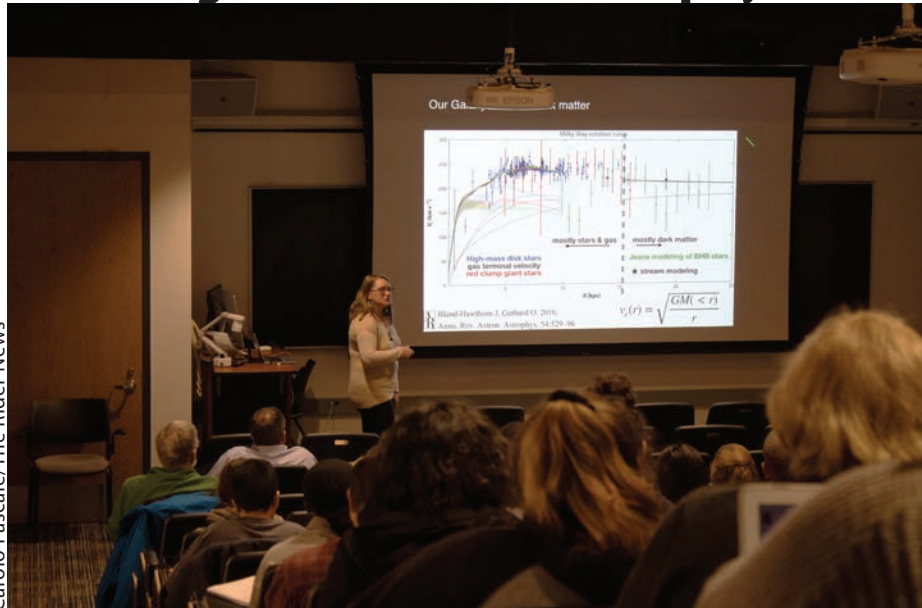
students chose to submit their deposits for next year while attending Admitted Students Day.

"[The students] were able to be like, 'this is where I want to go to school,' and to me, that's a successful day," said Koury. "I had two students come up to me and say that they don't know what they want to do outside of the classroom, but that they really want to use college to figure out what their interests are."

Thanks to the enthusiasm of students representing Rider's variety of clubs and organizations, prospective students are able to do just that. Koury believes that on days like Admitted Students Day, people can always count on Rider students to show up and represent their school.

"I had a parent ask me, 'is this all a show?' and I was able to say 'no, this is how our students are,'" said Koury. "Every person here [at Rider] is like this 100% of the time. The students are wonderful, and it really allows us to shine."

Shooting for the stars: Astrophysicist teaches lecture on building the Milky Way



Carolo Pascale/The Rider News

Astrophysicist **Robyn Sanderson** came to Rider on March 6 to discuss how building the Milky Way galaxy on a computer would help inform people of its structure.

By **Qur'an Hansford**

BIG balls of hot gas floating light years away exist out of Earth's reach. The mystery of the planets and the stars has inspired the monumental idea of space travel in hopes to uncover the unknown.

In the year 2020, the world has gone through a technological evolution, seeing astronomical advances in communication, animation and transportation that have undoubtedly exceeded expectations of late geniuses like Galileo, Isaac Newton and Albert Einstein. These progressive pushes forward granted the opportunity to explore the infinity in the stars to the depth the ground.

On March 6, guest speaker and astrophysicist Robyn Sanderson visited Rider's Science Friday from the University of Pennsylvania. Sanderson is one of the world's leading experts on what the galaxy looks like inside a computer. She has led astonishing simulation work that has been studied by groups all over the world to find out what the stars, gas and dust are doing in space.

Sanderson came to Rider to talk about how to build the Milky Way galaxy in a computer and how scientists can use this information to inform the public. She explained that in order to know how to build the galaxy one must know what it is made of, to what Sanderson referred to as the galaxy's "ingredients." The ability to capture the computer simulation of the Earth's galaxy is through the spacecraft Gaia.

Gaia is a space observatory of the European Space Agency, launched in 2013 and expected to operate until 2022. The spacecraft is designed for astrometry: measuring the positions, distances and motions of stars with unprecedented precision. The spacecraft was an estimated \$740 million.

"The motivation for this and the reason I got into this field in the first place is this view," said Sanderson, motioning to an image of the galaxy viewed by the Gaia satellite.

"The thing to realize about this image is that it is not an ordinary picture... what they did to make this image is that Gaia measured the exact positions, brightnesses and motions of 1.2 or three billion stars," said Sanderson.

Gaia counted up the number of stars in each tiny pixel and added up the brightness measured from all the stars in different colors, creating a pigmented star-count map of the galaxy.

Sanderson explained that computer simulating is a lot of work and it would be useless if that work did not provide a lot of solutions.

"One class of things you can do with this simulated Milky Way [galaxy] data is forecast what we will see if we go out and measure a new subset of stars, like a planning tool," said Sanderson.

The seminar filled up a lecture hall in the Science and Technology Center on a rainy day with students, faculty and science enthusiasts in attendance.

"The event was fun and informative but the main reason why I was there was for the science class I take on Fridays. Basically, one week we read the scientific journal of the guest speaker and the next week we go to their lecture," said senior marine science major Giana Hennelly. "One of the biggest takeaways for me was black matter and energy, the rapid expansion of space and not knowing what causes it even though it makes up 96% percent of space is an interesting concept I would like to know more about."

The Science Fridays seminar series is a part of a class that allows students to learn about broad categories of science. This is a good opportunity for students as they prepare to register classes for the fall, being the seminar series is a one credit, pass or fail course.

"I think [the worth of Science Fridays] depends on whether there are some talks that are really interesting to listen to because there are others that are either too complex or too boring to sit through. It's definitely an acquired taste and I usually do not go to them and I am a science student," said Hennelly.

When entering a new millennia, the world expected flying cars and robot slaves but that is merely science fiction. Nevertheless, the world is indeed living in the future, from electric cars to computer simulations of the Milky Way galaxy. The future is those minuscule steps forward the world takes when there is a new invention or idea, so always shoot for the stars.

The Science Fridays Series and upcoming events:

Geosciences: March 27, speaker Dr. John Higgins of Princeton University.

Chemistry: April 10, speaker Dr. Brent Schuchmann of SGS North America Inc.

Biology: April 24, speaker Dr. Sara Campbell, Kinesiology and Applied Physiology of Rutgers University.

Marissa Murdock takes the cake at Dessert Wars

By Megan Raab

ON March 6, three Rider students competed for the title of Best Baker in Daly Dining Hall at the annual Dessert Wars. The dining hall was bouncing with music and sweets as three contestants presented an original sweet treat to the student body. For the sake of journalism, all dishes were sampled.

First was senior leadership and management Brandon Sanfilippo's Death by Chocolate Cake. The three-tiered cake was served in a square slice on each plate. It was a very thick chocolate cake, closer to the consistency of a brownie. It had a creamy layer of chocolate buttercream frosting in the middle, with a smooth ganache on top. This cake was a chocolate lover's dream.

Sanfilippo's recipe is special to him because it is his mother's favorite type of cake. "This recipe is the one that my sisters and I always make for my mom's birthday every year. She loves chocolate," Sanfilippo said. It is fitting that Sanfilippo would make a recipe for his mother in the contest, as she is the person who inspired his baking.

"I've probably been baking since about fifth grade. My mom taught me how to bake and I've always enjoy doing it," he said.

The next recipe sampled was junior marketing major David Brooks' Promiscuous Cheesecake Bars. This dessert featured a cookie dough base, with a smooth Oreo cheesecake and a salted caramel drizzle. The flavors combined perfectly in this sweet treat, making it a personal favorite.

Last was junior marine science major Marissa Murdock's dessert, Grandma Copp's Cream Puffs. This featured an outer pastry shell encasing a filling of vanilla pudding, covered in melted chocolate. The appearance was very nice, encouraging you to cut into the shell. The flavor combination felt like a new take on a traditional recipe.

Murdock's take on cream puffs has a family history held in it. "The recipe has been in my family for about four generations now. My great-grandma taught it to my grandma. My grandma then taught my mom, and then my mom taught me," Murdock said.

The name itself carries a sense of family pride. "My mom and my aunts have always wanted to start up a bakery called 'The Copp Shoppe' and make more of our family recipes. While that dream hasn't come true, my younger sister still said that The Copp Shoppe has its first award," Murdock shared.

Further, Murdock's reasons for entering the baking contest in the first place was inspired by a favorite family past-time.

"To be honest, I submitted my family's recipe because I go to the Philadelphia Flower Show every year with my parents and wanted free tickets. I never expected my dessert to be picked because it is a simple pastry," she shared.

The "simple pastry" ended up being the perfect choice, as it won her first place in the



Gerard Blandina/The Rider News

David Brooks (left), Marissa Murdock and Brandon Sanfilippo were the three students putting their recipes to the test, hoping to win the competition.

bake off. Winning this competition meant much more to Murdock and her family than any of the many prizes she was awarded.

"Winning meant a lot for not just me, but my family as well. The weekend before the competition my family lost my cousin Bobby. They had his funeral services the same day as Dessert Wars, so I was going to originally back out. However, my family told me that Bobby would have wanted me to make one of his favorite desserts and win. So I made up shirts for my cousin and I, calling ourselves 'Bobby's Bakers' and just baked with him in mind. When I won, I felt like Bobby was smiling down on me," Murdock shared.

Not only was her cousin there with her, Murdock says that she felt her grandma's presence in the kitchen with her as well. She said that making this recipe is her family's way of keeping the legacy alive. Murdock's family and the rest of the Rider community should be very proud of the baker's accomplishments in this year's Dessert Wars.



Gerard Blandina/The Rider News

Junior marine science major Marissa Murdock poses with her dessert, Grandma Copp's Cream Puffs, a recipe that made her the winner of this year's competition.



Gerard Blandina/The Rider News

David Brooks offers his Promiscuous Cheesecake Bars, hoping to snag the prize of tickets to the Philadelphia Flower Show.



Gerard Blandina/The Rider News

Brandon Sanfilippo's "Death by Chocolate" cake was one of three dishes entered into this year's Dessert Wars competition.



Gerard Blandina/The Rider News

Brooks' Promiscuous Cheesecake Bars, comprised of cookie dough, Oreo cheesecake and salted caramel drizzle.

Alumnus “smashes” competition in esports tournaments

By Steven Richtmyer

COLLEGE educations are infamous for sapping its students of not only their severely limited finances but also every ounce of spare time they could muster.

Not only is Chris Reubel a graduate student at Rider University, a former athlete on the Rider Men's Track and Field team and a loving boyfriend, but he is also currently ranked amongst the top 10 players in New Jersey for “Super Smash Bros. Ultimate.”

Reubel has a degree in psychology and is pursuing a graduate degree at Rider in school counseling with a side certification in life coaching. He explained that he would much rather work as a life coach so that he can be his own boss while continuing to sharpen his skills at “Super Smash Bros.”

“I’m going to be a top player, I think I’ve pretty much already decided that at this point,” Reubel said with poised confidence. “When I get out of school, I’m probably going to go full force at it and see what happens because I don’t really want to be floating around trying to wonder ‘wow, what if I just did that instead of going into a job’ so I’m just going to do it.”

Reubel’s interest in competitive gaming began when his brother showed him tournament footage of “Marvel vs. Capcom,” which inspired him to experiment with multiple fighting games until he discovered his passion for the “Super Smash Bros.” series.

“I started playing more fighting games like ‘Tekken’ and ‘Marvel,’ and then I got into ‘Smash’ and I was like ‘wow, this game is really good,’ and I had played it all my life but I started playing it more than anything else,” Reubel said. “I went to my first ‘Smash’ tournament in 2016, and I won, which is crazy.”

Ever since his first win, Reubel has entered over 120 “Super Smash Bros. Ultimate” tournaments of varying sizes including Super Smash Con 2019, in which he ranked 65th out of approximately 2500 players, which included some of the best players in the world.

“At this point now, I’ll just go to anything that’s available,” Reubel said. “Anything that is available and anything that’s open, I will 100% just go to because I don’t care who is there. I don’t care if they’re novices, I don’t care if they’re the best, I don’t care if they’re middle, I just go because you’re getting practice.”

One of the tournaments that Reubel has left in absolute tatters, again and again, is the Stronghold biweekly tournament held at The College of New Jersey (TCNJ). Ryan Sterenkowski, the original founder and operations manager of the club, is thankful for Reubel’s consistent participation in the event.

“We love having Chris come out as a top 10 player because our players are motivated to play him,” Sterenkowski said with enthusiasm. “They’re super excited, and they learn a lot every time.”

According to Sterenkowski and Shaun Cardone, the current chief executive officer of the event, Reubel has yet to lose a single time whenever he has entered in one of their tournaments. Gary Lee Smith, one of the few participants at Stronghold to win against Reubel in a tournament, is blown away by Reubel’s dedication to practicing “Super Smash Bros. Ultimate.”

“He’s crazy, so if he loses, or a set is close, he will go ahead and rewatch it,” Smith said with a touch of disbelief. “He is a dude who studies footage nonstop and he will take constant notes. That’s why he went from being some random guy to top 14 to top 10. Not everybody has that much passion for a game.”

But Smith is not the only player to give Reubel a run for his money. Evan Neeld, another player who has met Reubel countless times in a tournament setting, has observed Reubel’s playstyle and is practicing ways to counter his approach.

“Part of the problem with trying to beat him is that he makes me play so patient,” Neeld said. “When I play against him, I have to be way more patient than everyone else and if I approach him and get frustrated, it’s over.”

Like most competitive esports scenes, players often go by alternate names while playing in tournaments, and Reubel is known by most players in the “Super Smash Bros.” community as “Strawhat.”

“So, my name used to be ‘King777,’” Reubel said with a reminiscent tone. “I actually had a mentor called Biddy, who was top seven at the time, and he told me, ‘yo dude, just change your name, because who is going to remember King777.’ So, one day afterward, I ended up going to Epcot in Disney, and in the Japan section, I found a straw hat, and I bought it and that’s how I got the name ‘Strawhat.’”

Reubel also plays as Young Link, a character who is widely considered in the “Super Smash Bros.” community to be effective, but extremely difficult to play at a high level.

“It’s just years of fundamentals with that character type,” Reubel said. “When I saw Young Link get dropped in ‘Ultimate,’ I was like, ‘holy snap!’ He fights you really fast and he’s a mix of both big Link and Toon Link, so I was like, ‘this character is about to be dumb, crazy good.’”

Using the counseling skills he has developed at Rider, Reubel also coaches people online using his Stronghold Discord to help other players improve their gameplay by giving them tips, or pointing out the aspects of the game that they struggle with.

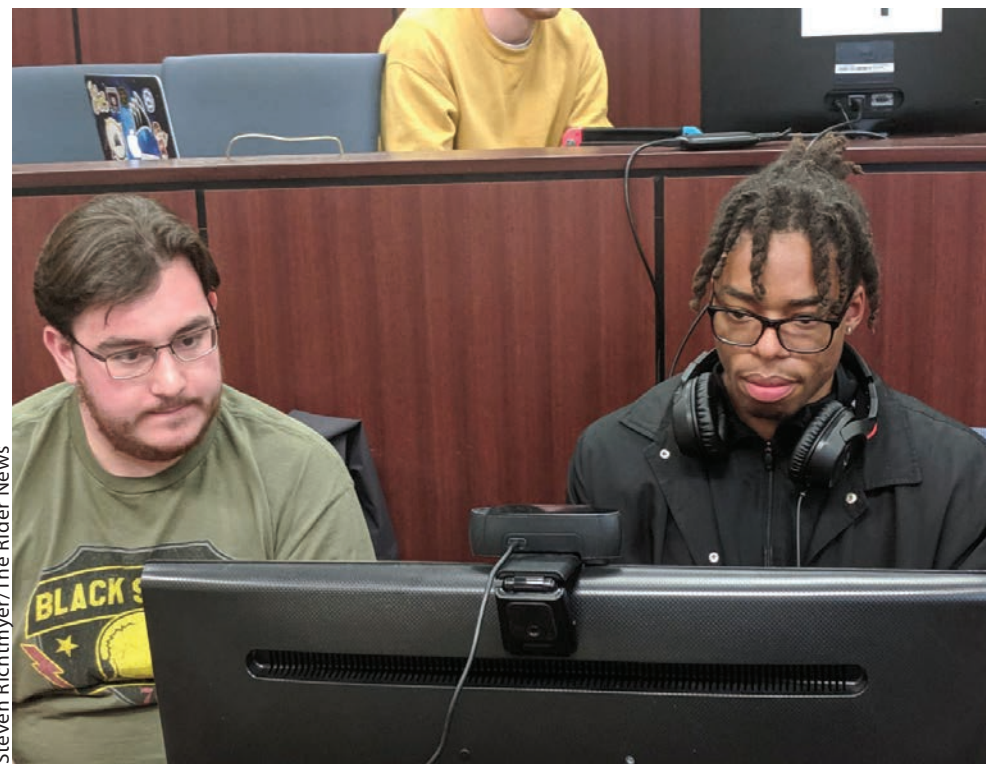
“People come to me for advice and stuff, and that’s kind of like, why I made my Stronghold Discord,” Reubel said. “It’s got a lot of people in it now, and I’ll give advice to people on improving, like for Smash improving, or if you just want to do something to make your life better than it was the last day, and we’ll just talk about stuff like that.”

Because of this, Reubel is extremely respected beyond his consistent performance, Edward Bannister-Holmes, another regular participant at the Stronghold tournament at TCNJ, sees Reubel not only as a fierce competitor but as a friend.

“He’s somebody that pretty much anybody would want to invite over to their house,” Bannister-Holmes said with appreciation. “He’s super positive and always trying to help someone better themselves whether it’s in ‘Smash’ or just life in general.”

During his time as an undergraduate student at Rider, Reubel was a passionate member of the school’s track team. Most “Super Smash Bros.” players who aspire to best him admire his confidence, his perseverance, and his morale and Reubel credits those traits to his time running track.

“People wonder why I’m known as the person with a really good mentality; it’s because of what I went through in track,” Reubel said. “It’s a marathon, not a sprint.”



Rider alumnus Chris Reubel '17 (right) has ranked in the top 10 players for “Super Smash Bros. Ultimate.”



Reubel serves as an inspiration for other players in local “Smash Bros.” tournaments to climb the ranks, eventually hoping to play against him and earn their spot in the top 10.



Formerly known as “King777” in tournaments, Reubel changed his moniker after everyone nicknamed him after his well-known accessory: “Strawhat.”

Rider Dances encourages kinship in “Moving in Our Community”

By Jason Mount

FOLK, competition, modern, tap, ballet, ballroom and activism; these were the styles of dance explored in Rider Dances 2020 show, “Moving In Our Community,” which took place March 7 and 8 in the Bart Luedeke Center Theater.

Before the show started, the stage was adorned with several projection screens, showing videos of people dancing in several scenarios: in a theatrical setting, in a park, at a folk celebration and in a dance studio just to name a few.

The lights then dimmed to near darkness, the only illumination coming from the lights on the stage. One screen remained on stage, explaining that folk dance thrives in cultures filled with oral tradition, and the movement helps pass down tales from generation to generation. Suddenly, the door in the back of the theater opened as the dancers moved fluidly down the aisle toward the stage.

Dressed in vibrant colors with bells around their ankles and long, sheer blue fabric in their hands, the dancers gently and delicately made their way onto the stage, emulating the motions of a river with a combination of poses, movements and facial expressions. A gentle mist loomed in the air on stage, making the performance mesmerizing, alluring and a calm opening to the rest of the night.

Next came the segment on competition dance, a unit of four solo dances to convey the focus and dedication that comes with dancing in a competitive situation. The stage was lit with red and blue hues, the ratio of colors changing depending on the soloist.

After the bright colors came a dance shrouded in more darker tones. The modern dance, “Calls @ 3,” dressed the dancers in all black as they moved to a techno beat.

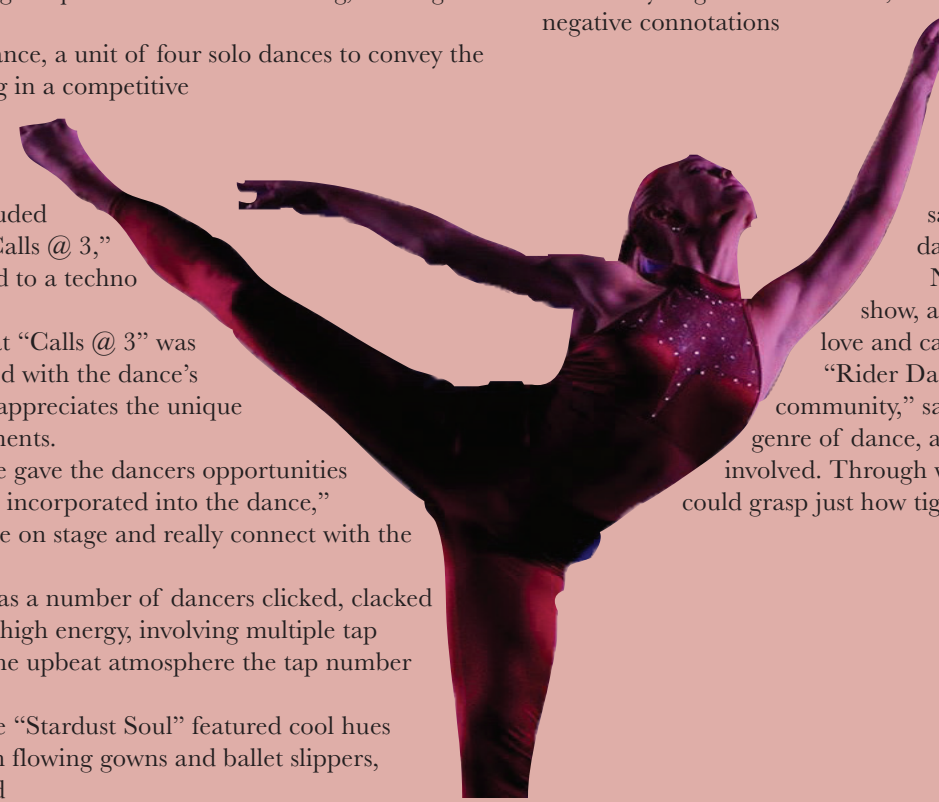
Junior dance major Morgan Nash said that “Calls @ 3” was her favorite piece to be a part of. Nash worked with the dance’s choreographer Laney Engelhard before and appreciates the unique style and musicality that goes into her movements.

“Her piece this year was special in that she gave the dancers opportunities to choreograph our own phrases, which were incorporated into the dance,” Nash said. “We also got a chance to improvise on stage and really connect with the vibes of the music, which I really enjoyed.”

Next was a flashy tap number, brightly lit as a number of dancers clicked, clacked and tapped to the rhythm. This number was high energy, involving multiple tap moves that were well-executed. To contrast the upbeat atmosphere the tap number brought, a ballet number followed after it.

Accompanied by soothing music, the piece “Stardust Soul” featured cool hues lighting the stage as the dancers, decorated in flowing gowns and ballet slippers, deftly and swiftly moving across the stage and showcasing their grace and beauty.

Sophomore dance major Samantha Butler performs her solo in the competition piece.



To bring the energy back up, the piece “Don’t Kill The Vibes” exemplified social and ballroom dance, and how the art of moving together has been a form of courtship and social interaction for centuries. As the dancers entered the stage, they stood separately from each other, seemingly in their own worlds. When the music started however, they started to move to the beat, eventually melding their movements with those around them, creating a celebration of music, movement and interaction.

Junior acting major Victoria Robles enjoyed “Don’t Kill The Vibes” most from the show, for its ability to explore a classic dance style with a modern-era groove.

“It still focused on the art of ballroom while still making it contemporary and fun,” Robles said.

To end off the night, Rider Dances showcased dance activism, a form of dance that promotes a broader ideology and brings awareness to movements such as conservation efforts, domestic violence or, in this year’s case, immigration.

The final piece, “Dreamers,” was a powerful note to end on, as the words spoke of the way migrants are viewed, their reasons for traveling to a new country and the negative connotations

that societies place on them. The choreography combined with the poetic song rang in the audience’s head long after the show ended.

For Robles, this year’s Rider Dances proved to her that dance is important in all facets of life.

“Dance can come in many different forms,” she said. “It’s a melting pot of cultures and that’s what dance so beautiful and loved.”

Nash said she had a wonderful experience with this show, and that she wanted the audience to understand the love and care that goes into every category of dance.

“Rider Dances 2020 had a core focus on dance and community,” said Nash. “Each piece was representative of a distinct genre of dance, and the community it creates among the people involved. Through watching this performance, I hope that the audience could grasp just how tight-knit each cast was with one another.”

Hypnotist Eric Mina mesmerizes and entertains students

By Christian McCarville

THE experience of being hypnotized is one like no other. Hypnotism is a condition in which one is entranced by a hypnotist and experiences heightened focus and high susceptibility to suggestion. Eric Mina is a hypnotist who has mastered his craft and now performs at many different venues across the country.

Mina is described as a comedic international hypnotist. He uses his ability to hypnotize people in order to entertain and draw a laugh from crowds. While this can be embarrassing for some participants, the curiosity to experience hypnosis is so entrancing that people are almost always willing to try it.

On March 6, Mina came to Rider to showcase his talent for hypnotism. This event was hosted by the Student Entertainment Council (SEC). While there have been several hypnotists that have come to Rider, Mina certainly stands out from the others.

“[Mina] is such a dynamic hypnotist that has performed at college campuses all over the country, and it was really a pleasure to welcome him to Rider for the first time. Eric’s positive energy makes for a truly spirited show - both for the participants and the audience,” said Associate Dean of Campus Life Nick Barbati.

Mina began with a few volunteers on stage. Viewers in the audience were also welcomed to attempt to be hypnotized from their seats.

Freshman broadcast journalism major Danielle Tyson was one of those who attended and got to experience the hypnotism.

“It was really funny... kind of like a dream,” Tyson said. “It was an out-of-body experience. I felt like I didn’t have control of myself. But it was also fun, I didn’t feel like I was in danger or anything.”

As he talked, the student volunteers clearly began to fall under his trance. Several audience members were also visibly hypnotized and following Mina’s command.

Mina then told the students on stage to play an instrument. They pretended to play an assortment of instruments including the air-guitar and non-existent drums. The hypnotized audience members were then asked to come and join their fellow students on stage.

He also asked the participants to do various dances in front of the crowd. The song “Thriller” played and all of the hypnotized students danced along. The audience burst into laughter when Mina then told his participants to twerk. He then told them to belly dance which also gained a comical reaction from the crowd.

Another hypnosis trick performed by Mina involved him changing the temperature of his participants. He told them that the room was over 100 degrees and the hypnotized students began to cough and react to immense heat. He also told them the room was freezing which resulted in several participants huddling for warmth.

“I cuddled with some random kid I never met before because we thought we were cold,” said Tyson.

Towards the end of the event, Mina had the participants snapped out of their hypnosis. They were all evidently confused once they had snapped back into reality.

“I was a little confused, I didn’t remember what happened until [Mina] told me. I’m honestly still a little fuzzy now,” said Tyson.

Mina concluded his show with some very positive advice to the audience. He explained that his hypnosis techniques can be applied to one’s daily schedule by repeating positive affirmations before bed. This would result in better quality sleep and an overall more positive mindset.

This event was entertaining and insightful for everyone involved. Mina’s comedic and positive twist on hypnosis will surely leave a lasting impression on his audience.



Courtesy of Eric Mina

Hypnotist Eric Mina put students in a daze for his act during a performance in the Yvonne Theater on March 6.

Mass incarceration: modern-day slavery

I WAS originally going to introduce this week's editorial topic by mentioning Dylann Roof, the murderer of nine black churchgoers in South Carolina in 2015, and how he's reportedly being "treated disproportionately harsh" inside a federal prison in Terre Haute, Indiana. In letters sent to the Associated Press in February, Roof stated that he initiated a hunger strike "to protest the treatment" he had received.

I immediately became conflicted with the juxtaposition of not feeling remorse for Roof and urging for prison reform, knowing these misdeeds frequently happen within jails and prisons and to innocent inmates as well. That was going to be the premise of my prison reform argument, but I did not want Roof to be the root of that.

An article from NJ.com was published over the weekend about a man named David Yearby who died in 2014 of a cervical fracture to the spine after being taken into custody at Middlesex County jail. The county of Middlesex will now pay his family \$5 million.

To my surprise, Yearby and I were from the same city of Plainfield, New Jersey. He was also a Piscataway High School graduate, the same high school I graduated from. Until three days ago, I had never heard of Yearby or his case.

Yearby was arrested and charged with assaulting two police officers in 2014. He died two days later.

What I did know was that the United States has beat out big countries such as India, Russia and China for having the highest incarceration rate in the world. According to CNN, nearly 2.2 million adults were held in America's prisons and jails at the end of 2016. Meaning for every 100,000 people residing in the United States, approximately 655 of them were behind bars, according to the 2010 U.S. census.

We have seen similar stories of inmates and untimely deaths while being incarcerated.

Sandra Bland was a 28-year-old woman who was found dead, hanging in her cell, after being detained for three days for failing to signal while changing lanes. Bland's name began to ring bells across the country sparking the conversation about corrupt cops, inefficient prison officials and the overcrowding in prisons.

"Bland's death in a largely rural part of southeast Texas...[led] to the enactment in 2017 of the Sandra Bland Act, which requires training in de-escalation techniques for all police officers, sets up protections in custody for people with mental health and substance abuse issues, and requires that independent law enforcement agencies investigate jail deaths," according to the New York Times.

A month before Bland's death, a young man named Kalief Browder took his own life in the Bronx, New York. Browder is known for having been held as a minor at the age of 16 at Rikers Island without trial, for allegedly stealing a backpack,

between 2010 and 2013. When his family was unable to make bail of \$3,000, he was in solitary confinement for two of these years, which is safe to say is what drove him to suicide. Browder endured brutal beatings from both from other inmates and officers, starvation and months of psychological torture as a teenager.

Misconduct in the federal prison system is widespread, tolerated and routinely covered up or ignored, including among senior officials, according to a congressional report released by the New York Times.

"The lawyer for [Yearby's] estate said the settlement is the largest one reported involving a correctional facility in New Jersey. The lawsuit filed by his mother claimed Yearby died in the early morning hours of Nov. 2 after spending nine hours in a restraining chair at the jail. He was maced, beaten and a spit hood was placed over his head while strapped to the chair, the family claimed," according to NJ.com.

The report by the federal House Subcommittee on National Security also found that a permissive environment in the Bureau of Prisons had often made lower-ranking employees targets of abuse including sexual assault and harassment by prisoners and staff members.

Inmates can easily exploit the culture of permissiveness.

"If they know that an employee will get little support from management if harassed, that employee becomes a target," according to the House Subcommittee on National Security.

A New York Times investigation of federal prisons last year found rampant sexual harassment, retaliation for those who spoke out and few consequences for those responsible.

"More than a dozen allegations against five federal prison wardens included assaulting an inmate, embezzlement, harassment, retaliation and creating a hostile work environment," said the New York Times.

There seems to be an internal conflict within the prison system that turns a blind eye to the lawlessness within jails. Yearby's case was similar in terms of the lack of knowledge to how he succumbed to his injuries.

"Investigators interviewed jail personnel, reviewed security footage and consulted with medical personnel, but still could not pinpoint when the injury, commonly known as a broken neck, occurred," according to NJ.com

As a result, no criminal charges were sought, confirmed by Yearby's father Terrence Rhodes.

"I don't agree with the findings," Rhodes said. "You're telling me that you don't know when my son sustained a cervical fracture, but he is still up and fighting corrections officers before they place him into the restraints? That doesn't make any sense."

Ava DuVernay has directed films such as "13th" and "When They See Us" that personify the effects



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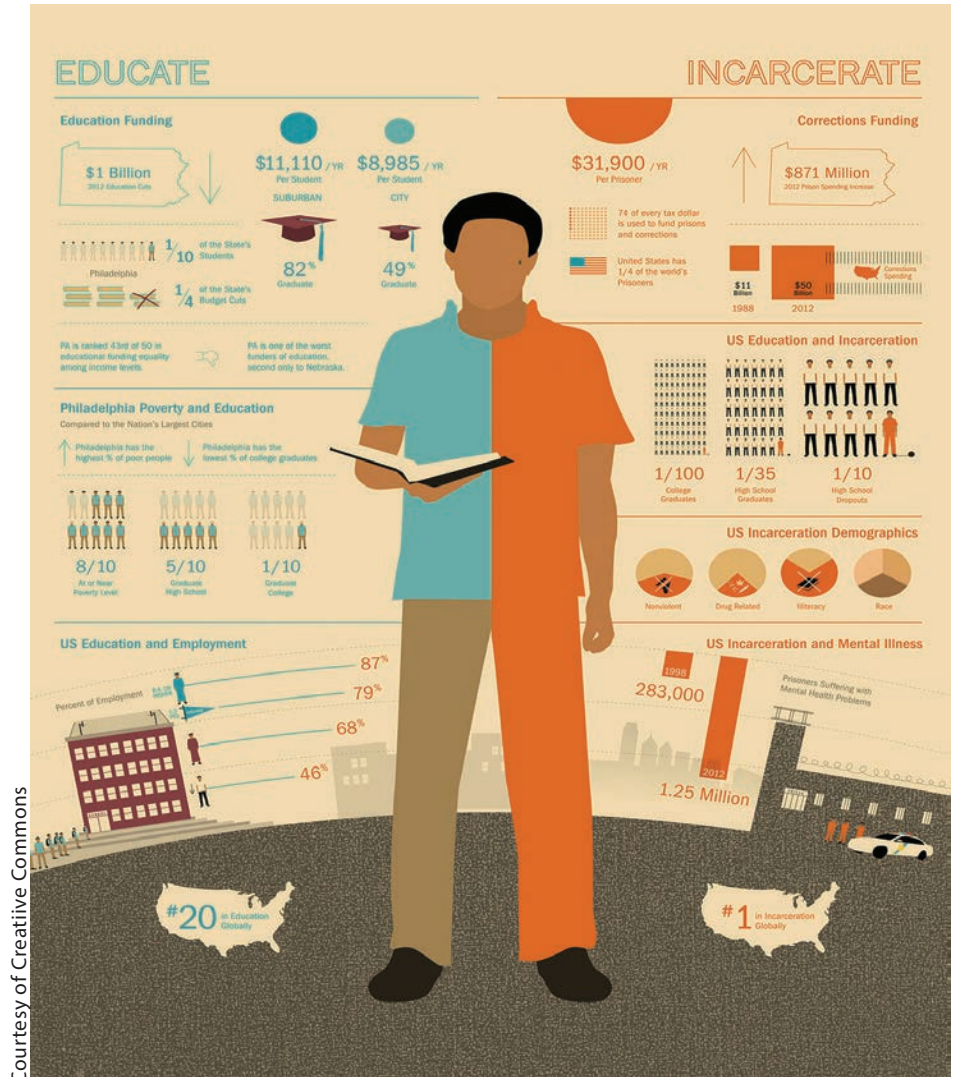
States, focusing on the fact that the nation's prisons are disproportionately filled with African Americans.

The Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution abolished slavery and involuntary servitude, except as punishment for a crime which has led to the legalization of "modern-day slavery." Contemporary slavery, also known as modern slavery or neo-slavery, refers to institutional slavery that continues to occur in present-day society.

The Eighth Amendment of the United States Constitution prohibits the federal government from imposing excessive bail, excessive fines or cruel and unusual punishments. But, instead we have seen prisons neglect inmates' human rights of education, unfit living conditions and physical and mental abuse. The system of mass incarceration has multiple branches, whether it is the school-to-prison pipeline or the fact that the nation's prisons are disproportionately filled with minorities.

The United States' is leading the world in mass incarceration than any other nation in the world, we focus more on confinement and punishment rather than rehabilitation. United States' prisons do not prepare inmates for a new life after their sentence, instead the prisons leave them with further issues that are not treated for when they are released. Regardless of the crime, I do believe that it is important for everyone within these prisons to benefit from prison reform rather than allowing misconduct to happen to only a few that "deserve it."

This editorial expresses the unanimous opinion of The Rider News Editorial Board. This week's editorial was written by Opinion Editor Qur'an Hansford.

Courtesy of Creative Commons

QUESTIONS FOR QUR'AN

I am so lonely but by choice

DEAR Qur'an,
I have finally come to the conclusion that I do not like my roommate. It is little things that get on my nerves, but it's a lot of them. I can't see myself living with anyone else though. How should I move forward living with them?

Sincerely, Roommate Rage

DEAR Roommate Rage,
To be honest with you RR, if there are not any other accommodations to finding substitute living arrangements this late in the year, then you may have to stick it out.

So, the only other option is to never be in your room. Today is the day to get a social life and make some friends since you would rather be anywhere but in your dorm.

Making friends within the classroom allows you to see the same faces, study names and get acquainted with people throughout the entire semester. Are you more intrigued by the student who stays in the back or the one who raises their hand for every question?

Getting involved on campus was not my top priority when I got to college, but somehow it found its way to me. But, in your case I would run to get involved, anything to occupy your time and to not be in your room. Go somewhere else to study. I found it the most distracting to study in my room (without a roommate) because I tend to be the most distracted in my own space rather than going to the library or the cafe.

In a previous advice piece, I mentioned the author Henry Rollins and his famous line, "sometimes the truth hurts," and it is going to hurt you both when the truth reveals you

are both probably terrible people (just kidding). In all honesty, this is an awkward conversation to have with anyone, but a much needed conversation nonetheless. It is better to be transparent with your roommate (as if you guys are not transparent enough.) You both have opened up another side to each of you that the typical stranger would not. Easier said than done of course, but if the beef is existent then inform your roommate of your room accommodations from here forward.

My last piece of advice is to mind your own business. The power of ignoring can keep you out of a lot of trouble. If you do not mind being more social, only use your dorm for sleeping, but if you are a normal human being who likes being alone in the comfort of their own space, you better act like your roommate does not exist. Being friends with your roommate is not required for a successful college career, so do not get hung up about not liking your roommate, it is more common than you think.

Lonely and Love it,

Qur'an

GREEN CORNER

Coronavirus: a solution to climate change?

THE temperature of the last few weeks has made it difficult for students to plan their wardrobe on a daily basis. Some days will require heavy coats, hats and gloves, while others call for raincoats, umbrellas, rain boots and warm weather attire. The latest trend in weather calls for spring wear, but usually, around this time of year, students would be enjoying the benefits of sleeping in on snow days.

This drastic difference in the weather pattern can be attributed to climate change.

Despite the negative connotation of the Coronavirus, would you believe it to be a factor in reducing carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions that accelerate the harmful effects of climate change in parts of the world? Well, believe it.

According to Brad Plumer and Nadja Popovich, Authors of "The Coronavirus and Carbon Emissions" — published in the New York Times — as a result of shutting down factories, refineries and suspending flights across the country since at least 77,000 people have been diagnosed with the coronavirus, China's CO2 emissions over the past month have been approximately 25% lower than during this same time last year. That percentage may seem like a slight alteration, but China is such an impactful polluter that even 25% is significant. In fact, the decline is roughly equal to the amount of CO2 that the state of New York puts out into the atmosphere in a full year (about 150 million metric tons).

Should we be appeased by this news? Can we find solace and security in the knowledge that through all the darkness of the disaster that is the coronavirus outbreak, the one silver lining, if you can call it that, is a decrease in a pollutant that has abused our atmosphere for so long?

"Climate change is a problem and the fact that the actions of China shutting down a couple of factories

temporarily has made such an impressive impact should be alarming to us and show us where our true problems lie," said Emily Loutraris, sophomore elementary education major. Loutraris is interpreting this CO2 decline as being the evidence that we need to prove that the change that we need to enforce needs to start with factories and transportation systems, since, as depicted by this current situation, that is where the significant change will come from.

As Rider University continues to prioritize the safety of its students, we are also inadvertently decreasing our CO2 emissions. Rider University has been sending out emails with coronavirus updates and its pertinence to our campus.

"Rider University is closely monitoring the rapidly evolving worldwide outbreak of the coronavirus and is preparing our campuses accordingly," according to a March 4th email from University Communications. It has also suspended all "outbound university-sponsored travel to countries with a CDC Level three travel notice." These level three countries are China, Iran, Italy and South Korea. This suspended travel notice will serve to reduce CO2 emissions on Rider's annual greenhouse gas emissions reporting, even though this was not the intended goal or a desirable situation. The travel suspension will disappoint many students who planned on having a once in a lifetime study abroad experience this spring. While the carbon savings expected with the decline of international travel is somewhat positive, we must find a way to lower carbon emissions that can alleviate climate change that does not involve a potentially harmful outbreak.

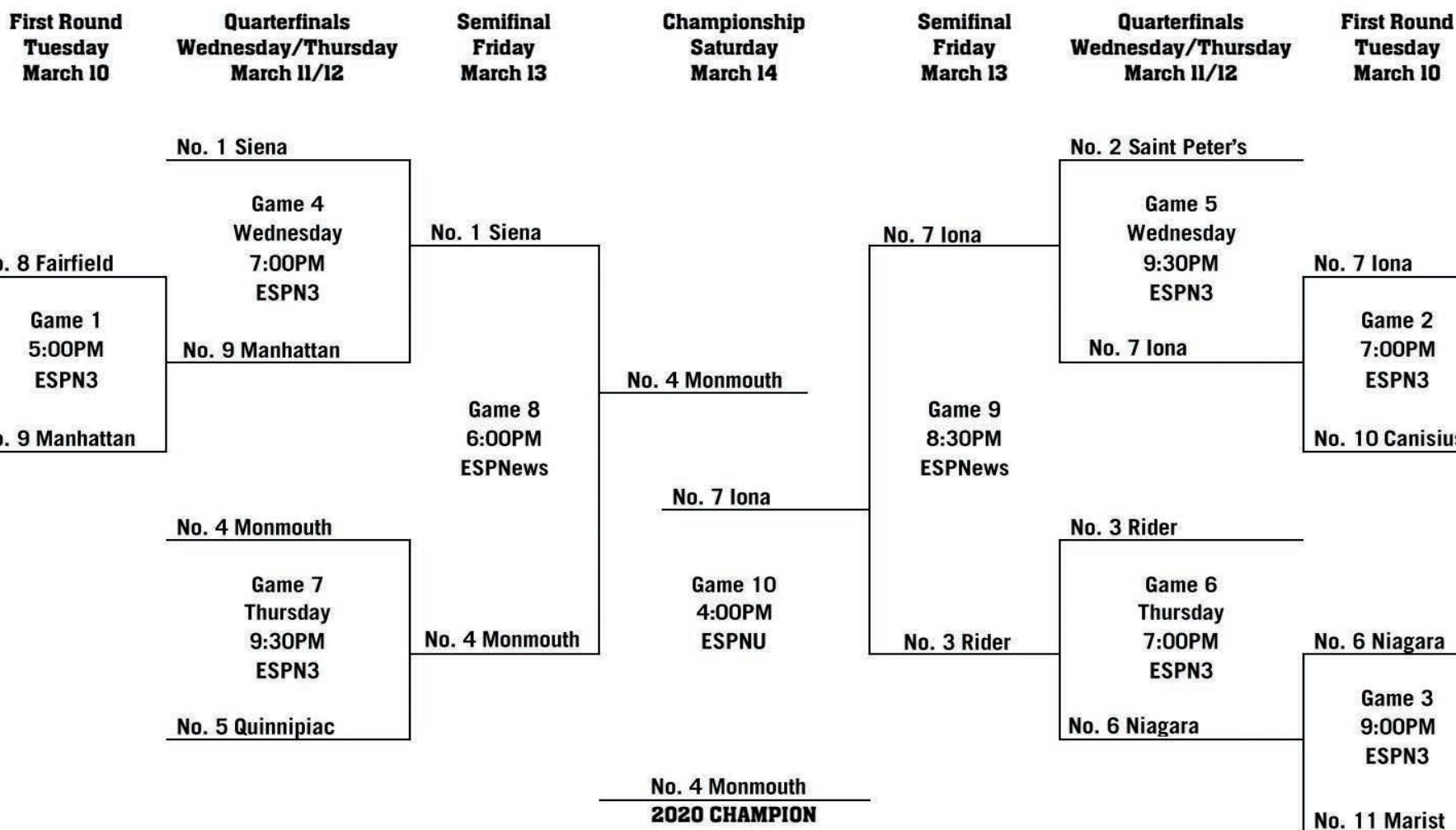
Victoria Harripersad
Eco-Rep

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Men's MAAC tournament preview



2020 HERCULES TIRES MAAC MEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP
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Courtesy of the MAAC-Austin Ferguson/The Rider News

Austin Ferguson predicts that Monmouth will defeat Iona to win the 2020 women's MAAC tournament.

By Austin Ferguson

THE headaches induced from trying to understand all of the tie-breaking scenarios in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) are over. With the end of MAAC regular-season play on March 6, the field was set for the MAAC tournament and the men's basketball team will start the postseason from the third seed.

In most seasons, the tournament was a dreaded time for the Rider. This postseason is different.

Rider's season in brief

Though their 12-8 MAAC record indicates inconsistency on the surface, the Broncos looked strong in most of its league games this season.

Out of Rider's eight conference losses, two were decided by double digits, while three of those losses were decided by three or fewer points.

In all of their MAAC season series, the Broncos were only swept by Iona, with both of Rider's games against the Gaels being decided by one possession. The Broncos swept Marist, Manhattan and Fairfield during the season and split against every other MAAC opponent.

Rider's shining star this season was redshirt junior forward Dimencio Vaughn, who was unanimously named to the All-MAAC First Team on March 9.

Vaughn averaged 14.8 points per game on 48.6% shooting and 6.6 rebounds per game in what was widely considered a return to form for the New York City native after an off-year in 2019. Out of the 20 MAAC games the Broncos played this year, Vaughn was the leading scorer in 10 contests and the leading rebounder in eight.

Vaughn wasn't the lone responsible party when it came to the Broncos' winning ways. Vaughn was just a quarter of the Broncos' core starters, joined by fellow redshirt junior forward Frederick Scott, senior guard Stevie Jordan and senior center Tyere Marshall.

The quartet all finished their seasons with 1000 career points, becoming just one of two NCAA Division I programs with four active 1000 point scorers, defining the success that the four have when they are working on all cylinders.

Behind Rider's 'core four' and a bench that is deep when at its full potential, it has a chance to finally break the curse of the quarterfinals and make a strong run in the MAAC tournament.

Rider's potential MAAC opponents

Thanks to the Broncos' seeding, they could be seeing multiple favorable matchups dependent on who advances in the tournament. If the results of other tournament games do not tip in favor of the Broncos, it could be a rocky road for Rider's quest for its first MAAC championship.

Rider's quarterfinal opponent: Niagara

The Broncos' quarterfinal opponent was decided on March 10 when Niagara defeated Marist.

Niagara's success relies on star guard Marcus Hammond. The sophomore led his team in points per game, rebounds per game and assists per game en route to its sixth-seed finish.

Niagara finished the season with a 9-11 MAAC record, putting it in a tie with Iona, which the Purple Eagles won the tiebreaker through their sweep of the Gaels in their season series.

Rider and Niagara split their season-series, highlighted by Hammond's buzzer-beating 3-pointer to defeat the Broncos on Jan. 17.

Rider's likely semifinal opponent: Iona Gaels

After Head Coach Tim Cluess stepped down with an undisclosed, non-life threatening medical issue, the Gaels stand to break their streak of four-straight MAAC championships. Seniors E.J. Crawford and Tajuan Agee have tried their darndest to continue Iona's winning culture, with Crawford earning unanimous MAAC All-First team honors and Agee landing a spot on the MAAC All-Second team.

Iona struggled during the MAAC schedule, taking most of the league by surprise. Even with a late-season surge, the Gaels finished seventh in their league standings. The last time Iona finished out of the top five in the MAAC? 2008. 12 years ago, the Gaels finished the conference season in seventh place.

In the 2008 MAAC tournament, Iona suffered a first-round loss to tenth-seeded Canisius. This season, the Gaels' first-round opponent was once again tenth-seeded Canisius.

The Golden Griffins failed to replicate history as Iona claimed a 10-point victory on March 10 to advance.

On top of that, the Gaels were the lone team to sweep Rider in the regular-season and they are very-well poised to defeat the Broncos again, this time in the postseason.

Rider's potential finals opponent: Monmouth

The all-New Jersey MAAC final is a fantasy matchup. For Monmouth, Quinnipiac and Siena stand in its way. For Rider, Iona or Saint Peter's stands in its way.

The long-time rivals split their regular-season series, with both teams winning their home games. Should they meet again, it will be a fierce contest.

Monmouth is led by All-MAAC First Team selection Deion Hammond, who is flanked by All-MAAC Second Team selection Ray Salnave. The Hawks have had trouble identifying a big man, which leaves it susceptible to an offensive explosion from Marshall.

The lack of size also leaves Vaughn to have a sure-fire double-double, which could decide the game for the Broncos and give them their first-ever MAAC championship.

Game times and where to watch

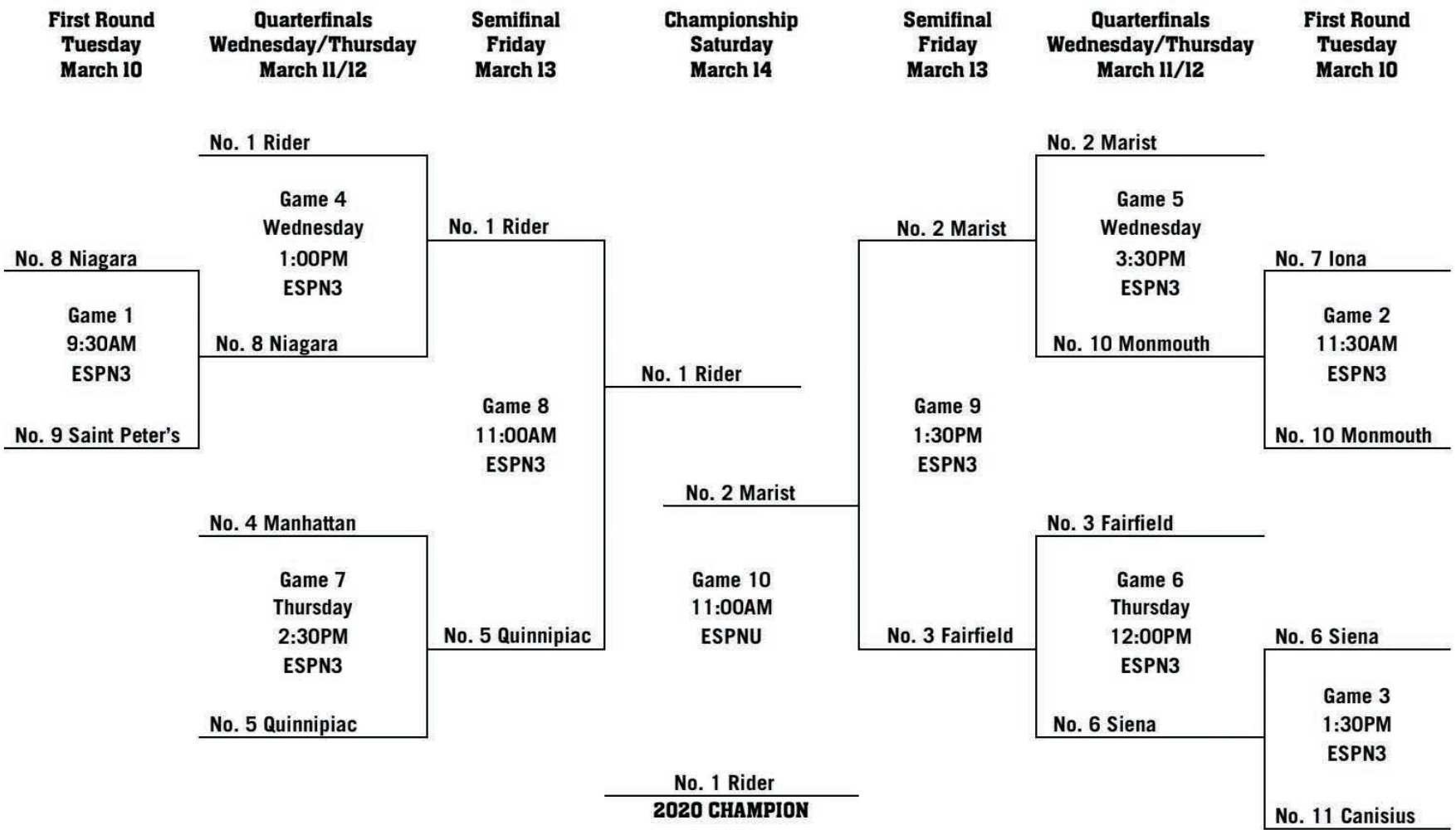
The Broncos' quarterfinal matchup with Niagara on March 12 will be broadcast on ESPN3 and is scheduled to be tipped off at 7 p.m.

Should Rider advance to the semifinals, it will play on March 13 with a scheduled start at 8:30 p.m. The game will be broadcast on ESPNEWS.

If the Broncos make it to the finals, the MAAC men's championship game is scheduled to tip-off at 4 p.m. on March 14 and will be broadcast on ESPNU.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Women's MAAC tournament preview



Courtesy of the MAAC-Austin Ferguson/The Rider News

Austin Ferguson predicts that Rider will defeat Marist to win the 2020 men's MAAC tournament.

By Austin Ferguson

FROM a regular-season standpoint, the women's basketball team finally reached the mountaintop. For the first time in program history, Rider clinched the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) regular-season championship on a miracle buzzer-beater from senior guard Amari Johnson to defeat Monmouth on March 7.

The first-place Broncos arrived in Atlantic City, New Jersey, as favorites to win the tournament and advance to the NCAA tournament. The tournament isn't without its road bumps for Rider, but the Broncos are more than prepared to make a deep run.

Rider's season in brief

A bad weekend prevented the Broncos from completing a perfect MAAC season, but an 18-2 league finish is virtually the next best thing. Rider's undisputed star was senior guard Stella Johnson. Stella Johnson finished the season with an average of 24.4 points per game, which earned her the NCAA Division I scoring crown. Stella Johnson was also a unanimous selection to the All-MAAC First Team, while Amari Johnson and senior forward Lea Favre earned All-MAAC Second Team honors.

The Broncos' All-MAAC selections were joined by a regular rotation of freshman guard Mya Hyacienth, freshman center Victoria Toomey, sophomore guard Amanda Mobley, junior forward Daija Moses, senior guard Lexi Stover and senior forwards Tracey Goodman and Aubrey Johnson, all of which have been solid contributors to Rider's success throughout the season.

It would be an understatement to say that this season is championship or bust for the Broncos. With six seniors on the squad, this is Rider's last chance with the core it has to make it to the summit and go dancing in March.

It also goes without saying that it is a once in a lifetime opportunity to have the talent of Stella Johnson at your disposal. It would be nothing short

of a shame if Rider sends Stella Johnson off to the WNBA without at least one NCAA tournament under her belt.

Rider's potential MAAC opponents

The Broncos easily earned a first-round bye in the MAAC tournament. Rider's tournament starts with an easier matchup, though as it progresses, extremely dangerous opponents lie ahead.

Rider's quarterfinal matchup: Niagara Purple Eagles

Rider may have had a sigh of relief knowing it did not have to play Saint Peter's in the quarterfinals. The Peacocks upset Rider for one of its two conference losses on Feb. 6, though the Broncos got their win back on March 5.

Thankfully for Rider, Saint Peter's fell 11 points short of advancing out of the opening round and solidifying a date with the Broncos.

Rider will be facing Niagara on March 11, which defeated the Peacocks 64-53 on March 10. Unlike with Saint Peter's, the Broncos swept their season series with Niagara, winning by double digits in their Jan. 25 matchup.

Niagara's leader throughout the season has been guard Jai Moore. The All-MAAC Second Team selection averaged 16.9 points per game and will be a consistent force against the Broncos in the quarterfinals.

It would be an upset for any team to defeat Rider in the MAAC tournament, but that upset would be emphasized should the Broncos drop to an eighth-seeded Purple Eagles team after such a historic season.

Rider's likely semifinal matchup: Quinnipiac Bobcats

Oh, how the mighty have fallen. After winning 52 consecutive MAAC games, Quinnipiac dropped its first league game of the season to Iona on Jan. 2. Since then, the Bobcats dropped seven more MAAC matchups, which brought them to fifth place at the start of the MAAC tournament.

Quinnipiac's quarterfinal opponent is fourth-seeded Manhattan. Though the Jaspers hold a higher ranking, Quinnipiac's pedigree, headlined by its lone All-MAAC selection in third-team member Taylor Herd and its leading scorer in Shaq Edwards.

Rider managed to sweep the Bobcats this season for its first two wins over Quinnipiac in program history. Stella Johnson scored 25 or more points in both of the Broncos' victories.

The Bobcats are nowhere near the team that dominated the MAAC for the last few seasons, but should they advance, they are ready to make noise.

Rider's likely finals matchup: Marist Red Foxes

Simply put, the Red Foxes can play the game of basketball.

Marist matched Rider's 18-2 MAAC record, though the Broncos managed to sweep their season series against Fairfield, while Marist dropped a game to the Stags, giving way for Rider to win the MAAC regular-season title.

If this championship were to take place, it would be an absolute slugfest between the duos of Stella and Amari Johnson for Rider and All-MAAC First Team members Rebekah Hand and Alana Gilmer. Outside of that battle, the matchup of the Red Foxes' Grace Vander Weide, an All-MAAC Second Team selection, and the Broncos' Favre will likely be the difference maker in what would be a great championship match.

Game times and where to watch

Rider's quarterfinal matchup with Niagara on March 11 will be broadcast on ESPN3, scheduled to start at 7 p.m.

Should the Broncos defeat Niagara, their semifinal game will be scheduled to take place on March 13 at 11 a.m. and will be broadcast on ESPN3.

If Rider reaches the finals, the MAAC tournament women's championship game is scheduled to take place on March 14 at 11 a.m. and will be broadcast on ESPNU.

Sports

ONLINE

BRONCS TO THE BOARDWALK
Sports Editors Dylan Manfre and Austin Ferguson will have live updates from the MAAC tournament in Atlantic City.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Stella Johnson: Rider basketball's GOAT

By Dylan Manfre

It is hard to believe that there was a point in time when Stella Johnson did not believe she would be a Division I basketball player. She was scared of the recruiting process because of all the anxiety it brings.

"I think Rider found me. I didn't even know Rider was in New Jersey when they first contacted me," she said. "I visited, and I didn't want to visit, because I was scared of the process of it all. I didn't like talking to coaches. I think Coach [Lynn] Milligan really convinced me that we're like a family here... When I came for my official visit everybody was close and fooling around but also serious about basketball."

When Milligan recruited Johnson mainly from her time with the New Jersey Panthers of the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) circuit, one of the top teams in New Jersey. She described the prospective guard as a "piece" on a good Panthers team.

Rider went 8-22 overall in 2015-2016. The Broncs had been a staple to the bottom section of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) standings for some time, but when Johnson came along, Milligan described her as "the missing piece," Rider needed.

"When she came here as a freshman she was a piece, she played with four seniors, on a really good team. And she was kind of that missing piece, really, to that team and I think the confidence she gained freshman year playing with those older kids and the success we had as a program her freshman year I think just opened things up for her."

The Broncs finished 24-9 overall and 16-4 in conference play in 2017 with a trip to the MAAC Championship where they would eventually fall to Quinnipiac Bobcats, which began its reign as MAAC superiors with that win.

It was the first time Rider finished with a winning record since the 1994-1995 season — 22 years.

Two decades and three head coaching changes later, Rider had promise again and Johnson blossomed into the high-caliber player people have grown accustomed to watching.

She continued to score in every way possible catapulting herself into a conversation where only her name has resided for a majority of the 2019-2020 campaign: the nation's leading scorer.

Her name has been attached to the top spot since Nov. 12 first appearing on the list when she dropped 80 points in a weekend series against North Florida and Lipscomb. She had a program single-game record of 41 against North Florida and poured in 39 against Lipscomb.

At the end of the regular season on March 7, Johnson had become Rider's all-time leader in steals (335), career points (2,130), field goals attempted (1,670) and field goals made (776).

She also became the only active player in Division I women's college basketball to record 2,000 points, 700 rebounds, 400 assists and 300 steals.

Johnson never aims for the accolades, though. When she passed Debbie Snyder to become Rider's all-time leading scorer, Johnson said she genuinely did not know she was even close.

"I don't like to listen to all the record things," Johnson said. "I didn't know I was close. Coach doesn't tell me anything, I told her not to say anything but I didn't know."

After the game when she scored 41, ESPN3 sideline reporter Chris Williams compared Johnson to an NBA player whom she admired her entire life, however, the

humble Johnson feels nowhere close to his caliber.

That player is Los Angeles Clippers forward Kawahi Leonard.

The comparison is valid, though. They are both known for being two-way players and are able to score at will and drive to the basket with authority. Leonard, for a time, was the screensaver on Johnson's phone.

"He plays both ends of the floor. He's not just an offensive player he's a defensive player too and I love that," Johnson said.

"And he's just humble, he doesn't showboat like that."

Williams is not the first person to make the comparison. Other reporters, her parents and even Milligan believe it too and it is pretty clear to see.

"I always compare her to him," Milligan said mid-question.

"He's a two-way player. He's known as the two-way player. He's very even. You don't see Kawahi jumping up and down and he's very balanced ... does his job. And that's what Stella [Johnson] does. She plays both ends of the floor every single possession and does her job."

Milligan went as far as to say that Johnson may be the Kawahi Leonard of the MAAC.

And who knows? Maybe she'll be the Kawahi Leonard of the WNBA should she get drafted in April.

Milligan said teams such as Chicago, Washington and Atlanta, among others have reached out to scout the, who Milligan

called, "the greatest player in Rider

women's basketball history."

According to draftsite.com's latest mock draft, Johnson is now projected to go in the second round to the Seattle Storm, which own the 19th overall pick.

"I think that's been my goal for a long time and I think it might become real to play professionally overseas first," Johnson said. "That's what I'm looking forward to."

Locked and Loaded for the MAAC Tournament

Johnson almost instantly replied that she does not want to know if anybody has contacted her because of her willingness to tune everything out and focus on the task at hand of winning a MAAC championship, which Rider has a legitimate chance of accomplishing this year.

Johnson, along with fifth-year senior guard Lexi Stover and senior center Tracey Goodman were the only current players on the roster when they made their championship run in 2016-2017, so a title would be the perfect ending to her storied career.

"It would be, like mission complete, for everything she's done for our program," Milligan said. "Her number one goal was never 'oh let me be the leading scorer in the nation' or 'let me do this let me do that.' It was always let me come here and win. And she's done that since she's been here. And for her to hand a championship banner in our gym, I know would be incredibly special for her. I know she would feel ... it was all worth it."

Banners

There is one other banner that could be raised when everything is all said and done.

The first Rider women's basketball number to be retired.

Johnson said she chose No. 4 because it was simple and she likes single digits. She wore No. 8 as a four-year varsity soccer player in high school too.

"If I have anything to say about it, yeah," Milligan laughed foreshadowing the near certainty of that happening. "I absolutely think it should be. There's no women's number obviously retired and she is going to be arguably the best women's player to ever put on a Rider uniform."

She even extended an offer for her to become an assistant coach should she want to pursue that route.

Johnson would follow in the footsteps of assistant coach Marritta Gillcrease, who played under Milligan for 97 games.

"I've told her she would be a great coach. I've told her that many times," Milligan said. "And I can see her being a coach and she doesn't believe me. She's always like 'No, no no.' and I always say 'You'll be surprised,' She has a great head for the game. If she wanted to come back and coach and we could do it sure. She's one of the smartest basketball players you'll ever see. She's a step ahead of everybody on both ends of the court. That's what makes her different."

One of the things people have probably figured about Johnson is that she is a relatively quiet person.

When asked if she likes all the attention and doing interviews Johnson promptly replied "No."

During the MAAC/Atlantic Sun Tournament when Rider played Lipscomb and North Florida, Johnson said she had four interviews in one day.

"I think it was MAAC Sports, [The Rider News], ESPN and a ESPN reporter in the morning. I thought it was cool that everyone wanted to talk but I wanted to shower, get back and go to sleep," Johnson laughed.

Seeing her name on ESPN and in the media has been a whirlwind.

She just takes it as another day in the life of Stella Johnson.



Gerard Blandina/The Rider News

called, "the greatest player in Rider