



FIRST YEAR FEELS

Rider welcomes its new freshmen class. **page 7**

FROM THE EDITOR

Newark, New Jersey, is one of the cities with the worst tap water in the U.S. **page 8**

VOLLEYBALL COACH INTRODUCED

Get to know the new Bronc head coach. **page 12**

107.7 The Bronc nominated for a “radio Emmy”



Stephanie Jessiman/The Rider News

Ronnie Birnbaum (left), Danny Allen Jr. (middle) and Leah Thomas (right) talk to visitors at the freshmen barbecue on Sept. 1.

By Tatyanna Carman

RIDER'S award-winning student-run radio station, 107.7 The Bronc, was nominated for a Marconi Award for College Radio Station of the Year presented by the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) on July 20.

Faculty General Manager of 107.7 The Bronc John Mozes found out about the nomination via email on July 20. To be nominated, 107.7 The Bronc submitted an audio reel and a description of what it does in 200 words or less.

“We sent it on its merry way and you think ‘OK, it’s going to go in the black hole of everything else. You’re never gonna hear back.’ And we did,” Mozes said.

Mozes described the Marconi Awards as the “radio Emmys,” or the “radio Oscars,” because the submissions come from radio stations from across the nation.

“This is the people in your industry telling you that you’re good. You know that’s a big deal. That’s why I’ve been trying to explain it as the “radio Emmys” because it’s more like that,” said Mozes.

The Marconi Awards lasts from Sept. 24 to 26 and 107.7 The Bronc will find out if it won on Sept. 26th. If it wins, the one minute video 107.7 The Bronc made will play when the station walks onto the stage.

Junior filmmaking major and student General Manager of 107.7 The Bronc, Jordan Dreyer, described when she woke up to the news about the nomination.

SEE RIDER PAGE 2

Rider looks to consolidate Westminster, faces new litigation

By Stephen Neukam

FOLLOWING the collapse of the proposed \$40 million sale of Westminster Choir College (WCC) to a Chinese company on July 1, Rider unveiled a consolidation plan aimed to integrate the music school into the Lawrenceville campus by September 2020 and keep it in Princeton for the current academic year.

The plan, briefly revealed on the day the sale was canceled, contained little information about the process behind reaching a “more fully integrated campus” in Lawrenceville.

Amidst backlash for the vagueness of the initial release of the plan, Rider President Gregory Dell’Omo announced the creation of a Campus Transition Team to prepare for the consolidation, in an email to the university community on Aug. 7.

The team, chaired by Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs DonnaJean Fredeen, consists of groups and sub-groups that are responsible for “all facets of the transition” and staffed by faculty, staff and students, according to the email.

Nearly 130 members of the community were invited to participate in the transition team, according to the email, but a number of invitees declined the opportunity to serve in the Working Groups.

Professor of Music Composition and Theory at WCC and Rider Association of University Professors (AAUP) Assistant Grievance Officer Joel Phillips rejected his invitation to serve on the Fine Arts Renovation/Addition Facilities Committee because of the university’s lack of cooperation and transparency, according to his email to Vice President for Facilities and University Operations Michael Reca and others invited to the committee, which was released to The Rider News by the AAUP.

“Others must decide for themselves, but I will not lend my name to an endeavor that enables the administration to construct the mere appearance of collaboration in the complete absence of the bona fide item,” said Phillips via email. “Forbidden from recommending we avoid the iceberg, our charge is how best to arrange the deck chairs? No, thank you.”

Following the announcement of community engagement for the transition of



Gianluca D’Elia/The Rider News

On July 1, Rider President Gregory Dell’Omo announced the cancellation of the sale between Westminster Choir College to Kaiwen Education, a former Chinese steel-making company. campuses, a question of strategy remains. A common concern for those critical of the present consolidation plan is the ability of the Lawrenceville campus to house WCC facilities and the effects it would have on the school’s quality.

Before the agreement to sell WCC to Kaiwen Education in 2017, Rider contemplated merging the campuses and even conducted four studies to analyze the hypothetical move since 1991. Ultimately, in the past, the administration found that the change would not be beneficial to the music school.

“It became pretty apparent early on that that option, of [consolidation], regardless of the buildings we’d build and the facilities and so forth, there just was a sense that would not serve the Westminster Choir College,” said Dell’Omo to The

SEE FOLLOWING PAGE 3



JOIN THE RIDER NEWS!

The first meeting of the semester this **Wednesday 9/4 @ 4:30 P.M.**
Free Pizza in Ridge House Basement

SECURITY BRIEFS

BY STEPHEN NEUKAM

Sticks and Stones

A rocky situation. On Aug. 27 at 12:31 a.m., Public Safety received a report that there were individuals throwing sticks and stones at the windows of University House. Officers responded and found two males and a female who were not students but were on campus to drop off the belongings of a student that does attend Rider. All three individuals were identified and asked to leave campus.

A Sketchy Scratch

At least it's erasable. On Aug. 28 at 1:30 p.m., an officer responded to the administration parking lot and met with a staff member that complained of a scratch on his or her vehicle. The officer realized that the scratch was a pencil mark when the streak came off on his hand. There was no damage to the vehicle.

Change, please

Money, money, money. On Aug. 26 at 11:51 a.m., Public Safety responded to the Student Recreation Center regarding a complaint from a staff member that the Pepsi vending machine in the main lobby had been vandalized. Officers found that on Aug. 23, unknown persons were able to activate the coin release mechanism, which caused an unknown amount of coins to be released. There are no suspects. Public Safety asks for anyone with information involving the incident to contact it at 609-896-5029.

— Information provided by Public Safety Capt. Jim Flatley

GREEN FILM SERIES Fall 2019

Monday September 16th & Wednesday September 18th
Flint

Monday October 14th & Wednesday October 16th
Paris to Pittsburgh

Monday November 11th & Wednesday November 13th
The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind

Monday December 9th & Wednesday December 11th
Pump

All films will be shown in Sweigart Rue Auditorium (Room 115) at 7p.m. Brief discussion to follow.

For more information, please contact:
Melissa Greenberg, Sustainability Manager
megreenberg@rider.edu
or the Eco-Rep team at broncsgogreen@rider.edu



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Rider radio station anxiously awaits results

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

"I was sitting in my bed and I was very overwhelmed. I was crying a little bit and I told my parents, 'We got nominated for this,'" Dreyer said. "There was so much happiness because it's been such a hard year with all the work we do for *Scream Screen* and next year's [Eggcellent Egg Hunt] and planning and prepping, so finding out we're up for this award is very, very exciting."

The radio station is up against other college radio stations from Seton Hall, Montclair State University and Hofstra University. Although Mozes described some of the other nominees as stiff competition, he believed 107.7 The Bronc's promotions and events made it stand out.

"We mix music, talk and sports, so we kind of do a little bit of everything, almost like the old-fashioned community radio stations that aren't really around anymore. Then, we do these events. I think the events make us stand out. I mean no other college radio station does a drive-in movie with 1,500 to 2,000 people. Nobody does an egg hunt with 10,000 eggs and \$30,000 in prizes. And no one gives away a car," Mozes explained.

He also reflected on when he started at Rider, 11 years ago, and said that he adopted all that he's learned from his 21 years in radio outside of Rider and tries to give students real world experience.

Courtesy of 107.7 The Bronc



Dreyer and Mozes both expressed the importance of every person that contributed to the radio station, as well as the Rider community itself.

"It's not just one or two students, it's a whole group. It's this current executive staff, it's last year's executive staff, it's eight years ago's executive staff that have helped make this nomination possible, and of course, John Mozes," Dreyer said. "[It's] everyone at Rider, all the teachers, all the students, all the staff, even President [Gregory] Dell'omo, everyone's just helped us along the way and we are very proud of what we can accomplish and we hope to bring it home for everybody."

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5
11:30 - 1:00 SRC ATRIUM



Purchase a bowl from the Playa Bowls' truck and 10% of the proceeds will be donated to our study abroad scholarship fund

Second court complaint challenges Rider's operation of WCC

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

Philadelphia Inquirer in 2017.

To date, no investment or infrastructure plan has been released by the university. In July, Associate Vice President for University Marketing and Communications Kristine Brown revealed that plans for investment into facilities and equipment to accommodate WCC were presented to the Board of Trustees.

Since then, at the university's convocation on Aug. 29, Dell'Omo publicly acknowledged the idea of selling a large portion of the Princeton campus to help fund investments.

"One of our goals is, in this migration, is to move the programs [to Lawrenceville] but sell the [Princeton] campus, and try not to sell the entire campus," said Dell'Omo. "Our goal, if we can pull it off, is try to preserve about four to five acres of campus."

Sophomore political science major and President of the Rider Democrats Matthew Schantin, who felt that the resources the university put into the WCC sale could have been used in better ways, said that once the school was faced with not being able to complete the transaction, it made the right decision for both campuses to consolidate.

"I think it was a good decision [for the administration] to cut their losses once they realized the sale was not going to go through," said Schantin. "Ultimately, Westminster had to be dealt with and the administration did what they could to

make the best decision for the university as a whole, not just one campus or the other."

The proposed move still faces legal battles. In a new 70-page complaint filed to the New Jersey Superior Court on August 9, the Westminster Foundation, the alumni and faculty group working to stop the sale or movement of the school, and added faculty from both Rider and WCC, requested that the court find a new fiduciary to operate WCC or separate it from Rider and return it to independent operation.

"To move the school violates Rider's duty as the charitable steward of WCC and it will destroy [the school]," said Bruce Afran, attorney for the Westminster Foundation. "There are no facilities at Rider's campus to house Westminster and its faculty, students and its programs."

Brown characterized the new complaint as "deeply flawed," and said she felt that the latest action in court was another attempt to "obstruct the goal of our strategic plan to find the right path forward for Westminster and Rider."

Dell'Omo remained committed to the transition and expressed optimism about both Rider and WCC's future.

"This is an exciting moment and opportunity for our institution," said Dell'Omo in a written statement. "However, it is unfortunate that there is ongoing opposition to this new vision, including from some of our faculty who are part of the... lawsuit."

Aging library infrastructure causes community dissent

By Hailey Hensley

AFTER a summer of multi-million dollar renovations throughout campus, one building stands alone as a relic of Rider's early history in Lawrenceville.

According to Robert Congleton, an associate professor and librarian at the Franklin F. Moore Library, the library was built over 50 years ago in 1964 and was one of the earliest buildings to spring up on Rider's Lawrenceville campus.

Despite how early the library was built, according to Congleton, when one looks at pictures of the library when it was first constructed and compare it to the building today, there are not many differences.

"You won't really recognize any major changes," he said. "It all looks about the same except for the vegetation around the building."

According to Congleton, very few renovations have enhanced the library since its dedication in 1964. Several members of the Rider community have recently spoken out about some improvements they feel are necessary for the building.

"A lot of the windows leak and the leaks don't even happen from the window sills. The leaks actually come from the walls," said Moore Library Office Assistant Jacob Hughes. "All the water seeping into the building leads to a much larger issue. If there's one thing books and periodicals don't like, it's humidity. Books don't do well in humidity."

The leaky windows, roof and walls are only a few of the issues causing concern for members of the library community.

"The air conditioning and heating are all over the place. There are some days where you come inside the building and it's 80 degrees," Hughes said. "Other days you come in and it can be like 50 degrees in here. It never feels predictable. Which, again, is not too great for the books we have."

For library patrons and employees requiring special services and assistance, accessibility can be tricky, according to Office Specialist Coleen Carr.

"In the wintertime, water runs off the roof of the building, and the water pools on the patio, right where the handicap accessible ramp starts," said Carr. "It's like a skating rink in the winter. How are you supposed to take a wheelchair or a walker down there?" said Carr.

The ramp isn't the only issue with handicap accessibility though, reported Carr. "The elevator is old. And you can be on it, and hear a noise, and in your head, you go 'Get me off, get me off!' and you start to think 'It's going to stop,' and then it does. I've been trapped in there, other people have been trapped in there, it's really scary," Carr said.

The overall state of the building has caused a lot of grief for junior musical theater major and community assistant, Tessa Douglas.

"I don't find it very welcoming. I like studying there [the library], once I sit inside and start working, but it takes a lot for me to study in a place that feels like it's falling apart," said Douglas.

As a community assistant, Douglas said she frequently recommends her residents take advantage of the multitude of resources available at the library.

"If they need sheet music, even if we don't have it here I tell them they can request it through interlibrary loan. I say they should never buy a play or score because its all available through the library," reported Douglas.

However, Hughes fears that the issues with the building itself may limit patrons' abilities to utilize the many resources available at the library. "This does not feel like a modern library. It needs to be more accessible, not only to handicapped patrons but to all our patrons. We have a handful of large tables, but it's not quite enough. We also need more air-conditioned study room space. More areas for students to work collaboratively. All of it" he said.

"I don't think they [Rider administration] value us as much as we should be valued, or we would look a lot different," said Carr. "We garbage-picked for the furniture. A lot of it is from somewhere else. We got our desks from Seton Hall after they were done with them. Some of the chairs we bought ourselves, but all the really big stuff was given to us secondhand."

A theme of ignored and repeatedly patched up problems seems to permeate through the library's long history, according to library staff members. Hughes wanted to make clear though, that in spite of the decaying infrastructure, the faculty and staff bring heart and soul to the library.

"Everybody is so dedicated to what they do and so engaged with what they do," Hughes said. "I wish more students would use our librarians as resources because

they get so excited to help out. Or even coming to us at the Circulation Desk. It's corny, but we really genuinely like to help people and I think we're all pretty dang good at it."

Interested in seeing more photos from the story? Visit our website at theridernews.com



Hailey Hensley/The Rider News

Damages in Franklin F. Moore Library, including on the roof where several small trees are growing and various leaks are present, is concerning to library employees.

Rider's IRS forms reveal legal expenses and faculty salaries

By Stephen Neukam

RIDER University's legal costs increased dramatically in the wake of the battle to sell Westminster Choir College (WCC), and one top administrator received a five-figure raise, according to the school's latest IRS report.

Former Dean of the College of Business Administration Cynthia Newman, who resigned from the leadership position in March following the university's decision to eliminate Chick-fil-A as a dining option on campus, received a raise of nearly \$68,000 between 2016 and 2017, according to the school's latest IRS report.

Newman's raise brought her to \$278,762, in annual salary and benefits and made her the fourth highest-paid employee at Rider.

Newman, who is presently on leave from the university, said that her current salary as a professor of marketing is "significantly less" than her earnings as dean.

President Gregory Dell'Omo made \$562,627, in annual salary and benefits in 2017, which stood as a \$2,463 raise from 2016 and kept him as the highest-paid employee at the university.

The Rider News acquired a copy of Rider's 2017 IRS 990, which covers July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 fiscal year.

Men's Basketball Head Coach Kevin Baggett, who collected a nearly \$46,000 raise between 2015 and 2016, lost just under \$10,000 in salary and benefits in 2017, which dropped him from the fourth to sixth highest-paid employee at Rider. Baggett made \$251,132 in salary and benefits in 2017.

Baggett's 2017 salary made him the third lowest-paid men's basketball head coach in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference, above his counterparts at St. Peter's and Niagara. Iona Head Coach Tim Cluess topped the conference and made just under \$1.1 million in base salary in 2017.

Former Vice President for Finance and Treasurer Julie Karns, who made \$331,855 in salary and benefits, and Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Donna Jean Fredeen, who was paid \$291,325 in salary and benefits, were the second and third highest-paid employees at Rider in 2017, according

to the filing. Former Vice President for University Advancement Jonathan Meer was the fifth highest-paid employee.

Of the 14 listed individuals who earned over \$100,000 in salary and benefits in 2017, only three were professors.

The Rider University Chapter of American Association of University Professors (AAUP) highlighted the economic sacrifices of the school's faculty have made, including no cost-of-living increases since 2013.

"President Dell'Omo is one of the highest paid college administrators in the state... this is striking considering President Dell'Omo's signature 'accomplishment' has been a misguided attempt to sell Westminster Choir College," said a statement from the AAUP Executive Committee. "We believe Rider's administration should make an investment in the primary income-generating component of its operation: the faculty."

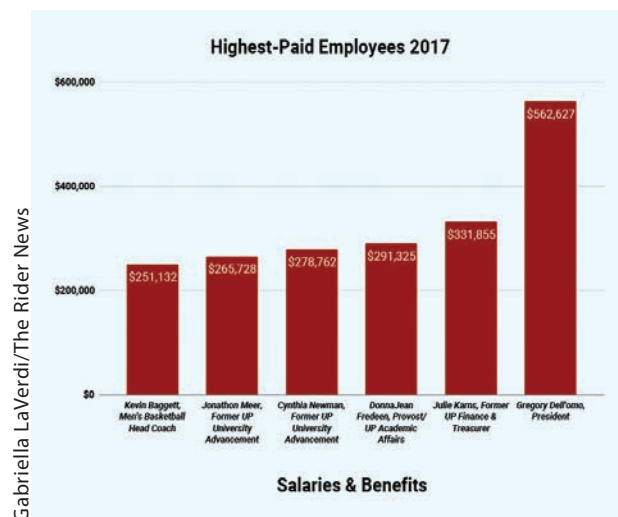
The three year labor contract between the university and the AAUP will expire in 2020. Associate Vice President for University Marketing & Communications Kristine Brown said that employee salaries will be a part of the negotiations for a new agreement.

"This coming summer of 2020 is when that contract will be renegotiated," said Brown. "It will be renegotiated for a new term that starts, I believe, September 1, 2020."

Junior dance and filmmaking major Victoria Grisanzio praised the performance of professors at Rider, and felt that, given how intimately they work with students, educators at the school should be paid more.

"With a small school like Rider, they work very closely with the students, therefore requiring them to not only teach lessons, but to also have strong social skills and an ability to connect with individuals," said Grisanzio. "The impact a professor can have on a student is often crucial in their career path. So yes, I believe professors should make more than they do now."

The 2017 filing also shows the significant expense of the university's then-decision to sell WCC to the



Rider President Gregory Dell'Omo tops the list of the six highest-paid employees in 2017, according to IRS filings.

chinese company Kaiwen Education.

PricewaterhouseCoopers, a global consulting firm, received over \$450,000 from Rider in 2017. \$337,000 of that was related directly to the WCC sale, used for marketing the property and completing the sale contract with Kaiwen, according to Brown.

In total, the school spent over \$1.15 million on legal fees in 2017. That amount exceeded the previous three years combined.

In July, Rider announced that the sale agreement with Kaiwen had been discontinued, ultimately pulling out of a legal battle that helped increase the school's legal fees by four times between 2016 and 2017. However, the court battles will continue for the university, with a new complaint filed in the New Jersey Superior Court on Aug. 9 by the Westminster Foundation and faculty and staff that oppose the move.

"There were certainly legal issues that we had to face throughout the entire process and some were expected when we went into the original sale with Kaiwen," said Brown. "But there were certainly additional legal fees that were incurred because of lawsuits and other things that happened that were beyond our control and they had to be addressed."

Brown declined to disclose the full amount of money that it spent on legal fees for WCC to date.

Modern renovations change campus aesthetic

By Qur'an Hansford

FOR the duration of the summer, Rider's campus underwent substantial renovations with hopes to bring a modern improvement to the campus' amenities. The facilities on campus expected to receive redevelopment are Cranberry's, The Pub, Richard A. Coppola Pool, University's Alumni Gymnasium and the exterior of the Canastra Health and Sports Center.

Two of Rider's primary dining locations, Cranberry's and The Pub, began renovation immediately after finals in May and are anticipated to have a completely different look inside and out. According to Rider's website, Cranberry's will be expanded and redesigned with an open concept, circular layout, while the Pub will transform into a sit-down restaurant, similar to that of a sports bar.

Both The Pub and Cranberry's will feature wooden accents and bright color, with increased seating. The glass dividers separating Cranberry's from The Pub will serve as more than an aesthetic, but showcase garage doors to allow movement between the two rooms. Outside of Cranberry's a new pergola with a canopy allows for outside dining regardless of the weather.

The exterior design is not the only feature being updated for this upcoming fall semester. Cranberry's is introducing new online dining and kiosks to provide and display information and advertisements. Students will have the option of choosing in-house dining via the kiosks or using the mobile order where their food would be stored until pickup.

Last fall, Rider spent \$4.7 million on renovation for resident halls Wright and Ridge, and this fall, Kroner debuts its new and improved refurbishment. All the rooms in the residence hall feature new furniture, flooring, paint, lighting and energy-efficient heating

and cooling systems, according to Rider's website.

"The new Cranberry's will be renovated and have a new approach to dining. The area will feature: food ordering from mobile devices, kiosks and cash registers, a virtual Jersey Mike's with a pickup area, increased and upgraded seating, as well as the full service fast food franchise Wendy's. The pub will now be a full service sports bar with a chef inspired menu from appetizers to entrees serving beer and wine. The budget was \$4.8 million," said Vice President for Facilities and University Operations, Michael Reca.

Kroner Hall will have new suites in the C-wing with private bathrooms and the remainder of the building will have individual bathrooms on each floor which are also gender inclusive. Delta Phi Epsilon and Lake House also received upgrades to the electrical service, air conditioning, hall bathrooms, room lighting, flooring and furniture, with a budget of \$7.4 million, according to Reca.

In the Science & Technology Center, the second floor received lab upgrades, area improvements and a completely renovated lecture hall, with a budget of \$2.2 million.

The Maurer Center was renamed the Canastra Health and Sports Center and the building received a new entrance, landscaping and a complete renovation of the Coppola Swimming Pool.

"The swimming and diving facility received a new filtration system, HVAC, diving boards, new flooring, paint, graphics and pool finishes. This work will be done early in the fall semester and estimated \$1.5 million to renovate," said Reca.

The Yvonne Theater and the Bart Luedke Center (BLC) theaters both received upgrades.

"The BLC had improvements to the set design and fly areas, new lighting, additional backstage access for performers and sound upgrades. The Yvonne



The renovations at Cranberry's and The Pub have an expected completion date of Sept. 10.

theater received improvements to theatrical and house lighting, new flooring and new seating throughout the theater with a budget of \$1.5 million," according to Reca.

New media labs were built in Fine Arts and the facilities will have improved lighting, flooring, furniture and technology to support new and existing academic programs for design and gaming. Also, the common areas adjacent to those rooms received new paint and carpet with a budget of \$625,000, according to Reca.

"I think the upgrades and decorations are needed. Similar to decorating your dorm room, it makes the room a more productive and happy space. When you are eating you want to feel happy and warm because it sets the right atmosphere," said junior business education major, Genevieve Santasieri. "If I had to request something else to be renovated it would be the bathrooms."

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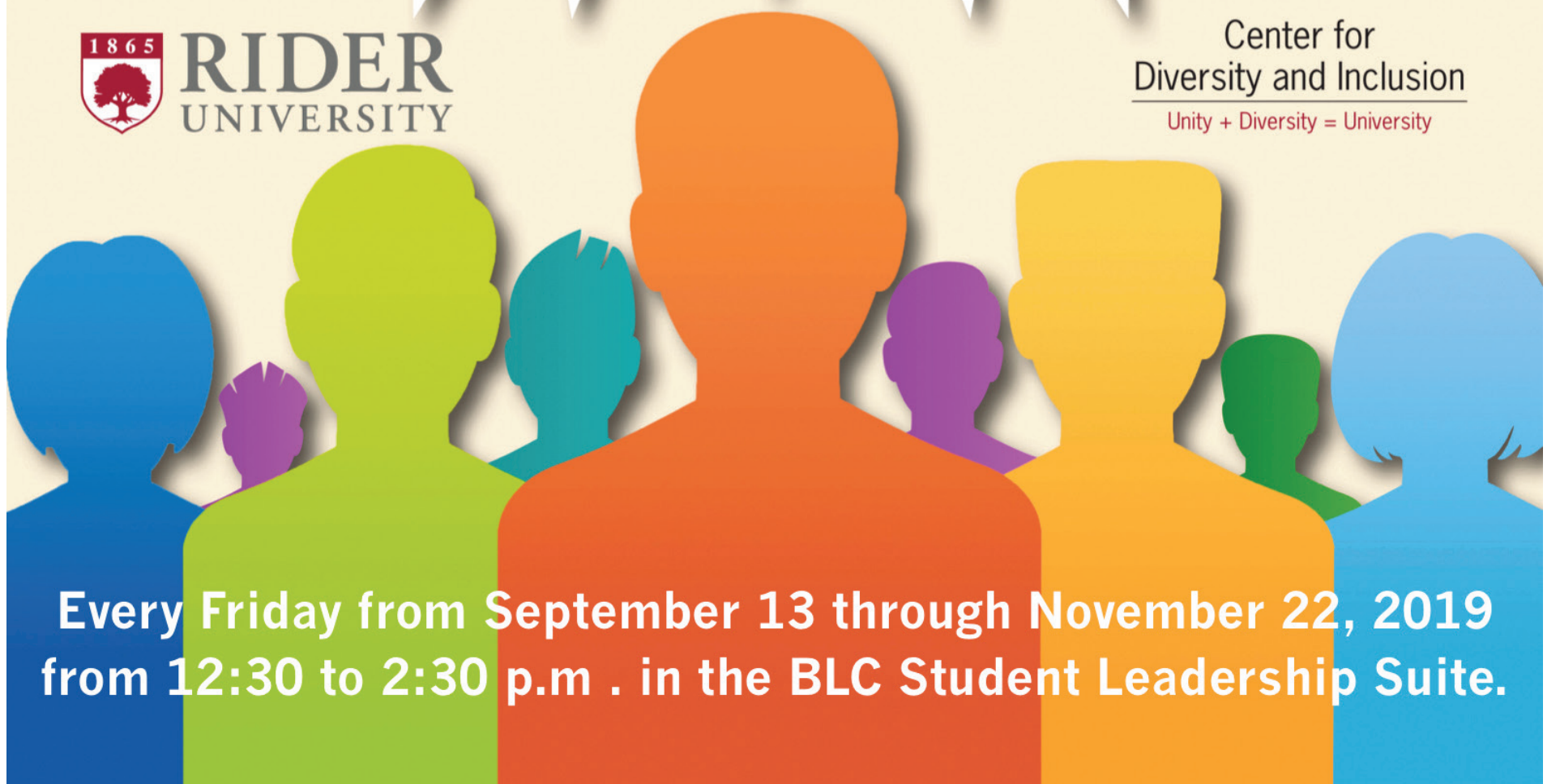
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Every Friday from September 13 through November 22, 2019
from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m . in the BLC Student Leadership Suite.

Follow the leader: Getting to know more about Rider's 2019 Orientation Leaders

By Christian McCarville

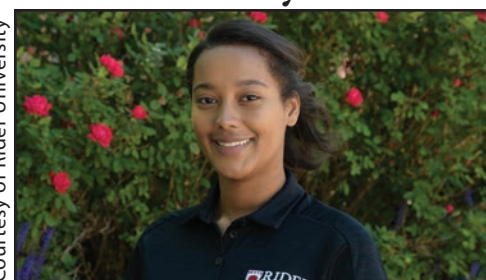
Allison Anderson



Allison Anderson is a senior political science major who enjoys doing service alongside her fellow Bonner Scholars, working with Student Government Association and enhancing the Rider community through her presence in various other clubs and organizations.

"My favorite part about being an Orientation Leader (OL) this summer was meeting and engaging with the students and their families and seeing the great potential Rider has the chance of gaining with all the new additions," said Anderson.

Rhea Fryer



Finishing her second year as an OL, junior political science major Rhea Fryer finds the experience of being an orientation leader very rewarding, as she has learned many beneficial skills from this position.

"My favorite part of orientation is getting to know the incoming classes and helping them along the way as they come to Rider," Fryer said.

Goanio Chavarria



Goanio Chavarria is a junior business management and leadership major from Glassboro, New Jersey. His involvement around campus includes being president of the Student Entertainment Council, a brother of Tau Kappa Epsilon and a freshman seminar peer mentor.

"One of my favorite parts about being an OL is getting to know the class that's coming into Rider," said Chavarria. "Believe it or not, you both have an impact on each other and it's a fun time getting to know them and where they come from."

Andrew Ghali



Andrew Ghali is a senior psychology major from Washington Township, New Jersey. He is a brother of Tau Kappa Epsilon, an information desk manager and a student for a day ambassador.

"The best part about being an OL is having the chance to impact the incoming students in a positive way and to be a resource for them," said Ghali.

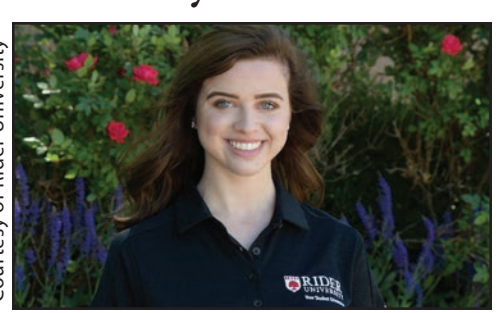
Brenna Damming



Brenna Damming is a senior elementary education and multidisciplinary studies major from Mullica Hill, New Jersey. She is a sister of Zeta Tau Alpha, the secretary of Generation Action and a member of several organizations including Rider Dance Ensemble (RDE), Rider Dance Team and the Council for Exceptional Children.

Damming is proud of her accomplishments, but one in particular stands out. She said, "Becoming an OL has been one of my greatest accomplishments to date."

Maddy Kunkowski



Maddy Kunkowski is a junior from York, Pennsylvania, majoring in musical theater. She is involved in The Bronway, RDE, and "Til Further Notes. She is also a peer mentor and a tour guide.

Kunkowski said, "My favorite part about being an OL is getting to work so closely with the incoming class."

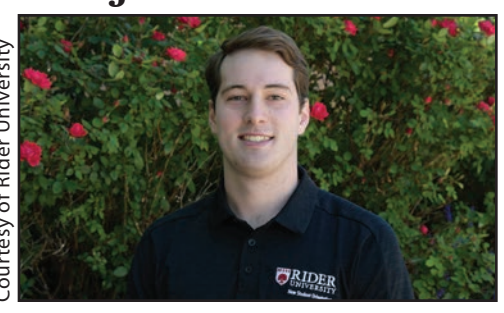
Sadie Disbrow



Senior Sadie Disbrow is an elementary education and multidisciplinary studies major. She is a sister of Alpha Xi Delta, vice president of the Council for Exceptional Children, member of SEA and a student for a day ambassador.

"I am so excited to be able to help welcome [incoming students] into our Rider University community," said Disbrow.

Jack Neiswenter



Jack Neiswenter is a junior business analytics and management major from Westfield, New Jersey. He is a brother of Theta Chi, a member of Alpha Lambda Delta and the Philosophy Honors Society, as well as a freshman seminar peer mentor.

Neiswenter said, "I'm excited to meet you all and give your first Rider experience. There are limitless opportunities that you can have here."

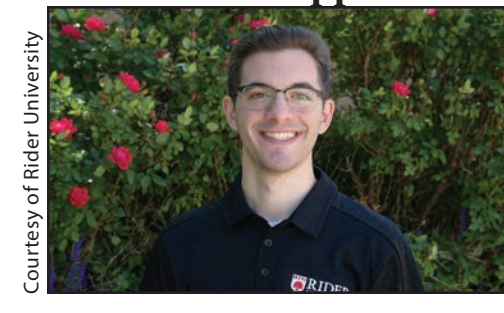
Juli Ezzo



Juli Ezzo is a senior in secondary education major from South Brunswick, New Jersey. She is a community assistant in Wright Hall while also working as a senior admissions fellow and tour guide.

Ezzo said, "I, of course, loved meeting with and assisting new students in their transition to Rider. I truly consider [my co-workers] to be my friends, and I am so lucky that I got to know them through this position."

Peter Strippoli



Peter Strippoli is a sophomore business analytics major from Langhorne, PA, who aims to fill incoming Rider students with excitement and enthusiasm.

"The best part of working as an OL this summer was getting the new students as excited to join the Rider family as I was when I went to my orientation! Leading the green team was also an incredible experience that I'll never forget," said Strippoli.

Austin Ferguson



Austin Ferguson is a senior sports media major from Piscataway, New Jersey. He is a sergeant at arms at Alpha Phi Omega, works for Bronvision and is a sports editor at The Rider News.

"Welcome and congratulations to all the new students coming to Rider! I can't wait for you to see all of the exciting things our campus has to offer," said Ferguson.

Sami Wheeler



Junior secondary education major Sami Wheeler, from Frenchtown, New Jersey, is heavily involved in many clubs and organizations on campus. A few of her involvements include Student Education Association, Kappa Delta Pi, STEM Scholars and Zeta Tau Alpha.

"The thing I enjoyed the most about my time as an OL was the fact that I was able to bond with the incoming students so quickly," said Wheeler.

"Hot girl semester" starts at I Love College dance party

By Jason Mount

RIDER invited students to get into the music with the annual I Love College party, set to happen Sept. 6 at 10 p.m.

Sophomore musical theater major and Student Entertainment Council (SEC) Traditions Chair Courtney Povero shared some insight on this year's party.

"This year's theme is Electric Forest," Povero said. "Students can expect an environment that makes them feel like they're at an awesome music festival in the woods."

The theme intends to channel the feeling of community that happens at big music festivals, said Assistant Director of Campus Life Nicholas Barbat.

"This year will feature a music festival theme that celebrates the decorations, feel, and outfits that students will know from Coachella, Firefly and similar events," said Barbat. "We'd love for students to create that community atmosphere with great music on our own campus."

This year's party intends to be more evolved in appearance than previous years, said Barbat.

"We are excited to change the look of the event to be more dynamic and create a design structure that will change the look and feel of not only past events, but the entire Student Recreation Center," said Barbat.

Povero elaborated further, adding that a lot of time and effort went into this year's celebration.

"A lot more planning and decorating went into the look, setup, and theme," she explained. "This year we wanted to be super specific with the theme compared to past years."

She hopes students will attend the event to have a good time with existing and new friendships alike.

"I Love College is our biggest on-campus party of the year, where students from all years can come and enjoy a party put on just for them," Povero said. "It's a great event to meet new people and party."

Each year, the SEC intends to bring together Rider's student body and celebrate the beginning of the school year through music, dancing and prize giveaways, Barbat said.

"The Student Entertainment Council will be giving away a lot of items to attendees and will be announcing this year's Fall Concert performer at midnight," Barbat shared.

While the main priority of I Love College is to have a good time, Barbat believes there are other benefits to throwing a party at the beginning of the year.

"It is so important to bring our community together to not only celebrate the start of a great new school year but also dance away the stress of the first week of classes," Barbat shared. "New students will also have a great opportunity to meet



I Love College's 2019 theme "Electric Forest" is set to evoke the feeling of popular music festivals like Coachella and Firefly, among others.

lifelong friends through music, which really does make people come together."

Povero agreed, saying that the party brings the whole campus together in a positive way, and gives students the chance to immerse themselves in the party's theme.

"I think students will like the theme a lot as it gives them the opportunity to wear their favorite festival outfits and just have fun," Povero said.

Barbat believes that students will enjoy the many party elements that the SEC used to create I Love College.

"Students will love the new layout of the room," Barbat said. "The great music and dancing and the interactive elements that will definitely make this party one to remember."

Welcoming baby Broncs: freshmen get started at Rider

By Jason Mount

As summer break came to a close, members of the Rider community welcomed its newest fellow Broncs with a variety of activities during Welcome Week.

First-year students moved onto campus Sept. 1, feeling a variety of emotions as they began their college careers. One first-year student, filmmaking, TV and radio major Rachel Katz, was particularly excited to partake in the extracurricular activities.

"I'm very excited to join clubs and make new friends at school and have a total fresh start," Katz said.

Another first-year student, elementary education major Hailey Boho, also expressed her excitement to delve into her new Rider experience.

"I'm looking forward to the ways I can get involved, meeting new people, having new experiences and getting to learn about my future job," Boho said.

With all the excitement, however, some of the first year students felt nervous to start a new chapter in their lives.

Katz shared her feelings about balancing the difficulty of schoolwork and living independently living on campus.

"I'm nervous to start doing college level work and to be living on my own without my parents," Katz said.

Boho was concerned with navigating campus to find her classes and hoped she would be able to find her classrooms on time.

Another student, first year technical theater major Isabella Mazzoni, shared other common fears among freshmen.

"I would say the one thing I am most nervous about is the transition process, which for most students is cliché, but for me it's serious," Mazzoni said. "I've always lived a life of routine with no surprises or changes or things like that, so the fact that college is pretty much the complete opposite of that is pretty frightening."

Despite the nerves, all three students felt ready for what Rider has to offer and believed it provides everything they want from a college.

"I felt really comfortable visiting campus," Boho shared. "It felt like home. I also like the opportunities I get for my major and the way the staff helps and oversees and gives suggestions to help you in the future with your career."

Katz also felt that the university could provide the opportunities she needs to succeed.

"I chose Rider because I love the opportunities that come with being in my major at this school," Katz explained. "I also like the location of Rider, and that it's close to New York City and Philadelphia."

Mazzoni felt the school was meant for her because of the standard the university has for its students.

"I enjoy how high of a status the university holds for its academic programs," she said. "I also enjoy how close the school is to my home. No matter how many times I visited Rider, I always wanted to come back."

Rider's Welcome Week helped some students feel at ease and get more comfortable with a college atmosphere. For Mazzoni, her favorite part of the



Rider swimming and diving team helps freshmen move into Conover Hall as part of the Bronc Buddy program.

move-in process was getting settled in her room.

"I may be particular with the way I like my things laid out and organized, but I just loved setting it all up. I also really enjoyed reconnecting with a few friends I had made at other Rider events, such as orientation," she said.

Katz enjoyed getting the chance to spend time with her roommate. As for Boho, she enjoyed the welcoming atmosphere of Rider.

"My favorite part was how welcoming everybody was on campus," Boho said. "Meeting with our community assistants (CA) helped me as well. My CA made me feel comfortable about living on campus and comfortable to be in this environment."

While the three first-year students prepared to take on their first year

of college, senior dance major Rose Conroy-Voza reminisced on her time at Rider as her final year started.

"I was nervous and excited," Conroy-Voza said, looking at a picture from her freshman year. "Of course starting over in a new place without anyone you really know is nerve wracking, but I had settled in by the end of September and began to love my new home."

Conroy-Voza felt college helped her grow as a person.

"I became a lot more self-sufficient and can rely a lot less on people, however I also know how to ask for help when I need it," she said.

As the year began, Conroy-Voza shared a piece of advice for any incoming students: "Be yourself and your friends will come to you naturally."

FROM THE EDITOR

Newark and Flint: two sides, one coin

OVER the summer, I was assigned to read the nonfiction novel "The Poisoned City: Flint's Water and the American Urban Tragedy" by Anna Clark. The book intelled history, economics, geography and emphasized environmental racism within Flint, Michigan. Environmental racism is a concept which developed throughout the 1970s and 1980s in the United States and was used to describe environmental injustice that occurs in practice and in policy within a racialized context.

Flint has been without clean water since 2014. Citizens and celebrities alike have voiced their concerns and donated thousands of dollars for the cause, yet to see any significant change. Now, Newark, New Jersey, is one of the cities with the worst tap water in the United States surpassing Flint, Michigan, according to Business Insider. Mayor Karen Weaver, who has dealt with Flint's water crisis since her election in 2015, offered her support to residents of Newark, New Jersey, as the city's water emergency reached new heights.

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy told NJ.com that he will not issue a state of emergency after New Jersey State Assemblyman Jamal Holley sent a letter to Murphy and Newark Mayor Ras Baraka pleading to take over management of Newark's water and to dispatch the National Guard to handle the distribution of bottled water.

"It was not about pointing any fingers. If he declares a state of emergency, what it does is it releases funds, but it allows everyone to know that all hands are on deck," Holley told NJ.com.

Junior psychology major and Newark resident Laeuna Chisolm felt proud of the community's efforts to come together.

"They sent us a filter last year and then everything kinda blew up during the summer," she said. "A lot of us are just trying to be careful with and doing a lot of water drives but I'm glad this is bringing a lot of the community together and making leaders out of the youth because a lot of young people have been coming together to start water drives."

Chisolm hopes her fellow community members continue to unify their efforts.

Newark residents James and Shana Tyler spoke about their experience living on the southside of Newark.

"The lead is not in the water, its in the pipes [of the water system], the city said you can shower and wash clothes with the water but that is it. They were holding free lead testing at University Hospital for 4 weeks, checking your blood to see if it has lead in it," said Shana Tyler.

"I order my water straight from Poland Spring because I did not trust the water. I order 5 to 6 cases of water and it lasts us through the month for \$50. I feel like I should be compensated, I am paying for water

I should be able to use in my home," said Shana.

Last Monday, Newark held MTV's 35th annual Video Music Awards at The Prudential Center raising questions of the cities' priorities.

"They paid [The Prudential Center], not us. All it did was cause a lot of traffic delays and chaos. They closed down Mulberry Street, Market Street and Broad Street, people were told not to go to work," said James Tyler.

Residents of Newark protested outside The Prudential Center demanding to be heard and holding signs saying "Get the lead out" and "Newark is being poisoned."

"The residents of Newark are still going to look at celebrities, society today everyone talks about it and then it goes away. Look at Flint, Michigan, they still have bad water and no one talks about it any more."

I tend to forget how much a necessity water is to properly govern your day-to-day life until you hear people surviving without it. What happens when the water you depend on is no longer safe to use? No longer safe to drink, to brush your teeth or wash dishes. Some citizens have no choice and because their resources are limited they risk illness and even death to obtain something that is considered a basic human right.

I do not believe with Flint, Michigan, Washington D.C., whose water has been contaminated with lead since 2004, and now Newark, New Jersey, that this is a coincidence. Typically urban and under resourced cities are poorly taken care of by their states and their country and to think it is now happening in our front yard.

Are we really going to allow this to happen again?

Quianff.



THE GREEN FILM SERIES

Presented by the Office of Sustainability



Followed by a brief moderated discussion about the film and related events.

**Monday,
September 16th &
Wednesday,
September 18th at
7:00 P.M.**



**Sweigart,
Rue Auditorium,
115**

FLINT follows the story of three motivated women (portrayed by Queen Latifah, Marin Ireland, & Betsy Brandt) who rally to expose the growing risk of the city's water and push for changes in local government response to lead-heavy tap water and murky brown runoff spewing out from shower heads. The film portrays the story of Flint water crisis through the personal battles of these women as they go through a series of public hearings, council city meetings, and interviews. FLINT tells only a piece of history of the still ongoing battle for clean water in Flint, Michigan.

THE Rider News

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The Rider News serves as a public forum for student expression and welcomes letters to the editor from all members of the university community. Letters must include the writer's telephone number and email address for verification. Letters that constitute personal attacks on individuals or groups are unacceptable. We reserve the right to edit letters to the editor for length, clarity, accuracy, grammar and libel. Letters must be appropriate in terms of taste and civility. Brevity is encouraged. All decisions are at the sole discretion of the editorial board, which may reject any letter. Send to The Rider News via email at ridernewsopinion@rider.edu. Letters must be received by midnight on the Monday preceding publication. Any tips or suggestions can be sent to ridernews@rider.edu.

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LETTER TO EDITOR

Executive editor Stephen Neukam has hope for Rider community

BELIEVE in our community.

Coming from a not-so-diverse area in Maryland, I appreciate the different cultures, backgrounds and histories that comprise our student body.

These experiences are what makes Rider such a great place to cover as a journalist — the excellence of our athletics, the extraordinary accomplishments of our students, the brilliance of our arts — all of these things make my job very exciting.

Its rewarding to highlight the incredible moments that happen on campus.

However, it would be naive to not expect roadblocks and hardships. Further, it would be helpful to be transparent about the tests that we will face together as a community and personally as a news organization.

Our school will face the continued debate surrounding Westminster Choir College (WCC), and the more immediate issue of integrating its student body into Lawrenceville by next September. This topic includes a complicated legal battle, disagreements between faculty and administrators and, in my mind, the more important aspect of the stress this causes for WCC's student body and educators.

As the community adds more political organizations, with the re-introduction of the Rider Democrats, and the increased participation in and relevance of events such as Turning Point U.S.A.'s "White Privilege is a Myth" talk late last semester, we must learn how to responsibly navigate the debate it causes and evaluate what these ideas mean to our campus.

With the expansion of the school's facilities and major investments into renovations, students must determine whether they are comfortable with the allocation of the money they give to attend Rider.

The responsibility that we have at The Rider News is to process the information that surrounds our university and to give it to the community in a way that is easily digestible, while not compromising the principles that constitute responsible journalism.

The challenges our student journalists face are not unlike the challenges that journalists around the world confront. An increased skepticism and lack of trust in the media permeates nearly everywhere, including Rider. Rather than shy from the pressures, our student journalists will use the circumstances to hone their already impressive professional skills and deliver news that proves valuable and reliable.

On a grander note, I would encourage people to use our publication as a way to voice their concerns, share their stories and hold their university accountable.

More than anything else, I want our community to know that our student journalists take their jobs remarkably seriously, to make sure that the news that gets to you, our readers, is as interesting, in-depth and authentic as possible.

Because we believe in our community.

*Stephen Neukam
political science*

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Managing editor Lauren Minore expresses importance of Rider's transition

It is a critical time to be a student journalist at Rider.

As Rider enters an intensive period of transition, renovation and innovation, maintaining some sort of consistency is key to engaging students, faculty and staff alike. This is what The Rider News (TRN) aims to do — as an organization, our unwavering commitment to providing members of our community the truth they seek is the foundation of our work.

Whether it be the transition of Westminster Choir College to the Lawrenceville campus or the pro-longed, multi-million dollar renovations to Cranberry's and residence halls, the astounding accomplishments of our Division I athletes or the world-class talents of our fine and performing arts students, TRN will continue to be a champion for this forward-looking campus community.

However, we will look forward to the future without fear of having conversations, shedding light on difficult subjects and shaking up standards. I believe this reflective of our campus community today. With the rest of the team at TRN, my goal is to establish authenticity in a world of 'fake news'.

TRN has offered me much more than a hands-on journalistic experience. It has taught me some of the most valuable lessons I have learned at this university.

It has given me insight of the realities students, faculty, staff and administrators, respectively, face. It has changed the way I view the social and political dynamics of members of the community. Most importantly, it has challenged me to push boundaries and find new ways to motivate others.

As an opinionated political science student, but also as an unbiased journalism student, I practice decision-making by considering multiple perspectives. I believe we must view all sides to garner an understanding of which to base our beliefs and values. Just as it is easy to fall into your role as a student, faculty or staff member at Rider, it is imperative to read the narrative twice over. This community would benefit from a second glance.

Throughout this transformational journey we are about to experience, it is my hope that TRN will provide insight which inspires members of this community to use their voices in meaningful ways. I almost feel as though it is my responsibility as student-journalist to encourage open-ended and deeper levels of thinking — levels which I know Rider students are capable of.

My personal and professional growth will continue to blossom through my experience as a student-journalist on this campus. I am proud of the work I have done so far as I look forward to the future of TRN and its immense impact on campus. Rider's period of transformation is encouraging my own development.

Now more than ever, I am proud to be a student journalist. As Rider transforms, I know I can transcend any expectations I have set for myself and go forward with hope for this community.

*Lauren Minore
political science*

QUESTIONS FOR QUR'AN?

Need advice? Have a question about campus?

Reach out to Qur'an via TRN's social media or ridernews@rider.edu

Broncs drop opening match at UConn

By Austin Boland-Ferguson

THE soccer team dropped their first match of the season against Connecticut on August 30, 2-0.

The Broncs found themselves shut out at full time in the out-of-conference meeting against the Huskies. The match was a first for the two programs in their respective histories.

The game started off rather quietly until the 20th minute, when Moussa Wade and Dayonn Harris assisted Jordan Hall for his first goal of the season, putting Connecticut up 1-0.

Another score wasn't seen until the 55th minute, where Harris and Felix Metzler assisted Hall for his second goal of the game and the season and gave the Huskies a 2-0 lead.

The second score from Hall was the last of the match, ending a quiet offensive night for Rider.

The Broncs attempted 12 shots against Connecticut, though they only steered three of those shots on goal. Their 25 percent accuracy went up against a Huskies team that put more than half of their shots on goal, seeing five of their nine shots head in the goalkeeper's direction.

Redshirt junior forward Pablo DeCastro led the way for Rider's offense, attempting four shots throughout the match.

Head coach Charlie Inverso attributed a strong Connecticut performance to the loss.

"We played one of the best programs in college soccer and stayed with them for the whole game," Inverso said. "They are an excellent team and Jordan Hall is one of the best forwards in the country."

At the time of the matchup, the Huskies were ranked No. 26 nationally, just missing the top 25 to start the season.

Inverso's review-in-short of the opening match gave an optimistic view to Rider's future for the rest of this season.

"You never want to lose, but this was a real good showing for us," Inverso said. "We represented Rider well in front of the UConn fans."

A Bronc making their debut against Connecticut was freshman midfielder Matt Araujo, who received a real taste of competition in his first collegiate match.

"It's a lot different than the academy experience," Araujo said. "A lot of stronger players and a quicker pace, it's a good game to start with [against Connecticut]."

The Broncs look to bounce back from the opening loss and grind out a strong campaign similar to that of their 2018 season, when Rider took home the MAAC championship and competed in the NCAA tournament.



Peter G. Borg/Rider University

Redshirt junior forward **Pablo Decastro** competes for the ball in a game against Temple University last season.

The Broncs were scheduled to play at Ben Cohen field on Sept. 4 for their home opener against Central Connecticut State (CCS), but the match was cancelled on Sept. 3 because CCS was unable to field a team. The game will not be rescheduled, according to Rider Athletics. Other notable out-of-conference matchups include a Sep. 11 matchup at Princeton, followed by a home matchup with LaSalle on Sept. 14.

MAAC conference play begins for Rider on October 2 when they travel to Connecticut to take on Fairfield. Rider's other notable conference matchups include a Mayor's Cup bout against Canisius and a Maynard Cup game against Marist on Senior Day, October 26. Rider's final matchup of the season presents a rematch of the 2018 MAAC championship game when they take on Iona at Ben Cohen Field. The Broncs defeated the Bobcats 1-0 last Nov. to clinch the conference crown.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Wed, September 4	Thu, September 5	Fri, September 6
Men's Soccer vs. Central Connecticut State 7 p.m.	Women's Soccer vs. NJIT 6 p.m.	Women's Tennis @ Siena Invitational 9 a.m. Women's Volleyball @ Radford Tournament 12:30 p.m. Field Hockey vs. LaSalle 4 p.m.
Sat, September 7	Sun, September 8	Tue, September 10
Men's Golf @ Alex Lagowitz Memorial Invitational [Time: TBA] Men's & Women's Cross Country @ Siena Invitational Women's Tennis @ Siena Invitational 9 a.m. Women's Volleyball @ Radford Tournament Men's Soccer @ Fordham 7 p.m.	Men's Golf @ Alex Lagowitz Memorial Invitational [Time: TBA] Women's Soccer vs. Columbia 1 p.m.	Field Hockey @ Drexel 6 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL

Rider introduces new volleyball coach

By Austin Boland-Ferguson

AFTER reaching the proverbial mountaintop at Holy Family University, new volleyball Head Coach Jeff Rotondo looks to continue his success on the Division I level at Rider.

Following a 2018 campaign that led Holy Family University to a Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC) championship and CACC Coach of the Year honors for Rotondo, Rider Athletic Director Don Harnum announced his hiring as head coach in April.

Rotondo's Tigers posted a 90-71 record during his tenure with the team, which culminated in a conference championship in his last season.

Rotondo joins the Broncos' staff after the 2018 squad made it to the semifinals of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) tournament and Rider's new coach looks to change the culture of the team to push things further.

"We're revamping the culture from top to bottom," Rotondo said. "Everything is going to be different from how we interact with each other to the backbone of the program."

On a team loaded with newcomers to the volleyball program, Rotondo saw "good things" from his first time the team he will be coaching this fall.

"Their desire to keep the ball off the floor, the desire to get after it right away was pretty evident right from the get-go in the first couple of practices," said Rotondo.

Rotondo isn't going into the volleyball season without support. Harnum gave many reasons in his announcement of Rotondo's hiring as to why he belonged at Rider.

"Rotondo emerged as the successful candidate due to his track record of success as a head coach, his passion for the sport of volleyball, his strong recruiting ties and his ability to provide



Peter G. Borg/Rider University

Former Holy Family Head Coach **Jeff Rotondo** was recently named the CACC Coach of the Year and lead Holy Family University to a CACC championship in 2018.

our student-athletes with a positive, competitive and well-rounded experience," Harnum said.

Rotondo's success with volleyball coaching didn't stop at athletics. Rotondo's teams are well known for achieving in the classroom with exceptional grades.

Holy Family's team grade point average was averaged at a 3.69, gaining top-25 honors from the American Volleyball Coaches Association. Rotondo attributed his players' academic success to his being an active presence in their academic activity.

"Daily conversations have to be part of the narrative," Rotondo said. "We don't just want to be a good academic team, we want to be the best on campus. It's a daily conversation letting the athletes know that we're going to follow up on their academics and making sure they're getting the support they need."

In terms of on-the-court success, Rotondo wants the Rider community to expect a solid team this coming season. He hoped that fans can "describe the team using three terms—hardworking, toughness and dexterity."

"I hope [that fans] will come in and see a hardworking team," Rotondo said. "We're going to be tough, we're going to be resilient and we're going to look out for each other. We're going to take care of each other really well."

Rotondo said that the fans should be able to notice an attitude to the team. He hopes that the Rider community recognizes that the team "is going to have a certain grit and determination."

"When they come to a match, there's going to be a high level of energy, there's going to be a lot of enjoyable, high-intensity volleyball and I hope that the fans or anyone that comes to see us sees us living inside the gym," said Rotondo.

The Broncos compete in the Radford tournament in Radford, Virginia, on September 6. Gametime for the first match is 12:30 p.m.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Russell, Arrington shine in opening games

By Dylan Manfre

Offensive production from underclassmen helped the women's soccer team to a 2-0 start for the first time since 2012, with wins over Wagner and St. Francis Brooklyn on Aug. 23 and 26.

Sophomore forward Nikki Arrington scored her first two collegiate goals in Rider's 3-2 double overtime victory against Wagner.

Fellow sophomore back Niamh Cashin assisted on Arrington's equalizer in the 40th minute. Arrington, who played a career-high 71 minutes, struck again in the 51st minute tying the game at two a piece. All three of her shots were on-goal attempts.

"Once I got [the goals,] the confidence was coming out," Arrington said. "[It was definitely] a big weight off my shoulders, but I was really focused on winning the game."

Head Coach Drayson Hounsoume recruited seven freshmen to Lawrenceville and five of them comprised the starting group against Wagner. Freshman forward Hailey Russell took advantage of all 69 minutes she spent on the pitch and made an immediate impact, scoring the winning goal in the second overtime.

"It's always pleasing when a young group of players are scoring some goals," Hounsoume said. "Sophomores and freshmen have been scoring all of our goals. It's purely [based on] what we saw from the first two weeks of preseason... and they've earned those starting positions. It makes everyone good around them and the returners have to raise their game accordingly. They've definitely increased the intensity in our training sessions."

Russell's first career goal in the 105th minute earned Rider its first victory in a season opener since 2015.

She scored winning goals during her record-setting career at Riverside High School, in Riverside, New Jersey, where she is the all-time leading goal scorer,



Dylan Manfre/The Rider News

Freshman forward **Hailey Russell** earned MAAC Rookie of the Week on Aug. 26.

but said it garnered completely different emotions in a collegiate game.

"College is way different," Russell said. "[It's] fast-paced and the team is just so supportive. To get a goal in [double] overtime is a great feeling. The first game I was a little nervous but once I hit the field it was fine."

Arrington and Russell's performances earned them the distinctions of Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Offensive Player of the Week and Rookie of the Week, respectively, on Aug. 26.

Russell said that scoring her first goal and winning

the award was a big weight off her shoulders.

Her rookie campaign got more exciting when St. Francis Brooklyn, who is in its inaugural season of women's soccer, showed up on Rider's schedule, facing Terriers' back and twin sister, Hannah Russell.

Each time the ball rolled in St. Francis territory on Aug. 28 at Ben Cohen Field, it seemed Hailey Russell had a touch on it and Hannah Russell aggressively pressed her on the defense.

Hailey Russell bested her sister's defense and scored in the 85th minute to put Rider up 2-0 and sealed the game.

The Russell twins were teammates their entire lives from training in the backyard to sharing the pitch in travel and high school soccer. Hailey Russell confirmed that the Broncos' 2-0 victory was the first time they had ever played the game as opponents.

"It was a little weird, but she's just like any other player," Hailey said. "It was good to see her after the game though. Never in an actual game have we ever played against each other. It was different because she knows all my moves since we practice with each other."

Rider put its perfect record on the line Sept. 1 at Fairleigh Dickinson and the scorekeeper had an easy day as the game ended in a 0-0 draw.

After a full 90 minutes and two 10-minute overtimes neither team found the back of the net and the Broncos' unbeaten record remained in tact.

Junior goalkeeper Carmen Carbonell faced a season-high 22 shots and had a season-best six saves for the Broncos.

The league announced on Sept. 2 that Carbonell won MAAC Defensive Player of the Week.

The last time Rider played a scoreless draw was Oct. 17, 2015, against Manhattan.

The Broncos' next match will be at NJIT on Sept. 5 at 6 p.m.

Sports

Inside today:
Men's soccer begins
defense of MAAC
title. **Page 10**



FIELD HOCKEY

Field hockey joins NEC after seven years in MAAC



Dylan Manfre/The Rider News

Junior goalkeeper **Lena Vandam**, sophomore midfielder **Kat Conroy** and senior midfielder **Tess Coorens** prepare for a penalty shot in a 1-0 loss against Lehigh in the field hockey team's season opener at Ben Cohen Field on Aug. 30.

By Dylan Manfre

Before hosting Lehigh on Aug. 30, it had been 2,476 days since Rider played a game as a member of the Northeast Conference (NEC).

Discussions took place between the NEC's current members about bringing field hockey back as a championship sport in early 2018. NEC Commissioner Noreen Morris said there was mutual interest between the schools that did play field hockey in the conference and those who did not.

The sport was formally reinstated for the 2019-2020 academic year after it sponsored field hockey from 1998-2012.

"We've been evaluating the landscape changes and probably since Wagner announced they were adding [field hockey in January 2018] is when things really kicked into gear. Long Island University (LIU) had added field hockey and then Wagner so I think that was the impetus to have that conversation," said Morris. "It's nice to have everything under the NEC umbrella when you can. The governance happens easier and your student-athletes are all wearing the NEC logo. In the end it's a field hockey decision — for those [schools who have field hockey] — they wanted to make sure the rest of the league was supportive of that knowing we're adding another championship sport to the mix."

The Broncos are one of five former Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) teams who joined the NEC as associate members. The other teams included Sacred Heart, Bryant, LIU and Fairfield. Extending an invitation to Rider was an easy decision for Morris, who said there are numerous benefits of playing under a conference

affiliation.

"You have that built in schedule that guarantees you home games each year and then you fill in the rest of the schedule with some nonconference opponents. Being a part of a conference, especially in a sport like field hockey, is almost a necessity," Morris said. "Rider has been no stranger to NEC field hockey, I think they've won [the championship] six times. They're a very strong program with a long history of success and we're excited to have them as a part of our family."

Another team joining the NEC is Merrimack College, located in North Andover, Massachusetts. The Warriors are reclassifying from a Division II program to Division I and have a four-year window to complete the transition, according to Morris.

Within that window, Merrimack is ineligible to make the NEC and NCAA championship, which means, should it finish as the No. 4 seed in the four-team playoff field, the fifth place team would take its spot in the standings.

Head Coach Lori Hussong is the only member of Rider who has NEC experience. She helped usher in six conference titles, including the last three championships which preceded the dismantle of the sport under the NEC in 2012. Senior midfielder Tess Coorens felt that a contagious sense of optimism surrounds the team as it heads into its first season back in the NEC.

"I'm very excited for conference games," said Coorens, who led the team in goals in 2018. "The MAAC was always very competitive... I think everyone was really on the same level, you never really knew who was going to swing. Now that we moved to the NEC,

there are some new teams coming in and I'm excited for the different competition. I think our team is really good this year and we have a lot of potential."

A lot of the potential starts with the nine-women freshmen class Hussong recruited to Lawrenceville, which included a pair of high school teammates, a goalkeeper from Canada and sophomore midfielder Tess van Ommeren's kid sister, Kiki van Ommeren.

"We have a couple of freshmen who are really great ball handlers who are good under pressure as well," Hussong said. "We add them to the mix and it's going to be a good combination. We have a couple of really good U.S. players. One is Sierra Giuliano. She's a midfielder but we're playing her on the attack with [sophomore forward] Carly [Brosious] and they have a sixth sense together. When she came for our clinics the two of them had a very good passing combination and worked well with each other."

Due to some transfers, such as Gianna Morganti, who now attends Stockton to major in nursing, and Brook Gastin, who transferred to Marist, as well as the graduation of Jess Randazzo and Allison Amen, Hussong acknowledged the team is still very young. However, Rider has a handful of experienced players returning who can keep everybody on the same page, according to junior goalkeeper Lena Vandam.

"I think if we inform everybody really good — because obviously for the freshmen, it's a new game and there are always changes — I feel like if everybody knows what they're doing and keeps their head in the game, we'll have a good start," Vandam said.

Rider received its first look at the new game format in its season-opener, hosting Lehigh. Division I field hockey now plays four 15-minute quarters instead of two 35-minute halves.

The Broncos' young offensive attack put up 14 shots to Lehigh's nine in their 1-0 loss, but Mountain Hawks goalie Maddie Kahn was a brick wall and recorded nine saves in her collegiate debut.

"We had a lot of chances in the circle that we didn't cash in on and you only get so many chances to really put the ball in," Hussong said. "They had a really good keeper and we needed to move the ball around and we weren't effective in doing that today."

A potential goal from Brosious was waved off because the ball hit her leg before reaching the back of the cage.

Coorens said that correcting the mistakes and missed opportunities starts in the team's practices.

"Now that we know how intense it actually is — even though we've had two scrimmages — everybody in practice has to be more intense so we actually cut hard to the ball and get those loose balls so that we do it in the game," she said. "If you do it in practice it'll happen in a game. It's all about learning and repeating."

The Broncos played without the services of 2018 MAAC assist leader, sophomore midfielder Tess van Ommeren, who is "day-to-day" with an injury, according to Hussong.

Rider will play the second of eight home games on Sept. 6 against La Salle University at 4 p.m. A win would put Hussong at 250 for her career and make her one of only 15 other active Division I coaches to reach the mark.