

Rider hosts lieutenant governor debate

By Olivia Nicoletti

A DEBATE was held on Oct. 5 in Lynch Adler between current Democrat Lt. Gov. Sheila Oliver and her challenger, Republican Diane Allen. The event was hosted by The Rebovich Institute of New Jersey Politics.

This debate was the first and last for Oliver and Allen. However, Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy and his opponent Republican Jack Ciattarelli have gone head to head at The Performing Arts Center in Newark and will get to again on Oct. 12 at Rowan University.

Junior political science major Sean Cavanaugh, and Anthony Corbi, a junior sports media major, were two of the students that helped run the event.

Corbi said shortly before the event, “As a student here, I’m expecting a very spirited debate. I think the two candidates will be cordial, very respectful of each other. And I’m very excited to be helping out ... and that Rider is hosting this debate.”

According to Cavanaugh, “We get a lot of politicians that come here but we don’t really get major debates. ... This is the first one here since 2012. So it’s really exciting just to have two candidates for state governments and major state governments debating here.”

Oliver and Allen spoke on a plethora of topics including vaccines, mental health and gun violence.

When the topic of the vaccine arose, Allen spoke on her son’s near-death experience from a vaccine when he was younger.

“I do think that our children should be taking vaccines, but I want to say something about it. It is not a mandate where you must do it this way ... a parent needs to talk with the doctors and to make sure it is right,” Allen said. “We need to make sure that we are doing it the right way; it is not one size fits all.”

In the same concern for the well-being of the children in New Jersey, Oliver spoke on the issue of students falling behind in school due to the changes made because of the pandemic.

“There is no doubt that there have been learning problems and people are really going the extra mile to try to ensure that students can be brought up to where they should be. I believe that summer programs – you will see them ramped up as well,” Oliver said. “But a choice had to be made about the health of employees and



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

Republican nominee Diane Allen (left) and Democrat Lt. Gov. Sheila Oliver went head to head on Oct. 5.

children and teachers, and I think no one regrets it.”

Regardless of the difference of opinions, the well-being of children was a major theme of the debate.

Oliver said, “I worry about our children ... I am thankful that there are programs that are going to be working for kids in the future.”

While hosting the debate was a great achievement for The Rebovich Institute, political science professor and Rebovich Institute Director Micah Rasmussen was focused on providing a memorable learning opportunity for his students.

“As proud as I am that Rider is hosting the debate, I’m even more proud to be able to bring this learning experience to so many of our students,” Rasmussen, who was also a panelist for the debate, said. “I think the experience will bring students the chance to be intimately involved in the production of a major political debate.”

Alumni reflect on SFPA culture as investigations come to a close

By Sarah Siock and Shaun Chornobroff

NEARLY a year after current and former students in Rider’s School of Fine and Performing Arts (SFPA) reported a toxic learning environment and created a 44-page document detailing over 120 anonymous complaints that launched a third-party investigation, findings have been published surrounding a handful of complaints, leaving students to question what systemic changes will be made.

The mass allegations focused on accusations of sexual harassment, racism, inappropriate relationships and body-shaming done by faculty at the university.

The investigations

Rider responded to the allegations by hiring a third-party investigator, TNG Consulting, in October 2020 to accept and assess formal complaints. Administrators confirmed last spring that the process was part of formal Title IX anti-discrimination investigations, but they refused to disclose how many investigations were undertaken. Over the past few months, TNG published their reports with students receiving the reports in emails from administrators.

Since multiple claims were investigated, several reports were published to those involved.

A copy of a report from an investigation that was obtained by The Rider News detailed allegations against a specific professor. The report does not list the professor by name.

According to the report, the allegations include that the professor created programmatic barriers that resulted in “disparate treatment” of a production, “Upon the Shoulders We Stand,” led by minority students in 2020. In addition, it was alleged that the professor refused to properly say the name of a student even after being corrected multiple times and did not take action after being informed of racial slurs used by students in the fine arts living-learning community dorm, Lake House.

The report says there was insufficient evidence for the majority of the claims but, “It is more likely than not that respondent [the professor] engaged in unprofessional conduct” by repeatedly mispronouncing a student’s name. The report also found “it is more likely than not that respondent engaged in



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

An investigation within Rider’s School of Fine and Performing Arts has been underway since 2020.

harassment” by repeatedly mispronouncing a student’s name, despite being corrected, over the course of several semesters. However, the investigator concluded there was insufficient evidence to conclude that such conduct constituted discrimination.

Action taken

Rider’s Chapter of The American Association for



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Julia Divorra helped Rider to a pair of come from behind victories.
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MOVING FORWARD
Mental health on campus becomes a key initiative at Rider.
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SAXBYS GRAND OPENING
Saxbys opens up a new coffee shop on campus.
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SECURITY BRIEFS

BY SARAH SIOCK

Suspected marijuana

It wasn't coming from the greenery. On Sept. 29 at 7:58 p.m. a student called Public Safety to report the smell of marijuana coming from the area of the footbridge that crosses Centennial Lake. Upon Public Safety's arrival, they checked the area, including the campus green, and could not find the source of the odor.

Criminal mischief

Up to no good. On Sept. 30 at 5:46 p.m. Public Safety was dispatched to Conover Hall for the report of criminal mischief. Upon arrival, the student reported that somebody had scratched inappropriate words on a door and scratched off the room number as well. The incident is currently under investigation and was reported to Facilities Management to remove the inappropriate words.

Suspicious smell

They didn't check their windows. On Oct. 2 at 12:05 a.m. Public Safety was dispatched to Conover Hall for the smell of natural gas or gasoline. Upon arrival, Public Safety checked the room and hallway and could not determine the source of the smell, but determined that it smelled like gasoline. Public Safety inspected the area with a gas meter but did not see any readings that caused concern. Facilities Management also came to the residence hall to check, and the best that could be determined was that the gasoline smell came into the room from Route 206.

-Information provided by Public Safety Capt. Matthew Babcock

Alumni react to SFPA investigation progress

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University Professor's (AAUP) Chief Grievance Officer Jeffrey Halpern said that the union asked the administration for reports and relevant materials from the investigation to make decisions about the next steps. He added that the investigations completed by TNG, "should in no way be thought of as determining actual responsibility or as the endpoint in the process."

Halpern and AAUP President Barbara Franz declined to comment on specific disciplinary action being taken as a result of the investigations.

"Those accused have not had an opportunity to cross-examine witnesses or put on any meaningful defense. ... Once we are provided the information we have demanded we [the union] will review and decide the next step. It is likely that we will arbitrate. An arbitration is analogous to a court of law," Halpern wrote in an email to The Rider News. "The accused will be presumed innocent and the burden of proof will rest on the administration. We will have the aid of legal counsel and be able to cross-examine witnesses under oath with the potential of perjury charges. We will be able to call witnesses and present arguments to rebut the administration's claims. Once all evidence has been heard the arbitrator will make a binding ruling."

Halpern said the administration has yet to turn over relevant information from the investigation to the union. Provost DonnaJean Fredeen said that she does not "comment on confidential personal matters" in an email to The Rider News.

Student reactions

Throughout the investigation process, students and alumni have advocated for reforms at the university, while being vocal about a lack of communication from the administration during the investigative phase.

Jerome Manning '21 graduated from Rider with a degree in musical theater and submitted complaints about the department his senior year. He said the university could have improved its conversations with students throughout the investigation.

"I think they could have kept us more informed... it just felt like we were never really getting updates or we would get them like three or four months at a time," said Manning.

Manning also said he hoped to see immediate changes take place within the department now that the investigation was complete, including hiring a greater amount of faculty of color in SFPA.

"I think some change does take time but also stuff can also not take time, it can be very, very quick...You can bring in guest speakers every week, you can do workshops and master classes...That doesn't take years and years," said Manning.

Maddie Levy '19 said she did not enjoy her time at Rider as a student in the university's musical theater program. When students came forward with complaints last year, Levy said she was in full support and heard stories similar to her experience.

"I witnessed a lot of abuse, both of myself and my classmates, and it felt like we were going to class every day to be just torn down... there were professors who were telling kids that they could make or break their careers. There were professors who were telling kids that they would never make it as a performer," said Levy.

Dean Klebonas '21, who graduated from Rider with a degree in musical theater, criticized the Title IX process. Klebonas submitted a complaint his senior year that related to "inappropriate reactions" by faculty members when they became aware of students' concerns with the department.

"So much of the problem came from our faculty just taking positions and stances on the situation. We were told that we shouldn't treat any of our peers differently because we don't know the story, but to me, that was showing professors taking pretty clear stances on the situation and the way that I was treated changed clearly," said Klebonas.

Klebonas said he felt there were still professors at the university resistant to change.

"It doesn't have to come to this"

Manning, Levy and Klebonas said they hoped future students would feel comfortable speaking up as a result of the investigation, adding that they wanted to see positive discussions between students and professors.

"I still care so much about Rider and what goes on there. Through the whole process I always stress that I love Rider University and I wouldn't be doing any of this if I didn't love Rider," said Klebonas. "I think the most important thing for them to do is just to create an environment where they are willing and ready to listen to their students. So students can feel like they can say something and that something will be done about it."

Manning added, "I think the teachers should be more open to listening to what the students have to say, rather than saying 'well this is how we've done it for all these years...' they should also make it a more healthy and open space for dialogue rather than it being this very tense atmosphere."

Levy said she would like to see changes made to how complaints are addressed with prompt action taken.

"I'm happy with the steps that Rider's taken moving forward. But I hope in the future, they can listen to students as these complaints arise, and then it doesn't have to come to this," said Levy.



The Rider News

SFPA students protest in a meeting with professors on Sept. 14, 2020.. Each student set their image on Zoom to the same graphic demanding action.

Adrienne Unfreed/The Rider News

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CRISIS AT THE BORDER: A FIRST-HAND ACCOUNT

Thursday, October 14 | 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Zoom - register in advance: rider.edu/bordercrisis

Julio Ricardo Varela's many years covering issues and events directly impacting the Hispanic, Latinx, and Chicanx communities have positioned him as one of the leading voices when addressing the "Crisis at the Border." With the Trump administration presiding over the largest flows of migration at the U.S.-Mexico border since the mid-2000s, the Biden Administration is tasked with tackling one of America's most pressing issues that has no sign of slowing down or going away. In this inspiring keynote, Julio Ricardo Varela tackles the stories from the border that the mainstream media tends to ignore, and shares the latest firsthand accounts of those battling one of the country's most misunderstood and misinformed issues.



Rider fights on-campus hunger with new action plan involving the help of students

By Dylan Manfre

EVERYONE should get a seat at the table.

Rider students are now able to find a purpose for unused meal swipes and the five guest passes that come as a part of the campus dining plans at Daly's Dining Hall.

The university began a new program called Broncs Against Hunger and posted in a news release on Rider's website, about the new initiative in conjunction with a national program called Swipe Out Hunger, which allows excess swipes to go toward students facing food insecurity on campus. Students can fill out a Google Form requesting to be a recipient of the program.

Since it is a new program, Joan Liptrot, director of service and civic engagement, said she had not begun keeping track of how many students have donated swipes but plans to start the process. While on a walk to the Rider Resource Pantry, she pondered what the situation could be like for students in need if everyone at the university donated at least one swipe.

"We will be launching [the form] this week for the donations," Liptrot said.



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

Students can now donate unused meal swipes to students in need through Swipe Out Hunger.



Dylan Manfre/The Rider News

The stocked shelves of the resource pantry located in the Vona Center to the left of Daly's Dining Hall.

Rider's Resource Pantry

Located in the Vona Center to the left of Daly's Dining Hall, the resource pantry stores donated nonperishable food items, school supplies and some frozen items after it received a refrigerator.

Anyone can go into the pantry and take items regardless of whether a student is food insecure. Liptrot added that it is a "moral" decision for people to make as to whether they need the items in the pantry or not.

"That is a huge concern that people have," Liptrot said. But when asked if it was a concern of her own, she said "No."

"Our motto is take what you need, use what you take, give back when you can," Liptrot said. "We don't police [who uses the resource pantry.] Obviously, when it comes to meal swipes we're going to be a little more cautious."

Around campus, there are tiny red boxes labeled "Rider Resource Pantry" of which where students can place items they wish to donate to the pantry.

Reach out to The Office of Service and Civic Engagement via pantry@rider.edu for any questions, comments or concerns.

The Rider News COVID-19 COUNTER

Confirmed Cases:

Last updated: Oct. 1, 2021

17

Cumulative total of laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 at Rider University (Since September 2021)

COVID-19 cases reported to Rider University by week:

Month/Year	Student Case Reports	Employee Case Reports
Sept. 25-Oct. 1	1	1
Sept. 18-24	1	0

Rider University reports its testing numbers and other coronavirus statistics every Friday at rider.edu/dashboard

On Campus Student Testing:

Weeks	Health Center	Surveillance Testing
Sept. 25-Oct. 1	36	158
Sept. 18-24	33	165
Sept. 11-17	43	176
Sept. 6-10	15	24
Total	127	523

Student Quarantine and Isolation:

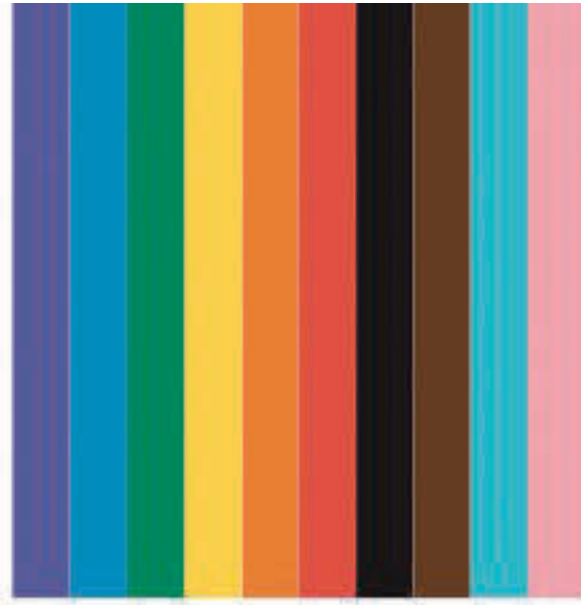
Students in quarantine have been identified as close contacts of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, are completing their travel advisory required quarantine or have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and are awaiting test results. Students in isolation have tested positive for COVID-19.

This week there are:

- 3 student(s) quarantining on campus
- 3 student(s) quarantining off campus
- 0 student(s) isolating on campus
- 1 student(s) isolating off campus

Adrienne Umfreed/The Rider News

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Grit 'N Wit brings friendly competition to Rider

By Zachary Klein

OBSTACLE course competition “Grit ‘N Wit” came to Rider’s Campus Mall on Friday as part of the ‘Fitness Fridays’ series hosted by the Student Recreation Center (SRC).

“Grit ‘N Wit” is an obstacle course competition for students where participants can “foster teamwork, a growth mindset and perseverance,” according to their website.

Dianna Clauss, director of recreation programs, said that this is the fourth time the course has visited campus.

“The first two times we offered it, we did it during fall opening for first-year students only and the turnout was great,” Clauss said.

The course itself included obstacles testing both brains and brawn. Brain puzzles included a triangle

puzzle, a sudoku-like number grid and a handheld maze. Some of the physical challenges were ladders, an over/under crawl and monkey bars.

Teams participating were a mix of those who had pre-registered and those who walked by and signed up. 10 minutes after the event started, the first teams took off from the starting line.

Justin Drea, a junior sports management major, felt energized about the course.

“It looks fun,” he said. “I love physical challenges and am just looking forward to doing it.”

Drea, whose team was called “SRC Rocks,” finished the course in just under 20 minutes. He and his teammates flew through some obstacles but struggled on others. “It was hotter and tougher than I expected,” he said while panting after running. “The brain part

was tougher than I expected, especially the puzzles.”

Members from the men’s and women’s volleyball club also competed in the “Grit ‘N Wit” competition. Clauss said they were participating to build teamwork among their members to have a more successful season.

Everyone, including the event staff, was impressed when the volleyball club clocked in with an impressive time of 14 minutes. Bystanders could see them race through the brain challenges and dominate physically, but they ended up finishing third for the day.

An unnamed team led by junior sports management major Blake Oramas came in with a time of 13 minutes. They were neck and neck with the volleyball group the entire course, but took the lead in the final obstacles.

“[My favorite obstacle was] definitely the monkey bars,” said Oramas post-run. “Or the military one where you have to crawl through it. That was fun too.”

In the end, it was “The X Factor” that raced to the fastest time on the course, beating Oramas’ team and their speedy time. “The X Factor” consisted of sophomore sports management major Zachary Manowitz, junior health sciences major Isaiah McClain, sophomore information systems major Zach Moyer, sophomore criminal justice major Lynaisha Smith and junior sports management Brandon Williams.

“We thought the course was very enjoyable and challenging, not just mentally, but physically. It was fun for us since we all do track and field here at Rider,” McClain said in an email to The Rider News. “We really were trying to set a high time compared to the other teams, and we all as a collective unit picked the puzzles and zoomed through. It was really a team effort since we all were the brawns and brains.”

“Grit ‘N Wit” was a fun time for all and a favorite among all Rider students who participated. “Fitness Fridays” are hosted by the Student Recreation Center on the first Friday of each month.



Zachary Klein/The Rider News

“Grit ‘N Wit” obstacle course featured mental challenges as well as physical ones that students had to complete on a time limit.

Food Truck Friday makes a triumphant return

By Tristan Leach

ON Oct. 1, Food Truck Friday, an event started last spring, made its official return for this school year, hosted by the Student Entertainment Council (SEC).

Among the vendors stationed around campus were Carnival Donuts, La Croqueta Tacos, HotPanada and Nomad Pizza.

Students were excited to see the tradition to return to campus. After over a year of being afraid to go out to grab food due to the pandemic, students could now find their favorite truck and sit with their friends. The sounds of excitement rang through the air of the event.

Though lines were long, dedicated students of each truck waited it out. This was true for HotPanada. The truck featured not only meat options but also vegan and vegetarian options. Empanadas have been a favorite of students at events this year. HotPanada’s truck featured a bell that students were encouraged to ring if they thought the service was exceptional.

To the surprise of no one, this bell was rung by almost every enthusiastic student. Sophomore arts and entertainment industries management major Rachel

Seigerman said of the experience, “I think it’s a fun way to end the week, especially a very stressful week. It’s something to look forward to. It’s just enjoyable.”

At Nomad Pizza, students enjoyed fresh Margherita pizza. This truck was placed outside Gee Hall. Fairy lights hung from the canopy of the old-fashioned truck, creating a calming aura. Students enjoyed the fresh slices and the musical notes created by crickets.

Meanwhile, across campus in front of the Bart Luedeke Center, a long line of students waited for tacos by the parked La Croqueta Taco truck. A variety of favorites were available to students. This included chicken, shrimp, beef and Birria, a Mexican stew made with blended chile peppers and simmered with beef stew meat. Students who had finally secured their tacos sat on curbs, at tables or stood.

Carnival Donuts made its return for a second time this year. The truck served milkshakes topped with whipped cream and a donut, and students were more than happy to line up and satisfy their sweet tooth. Many students took their sweet treats on a walk around campus, checking out the other trucks with friends.

For many students, this was their first Food Truck Friday. With COVID still raging last semester, many did not come out for the experience.

Lindsay Sherman, a sophomore majoring in elementary education said, “I was very excited because I love free food, and I think Rider provided really great options with the food trucks.”

It is safe to say that many shared Sherman’s sentiments.

Students that had experienced the excitement last school year were happy to be sharing the experience with friends old and new. Junior Thomas Guzzo, a computer science major, said, “[It] feels so so good. I missed the one last year because I went home for the weekend.” Guzzo enjoyed two empanadas with his friends moments later.

The success and excitement of Food Truck Friday have students eagerly awaiting the next time trucks will appear on campus.



Tristan Leach/The Rider News

Nomad Pizza employees serve up pizza for students waiting in line.

President Dell’Omo hands students first orders at Saxbys Coffee

By Hannah Newman

On Oct. 4, Rider celebrated the grand opening of Saxbys Coffee where university President Gregory Dell’Omo handed out free cold brews to welcome the newest addition to Anne Brossman Sweigart Hall in the Norm Brodsky College of Business.

Saxbys has cafes on many different college campuses in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. They serve coffees and specialty drinks, as well as a variety of baked goods and sandwiches, expanding the dining experience at Rider.

Student CEO of Saxbys and business leadership major Anna Corelli shared her experience working at many different Saxbys locations, as well as attending a three-week barista boot camp. While at this boot camp, she was trained in multiple areas of service to ensure the Saxbys staff at Rider will be prepared to display expeditious service proficiently.

“I am most excited for not only developing my team but for my competition which is to beat Starbucks’ speed of service. We consider ourselves a hospitality group before a business to ensure that customers feel welcomed and encounter quick service with their busy schedules,” said Corelli.

Corelli also noted that each Saxbys location exhibits originality within the corporation by adding something unique to their Saxbys’ serving attire. The staff at the University of Pennsylvania wears bandanas while the Temple University employees wear bucket hats. Corelli added that the staff at Rider is still in the process of creating such individuality, although she is confident that this team will come up with something special as a result of the strong bond and exceptional work habits that this Saxbys team displays.

Maya Arthur, Saxbys’ communication manager from the company’s headquarters in Philadelphia, shared her thoughts on Saxbys’ first day at Rider and how she felt Rider has responded to the inclusion of this cafe.

“The first day has been really busy, and I am so excited and thankful that Saxbys has been welcomed to Rider with open arms. I mean, it is not every day that you see the president of a university behind the coffee bar shouting names and handing out drinks. I am most excited about watching Provost DonnaJean Fredeen along with Dean Eugene Kutcher officially inaugurate Anna as the student CEO of Saxbys here at Rider,” said Arthur.

Students and staff of Rider, including mascot AJ the Bronc, along with Saxbys CEO Nick Bayer and his team, arrived at Sweigart Hall in the morning and stayed into the early afternoon to support the cafe’s workers as they served the hour-long wait of orders.

Saxbys promises convenience to students who have a tight schedule due to its location right in the middle of the academic buildings, ensuring there is a quick and local spot to grab something to eat or drink without having to walk across campus. Saxbys also provides an escape from reality for students during their school day with its elegant atmosphere and animated staff that hands out a smile with each order that is placed.



Hannah Newman/The Rider News

President Dell’Omo, AJ The Bronc and student CEO Anna Corelli serve up the first orders at Saxbys.

UPCOMING EVENT CALENDAR

SAT, OCT. 9

Westminster Faculty Recital: Song Out of the Box

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

MON, OCT. 11

Unity Day Celebration

10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

WED, OCT. 13

Rider and Prospanica Partnership Signing Ceremony

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

FRI, OCT. 15

MAACness: Return of the MAAC-ness

8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

FROM THE EDITOR

Coming back to campus: mental health at Rider

SHIFTING back into in-person learning and working environments in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated underlying mental health concerns both in the general public and college campuses.

From a student perspective, transitioning into a new learning environment can naturally bring on a slew of anxiety and overwhelmedness, but when this change follows 18 months of isolation and worldly concern for public health, there is no wonder that mental health may be less-than-stellar.

Student and faculty perspectives

Sophomore biochemistry major Emma Zinser explained in an email to The Rider News that to her, “mental health encompasses not just our emotional health or psychological health, but our overall well-being.

“Mental health influences how we work, think, feel and act towards ourselves and others,” she wrote.

Mental health affects every form of daily function, and for students and faculty alike, juggling a work-life balance can become increasingly difficult if there does not exist a mental environment conducive to success.

Laurel Harris, an English professor at Rider, described mental health as “having good boundaries.”

“Boundaries has been really important, especially as work has moved into the home,” said Harris.

Harris also provided a faculty perspective on mental health and developing a work-life balance after coming out of what she called the cocoon that was the past 18 months of isolation.

“I think with faculty jobs there’s always that struggle because it can eat up all your time if you let it, but I think it’s gotten worse in the pandemic because all of the other responsibilities have gotten more intense. ... It’s exhausting to prioritize,” said Harris.

While Rider does have mental health services available through counseling in the wellness center, some students have taken it upon themselves to get outside help.

“Honestly, I did not have the best experience with Rider’s mental health services. ... In the end, I decided to seek out counseling through my insurance, which is not an option for everyone. ... There’s a lot of work to be done surrounding the mental health resources on campus, and I think that needs to start now,” wrote Zinser.

Student leaders making a change

Sophomore actuarial science major Elizabeth Malicki has taken it upon herself to restart Rider’s chapter of Active Minds, a national organization meant to decrease the stigma behind mental illness.

“The club is all about having informative discussions about how people truly experience mental illness and decreasing misinformation that is spread through day to day conversations. We will also be working on increasing the conversations around campus and working with mental health services at Rider to increase the helpfulness of their services,” Malicki wrote in an email to The Rider News.

Mental health initiatives at Rider have also been at the forefront of the Student Government Association (SGA)’s plans for this academic year. SGA President Elizabeth O’Hara explained through email that “just as it was challenging to transition to a virtual platform, it is challenging to transition back to an in-person environment. As students and faculty come back to campus, there is a huge concern for burnout, as we all are trying to maintain a routine and balance academics with involvement and social life.”

This summer, SGA members participated in an external review of counseling services at Rider.

“It was meant to delve into more specific actions to assure counseling is meeting the needs of students. From that discussion, we gave several concrete suggestions to the external consultants and the administration,” wrote O’Hara.

These suggestions include making counselors and counseling services more approachable and easier to access, as well as increasing counselor diversity and making resources more readily available to student-athletes and ambassador training for student leaders in the community.

This October, SGA will also be launching a survey to gather information about students’ use of counseling services.

“This survey is meant for any student. ... We are trying to get an understanding of the factors contributing to students’ use of the services if counselors are creating an environment conducive to seeking help and progressing toward the student’s goals, and what areas of the services can be improved the most,” wrote O’Hara.

SGA’s Vice President for University Affairs Andrew Bernstein wrote via email, “During the height of COVID-19, and even still, mental health remains a top priority for students across the country that are transitioning back to in-person classes. When the coronavirus first began, SGA implemented the ‘Bright App’ to provide mental health resources and services to our students, and we continue to search for more effective ways to help students.”

SGA’s Health and Safety Committee Chair Hayley Ashe also contributed by email, writing, “The Health and Safety Committee remains dedicated to pursuing and maintaining mental health and well-being initiatives on campus. ... The Health and Safety Committee has started to discuss how we can best address pandemic-related trauma and ensure proper resources, and how we can best serve and support the greater Rider community in the transition back to in-person learning in regards to mental health.”

Ashe also included information about SGA’s plans to implement a Wellness Room on campus where students can decompress.

New initiatives on the horizon

In addition to these student-led changes, Rider’s counseling services are recentering their efforts to provide support for the community. Vice President of Student Affairs, Leanna Fenneberg and Interim Director of Counseling Services, Anissa Moody both contributed to the discussion surrounding Rider’s mental health initiatives via an email interview.

“Rider was just named as a recipient of a generous 2-year, \$500,000 grant, supporting our Project Inclusion Equity Retention (PIER) initiative,” wrote Fenneberg. “One initiative focuses on student mental well-being, and will include enhancing Counseling Center staff and facilitating additional training and outreach on mental health on campus.”

Moody expanded on the major shifts currently being made to counseling services, including opportunities for students to receive support both individually and through various workshops, inclusive settings and diverse groups.

“Every day we’re out in the Rider community connecting with students, faculty and staff. As we increase our staffing capacity, I expect our center to be a beacon of hope for students on our campus,” wrote Moody.

Moving through everyday life, one of the most important facets of mental health is the ability to be honest and seek help when it is needed. Help can come in a multitude of forms, whether that be setting boundaries, speaking to family or friends, seeing a counselor or taking prescribed medication. Everyone’s mental health journey will look different, and creating an environment conducive to student and faculty health and success should be at the forefront of Rider’s priorities.

*This editorial expresses the unanimous opinion of The Rider News Editorial Board.
This week’s editorial was written by Opinion Editor Kaitlyn McCormick*

Kaitlyn McCormick

*Active Minds meets every other Thursday at 8 p.m. in Fine Arts Center Room 305
History Seminar*

The next meeting is Oct. 14.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Malicki

malickie@rider.edu

Rider News

Longstreet House, 2083 Lawrenceville Road, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

Phone: 609 896 5256

General Meetings: Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m.

Executive Editor

Sarah Siock

Managing Editor

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Adrienne Unfreed/The Rider News

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The Office of Sustainability Presents

2021-2022

Green Film Series

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Tuesday and Wednesday
October 12th + 13th

7 P.M. | RUE AUDITORIUM (SWEIGART HALL RM 115)

Narrated by and featuring Woody Harrelson, Kiss the Ground is an inspiring and groundbreaking film that explores the first viable solution to our climate crisis. It reveals that by regenerating the world's soils, we can completely and rapidly stabilize Earth's climate, restore lost ecosystems, and create abundant food supplies. Using compelling graphics and visuals, along with striking NASA and NOAA footage, the film artfully illustrates how, by drawing down atmospheric carbon, soil is the missing piece of the climate puzzle.

Brief discussion following the film.
RSVP at www.rider.edu/greenfilms

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A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Professor condemns Credo project

CREDO has descended upon Rider. Numerous students have been interviewed and many faculty have received invitations to attend Credo focus groups and other such events. Credo is a consulting group that was hired by the administration in order to help with the economic problems caused by six years of administrative mismanagement. Credo promises to “right-size” colleges. President Dell’Omo was so enamored with this Orwellian catchphrase that he used the term “right-sizing” in his Convocation speech in September. Regular folks call it downsizing.

Rider’s chapter of American Association of University Professors (AAUP) survey of Credo’s work (see AAUP’s website) found a very alarming pattern of deep cuts in programs and departments at Credo client universities. This ought to greatly disturb Rider students and faculty. Post-consulting, the vast majority of universities we looked at engaged in radical slashing of departments, and many made enormous reductions to core programs, plus laid off (tenured) faculty. Even the universities that ranked prominently in Credo’s promotional material engaged in deep cuts and closures of entire programs, such as political science, foreign languages, classics, performing arts, visual art and history, physics and athletic programs. Credo promises to focus on student experience, but its work has a dramatically negative impact on students.

Rider students should think about the greater impact these kinds of cuts could have on their personal lives and careers (assuming their programs are not eliminated before they graduate). If Rider follows Credo’s lead and eliminates core programs, we will move away from being a comprehensive university, and become solely focused on pre-professional programs and expensive certificate programs. Many Credo client-institutions have done this. This will weaken the quality of all our students’ education, hurt Rider’s reputation and diminish the value of your degrees.

Cooperation with Credo provides cover for Rider’s administration. Therefore, Rider’s AAUP strongly discourages you from cooperating with this effort by refusing to participate.

Our research shows that anything you say to Credo that reinforces their goals will be seized upon; anything that suggests a different path will simply be ignored.

I’ve read the books that Credo’s founders published. They are full of imprecise jargon and trendy corporate branding language, but Credo’s argument is very clear. They promote autocratic leadership with little to no true concern for student learning and growth. Credo’s vision of the “new university” is a sandbox for the administration to learn their craft as they go, without the need for shared governance with the faculty and with no fear of the consequences when their actions are harmful to the university, its employees and its students.

We need fewer alliterative catchphrases and myopic corporate outcomes; instead, we need more commitment to the substance of higher learning and academia that transforms students' lives. We don’t need consulting companies paid by administrators who have run out of ideas—or buildings to sell—and who are disproportionately rewarded for a poorly done job by an oblivious Board of Trustees.

We ask you to abstain from speaking with Credo consultants and aiding in the demise of our university.

*Barbara Franz,
Professor of political science and President of Rider's Chapter of the American Association of University Professors*



Andrew Xon/The Rider News



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**HISPANIC
HERITAGE
MONTH 2021**

SEPTEMBER 15 to OCTOBER 15

**CELEBRATING
HISPANIC/LATINX/CHICANX CULTURES**

**REAL TALK:
THE SILENT MAJORITY AT RIDER**

**Tuesday, October 12 | 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Mercer Room in Daly Dining Hall**

Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI) creates a safe open discussion for Hispanic, Latinx, and Chicanx students to voice their opinions about Rider. The discussion will be centered around what it means to be Hispanic, Latinx, and Chicanx at Rider. Topics include: representation, resources, and feeling secure at Rider University.

FIELD HOCKEY

Rider starts NEC play with victory

By Dylan Manfre

Rider field hockey's 2-1 victory over Merrimack was rather surprising. It played a Merrimack team that was winless heading into the game on Oct. 1 and whose head coach was only coaching her second game.

However, the Warriors were able to get a ball in the net first and gave the defending Northeast Conference (NEC) champions a legitimate run for their money.

Head Coach Lori Hussong said it was a "gutsy" win and that Merrimack is "better than their record."

Senior midfielder Julia Divorra had two goals in the third quarter. Unlike the three goals she had in the first quarter the last time these two programs met, Divorra had to really work for these opportunities and compensate for the missed goal chances throughout the first half.

Merrimack had Rider's number in the first 15 minutes by the way it backed the Broncos against the wall defensively. Though only one shot was taken by either team in the opening quarter, Merrimack was the better team and pushed Rider back to its end of the field quite a bit. Rider was lackadaisical, to say the least.

The game was scoreless after one quarter of action. This is a polar opposite from the last first quarter when these two programs met. Divorra already had a hat trick when the horn blasted after 15 minutes. Rider's corner execution struggled a bit early as Merrimack swarmed the circle and intercepted pass opportunities.

Senior midfielder Tess van Ommeren had a rare stroke opportunity blocked by a diving save to the right part of the goal from Merrimack's goalkeeper Brooke Bolduc with just over nine minutes left in the first half.

Carly Brosious, who was the hero in the overtime game against Hofstra, later in the quarter, had a one-on-one opportunity. The all-conference midfielder is as good as anyone in those types of situations but Bolduc forced her right for a rare miss from Brosious. She ended the game with a team-high seven shots.



Peter G. Borg/Rider University

Senior forward **Julia Divorra's** goals help Rider come from behind to win weekend games.

Rider ended the half down a goal after Merrimack's Lauren Burke converted a stroke opportunity and got a ball past Tomas, a pretty rare occurrence. Tomas has a .737 career save percentage.

Another 'gutsy' win

The Broncos' 2-1 win over Lock Haven, Hussong also described as gutsy.

"When [the score] is 1-1 going into the second half, it's always a gutsy win," Hussong said. "Lock Haven, traditionally, is a very tough team to beat. If you look over the history of our program, traditionally we go into overtime an awful lot with them."

The game was tied at one entering halftime and Divorra pointed out communication issues in the first half that contributed to the Broncos' early demise.

"Communication is key, in defense and in attacking," said Divorra who had the second Rider goal of the game. "At the first half [the communication] wasn't [good]. We got together, we cheered each other up and we made it work."

There was a strong sense of a defensive mentality in the second half. Being able to hold Lock Haven scoreless showed a lot of Rider's defensive prowess, especially since the Bald Eagles were doing everything they could to draw Tomas further out of the goal.

Junior defender Maeve Riehman was happy overall that Lock Haven did not get off many shots, especially in the second half.

"I think the defense played well in the first half," Riehman said. "The second half, we came in big in the last couple minutes. ... We communicated through the problems."

Rider's first goal was scored by freshman Alyssa Hoffman, who has been shuffled in and out of the starting lineup throughout the season. She has played a larger role of late since freshman Abby Hartwell has been out with an injury. Hussong said Hartwell's timetable to return is day-to-day. The Broncos travel to Fairfield on Oct. 8 for its next NEC contest. The game will be streamed on Facebook Live at 4 p.m.

MEN'S SOCCER

Rider drops double overtime thriller to Monmouth

By Logan VanDine

O9THE Rider men's soccer team could not get it done on Sept. 29 as they fell to Monmouth, 1-0 in a double overtime thriller after winning their last two matches.

The Broncos and the Hawks were in a defensive battle from the start, going toe-to-toe as the game remained scoreless going into halves one and two and into the first overtime.

Junior goalkeeper Guillaume Vienante has played over senior goalkeeper Pablo Gatinois of late and Head Coach Charlie Inverso thought Vienante played well after finishing the game with three saves.

"We've played [Pablo] Gatinois who's been our starter the last three seasons, and we played Guillaume, who's been our starter the last three games, and we're still in the decision-making process," said Head Coach Charlie Inverso of his two goalkeepers.

Veinante had another strong performance, helping the Broncos stay in the closely contested game with three saves.

Veinante was satisfied with his performance but felt he could have done better on certain plays throughout the match.

"I try to do my best at every game to help the team as much as possible, and I think that's what I managed to do on Wednesday, even if my feelings are divided because of this loss. Personally and for the team, it will be important to get our first clean sheet as soon as possible; it will confirm our defensive efforts," Vienante said of his performance in goal.

Monmouth and Rider then headed into the second overtime with the game still deadlocked at zero on each side until Monmouth midfielder Griffin Tomas kicked the game-winning goal. Monmouth walked



Shaun Chornobroff/The Rider News

Junior goalkeeper **Guillaume Vienante** made three saves in the double overtime loss against Monmouth.

it off 1-0, dealing the Broncos their fourth loss of the season.

"We lost a ball in a bad spot, giving them the opportunity to counter, and that's what Monmouth did very efficiently," Vienante said.

Despite the loss, the team was able to take some positives away from the game, considering this was their first matchup against Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) opponents.

"There's a couple steps we need to get to be a good team, and that's a process, and sometimes it's easy to look say that we should be there by now, and the reality is we started eight guys that were new to the program, and it takes time to get everyone a jump, and last night was a good step," Inverso said.

Inverso recognized the efforts of his defensive stars after the game.

"I thought Guillaume was good in goal last night up until the final play. I thought Lenny [Cidolit] was

good; I thought it was the longest stretch where we stayed queued in and the longest stretch we battled, and that game could have gone either way last night despite the fact that they had more shots," Inverso said.

Veinante also talked about his team's performance.

"It was probably not our best game, but I think there are some points we can build on. Conference games require toughness, and we probably played our best game of the season defensively. We were solid during 101 minutes, allowing only a few chances to Monmouth, so that's a good point. Overall, I think we still have to improve, but if we continue to work as a team with a good spirit we will definitely be a good team and be able to achieve great results," Vienante said.

The Broncos' next test will be away against the Quinnipiac Bobcats on Oct. 6 at 3 p.m.

Sports

INSIDE

DOUBLE OVERTIME THRILLER ENDS IN DEFEAT
Rider Men's Soccer suffers fourth loss of season in double overtime against Monmouth.

FIND THE STORY ON PAGE 11

WOMEN'S SOCCER

'High energy' leads Broncs to success



Carolo Pascale/The Rider News

Senior midfielder **Gabriela Garcia** scored her first collegiate goal in a 2-0 win against the Canisius Griffins.

By **Jacob Tiger and Carolo Pascale**

TWO games in four days seem like a daunting task for most teams, but Rider women's soccer spectacularly rose to the occasion. It started with a defensive masterclass on Sept. 29 with a 0-0 double overtime tie against Monmouth, and just two days later, on Oct. 2, the Broncs capped off their weekend with their first conference win of the season against Canisius 2-0.

Game 1

On Sept. 29, the Rider and Monmouth women's soccer teams were locked in a 120 minute stalemate, with the game ending in a 0-0 tie thanks to an incredible performance from the Rider defense.

Already amid a three-game losing streak, the Broncs were staring down a difficult matchup against the 6-3 Hawks, anticipating a tough fight but also determined to snap their losing streak.

The game began and it was immediately clear that Monmouth was in control. Monmouth dominated when it came to field position and time of possession, taking a high number of shots.

In the first half alone, Monmouth took a total of nine shots, five of which were on goal, while Rider only attempted three.

"We had a game plan tonight to force them inside and let them shoot from wherever they wanted to shoot from, but not let them get behind us," said Head Coach Drayson Hounsome. "Were they shots or were they losing possession? That would be my question for them. If you're kicking toward the goal but it goes out of bounds, is it a shot or are you just giving the ball away to the other team?"

When Monmouth was able to put a shot on goal, sophomore goalkeeper Ellie Sciancalepore was there

to stop it without fail. She finished the game with a career high of 14 saves, just two saves shy of tying the school record.

"I'm proud of it, but I couldn't do it without the backline. There were definitely a lot of shots where they deflected the ball or stepped in front, so it's a big number for all of us. We all came out here with that intensity and that energy, and it's by far the best game for, not just myself, but I think this team," said Sciancalepore.

The game ended in an anticlimactic, yet satisfying 0-0 tie after two overtime periods, finally getting the Broncs out of the loss column.

"To come out and prove ourselves, and show that we can play to that level for 120 minutes is awesome. We're happy with tonight, but we're working forward," said Sciancalepore.

Hounsome said, "We don't control whether we win or lose. We control whether we put forth the best effort, and today we put forth a tremendous effort."

Game 2

Just a few days after their tie against Monmouth, the Broncs were back out on Ben Cohen Field on Oct. 2. Facing them was a hungry Canisius team searching for its very first victory of the season.

Rider, carrying over its momentum from the previous game, netted two goals in the second half en route to a 2-0 victory, securing the Broncs their first Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) win of the season.

"We kept a clean sheet, we scored more goals than the opponent, and we didn't get any injuries. It was a fantastic performance," said Hounsome.

The first shot of the game came in just the first minute with the Griffins pressing Rider early.

But Sciancalepore held down the fort, making a spectacular diving save on a shot destined for the top left corner in the sixth minute, keeping the score at 0-0. The game was tied when the first half ended.

But only two minutes into the second half, Broncs senior midfielder Gabriela Garcia headed the ball into the Griffins net off a corner kick, giving Rider a 1-0 lead in the 47th minute.

"It's actually my first college career goal during these four years, so I was really excited and didn't even know what to do. We were carrying this high energy before the game so that's helping us a lot," said Garcia.

Rider found the back of the net a second time when freshman midfielder Amanda Mendez perfectly placed a goal-line pass to junior forward Makenzie Rodrigues, who buried it, giving the Broncs a 2-0 lead in the 70th minute. This was Rodrigues' fifth goal of the season, giving her the team lead.

"I think coming off last spring, it's just a role I've kind of taken on, and the girls are all supportive. In the second half, we really stepped it up. We found more attacking passes and broke them down a little bit more," said Rodrigues.

Rider held on and secured its first conference win of the season, with a final score of 2-0. Rider ended the game with 12 shots, half of them getting on target.

"It's all to do with energy. Wednesday night, under the lights, decent crowd there's more energy. But Saturday afternoon at 1 p.m., it's tough," said Hounsome.

Looking forward to their next game, the Broncs hit the road and travel to Jersey City to take on the Saint Peter's Peacocks on Oct. 6.

ONLINE

WOMEN'S SOCCER PHOTO GALLERY

Check out Women's Soccer photos from its recent game against Canisius.

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