

Rider distributes CARES Act III funds to students

By **Tori Pender**

RIDER distributed approximately \$4.7 million received from the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act III, which is funded by the Higher Education Emergency Relief III Fund and authorized by the American Rescue Plan. These funds are intended to help assist students with educational or emergency costs that rose due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Eligible students were notified via university email on Sept. 28. Before this round of CARES Act funding, the university received just over \$3.6 million to directly support students.

Vice President of Enrollment Management Drew Aromando said the range students received was from “\$250 to \$2,000 with the most needy students receiving the higher amounts.”

Approximately 4,300 students received money from this round.

In a previous interview with The Rider News, Aromando said it was unclear whether students from the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program

(DACA), undocumented students or international students would receive funds.

The only requirements for this round were for students to be enrolled in courses that were credit bearing as of Oct. 1, which allowed DACA, undocumented and international students to qualify.

Gabriel Martin, a sophomore game and interactive media design major received \$1,700 from CARES Act III.

“At the start of the pandemic, most of my immediate family was furloughed for at least a month before they were able to start working again. That made the money coming into the house a lot slower, so it did get kind of rough at home for the time,” said Martin. “My family did struggle for a period of time until people were able to work again when the pandemic slightly died down.”

Martin explained that he was not expecting to receive money from the CARES Act.

“It could help my family pay bills, buy groceries, stuff around the house really,” said Martin.

Remains found in search of Westminster alumna

By **Shaun Chornobroff**

THE search for a missing Westminster Choir College alumna, Lauren Cho, that gained significant traction on social media and in the news in recent weeks has likely come to an end, as human remains were found in California not far from where she was last seen.

During an Oct. 9 search and rescue operation for Cho, 30, unidentified human remains were found in the “rugged terrain of the open desert of Yucca Valley,” a short distance from where she was last seen months before, according to a press release from the San Bernardino County Sheriff Department.

Cho, a 2013 Westminster graduate, was reported missing on June 28 after walking away from the place she was staying with her friends and boyfriend in Yucca Valley, which is in the southern part of California.

The process to identify the remains “could take several weeks,” according to the Sheriff’s Department.

During her time at Rider, Cho played a role in a production of the popular play “Rent” and followed her passion for teaching — which stayed with her beyond her collegiate years — by majoring in music education.

Cho, who was known to most as “El,” worked as a music teacher after college and was employed at Diamond Heart Studios, a tattoo parlor in her hometown of Flemington, New Jersey, before deciding to venture to the West Coast, according to recent social media posts and articles from multiple news publications.

A Facebook page run by one of Cho’s relatives stated on Sept. 20 “El is many things ... a talented musician, an incredible baker, a hilarious and loyal friend, a strangely intuitive gift giver and probably the coolest sister one could hope for.”

Skyler Ryan Figueroa worked with Cho at Diamond Heart Studios, but by the time Cho departed the job, the two were much more

than co-workers. They were friends who sent each other memes, spent time together outside of work, ate meals together and could rely on each other unconditionally.

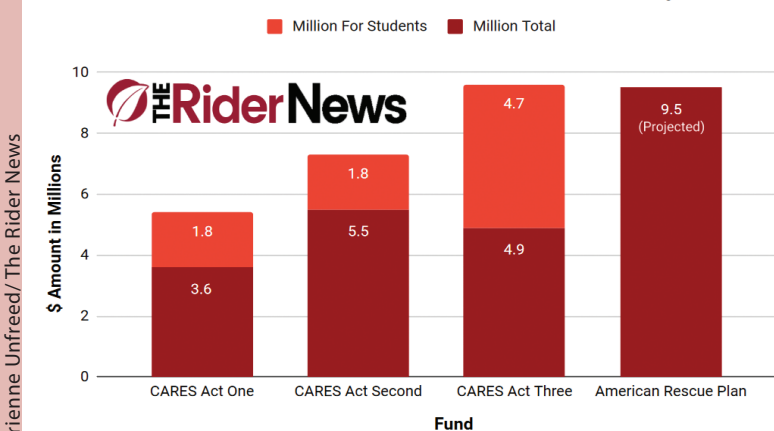
“I always go back to a couple memories, like when I was going through something really rough and I walked into the studio and she was the first person I saw for the day and I just hugged her and kind of collapsed,” Figueroa said in an interview with The Rider News. “She was just really, really there for me through some super brutal times and I think about that really often because I feel like, through some of this, she was one of the only people that trusted my judgment and really listened to what I had to say about what I was experiencing.”

The San Bernardino Sheriff’s Department said that no further information on the case will be released until the remains are identified.



Courtesy of @findlaurencho on Facebook
Lauren Cho ’13 was reported missing on June 28 in Yucca Valley, California.

Federal Relief Funds at Rider University



2020 Security and Fire Safety report shows decline in crime

By **Sarah Siock**

WITH the COVID-19 pandemic causing more students to live at home in 2020, Rider’s campus saw an overall decline in crime and fires, according to Public Safety’s annual Security and Fire Safety report.

The report, which was released on Sept. 29, details crime and fire statistics in 2020 on-campus with information compiled by Public Safety, Student Affairs, Residence Life, Facilities Management, Community Standards and local police.

“The Department of Public Safety encourages members of the Rider community to use this report as a guide for safe practices on and off-campus. It is important for the campus community to report incidents because on-campus safety is a shared responsibility. Reporting helps us publish accurate data, and it helps inform where and how we patrol,” said Director of Public Safety James Waldon.

Public Safety placed the report’s statistics into two categories: criminal offenses and liquor, drug and weapon violations.

Under criminal offenses, Rider saw a decrease in fondling incidents from four in

2019 to zero in 2020. Domestic violence incidents also declined from 10 in 2019 to six in 2020. However, there were three reported rapes in 2020, which was an increase from one in 2019.

There were no reported cases of murder and non-negligent manslaughter, manslaughter by negligence, statutory rape, incest or dating violence in 2020, which was also the case in 2018 and 2019 at Rider’s Lawrenceville campus.

Burglary reports decreased from two to one. There were no incidents of robbery, aggravated assaults and arson. Reports of stalking also declined with only one report in 2020 versus three in 2019.

As for liquor violations, there were no arrests on Rider’s campus. However, there were 33 disciplinary referrals related to liquor violations, a decline from 58 in 2019. Drug law violations also decreased with seven arrests compared to 14 in 2019. The report shows just three disciplinary referrals for drug violations, which was a steep decline from 13 in 2019 and 14 in 2018. The report also shows no weapon violations, arrests or related disciplinary referrals in 2020.



INSIDE

SUPER SOPHOMORE
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TAKE A BREAK
Rider students chime in on the lack of a fall semester break.

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ZTA’S BREAST CANCER FUNDRAISER
Sorority ZTA hosts it’s biggest fundraising event of the year for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

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SECURITY BRIEFS

BY SARAH STOCK

Evening arguments

“Why can’t we be friends?” On Oct. 7 at 9:48 p.m. Public Safety was dispatched to the Bart Luedeke Center for a verbal altercation between two groups of students. Upon Public Safety’s arrival, the students separated into two groups one being more aggressive than the other, so they were sent back to the Public Safety office to provide statements, while the other stayed on the scene with officers. The verbal altercation was over an incident that occurred in one of the residence halls and it was referred to the Office of Community Standards.

Drink more water

Water is key to survival. On Oct. 6 at 11:08 p.m. Public Safety was dispatched to the residential quad near the volleyball court for a student laying on the ground. It was reported that the student may have been dehydrated and had not eaten. The student was transported to the hospital.

Vindictive Vent

Water shouldn’t be coming from there. On Oct. 10 at 10:30 a.m. Public Safety was dispatched to Beckett Village for the report of a water leak. Upon arrival, Public Safety went up to the student’s room and observed water bulging out from behind the sheetrock. Public Safety believed water was coming through from a vent. Facilities Management was called to address the issue and clean up the water.

-Information provided by Public Safety Capt. Matthew Babcock

CORRECTION

An Oct. 6 article on the lieutenant governor debate hosted at Rider incorrectly attributed a pair of quotes. Junior political science major Sean Cavanaugh said, “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.” Junior sports media major Anthony Corbi said, “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.” The Rider News regrets the error.

Fire safety and security remain a top priority at Rider

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Waldon said the decline in crime “is in proportion to a reduced number of students on campus.”

Another decline was seen in residential fires. The report shows no reported fires in dorm buildings, while two residential fires occurred in 2019. Fire safety checks are completed throughout the year by Residence Life staff and The Fire Marshal’s Office of Lawrence Township annually inspects all buildings on campus.

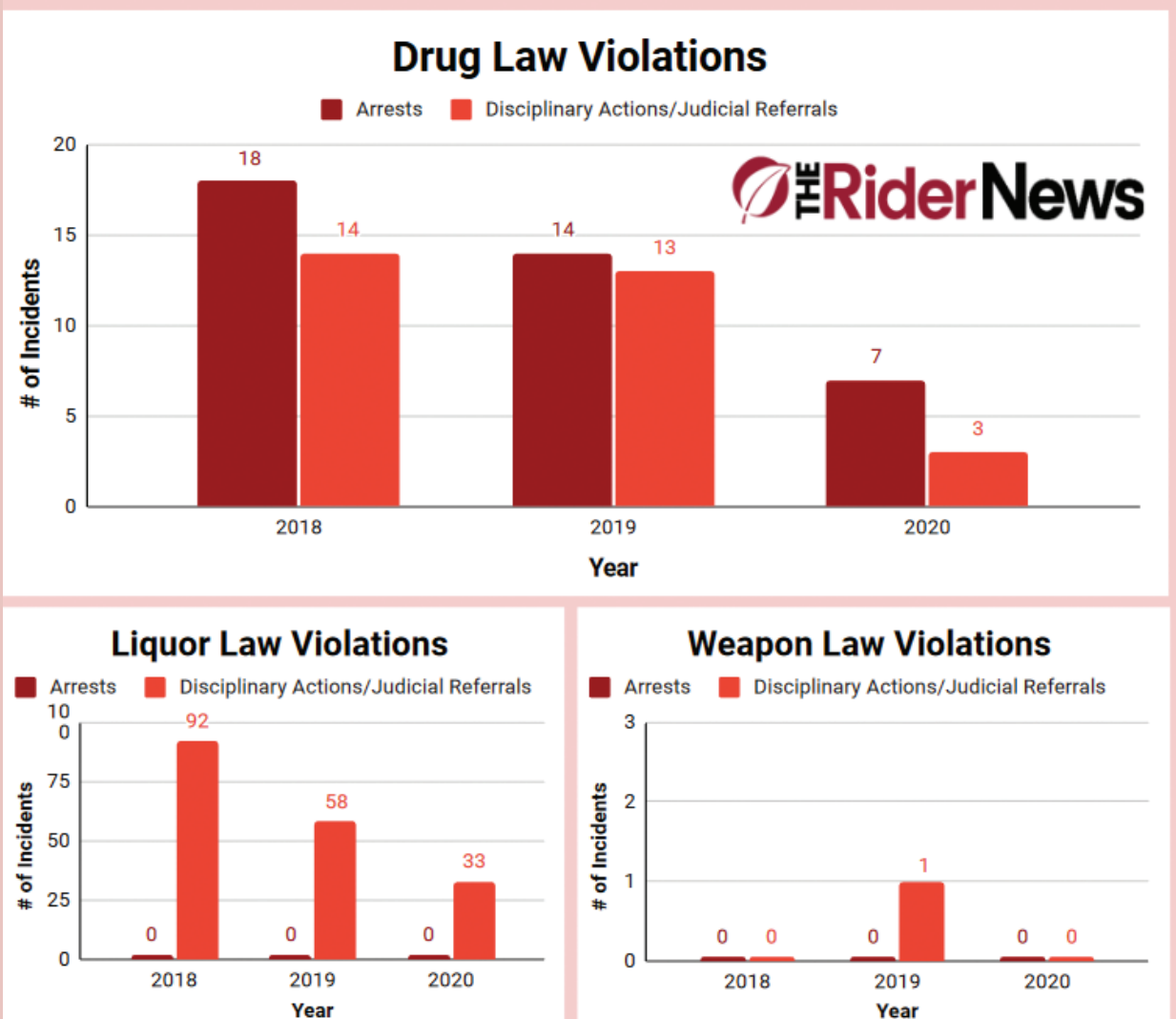
Associate Dean of Residence Life Roberta Butler said, “National fire safety month is October so we conduct specific fire safety inspections in the first three weeks of October. During closing period [Thanksgiving, winter and spring breaks] inspections we will check for and document any fire safety violations.”

Butler explained that during fire safety checks, staff members conduct visual inspections looking for violations outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.

Waldon added that all residence halls and Greek houses are equipped with automatic fire sprinklers and a fire alarm system, with smoke detectors and sprinklers located in all residence rooms. All Public Safety officers are trained annually to extinguish incipient stage fires at the Mercer County’s Fire Academy.

“The safety and security of our campus is of the utmost importance. We can create and support great communities when we partner together to keep each other safe,” said Butler.

Liquor, Drug, and Weapon Violations at Rider's Lawrenceville Campus Since 2018



Adrienne Unfreed/The Rider News

\$500,000 grant goes to increasing inclusion on campus

By Tori Pender

RIDER received a \$500,000 Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund II Opportunity Meets Innovation Challenge Grant to support low-income students affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

With this grant, Rider created an initiative called Project Inclusion-Equity-Retention (PIER) that will promote a safe and inclusive learning environment for underrepresented students. PIER will be overseen by Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs DonnaJean Fredeen and Vice President for Student Affairs Leanna Fenneberg.

According to the university press release, the grant was “Administered by the New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education and the United States Department of Education, the grant to Rider was among 35 awarded to New Jersey institutions, representing an overall \$28.5 million federal package.”

Fenneberg explained that the funds in this grant were made available for institutional initiatives to help advance efforts supporting low-income populations.

“Some of Rider’s initiatives are indirect in that they seek to advance cultural competence, change culture and advance systemic changes that have a longstanding

impact on students with marginalized identities. We are excited that this grant will advance goals and initiatives identified in Rider’s Inclusive Excellence Plan, advancing equity and inclusion for Rider’s diverse student body,” said Fenneberg.

Rider’s Inclusive Excellence Plan is Rider’s goal of creating a safe campus that promotes inclusivity and equity. PIER will fall under the umbrella of programs that follow this plan.

Fenneberg said that parts of the PIER project will include professional development for employees, implementing the Intercultural Development Inventory across employees and student participants. Enhancing mentoring programs on campus and implementing campus-wide diversity will be included as well. While also improving staff and training in the Counseling Center and having laptops, mini-fridges and microwaves available to loan to students with financial needs.

“Each of the component initiatives in PIER are underway. The last two months have included gathering relevant campus stakeholders to define the project and a timeline for completion. All of which will occur within the two-year grant period by the end of summer 2023,” said Fenneberg.

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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.



Receiving the rising star award is just the start for Liz O'Hara

By Olivia Nicoletti

ELIZABETH O'Hara has accomplished a lot in her time at Rider University. She's been a leader of many clubs, risen to the president of the Student Government Association (SGA) and earned the respect and admiration of her peers and professors around campus among many other achievements. O'Hara's laundry list of accolades grew when she was recognized as a rising star for her dedication to involvement by the New Jersey Business and Industry Association (NJBIA).

The senior computer science and graphic design major originally had a different future in mind. She planned to be a health science major, but during her last years of high school, she recognized that it was no longer suited for her.

Her interests shifted after she was given the opportunity to design the website and advertise for the Young Women's Symposium. The event was hosted to showcase several different women and what it meant to be a woman in those industries.

"Reflecting on the contributions I had made to this event, computer science and graphic design just made sense," said O'Hara. "Graphic design encapsulated my love for creativity and computer science utilized mathematical concepts to understand complex algorithms. I also wanted to understand the technical and design aspects of software design."

During O'Hara's freshman year, she involved herself in several different organizations to test out her interests. Her leadership roles began to take off in her sophomore year. By her senior year, she described her involvement to be intentional, where she took on "fewer roles with greater depth."

"All of the organizations that I have been involved in connect back to my values in some way. My goal throughout my involvement was to leave the organization or campus community better off than how I found it," said O'Hara. "Since I've been presented with these opportunities, I want to return the favor and set up the next set of leaders for success. My leadership has never been about filling a resume, it has always been rooted in contributing to areas that meant the most to me."

According to O'Hara, Director of Student Involvement Barbara Perlman and Director of Recreation Programs Dianna Clauss were mentors who helped her to navigate her leadership roles.

Clauss said, "Having had the pleasure of working alongside Liz for the past two years, I've learned she is a very responsible and hard-working student leader. Her strength of character and work ethic are top-notch, and whenever she accepts responsibility for a project or task, I have full confidence in her that she will complete it effectively and in a very professional manner."

Perlman was introduced to O'Hara by Olivia Barone, the SGA student body president at the time, at the beginning of her freshman year.

"Olivia shared that Liz was a promising new leader and that she hoped that Liz might be interested in joining SGA. Four years later, she stepped into that very role and is doing the very same thing, encouraging new students to get involved and make a difference at Rider," Perlman said. "It was clear from the start that Liz had what it takes to lead her peers with poise, confidence and courage. Her work ethic is unparalleled, and I am always astounded at her seemingly limitless talent."

Additionally, Assistant President of computer science Md Liakat Ali, The Online Lecturer for the department of computer science and physics and the Graduate Program Director of cybersecurity Elizabeth K. Hawthorne and Chair of computer science and physics John Bochanski have helped steer O'Hara in the right direction for her future endeavors.

Bochanski recognizes O'Hara as one of the most dedicated and hard-working students that he has had the privilege of knowing.

"She is a self-starter, seeking out leadership opportunities like the SGA and her



Courtesy of Elizabeth O'Hara

Mentors reflect on senior computer science and graphic design major Elizabeth O'Hara's promising future.

multiple internships," said Bochanski. "Her future is bright, and I look forward to seeing what she does in the future. In addition to her academic success, I've seen how considerate Liz is with the people around her. She gets along so well with others and doesn't make anyone feel left out. As impressed as I am with her academic success, I'm equally impressed by her character."

Similarly, Hawthorne describes O'Hara to be a first-class student and leader. "She takes on the hard challenges and excels in the face of adversity," said Hawthorne. "Her ethics and moral compass are beyond reproach."

"I'd like to acknowledge everyone that has served alongside me in clubs and organizations I've been a part of," said O'Hara. "Success is not achieved alone, and I am lucky to have such a strong support system here on campus."

The award that O'Hara received was a great demonstration of her hard work. According to the NJBIA website, the award, "identifies future business leaders currently completing their undergraduate education who have demonstrated leadership, a passion for their anticipated field, and a commitment to volunteering/community involvement."

"Being recognized by NJBIA is an incredible honor. It is a reminder that hard work pays off, and it motivates me to do even more to give back to our campus community," said O'Hara. "It is a thank you to everyone that has been part of my story so far: my family, professors, peers, mentors and anyone else who has encouraged me to leave a positive mark on anything I am involved in."

O'Hara described college as a place where you can grow and learn as a person. She encouraged students to explore and find the best options suited for each individual.

"Sometimes the best learning opportunities are the things that don't work out," O'Hara said. "Everyone's college experience looks different and the path you want to follow will change over time. You don't need to have all the answers."

Increase in testing a positive according to university administrator

By Shaun Chornobroff

In the first four updates of Rider's fall 2021 COVID-19 dashboard, only once has the university recorded more than 200 tests being administered in a single week. From Oct. 2 to Oct. 8, however, the dashboard recorded a new high of 249 tests administered, a 54-test increase from the week before.

However, Rider's Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Planning and Secretary to the Board Debbie Stasolla ensures that there is nothing to worry about.

"There are two reasons for the increase that you saw. One is that we have begun testing in advance for Westminster College of the Arts productions and concerts, ... so we wound up testing last week some additional students from the cast and crew of [the play] 'Pippen,'" Stasolla said.

Stasolla explained that the university's protocol is to test cast and crew, as well as their work choristers and conductors well before the performance to ensure that vaccinated performers can do their craft without a mask on.

The second reason Stasolla cited for the increase in administered tests was that students who were previously skipping out on testing who were required to receive weekly tests were finally doing so.

"We've been holding [people] accountable, particular students who have not been attending testing who are required to do so. So that's a positive thing," Stasolla said.

From Oct. 2 to Oct. 8, Rider recorded eight students in quarantine, a new high for fall 2021, as well as two positive COVID-19 cases and two members of the Rider community in isolation.

"My takeaway is that we are holding steady as a campus community in terms of our relatively low COVID-positive rate. That's a good thing," Stasolla said. "I can't say that without also stressing how important it is that we all have to remain vigilant. We can't let our guard down just because we've got a low positivity rate."

Confirmed Cases:
Last updated: Oct. 4, 2021

19

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
Oct. 2-8	2	0
Sept. 25-Oct. 1	1	1

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
Oct. 2-8	33	216
Sept. 25- Oct. 1	36	158
Sept. 18-24	33	165
Sept. 11-17	43	176
Total	160	739

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:

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

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Rider professor talks self empowerment in TEDx

By Amethyst Martinez

THIS is not the end of your story. Define your own story. Be the hero of your own story.

These were Sheena Howard's, a professor of communication at Rider, three truths of self empowerment which she delivered at a moving speech at the TEDxChestnutStreetStudio that was released on the TED website on Sept. 20.

TEDx is a public speaking program focused on local community speakers, in comparison to its parent program TED that features speakers from all over the world. The mission of TED is to elevate local individuals' voices.

Howard spoke about her three truths of self-empowerment, while also speaking about her experiences from adolescence to struggles faced in adulthood.

"Doing a TEDx talk was an amazing experience and I am glad I had the support system to get it recorded and delivered to the world," said Howard in an email to The Rider News.

The TEDx was hosted at REC Philly located on Market Street in Philadelphia.

Howard said, "REC Philly is a 10,000 square foot creative space where Quest Love just performed - so it was a great honor to do a TEDx talk, but to also do it at that location. The entire experience was nerve-wracking and exciting all at once."

Twelve individuals were selected to speak for the event, Howard being one of those chosen.

Howard said, "I made the last available spot for the Chestnut Studio TEDx event so it felt like that spot was made for me. I did my best to maximize my time on stage and deliver the exact message I wanted to deliver to the world. Personal empowerment is akin to personal responsibility of your life and the things that have happened; you are able to take control of your future in very powerful ways."

During her speech, Howard provided real examples of challenges that she has faced

throughout her life.

"I talked about self-empowerment, which for me, is looking within to find the answers to some of life's toughest questions and life's most difficult situations. Being back on campus here at Rider, many of my students are struggling with the transition back to campus and just the stressors of life, so I want people to have an optimistic view of the power they have to control their future," said Howard.

In addition to being a professor, Howard is an award winning writer, scholar and filmmaker. She was the first Black woman to win an Eisner Award for one of her 2013 comic books titled "Black Comics: Politics of Race and Representation" and has received honors such as two proclamations from the city of Philadelphia for literary, social justice work and creative projects, the KYW Women of Excellence Award in 2019 and more. She is also the Founder of Power Your Research, a program that helps increase media presence for tenured professors.

Nicole Johnson, a graduate student with a major in school counseling and a former student of Howard's, said, "I mostly give it all to Dr. Howard for teaching me how to communicate with people better than previously."

Johnson said, "She's African American like me, and she exudes that strength as she exudes confidence as an African American individual... She's given me so much in my life that's affected me personally and academically."

Howard said, "I had been asked to do a TEDx talk in the past but I didn't feel my message was refined at that point. I waited to do a TEDx talk when I knew what I wanted to say and who I wanted to impact. I knew that one day the topic for my speech would just come to me - it's all about trusting your intuition."

Howard's 11 minute speech can be viewed on TED.com.



Photo courtesy of Sheena Howard

Sheena Howard gave a powerful TEDx speech on self empowerment.

Rider's annual Unity Day celebrates diversity and inclusion

By Tori Pender

RIDER'S 23rd annual Unity Day returned in person to celebrate diversity on campus and was held in the Cavalla Room located in the Bart Luedeke Center on Oct. 11.

The event was sponsored by The Multicultural Studies Program under the directorship of English professor and Director of The Multicultural Studies Program Pearlie Peters.

The event included three student roundtable discussions, Amita Mehta, a keynote speaker, and the announcement of the 2020 Winner of the John Lewis Student Essay Award and the Social Action Project Award in Multicultural Studies.

In her opening statement, Peters said, "Rider University has taken time out to celebrate campus unity through diversity. The day is designed to stress how cultural diversity contributes to the unity and cohesion of our university campus."

The 2020 winner of the John Lewis Student Essay award and the Social Action Project award went to former Rider student Miranda Wilkins for creating a change project highlighting additional emergency cash resources for students who are on financial aid.

T. Missy Balmir, a Rider alumna and Director of Through Planning-Plan to Win, was the first speaker of Unity Day, she discussed the topics of inclusion and equity at college and in the workforce.

Frank Rusciano, political science professor and director of the global studies program, described Balmir as someone, "who was instrumental in the formation of the multicultural studies program. As a matter of fact, if the multicultural studies program had another name, it would be the T. Missy Balmir program."

Balmir helped co-create the multicultural studies program in 1998, by using what she calls "her authority as a student."

The Brooklyn native explained that Rider taught her three very important things for the job force: her authority, how to use it and when to push for what you want.

The theme of this year's Unity Day was the erosion of trust and the motivation to change. Every section closed with a Q&A, allowing students and faculty to engage in further conversation.

The student roundtable panels covered the topics of Diversifying the Rider Dollar, Avoiding the Erosion of Trust: Allies and Mentors and COVID: The Rider Student Experience during the pandemic.

Diversifying the Rider Dollar was hosted by junior political science major Andrew Bernstein, vice president for university affairs, Student Government Association (SGA).

Bernstein said, "Increasing diversity and inclusion not only addresses problems with internal bias, but it also helps with preparing students to be successful in a diversifying workforce."

The roundtable focused on whether Rider should have a required diversity course. Student voices echoed each other in favor of a required course or a highly

recommended course on race, sexuality and disability.

Others expressed concern about adding another required course, especially when many students are overworked.

The other two student panels touched on allyship and student experiences hosted by SGA members junior business analytics major Noah Bernstein, senior criminal justice major Athena Skirianos and senior computer science Elizabeth O'Hara.

Unity Day concluded with Amita Mehta, Founder of AMP Consulting and AMP Amita Mehta Possible, a Certified Minority and LGBTQ Owned Business, to talk about "People's Voices Count: The Dream of Change."

An overarching theme of this event was that all students have power and can make a change at Rider.

Balmir said, "Don't be afraid of the good trouble. Particularly in an education environment, they will tell you they want you to be vocal but only about the things that make them feel conformable. Be vocal about the things that are important to you."



Photo courtesy of Frank Rusciano

Multicultural studies faculty, junior political science major **Andrew Bernstein**, and keynote speaker **Amita Mehta** gathered at the Unity Day event.

ZTA hosts Tricky Tray, a fundraiser for Breast Cancer Awareness Month

By Hannah Newman

To bring awareness and raise donations for Breast Cancer Awareness Month the sister of Zeta Tau Alpha (ZTA) hosted their largest annual event of the year, Tricky Tray, on Oct. 10 for family, friends, alumni and Rider students.

Over 100 people attended the banquet, where sisters shared their passion to fight breast cancer with raffles and activities that allow family and friends from both on and off campus to support the sorority in leading the world around them to become a better place. The two hosts of Tricky Tray, sophomore marketing major Hana Doroba and junior digital marketing major Kayla Wagner, shared what they felt was the best part about hosting this event.

"I think this event is a really fun way to get all of our family and friends together, but then it also, of course, raises money for our philanthropy, Breast Cancer Education and Awareness, so it is just a really great way to unite everyone in supporting this cause," said Wagner.

"I think this is really special to everyone here and a great way to get all the sisters and families together while also raising money for our philanthropy," said Doroba.

President of ZTA, Ellie Hyland, a senior elementary education major, relayed her message of what ZTA is and how this event contributed to defining what this sorority stands for.

"ZTA has a wide, diverse group of girls that all come together for the same reason: leadership opportunities, community service, philanthropy and making endless memories with lifelong friends. I think the best part about this event is having the family, friends, alumni, faculty and students come together just to raise money for a really important cause that affects many people around the world. This is one of the biggest fundraising events that any ZTA does, and we are just a small chapter, so I thank everyone for coming together and raising money with us," said Hyland.

Senior elementary education major and ZTA Vice President Alicia Buechner explained the importance of the event.

"This event allows us to get together with everyone that we love and do what we love, and I think that is the most important part about this for us. Being surrounded by everyone we love and showing them how much we appreciate ZTA and how much we have done to raise money for breast cancer," said Buechner.

Sisters put in hours of their time to create a welcoming setting for their guests inside of the Cavalla Room with music and decorations, as well as an endless array of prize baskets that were tied with pink ribbon and secured with faith.

A few of the sisters shared their favorite part of the event and what they felt is the highlight of being a part of the ZTA community.

Sophomore elementary education major Angelina Leunes said, "My favorite part about the event is having my family and friends here and getting to show them the true purpose of being in ZTA, what we do and our philanthropy. I think this is a great way to show them what I am involved in on campus and how meaningful it is to me."

Senior elementary school education major Brittany Buechner said, "My favorite part is having all of our families here, especially since we have not been able to hold in-person events in a very long time. It is nice to see everyone's faces again and be able to raise money for our philanthropy and just do what we love."

Hannah Wade, a senior elementary education major, along with Caroline King, a junior English major, expressed their feelings about having the sisters' families here to get a sneak peek at what life for the girls of ZTA is really like.

"I love meeting everyone's family and friends and seeing how excited they are to support our philanthropy because we are so passionate about it, and it is great to see how passionate the community is as well," said Wade.

King said, "I am most excited for all of the families to come together because I feel like it is hard for all of our families to get to know each other being busy college students, and since we are such a big sisterhood, I feel like our families will really be able to see that so I am really excited to meet everybody's parents, siblings and friends."

While ZTA honors Breast Cancer Awareness Month, they also wish to remind the community at Rider to take advantage of on-campus leadership opportunities, which can strengthen the individual to become an influence on the world beyond their years at Rider.

Rider News editor Olivia Nicoletti is a sister of ZTA. Nicoletti had no part in the writing or editing of this story.



Photo courtesy of Hana Doroba

ZTA sisters from left to right: junior digital marketing major and host **Kayla Wagner**, sophomore elementary education major **Amanda Cambareri**, sophomore elementary education major **Angelina Leunes**, sophomore elementary education major **Abby Capazzi**, and sophomore marketing major and Tricky Tray host **Hana Doroba**.



Photo courtesy of Angelina Leunes

Sophomore elementary education major **Angelina Leunes** and senior musical theater major **Madison Rae DiPietro** wore pink ribbons for Breast Cancer Awareness Month along with other event goers.



The Cavalla Room decorated in Breast Cancer Awareness Month decorations prior to the Tricky Tray fundraiser.

FROM THE EDITOR

Rider's academic calendar: students need a break

ALMOST halfway through the fall semester, students are starting to feel the full weight of their classes building up, and knowing that there won't be a break until November only adds to this stress. While other colleges in the area and across the country implement a fall recess into their academic calendar, Rider does not.

"I'm tired," said elementary education major Emili Dimoski. She compared the current semester experience with that of spring 2021, where instead of having a spring break, Rider students and faculty went straight through 13 weeks of classes.

"By halfway through that semester, I mentally was just so gone, and so far it's felt like that this semester, because we haven't had a day off yet," Dimoski said.

"I would just like a day, or two, to play catch-up," added Dimoski.

Different colleges and universities in the area hold fall breaks in various ways and lengths of time. For example, The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) has a "Fall Semester Break" on their academic calendar for the 2021 fall semester from Oct. 11 to Oct. 12. Princeton University, however, has a week-long "Fall Recess" that lasts from Oct. 16 through Oct. 24.

In the spring of 2020, Provost DonnaJean Fredeen convened the Calendar Task Force, a committee that fields input from students and faculty about the academic calendar and develops a set of recommendations which are to then be voted on by the University Academic Policy Committee (UAPC).

The Calendar Task Force is co-chaired by Maria Sanchez and Registrar Sue Stefanick and consists of seven faculty members and seven administrators, including auxiliary services, the assistant dean of students and faculty representatives from all of the colleges.

Sanchez explained in an interview with The Rider News that the task force's main purpose is to examine the current calendar and see if any changes need to be made. This was especially pertinent with the recent incorporation of Westminster Choir College (WCC) onto the Rider campus.

Sophomore music major Bella Nakum, a Westminster student, told The Rider News that before moving onto Rider's Lawrenceville campus, WCC had a fall break called "intermezzo."

"As Westminster kids tend to have performances on every single day that's not classes, it's really helpful to have that breakup," Nakum said.

For WCC students, so much free time away from a rigorous academic schedule is then supplemented with rehearsals, so having an actual break during the fall semester would be beneficial. This same notion goes for Rider students who may work multiple jobs on or off campus throughout the week and on weekends in addition to attending courses. Every student's course schedule will look and feel different based on their major and individual study style as well.

Sanchez said that "there's not really a typical calendar," when comparing the academic calendars of universities and colleges in the area to Rider's calendar. Because there needs to be 13 full weeks of classes, if a fall break were to be implemented, the semester would either have to start earlier or end later to fit in those days.

In a world climate that is already emotionally and mentally draining, it's not far-fetched to say that a break closer to the middle of the semester would be beneficial to students and faculty alike. Although Rider currently has a Thanksgiving recess scheduled from Nov. 24 to Nov. 28, this break comes at the back end of the fall semester before finals.

As far as new changes to the academic calendar go, it does not look like any sort of fall semester break is on the horizon. Though UAPC chair Julie Drawbridge was unable to provide a complete list of the task force's recommendations before the UAPC had voted on them, Sanchez said that no major changes to the schedule were suggested.

Adding a fall break into Rider's future academic calendars has the potential to be greatly beneficial to students both in the fields of mental wellbeing and academic performance, and this consideration should be taken seriously.

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



Andrew Xon/ The Rider News

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Andrew Xon/ The Rider News

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

President Gregory Dell'Omo gives comment on Credo partnership

SEVERAL months ago, Rider University engaged in a partnership with Credo, a national higher education consulting firm, for the purpose of helping Rider create a sustainable path forward in this shifting higher education and post-pandemic environment. The engagement with Credo is critical in our efforts to create a viable and more nimbly adaptable institution in an extremely competitive marketplace. We are all invested in Rider's long-term future and want to ensure that it is the best college for our students, staff and faculty for years to come.

Our Credo partnership is a holistic one, focused on examining all aspects of the university. This means identifying areas in which we need to invest more time, effort and resources, areas in which we should maintain the status quo, and those areas in which we need to rethink our investments. Doing so enables us to create a sustainable financial future that focuses on all facets that support student success, inspiring prospective students and their families to invest in a Rider education.

The three-pronged approach we are employing focuses on the student experience, administrative efficiency and academic efficiency. The student experience assessment has already yielded valuable feedback from Credo, allowing us to enhance and improve upon our recruitment and retention efforts, particularly during the first 18 months of a student's Rider journey. Collaboration by faculty, staff and students is critical to this process and we are grateful for those who have already lent their time, talent and expertise in this work, and we encourage all members of the Rider community to participate at some point during this assessment.

Our priority is to assure that Rider University remains a competitive choice when students and families make decisions on where to invest in their education. To accomplish this, we must be open-minded and realistic that higher education must be responsive to demonstrating our value proposition to our students, their families and society as a whole. We firmly believe that our work with Credo will help transform Rider into the strongest institution possible for our long-term success.



Courtesy of Rider University

President Gregory Dell'Omo

Gregory G. Dell'Omo, Ph.D., President

GREEN CORNER

Environmental racism: an overlooked facet of climate crisis

IF I were to ask you, what are the tools that every human needs to survive? You would likely say food, water, air and shelter. What if I told you that millions of people of color in low-income communities do not have convenient and affordable access to healthy food options, clean water and air and safe housing? Contaminated water in Flint, Michigan. Black Snow in Pahokee, Florida. "Cancer Alley" in New Orleans, Louisiana. These are all examples of environmental racism, a form of systemic racism where communities of color are disproportionately burdened with man-made health hazards through policies and practices which force them to live near sources of toxic waste such as landfills, power plants and/or work on the frontline positions that expose them to hazardous conditions on a regular basis.

The COVID-19 crisis, among other impacts, has become an example of environmental racism by magnifying racial inequality and hitting underserved communities the hardest. Residents in these communities have been contracting and dying from the disease at disproportionate rates. Black communities are overrepresented as frontline workers and face an increased risk of exposure. According to an early study done by the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, when living near a power plant or landfill, residents are at risk for COVID-19 and are more likely to contract it. When breathing in industrial toxins, there is more of a possibility to catch COVID-19. Communities of color experience significantly higher rates of exposure to endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs), which exist in toxic waste and air pollution and have been linked to higher rates of diabetes for Black people. Contracting COVID-19 on top of being diabetic will create worse complications.

You may be wondering why people don't just leave these areas if they live near such hazardous waste.

Property values are low in urban, industrial areas, which makes them more affordable. It is also what is already being sold to Black communities. Many policies have acted alongside financial factors to sell these more dangerous, hazardous, low-cost areas to people of color yet keep them far away from wealthier, predominantly white neighborhoods. According to Casey Berkovitz, the senior communications associate at the Century Foundation, wealth disparities have allowed white Americans to buy homes while the forces of segregation have, in many cases, prevented Black Americans from doing the same. Leaving communities of color in areas that face greater environmental harms and are more vulnerable to natural disasters and residential segregation creates systemic barriers that make it harder for individuals to move to less environmentally harmful areas.

"Working as an essential worker with Waste Management during the shutdown from the pandemic was really scary, but I had to work to keep the lights on in the house. I was one of the very fortunate people who luckily was not out of a job even though I was on the front line of a very serious pandemic," Waste Management worker James Brimage said.

It is important to educate people who are not living in these polluted areas and work toward changing a system that has unfairly impacted communities of color for centuries. It's time to pave a new path, one that allows people of color to build generational wealth and not be kept back by the system.

We need environmental justice because it is a basic human right that allows everyone to cast important decisions about their lives. Without this, many people are made victims of the plans and ambitions of others.

"Everyone should be treated equally, but we all know that hasn't been the case. What is going to impact the lives of so many people is us. We are the change and we are the generation of change, and it needs to start in communities like Flint who need our help fighting against these powerful companies," said senior elementary education major Ellie Hyland.

Over the last few years, Rider has made a concerted effort to elevate conversations related to social justice issues. Rider Broncs' Environmental Social Justice Team (B.E.S.T.) is a new service-learning program that explores the laws, regulations and policies that contribute to environmental racism in local communities surrounding our campus and around the world. For more information about this program, email service@rider.edu.

As Barack Obama once said, "Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."

*Kayelena Brimage,
Rider University Eco-Rep*



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

VOLLEYBALL

Rider goes 2-1, winning streak snapped by Stags

By Luke Lombardi

WHEN an unstoppable force meets an immovable object, one side has to give. On Oct. 10, Rider volleyball was forced to budge against Fairfield, losing in straight sets. This concludes a week where Rider went 2-1 overall to improve to 7-2 in Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) play.

The Broncos started off the week really well. They traveled to Manhattan where they won in straight sets. Junior opposite hitter Morgan Romano led the team with 17 kills, while senior setter Anilee Sher paced the Broncos with 41 assists. Rider controlled the game from the start and never looked back, continuing its dominant stretch.

Rider's last road game was Sept. 21 and Manhattan trips are interesting, to say the least.

"Manhattan is one of those trips, it always gets into our heads a little bit. It's a gym that's kinda funky to play in. It's a big area. There's no [air conditioning]," said Head Coach Jeff Rotondo, "Sometimes our kids get a little bit wayward with their thoughts. They don't like playing there. It's just a funky vibe when you are in that gym."

The second game for the Broncos ended in similar fashion. This match took four sets to complete and ended in a 3-1 win for Rider. Senior middle hitter Caprice Clarke had an impressive defensive game with 10 blocks.

The most anticipated match of the weekend and the season so far was against Fairfield. Both teams were carrying huge winning streaks, coming into the match with Rider winning seven straight and Fairfield not losing a single set in six conference matches up to that point. Rider was also looking for revenge as its only MAAC loss leading into Oct. 10 was a 3-0 defeat to the Stags earlier in the season.

"I feel like it's just another team. We don't really think about 'Oh, they haven't lost any [games].' But,



Andrew Xon/Rider University

Rider now sits at 7-2 on the season, with both of its losses coming against Fairfield.

obviously, we know it's the best competition in the conference, so we need to play to our potential the best that we know that we can," said Romano.

The first set was what everyone expected. The Broncos and Stags were going back and forth exchanging the lead. The atmosphere in the stands was as exciting as the match on the court as Alumni Gym was loud throughout the whole first set. In the end, Rider dropped the first set 25-22.

The second set started worse for Rider. At one point, the Stags led 10-4 and were looking to put the Broncos away before they could even get started. Rider was unable to close the gap as Fairfield maintained the six-point cushion until the very last point as they took the second set 25-18.

The Broncos ran out of gas in the third set which led to a one-sided affair. The Stags dismantled Rider, leading 15-5 early and eventually winning the set 25-12 and completing the sweep to end the Broncos

winning streak and establish themselves as the top team in the conference.

Rider's biggest downfall was the defense from Fairfield. The Broncos only had four blocks while the Stags had a staggering 18 over the three sets. Romano led the team with seven kills and Sher led the team with 25 assists.

Even though Rider finished the week 2-1, the team wasn't happy about how the week ended.

"We did some good things. We did some things we would like to be better at. There are a lot of good things that we saw. There's also some bad things we saw, so it was a little bit incomplete," said Rotondo.

The Broncos, beginning a long road trip, travel up to Niagara on Oct. 16, looking to get back to their winning ways.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Trials and Tribulations: Broncos split hardfought games



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

Junior forward **Chloe Fisher** scored the golden goal for Rider in the 104th minute giving the Broncos a 1-0 victory over Manhattan.

By Carolo Pascale and Logan VanDine

FOR the second time this season, Rider faced a slate of games on short rest against Saint Peter's on Oct. 6 and Manhattan on Oct. 9. The Broncos fell short against a desperate Saint Peter's team, 1-0, but turned right around to deal a double overtime loss to Manhattan in a 1-0 win, putting Rider at 4-6-2 on the season.

Game 1

Trying to gain a foothold in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) standings, the Broncos looked to earn what most considered an easy win on Oct. 6 while facing the Saint Peter's Peacocks. In a shocking result, the Peacocks, who had not earned a win since September of 2019, managed to defeat the Broncos with a final score of 1-0.

"They were more desperate to win than we were, and they fought for every ball. When we failed to assert ourselves on the game, their belief and confidence grew further," said Head Coach Drayson Hounsome.

Coming into the game, the Broncos were riding high after a win against Canisius the few days prior. Even though the Broncos were missing several players due to injury, they did get one of their best back on the field in junior forward Chloe Fisher.

As for the game itself, it was all Rider in the first half as it registered seven shots compared to Saint Peter's two. Regardless of the shot totals, the score still stood at 0-0 at the end of the first half.

The second half started much differently for Rider and the Peacocks were hungry for a goal, rattling off a flurry of offensive chances, forcing Broncos sophomore goalkeeper Ellie Sciancalepore to make three saves in just seven minutes.

"Ellie played great in this match and has been doing amazing the past few games," said Broncos junior midfielder Lindsey Maslow.

Despite the great play from Sciancalepore, Rider couldn't get one in Saint Peter's net, as the Peacocks continued their high tempo offensive pressure.

With the defensive wall bending, it was bound to break at some point and finally gave way when Saint Peter's scored in the 85th minute, bursting into the win column for their first win in 21 tries.

"Saint Peter's played hard. They wanted every 50/50 ball and they were very desperate for their first win," said Broncos sophomore midfielder Hannah Freeman.

Freeman led the Broncos in shots with three.

The loss puts the Broncos at 3-6-2 overall and 1-3-1 in MAAC play.

Maslow said, "We know it was an unfortunate last game, but we are not going to let that bring us down, only fuel us to do better."

Game 2

Rider needed double overtime to beat Manhattan on Sept. 9 to notch their fourth victory on the season

in a 1-0 win.

"We came off a really disappointing loss which felt like an overtime game on Wednesday, so we just needed to get three points today, and it feels good," Hounsome said.

The Broncos and Jaspers were held scoreless in both halves, and not even the first overtime produced a winner. The first and only goal was scored in the 104th minute by Fisher as she put the game away for good, beating the Jaspers 1-0.

Throughout the game, the Broncos and Jaspers went back and forth in terms of shots, but Rider eventually took the edge finishing with 16 shots, six of which were on target.

Fisher, who was responsible for the game-winning goal, talked about how the play was set up and how she was able to score the winning goal.

"She [Rodrigues] played the ball across, and I shot, first being denied by the defender, which knocked her off her feet, and in the same moment the ball fell in between us, and I was a second faster to hit the ball into the bottom corner," Fisher said.

Hounsome elaborated a bit more on his team's overall performance.

"I was most proud of how we competed to get to the point where the ball went to the back of the net," said Hounsome.

The goal was Fisher's fifth of the season, tying her with Rodrigues for the team lead. Fisher is also the team leader in points of the season with 14.

"It was such a good attacking play that we did, and the team felt the weight off our shoulders drop as it went into the net," Fisher added.

The Broncos will go for a second straight victory when they stay home on Oct. 13 to play the Marist Red Foxes at Ben Cohen Field.

FIELD HOCKEY

Broncs breakdown against conference rivals

By Jacob Tiger

FOR the first time since November of 2018, Rider field hockey dropped consecutive games, falling short in their weekend matchups against Northeast Conference (NEC) rivals Fairfield and Long Island University (LIU).

“Those are the two toughest opponents in the league and every time we play them it’s never an easy game for us,” said Head Coach Lori Hussong after the team took its second loss.

Stagnant against the Stags

With their win on Oct. 8, the Fairfield Stags made a commanding statement to the rest of the NEC, becoming the first team this season to shutout the Broncs. In total, the Broncs were only allowed seven total shots by the Fairfield defense.

“They kind of took us out of our game a little bit in the fact that they were closely marking Julia [Divorra] and Carly [Brosious]. We didn’t do a very good job today,” said Hussong.

A common problem for the Broncs persisted in this game, with the team failing to show up in the first half. They gave up a pair of goals to Fairfield, in addition to not being able to find a goal on offense.

Like previous opponents, Fairfield took advantage of this period of weakness and built a substantial lead.

“We basically didn’t start playing until the second half,” said senior forward Julia Divorra. “We were not awake at all and our passes weren’t that hard to the person, just throwing it to the other team.”

This issue was further compounded by the absence of junior goalkeeper Kaitlyn Tomas, who missed both of Rider’s last two games due to an injury she suffered in practice.

Sophomore goalkeeper Carlee Fulton filled in for Tomas, but her lack of experience was apparent, ultimately surrendering two early goals.

The second half was rather lackluster, with Rider continuing to come up short offensively, being consistently stifled by the Stags.

Fairfield would hold on to their lead and convincingly win the game.



Steve McLaughlin/Rider Athletics

Senior midfielder **Tess van Ommeren** had three of Rider’s shots in the game against LIU.

“They basically controlled the whole game. We always know that they are a tough team to play against but it is what it is,” said Divorra.

Fairfield currently sits at second in the NEC behind Rider, so an eventual playoff rematch is certainly feasible.

Hussong said. “We’re just gonna have to learn from this game and the things that we did well and didn’t do well and move forward from here.”

Broncs still ‘not awake’

The last time Rider and LIU met was last spring in the NEC championship game, where the Broncs seemingly scored at will.

Needless to say, there was blood in the water on Oct. 10 and the Sharks were out for revenge, defeating the Broncs 2-1.

In just the third minute of play, LIU fired the ball past Fulton to quickly take the lead.

In the second quarter, LIU would once again break through the Rider defense, extending their lead to 2-0.

“We’ve had so many games this year where we’ve

started off not awake, and we’ve had goals scored on us in the first two or three minutes of the game. That’s a lesson we need to learn and we’re learning the hard way right now,” said Hussong. “If we’re not ready to play from the opening whistle, then bad things are going to happen to us.”

However, Divorra would snap the Broncs out of their daze by scoring a much-needed goal with just 27 seconds in the half.

The second half was a much less lopsided affair, with Rider getting their fair share of opportunities, but they were unable to capitalize on any of them.

The Sharks did an excellent job defensively, keeping the high-powered Rider offense at bay long enough to win the game.

It is worth noting that the Sharks only took a total of four shots in the game, with both goals coming on their first two shots.

The Broncs will have a chance to get out of this funk, as they have another pair of games against Bryant on Oct. 15 and Lehigh on Oct. 17.

FEATURE

Sciancalepore’s ‘aura’ helps lead Rider to success

By Dylan Manfre

WOMEN’S soccer Head Coach Drayson Hounscome said there were not many weaknesses about starting sophomore goalkeeper Ellie Sciancalepore in a recent interview.

Everyone has faults though, right? It is rare for a head coach to not point out anything glaringly wrong about a player’s game. Nobody is perfect. What has impressed him most are two things: her field presence and her consistency.

Sciancalepore was able to maintain a level of success in the spring when the team had a condensed schedule because of the pandemic.

“She doesn’t really have any weaknesses,” Hounscome said. “She’s just strong. Decision making are obvious areas that will continue to develop and improve with experience.”

Sciancalepore is the type of goalkeeper to remain even-keeled in tough situations. Whether it is a tough loss, such as Rider’s 1-0 defeat to Saint Peter’s on Oct. 6, or an exciting win, she never gets too high or too low.

Emotional intelligence is a high priority for the sophomore and is something she prides herself on and reaps the daily benefits.

“Emotional intelligence just means being aware of who you are, being aware of how you express yourself and also understanding that it can affect others,” Sciancalepore said. “When we’re on the field if I have a sourpuss on my face and I’m really down because of a goal that just went in the net, that’s going to translate to every other girl.”

Sciancalepore is constantly working on remaining neutral in those tough situations and those struggles are the reason for her sharpening her mentality.



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

Rider has found its goalkeeper option in sophomore goalkeeper **Ellie Sciancalepore**.

The mental work she puts in has led her to know that her energy influences the rest of the team. If she did not work on her emotional intelligence, she believed she could not be the top netminder at Rider.

“Truthfully, I don’t think so at all,” she said. “I’m a very passionate person and sometimes my emotions come out a little harsher, sometimes they may not come out as strong. Being able to learn how to project them and channel them is an important skill.”

One of the things Hounscome noted when he was recruiting Sciancalepore was her field presence and the “aura” she brought to her teammates.

Once upon a baller

Sciancalepore was once a budding basketball player. Her mother and brother played. Her brother wanted to play in college but that never transpired. Being a former basketball player is something she thinks not many people know about her, yet it is still an important part of her life.

She was a pretty decorated player too.

Sciancalepore was an All-Morris County and All-Conference forward at Randolph High School, leading her team in 2020 to a North I Group IV Sectional Championship.

Not only that, she hit the game-winner with one second left on the clock in the championship game securing the victory over Hackensack. According to an NJ.com article, it was the school’s first sectional title since 1990.

She discovered midway through her freshman year of high school that playing college soccer was realistic. She switched from playing recreational soccer to STA Morris United. There, she realized that she was good enough to carve out a soccer career.

Ultimately, Sciancalepore never saw her life without soccer in it.

“I love [basketball,]” Sciancalepore said. “But soccer is where it’s at.”

Sports

INSIDE

SPLITTING HAIRS

Rider women's soccer splits mid-week games with a loss to Saint Peter's and a win over Manhattan.

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MEN'S SOCCER

Three goals, two wins: Alibou shines for Broncs



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

Senior forward **Zaki Alibou** was named MAAC Men's Soccer Offensive Player of the Week and junior goalkeeper **Guillaume Veinante** made one save in the win against Niagara.

By **Trey Wright**

LOOKING to get back in the win column, the Broncs stared down a slate of games against two fierce Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) opponents. Rider succeeded in its goal by taking down preseason MAAC favorites Quinnipiac 4-2 on Oct. 6 and followed it up by defeating Niagara 2-1 on Oct. 9.

Game 1

Coming off of a tough double overtime loss against Monmouth, Rider traveled up to Southern Connecticut with one thing in mind: a statement win. Quinnipiac, the MAAC preseason favorite, was the perfect target, with the Broncs scoring four goals in a big 4-2 win.

Rider (3-4-1) put ink on the scoresheet early in the 11th minute, with a headed-in goal by senior defender Regis Dulck, off of a perfectly placed corner kick by graduate student back, Sergio Aguinaga to put the Broncs up 1-0.

In the 40th minute, senior forward Zaki Alibou doubled the lead, scoring his first of two goals on the day putting the Broncs up by two at the half, showing exactly what this Rider team can do.

"I felt it was a really good game, scored two goals, and I feel so happy that I'm able to help this team. The most important thing is that we win," Alibou said after the match.

Five minutes into the second half, graduate student midfielder Francisco Gomez Olano's game winner was scored on an incredible shot from an inconceivable angle to put Rider ahead by three.

The Bobcats got one shot past junior goaltender Guillaume Veinante in the 63rd minute, but Alibou tallied his second goal of the day in the 72nd, putting the match out of reach.

Quinnipiac would cut the deficit back to two in the 90th minute, but the Broncs came out with a win to

climb to 4-4-1 on the season.

The Broncs would finish the match with 13 shots. Alibou led the team in that department, taking six of those 13, putting four of them on goal.

In net, Veinante was only called upon to make one save for Rider, as the match was a complete showing from all of the Broncs in front of him.

Game 2

Coming home from the win against Quinnipiac, Rider looked to have a winning record for the first time this season, but a win was needed against Niagara. With the skies about to burst, and a chilly 58-degree the temperature caused those few in the Ben Cohen Field stands to shiver as they watched the match, the Broncs took the pitch against the Purple Eagles, who Rider has beaten in the last four meetings between the two teams. Rider did so once again with a 2-1 victory of Niagara.

Niagara took the opening kickoff, and for the first 35 minutes, both teams were feeling one another out, with Rider leading in shots 5-1. But it was ultimately the Purple Eagles who got on the scoreboard first, with a point-blank shot off of a bad giveaway from the Broncs.

"We were very sluggish. I've seen this happen a million times," said Inverso, "1 p.m. game on a Saturday, and there's a crowd, but the crowd is quiet and, to me, we looked lethargic."

Miscommunication between the attacking Broncs played into this as well, with Rider being called offside six times in the match, thrice in each half.

"We weren't really focusing in the first half, and we were offside a lot of times," said Alibou, "I really don't know why."

Just before halftime, Alibou hit the pitch in what looked to be a hamstring injury but was able to get off the floor and rest during the halftime break. Nine minutes into the second half, he put the Broncs on the

board with a low shot inside the box to tie the game.

"It wasn't an injury, I was just tired ... I came back more focused and was able to score a goal," said Alibou afterward.

Alibou was named MAAC Men's Soccer Offensive Player of the Week on Oct. 11. Alibou is also tied for the conference lead in goals with seven and leads the MAAC in points.

From that moment on it was a tight battle between two MAAC rivals, and the game got intense, with Rider receiving two yellow cards in the second half.

The savior of this game was Broncs senior defender Jeremy Peterson, who was able to track down a Niagara forward who had a breakaway chance in the 67th minute and kept the game tied.

But the biggest moment of the game came in the 86th minute, as Taner Bay, who had late-game heroics in the previous home game against Fordham, crossed the ball in the box on a routine dump in. A Niagara defender tried to deflect it out but ended up putting the ball into his net, giving Rider its first lead of the afternoon.

"We knew we were working hard in the second half, dominating, and were looking to get something going," Bay said afterward, "So it was pure joy and excitement after it went in to get the last one in and get the win."

Niagara tried their hardest to re-tie the game and had a great chance that was blocked by Veinante, but it wasn't enough, as the Broncs eked out their fifth win of 2021, being above .500 for the first time all year.

"Sometimes, it's just a matter of bringing passion. We brought the passion in the second half, [and] created a lot of chances," said Inverso, "Niagara is a really hard team to play. So, it was a good win. We'll take it."

The Broncs play on the road at Marist (5-6-1) on Oct. 13, said.

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