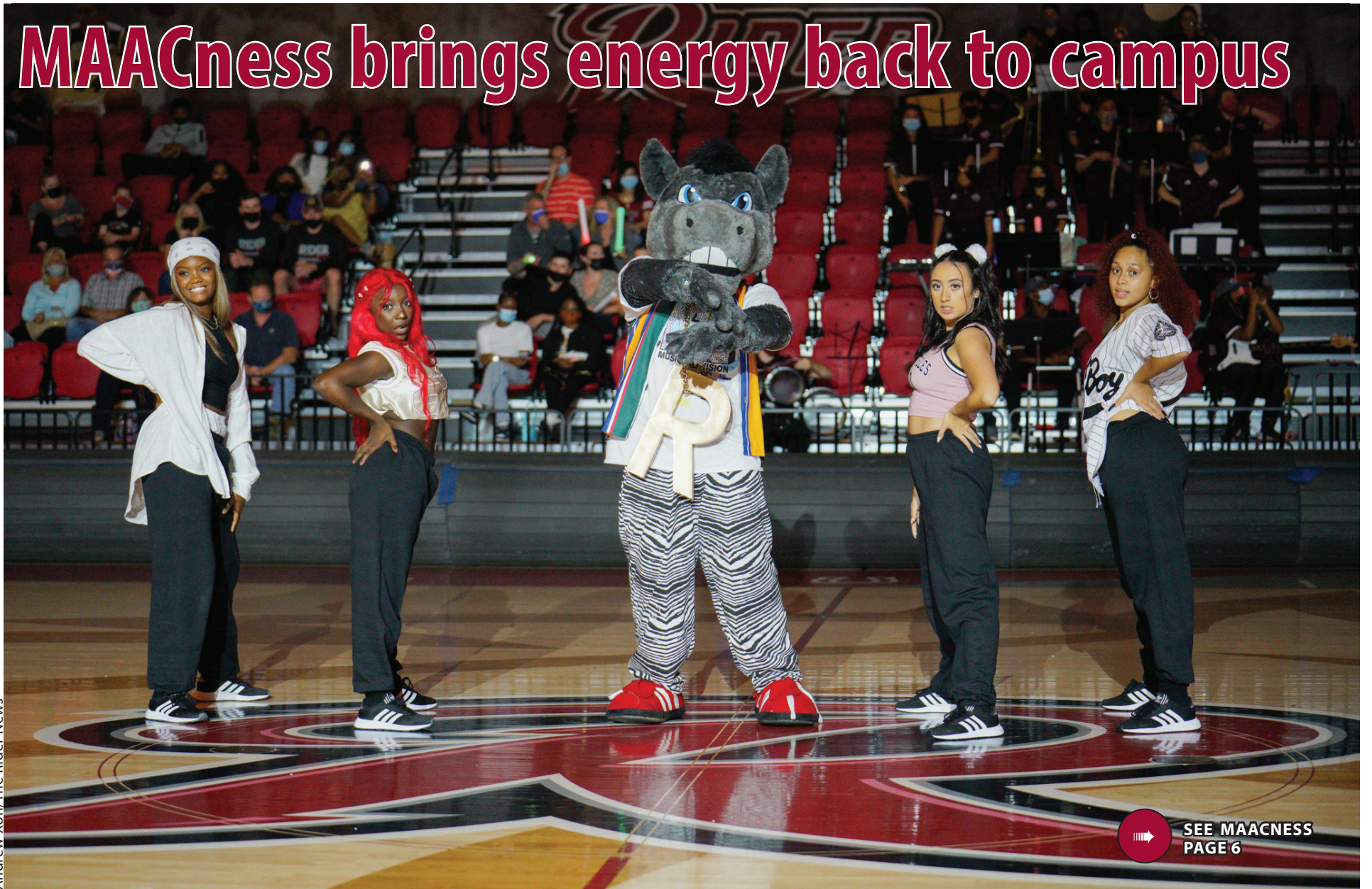


MAACness brings energy back to campus



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

SEE MAACNESS PAGE 6

Faculty union opposes administration's consultant

By Sarah Siock and Shaun Chornobroff

SINCE the early days of Gregory Dell'Omo's tenure as president of Rider University, there has been consistent distrust between his administration and Rider's chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP). The university's recent partnership with the higher education consulting firm Credo is the latest example of the AAUP's frustration.

The opposition to Credo

The partnership launched in June after a financially challenging year for Rider due to the coronavirus pandemic. According to Credo's website, the firm works "to help higher education thrive in order to impact the success of students." However, in an email to union members sent on Oct. 1, AAUP leadership condemned the partnership, claiming it will "embolden further missteps" and asked members to not engage with Credo representatives.

Credo, the union claims, has a "disturbing pattern of deep cuts of programs and departments, and reduction in student services," and called on faculty and students to "engage in educational but disruptive actions" at the university to protest Credo and the process.

Political science professor and Rider's AAUP President Barbara Franz told The Rider News, "Credo was hired to justify and vindicate the slashing of Rider's programs and eliminating faculty. Credo simply will provide the cover for actions the administration already plans to implement."

In an Oct. 5 email sent to the AAUP Executive Committee, Robert Stoto, Rider's vice president of human resources, along with Mark Solomon, the university's vice president of legal affairs and general counsel, wrote, "the actions outlined in that email, should they occur, including calls that faculty do not participate in the contractually initiated process of constituting a task force, and that faculty engage in 'disruptive' actions, would violate our contract."

The email advised the union to "rescind the Oct. 1 communication" and that they share that with its members.

In response, the AAUP's executive committee made their stance clear.



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

Rider recently partnered with Credo, a national higher education consulting firm in order to put the university on a sustainable path forward.

"This attempt to intimidate the AAUP leadership is a violation both of our contractually protected academic freedom rights and federal labor law. Members of the bargaining unit are not required to serve on task forces. Calling on our members not to volunteer to carry out such work does not constitute a strike or slowdown but simply a call for them to exercise their contractual rights to choose what value activities they will carry out. Exercising our right to advise our members does not interfere with the university's normal activities," said the AAUP leader's email sent on Oct. 6.

SEE CREDO PAGE 2

INSIDE

ON THE ROAD
Rider volleyball suffered a loss before a resounding win in its latest road trip.
PAGE 10



FINALS WEEK CUT
Rider's University Academic Policy Committee decided to condense finals week into five days with no reading day in fall 2022.
PAGE 8

RIDER DEBUTS 'PIPPIN'
Students perform the musical "Pippin" at the Bart Luedeke Center.
PAGE 7



SECURITY BRIEFS

BY SARAH SIOCK

Cookies and weed

Mistaken property. On Oct. 14 at 8 a.m. Public Safety was dispatched to Sweigart Hall, to meet with a professor regarding found property. Upon their arrival, the professor stated they arrived for their class and found a small baggie labeled "Girl Scout Cookies" in their classroom that contained marijuana that did not appear to belong to anyone. The bag of marijuana was collected and disposed of.

Sorority damage

Don't push too hard. On Oct. 11 at 11:19 a.m. Public Safety was dispatched to House No. 3, Phi Sigma Sigma for the report of damage to a door. Upon arrival, Public Safety met with Facilities Management who reported damage to one of the restroom doors in the building. Facilities reported that it appeared that someone had pushed the door so hard that it broke the wood where the hinges attached. The incident is under investigation.

Attempted burglary

Skateboarding gone wrong. On Oct. 15 at 9:52 a.m. Public Safety was dispatched to the university store for a possible attempted burglary. Upon arrival, Public Safety found one of the panes of glass near the exterior entrance was broken and shattered. Upon reviewing the camera footage in the area, it was discovered that someone had been skateboarding in the area, lost control of the board and it rolled into the glass, breaking it.

-Information provided by Public Safety Capt. Matthew Babcock

CORRECTION

An article in the Oct. 13 issue of The Rider News incorrectly identified the title of assistant professor of computer science Md Liakat Ali. The Rider News regrets the error.

Professors concerned about future layoffs from Credo partnership

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

Credo's plan

Associate Vice President for University Marketing and Communications Kristine Brown previously told The Rider News the university chose to engage with Credo, "given all of the complex and multifaceted challenges Rider faces."

Brown explained that the engagement will consist of two phases. Phase one, which is currently taking place, will focus on three components of university operations: admissions, student success and efficiency and prioritization.

"In short, phase one will take a deep dive, through quantitative and qualitative data collection, review and analysis, into these critical institutional functions that intersect directly with the student experience and institutional financial health. Credo will then identify areas for greatest impact to improve the student experience at Rider from the top of the recruitment funnel all the way through to graduation, as well as opportunities to increase resource efficiency across the university," said Brown.

Brown said the second phase is about to begin and will continue into 2022 with a focus on administrative and academic efficiency.

"Recommendations from Credo will be reviewed and prioritized by the university for implementation with the primary goal of assuring that Rider remains an attractive competitive choice when students and families decide which college will provide the best value in terms of their investment. We must be responsive to all of the factors influencing higher education today so we can transform Rider into the strongest institution possible," Brown said.

Brown did not disclose the cost of Rider's partnership with Credo.

Reminiscent of the past

Several professors expressed fears that Credo's prioritization process will result in layoffs and the cutting of academic programs. Faculty pointed to the start of Dell'Omo's tenure at Rider in 2015. In October of that year, the university announced layoffs for 14 faculty members, the elimination of 14 academic programs and the curtailing of three programs from majors to minors. However, after negotiations with the union, which resulted in a faculty wage freeze for the current and following academic year, the programs and faculty were saved.

Philosophy professor Joel Feldman said, "It was clear to me that they intended and wanted to eliminate programs, they were all small programs, relatively small ... and that the goal was not to prioritize and make things better, but it was to cut and eliminate."

According to the administration's intended layoff plan in 2015, the programs in danger included advertising, American studies, art and art history, business education, business economics, economics, French, geoscience, German, Italian, marine science, organizational leadership, philosophy, piano, sociology and web design.

Before the negotiations took place in 2015, Feldman was told he was laid off and the philosophy major would no longer be offered at Rider. He is currently one of the two remaining full-time professors that teach philosophy.

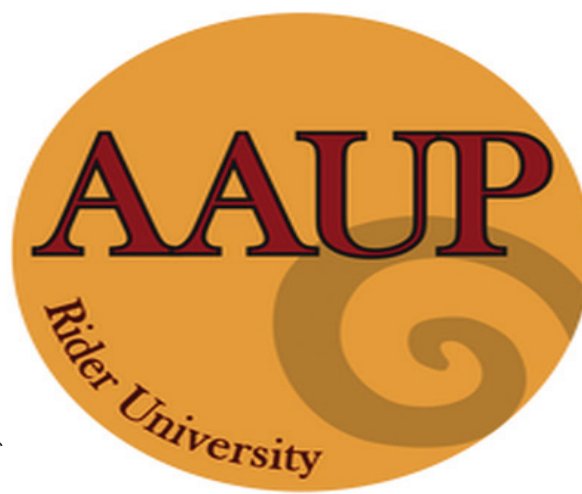
"It was pretty clear to me that it was the humanities, the liberal arts and the social sciences that were in their crosshairs," said Feldman.

What is Credo?

The AAUP has completed extensive research into Credo which they compiled into two documents titled "A Bargaining Unit Member's Guide to Credo."

The research details Credo's history of institutions with which they have engaged in the past.

A document that was posted to the AAUP's website on Sept. 28 said, "Likely led by Credo - Bethel, Elon, LaSalle, Marquette and Wartburg have all made enormous reductions to core programs. Cuts, consolidations and entire program closures have resulted. These include foreign languages, classics, political science, performing arts, visual art and history. Sciences, especially physics, have undergone significant



Courtesy of AAUP

Rider's chapter of the American Association of University Professors opposes Credo's involvement.

cuts as well. Even athletic programs have been sizably cut in some cases, though they are often the pet project of administrations."

A blog post published on April 16, 2019, on the Credo website read "College and university leaders must explicitly, unequivocally embrace an entrepreneurial business mindset, educating their campuses about the financial realities and complexities of institutional revenues, expenses and discount rates."

It's a logic that Joel Phillips, a professor of composition and music theory at Rider's Westminster Choir College disagrees with.

"The idea of a university is that there is supposed to be ... fundamental things that support the education of an individual," said Phillips. "What it [programs being removed] boils down to is which majors are the most profitable?"

Credo's student assessment

Rider's partnership with Credo will also focus on retention and recruitment of students as the university is currently experiencing a downward trend in enrollment numbers. Dell'Omo said at the fall convocation that Rider's total enrollment is 3,827 students, which is a drop from 4,218 students last academic year.

Included in phase one of Credo's partnership is a "student experience assessment."

In an Oct. 1 email sent to students, Dell'Omo said the Credo team "engaged a number of distinct student groups to hear first-hand about the lived student experience pre-and post-matriculation."

Senior acting major Christianah Akinsanmi was one student selected to speak with a Credo consultant in a group setting on Sept. 17 and Oct. 6. Akinsanmi said the consultant asked the group about their experiences at Rider and focused on issues about students of color.

Akinsanmi said, "Because we were multicultural students, they wanted us to focus on our experience and whether or not we've ever been disrespected by faculty or how we felt reaching out to them about issues that pertain to us and our identity."

Akinsanmi explained that the first meeting included 11 students and the second was smaller with only six students. At both meetings no Rider faculty was present and Credo representatives asked questions. The group was told the meetings were confidential, but Akinsanmi questioned how students' words will influence Credo's assessment.

"It feels like they're going to take my language and my experiences and use that to support the administration and whatever they choose to do," said Akinsanmi.

An uncertain future

With the AAUP's continued opposition to the Credo partnership, the consulting firm's impact on the university remains uncertain.

"This is an administration that's not about cooperation, it's not about consulting, none of that," Phillips said strongly. "They want to issue edicts, they want to give marching orders, and if you don't want to fall in line and follow those orders, they want to get rid of you."

Feldman echoed Phillips' sentiment and said he will not engage with Credo representatives.

Feldman said, "At this point, I think we've learned our lesson ... and I think that especially with knowing Credo's record it is vital that the faculty do not collaborate in our own demise."

However, Brown said Credo's work will continue with or without the AAUP's participation.

She said, "The engagement with Credo is designed to ensure the viability of Rider University during a time of critical competition in the higher education market. It is our hope that faculty will lend their time and talents to collaborate on this work for the good of the institution as a whole. The administration's invitation for faculty participation remains an open one, however the work with Credo will progress regardless of faculty participation."

COVID-19 cases stay low as semester nears halfway point

By Shaun Chornobroff

As midterms become an obstacle for students at Rider, the reality is that the fall semester is already nearing its halfway point for the university community.

With the Lawrenceville campus booming in population this fall after being somewhat desolate due to the COVID-19 pandemic last year, worries about containing the virus and student safety are natural. However, Rider has only seen a total of 24 cases since Sept. 6, according to the university dashboard which was last updated on Oct. 15.

Rider has only seen double-digit cases one week this semester and recorded five positive cases from Oct. 9 to 15, the second highest single week total of the semester.

“I still feel pretty good about that because the highest we’ve been in any week is 10 [positive cases] and our numbers are still relatively low,” said Rider’s Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Planning and Secretary to the Board, Debbie Stasolla.

The 24 positive cases have come over a six week span along with 1,143 tests administered over the semester. Stasolla said that there are a “little under 30 students” that are consistently not getting tested that are required to.

She recently felt a personal validation for the hours of work that went into the COVID-19 policies that the university put into place for Westminster’s production of “Pippin” that ran at the university from Oct. 15 to 17.

“The fact that the cast and crew, the majority, followed our testing protocols that then allowed vaccinated performers to perform without masks, seeing that production this weekend makes all the hard work and energy that goes into testing protocol incredibly worthwhile,” Stasolla said.

In its most recent update the dashboard reported five students in quarantine and a total of two students in isolation.

Even with numbers staying low, there is still a second half of the semester for the Rider community to navigate and Stasolla encourages everyone to remain committed to limiting the spread of COVID-19.

“I think for the most part, we are all in compliance, but we need to continue keeping that in mind, for the safety and well being of our entire campus community,” Stasolla said. “Nobody likes wearing masks for the most part. But we gotta keep that up, particularly as we head into the second half of the semester when people get more stressed with exams... So we just got to keep doing the things we’re supposed to be doing.”



Peter G. Borg/Rider University

All members of “Pippin” were required to test for COVID-19 prior to opening night of the performance at the Bart Luedeke Center Theater.



Adrienne Unfreed/The Rider News


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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21ST
TIME: 11:00 A.M. -1:00 P.M.
LOCATION: CAMPUS GREEN
RAIN LOCATION: BLC CAVALLA ROOM

CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY DAY

Music, DIYs, swap shop, yoga and giveaways!!!



Students commend Rider for addition of new programs

By Olivia Nicoletti

RIDER has taken the initiative to add a number of certificate programs specifically for health care, gender, communications, psychology and education majors that will allow students to further excel in their field of study.

For psychology majors, elementary education and psychology double majors, with a minor in special education, a program for applied behavior analysis certificate is now at their disposal.

According to a university press release from Oct. 5, “The 17-18 credit certificate is designed to prepare students who are interested in taking graduate-level coursework to learn more about supporting a range of behavioral and learning needs.”

For the future of education majors, the two-year New Jersey alternate route teaching certificate program will provide a way for students who have earned an Instructional Certificate of Eligibility and have been hired by a New Jersey public school district to become professional educators. With the addition of one or two graduate courses, students can earn their Master of Arts in teaching.

Julia Bayait, a junior elementary education major, recognized the stride made by Rider to allow students to market and individualize themselves while trying to find a job after graduation.

“I really appreciate Rider taking the initiative to further the education for future teachers. The track for education students at the moment is pretty straightforward with not much choice for individualization,” Bayait said. “With these changes, students will have the opportunity to differentiate themselves from their classmates.”

There has also been an addition of a certificate in gender and sexuality studies. This program will further educate students on diversity and inclusion.

“The 12-credit certificate offers students a variety of courses to select from that delve into key issues such as reproductive rights, LGBTQ+ rights, health, politics and law,” the university press release stated.

Senior arts and entertainment industries management major Sara Burke, who uses they/them pronouns, expressed their opinion on the enormous benefit that they believe expanding the resources of sexuality and gender education will bring to campus.

“In personal terms, I feel like this will impact me and allow me to find other LGBTQIA+ students on their journey. As I struggled with gender identity since I was younger, and only recently found the confidence to explore my truest and fullest self, I feel that if I had these resources when I was an undergraduate I would have flourished and felt not only more comfortable in my own skin, but comfortable being who I am around campus,” Burke said. “Now I am fully gender fluid and non-binary. Identifying genderless and using pronouns they/them. It was more of a personal journey, and a lonely one too. Obviously, Rider is accommodating, but some of the people weren’t.”

Burke described this step in Rider’s education with gratitude, and to Burke, this foreshadowed a safer and more comfortable campus life.

“I had a really hard time being comfortable enough to express who I was and no matter how supportive someone was, I found that they lacked the understanding of what it meant. If we gave Rider the opportunity to learn more about people and how they identify it will only do good. I’ve had some professors misidentify and misgender me, and it shattered me, as I had only shown respect to them but did not receive it back,” Burke said. “Although I initially took it personally, I realized some people just aren’t educated on these topics even if I state, ‘I am gender fluid, and



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

Rider students now have a multitude of certificate programs available for health care, gender, communications, psychology and education majors.

my pronouns are they/them’.”

Ashley Briggs, a senior psychology major, did not see a personal benefit with the new certificate program, but she recognized the advantage this gave to other students.

“I am sure that seeing this program being offered will lead to current and prospective students doing more research into the field and learning more about what those kinds of programs entail and how they affect those who attend therapy that use the methods that will be taught in the new program,” said Briggs.

A graduate-level program for a certificate in communication leadership was also released, “the 12-credit program combines courses from Rider’s organizational leadership and business communication graduate programs to prepare students to effectively lead and communicate in the modern workplace. Students who complete the certificate can apply for credits toward a future master’s program,” according to the university press release.

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“Personally, these new certifications give me a lot more options for what I want to do after graduation,” Bayait said. “The certificate in communication leadership is especially interesting to me because it seems like something that can really benefit me once I am a graduate student.”

The Rider News COVID-19 COUNTER

Confirmed Cases:
Last updated: Oct. 15, 2021

24

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. 9-15	3	2
Oct. 2-8	2	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
Oct. 9-15	33	211
Oct. 2-8	33	216
Sept. 25-1	36	158
Sept. 18-24	33	165
Total	193	950

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:

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

Adrienne Unfreed/The Rider News

Information courtesy of Rider.edu

CDI dedicates center to alumni, investors and faculty

By Amethyst Martinez

THE Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI) hosted a postponed dedication ceremony for its new home in the Bart Luedeke Center that completed construction in Aug. 2020.

The center was dedicated to alumni associations, investors and Rider faculty on Oct. 16. The event was delayed for over a year due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Speakers for the event included Rider President Gregory Dell’Omo, Executive Director for the CDI Pamela Pruitt, Rider alumna Aileen Merino-Lazo, Vice President for Student Affairs Leanna Fenneberg, Rider trustee and alumnus Terry McEwen and students involved with the center.

“The creation of our Center for Diversity and Inclusion is just one part of a larger, comprehensive effort to ensure that our students thrive by feeling a part of this institution [and] by feeling at home at Rider. This is their home away from home,” said Pruitt.

According to the Rider website, “The Center for Diversity and Inclusion at Rider University supports the university’s efforts to reach and foster the understanding and appreciation of different cultures and ways of life that are shared by diverse groups of people through programming, policies and best practices.”

Dell’Omo said, “We were hoping to have this event about a year ago, but with the pandemic, that could not happen. But, better late than never, and it’s probably more powerful now than it was even if we were able to do it a year ago. Among Rider’s community values is that... we commit ourselves as caring individuals to celebrate our differences, for they are our strengths.”

Merino-Lazo delivered a powerful speech on how CDI changed her time at Rider.

“My college experience was extremely difficult. I felt like quitting several times,” said Merino-Lazo “Although I was a full-time college student, I was also a full-time mom to my brothers. I had a horrible relationship with both of my parents, and I constantly worried about how I was going to pay for the next semester, which led me to getting a job as a student worker for Dr. Pamela Pruitt. Both Dr. Pruitt and I knew that my story wasn’t unique. In fact, there were and are many untold stories similar to mine here at Rider.”

Those acknowledged during the dedication ceremony included Pruitt, Fenneberg, the Minority Alumni Coalition and Investors Bank.

Dell’Omo said, “The Center for Diversity and Inclusion is one piece of an even larger, comprehensive plan to affect change at this university. In 2019, the president’s council on inclusion facilitated a process, a process that resulted in the creation of our university-wide, inclusive excellence plan... the very first goal is to improve recruitment, retention and graduation rates of students whose identities

are underrepresented, marginalized and under-resourced in higher education.”

The goal of the center is to bring more inclusivity to Rider’s campus.

Merino-Lazo emotionally said, “I’m absolutely proud of all the effort

Rider has made to properly welcome and help acclimate our diverse Broncs onto campus. The Center for Diversity and Inclusion is more than a center. It represents a community of alumni, students and staff who felt unseen and are now encouraged to break down barriers. Working with Dr. Pruitt and being engaged in our research to create the center, I no longer felt alone. I felt empowered, supported and free.”

Fenneberg ended the ceremony with a speech about the center.

Fenneberg said, “We are a world of diverse people and the complexities and the urgency on issues of equity and justice permeate. As a microcosm of the broader world, Rider has the opportunity and the responsibility to help students from marginalized backgrounds flourish, and to advance the understanding of each member of our community to contribute to a world that is more humane, and more just.



Rider trustee **Terry McEwen** makes speech thanking donors at the CDI ceremony.

Annual Scream Screen blood drive returns

By Zachary Klein

THE annual “Scream Screen” blood drive took place in the Bart Luedeke Center Cavalla Room, hosted by 107.7 The Bronc and service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega on Oct. 17 and 18.

Representatives from the Miller-Keystone Blood Center were running the donations. There were multiple cots set up for donation as well as a canteen area for regaining blood sugar after donating.

Senior dance performance major Tiffani Britton, who is involved with both the hosting organizations, said that this year’s blood drive promised to have a good turnout despite the circumstances.

“We have about 160 people registered across all class levels and classifications, and then there’s faculty and staff as well,” she said.

Several students were donating around 12:30 p.m. on Oct. 17. Two of the cots were filled and three were at the canteen. The room was filled with sunshine from the large windows as well as the radiant energy of everyone working for Miller-Keystone.

Tracy Trapp, an account manager for the Bethlehem, Pennsylvania-based blood center. Trapp usually oversees hundreds of blood drives each year, but that number has been reduced drastically due to the pandemic.

“We have so much less staff than we did that it’s



107.7 The Bronc and Alpha Phi Omega hosts blood drive where students win prizes for their good deed.

impossible to stay at that pace,” Trapp said. “We’re focusing more on our fixed sites rather than mobile sites because we know we can have the staff there.”

The lack of staff did not stop Miller-Keystone from coming to Rider. Schools, she pointed out, can provide large turnouts on a single day, and that can benefit a blood supply that is much lower than normal.

Aware of the blood supply problem, Britton said that 107.7 The Bronc was offering an incentive to those who pre-registered.

“The first 100 students who registered online actually received a \$50 ‘Scream Screen’ fun pack with gift cards. We got to that goal and have a five page list [of students] here,” Britton said.

One of the donors was freshman criminal justice major Alexis Ladner. She sat at the canteen eating a granola bar when she expressed a heartfelt reason for why she donated.

“I heard some of it is going to a children’s hospital, and I just love children,” she exclaimed.

Also at the canteen with Ladner was senior accounting major Chad Wagner. He said that he was a regular donor and he pre-registered online to receive the gift cards.

Everyone had their reasons for donating but getting as many people as possible to donate as often as they can is important to get the blood supply back to normal, according to Trapp.

“It’s a nationwide shortage and cancer patients, trauma victims, and premature babies need this blood to live. ... I urge anyone who can to donate with us or really anywhere,” said Trapp.

Miller-Keystone operates a fixed site open Wednesday through Sunday on Main Boulevard in Ewing, adjacent to The College of New Jersey. There will be another blood drive held on Rider’s campus in the spring semester.

Return of the MAACness

By Tristan Leach

WITH a 90s theme, excitement ringing through the air and many events rolled into one, MAACness returned on Oct. 15 to mark the unofficial start of basketball season at Rider.

The event is a favorite among students and staff. A line wrapped around the exterior of the gymnasium as excited students talked and waited in anticipation for the doors to be opened. For many students, this was their first MAACness.

Camryn Quimby, a senior criminal justice major said, "I'm not sure what I'm expecting to see. I've heard a lot of hype about this event. I'm very excited and I'm excited to meet the basketball teams."

MAACness is a time-honored tradition that celebrates the start of basketball season on campus. The event included the introduction of Rider's Men's and Women's basketball teams along with their coaches. Rider Cheerleading and Rider Dance Team performed for the event.

The school mascot, AJ the Bronc and the Rider Cheerleading and Rider Dance Team were already on the floor, dancing and welcoming students to a new year. AJ sported zebra pants, an MTV T-shirt and a striped vest following this year's theme, "Totally 90s."

The event began with a countdown to the start of MAACness and the basketball season. A highlight reel from the 2020 season was played on the big screen, highlighting the best parts of both teams' year. Students talked excitedly about last year's season and what this season would be like.

After the reel, the men's and women's teams were introduced. Each player's introduction included their name, position, height and where they were from. Every player walked out from behind a curtain to enthusiastic applause. As they walked to join their teammates on the gym floor, they threw a shirt into the audience of excited students.

After the whole of the team's were introduced, so were their coaches. Lynn Milligan is the head coach for the women's team and Kevin Baggett is the head coach for the Men's team.



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

The Cranberry Court gathers in the middle of the basketball court during MAACness.

As part of the fun, games took place. Audience members participated in basketball musical chairs and a game of who can make a basket first. Prizes were \$50 Visa gift cards. The men's and women's teams went head to head in a timed test of their skills. In the end the women's team won. During all the amusement, Rider Pep Band played for the crowd.

In between the games, the nominees for Cranberry Court were introduced. Their many achievements at Rider were read out loud for the audience, highlighting why these students were the perfect fit for the honor.

When it came time for performances, Rider Cheerleading was up first. This was the team's first performance of the school year. The squad performed some of their best tricks, wowing audience members and teammates alike. Lauren-Carmel Sirak, the head coach for the team said, "It has been fun; it has been challenging. We are in a rebuilding year; we have a lot of new recruits this year, and they have done so well. They have pushed through, they have tried new things. It's been eventful, it's been challenging but has also

been rewarding."

To close out the night, Rider Dance Team performed a routine to a six-minute-long megamix of songs from the 90s. The team sported various outfits reminiscent of the 90s: oversized flannel shirts, bandanas around their heads and that sharp winged eyeliner that could be seen from a mile away. Audience members cheered on the team as they danced their hearts out.

Anna Fredeen, a senior dance science major said of the experience, "It's so good to be performing again. We went about a year and a half without performing like this. So to be out on the court again was... and to have a live audience again. Especially one that hypes you up as much as this one does here. We worked really hard for it. I can't believe that it's over."

At the end of the night, audience members left their seats with excitement. The basketball teams thanked everyone for coming, offering high fives and smiles.

Let another great season begin.



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

The crowd cheers at the MAACness event held on Oct. 15.

The Westminster College of the Arts presents "Pippin"



Photo courtesy of Peter Borg

The cast of "Pippin" begins the musical with their opening number at the Bart Luedeke Center Theater.

By **Hannah Newman**

THE Westminster College of the Arts is ready to take back the stage regularly once again. After the long months of vacancy in the theater due to the COVID-19 pandemic, "Pippin" unpaced the nearly year-and-a-half long hiatus with its four performances that were applauded with standing ovations from Oct. 15 to Oct. 17.

The musical tells the story of a boy named Pippin who tries to find fulfillment in the world but is constantly manipulated by the illusion that social media creates about reality. He later realizes that the world does not look parallel to the way it is displayed on an electronic screen. Each ensemble member portrayed a different form of social media that dragged Pippin down in his journey to find his destiny, but the attempt fails when Pippin realizes that natural beauty and organic love is the key to feeling fulfilled in life.

Director Robin Lewis — a former Broadway dancer and musical theater faculty member for 11 years at Rider — explained his favorite parts about customizing the plot to illustrate the false reality into which social media traps young adults.

"The joy of students coming together and having

the ability to show their love and passion for what they do never fails to amaze me. Having 18 of the 23 cast members as seniors was very special this year being that they were able to spend their last year physically on stage. My hope is that the audience takes something away from their experience at the show considering that the plot is so relevant to the world we live in currently," said Lewis.

The lead of the musical Spencer Petro, a senior musical theater major, revealed his emotional connection to his character and the correlation between the storyline and life for students after their time at Rider.

"This show is so open-ended. I feel that Pippin is the personification of everyone in terms of wanting fulfillment and wanting to be 'the one,' and I feel like a lot of us are in his position, especially with the majority of the cast being seniors. We are heading out into life after college having so many mixed emotions about being exposed to the world on our own with luckily having a grasp on who we are, but there's a world of possibilities out there that we are both excited and scared to embark upon," said Petro.

The set of "Pippin" was designed by Bella Mazzoni, a junior technical theater major. Mazzoni shared her

experience designing the set and described some of the props used throughout the play.

"This was my first show that I got to design the main set of, so it was really nice to finally get my hands on something out there in the world and being able to put my name on it. I felt that it was a great opportunity to move my way up towards a more professional career in this business," said Mazzoni.

Hair and makeup designer Ryan Alger, a senior technical theatre major, gave her insight on individualizing each character's portrayal of social media and how the final product of each look came to be.

"This is also my first show designing. My favorite part had to be meeting the ensemble members and getting to work with them one-on-one to talk about their social media influencer. The ensemble members and I were able to collaborate our ideas which was really fun, because that never really happens in theater. I was able to create their image with them," said Alger.

Musical theater majors are able to perform once again after a more than year-long intermission due to the pandemic.

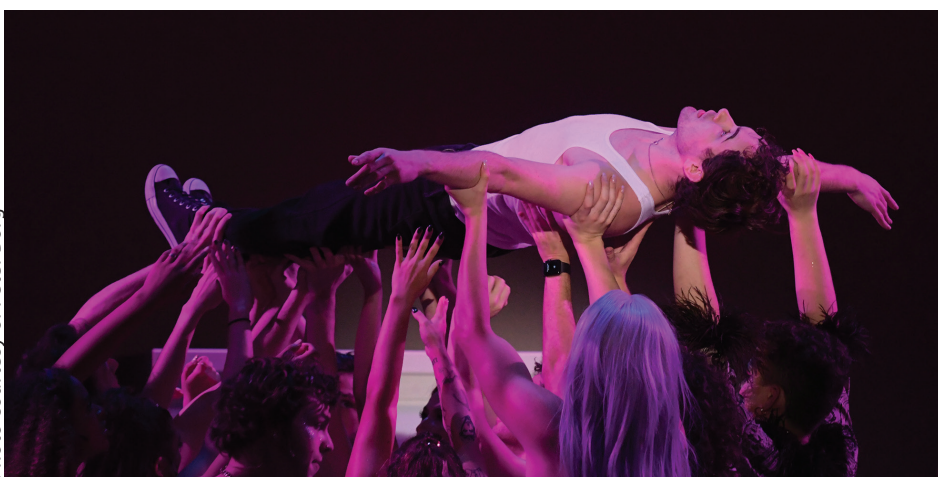


Photo courtesy of Peter Borg

Senior musical theater major **Spencer Petro** gets lifted into the air by castmates during a scene.



Photo courtesy of Peter Borg

Senior musical theater major **Spencer Petro** and senior musical theater major **Madison Elliott** perform on stage.



Photo courtesy of Peter Borg

Senior musical theater major **Erica Walker** sings as her character Berthe.



Photo courtesy of Peter Borg

Students perform on stage to the large crowd in the Bart Luedeke Center Theater.

Slashing the final exam schedule: jeopardizing students?



Longstreet House, 2083 Lawrenceville Road, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
 Phone: 609 896 5256 General Meetings: Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m.

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COLLEGE finals are often the most stressful period of students' academic semester, and now that stress will be condensed into a five-day schedule. On Oct. 5, Rider's University Academic Policy Committee (UAPC) voted to condense the schedule week for finals from a nine-day to a five-day schedule, eliminating the scheduled reading day for students and instead including various blocks of free time for students.

The recommendation for this schedule change comes from the Calendar Task Force, which was convened by Provost DonnaJean Fredeen in the spring of 2020. The Task Force is co-chaired by Professor Maria Sanchez and Registrar Sue Stefanick.

The Task Force surveyed faculty and students regarding condensing the finals week schedule. According to the data collected, 28% of faculty preferred to keep the nine-day exam schedule, 62% preferred to switch to a compressed five-day schedule and 10% indicated "another preference."

The student survey, however, had much closer results. Of the students surveyed, 51% indicated a preference for the five-day schedule and 49% indicated a preference for keeping the nine-day schedule with a reading day.

"We know that a lot of other schools do have a more condensed exam schedule, and it's something we were considering here, but we wanted to make sure that the students were satisfied with whatever decision we made," said Stefanick. "We also went out to other schools to benchmark what other schools were doing as well, and we found that most of them were doing a four or five-day exam schedule."

The close split in the student survey poses the question of whether this change will be the most conducive to student success. Sophomore biochemistry major Emma Zinser expressed hesitancy about this schedule change and said, "Those reading days are really important because, at least for me, you can't study for five exams all at the same time."

Sophomore psychology major Jenna Rosa also shared a similar impression of this change to the finals schedule.

"I believe that students need a break during the week to have a mental health day and to get their things together and to have an extra study day because if we take tests five days in a row we're not going to do well on our exams," Rosa said.

The mock schedule for this five-day period, which may be subject to change, includes blocks of free time ranging from two-and-a-half to five hours where exams won't be scheduled.

Rosa's take on these free blocks replacing a reading day is that they won't be congruent in their effects.

"The breaks just aren't gonna do much for students, and finals week is very stressful, so adding this and having to work around Rider's schedule for this I feel like they're not thinking about our mental health and overall well-being," she said.

In explanation, Stefanick said that these blocks of time are intended "for people to have their juries for Westminster, meetings or anything else they need to have."

These scheduled periods, especially the ones that fall around 8 to 10 a.m. are a double-edged sword, because on one hand, while it's nice to have no exams in that block, there begs the question of how well students will be able to utilize random hours off throughout the day when it comes to sleeping, working or hopefully studying. It's also important to note that if these blocks of time are also sectioned off with the dual purpose of providing time for meetings and juries, then they are not alleviating any of the stress of finals week.

According to Stefanick, there may be some flexibility to the free blocks in the newly condensed exam schedule, but that depends largely on the rigidity of classroom availability.

"There's a limit to how much you can move some of the exam periods around. Some periods have to stay where they are, some can be moved, because of classroom conflict. When the exams are meeting in classrooms, there's a limit to what you can do and how you can move different periods," Stefanick said.

Student Government Association (SGA) Vice President for Student Affairs Andrew Bernstein attended the Oct. 5 UAPC meeting on behalf of the student body. He explained his role in an interview with The Rider News.

"The concerns I brought up were by eliminating these reading days, do we then make finals week more of a burdensome experience for students because you're kind of cramming everything into that five days," said Bernstein.

"They tried to, I think, weigh that with some restrictions on what they called 'student intensive activities' during finals week."

An example of these activities would be research projects. According to Bernstein, there was a lot of discussion about weighing the give-and-take of condensing the schedule along with the student workload in this five-day period.

The decision to condense finals week, influenced by both the Calendar Task Force's recommendation as well as the UAPC's vote despite a split consensus from students will undoubtedly affect each student differently. Though other schools have had success with a tighter exam schedule, the main priority of Rider moving forward with this decision should be to make the finals week experience the least burdensome to students as possible. This means listening and valuing the student perspective, especially when this ruling goes into effect in the fall of 2022.

*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

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

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Andrew Xon/ The Rider News

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Emeritus professor expresses opinion on Rider's Credo partnership

WITH Rider University's current endowment – a source of funds for operations – remaining essentially the same as well before my 2013 retirement and its current level of debt, junk bond rating and liquidity making additional borrowing problematic, the president now hopes to shake some new funds from its academic programs.

These perhaps will fund new academic and certificate programs. New construction is not to be ruled out.

The consulting company, Credo, has been enlisted to forward this objective. As others pointed out well before the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), the group's methodology eventually sorts academic programs into quintiles or fifths, with those in the bottom three subject to reduction or elimination. These outcomes are predetermined by the rubric employed.

The rubric also favors larger programs like accounting and, to its discredit, penalizes smaller promising or successful programs, and those offering enrichment and valuable broadening to students in their college years.

The originator of this rubric and key Credo influence, Robert Dickeson, urged university administrators to sort out the academic program "stars" from the "dogs" – coarse terminology my academic colleagues and I would never use in thinking about or discussing academic programs.

This language and thinking will lead to "good enough" undergraduate and graduate offerings for students. Rider has never been a "good enough" school. Academic program cuts earlier proposed by the president targeted fully enrolled and popular undergrad classes and cutting-edge new programs which, in an about-face, Rider now touts in its news releases.

Market-driven improvements to Rider's academic programs and course offerings regularly occurred during my career and likely continue today, through the administrator-faculty committees that comprise the university's well-established governance system. Here, administrators and departments propose additions and subtractions in offerings for students that better prepare them for the future.

This system works well and has regularly approved new programs for students in all Rider colleges over the years. College of Business (CBA) departments, for example, would periodically compare their majors and courses with those at competing regional universities. The CBA's offerings for students were at least as good as, but more often superior to, the offerings of others.

Professor Eric Howe, from the Department of Economics at the University of Saskatchewan, Canada critiqued the approach in a 2013 article for VOX. "Prioritization," Howe said, "can be extremely attractive to some in senior administration. By making 20% of programs candidates for elimination, a great deal of power is created and then bestowed on those who decide ultimately

whether the trigger should be pulled."

The Credo effort is a wolf in sheep's clothing and the AAUP has every right to recommend to its members that they not take part in it. It is also another unwise expenditure of scarce dollars permitted by a compliant Board of Trustees, unwilling to make changes at the top others would have made long before now.

Gerald D. Klein

*Emeritus Professor of organizational behavior and management
College of Business Administration*



Courtesy of Rider University

Dr. Gerald D. Klein, emeritus professor

GREEN CORNER

The Office of Sustainability prepares for Campus Sustainability Day at Rider

OCTOBER is National Campus Sustainability Month, and Campus Sustainability Day on Oct. 21 is one of the most anticipated events of the year for the Office of Sustainability: a day dedicated to celebrating the earth and learning how to live and maintain a sustainable lifestyle. This event allows students to learn about how we as a community impact the environment every day and how we can work together to preserve Mother Earth in fun and creative ways.

On Campus Sustainability Day, the eco-reps, with the help of the Green Team, offer dynamic programming such as a clothing swap, an outdoor yoga session, eco trivia for prizes and sustainable crafts all accompanied by music from 107.7 The Bronc. The Office of Sustainability aims to encourage and gain the support of the student body through this event.

In addition to Campus Sustainability Day, the eco-reps will be keeping the spirit of Campus Sustainability Month at Rider's Scream Screen on Oct. 22 with a decked-out Trunk-or-Treat car illuminating the horrors of climate change. The eco-reps will educate fellow students on the effects of plastic and waste through a creative Halloween scene while giving out lollipops and offering knowledge on sustainability.

Many students on campus have been excited for the opportunity to learn more about the environment. Oftentimes students want to become educated on the topic of sustainability but do not know where to start. Lucky for them, Campus Sustainability Month is the perfect time for their knowledge of environmentalism and sustainable living to grow.

Senior psychology major Lauren Farley shared that she is anticipating having open conversations with her peers and campus eco-reps at Campus Sustainability Day to get answers to the questions she has on her environmental impact. Farley mentioned she has been questioning her environmental impact but cannot seem to navigate through all the information on sustainability.

Farley said, "I hope I can learn more about my lifestyle and how I personally am impacting the land we live on. I hope to engage with my peers to gain more knowledge on how to better align my lifestyle so it is not only beneficial for me, but for the Earth as well."

An event happening at Campus Sustainability Day for which Farley is extremely excited is community yoga. Farley said she used to love yoga but fell out of it, so she is appreciative of the opportunity to get back into it while being surrounded by her peers.

While Farley is most excited about participating in yoga and the conversations

to be had at Campus Sustainability Day, junior global supply chain management major Brandon Rios is ecstatic about the eco-rep's Trunk-or-Treat car at Rider's Scream Screen event. Rios said Halloween is one of his favorite holidays and is anticipating seeing the twist put on the topic of sustainability.

"I am thrilled to learn about the impact plastic has on the Earth. The theme sounds interesting and I cannot wait to check out the eco-rep's Trunk-or-Treat car," Rios said.

One other anticipated event organized by the eco-reps is the annual beach sweep taking place on Oct. 23 at Belmar Beach. It is a day filled with community service and caring for the planet by picking up trash left by beachgoers throughout the summer season. The month of October has many opportunities to get involved on campus.

Join the Green Team to help organize events or simply sign up for the events previously stated to grow your knowledge on sustainability. Rider can better its environmental impact through the student body being educated and willing to come together to make a difference.

Tara Towson, Rider eco-rep



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

VOLLEYBALL

Rider splits in off weekend as team stumbles

By Dylan Manfre

As of Oct. 16, the Canisius and Niagara volleyball programs were fourth and fifth in the conference, with Rider volleyball sitting comfortably in second place behind Fairfield, the team who ended its seven-game win streak in straight sets in the Broncs' last match on Oct. 10. It was a rather interesting split weekend for Rider who lost 3-1 to Niagara and beat Canisius 3-2.

Rotondo 'had seen enough'

Niagara was rolling with continuity and chemistry throughout the entire match en route to a 3-1 victory over the Broncs.

Head Coach Jeff Rotondo knew things were not right going into the match.

"There was just a vibe that felt off today," Head Coach Jeff Rotondo said. "I don't know what it was even during warmups ... Something felt off. I couldn't put my finger on it."

Sophomore outside hitter Tori Schrader agreed. She felt the energy of the team was not there.

"The vibes were just weird today and there was no specific reason," Schrader said.

Rotondo felt the team was sufficiently prepared for the match and was willing to put his reputation on the line if his players were not.

"There is nobody that gives them a scouting or a game plan like we do," Rotondo said. "I know how many hours I put into that. So they're prepared. We just didn't execute very well."

Sophomore outside hitter Lindsey Frambach actually disagreed with her head coach's strong belief.

"Our energy and communication throughout the team was off compared to when we played other teams," Frambach said. "I feel like the traveling day yesterday was a lot on us, and we just weren't prepared for today going into the game."

The Purple Eagles took an early 11-2 set lead with numerous lengthy volleys that seemed to make Rider look unsteady. Not much seemed cohesive in the set, which Rider dropped 25-13.

The Broncs dropped the second set and won the third. Rotondo swapped out a majority of his starters such as seniors Anilee Sher and Jillian Chan in the ensuing third set.

"I had seen enough. They had four opportunities, going back to the two sets against Fairfield in sets two and three, and sets one and two today," Rotondo said. "They had four sets of volleyball to show me they were ready to go."



Andrew Xoni/Rider University

Rider now sits at 8-3 in conference play, putting it at second in the MAAC.

Although the main pieces of the team were not in, he liked the production from freshman opposite hitter Jordan Taylor, sophomore libero Ella Notarfrancesco and freshman middle hitter Christina Blount.

Championship Resilience

In a rematch of the 2020-2021 MAAC volleyball championship, Rider showed, at bare minimum, some genuine fight against Canisius — something that was not apparent the day prior when facing Niagara. The 3-2 win for the Broncs had the intensity, ebbs and flows and resilience of a championship game.

"We were all playing together and cheering," junior opposite hitter Morgan Romano said. "We had energy and momentum that carried into the sets. Even when we were losing, we knew we had to come out and start strong again."

Rider did not allow many runs in the first set, but was able to take it 25-20. Canisius had nine service errors to Rider's six.

The next set featured a near mirror image of the first, at least for the start of it. Both teams traded points, and when the score hit 9-9, Rotondo took his first timeout of the match. Neither team got the upper hand until Canisius gained a three-point lead, 19-16, and eventually pulled away.

When Canisius reached set point, 24-18, Rider riddled off three straight points, temporarily making things exciting. Kills by Romano and Schrader brought Rider within one, but Canisius took the

second set, 25-23.

Canisius seemed to roll into the third set with no shortage of energy. Rider, who swapped junior libero Pamela Loh with sophomore Molly Strah, gave up a 6-3 lead and looked lackadaisical overall as Canisius started to pull away in the set winning, 25-16.

What came in the fourth set is something Rotondo will not soon forget. He received a yellow card for arguing a carrying call at the beginning of the set. He was instructed to move to the end of the bench by the officials.

"I will be sending in the film to the referees, the arbiter's office, ... there were a couple of calls we were not too pleased with throughout the match, but there was one that was pretty egregious that wasn't called," Rotondo said.

Something positive to come from the fourth set was Romano recording her 1000th career kill with her 18th kill of the match helping Rider win the set.

The fifth and final set had the MAAC Championship rematch written all over it, and only 15 points needed to be scored to secure a victory.

Rider held a slim 14-12 lead, and who else better to end the game than Romano. She had 22 kills on only 49 attempts, including the final point that gave Rider the win.

The Broncs will play a nonconference game against Columbia on Oct. 20 and face Saint Peter's on Oct. 23.

The Rider News

The Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) held its 2021-2022 Basketball Preseason Awards Show on Oct. 19

RIDER MEN'S & WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PRESEASON AWARDS

Men's Preseason Awards



Dimencio Vaughn
All-MAAC
Second Team



Dwight Murray Jr.
All-MAAC
First Team

Preseason Rankings

Men's

5th

Women's

5th

Women's Preseason Awards



Raphaella Toussaint
All-MAAC
Third Team



Makayla Firebaugh
All-MAAC
Second Team

FIELD HOCKEY

Broncs go 1-1, drop three of last four

By Jacob Tiger

AFTER a disappointing pair of losses in conference play, Rider field hockey took on Bryant and Lehigh, hoping to break out of its funk and regain some momentum.

Even though Rider was able to pick up a blowout 5-1 win against Bryant, the Broncs still carried an aura of frustration and disconnectivity after their 3-0 loss to Lehigh.

Bulldogs bullied

Coming off of frustrating consecutive losses, Rider needed to get back in the win column.

Luckily, its next opponent, Bryant, was winless coming into the game on Oct. 15.

Rider dominated Bryant in every metric, earning a much-needed 5-1 victory.

"It's never good when you lose a couple of games in a row, so it was very good mentally for us to get our confidence back," said Head Coach Lori Hussong following the win.

Senior forward Julia Divorra quickly found her groove when faced with the soft, cuddly Bulldog defense, as she scored Rider's first goal after only five minutes of play.

Approximately six minutes later, the Broncs extended their lead when junior forward Danielle Tyson scored her first collegiate goal.

"It was really exciting because everyone looks forward to this moment from the time they get on the college field. ... This morning I woke up, and I was like, 'I'm gonna score,'" said Tyson.

Less than a minute later, another Bronc experienced a career-defining moment when Divorra scored once again, earning her 100th career point, becoming the 11th player in program history to reach such a prestigious milestone.

"I didn't want to leave America without doing anything. I came here to play field hockey," said Divorra, who hails from Terrassa, Spain. "All the hard work and sacrifices of being far from home and everything, it paid off today."

Entering the second quarter up 3-0, the Broncs decided to put a bit more distance between themselves and the Bulldogs by scoring two more goals.

Senior forward Tess Van Ommeren scored Rider's fourth goal, and senior forward Carly Brosious scored the fifth.



Sara Maiz/Rider Athletics

Senior midfielder **Julia Divorra** earned her 100th career point in the game against Bryant.

Going into halftime, not only was Rider up 5-0, but the Bulldogs had not taken a single shot of their own. In the third quarter, Bryant finally took their first shot, but sophomore goalkeeper Carlee Fulton was there to deny it.

This game marked Fulton's third consecutive start for the Broncs, as she filled in for junior goalkeeper Kaitlyn Tomas who has been dealing with a hamstring strain.

Due to the nature of the injury, it is unclear exactly when Tomas will be ready to play again, but the team is hopeful she will return soon.

"It's a strain, so it's day-to-day," said Hussong.

Bryant did manage to score a garbage-time goal against Rider's second unit, but at that point, the TV had already been fixed, and the Broncs were watching it with a 5-1 win.

Broncs bested again

After cruising by the Bulldogs, the Broncs were now faced with a much taller task in playing the 9-5 Lehigh Mountain Hawks on Oct. 17.

In the end, Lehigh proved to be a worthy adversary, winning 3-0 and becoming just the second team this year to silence the Rider offense.

The Broncs only took two shots in the first half compared to Lehigh's 11 shots with one goal in the

middle of the second quarter.

In the second half, the Hawks were the team taking just two shots, however, they managed to find the back of the cage, making it a 3-0 game. This was the final score, and it marked Rider field hockey's third loss in four games.

"We watch a lot of film; we go over it with the kids, and the bottom line is, they have to do it on the field. We're telling them exactly what we need to do in order to win games and to follow the game plan," said Hussong. "When they do, that's when we are successful, but when they step out of it, it doesn't go as well."

Additionally, Rider was short-handed on defense this game, having to play without Fulton in goal due to an undisclosed injury.

Third-string freshman goalkeeper Brooke Golbeski was forced to step up and fill some big shoes in her first career start.

"Once I got on the field, I just gave it my all and did the best I can, because I can't really be nervous at that point. So I think I did well with that and was aggressive. Obviously, I still have stuff I have to work on, but I think I did good," said Golbeski.

On Oct. 22, Rider takes on conference rival Wagner in a game of great significance in terms of standings, as well as character and identity.

MEN'S SOCCER

Rider has tough week against top MAAC opponents

By Trey Wright

RIDER men's soccer went winless in a brutal week against two strong conference opponents. After a two game win streak, the Broncs dropped points in games to Marist on Oct. 13 4-2, and tied against Saint Peter's 3-3 in double overtime.

Game 1

After two straight wins against tough Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) opponents, Rider faced off against the Marist Red Foxes, one of the top teams in the conference.

The Red Foxes struck the first two minutes into the match, with a shot going just past junior goaltender Guillaume Veinante.

Rider tied up the match in the 25th minute, as the ball flicked off the boot of senior forward Zaki Alibou, past the out-of-position goaltender for his eighth goal of the season.

Marist retook the lead seven minutes later, The goal was initially called offside, but that was rescinded by the referees, putting the Red Foxes up 2-1.

The largest dagger in the back for the Broncs came in the 33rd minute, in which graduate student Ty Moore was dealt a red card for an aggressive slide tackle near the midfield line.

"It was really hard," said Head Coach Charlie Inverso, "We did things to get ourselves back in the game, but we keep making the same mistakes. We've hurt ourselves defensively."

Marist extended the lead in the 51st minute to 3-1,

but the Broncs cut the deficit back to just a lone goal five minutes later, off of a shot from junior defender Lenny Cidolit.

Marist sealed the game in the 69th minute though and kept Rider at bay until 90 minutes were up, with the Broncs falling 4-2.

Game 2

On Oct. 16, Rider faced off against one of its MAAC, and in-state, rivals in the Peacocks of Saint Peter's.

The Peacocks, with a record of 5-7, entered the matchup on a wet Ben Cohen Field, took the opening kickoff, and almost right from the get-go things began to get chippy on the pitch between the two competitors, with Rider being awarded a free-kick six minutes into the game.

Saint Peter's found the back of the net first, a turnover in the Broncs' end to make the score 1-0 in the 14th minute.

An identical situation occurred two minutes later, putting Rider down two goals in the first 20 minutes.

Rider was able to break the ice with an incredible free-kick from sophomore midfielder Adel Al-Masude finding the left side of the goal.

"I'm happy to have the team back in the game," Al-Masude said. "Everybody trusts me for the free-kicks, I practice a lot for them."

Rider came out of halftime ready to fight, and so did freshman defender Tom Skrocki, who netted his first goal in NCAA competition, tying up the game in

the 51st minute.

"It's amazing," Skrocki said of the goal after the match. "I've dreamt about it in my sleep and now it came true, so I'm happy, and want to keep doing well for Rider."

The Peacocks responded seconds later with a bullet shot tearing past Veinante, but graduate student back Sergio Aguinaga, who had the assist on Skrocki's goal, answered with a low shot, retying the game at 3-3.

"It was a competitive game. You're gonna have guys getting in late for tackles, and that's what happens" said Inverso. "I think both teams played really hard."

Veinante had an unbelievable save in the 59th minute, and 90 minutes would not be enough to decide this contest.

After two overtimes, a few shoving matches, a yellow card on Rider and several great scoring opportunities for both teams, the final horn sounded, and the game ended tied at 3-3.

"I think we deserved the win tonight. I think we deserved three points," said Inverso. "I thought we made a great comeback, coming back from down 2-0, and we did it with three guys that haven't been getting a lot of playing time. I was very proud of the effort and I thought there [were] probably four really, really good chances that we had to put it away."

Rider, now with a record of 5-5-2, faces off against Fairfield University at home on Oct. 20 at 7 p.m.

Sports

INSIDE

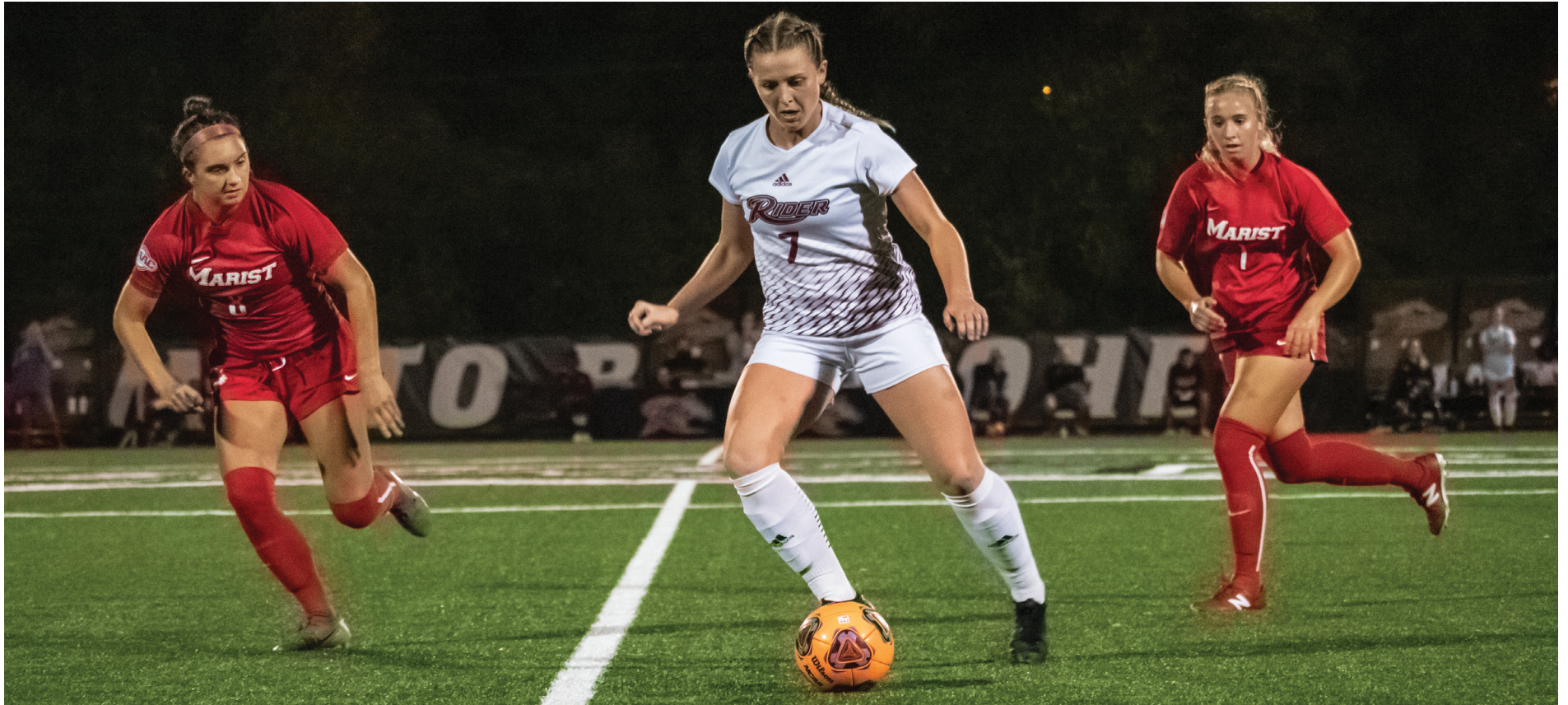
FRUSTRATING WEEK

Field Hockey breaks losing streak before faltering in latest match.

FIND THE STORY ON PAGE 11

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Injury-riddled Broncs split in difficult week



Carolo Pascale/The Rider News

Junior forward **Chloe Fisher** scored a double overtime goal in her second-straight game against Marist on Oct. 13.

By Carolo Pascale

TESTS of will and strength can only go on for so long until something finally gives way. Rider women's soccer has learned this lesson throughout its season. The injury-plagued Broncs played their third straight slate of games on only two days of rest, first defeating the Marist Red Foxes 2-1 in double overtime on Oct. 13, before falling 2-0 to the Niagara Purple Eagles on Oct. 16.

Since their second game of MAAC play, the Broncs haven't had more than three days of rest between their games, giving them little time to recover. Despite this, the team performed relatively well, sporting a 3-4-1 record in conference play, and were undefeated at home during this stretch.

Double overtime deja vu

When the Broncs took on the Marist Red Foxes, they were coming off of a double overtime victory against Manhattan just a few days prior. Rider used their momentum, and did so once again against Marist, with junior forward Chloe Fisher scoring her second straight double overtime goal to give the Broncs a 2-1 win.

"We played really well. I thought we started off the game and set the tone early, [in the] first 15-20 minutes," said Head Coach Drayson Hounsome. "I think the team did a great job in the second half of being more aggressive with our press, stepping in front of time and space and time. We created a lot of chances for us and scored a good first goal. It just took till second overtime for the goal to go in."

The first goal that the Broncs scored came in the 52nd minute when sophomore midfielder Hannah Freeman scored her second goal of the season to give the Broncs a 1-0 lead.

Only a minute later, Marist scored, tying the game at one.

As 90 minutes of play ended, the game remained tied, meaning overtime for the Broncs for a second straight game. As overtime turned to double overtime,

the Rider fans in the stands had *deja vu* as Fisher scored from almost the same spot she did in double overtime the previous game, giving the Broncs the 2-1 win.

"I take every time I'm on the field as a way to prove myself, to help the team today, in the other game, and it paid off," Fisher said.

Rider is also missing lots of players due to injury or non-covid related illnesses. A majority of them are defenders, and now starting goalkeeper, sophomore Ellie Sciancalepore, has been ruled out for the rest of the season after sustaining an injury against Marist, according to Hounsome. When asked about Sciancalepore's injury, Hounsome declined to give further specifics on the injury.

Broncs junior forward Makenzie Rodrigues said, "It's been really tough to adjust to losing multiple starters and key players and having to change personnel throughout the games."

Injuries and short rest: A deadly mixture

After their second straight double-overtime win, the Broncs hit the road and faced the Niagara Purple Eagles, once again on only two days of rest. The Broncs, reeling from a collection of injuries and non-COVID illnesses, lost to Niagara 2-0.

"The level of fatigue sustained in winning those games definitely limited our speed of play on Saturday. The team has dealt with the missing players well with unbelievable levels of effort and hard work to get those overtime wins," said Hounsome.

The Broncs, already dealing with a lot of injuries and illness, lost another player in this game in junior midfielder Karagh Tait. She went down with an injury late in the second half and left the match in what seemed like a lot of pain.

"Tait was one of several players ill going into the game. We'll see how she does this week. With over 30% of the team unavailable versus Niagara we need everybody we can," Hounsome said of her injury.

In goal, with Sciancalepore out for the rest of the year, sophomore goalkeeper Rachel Ross was forced into the starting role. This was only Ross's second game of the year and first in MAAC play.

"It felt amazing to be back in net and to be able to play in my first conference game, I'm always ready to step in when needed and finally having the opportunity was incredible," Ross said in an email to The Rider News. "Ellie is an extremely talented keeper and I love working with her, our whole team is a family and I know they believe in both of us no matter who's behind them in net."

Niagara tested Ross and the Broncs early, as they scored a goal in just the first minute of the game, forcing the Broncs to dig themselves out of a hole from the very beginning of the game. The goal for Niagara came from the MAAC's top goalscorer in junior forward Florence Vaillancourt.

"Niagara's first goal was a wake-up call, it gave us a sense of how to adjust in the defensive line quickly to prevent any balls sent in like that again," said Ross.

The first half ended 1-0 in favor of Niagara, but the Purple Eagles extended their lead to two goals by scoring in the 53rd minute, putting the Broncs down 2-0.

That score stood at the final. Rider only mustered up six shots in the match, including only one in the second half. Niagara registered 20 shots, putting nine on target.

The Broncs will now have a much-needed week-long break as they will face off against Quinnipiac at home on Oct. 23.

"Taking this full week to recover and prepare for Quinnipiac is so important for us," said Ross. "We are a strong contender in the MAAC and we know it. As the conference slowly wraps up and we prepare for playoffs we know we need to continue to push through any diversity that may come to us and work as hard as possible to make an impact this season. The teams are all very competitive and we have to play every game like it's our last."

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