

## Turning Point USA event spurs counterprotest on campus

By **Tori Pender and Dylan Manfre**

**H**ISTORY repeated itself as an event hosted by Rider's chapter of Turning Point USA (TPUSA) sparked a "counterprotest" on Oct. 20, for its discussion on "Critical Race Theory" (CRT) with conservative Olympian and speaker Anthony Watson.

TPUSA, a powerful right-wing youth group, has been campaigning and stirring outrage on college campuses nationwide -- most recently when Emerson College in Boston banned the group this month amid complaints of anti-Chinese activity. Also on Oct. 20, Wichita State University's student government refused to recognize the group as a campus organization, citing fears of safety and hate speech.

Because of TPUSA's controversy among campus, a recent change.org petition was created this month asking administrators to step in and shut down TPUSA's Rider chapter.

"In the Vision for Inclusive Excellence, the university commits to fostering a community that 'embraces students, faculty and staff of all backgrounds and enables them to achieve success' ... TPUSA does not support any of the goals put forth by either the university's diversity and inclusion statement nor its Vision for Inclusive Excellence ... TPUSA is not supportive of diversity or inclusion. Instead, TPUSA claims to be working to 'win America's Culture War,'" reads the petition that was created anonymously by a Rider student.

The petition had 55 signatures as of Oct. 26 at 9:30 p.m.

Kristine Brown, associate vice president of university communications and marketing said in an email to The Rider News, "Turning Point met all of the logistical guidelines required of student organizations in hosting the event referenced in the petition .... Rider is committed to upholding the principles of freedom of expression and speech. The university will allow speech by individuals or groups on campus to continue to be exercised unless such speech or demonstration threatens the safety of others or the normal operation of the university activities."

The Rider Student Government Organization (SGA) initially turned down TPUSA's application for club status in 2017, due to concerns about the national organization's extreme, right-wing views. In April 2018, SGA approved the application, citing free-speech issues and a willingness to engage in a diversity of viewpoints and campus programming.

SGA President and senior computer science major Elizabeth O'Hara said in an email to The Rider News, "The (SGA) does not approve or deny individual events, that is done through the student event management policy. In saying that, SGA supports having a platform for free expression and speech of students on our campus. An invitation to speak on campus does not mean a university endorsement of the views of the speaker, especially those that are not aligned with Rider's



Dylan Manfre/The Rider News

Students lined up outside Sweigart Hall room 117, to enter TPUSA's event on critical race theory mission, Statement of Community Values, commitment to Inclusive Excellence or PROMISE."

TPUSA received a \$1,000 budget from SGA for the 2021-2022 academic year, according to O'Hara.

Several members from Rider's chapter of TPUSA were contacted for comment and did not respond. However, on Oct. 25 the club released a statement in response to the change.org petition.

Part of the statement said, "The petition calling for our organization to be banned is based on mischaracterizations about our club and Turning Point as a national organization. We stand by both our events on [CRT] and our speaker Anthony Watson. [TPUSA] is a secular bipartisan organization that advocates for conservative values on college campuses. We pride ourselves on bringing speakers with unique perspectives to our university."

Students sat in Room 117 in Sweigart Hall and listened to Watson speak. Some, but not all, of the counterprotestors lined the back wall of the classroom and held signs advocating for CRT. Other students gathered outside the doors with their signs.

SEE NADIA PAGE 2

## Swimmers forced to practice elsewhere amid pool closure

By **Shaun Chornobroff**

**T**HE Rider University swimming and diving team is one of the school's most successful athletic programs and has called the Coppola Pool in the Canastra Health and Sports Center in the back of the university's campus home for decades. For the time being that will change, as the pool is temporarily closed due to student complaints and a lack of clarity after testing done to the facilities, multiple sources confirmed to The Rider News.

The pool was officially closed on Oct. 25 after multiple tests from an investigation failed to provide any clarity into complaints, according to Michael Reca, who serves as Rider's Vice President for Facilities and University Operations.

"As soon as we learned of some complaints about the pool, we immediately started an investigation. To date, our own Rider staff as well as outside vendors/experts have conducted numerous tests of the pool water, HVAC system and air quality around the pool. So far every test has been inconclusive," Reca said in an email to The Rider News on Oct. 26. "Yesterday, after reviewing the tests and learning that some of our swimmers were experiencing some discomfort, we shut the pool down to conduct further tests ... We are awaiting those results by Thursday of this week. We have also hired another pool consultant, with expertise in these types of issues, who will be coming to Rider on Thursday of this week."

The swimming and diving team will be practicing at Princeton University, multiple sources have confirmed.

Andrew Smolar, a sophomore on the team said in a text to The Rider News "I was still able to practice yesterday morning. The situation isn't ideal but thankfully our coaches have worked extremely hard to find a good solution for us. We're gonna

do our best to not let it affect our training."

The Rider University athletic department said that it has no statement on the matter.

*Sarah Siock and Dylan Manfre contributed to this story.*



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

The Coppola Pool in the Canastra Health and Sports Center is now closed due to inconclusive tests.

INSIDE

### WINNING WAYS

Rider volleyball is back on a three-game winning streak with an upcoming homestand on the horizon.

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### CREDO ON CAMPUS

Concern for students and faculty rises as Rider moves forward in Credo partnership.

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### SCREAM SCREEN RETURNS!

107.7 The Bronc hosts Scream Screen, a drive-in movie and trunk or treat with halloween themed activities.

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## SECURITY BRIEFS

BY SARAH STOCK

### Car theft

Missing catalytic converters. On Oct. 25 at 12:25 p.m., Public Safety was dispatched to the CZR lot for the report of someone trying to damage a car. Upon their arrival, the officer met with three students who reported they saw two males at the car, one of which was underneath it. They also reported hearing a drilling-type sound. After seeing the students, the males got into a black Audi and drove off. Once notified of what happened, Public Safety immediately started to review camera footage of the lots and were able to locate the black Audi and obtain a license plate number. This information was relayed to all local police departments in the area, as well as the state police, and the surrounding colleges and universities. After further review of the camera footage, two other students were identified who had the catalytic converters stolen off their vehicles. All of the information was relayed to the police and it remains under investigation. Public Safety increased patrols in the lots and reminds individuals to call them if they see anything suspicious.

### Oil spill

Deep frying gone wrong. On Oct. 20 at 11:15 a.m., Public Safety was dispatched to the front of the Student Recreation Center for report of a fire. Upon their arrival, Public Safety met with the staff of the Bronc Bites food truck who reported a fire in the kitchen area. The staff stated that while the truck was being driven to the location, oil spilled out of a fryer which ignited later when the fryer was turned on. The fire was extinguished and no damage was reported to have occurred to the truck.

-Information provided by Public Safety Capt. Matthew Babcock

## CORRECTIONS

A story published in the Oct. 20 issue of The Rider News incorrectly attributed the credit of a photo that was submitted for publication by emeritus professor Gerald Klein.

A second story published in the Oct. 20 issue of The Rider News on changes to the academic calendar incorrectly identified the percentage of students in favor of condensing the final exam schedule. Data collected from a survey implemented by the Calendar Task Force found 50% of students were in favor of a five-day final exam schedule.

The Rider News regrets these errors.

# Students speak on their experience at counter-protest

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

Nadia Hussein, a senior psychology and sociology major, was part of the counter protest. Hussein said, "We made some signs and a few of my peers were able to make a couple points, really talking about getting at the root of what CRT is because I feel like that was missing at the event."

Previous TPUSA events that incited protests from the community including, "White Privilege is a Myth" in 2019 garnered a big student audience from public advertising.

The "White Privilege is a Myth" event had multiple conflicts, from verbal arguments with the audience to physically not allowing some students or student journalists into the event.

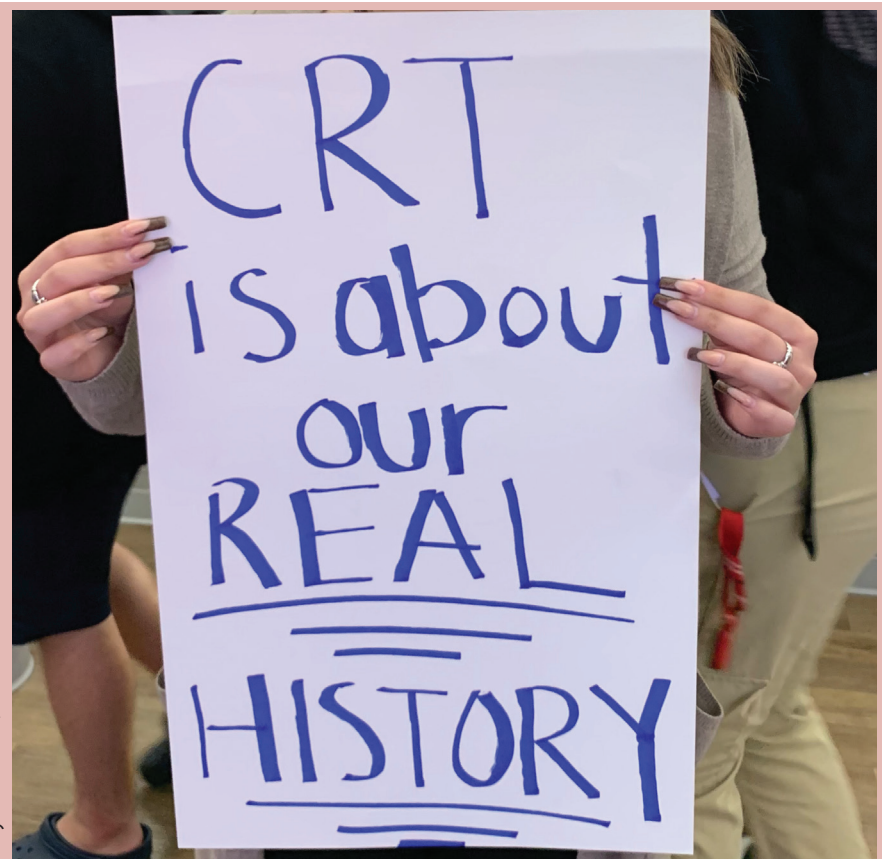
Hussein said during this year's event, "We did get the opportunity to speak. We were cut off at times, it wasn't the most respectful."

Christianah Akinsanmi, a senior acting major, was the organizer of the counterprotest.

Akinsanmi explained, "As a senior, I had the opportunity to see ... 'The White Privilege is a Myth' event. Seeing that, and helping organize the counterevent 'Seeing Privilege.' I understood that I had another opportunity to do something similar here."

Akinsanmi wanted to organize a counterprotest that promoted equity on campus and gathered students who cared about CRT.

"I'm familiar with Turning Point's, talking points and we intended to go there and have a good time and laugh when we thought things were funny... When he [Watson] was saying that race and identity doesn't impact what happens in your life... race, gender, sexuality, basically identity doesn't have an impact on your life, you can forge your own path," Akinsanmi said strongly. "Obviously, according to CRT and according to, you know, my own experience, I can tell. That's not true."



Dylan Manfre/The Rider News

Nadia Hussein, a senior psychology major, took part in the counterprotest.

### THE Rider News COVID-19 COUNTER

**Confirmed Cases:**  
Last updated: Oct. 15, 2021

29

*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. 16-22	2	3
Oct. 2-8	3	2

*Rider University reports its testing numbers and other coronavirus statistics every Friday at [rider.edu/dashboard](http://rider.edu/dashboard)*

**On Campus Student Testing:**

Weeks	Health Center	Surveillance Testing
Oct. 16-22	33	245
Oct. 9-15	33	211
Oct. 2-8	33	216
Sept. 25-Oct. 1	36	158
<b>Total</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>1195</b>

**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:*

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

**THE Rider News**

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WEDNESDAYS @4:30 P.M.

in the Longstreet House basement

↪ Email [ridernews@rider.edu](mailto:ridernews@rider.edu) for details!

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CENTER FOR  
**DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION**  
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*Real Talk:*



# THEY WANT OUR RHYTHM BUT NOT OUR BLUES

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3 | 6:30 P.M.**

This is a hybrid event. If you are attending in person, please join us in Lynch Adler Hall 202. Remote visitors, please register in advance at [rider.edu/realtalk](http://rider.edu/realtalk).

The discussion will explore Black culture and its impact on popular music, media, and education through multiple lenses that include Critical Race Theory, Black Feminist Thought, Marxism, and Queer Theory. We will be taking current events and parsing them through these theoretical lenses. We will also highlight how equity is being approached in our society, but also the necessary journey ahead to pursuing equity. This REAL TALK is designed to open dialogue about our assumptions concerning the world around us, in the hopes that it will assist us in navigating all spaces we occupy differently.

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**G. Preston Wilson, Jr., Ph.D.** is an Assistant Professor of Music Education at Westminster Choir College of Rider University. His research agenda includes urban music educational experiences, race relations in music education, and practical applications of diversity, equity, and inclusion. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Music Education from Fisk University, a Master of Music from Bowling Green State University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Missouri. Additionally, Dr. Wilson is an active member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

# SGA pushes for diversity and inclusion for all students

By Sarah Siock

**C**HANGES may be coming to the core curriculum across the university, as Rider's Student Government Association (SGA) explores recommending a diversity and inclusion class be taken by all majors.

While the process is still in the early stages, SGA is preparing a proposal for Rider's academic policy committees that details a diversity and inclusion requirement for students. Junior political science major and SGA Vice President for Student Affairs Andrew Bernstein said the potential requirement would offer students a new perspective that is currently missing for Rider's core classes.

## What is the requirement?

"It's kind of shocking that students can go through their entire core curriculum and not take anything that resembles a course on a different perspective... We already know in the United States students start learning these topics way too late. It's oftentimes saved for college. If we don't address it in college we're not preparing students well enough for interacting in a diversifying world," said Bernstein.

Senior finance major and President of Rider's Black Student Union Maranisha Rivers agreed that a diversity and inclusion course gives students the opportunity to discuss topics that are traditionally left out of classes. Rivers said current events such as the Black Lives Matters Movement, conversations around critical race theory and LGBTQ issues could all be covered.

Rivers said, "I think the main focus is to be knowledgeable of all types of students, not just Black students, not just white students, not just Hispanic students. Everyone can come to that class and leave with some piece of knowledge that they can show their peers that they are working with them and not against them... Knowledge is key to solving so many issues."

SGA has yet to create an official recommendation, but Bernstein began conversations with faculty to discuss logistics. Several New Jersey universities currently have a diversity and inclusion general education requirement. Monmouth University requires all students to take a class in cultural diversity or global understanding, and Princeton University requires their students to enroll in a "culture and difference" course.

## 'Make it more effective'

"We're kind of in the steps of working through how can we do this, because it's such a hard thing to do, and it's going to take a while... It's going to be a long road, but it's something we're going to keep pushing," said Bernstein.

Bernstein envisions that the requirement will be added to a students' DegreeWorks where they track their academic progress. A tab titled "Diversity and Inclusion" would appear in DegreeWorks under the section with a student's general education requirement.

"A bunch of courses would fall under that. There is African American history and classes about race, gender and sexuality," said Bernstein.

Executive Director of the Center for Diversity and Inclusion Pamela Pruitt commended SGA's efforts and encouraged the organization to utilize courses currently offers.

Pruitt said, "I'm excited and so thrilled that the SGA has taken the initiative to move something like this forward. I think at the end of the day, it's going to educate not only the students, but it will also help all professors... They should take every force that we have because the professors that teach these courses are amazing. We have excellent content experts. We don't have to go out and build something, we can take what we have and make it more effective."

Bernstein added that the Multicultural Studies program at Rider offers several classes that are relevant to the requirement. The program was implemented in 1998 at Rider and is currently offered as a minor.

Director of Multicultural Studies Pearlle Peters said the program's flagship course, MCS 110 Race, Class and Gender in Contemporary American Society, is an introductory class for students that reflects diversity and could fall under this potential requirement.

Peters said, "I think the university needs to stress the importance of our students taking diversity courses... I think that it would broaden the students' intellectual horizons to look at an individual from multiple perspectives. That will later help them in the job market and in their own lives. We don't want our students to be one-dimensional. As a society that's global, and ever-changing, a future worker cannot be one dimensional."

## Challenges ahead

Bernstein recognized the difficulty of adding a course to a students' degree plan since it could increase the number of credits required to graduate. He said SGA is also exploring recommending faculty to include diversity and inclusion in their syllabi.

Bernstein said, "Whether students are apathetic about this or really gung ho on the one course, that one course isn't going to be enough to really cover all these bases. What I think might be a more successful approach is how can we encourage faculty to include issues and topics of diversity and inclusion in their syllabus and in their courses?... For example, they're looking at texts that talk about classism, racism and intersectionality. They're bringing in a lot of important issues into a class that wouldn't originally talk about them."

However, an initiative to fund training on diversity and inclusion is necessary for the syllabi to be effective, according to political science professor and Director of the Global Studies program Frank Rusciano.

"If you're going to add a diversity perspective, not just a component, but a perspective to the course, you're going to have to train people to do it. I'm not saying that they don't know how to do it. I'm just saying that you have to really train people so that it really becomes an integral part of the course," said Rusciano.

Rusciano emphasized that an effort led by students shows the need for a diversity and inclusion requirement at the university.

He said, "This demand for this requirement did not come from the faculty, it came from the students. The fact is that this is something that the students feel they need. I agree with them, but it was initiated by the students and that indicates that they really feel that this is something missing from their education."

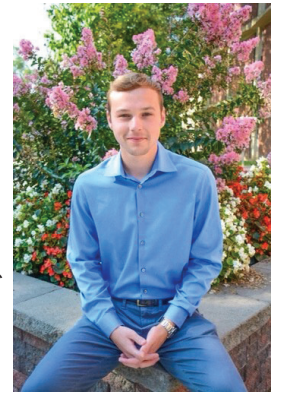


Photo courtesy of Andrew Bernstein

Junior political science major Andrew Bernstein.



Senior finance major Maranisha Rivers.

# Rider president honored with award for role in COVID-19 pandemic

By: Anthony Corbi

**A**FTER a tumultuous year that brought unforeseen challenges to the university, Rider University President Gregory Dell'Omo was selected as a recipient of the 2021 NJBIZ Education Power 50 award on Sept. 20.

This award is presented each year to faculty of colleges and universities in the state of New Jersey who have had a substantial and positive impact on their respective college communities. NJBIZ, a business journal based in Franklin Township, nominated Dell'Omo due to his navigation of the university through its financial crisis over the past year as it saw a substantial decrease in enrollment and residency due to the pandemic.

"It's an honor for me personally, but also for the university to be recognized [as] an institution that's moving aggressively to deal with the challenges we face," Dell'Omo said in an interview with The Rider News.

Associate Vice President Kristine Brown agreed that while the administration at Rider has faced some challenging times due to the pandemic, Dell'Omo's leadership has been critical in helping the university move past this difficult era.

"I am grateful for the skillful way he navigated us through the many twists and turns of the pandemic as safely as possible," Brown said. "We are fortunate that President Dell'Omo is a decisive leader who always puts what's best for our students and the institution as a whole first. He is very deserving of being named as one of New Jersey's top influential educational leaders for his dedicated stewardship of our university."

During the pandemic, the number of students living on campus dropped by 27%, which resulted in a \$60 million loss of revenue, according to Dell'Omo. As a result, the university was forced to find ways to recover some of this loss and began by creating a program called "Lifting Barriers," which lowered tuition and placed a greater emphasis on career-based success.

"[Lifting Barriers] is part of a larger program that we call the 'Rider Experience,'" said Dell'Omo. "The whole idea is to make it more affordable, let students graduate in four years, even when they fall behind, and make sure they've had a practicum experience, so they have a really high chance of graduating with a job."

Later in the 2020-21 academic year, the administration also introduced the

"Cranberry Investment" program, which aims to provide students with additional learning and experience if they have trouble finding a job after graduation.

"If, by some chance, a student does not have a job six months after graduation... then we'll let that student come back, continue working with our Career Development office, find them a paid internship in their field... and, if they need additional courses or training, we'll give them up to nine credits free of charge to help them get a job in the next six to 12 months," Dell'Omo said.

As president of Rider, Dell'Omo attends many events hosted by faculty on campus. Micah Rasmussen, director of the Rebovich Institute for New Jersey Politics and a political science professor, has seen Dell'Omo in attendance for many functions the Institute has hosted and is grateful for the president's support.

"I am always struck by how supportive [Dell'Omo] is of our students and the entire program, and am grateful for his continued belief in the importance of the work we do to connect our students with their state," Rasmussen said. "Recognizing Dr. Dell'Omo means recognizing Rider and its many contributions to the state."

While Dell'Omo is honored to have been a recipient of this award, he is also grateful for his staff in helping carry out the university's objectives, especially as it has faced immense challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"[This] honor that was bestowed on me, to be recognized, is actually for the university, which makes me even more proud," said Dell'Omo.



Courtesy of Rider University

Rider University President Gregory Dell'Omo awarded for his student involvement.

# Drive-in movie, pumpkin painting and more: Scream Screen returns



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

Excited students pose for a picture at the annual Scream Screen movie event.

By Amethyst Martinez

**T**HE annual Scream Screen, a drive-in movie and halloween event, hosted by 107.7 The Bronc returned to campus on Oct. 22 for Rider faculty and students, as well as visitors.

Events included a drive-in movie, food trucks, pumpkin painting, trunk or treating, miniature golf and laser tag.

Many students attended the event and were dressed in costumes throughout the Bart Luedeke Center staff parking lot.

Last year, Scream Screen was held virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions.

COVID-19 drastically affected student social interactions, but Scream Screen represented what events now look like while adhering to Rider's COVID-19 guidelines.

Nida Bajwa, a senior sociology major attended the event representing The Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI) and their trunk or treat car.

"I get a little nervous...so that definitely factors into the anxieties I have about coming out, but I kind of forced myself because I want to be social," said Bajwa.

When asked if she was worried about COVID-19 sophomore communications major Jaina Dalcan said, "I mean, yes. I don't like germs. I always bring an alcohol spray bottle with me because I don't know what I'll touch."

However, many students still enjoyed their night outside with less strict COVID-19 guidelines.

Food at the event was provided by food trucks such as Bronc Bites, Mama Dudes, Savory Leaf, Delorenzo's The Burg and Thai Cha Chak. Caterers from Pepsi, PJ's Pancake House and Tastee Sub Shop also provided students with food options. The food was free to all event goers.

All attendees were given a Student Government Association (SGA) purple bag decorated with bats and jack-o-lanterns for candy collected during the Trunk or Treat.

Associations handing out candy to event goers were 107.7 The Bronc, The Trenton Thunder, Student Government Association, Student Entertainment Council, The Tanning Zone, Campfire NJ, CDI and more.

"I'm here for the free food and candy," said Dalcan.

At the entrance of the event, attendees were given ghost cookies with different expressions while halloween themed music such as "Thriller" by Michael Jackson, echoed throughout the event.

Another activity was pumpkin painting, where attendees were able to paint their pumpkin and bring it home. A table was set up with different paint colors and pumpkins, and many attendees gathered around the table.

There was also a miniature golf and laser tag game for event goers to play while they waited for the drive-in movie to begin.

Two hours after the event started, the movies was set to play on the inflatable screen for the drive-in movie theater in the parking lot.

The movies included "Monsters vs. Aliens: Mutant Pumpkins from Outer Space," and the second film choice was a surprise, which later was revealed to be the Disney Channel original movie "Halloweentown."

After the films played, Scream Screen wrapped up.

Karla Lopez-Rosa, a junior political science major said, "We missed last year, so now we're back, and we're coming back ne xt year for sure."



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

Rider welcomes attendees to Scream Screen.



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

Trunks decorated for trunk or treat.



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

Attendees check out food trucks and games before the start of the movie.

# Dr. Pamela and George Pruitt receive award for diversity

By Tristan Leach

**G**REATER Trenton, an independent 501(c)(3) organization, awards the Caren Franzini award every year to a person or persons whose work is notable in an area of focus encompassed by Greater Trenton.

This December, the husband and wife team of Pamela and George Pruitt, who according to the Greater Trenton website, the two have 50+ years of experience in higher education, will receive the Caren Franzini award for their work in diversity, inclusion and higher education.

Pamela Pruitt works at Rider as the Executive Director of The Center of Diversity and Inclusion CDI. George Pruitt works at Thomas Edison University.

Pruitt works with the Rider community to educate, celebrate and train people on how to be more inclusive and accepting. Last year, the CDI hosted about 129 events ranging in topics from the LGBTQ+ community to the personal experiences of Black men on campus. Being almost 100% online did not stop students and staff alike from attending these events.

George Pruitt is currently president emeritus at Thomas Edison University. According to the Greater Trenton website George Pruitt was instrumental in creating Greater Trenton. George Pruitt served as president of the organization that helped create and launch Greater Trenton. He worked tirelessly to provide education in alternative ways.

Needless to say, people who know the pair are enthusiastic about their accomplishments.

Marcus White, a graduate assistant at the CDI said “I think one of the things that sets them apart is learning of their years of extensive advocacy work. Pulling people together to advance issues that pertain to social justice, advancing issues in higher education and society at large.”

Pamela Pruitt said, “I am deeply honored. I don’t expect to get awards and when my husband said I would be getting an award with him, well this will never

happen again. I didn’t expect to be in this position. I didn’t realize how much I had done until my husband read me a list and told me what they talked about and I thought well that’s pretty amazing. Who did that? I did that.”

Pamela Pruitt did not start out in the field of education. She was extremely successful in corporate America. However, that all changed when she witnessed and survived 9/11. Pamela Pruitt was at The Wall Street Journal radio station at the time of the attacks. After witnessing and surviving the event, she quit and began organizing events that would bring people together. Pamela Pruitt, with the help of her husband, held Black Gospel Awareness, an event at Princeton. Over 2,000 people attended and it was standing room only.

George Pruitt spoke proudly of the event. He said, “She wanted to do a cultural event that unified people of diverse backgrounds. This was her first formal event about promoting diversity because she wanted to use the awareness of Black gospel music to bring people of all faiths and races together to celebrate culture. It had people of all races and colors. Not as a religious expression but as a cultural experience that united people across races, across religions. It was a moving event.”

Pamela Pruitt had tears in her eyes as her husband talked about the event.

George Pruitt began his work as a social activist in the 60s. While he attended Illinois State University, George Pruitt was the president of the Black Student Association. Along with other members, he took over the administration building and took over the president’s office.

“We issued our non-negotiable demands and then the administration negotiated with us and that negotiation turned into a collaboration and I got involved in efforts to bring more diversity to Illinois State University,” he said.

Since then George Pruitt worked to make higher education more accessible to all. He was instrumental in securing historical buildings in Trenton for Thomas Edison University.

Pamela and George Pruitt will receive the Caren Franzini award on Dec. 6. Anyone wishing to attend and get the latest information can do so on The Greater Trenton website.



Photo courtesy of Greater Trenton

Dr. Pamela and George Pruitt are set to receive the award in December.

# Students decorate their own pumpkin at RHA’s Pumpkin Patch

By Adrianna Jaccoma

**S**TUDENTS had the opportunity to decorate their very own pumpkins thanks to The Residence Hall Association’s (RHA) Pumpkin Patch event on Oct. 25.

Senior accounting major Athena Strippoli, who is a part of RHA, said that the association’s main goal for the event is to get students involved in the Rider community, which is also the main goal of RHA.

RHA’s pumpkin painting took place at the Campus Mall in front of Ziegler Hall and the Student Recreation Center (SRC). The event provided paint and pumpkins for students to decorate. The brisk fall air made the event feel even more festive as the days countdown to Halloween.

Freshman acting major Sophia Porter painted Snoopy on his doghouse practicing magic.

“Last year I painted Spongebob as a mattress on my pumpkin so I wanted to continue the fantasy,” said Porter.

The event allowed students to relax and use their artistic talents while also engaging with their friends.

Freshman acting major Aileen Pujols was painting the common Gen Z phrase “girl boss” on her pumpkin.

“I’m [Porter’s] roommate, so this is going to be our girlboss decoration for our window,” Pujols said.

Many participants took the route of painting characters, such as freshman acting major Emily Paruk, who was painting Sully from the movie “Monsters, Inc.” onto her pumpkin during the event.

Sophomore elementary education major Brooke Porco painted a variety of Halloween decorations such as webs and ghosts to stay on theme for the holiday.

Along with their pumpkin, students also received a pair of RHA sunglasses. The event had music playing and created an all around welcoming atmosphere for students to participate.



Hannah Newman/The Rider News

Many students chose characters to paint on their pumpkin, while others chose a more simplistic route.



Hannah Newman/The Rider News

Students paint pumpkins just in time for Halloween at RHA’s Pumpkin Patch hosted at the Campus Mall.

# Trick or treat: The Rider News staff dresses up for Halloween



Sarah Siock, executive editor, dresses up as Peppa Pig



Dylan Manfre, sports editor, as "Shaggy" from "Scooby-Doo"



News editors Olivia Nicoletti (right) as The Rider News advisor Dr. Incollingo and Tori Pender (left) as Dr. Incollingo's favorite drink, Dr. Pepper



Emily Kim, copy editor, as Minnie Mouse



Kaitlyn McCormick, opinion editor, as Fran Fine from "The Nanny"



Adrienne Unfreed, design manager, as a plague doctor



Shaun Chornobroff, managing editor, as Carolo Pascale, sports editor and Devils fan



Tristan Leach, features and entertainment editor, as Easter



Michelle Pellegrino, copy editor, as a pumpkin



Amethyst Martinez, features and entertainment editor, as a cowgirl



Jeremy Hester, copy editor, as Spider-Man



Carolo Pascale, sports editor, as a tourist



The Rider News staff dressed in their best costumes for Halloween.

# Credo partnership stirs student and faculty concerns

**A**s the details of Rider's partnership with educational consulting firm Credo continue to unfold, a heightening concern is how this affiliation may impact students, and, of equal importance, how much information students are receiving about Rider's work with Credo.

The administration's partnership with Credo has already caused concern for faculty, primarily the fear of potential program cuts, including elimination of some majors, minors and laying off professors, in the liberal arts and social sciences.

Barbara Franz, professor of political science and president of Rider's chapter of the American Association of University Professors spoke to The Rider News about these concerns.

"Because they're getting paid by the administration, I'm assuming that Credo's going to be very careful suggesting that we should maybe cut some high-paid administrators," Franz said. "So then what's left? What's left is the faculty."

Franz loosely explained the prioritization method that Credo uses, which relies on placing programs in five tiers with significant cuts being made to the bottom placements.

A statement from Vice President for Student Affairs Leanna Fenneberg, relayed by a Rider spokesman, explained that while the first phase of the administration's partnership focuses on the student experience, the second phase focuses on efficiency.

"This work will provide an opportunity to assess what services and programs we provide for students to promote their learning, engagement and student success," Fenneberg said. "It is our hope that both phases of the partnership elevate and strengthen the overall student experience, including vital out-of-class experiences and academic support."

Professors like Franz, however, are worried that these changes may be detrimental to student life and success.

Franz said, "If you come to a private college, a private institution of higher learning, with that kind of approach, you might cut out the most interesting programs, you might cut out the programs that are the most innovative, that allow students to do the most interesting things in their careers. Just because they are not making profit does not mean these programs should be cut."

As alarming as these cuts sound, what is even more concerning is the lack of communication between Rider's administration and the student body regarding the Credo partnership.

On Oct. 11, President Gregory Dell'Omo sent out an email to the Rider community regarding the partnership, however, the information seemed surface-level. The message included vague details of Credo's first phase launch, the "Student Experience Assessment," which was already underway. Involved in this phase, which Dell'Omo wrote was "designed to help us build upon our strengths when serving students from the first interaction with the Admissions office through graduation, with particular emphasis on the first 18 months of a student's experience," was several interviews within the Rider community.

Some students that participated, however, are now anxious about their involvement.

Senior technical theater major Christianah Akinsanmi as well as senior sociology major Nida Bajwa were among those pulled to participate in a series of interviews taking place virtually on Sept. 17 and in-person on Oct. 6 with Credo representatives as part of a multicultural students focus group.

Akinsanmi explained that after the initial virtual focus group, the interviewees were then invited back for a supplementary meeting.

"What they had said to us was that our group was the only one that was chosen to have another meeting. I don't know if they had had other groups with non-multicultural students, but they specifically chose our group to bring in again," Akinsanmi said.

Akinsanmi explained that the group was led through questions by a consultant affiliated with Credo to form a better understanding of student life to influence potential recommendations made by Credo to the administration.

"She just led us through a bunch of questions about how we felt about campus, the bad good and the ugly things that we've experienced with professors or administration or just in general and our outlook on going there. ... The questions weren't unbiased," Akinsanmi said.

Akinsanmi went on to explain that the questions being revisited tended to consist of students speaking about the attractive financial aid packages at Rider as well as student experiences with professors that "weren't necessarily the most positive."

"It wasn't that they didn't ask us a well-rounded amount of questions, it was the questions they held on to," Akinsanmi said.

Bajwa recounted the same perspective throughout the interview process.

"From what I remember, it was just they asked about certain experiences that we've had, like how we felt at Rider, if we've experienced microaggressions, racism, anything of that nature ... they said they were going to collect information, give it to the university and try and better it, but that was about it," Bajwa said.

As more information about Credo's partnership has come to light, both students admit to feeling a certain level of uneasiness to their participation, more specifically how Credo may utilize their input.

"I felt kind of used... like they had kind of operated under the guise of wanting to hear how minority students at Rider feel, but then they might use our words and twist them to fit the narrative that they want to push," Bajwa said.

Akinsanmi said, "It was really easy to feel taken advantage of because of the lack of clarity."

As Rider continues to partner with Credo and collect information for various recommendations at the administrative level, it is imperative to both students and faculty that the university be transparent about what its plans are.

Also vital is the union between students and faculty to ensure that any changes made in the future will be in a collective best interest.

"The students seemed to really support the faculty against the administration," Akinsanmi said.

Franz shared a sense of urgency in the unification between faculty and students.

"Line up behind your faculty. Students and faculty need to become one force. That's the only way we can change the system," Franz said.

Student Government Association (SGA) Vice President for University Affairs Andrew Bernstein said via phone call that the association would try to do whatever it can to stay up-to-date with this partnership and reflect the best interest of the student body moving forward.

Where student representation is concerned, the SGA is going to play a crucial role in uplifting the best interest of the student body, and therefore must stay knowledgeable about Credo's presence in the Rider community and be transparent with that knowledge. Though there will be a town hall meeting discussing this issue further on Nov. 4, the SGA has yet to make any public statement regarding the administration's partnership with Credo and the probable negative impact it could have on the student body. It is imperative that as student representatives the SGA prioritize a high level of transparency with the campus community — transparency that isn't coming from the administration.

*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

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## A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Professor airs grievances with Dell'Omo administration

**W**HEN Gregory Dell'Omo joined Rider in 2015, it was clear the school was being pulled in a very different direction from that of previous decades. Insisting the school could no longer 'kick the can down the road,' Dell'Omo quickly began attacking the faculty union, threatening layoffs, attacking a fully enrolled performing arts program at Westminster Choir College and touting a bold plan which he branded 'our path forward.' Unfortunately for Rider, the 'path forward' was a path backward, and the bold plan was a rehashed approach he had tried at his previous place of employment Robert Morris University.

If the efforts to pursue a new 'path forward' had ended there, Dell'Omo's damage to Rider may have been minimized by faculty resistance. But unfortunately for Rider, this blinkered approach to running the institution included a dubious effort to play land developer with the donated land and buildings of Westminster Choir College. This effort not only cost millions of dollars in various fees, but it also hollowed out between \$10 and \$13 million of revenue from the university's operations due to drastic enrollment decreases at Westminster Choir College. Narrow two-year budgets hide this fact, but it is visible examining multi-year enrollment and revenue trends since 2016.

Rider's 'path forward' has also included shifting resources from education to administration, ultimately creating a bloated administration budget. Rider's spending on what is categorized as 'institutional expenses' on Rider's financial statements, that is anything not identified as 'for instruction,' has climbed \$7.8 million since 2016, while expenses categorized as 'instructional costs,' money spent educating students, has decreased \$7.2 million.

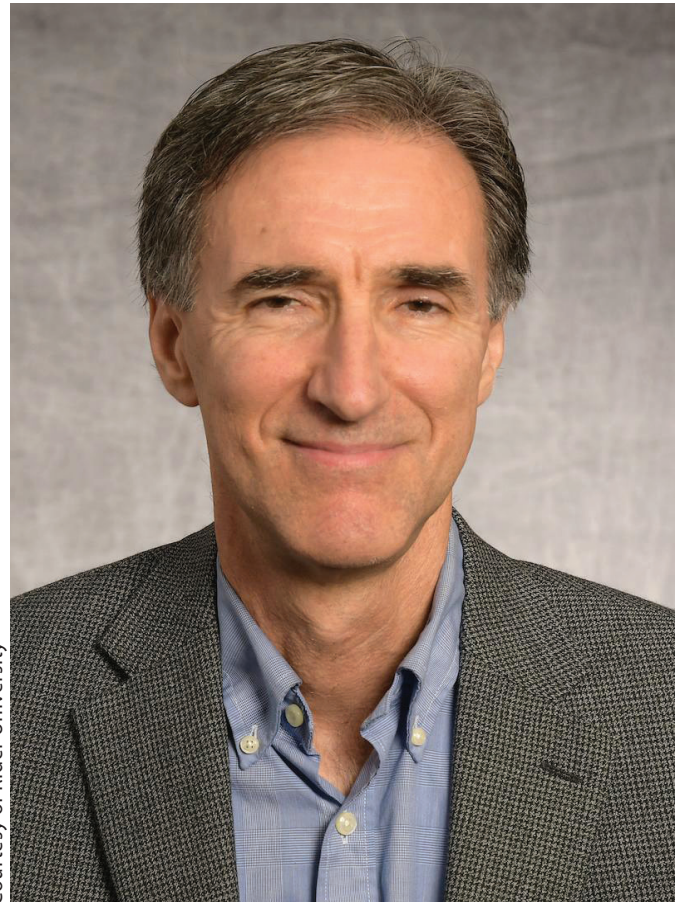
Between what is conservatively \$11 million in lost revenue due to decreased Westminster Choir College enrollments and the \$7.8 million in increased administration costs, the real cost of our 'path forward' is close to \$19 million in lost annual revenue. Now, in the face of a failed strategic plan, our president and board have decided to pursue one of the same failed strategies which brought us to this point. A 'strategic prioritization of academic resources' is being launched (and school funds are being spent) to find 'academic inefficiencies.' This is nothing more than misdirection, like a magician who manages to get you to look at their right hand while their left hand slides the coin into their pocket. Likewise, Dell'Omo would like the conversation about Rider's financial predicament to ignore numerous strategic mistakes and a bloated administrative budget, and instead, look at academic departments and programs.

The truth is obvious. Rider's academic programs are not inefficient. Rider has trimmed \$7.2 million from its operating budget largely due to years of faculty sacrifices. Additionally, departments have created numerous new programs to attract students to the university and increase tuition revenue. Instructional costs

also known as 'academic inefficiencies' are not the problem.

No one should be fooled by this gross misdirection. Rider's financial problems are due to years of failed strategic policies. Nothing more. Nothing less.

*Arthur Taylor, professor, Information Systems and Supply Chain Management Department*



Courtesy of Rider University

**Dr. Arthur Taylor**

## GREEN CORNER

## Tips and tricks for celebrating an environmentally friendly Halloween

**B**OO! Spooky season is among us, so it's time to bring out your inner horror, but let's not scare Mother Nature in the process. Halloween is filled with costumes, candy and decorations galore, but all of these things can lead to waste in the environment. You can do the Earth a favor by following some of these ways to go green on Halloween.

When it comes to ordering costumes, there can be a lot of plastic that is wasted in the process. Research by Hubbub, a U.K.-based environmental charity, found that an estimated 2,000 tons of plastic waste are generated from "disposable" Halloween costumes in a single year. That's the equivalent of 83 million plastic bottles. A great way to avoid the packaging, while also avoiding the 'fast fashion' industry, is to create your own Halloween costume with clothes found at a local thrift store.

You'd be surprised by the seemingly infinite selection of clothes and accessories available from various decades. Plus, this also unlocks your creative side and gets you thinking outside of the box.

Sophomore musical theater major Macy Champlin said that she "loves thrifting because it's the cheapest alternative to buying things fast fashion and gives me so many more options than any other store."

There are tons of great thrift stores near Rider such as Red White & Blue Thrift, The Goodwill Store, Capital Thrift NJ, The Salvation Army and Green Street Consignment.

Costumes are a blast, but it just wouldn't be Halloween without the grim grin of a jack-o-lantern; however, these pumpkins can also lead to a lot of unnecessary waste. Another study by Hubbub estimated that eight million pumpkins will be thrown in the trash after Halloween.

The scariest part is that pumpkins do not need to be thrown away at all. Once you are done with your pumpkin, you can save the seeds on the inside for roasting a yummy snack and then put your pumpkins back in nature near you to decompose and give the animals a treat.

When putting pumpkins back in the woods, make sure to smash the pumpkin so that no animal friend will get their head stuck inside. In addition, if you have your own garden, you can let the pumpkin decompose to turn into fresh fertilizer and soil.

Andrew Chojnacki, a junior music education major said that "As a gardener, I always reuse whatever plant materials I grow," and the process of decomposing "helps next year's garden because the decaying plant materials gives nutrients back to the soil and attracts animals like worms who fertilize the soil even more."

Another great option for Halloween is switching the type of candy you give out. Big brand candy companies not only contribute to deforestation, but also their packaging is non-recyclable, and several of the big companies source their cocoa from countries that use child and forced labor to harvest cocoa beans. According to the Food Empowerment Project, a vegan food justice organization, big brand companies such as Hershey's and Nestle source their cocoa beans from West African countries that use child and slave labor. Try an organic alternative that has fair trade labor practices, incorporates Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance (ESG) and candy that has recyclable packaging. ESG is an evaluation of conscientiousness for environmental and social factors within any firm. As for trick or treating, make sure to bring a reusable bag or pillowcase with you.

Happy Halloween, and have a fun spooky season going green!

*Bailey Poe, Rider eco-rep*



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

VOLLEYBALL

# Volleyball second in MAAC after back-to-back wins

By Logan VanDine

**T**HE Rider volleyball team got back in the win column with back-to-back wins over Columbia on Oct. 20, and Saint Peter's on Oct. 23. The Broncos bested Columbia 3-1 and won in straight sets against Saint Peter's 3-0. Rider now sits in second place in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) with a record of 10-3. With six games left, the Broncos look to go on a hot streak to end the regular season.

### Game 1

The women's volleyball team took down the Columbia Lions in four sets as they moved above .500 on the season with their away victory on Oct. 20.

The Broncos took the first two sets by a score of 25-23. The Lions responded in the third set, winning 25-14, but they could not get the match even as the Broncos won the fourth set 25-21, winning the match 3-1 and improving to 11-10 on the season.

"Overall I think we played pretty well. It's a tough trip going up to New York ... it was a little bit backwards because we didn't know the Ivy League Conference does their warmups differently, so we didn't get to warm up like we normally would," Head Coach Jeffrey Rotondo said.

He added, "[The] first two sets we were able to get a 2-0 lead, some close sets; you know Columbia gets really athletic. They have a lot of good athletes on that team, and we were able to hold off their offense just enough to win the first two sets."

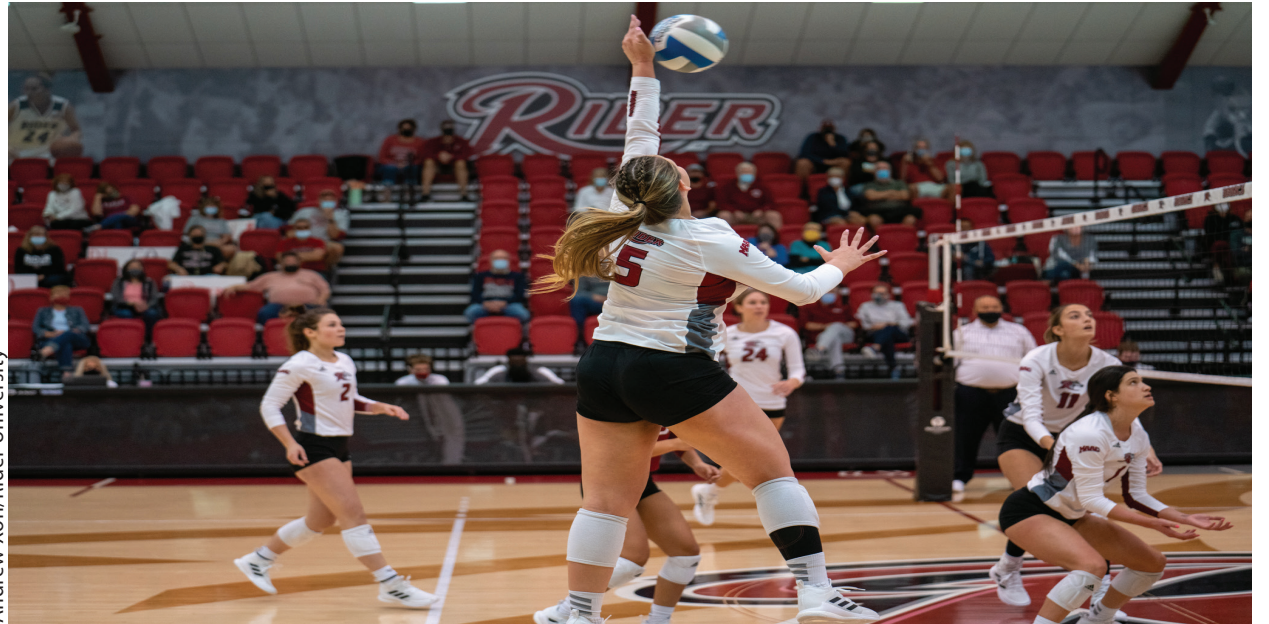
Junior opposite hitter Morgan Romano was a force to be reckoned with, as she led the team with 13 kills and seven blocks, getting her team to 11-10 on the season.

It was the 17th time this season that Romano led her team in kills.

"Morgan being confident in herself is huge, and I think it's good for her to do that in tight situations where we know that teams are keying on her. She still finds a way to get that point to block a hits a small window, so it's great. Morgan is doing a really good job, and she's also doing a really good job on the serve line for us too," Rotondo said.

Romano also talked about what it means to her to lead her team in kills.

"It's kind of motivating for me. Being a leader in aspects like kills and all the younger hitters seeing that



Andrew Xon/Rider University

Junior opposite hitter **Morgan Romano** led the Broncos in kills for the 17th time this season against Columbia.

makes it good for me to do that and for them. I want them to be able to see what I can do and that they can do it too, and I want to be like a role model to them," Romano said.

### Game 2

After a couple of days off, the team headed north to Saint Peter's to take on the Peacocks and made quick work of them, sweeping the match 3-0 on Oct. 23.

The Broncos dominated Saint Peter's taking the first set by a score of 25-17.

The Peacocks made the second match a lot more competitive. Starting with a 7-0 run and a 9-3 lead, the Broncos were able to come back and take the second set by a score of 26-24, before winning the third set easily 25-14, moving to 12-10 on the season.

Despite the Broncos sweeping the match 3-0, Rotondo still was not that pleased with his team's efforts.

"I was pleased with the first and third set. I think the second set we didn't play aggressive enough. It was allowing Saint Peter's to kind of hang around a little bit in that second set," Rotondo said.

"This is something that has popped up against other teams like a Niagara or a Canisius or even a Fairfield where we have a lead and we didn't hold it,

we found ways to let teams back in, and it comes back to bite us, and I made a point about that last night," Rotondo continued.

Romano, who again led her team in kills with 15, gave her overall assessment of her team's win against the Peacocks.

"We had the same mindset to go in, get the work done and get out. We just had to go in there and play our game and control what we can control, and I think we did a really good job getting a road sweep," said Romano.

The volleyball team is now 12-10 on the season after an 0-7 start.

"We do try to schedule tough competition in preseason with Villanova and Temple and going out to Grand Canyon and seeing Western Carolina and Grand Canyon University and Villanova again out there," said Rotondo. "We did try to schedule pretty tough on purpose so we would at least have some really difficult matches on purpose when we get to conference play."


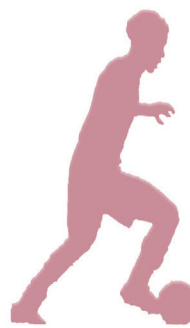

The Broncos now have plenty of time to prepare for their next match when they head to Poughkeepsie to play Marist on Oct. 30.

## THE Rider News

WVB = WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL  
 WSOC = WOMEN'S SOCCER  
 MSOC = MEN'S SOCCER  
 FH = FIELD HOCKEY

■ = Home  
 ■ = Away

# RIDER UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS WEEKLY RIDER SPORTS SCHEDULE

Oct. 27	Oct. 28	Oct. 29	Oct. 30	Oct. 31	Nov. 1	Nov. 2
WSOC VS IONA 3 P.M.  MSOC VS IONA 7 P.M.	FH VS SACRED HEART 4 P.M.		WVB VS MARIST 1 P.M.  MSOC VS SIENA 1 P.M.	WVB VS SIENA 1 P.M.  FH VS COLUMBIA 6 P.M.  WSOC MAAC QUARTERFINALS TBA		

## FIELD HOCKEY

# Rider splits as it competes for playoff spot

By Dylan Manfre

**R**IDER field hockey knew how to turn a lackluster game against Wagner where it lost 2-1, into a much-needed victory by the same score over Saint Francis two days after the defeat.

## Who's in goal?

Head Coach Lori Hussong said previously that Rider has “probably” used a different lineup for every game this season.

As the season progressed, some players remained in their positions while others were shuffled. One position Rider is still answering questions to is goalkeeper.

Junior Kaitlyn Tomas missed her fifth game with an undisclosed injury. Sophomore Carlee Fulton did not start either game but did make a brief appearance in Rider's next game vs. Saint Francis.

Freshman Brooke Golbeski has been Rider's answer in goal as of late, making her third-straight start on Oct. 22 in a 2-1 loss to Wagner.

Even though she gave up a late goal, Golbeski finished the game with a career-best six saves. This was Rider's fourth loss in its last five games.

Late in the opening quarter, Wagner struck first off the rebound of a corner that was first saved by Golbeski.

Fulton, who was out with an undisclosed injury, was dressed in her goalkeeping gear and standing on the sidelines during the game. If this game got out of hand, there was at least a possibility Fulton could see action.

Rider's offense only executed two shots by halftime, which is uncharacteristic given the reputation the offense has developed for itself over the past few seasons.

The Broncos had two corners in the third period, and Divorra was able to convert the second one for a goal tying the game at one. It seemed like Divorra was picking up the pieces for a lackadaisical offense, but the game ended in a 2-1 Broncos loss.

## An offensive resurgence.

Rider struck first against Saint Francis en route to a



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

With two games remaining, Rider needs a win against Sacred Heart in order to make the postseason and defend its conference title.

2-1 victory on its senior day. Carly Brosious scored her 10th goal of the season and it was assisted by fellow senior midfielder Tess van Ommeren.

“We really connect a lot,” Brosious said of her bond with van Ommeren. “She knows where to put [the ball] and I know where to get it.”

She also enjoyed the festivities in the locker room before the game that the underclassmen put on.

This win puts Rider at 3-3 in conference play as it enters a must-win game against Sacred Heart on Oct. 28 for the final playoff spot.

“It was really important,” Hussong said of the win. “First of all, it was senior day, and in order to get into the playoffs, it was a must-win situation for us today. Two, we needed to play well and win in order to continue our season.”

Rider showed signs of much-improved offensive life as it outshot Saint Francis 25-2. The second shot for the Red Flash came on a stroke attempt with a little over one minute left in the game.

Hussong swapped out Golbeski for Fulton on the attempt, who was available, but did not start the game,

with a minute left in regulation.

“Carlee Fulton is better at [defending] strokes,” Hussong said.

It did not go Rider's way as Saint Francis scored a goal.

Hussong may have to reconcile with the fact that Tomas may be out for the season. She still classified Tomas as day-to-day and added she is “making improvements.”

Hussong did not rule her out for the rest of the season.

“We don't rule anybody out until the season's over,” Hussong said.

She did commend the job that Golbeski has done in the goal given the immediacy of the situation.

“Brooke has done, actually, an amazing job,” Hussong said. “The only goals that have been scored upon her have been really tough shots, really good shots and whoever wins the job, whoever is healthy enough to play on Thursday, we're going to put our best team out on the field.”

The Broncos will face Sacred Heart on Oct. 28.

## WOMEN'S SOCCER

# 'Desire and desperation': Broncos lose on senior day

By Carolo Pascale

**A** SENIOR day that was filled with excitement and pride was ruined for Rider women's soccer, as Quinnipiac stole the show shutting the Broncos out 4-0 on Oct. 23, putting the team in a must-win scenario with their postseason hopes now coming down to the final game of the season.

“We did alright in periods. First half, I thought we had probably some of the better plays there. With a smaller squad and beat-up players, it's just the game can get away from you very quickly. But I thought we competed hard,” Head Coach Drayson Hounsoume said of the loss.

Before the game kicked off, the Broncos celebrated their six seniors in an emotional ceremony. Each senior had their family and friends with them, and the ceremony ended in a big group picture.

“It was really awesome to have my family here on senior day. They've come to a lot of games throughout the year, and it's just disappointing we didn't win,” said senior midfielder Ailis Martin.

But there was still a game to be played, and as soon as it kicked off, it was clear that Quinnipiac wanted just as much attention as the senior day festivities did.

The Bobcats got out to a fast start forcing Broncos sophomore goalkeeper Rachel Ross to make two saves inside the first nine minutes of the match.

Continuing their pressure, the Bobcats drew a foul inside the box in the 26th minute, earning themselves a penalty kick which they would capitalize on, giving them a 1-0 lead early in the match. The score stayed put the first half ended.

In the second half, the Broncos gave up a second goal in the 62nd minute, giving Quinnipiac a 2-0 lead.

Only five minutes later, Quinnipiac scored again, giving the Bobcats a 3-0 lead. But the Broncos had



Carolo Pascale/The Rider News

Senior defender Niamh Cashin returned from injury to play in the senior day game against Quinnipiac.

a bigger problem on their hands. On the goal, Ross slammed her back against the goalpost, laying face down in pain on the turf. The Broncos are already without fellow sophomore goalkeeper Ellie Sciancalepore, who is out for the rest of the season due to injury. Ross stayed down for a few minutes, eventually getting up and staying in the game, but she was constantly holding and stretching her back throughout the rest of the game.

The game played on; Quinnipiac scored one more goal in the 85th minute, and the game ended with a final score of 4-0. The Broncos only managed to register five shots throughout the game, their second-lowest shot total of the season.

Senior defender Niamh Cashin said “We have to take more chances. Just test their keeper and keep taking more shots. It's all about desire and desperation on Wednesday. We have it all to play for. Our season

ends if we don't win.”

It's now do or die for the Broncos, as they are tied with Manhattan for the last spot in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Women's Soccer Playoffs. Both teams have one game left, with Manhattan taking on top seeded Monmouth, and the injury ridden Broncos taking on the 10-7 Iona Gaels.

Hounsoume knows there is only one way left to get to the postseason.

“We have to win,” the experienced coach said bluntly.

When asked about what would happen if Ross is not available for the game against Iona, Hounsoume responded, “We won't play the game. If we've got no goalies we won't play the game. So let's hope she's fit.”

The Broncos final chance to make the playoffs against Iona on Oct. 27 starts at 3 p.m. and will be streamed on ESPN+.

# Sports

ONLINE

**NORMALCY RETURNS**  
*MAAC commissioner and Rider basketball coaches are excited for a normal MAAC Tournament in Atlantic City.*



MEN'S SOCCER

## Broncs show 'a lot of heart' in two win week



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

Sophomore midfielder **Adel Al-Masude** was named MAAC Rookie of the Week for a second time this season.

By Jacob Tiger

**G**OING into the weekend, the Rider men's soccer team was 2-2-1 in conference play and 5-5-2 overall; almost impressively average on paper.

With back-to-back conference games standing in their way, the Broncs had a chance to prove that they were more than average, and they seized that opportunity.

Rider scored eight total goals to take down both Fairfield and Canisius, improving to 7-5-2 and ascending to third in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) standings.

### 'Tremendous team spirit'

On Oct. 20, the Broncs took on the Fairfield Stags in what was arguably their biggest game yet.

In a display of heart and confidence, Rider defeated Fairfield by a score of 4-3, getting a massive comeback win against a strong conference rival.

"I think what we have is tremendous team spirit, and it showed today. Two games in a row we went down 2-0 and fought back, and that's a lot of character," said Head Coach Charlie Inverso. "More than anything, it was a gut win tonight. Guys dug in deep, a lot of heart, and I'm really proud of 'em."

Even before kickoff, the energy was high at a Ben Cohen Field that was packed with fans pounding their feet on the metal bleachers and cheering for a Rider team that looked focused and determined.

Despite their early eagerness, the Broncs were outplayed in the first half, going down 2-0.

Fairfield's first goal came off of a penalty kick in the 38th minute, and their second was the result of a play in the 42nd minute where the Stags seemingly jogged right through the Rider defense.

"We give up goals in bunches, and that's been our Achilles heel all year, but we can score," said Inverso.

The Broncs certainly can score, as their offense kicked it into overdrive in the second half, ripping off

four unanswered goals.

Graduate student midfielder Taner Bay scored the first goal when Rider got a penalty kick of its own in just the third minute of the second half.

Then, Rider's shining star, senior forward Zaki Alibou, notched his ninth goal of the season in the 60th minute off of a perfectly placed shot.

"There's never a dull moment with Zaki. He scored a majestic goal tonight," said Inverso.

With the goal, Alibou is tied for the lead in goals in the MAAC this season. He credits his skills and work ethic to his success.

"Hard work, patience and [I] give everything to win. The ball comes to me and I try hard to score," said Alibou.

Alibou was unable to play at his usual level in the first half, being hampered by a minor groin injury he suffered, but eventually, his competitive nature was enough to get himself back in the game.

"It affected [me] in the first half, but if you want to win you don't feel it as much. I think tomorrow and tonight I'm going to feel it ... hopefully, I'm gonna be there in the next game," said Alibou of his injury.

Rider's third goal came in the 62nd minute courtesy of graduate student back Sergio Aguinaga, who later set up the fourth goal for senior back Jeremy Peterson with a beautiful cross.

Fairfield scored once more in the 82nd minute, but the Broncs were able to hang on to their lead, securing a crucial victory.

"We know that we were in a tough position in this league ... right now every game is a final," said Aguinaga.

Not only did the Broncs win, but they also demonstrated a considerable amount of resilience and adaptability, both of which are intangible, invaluable assets that can be hard to come by.

"More than anything I wanna give a shout-out to the staff. I think our assistant coaches came up with

a great plan at halftime. Give them full credit for the turn-around," said Inverso.

### All-around dominance

After a huge win against the Stags, the Broncs were right back at it on Oct. 23, facing the then 1-10-2 Canisius Griffins.

Oozing with confidence after their glorious comeback, Rider had no problem handling the Griffins, winning by a score of 4-1.

Junior midfielder Matt Araujo scored first for the Broncs in the 20th minute, netting his first goal of the season.

Aguinaga then joined in 15 minutes later by scoring his fourth of the season, continuing a recent hot streak in which he has scored a goal in each of Rider's last three matches.

In the 55th minute, the Griffins finally got on the board, but junior back Lenny Cidolit responded six minutes later by scoring his third goal of the season.

Last but certainly not least, Alibou got in on the action in the 81st minute, shooting the ball from the end line and squeezing it into an extremely small window for the goal.

The goal was Alibou's 10th of the season and was also his sixth goal in six games.

Graduate student goalkeeper Pablo Gatinois was also on point and easily had his best game of the season, totaling seven saves overall and rejecting a penalty kick that could've got Canisius back in the game.

A great win for the Broncs, as they take another win in the MAAC and avoid what could have easily been a trap game.

Rider, with yet another chance to prove themselves, stares down a daunting pair of must-win conference games against Iona on Oct. 27 and Siena on Oct. 30.

The Broncs will surely look to prove that their recent success is more than just a mere hot streak.

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