

## Students express frustrations with COVID testing criteria

By Sarah Siock and Shaun Chornobroff

**A**s students at Rider continue to navigate their way through the COVID-19 pandemic, the community has opened up about its concerns stemming from the strict standards required to secure a test from the university's Student Health Center.

### Testing confusion

The university has administered 351 tests through the Student Health Center as of Nov. 12, according to the university COVID-19 dashboard, with a semester high of 80 tests being conducted in the dashboard's most recent update.

However, not only are faculty unable to test through the health center, but students are only able to test if they are close contacts or symptomatic, multiple faculty members and university administrators have confirmed to The Rider News. Rider's Resolved and Ready plan defines a close contact as someone who was within 6 feet of someone with COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, with or without a mask.

Students expressed frustrations with the university not offering universal testing and said the close contact criteria are not clear.

Angela Rizzo, a junior elementary education major, was immediately concerned when she was informed on Nov. 2 that one of her professors tested positive for COVID-19. In an email with the subject line of "COVID Testing Needed ASAP"

Rizzo explained to the health center that she does field work at an elementary school where she teaches unvaccinated children and wanted a test as soon as possible from the university to ensure that she was keeping them safe before going into her class the next week.

To her dismay, she was told that she was not a close contact and offered no form of assistance in receiving a test.

"It was extremely frustrating for me because last year, my roommates, we all had to quarantine because of coronavirus, and through that, we got a test right away," Rizzo said. "But the fact that they wouldn't give me a test, especially since I explained my situation, said that I go into school with unvaccinated kids, and I want to make sure that I'm negative, it was extremely frustrating."

Juliet Inforzato, a senior psychology major, is immunocompromised and all three of her suitemates have worried about exposure to the virus at different points in the fall semester. Inforzato admitted that she has had a heightened sense of concern this year and feels unsafe with the school not providing tests for all students.

"I don't think that's okay because I don't think you have to be a close contact [to be exposed]. ... We know that not everybody wears their mask correctly and some of my teachers don't even wear a mask when they talk," Inforzato said. "I think that if you were exposed in any way you should be able to get a test."

### 'Focusing on what's most important'

Despite the confusion and concern stirring among students, Debbie Stasolla, vice president for strategic initiatives and planning and secretary to the board said the health center is following Center for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, which only call for symptomatic students and their close contacts to be tested five to seven days after exposure. Additionally, unvaccinated students and employees are required to be tested weekly to attend in-person classes.

Stasolla said the volume would be too great if all students could be tested when they pleased since the health center still has the responsibility of caring for other student health needs on campus.

Stasolla said, "We wouldn't be able to keep focusing our attention on what's most important, which are symptomatic students, and students who through our training process have been identified as close contacts and really do need to be tested. We would probably spend a lot of our time just doing testing, which would be to the detriment of those other important and really primary responsibilities."

Stasolla encouraged students who do not meet the health centers' standards of testing to find testing options off-campus.

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Andrew Xon/The Rider News

The Health Center is attached to Poyda Hall in the back of campus.

## Social Movements students host "Change My Mind..." event

By Kaitlyn McCormick

**S**TUDENTS from professor Richard Zdan's Social Movements class hosted a "Change My Mind..." event on Nov. 9, in the Student Recreation Center as an extension to the counter protest staged in response to a critical race theory (CRT) event held by Rider's chapter of Turning Point USA (TPUSA) in October.

On Oct. 20, TPUSA held an anti-CRT event, which they referred to as "Critical Hate Theory," with guest speaker Anthony Watson, a TPUSA ambassador and Olympic skeleton racer. Students criticized the event for lacking healthy and productive discourse.

Junior political science major Katy Timari, a student involved with organizing "Change My Mind..." said, "Our main point is to make sure we are holding this event in a civilized manner and have educated people to help continue conversation and answer questions."

The Social Movements students' event had around two dozen attendees and featured four Rider faculty members with expertise in various fields to promote positive and healthy dialogue about various topics. Experts included foreign languages professor Cynthia Martinez, sociology and criminology professor Sarah Trocchio, legal studies and sports management professor Charles Ray and political science professor Micah Rasmussen, who is also director of the Rebovich Institute for New Jersey Politics.

In continuation of the event's name, "Change My Mind ..." faculty sat at tables with coordinating signs for the respective topics they were discussing: "... Performative Allies are the Problem," "... Reverse Racism Isn't Real," "We Need Diversity and Inclusion" and, in the spirit of the event, "... Civil Discourse Isn't Dead."

What began as an in-class, student-led discussion following various events held by Rider's chapter of TPUSA evolved into an applied midterm for Zdan's sociology class that allowed students to apply what they learned in the classroom to a real-world setting.



Kate McCormick/The Rider News

Students gather at the "Change My Mind..." event hosted on Nov. 9 by Richard Zdan's Social Movements class.

Rasmussen, who tabled the topic "... Civil Discourse Isn't Dead," explained his view on the type of discussion this event was promoting.

Rasmussen said, "What intrigued me about it was ... so much of civility is just learning to listen to each other and not talk over each other and to hear each other."

"If you can practice that a little bit sitting around the table, we can be better listeners, and if we around this room can be 30 better listeners, then we have improved the civility of Rider University," Rasmussen said.

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## SECURITY BRIEFS

BY SARAH SIOCK

### Vehicle vandalism

Rotten eggs. On Nov. 11, at 11:00 a.m., Public Safety was dispatched to the sorority lot to speak with a student regarding vandalism to their vehicle. Public Safety arrived on location and spoke with the student who reported coming out to their car and finding that someone had thrown eggs at it and left the empty carton on the ground. The student could not think of anyone that may have done it, and Public safety is investigating.

### Suspected marijuana

Searched and secured. On Nov, 13 at 5:02 p.m., Public Safety was dispatched to Hill Residence Hall for a report of the smell of suspected marijuana. The source of the smell was narrowed down to a room, and Public Safety spoke with the student who resides there. The student granted permission to search the room. The search was conducted in the presence of the student and Residence Life. Marijuana was found and disposed of. The incident has been referred to the Office of Community Standards.

### Delivery disaster

Tipping is a common courtesy. On Nov. 13 at 9:12 p.m., Public Safety was on patrol in the area of Conover Residence Hall when an officer observed two people fighting. The officer approached the situation, and one male entered a car and sped off. The officer asked what had happened, and the other male stated he ordered food and did not tip the driver. The officer then went to identify the other male that sped off, but realized they had already departed campus. The incident remains under investigation.

-Information provided by Public Safety Capt. Matthew Babcock

## Professors speak on concerns over COVID-19 cases in classes

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Stasolla said, “The circumstances are different now. There are plenty of pharmacies in the area or close to home where anyone could get tested.”

### Professors’ concerns

Professors also voiced uncertainty over Rider’s contact tracing protocols as cases have begun to pop up in their classes. Stasolla said professors are not explicitly told if a student in their class tests positive for COVID-19. Instead, professors are emailed a “class absence notice” informing them health reasons are preventing a student from attending their class. Stasolla said this process was created to be “as confidential as possible.”

However, there are exceptions to this rule. If the professor was identified as a close contact, then they would be notified of the COVID-19 case in their class. Professors are also informed in some situations to help with contact tracing. For example, if a student cannot identify their close contacts in the classroom, Stasolla said a professor would then be informed of who the student is, whether their test resulted in a positive and asked to tell who sits near them.

Nancy Wiencek, chair of the department of communication, journalism and media recently had students in one of her classes test positive for COVID-19 and she said certain parts of the communication process left her with questions.

On Nov. 9, Wiencek was informed via email that a student in her class tested positive for COVID-19 and was asked to provide a list of students who sat near the infected individual. On Nov. 10, Wiencek received a “class absence notice” from Rider’s COVID-19 case manager Chris Botti. The message did not say the student had COVID-19, but it was one of the student’s Wiencek previously identified as a close contact. This time Wiencek was not asked to help with contact tracing.

Wiencek said, “I was concerned about the first student because I’m concerned about the health and safety of all the students ... When I received the second notice, I was really concerned because I didn’t know what to do. Now there are two students in class and these were two students who actually sat near each other.”

Wiencek quickly booked an appointment for a COVID-19 test at a local pharmacy for herself and later tested negative. However, she was left with unanswered questions, such as if there would be a certain point when she needed to move her class to Zoom. Stallosa said determining if a class should move to Zoom is dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Wiencek said, “We’re all just a little bit on edge. If I have two cases in my class, just referring me back to the website isn’t enough. We want to keep everybody safe. You have to also keep in mind that as faculty members and staff we go home. We’re not in a little bubble here. There’s many of the faculty who have little kids at home.”

Wiencek’s experience isn’t unique.

Dr. Jay Stern, a professor of film and television, tested positive for COVID-19 himself earlier in November, and even before that, had multiple positive cases within his classes.

“I had a student who was positive, like my first day of teaching this semester that was in our class and was close [to me]. I wasn’t told to test or anything for that, and that was distressing because we’re just coming back now, and how’s this going to play out?” Stern said.

When Stern tested positive he notified his students as soon as he tested positive for the virus and moved his classes to Zoom. Stern had one “health compromised” student reach out to him about testing for what he assumed to be “their own peace of mind” during the semester.

Stern said, “I can’t speak for everybody obviously, but the idea is, we want to be hypervigilant about this, and we want to make sure we can be routinely tested because in my case I was highly symptomatic. I just felt awful. ... So sure, I think testing should be available.”

## Social movement event described as a ‘teachable moment’

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Senior economics major Quamel Parris said, “Just hearing how others think – their background and things like that – all of that matters when it comes to understanding somebody. ... It just makes the conversation that much easier to be had.”

Zdan described this event as a “teachable moment.”

“They did it using my class as a framework. ... A social movements class cannot be purely academic. ... Activism is fundamentally about walking like you talk it,” Zdan said.

Following the CRT event, a change.org petition was created anonymously by a Rider student that called for Rider’s TPUSA chapter to be banned. The petition has 66 signatures as of Nov. 15. Rider’s chapter of TPUSA released a statement via Instagram on Oct. 25 following the original counter-protest to their CRT event last month.

“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 event on Critical Race Theory and our speaker Anthony Watson. ... We value diverse perspectives and are always happy to engage with those who disagree with our positions,” the statement read.

Rider’s chapter of TPUSA did not respond to requests for comment regarding the Nov. 9 event.



Kaitlyn McCormick/The Rider News

Students gathered in the Student Recreation Center atrium to participate in the discussion.

# COVID team not changing procedure for holiday break

By Shaun Chornobroff and Jeremy Hester

**W**HEN Rider students gather around their tables surrounded by loved ones on Thanksgiving, enjoying all the holiday classics like turkey or a plate of stuffing, it will come with the realization that, unlike the year before, they will be returning to their dorm rooms that Sunday and attending class the following day on Nov. 29.

Despite discussions of moving to remote learning, Rider's COVID-19 Implementation Team ultimately decided to complete the semester as they did pre-pandemic, according to Rider's Vice President Initiatives and Planning and Secretary to the Board Debbie Stasolla.

"The COVID [protocol implementation] team did talk about [going remote]," said Stasolla, who is also one of the leaders of the implementation team. "But given the relatively low number of cases that we've been dealing with so far, and the fact that the majority of our students, faculty and staff are vaccinated, that we will be finishing out the semester like we typically do."

## How Other State Schools Have Fared

The university has staved off a massive outbreak of the virus thus far, only recording 40 positive cases of COVID-19 in the community as of Nov. 12, the last time the university's weekly COVID-19 dashboard was updated. Of the 40 cases, 27 have come within Rider's 4,730 person student population.

Theo Edgehill, a junior computer science major has been particularly pleased with the measures the university has taken this semester.

"I feel like they have done a lot to make sure the students have stayed safe," said Edgehill. "And the mandate that we have to wear masks has been really helpful."

Montclair State, another New Jersey institution with a student population of 20,022, has seen 176 positive cases in the fall semester among its student population as of Nov. 11, according to its dashboard.

Blake Montalto, a senior at Montclair, explained that students are encouraged to stay 6 feet apart when possible, required to keep their masks up and have to use an app called Hawk Check.

"Every morning before leaving the dorm ... students are required to complete a survey that asks if we have any symptoms or if we have been in contact with COVID-19," Montalto explained. "If we check any of those boxes it says we can't enter campus, but I couldn't tell you the last time someone asked to see if I completed it."

Rider uses an app, similar to Hawk Check, called Campus Clear which describes itself as a "One-question daily self-survey that takes less than 10 seconds to complete." Users are required to mark down any symptoms they may be experiencing, and depending on their answers, they are either greenlighted or told to go and isolate themselves.

When asked how he felt his college was handling in-person classes during the pandemic, Kieran Nashad, a senior at The College of New Jersey, simply replied "Poorly."

TCNJ has had 11 confirmed COVID-19 cases in the past two weeks. He said that while the school requires students to be vaccinated and wear masks indoors, he wasn't sure it was enough to actively prevent the COVID-19 virus from spreading.

"I see people pull [their masks] down all the time, especially in the gym. Mostly everyone wears masks, but a lot of them don't wear them correctly," Nashad said.

Nashad also mentioned that his school, which enrolls approximately 6,580 full-time students, has its daily self-check-up app, called TCNJ Roar.

"No one ever checks [the app]. I've only had to show somebody maybe one time, even though they told us at the beginning of the semester we need to fill it out every day," Nashad said.

At Princeton University, administrators took a tougher approach transitioning away from online learning. The school had been working to ensure the safety of its 5,267 students, requiring students to take a weekly COVID-19 test. Of the 4,809 tests that were taken at Princeton in the week of Nov. 8, 16 came back positive for the virus.

## Will history repeat itself?

Rider's website says that there are 36 states and two United States territories, along with 53 countries represented among its more than 4,500 person student population.

Bailey Adams, a sophomore environmental science major, is one of the students anxious about a potential rise in positive COVID-19 cases after the five-day holiday break.

"It makes me really nervous because I think there's going to be a lot of travel. And I know there are some people who are unvaccinated, and they could be bringing things back to us," Adams explained. "It doesn't really even matter how cautious we are because we're really doing all of these things for others. And if others aren't doing it for us, we could be getting sick."

When Thanksgiving Day was celebrated in 2020, New Jersey had a seven-day average of 4,887 positive cases, according to the Johns Hopkins University and Medicine Coronavirus Resource Center. Eleven days later, on Dec. 7, the seven-day average had grown to 5,784 cases.

Before students departed campus for the holiday the previous school year, the school offered COVID-19 tests to students, but will not be repeating the same practice this semester.


"When we offered this testing last year at Thanksgiving and at the end of the spring semester, testing wasn't necessarily quite as widely available as it is now. So we were trying to facilitate that for our students. The circumstances are different now. There are plenty of pharmacies in the area or close to home where anyone could get tested," Stasolla said.

Stasolla also explained that the implementation team will not be taking any extra precautions once students return on Nov. 28, saying that the team will be "standing

by only doing weekly surveillance testing for unvaccinated students and employees."

Despite not increasing testing before or after the holiday break, Stasolla knows that there is always a possibility of a rise in cases among the student population.

"I think there certainly is the possibility that we may see an uptick in cases as a result of not so much their travel, but the fact that they're interacting now with other people, their families," Stasolla said. "But think about it, some students have been probably interacting with their families anyway periodically throughout this semester. ... But you're right, probably as a result of the Thanksgiving Break, most of our students will be returning home for that holiday break, so I think we should expect the possibility of an increase in cases."



**Confirmed Cases:**  
Last updated: Nov. 12, 2021

40

**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
Nov. 6- 12	7	0
Oct. 30-Nov. 5	2	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
Nov. 6-12	80	296
Oct. 30-Nov. 5	32	295
Oct. 23-29	13	311
Oct. 16-22	33	245
<b>Total</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>2097</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:

- 2 student(s) quarantining on campus
- 2 student(s) quarantining off campus
- 2 student(s) isolating on campus
- 5 student(s) isolating off campus

Adrienne Unfried/The Rider News

Information courtesy of Rider.edu



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Adrienne Unfried/The Rider News

# Slaveowner's name removed from campus' Alumni House

By **Tori Pender**

**R**IDER'S Board of Trustees voted to remove the name "Van Cleve" from the 18th century Alumni House on campus on Oct. 20 after learning its root in the history of slavery.

The Alumni House, formerly known as Benjamin Van Cleve Alumni House's link to slavery was revealed by the Task Force on Rider and the History of Slavery.

The Task Force on Rider and the History of Slavery was created in 2020 by Rider President Gregory Dell'Omo. The Task Force was co-chaired by Evelyn McDowell, the chair of Rider's accounting department, and Brooke Hunter, associate dean of Rider's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and associate professor of history.

McDowell is a founding board member of the National Society of the Sons and Daughters of the United States Middle Passage, a society that focuses on preserving the memory and history of slavery, and Hunter is the Lawrence Township historian.

Neither Hunter or McDowell were surprised that Rider had a link to slavery. Hunter said, "As Lawrence Township historian, I've been researching slavery and abolition in the township for a number of years. And you know, Rider's property is not the only property that has a history of slavery."

McDowell continued, "I do research on slavery, specifically in New Jersey, and I've been doing that research for probably the past three years. I knew that slavery occurred here. It actually occurred in all 13 colonies. A lot of people don't know that."

The research that McDowell, Hunter and their team did, concluded that while Van Cleve fought for the ideas of freedom and liberty during the Revolutionary War, he also contributed to the cruelty and oppression of Black Americans by being a slave owner.

"In terms of Rider being proactive, they were being proactive about this history," explained McDowell. "They wanted to get in front of it and make some decision about what to do in terms of their connection to it."

In a university-wide email sent on Oct. 20 by Dell'Omo and John Guarino '82 on, chair of the board of trustees, they said the new information about Van Cleve could not "be ignored."

Hunter said, "This project was not simply to remove a name from a building on our campus, but more broadly, to educate people and to continue to educate people, to involve students especially in this research moving forward."

Dion Moore, a senior cybersecurity major said, "I only found out about how it was named after a slaveholder right after they changed the name."

At first, Moore, a Black student, did not believe that this information coming to light affected him.

Moore continued, "Then I realized that Rider is still doing small things to create change. This is in the right direction, but I think they are still avoiding the underlying problem that students face on a daily basis."

McDowell said, "My hope ... is that people will become more aware of this history, and I also want people to become aware and more sensitive to the horrors of slavery and realize that real people were impacted."



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

The Alumni house is located on the front of Rider's campus facing Route 206.

# 107.7 The Bronc's award-winning season

By **Olivia Nicoletti**

**G**OING from a radio station "unknown" by its own campus, 107.7 The Bronc has skyrocketed over the years, hitting records nationwide and winning numerous awards in John Mozes' decade-plus tenure as general manager of the station.

Four members of the 107.7 The Bronc team won three awards from the National Electronic Media Association (NBS-AERho) on Nov. 5.

Tiffani Britton, a senior film and television major, received the Best Audio Promo award for her work on "Rider Student Top Chef: Flour Power."

According to John Mozes, the general manager at 107.7 The Bronc, Britton came in during the summer of her freshman year wanting to get involved.

Mozes said, "She's very creative, she's not afraid to try anything and because of that, she's been able to succeed and grow at the station every year."

Ethan Duer, a business communication graduate student, and Dom ReRosa '21, won an award for Best Audio Sports Program for their work on the Lawrence High School Walk Off-Win.

Justin Riebman, a senior sports media major, is especially proud because when he got the position of sports director at The Bronc in the spring semester of 2021, Duer and ReRosa were his first hires.

"We initially just had them do high school baseball in the spring, but then the opportunity came up for the college's Atlanta Collegiate Baseball League in the summer," said Riebman. "It was no doubt to bring them back and have them do those games, and I'm very proud of both of them."

The award for Best Audio Sports Program went to Daniel Harris, a senior sports media major, for his work on The Coaches Clipboard with Lynn Milligan.

Mozes expressed his gratitude for Harris and his twin Isaac Harris who came to Rider for their senior year after attending a plethora of colleges. The brothers never physically came into the radio station until a few weeks before graduation, according to Mozes.

"Because of the pandemic they were home, but I love how Daniel and his brother integrated themselves with our students; it was like they were there every day," said Mozes. "[Daniel] wasn't playing basketball, so he took his passions for basketball and did the broadcasts with Shawn Johnson for Rider women's basketball. They would interview coach Milligan, which is the interview he won an award for."

Mozes applauded the members of the team for their motivation, especially throughout the difficulties of this year.

"Being nominated two consecutive years shows the consistency that we're putting out over the air on a regular basis day in and day out," said Mozes.

During the obstacles of COVID-19, the members of the radio station continued



Carolo Pascale/The Rider News

Emily Katt (left), Thomas Franks (middle) and Justin Riebman (right) gathered around the recording table, in the radio station.

working hard. According to Riebman, "During the worst of the pandemic, we did everything remotely and kept the station going."

For news Director Thomas Franks and engineering Director Emily Katt, both are filled with pride for the team's success this year.

On top of the individual awards, the station as a whole was nominated for the Marconi Award given by the National Association of Broadcasters this year and in 2020.

Katt said, "Not only did we get nominated for the Marconi Award for College Radio Station of The Year for two consecutive years, but the station also won NBS-AERho awards. All of us at 107.7 The Bronc work really hard, and it feels great to see our hard work and dedication pay off."

Franks said, "I think what sets The Bronc apart from other college radio stations is that we have a good work ethic from top to bottom as well as strong leadership. Even our newer and younger staff learned the ropes from senior staff upon their departure so that we never skip a beat. We've been nominated for awards, including the Marconi, before and after moving to the new station. So it's all about work ethic for us."

Apart from the team members, the campus as a whole had been invested in the outcome of the Marconi Awards.

"It's really cool to see how many people came to support on Wednesday. The provost was at the launch party, Leanna Fenneberg [vice president of student affairs] was there. It was just great to feel that people are acknowledging our hard work," said Riebman. "I even said this going into Wednesday: win or lose, I'm just happy for everyone."

The radio station did not receive the Marconi Award on Nov. 10, but according to Riebman, it just means a lot "that a small school like Rider is getting acknowledged".

In the 13 years since Mozes began his job as general manager of the radio station, he is humbled to see the school pride 107.7 The Bronc has possessed through the years.

"The students who I initially worked with kind of planted the seed, and then I watched this tree grow, and all the branches that now have to develop in all the things that we do," Mozes said. "All the engaged learning opportunities we give, all the things that they learn and then take with them into the real world."

The staff at the radio station did not look at this as a defeat but were proud to be nominated in the first place; they continue to look forward to what comes next.

"We do what radio was meant to: we're not gimmicky, we don't try to do something crazy or outrageous, just to get people to tune in and want to listen. We try to get them to come tune in every day, or every week, or once a month, or whatever that might be, and get a good product so that they want to come back and listen to it over and over and over again," Mozes said. "Keep listening and supporting us, and we promise to keep on delivering to the student body."

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# Barstool comedian impresses Rider students

By Tristan Leach

**L**AUGHTER rang throughout the Cavalla Room as actor, writer and comedian Francis Ellis cracked several jokes. With a bright smile, he watched as an audience of students laughed audibly.

Ellis was invited by The Student Entertainment Council to perform on Nov. 11. His many credits include writing for Barstool Sports, musical comedy songs about “Game of Thrones” and earlier this year, being featured at the Moontower Comedy Festival.

Though the audience was small, those who attended were met with jokes that made it hard to breathe. The show started with Ellis dialoguing as he walked to the stage. The long walk from his dressing room to the stage allowed him to survey his audience. Ellis sported a grey Rider shirt gifted to him by the Student Entertainment Council.

He expressed his happiness for being invited to Rider, saying he thought a small school meant cooler and nicer people. He then joked that it also meant a small audience, saying “Nice to see so few of you here.”

The comedian was big on jokes pertaining to greek life on campus. Interacting with the brothers of several different fraternities in the audience, Ellis told his own stories about college and his experiences with other fraternities. The brothers were in stitches most of the time, whooping and clapping at Ellis’s jokes.

Jokes and stories about COVID-19 were a significant part of the show. Ellis did not wear a mask, but everyone in attendance was required to. Ellis revealed that he and his fiancée left New York City during the pandemic because they could not work in the same space. He went on to say that he knew he was ready to be married because all his friends were doing it. Saying, “If we can survive a pandemic together, we can survive a life together.”

Ellis had a variety of themes he returned to throughout the show. Not only were fraternity and pandemic jokes some of his favorite, but also “Harry Potter” and musical theater jokes. He joked that any musical theater kids in the audience were going to haunt him for the rest of his life.

Ironically, there were a few performing arts students in the audience. The friends laughed at the jokes about their major with a glint in their eyes. Sophia Porter, a freshman acting major, chuckled, “I didn’t know who the guy was, but I was thoroughly surprised and I enjoyed my time. It was very fun on a Thursday night.”

As the show concluded, Ellis thanked everyone for attending, saying that Rider students were “learning scholars and classy folks.” Ellis smiled, waved and exited the stage.

Students left their seats, retelling some of their favorite jokes from the night.

Emily Paruk, a freshman acting major, was one of the audience members talking

excitedly to her friends.

Paruk said, “There were moments during the show where I felt like I was laughing so hard that even after the joke, I had to hold back my laughter. I still felt like I wanted to continue laughing; it was thoroughly enjoyable and very very fun.”

Students thanked the Student Entertainment Council as they left the Cavalla Room. The show was a good start to the weekend ahead.



Tristan Leach/The Rider News

Many students enjoyed **Francis Ellis**’ act on Nov. 11 in the Cavalla Room.

# Rider welcomes radio host Angie Martinez

By Zachary Klein

**R**IDER, in partnership with Tapestry — an on-campus club whose mission is to represent underserved populations through media and communications — welcomed legendary New York radio host Angie Martinez to campus on Nov. 9.

Martinez has been involved with the radio industry since she was 18 years old when she interned at New York radio’s Hot 97. She worked at that station for almost 20 years, solidifying herself as a radio mainstay and earning the nickname “The Voice of New York.”

Martinez left Hot 97 in 2014 for the station’s main competitor, Power 105.1. Her legacy traveled with her to this new outlet, and she is now also syndicated in Miami.

The interview was conducted by senior communications studies major Rikiyah Mixson, where Rider students were allowed to attend. She focused on how hip-hop has formed and has become a major part of Martinez’s life as discussed in her memoir.

“I kind of fell in love with the culture, [of hip-hop],” Mixson said.

“I liked having people to listen to that looked like the people on my block. The people who were making this music were at the corner store and other places in my neighborhood.”

Martinez was as much the interviewee as she was the interviewer. She was often in back-and-forth conversation with Mixson about her personal life, just as if she was interviewing someone on the radio.

Martinez wanted to know from Mixson and also from audience members what their passion was and what they strived to do.

“My passion is public health,” Mixson told Martinez in conversation. “I’m especially focused on Black women in underserved populations.” Martinez immediately connected, using her personality and radio interviewing skills to tell a story about her own life.

Connecting with Rider students is an easy task for Martinez, who has done interviews with Beyoncé, Jay-Z and former President Barack Obama, as well as some of the biggest names in hip-hop today.

Martinez previously was a rapper and was featured on singles by Lil’ Kim and Mary J. Blige.

She was also nominated for a Grammy for her appearance on “Not Tonight” by Lil’ Kim. Mixson asked Martinez about current female rappers, and their place in hip-hop today.

“I think it’s in a great place today. ... There’s so much room for different types of women because I think if you only have one style of female rapping, it’s boring,” Martinez answered.

More recently, Martinez has etched her name into the greatest awards in the radio industry. In 2018, she won a Marconi Award for major media market personality of the year. She was also inducted into the Radio Hall of Fame in 2020, which is the biggest honor one can receive in the industry.

After the interview, the audience of Rider students, parents, alumni and staff were able to ask questions. Topics asked ranged from Martinez’s opinions on music producers to advice for young artists to the impact she’s had on the Latina community.

“I grew up in these ... melting pots, and when I came to represent, I didn’t feel the impact right away,” she said. “But then I went to go see people at the Puerto Rican Day parade and I saw these girls that looked like me and they said ‘Angie! Angie!’ That’s how I knew I was having an impact.”

That impact will continue for as long as she’s on-air, and with her show now broadcasted at both major Latino ‘melting pots’ on the East Coast, she will inspire many more individuals as she shares the latest news in hip-hop with her listeners daily.



Photo courtesy of New York Daily News

**Angie Martinez** is a radio host who has interviewed celebrities throughout her career, including **Beyoncé**, **Jay-Z** and former **President Barack Obama**.

# “A Two-Front War”: highlighting Black veteran stories



Danielle Jackson smiling in front of the red carpet photo op at the docuseries premiere on Nov. 11, which took her over a year to create.

By Amethyst Martinez

**D**ANIELLE Jackson, senior film and television major, knew something was missing from history books when she was younger.

“What inspired me was being in elementary school and being intrigued by the military, but not seeing Black people in it. ... That kind of created a dissonance with me, like, yeah okay, that makes sense because of our historical relationship with America,” said Jackson.

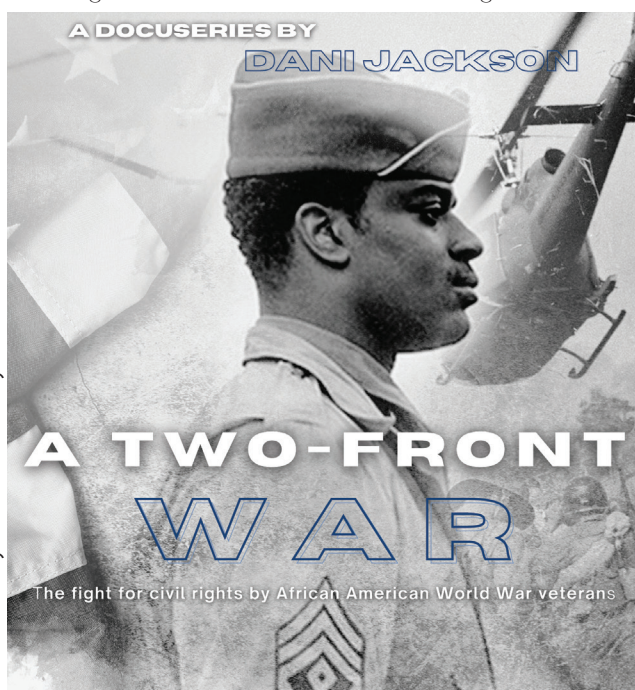
The second part to her docuseries, “A Two-Front War,” which premiered Nov. 11 at the Bart Luedeke Center (BLC) Theater, revolves around African American war veterans and their service to America when they were still fighting for civil rights.

“It wasn’t until I started this project that I learned that we have [had] African Americans participate in the military since the Revolutionary War. ... Learning that really inspired me to want to share this story with people other than myself,” said Jackson.

The second part of the docuseries premiered on Veterans Day, and was the biggest event of Rider’s Veterans Week, which took place from Nov. 4-12. The first part virtually premiered on May 15 last semester.

When asked what the film was about, Jackson said, “It’s about the radicalization of African American war vets and how they fought overseas in the name of America but returned to still not have civil rights. And so, because of that, they joined together to create a movement that would start the civil rights movement.”

Walking into the BLC lobby, guests were greeted with a red carpet photo op taken by Rider students, which led into a reception with food and a merchandise table featuring “A Two-Front War” T-shirts. The guests were



“A Two-Front War” docuseries poster features a Black American soldier on the cover.

then led upstairs to the theater where they could watch the first and second episodes of the docuseries. The tickets were free, and many students, faculty and visitors filled up the theater. Around 100 tickets were sold for the event.

Thomas Reddington, coordinator of veterans affairs, helped Jackson along her way with planning the premiere.

“She’s professional, she’s detailed, she cares. ... I have so much respect for people that just, you know, make this happen like she has. That’s really what I wanted to be a part of,” said Reddington.

Kelly Phillips and Kaylee Ettinger, both senior film and television majors, helped Jackson plan the event.

“[Jackson] is one of the most hardworking people that I’ve ever met. She made this process so much easier, and she was as hands on as we as the event planners were. Working with her was definitely super fun and very special,” said Phillips.

Jackson created the docuseries while working at The Rider News as a business/advertising manager and also being a full time student.

“From its infancy to now, [it’s been] about a year and six or seven months ... so it’s been my life for that amount of time. ... I always compare it to a child. It’s been the greatest challenge I’ve ever had as of yet,” said Jackson.

Last year’s premiere of the first episode was drastically different due to the pandemic, which led to the docuseries being a virtual event.

Phillips said, “I think everyone was excited to have an in-person event. ... The premiere last night was to show that first episode, but then to premiere the second episode. So, being able to have that in person, I think there was a lot of excitement surrounding that.”

The docuseries is one of its kind in the way that it showcases African American veterans and their stories, which have been erased throughout history.

Reddington said, “Our whitewashed history of this country is doing us a huge disservice because we’re an immigrant nation. ... It’s such a kaleidoscope of colors in our history and how we got here, and it’s a downright crime to have that whitewashed out. What is so threatening about, you know, learning the great deeds of people, regardless of what color or background they come from. Those are stories that inspire me, not scare me.”

The docuseries has been incredibly meaningful to Jackson while working on the project.

“What it means to me is to be sharing this legacy. ... These men and women quite literally had their lives on the line every single day ... and literally just for being Black, they would come home and there was a danger because as they walk down the street, they could be hung by a tree,” Jackson said. “So it’s those types of things that mean so much to me because I do it for them. If they could see now what we have, that we

could even be in school with people who are different races and orientations. ... I just want to make them proud. ... I love talking about Black veterans because they’re so proud to be both Black and American. And that’s something that I’m still learning.”

*Danielle Jackson is the Business/Advertising Manager for the Rider News. Jackson had no part in the writing or editing of this story.*



Danielle Jackson hosted an open conversation after the docuseries premiere.

# COVID-19: testing and contact tracing confusions

**A**s temperatures drop and cold and flu season rolls through Rider's campus, more students are feeling under the weather, revealing confusion and concern surrounding COVID-19 testing and contact tracing protocols on campus.

Even though some students have become concerned after not qualifying for on-campus testing, Co-chair of Rider's COVID-19 Implementation Team Debbie Stasolla said that the university's procedures are following Center for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.

"It takes a while for the virus to incubate. It's not going to be necessarily detected right away, or be of enough load within your system to be detected by testing, so that's why ... it doesn't always make sense for someone to get tested just because they know someone who has been in contact," Stasolla said.

According to the CDC, fully vaccinated people should be tested five to seven days after exposure. Testing prior to this post-exposure window, Stasolla said, "may very well be meaningless."

Despite Rider's adherence to CDC guidance, students are still worried about testing procedures, especially as more close contacts are popping up around them and they cannot freely request a test.

## Student concerns

Sophomore arts management major Rachel Siegeman was determined as a close contact to someone who tested positive for COVID this month, which worried her suitemates who were technically unable to be tested on campus.

"They turned away the rest of our roommates because they're not really close contact ... we all share the same space," Siegeman said.

Stasolla said that while the on-campus testing center is focusing its time and resources on close contact and symptomatic students, in addition to weekly surveillance testing for unvaccinated students, testing is still available at off-campus locations.

Siegeman said, "Being vaccinated doesn't mean we're invincible."

## Faculty involvement in contact tracing

Rider relies on its internal team of contact tracers to track COVID exposures on campus, and although this is useful, it's surprising that the university is not consistently utilizing one of its strongest resources: its teaching faculty.

"We do have to rely on the positive person to remember who they were in contact with during their infectious period. ... If they don't have confidence about who they may have been near, then we will reach out to faculty or any other individuals," Stasolla said. "It can sometimes be fuzzy."

Automatically diverting to faculty for a reference point for contact tracing would add another layer of security and accuracy, especially in classes without a typical seating structure.

Department of communication, journalism and media professor Cynthia Vieth described the various seating and group work structures for her students.

Vieth said, "I teach small group communication, and we'll break up into smaller groups and go to different parts of the room ... so that person might be assigned to somebody who sat clear across the other side of the room. ... So I really think the most direct line to 'who did a particular student have contact with within the last, you know, week' would be best identified by the professor."

Unless designated as a close contact, faculty aren't even explicitly notified if a student in their class tests positive, which has garnered justifiable concern.

Stasolla said, "I can understand that there are some faculty who feel like anytime they have a COVID positive student in their class, they should be notified. That's not how contact tracing works."

And while the university wants to maintain student privacy to the best of their ability, it's admittedly not hard for professors to parse out what absences may be due to the virus.

Vieth said, "If in the body of the email it says that the student won't be back for 10 days or two weeks or what have you, I kind of deduce that it's a COVID positive situation."

## Alleviating a complex problem

There is room for change to be made on all fronts when it comes to understanding and implementing COVID-19 testing and contact tracing procedures. Rider needs to be clearer with its students regarding Resolved and Ready protocols. Siegeman shared this viewpoint. "I always think there could be more communication. ... I think they [Rider] really lack getting information to their students," she said.

Although testing is available for worried students off campus, there may still be an issue of transportation for students who either don't have a license or access to a vehicle on campus. While Stasolla recommends the campus shuttle, perhaps this is one more area where an explicit exception could be made in the testing protocol.

For contact tracing especially, the room for human error is so large that more directly involving faculty would be the first step in mediating what Stasolla admits is a "fuzzy" process.

It is understandable that student privacy is important, but in a matter of public health, utilizing faculty as a second point of verification may make the contact tracing process more accurate.

Vieth said, "Being candid with the professors and then having the ... professionalism to not talk about a student's personal case, that's probably a more direct way to handle it."

Making a stronger effort in effectively communicating and seeking out university COVID-19 protocols, on both the administrative and student sides, as well as seriously considering improvements to the current contact tracing procedures are the key facets of bettering Rider's overall response to COVID.

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

*Kaitlyn McCormick*



Andrew Xon/ The Rider News

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## POLITICAL PONDERINGS

**New Jersey governor election: a wake-up call for Democrats**

**A**PPROXIMATELY 22 hours after the polls closed for the governor's election in the state of New Jersey on Nov. 2, the Associated Press projected that Governor Phil Murphy had won the re-election. Very few Democrats were genuinely and completely happy.

The previous day, Democrats had been handed a critical loss in the Virginia gubernatorial election, which saw Democrat Terry McAuliffe lose to Glenn Youngkin, a Republican who managed to distance himself from the politics of the Trump administration while maintaining the support of the state and nationwide parties. Additionally, a measure to reconstruct the police force in the city of Minneapolis and institute a "public safety force" in its place failed by a margin of 56%-44%, which progressive Democrats vehemently supported.

While it did not come as much of a shock that Democrats faced massive backlash in elections across the United States, almost everyone within the party believed that the New Jersey Gubernatorial election would present favorable results for the party. And yet, as New Jerseyans woke up and left for work on the morning of Nov. 3, the fate of the political leadership in our state had yet to be decided.

Many in the media have said that the elections this year were a wake-up call for the Democratic party. As Vice President of Rider College Democrats, I would be inclined to agree. Political pundits have said that the national party's handling of COVID-19 and the drama on the passing of an infrastructure bill that a majority of the nation supports have lowered the party's approval rating and set it up for a massive blow at the midterms next year.

I would go even further as to say that the national leadership has only minimally shown more competence than the Trump administration, and the independents who believe that the Trump administration was more competent would be difficult to argue against. We didn't expect the Biden administration to completely eliminate COVID-19, but we also didn't expect that it would still be a threat. We expected the infrastructure package would have been passed in August at the latest, but it is only now that the package is being passed.

The administration can make excuses for why it has had difficulty getting things done in its first year (Joe Manchin, the filibuster, etc.). But at the end of the day, a majority of the population doesn't care about the issues facing Congress: they want results. In essence, it's not about how something gets done, it's the fact that nothing is getting done. And the fact that the national Democratic party has been dealing with this infighting since day one, which has been extensively covered by the media, shows a fatal weakness in the structure of the party. Quite frankly, as a Democrat, it is frustrating to watch.

Even more frustrating to watch was the lack of visibility from the Murphy campaign in the days, weeks and months leading up to the election last week. While the campaign did have an extensive list of canvassing opportunities, Murphy trailed Ciattarelli in the advertising market by a substantial margin, in my eyes.

Two weeks before election day, "Jack 4 NJ" signs lined the street in the development outside my house in Burlington County, and advertisements for his campaign blared on my TV every few commercial breaks. Meanwhile, I recall only seeing a couple of TV advertisements from the Murphy campaign and only saw one "Murphy/Oliver" sign posted in my neighbor's front yard, but not anywhere with high amounts of traffic. Between the lack of advertising and the comments on social media, I was not surprised to see that the election results were this close, even though the polls showed Murphy with a nine-point lead less than a week before the election (but when was the last time those were right, either?).

To state that this year was a wake-up call for Democrats is a massive understatement. If the national party can't get its act together, pass their infrastructure bill, eliminate COVID-19 as a problem (no matter what variant is going around), and show some sense of order among all of its party members – moderate and progressive – then the party is going to get brutally slammed at the midterms next year, maybe to the level it did in 2010.

No amount of canvassing or postcard writing (as we promoted and hosted, respectively, within the Rider Democrats organization this past year) will be able to save the party from massive losses in the House and Senate if it cannot save itself.

*Anthony Corbi,  
junior sports media major,  
vice president of Rider College Democrats*



Courtesy of Cagle Cartoons

## A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

**Program elimination by another name: emeritus professor speaks out**

**U**NDER the banner of "prioritization" and "academic efficiency" with faculty "buy-in," Rider's administration is proposing to eliminate 20% of existing academic programs.

The Provost's notion of assessment seems inexplicably linked to prioritization. Middle States Accreditation does not require prioritization, as the Provost asserts in one of her recent communications to faculty. Middle States require only that academic programs undergo an assessment process; which one is up to the program. Rider is under no external pressure to engage in prioritization. Prioritization is exclusively the provost's choice of assessment. It is based on the outdated 1999 book by Robert Dickeson which starts with the a priori assumption that 60% of a university's programs are not worth their cost and that 20% should be eliminated. Think about this! What would you do in this case: your professor comes into the classroom on your first day of classes and says that 20% of you will fail the course, no matter how hard you work. 20% of the students will fail totally independent of their individual performances. This is what will happen to 20% of Rider's programs.

Prioritization also favors large mediocre programs over small, often excellent programs. It does not have any reasonable method to measure and assign costs, and it often produces recommendations far different than that of a true cost/benefit analysis.

As the sole faculty member of a major and minor program in German, I participated in the first round of prioritization in 2015, reporting on the program's quality and student outcomes, like graduate school acceptances and Fulbright scholarships. Yet, based solely on the number of majors (not minors or education majors), the program received a ranking of zero. Small departments with three full-time faculty or fewer, such as art, physics, German and Russian, were eliminated following faculty retirements, and others threatened with layoffs, while new major programs were added in narrowly-focused fields determined by the short-term marketplace. Will Rider students be prepared to pivot when demand for such specialized skills disappears?

Faculty morale at Rider is at an all-time low. Funds go to outside consultants, attorneys, seemingly frivolous campus improvements and administrators' salaries. Private, four-year regional universities, like Rider, do not have to offer everything, but they owe their students an education that will last a lifetime. Dedicated to excellence in teaching and research, Rider's faculty is certainly the institution's backbone and key to its future success. I implore you to support your faculty in

any way possible in their efforts to maintain Rider's excellent academic programs that are under threat to be cut by a provost who is in charge of making up savings that the administration frivolously spent on paying themselves handsomely, consulting firms and other projects that are not profitable.

*Dr. Margaret Schleissner  
Professor of German Emerita  
Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures*



Courtesy of Margaret Schleissner

Emeritus professor Margaret Schleissner

## VOLLEYBALL

# Rider sets two records in final games of the season

By Luke Lombardi

**W**HEN an athlete considers the ideal final week of the season, they often think of dramatically finishing, breaking records and ending the season on a good note. On Nov. 13 and 14, against both Canisius and Niagara, the Rider women's volleyball team did just that.

The first record to fall was the single-season school record for most Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) wins in program history.

The match started on a low note for the Broncos. They quickly found themselves down two sets to none, with Canisius winning the first two sets 25-15 and 25-19.

"We did not start out the match the way we wanted to, obviously, getting down 0-2. But their resiliency is something they've shown all year and they're a good group, especially when I get on them and pull them back into the hallway and kind of give it to them a little bit," Head Coach Jeff Rotondo said.

Once the third set started, the team came out looking motivated. They won the third set 25-19 and the fourth 25-21. Rider started the fifth set hot taking an early 6-3 lead. From there, Canisius fought back, making it tough for the Broncos.

In the end, Rider was able to persevere, complete the reverse-sweep and secure the record with their 13th victory in conference play.

"The 13 wins, that's a credit to them. They've been working hard at this going back to last August when we were on campus," Rotondo said. "I know we won

it last year. But they've been playing volleyball for 18 months now and it's a credit to them."

Junior opposite hitter Morgan Romano led the team with 26 kills, while senior setter Anilee Sher, who was named MAAC Player of the Week, had 39 assists on the night.

The second match of the weekend against Niagara was just as important. The Broncos had some extra motivation for the final match of the regular season as it was Senior Day and a time for reflection.

"We grew up together for sure. When we came in, it wasn't the best program or the easiest place to be. We took each other under our wings and became family," Sher said. "Playing with them today and having such a good match with them was really special."

Unfortunately for Rider, it started off slow again. Niagara put the Broncos back in a familiar spot as it took the first two sets with scores of 26-24 and 25-18.

The Broncos took a big lead early in the third set leading 6-1 before Niagara closed the gap. However, Rider was able to power through and win the set 25-20.

In the fourth set, neither team took more than a three-point lead. The Broncos came out on top again winning the set 25-22. The crowd started to come alive cheering on Rider.

Another record was within reach. Before this weekend, the single-game assist record of 66 was held by Jennifer Lane during a match in 2004. Rider dominated the fifth set winning 15-7 with Sher



Brian Foley/Rider Athletics

Senior setter **Anilee Sher** set the single-game assist record with 68 against Niagara.

breaking the assist record with the final two points, ending the match with 68 assists in her final game at Alumni Gym. The win is also their second straight reverse-sweep.

Sher said, "I'm extremely surprised, I didn't think I got 68 assists but knowing it's my last game on home court, it's awesome. All credit to the hitters because they did all the work."

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## MEN'S BASKETBALL

# Rider wins two while gearing up for extended road trip

By Carolo Pascale and Jacob Tiger

**R**IDER men's basketball secured its first pair of wins this past weekend, winning 81-69 over Coppin State on Nov. 12 and 63-53 against Delaware State on Nov. 14. Senior forward Dimencio Vaughn led the Broncos with 35 points between both games. This weekend puts the Broncos at 2-1 on the season as they have a long road trip coming up.

## The Eagles land in the wrong nest

The Coppin State Eagles landed in Lawrenceville on Nov. 12, likely giving the 0-1 Broncos a slight boost to their confidence, as Rider looked to continue its historical dominance over the Eagles.

With an 81-69 win against Coppin State in its home opener, Rider did just that, improving their record against the Eagles to 4-0, while also getting back to .500 on the season.

However, Coppin State did not make it easy for the Broncos, continuously taking advantage of their slow defensive reflexes. "We gotta play better. We gotta keep moving," said Head Coach Kevin Baggett. "We've scored a lot of points but we've given up a lot of points too."

While the Eagles were letting it fly from the arch, the Broncos made their money with grit and tenacity.

Coppin State was simply no match for Rider's frontcourt of senior forward Ajiri Ogemuno-Johnson and Vaughn, who each had great games, with their rebounding efforts in particular being the difference maker.

In the end, the Broncos outrebounded the Eagles 42-28, and as a result led 20-6 in second chance points.

"It was just one of those games. It was kinda ugly, but at the end of the day, we just found a way to win," said Baggett.

Vaughn led the way, finishing with a game-high 23 points on excellent efficiency.

"[Vaughn is] a great addition for our team. He's a leader, [he's] energized and always talking on the court, and that's what we needed last year. He's a dog," said senior guard Dwight Murray Jr.

Along with Vaughn's 23 points, Murray Jr. joined in with 17 points and six rebounds, and junior guard

Allen Powell put up 16 points and five assists. Vaughn, Murray Jr. and Powell all shot 50% from long range, making eight 3-pointers in total.

Even with some sloppy defense, the Broncos' collective efforts were enough to get the job done, looking very solid while doing so.

"This team is great. We're going to have a long season and everybody better watch out for us. I'm telling you now, everybody can doubt us all they want, but we're gonna fight for each other," said Vaughn.

## Broncs avoid being stung by the Hornets

The Broncos had only one day of rest before they hit the court again against the Delaware State Hornets on Nov. 14. This was the Broncos' final home game until Dec. 5 and it gave the Broncos a wake-up call as the Hornets nearly finished a comeback, but the Broncos held on to win 63-53.

"I thought Delaware State came in here and played their behinds off. They never quit. And I think we thought it was going to be easy. And so we always talk about respecting your opponent. So we got a lot of work to do," said Baggett.

The scoring started slow, but one player was already making waves for the Broncos, that being Ogemuno-Johnson, who had the task of facing Delaware State's 7-foot-3 center Chris Sodom down low and handled it well.

"My coach told me to show him the ball. And when I started doing this, I started to get easy layups. That's all I needed to do, not play scared or afraid of him just because he's taller than me," said Ogemuno-Johnson.

Vaughn, another player who got involved for the Broncos, made a fantastic chase-down block with 3:30 left to go in the first half.

"I'm just a defensive-minded person. If I feel like they're gonna score I'm gonna try my best," said Vaughn.

The first half would end with the Broncos leading by six, 28-22. Shooting, which has been an issue this year, was the story of the half for Rider, going 10-for-36 from the field and 4-for-16 from the 3-point line.

The second half saw the Broncos working hard



Carolo Pascale/The Rider News

Senior guard Jeremiah Pope had 14 points against Delaware State.

to hold and extend their lead, doing just that on a monster put-back dunk by Ogemuno-Johnson, who jumped over three Hornets players, including Sodom.

"That's one thing about me is getting offensive rebounds and playing hard," said Ogemuno-Johnson. "If there's something that I have value on this team it's to rebound the ball. And that's one thing I do so I'm glad that I got to show that to the crowd today."

The dunk started a 13-3 run for Rider, which could have been more, as Vaughn connected with Ogemuno-Johnson to almost pull off a ridiculous alley-oop dunk.

Once the final buzzer sounded, the Broncos finished with a 63-53 win, albeit a much closer finish than expected. Senior guard Jeremiah Pope led the Broncos with 14 points, having a great night while shooting 3-for-5 from the field, 2-for-4 from the 3-point line and a perfect 6-for-6 from the free-throw line. Ogemuno-Johnson finished with 12 rebounds and 10 points.

"It doesn't matter where you go, we have got to focus whether we're home, we're on the road. We just got to be a team," said Baggett.

The Broncos will now hit the road for a while as they take on Bucknell on Nov. 17 at 7 p.m. and then head south for the Cancun Challenge on Nov. 20.

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

# Broncs still searching for first win at 0-2

By Dylan Manfre

**I**T was not the start Rider women's basketball desired by any means, after losses to Penn State on Nov. 11 and La Salle on Nov. 13. The games featured some breakdown of Rider's offense and defense overall but against La Salle, the Broncos even erased an 18-point comeback, still falling excruciatingly short of a victory.

## A disappointing 83 points

The women's basketball team sprinkles games in its nonconference schedule against some Power 5 opponents and had Penn State on the docket to open up the 2021-2022 campaign.

When these programs last met, Rider looked extraordinarily different. Senior guard Amanda Mobley was a sophomore and COVID-19 was not around yet in the United States.

Facing Penn State with an almost completely different roster, the Broncos lost 83-69. Head Coach Lynn Milligan was the most unhappy at the 83 points they allowed.

"We're disappointed we gave up 83 [points.] That's really the bottom line," Milligan said. "I think we can do better than that."

The Broncos started this game down 10 at the end of the first quarter, 24-14, but shot particularly well, a touch over 46%.

By halftime, only five Rider players had scored and none over double-digits. Meanwhile, Penn State had its main options thriving. Center Ali Brigham had 13 points in 14 minutes of action. She was 6-for-7 from the field at that point.

The Broncos put their foot on the gas out of halftime and sliced Penn State's lead to four points. Sophomore forward Raphaella Toussaint and senior guard Lenaejha Evans got off to strong starts in the third quarter.

With just over two minutes left in the third quarter, Evans had 13 points on 4-of-5 shooting in 11 minutes of play.

"She was terrific," Milligan said. "We started her to start the second half. She was the main reason we cut the lead to five."

She helped bring Rider to within five as time expired. Toussaint finished with a career-high 21 points.

Penn State regained its offensive hold over Rider in the fourth quarter and extended its lead to 17 points with two minutes remaining.

## Incomplete comeback

The La Salle Explorers have not beaten Rider in 11 years, and in the first half, the Explorers demonstrated why that streak could come to an end.

Except the third quarter happened, where La Salle blew an 18-point lead. It took a while for the Broncos to claw back and make this a competitive game even pushing it to overtime. La Salle ripped the momentum back in its control in the extra period to win the game, 67-58.

Rider continued its strong play into the fourth quarter and perfect free-throw shooting helped tie the game and send it into overtime at 50.

La Salle started the period 3-of-3 from long range,

pushing it to a 13-2 run to begin the period. Like the start of the game, it was a rough beginning to the overtime period for Rider only scoring eight points.

"We've got to become a better basketball team between now and Saturday," Milligan said. "It has to be on both ends, it has to be a lot of different things but we've got some time here to be a better team by Saturday and that's the goal."

Despite compelling comebacks, the Broncos' struggles cannot go unnoticed. Rider looked slow on offense to begin the game against the Explorers, missing four straight shots and allowing two passing turnovers. La Salle began the game on a 10-0 run.

The Explorers hit buzzer-beaters at the end of the first and second quarters. Rider got stung twice, and it hurt quite a bit, as it was the culmination of two pretty rough offensive quarters for the Broncos.

"That's one of the things we talked about is just being able to finish these possessions," Milligan said. "You play 25 seconds of great defense and then they nail a dagger. That's definitely deflating."

Evans helped erase that ugly lead. Along with junior guard Maya Hayacienth who hit the first and second 3-pointers of the game for the Broncos, respectively. It took a while for Rider to get going from behind the arc but those two shots helped the comeback effort.

"The energy of the team is really what brought us back and being hyped," said Evans who led Rider with 20 points. "We just kept fighting."

Rider will hope to get its first win of the season on Nov. 20 at 2 p.m. as it takes on Saint Francis Brooklyn.

# Sports

INSIDE

**ENDING ON A GOOD NOTE**  
*Rider volleyball ended its season with four-straight home wins. Luke Lombardi has more*



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MEN'S SOCCER

## Rider drops championship game to Marist



Peter G. Borg/Rider university

Senior goalkeeper Pablo Gatinois played an outstanding MAAC tournament helping the Broncos recatch the championship game for the first time since 2018.

By Trey Wright

**R**IDER men's soccer made it all the way to the MAAC Championship after an up and down season filled with drama. The Broncos had some double overtime magic in their semi finals matchup against Fairfield, winning 2-1. Despite pulling together as a team, the Broncos couldn't get it done in the finals, falling in penalty kicks to Marist 2-2, (5-3).

### Overtime survival: Rider books a trip to the finals

After upsetting Sienna a few days prior, Rider came into the semifinal round of the MAAC playoffs with the best ace you can have: home-field advantage. Ben Cohen Field was packed to the brim as the Broncos defeated no. 6 ranked Fairfield in a thrilling double overtime finish at 2-1.

It was Fairfield that found the back of the net first in the 34th minute, off of a set piece, in which graduate student goalkeeper Pablo Gatinois hit his head on the goalpost, leaving the Broncos faithful to see if the rock of the goaltending unit was okay.

With an eruption from the crowd, Gatinois was able to get up under his own power and stay in the game.

This ended up being crucial for the Broncos, as Gatinois played a substantial role in keeping the Broncos in the game.

Gatinois staying in the game was one of two factors that helped the Broncos. The other? A red card was dealt to a Fairfield player at the 60 minute mark.

"When you have something like that, there's a chance it's gonna be equalized," said Head Coach Charlie Inverso. "We had a huge advantage, and wanted to put something away while we had the chance."

Seven minutes later, senior midfielder Guillermo Pavia Vidal, caused the Broncos Zoo to roar in excitement as he blasted a shot from just outside the 18 to even things up in the 67th minute.

"It was crazy, that was the first time I actually touched after I came off. I'm looking at the goal, and the goal went in," Vidal said with a shrug and a chuckle.

Inverso said, "I say this after every game, the staff, the assistant coaches were amazing today. The adjustments they made in the game were really, really great. Throwing [Guillermo] in and the next thing you know, he scores."

A tight slugfest commenced, with both teams testing each other's goaltenders, the game remaining deadlocked in 85th minute when a red card was dealt to freshman midfielder Jack McGeechan evened the player count at 10.

90 minutes were not enough for this battle for a spot in the championship, and 100 minutes were not enough either, with the score still reading 1-1 going into the second overtime.

It looked as if the Broncos may be heading into a shootout when Vidal collected the ball off of another corner kick, and set up graduate student midfielder Taner Bay, who booted Rider to victory in the 109th minute, causing Ben Cohen Field explode.

"I've gotta give all credit to Guillermo finding me there in that spot," Bay said afterward. "I just turned and hit it. We're ready to go on and play another game."

Inverso said, "Listen, where this team has come from in about a month and a half is amazing. We were in a free fall. These guys didn't like each other too much. It all turned around. Everybody stopped being self-centered and now they love each other. And that's the best thing."

The Broncos punched their way to a finals, taking on the Marist Red Foxes, who had defeated Monmouth with a late 80th-minute goal to set up the MAAC Men's Soccer Final.

### Going The Distance: Penalty Kick Heartache

After the game against Stony Brook on Sep. 14, graduate student defender Ty Moore described the season thus far as a "rollercoaster." One more loop was left as the Broncos took on the Marist Red Foxes in the MAAC Men's Soccer Championship Game.

Rider was looking for its first MAAC title since 2018, while Marist was looking for its first

championship in 16 years.

It was a rough start for the Broncos, going down by two goals within the first 22 minutes of the match.

One player on the Broncos who showed no quit was Gatinois, and he kept Rider in the game with more than his fair share of impressive saves.

Moore was able to take advantage of a poor clearance by the Red Foxes in the 28th minute and put the ball in the net to cut the deficit in half.

"Down 2-0, Gato made a great save, and they gifted us a goal, but I knew we weren't going to quit," said Inverso.

The Broncos took the momentum into the second half, with Bay once again bringing the magic, crossing a ball that deflected off of a Marist defender and into the back of the net.

"The chances on goal, the goals, the saves and the crowd environment were insane," said Inverso.

Just like in the prior game against Fairfield, it became a deadlocked battle, with Gatinois making highlight-reel worthy save upon save.

"Gato was incredible yesterday," said Inverso. "He showed real class and character."

Twenty minutes of overtime were not enough for this classic, which went into penalty kicks to decide who would move on to the NCAA tournament.

Rider made three of their four shots, while Marist made all five, crowning themselves as MAAC champions for 2021.

"In 35 years of coaching, yesterday was one of the greatest games I have ever been involved with," Inverso said. "This team dealt with so many setbacks and so much adversity including losing Pablo de Castro who was one of the all-time leading scorers in Rider history."

Inverso continued, "We were a pretty dysfunctional group for the first month and a half but evolved into a family along the way. The fight they showed today was an amazing testament to their commitment to each other."

The Broncos finished up the fall 2021 season within inches of a MAAC Championship, a record of 10-7-3, but most importantly, they left it all out on the field.

### MBB PHOTO GALLERY

Take a look at Carolo Pascale's photos from the men's basketball game vs Delaware State.



FIND THE GALLERY AT [THERIDERNEWS.COM](http://THERIDERNEWS.COM)

### HOME VICTORY

The Rider wrestling team got its first win of the season at Alumni Gym on Nov. 13 against Northern Illinois.

FIND THE STORY AT [THERIDERNEWS.COM](http://THERIDERNEWS.COM)

### THE SPORTS SECTION PODCAST

The Rider News sports crew Carolo, Dylan, Jake and Trey discuss the latest in Rider Athletics all season long.



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