

## Newark Mayor Ras Baraka holds discussion with students on campus

By **Tori Pender**

**N**EWARK Mayor Ras Baraka had a discussion about an array of topics from handling the COVID-19 pandemic, leadership and the lead water crisis with students on Nov. 30 at 11:30 a.m. in Lynch Adler Hall Room 202. The event was hosted by Micah Rasmussen, director of The Rebovich Institute for New Jersey Politics and political science professor.

### COVID-19 Procedures

In New Jersey's largest city, with an international airport and seaport, Baraka had to act quicker than the rest of the nation when dealing with the pandemic.

Baraka said, "When airports were taking Americans that were coming in from Wuhan exactly, Newark was one of the places they were landing."

This required Baraka to act quicker compared to other cities and towns in New Jersey.

"We had to have a plan together, just in case. That nobody knew, the state didn't have a plan, nobody had a plan. ... At that time nobody knew what to do. We were forced to think about a lot of things that other communities didn't have to think about initially," said Baraka.

At the height of the pandemic, Newark's infectivity rate was at 60% and according to Baraka as of Nov. 30, the current infectivity rate is 4%. Baraka had to get creative when dealing with skeptical communities when it came to vaccine promotion.

Baraka started to stream on Facebook Live to help promote the vaccine and increase transparency on the city's actions during the pandemic.

### Leadership

Rider President Gregory Dell'Omo opened the event and said, "I can't think of a better way for our students to learn about the larger community than through direct dialogue with leaders such as the mayor."

The Newark native is the 40th mayor of the city and was elected in 2014. Baraka said, "At the end of the day, you have to actually take these things that are high minded and put them into practice. So the work of actually trying to execute these things everyday is difficult, difficult work."

As mayor, Baraka has lowered Newark's crime rate to its lowest levels in five decades as well as addressed affordability while maintaining steady growth.

"To actually get there and try to transform something or make something take place, is hard work," said Baraka. "If you think you can do it alone, it's a mistake. ... You need as much support, effort and collaboration as you possibly can get."



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

Newark Mayor **Ras Baraka** speaking to Rider students in Lynch Adler Hall Room 202 on Nov. 30.

## Princeton campus not on market as lawsuits continue

By **Sarah Siock**

**D**ESPITE Rider's decision to move Westminster Choir College (WCC) to the Lawrenceville campus in 2020, WCC's Princeton campus is currently not marketed for sale as alumni and students fight the university's relocation of the choir college in court.

In March 2020, the New Jersey Superior Court granted Rider's motion to dismiss two lawsuits that challenged the university's consolidation of WCC. However, an attorney from the Westminster Foundation, which is a group made up of alumni and faculty working to stop the sale or movement of the school, filed appeals on behalf of the alumni and student plaintiffs in October 2020.

Vice President of University Marketing and Communications Kristine Brown said that since the lawsuits are still active, the property is not currently being marketed. For now, the Westminster Foundation is waiting for a court date to be scheduled for arguments before the Appellate Division.

Due to delays and backlogs in the court system that stem from the COVID-19 pandemic, Constance Fee, president of the Westminster Foundation, said the court process is moving slower than anticipated. Fee expects court proceedings to begin early next year but said, "we have no assurance of that."

"When the Westminster Foundation was established almost five years ago, there was no question that we would face tremendous obstacles and that the journey would be a long and difficult one," said Fee. "The mission of the foundation is to preserve the legacy and ensure the future of Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey. We remain committed to our mission, and we will stay the course, work our strategies and keep the lawsuits in place."

Meanwhile, the Princeton campus is currently still used by the Westminster Conservatory of Music — a branch of WCC that teaches young community students. Classrooms and performance spaces are also being used for recitals and rehearsals. At a



Stephanie Jessiman/The Rider News

Gill Memorial Chapter located in the back of campus serves as a rehearsal space for WCC students.

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### THE ROAD TO MAAC PLAY

Rider men's basketball continues a seven-game road trip leading into conference play.



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Westminster Choir College students express disappointment in campus consolidation.

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### PLAYING ABROAD

The Rider women's basketball team includes players from all over the world with unique stories on how they ended up at Rider.



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## SECURITY BRIEFS

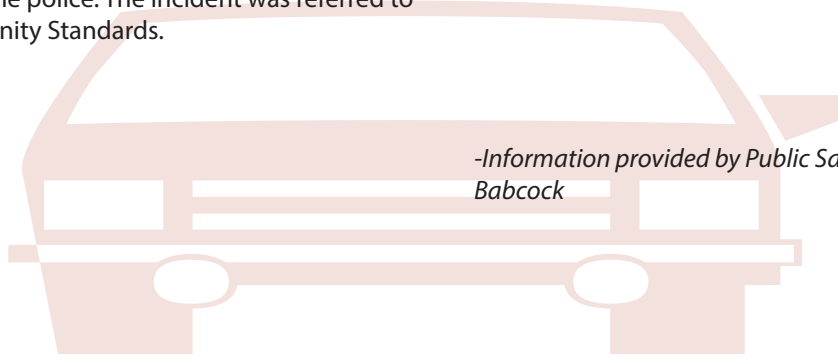
BY SARAH SIOCK

### Off-campus altercation

Noisy neighbors. On Nov. 21 at 1:32 a.m. Ewing Township Police responded to an off-campus residence, occupied by Rider Students, for a neighbor dispute. When the police arrived, they were informed that the dispute started over loud music and the Rider students and the neighbor had been engaged in a verbal altercation in which the neighbor punched a student's car. Neither party wanted to file charges with the police. The incident was referred to the Office of Community Standards.

### Water in Wright

Flushed away. On Nov. 28 at 7:03 p.m. Public Safety responded to the first floor of Wright Hall for the report of a water leak. Upon their arrival, Public Safety found a drain in the common area bathroom that was clogged causing water to back up and flood into the hallway and into a residence hall room. Facilities Management was contacted to address the issue.



-Information provided by Public Safety Capt. Matthew Babcock

## CORRECTIONS

In the Nov. 17 issue of The Rider News, a story was published in which the name Dominick DeRosa was spelled incorrectly and the Atlantic Collegiate Baseball League was not identified correctly. The Rider News regrets these errors.

# Newark's lead crisis was handled swiftly under Baraka

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

Rasmussen described Baraka's leadership style as "being on top of things" and "not turning a blind eye."

### Lead Pipes

Newark became known for its lead water crisis in 2016, when high levels of lead were discovered in the city's schools.

Dell'Omo in his opening statement said, "Rider has followed your [Baraka] progress of removing the poisonous lead pipes from your community. We are so pleased to be able to salute you in person for accomplishing what no other mayor in the nation has managed to do in so short of time."

According to Baraka, the State of New Jersey predicted it would take 10 years to remove and replace all of the lead pipes in Newark. Once a New Jersey Assembly bill was passed in January 2020, Baraka was able to remove all lead pipes on private properties after giving the owners a notice in advance.

Baraka took three years to replace all of the lead pipes in Newark, costing about \$120 million on top of the down payment made to replace the pipes, to ensure that Newark residents would not have to pay a dime.

Baraka said, "It's like you got a beehive in your backyard. You know you don't want it to be there, might sting somebody one day. ... So you're debating whether you wanna move it. Because if you touch it, they're all gonna come out. ... and so you live with that, till someone gets stung. And now you feel more convicted to move the thing and that's a lot of what's happening. ... I don't wanna touch this problem cause then I own it. ... At some point you got to get the courage, conviction and the plan to figure out how to move the beehive."

### In the Future

With the upcoming mayoral race, Baraka believes he still has a lot he can do to help improve Newark.

Baraka said, "I am not the 20 year guy. I never thought that I would be in there for 20 years, 25 years, like those guys before me who were mayors for very long time. ... I do want to be able to get to a point where it is easier for the next person and not difficult where they feel like they have to start from scratch."



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

Students gathered in Lynch Alder Hall Room 202 to participate in a discussion with Newark Mayor Ras Baraka.

# Rider facing three pending lawsuits over Princeton campus



Dylan Manfre/The Rider News

Rider is currently facing three pending lawsuits over the Princeton campus.

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faculty town hall on Oct. 28, Rider President Gregory Dell'Omo said the university was, "looking at some mixed opportunities for the community and other areas to make use of the property."

Brown said the university intends to retain four to five acres of the Princeton campus, but the university is willing to negotiate that amount depending on the buyer. Brown did not disclose the estimated sale of the property and

instead said, "23 acres in the heart of Princeton is extremely valuable, but the market ultimately will determine the sale price."

Rider also faces a third pending lawsuit that was filed by the Princeton Theological Seminary, stating it has beneficiary rights to the Princeton campus. Brown said the discovery process is proceeding for this lawsuit. Brown added that motions for summary judgment are being finalized for argument before the court in early 2022.

# Rider recognized as a Special Olympics Unified Champion School

By Christina Natoli

**R**IDER was one of three New Jersey colleges to be named a Special Olympics Unified Champion School this fall due to its dedicated Unified Sports Club. The hard work of Unified Sports Club turned this honor into a reality. The Unified Sports Club connects students with Special Olympics athletes through the participation of activities. In this club sport, students can either play or assist in the tournaments held every semester, practicing good sportsmanship and optimism every step of the way.

According to Special Olympics New Jersey, “A National Banner Unified Champion School is one that has demonstrated commitment to inclusion by meeting 10 standards of excellence,” including athleticism, student leadership and school engagement.

Senior computer science major and current Student Government Association President Elizabeth O’Hara, who served as Unified’s president from 2019 to 2021, described Rider’s path to success.

“Two things we worked to implement as an executive board were inclusive youth leadership and whole-school engagement. To do this, we implemented an athlete coordinator position on the executive board that is to be held by a Special Olympics New Jersey Athlete. They attend executive board meetings, help in the member recruitment process, plan practices and events and even create one activity for the club on their own,” O’Hara said.

O’Hara continued, “Additionally, we introduced an event last year called ‘The Inclusion Monologues’ where a variety of athletes, partners, professors and community members came together to learn about the impact of inclusion and how we can be more inclusive in our everyday lives. We invited Loretta Claiborne, Special Olympics vice-chair of the board of directors and chief inspiration officer, who spoke about meaningful involvement and how we need to proceed with our push for inclusiveness in our communities. Both of these initiatives, along with things we had already been doing as a club, pushed us to fulfill all 10 standards and be able to apply for the recognition.”

Dianna Clauss, director of recreation programs and advisor of Unified Sports, congratulated the club on its success.

“I’ve had the pleasure of advising the Unified Sports Club since its inception, and I couldn’t be prouder of how far the club has come. This recognition is a result of the dedication many student leaders have demonstrated over the years, and I’d like to thank Liz O’Hara for submitting the application to the Special Olympics on our behalf,” said Clauss.

This year’s Unified president is sophomore elementary education major Evie Giglio, who has a vast enthusiasm for the future of the club with its recent certification.

“The most rewarding part of this process has been seeing how excited everyone

gets upon hearing of this recognition. This recognition would put Rider Unified on the map, and I thought that was such an exciting idea because everyone [who is] a part of Unified Sports is so dedicated to the program and its success,” said Giglio. “In addition to this, working with our Special Olympics athletes and Rider students makes all of the behind-the-scenes hard work truly worthwhile. I am so thankful to have joined this club last year because it has taught me so much about the importance of connection.”

Unified Sports received the recognition after a difficult year where COVID-19 mandates complicated the interaction of students.

Sophomore elementary education and the club’s captain Amy Borsuk said, “As a club, we would meet on Zoom once a week and worked together as a team to reach our ending goal. We participated in different virtual activities to reach this goal.”

The Special Olympics Unified Champion School program represents over 3 million students from ages 2 to 21, and 8,000 schools in the United States with a goal of 10,000 schools by 2024. Next semester, the club plans to unveil a banner commemorating this momentous prestige and is excited for other schools to follow in their footsteps.

O’Hara said, “Sports are a very powerful agent for social change. College Unified programs like the one at Rider give opportunities to showcase all abilities and embrace our differences while still finding ways to come together as one. . . . We are so lucky to have so many dedicated partners, athletes and leaders that are passionate about creating a more inclusive world. Unified Sports is for everyone, and any student that is interested should give it a chance — it just might change their life.”



Courtesy of Elizabeth O’Hara

Rider was recognized as a Special Olympics Unified Champion School this fall.

# Westminster College of the Arts receives new technology

By Felicia Roehm

**R**IDER University’s Westminster College of the Arts generously received over \$155,000 from the Martinson Family Foundation to help purchase new technology that will be used this semester.

The equipment includes a high-resolution projector which is twice as impressive as Rider’s current projector, new moving light technology, motion capture technology, cameras and iPad Pros.

Anne Sears, professor and director of external affairs at Westminster College of the Arts said, “This grant offers our students the opportunity to have hands-on experience with the kind of technology that’s being used in major theaters and performing arts centers. They’ll be able to ‘hit the ground running’ after they graduate.”

Rider alumni have performed on Disney Cruise Lines, toured with shows like “Hamilton” and “Rent,” performed with Beyoncé and more. This new technology will strengthen and enhance the knowledge of students to help their future careers.

“Everyone involved in this proposal looks forward to purchasing and using the

tools that the grant is supporting as the year goes on - and sharing our students’ work with our audiences visiting campus and also beyond through streaming events from Gill Chapel,” said Sears.

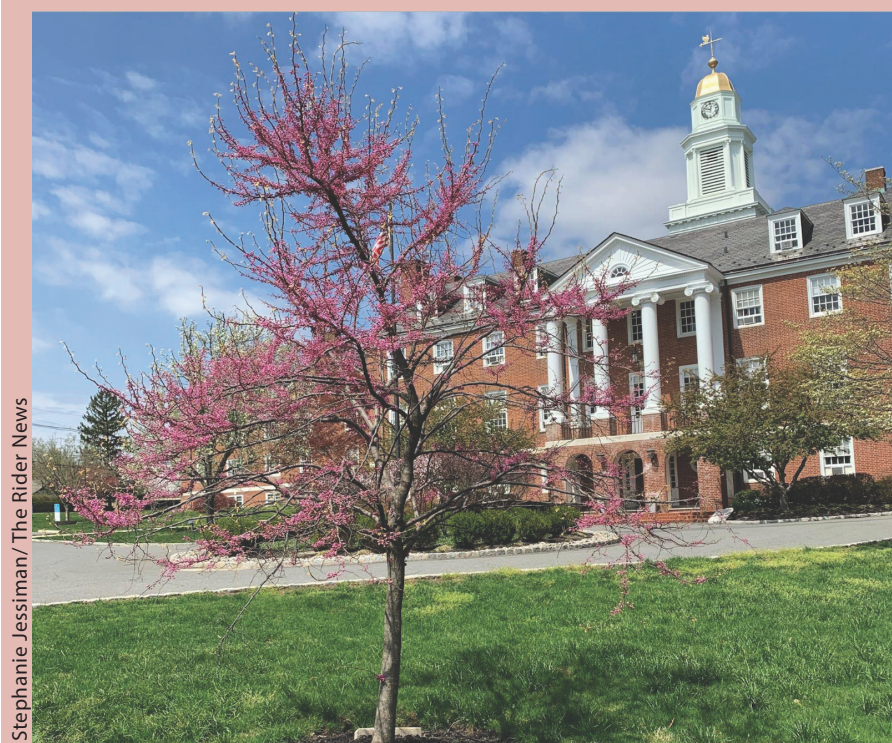
Jason Vodicka, the chair and associate professor of music education said, “This will be a great benefit to our students and our programs. Nearly every concert and recital that we present needs to be video recorded, for archival purposes, for live streaming and so that students can look back on their work and reflect.”

Vodicka continued, “Having a built-in, high-quality system that is easy to run will save everyone time and money, and it will eventually enable students to be trained on how to run the equipment which will be a great learning experience for them.”

Rebecca Kirk, a senior music education major, was not aware of the recent donation made to the school of arts but is looking forward to seeing how the money will be used.

Kirk said, “I can imagine it will help make our concerts look and sound better. Having iPads is also a great way to share music.”

*Olivia Nicoletti and Tori Pender contributed to this article.*



Stephanie Jessiman/The Rider News

Rider’s Westminster College of the Arts received a donation from the Martinson Family Foundation that will be used on new technology this semester.



Adrienne Unfreed/The Rider News

# University mourns passing of beloved alumnus and former trustee

By Sarah Siock

**M**ICHAEL J. Hennessy '82, a Rider alumnus and former trustee known for his generosity and passion for politics, passed away on Nov. 21 at the age of 61. Hennessy was a member of the university's Board of Trustees for nine years, completing his third three-year term in 2017. Those who knew Hennessy described him as a passionate individual with strong beliefs.

"Mike was a very active and very passionate board member. He's the kind of guy that wasn't back in the shadows. He was very much an outgoing personality, a larger-than-life individual. I found it really refreshing as a new president and getting to know Rider University because he was somebody with whom I was able to connect with right away," said Rider President Gregory Dell'Omo.

Hennessy graduated from Rider with a bachelor's degree in political science. He went on to be the founder and chairman of the largest privately held, independent, full-service medical media company in North America, MJH Life Sciences.

Hennessy was heavily involved at Rider after receiving his degree, most recently seen through his \$4 million donation in 2020 to fund the expansion of the Science and Technology Center, the largest gift Rider has ever received for the sciences. Hennessy provided the gift in dedication to his late wife Patrice "Patti" Shelmet Hennessy '82. The building will be renamed the Mike and Patti Hennessy Science and Technology Center once the project is complete in 2022.

"He had the resources available through his success and he wanted to give back as much as possible to Rider and to our students," said Dell'Omo.

Hennessy also supported the Rider Arena Project and provided gifts to the university's Annual Fund. Hennessy's love for politics was seen through the Hennessy Fund he established for the Rebovich Institute for New Jersey Politics. He also created The Hennessy Family Lecture Series, which hosted several prominent conservative speakers on Rider's campus over the years, including former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Newt Gingrich in 2017.

Political science professor and Director of the Rebovich Institute for New Jersey Politics Micah Rasmussen said, "His [Hennessy] events were large, it wasn't unusual to have 400 people that would come out to a Hennessy Lecture. ... He was very specific about what he expected from a good event. ... He had a very definite idea about what was going to meet his standard of quality and what wasn't and that was going to result in a better event, a better educational experience and a better learning experience for students and for members of the community."

In recognition of Hennessy's long-standing interest in the success of Rider, the university awarded him with the Gordon E. Prichard Award for Volunteer Service in 2017.

"He challenged us to represent every part of the political spectrum. It was important to him that all viewpoints in the spectrum got aired. I think that was ultimately a very positive influence for us," said Rasmussen.

Hennessy is survived by his children Shannon Hennessy Pulaski, Ashley Hennessy Talamo '08, Michael Hennessy Jr. and Christopher Hennessy '11 and many grandchildren.



Peter G. Borg/Rider University

Michael Hennessy '82, a Rider alumnus and former Board of Trustee member passed away on Nov. 21, 2021 at the age of 61.

## The Rider News COVID-19 COUNTER

**Confirmed Cases:**  
*Last updated: Nov. 30, 2021*

52

**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.20-26	2	3
Nov 13-19	6	1

**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.20-26	18	105
Nov.13-19	130	212
Nov.6-12	80	296
Oct.30- Nov.5	32	295
<b>Total</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>2414</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:*

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

Adrienne Unfreed/The Rider News

Information courtesy of Rider.edu

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# Students dazzle at Cranberry and White Affair

By Tristan Leach

It was a cold night. The brisk November wind whipped through the trees. But that did not stop students from dressing their best and braving the walk to the long awaited Cranberry and White Affair.

On Nov. 20, Rider held the dance, a tradition for the school. The glamorous affair encouraged students to wear their best and let loose for a night. The dance was a welcome event after a year where the affair wasn't held. While COVID-19 still influences decisions made for events, 100 students were allowed to bring outside guests.

The Cavalla Room was transformed into a blue and white winter wonderland. The entry was lined by white trees illuminated in a soft blue light. Above the dance floor a canopy made of white scarves and lights hung gracefully.

Outside, a tent was set up where Bon Temps Brass played jazz music for the first hour. Students crowded into the tent, some dancing with their partners. Others took pictures at the balloon arch. The excitement of the event was clear; for some this was their first affair at Rider.

Jenna Krauss, a sophomore graphic design major, said, "It's been really fun. It is definitely different to come back here. It's the first dance I've been to since homecoming senior year [of high school]. It's

good to be back, and it feels like college."

A highlight of the dance were the cupcakes and hot chocolate bar. A variety of toppings — including peppermint and whipped cream — topped the cups of attendees. After a short snack break, students took to the dance floor.

As the time for the DJ to start drew near, more students began to filter in. Excited students greeted each other, hugging and complimenting the looks their friends had picked out. While there was no dress code, many opted for a cranberry or black

outfit. Everywhere someone looked there was another gorgeous dress or suit to take in.

A DJ from DJs Available was hired for the event. Reviews of the DJ were mixed, but it did not stop anyone from dancing. Crowds grew on the floor as line dances started to play. "The Cupid Shuffle" brought together almost everyone in attendance. On the dance floor, it didn't matter whether or not the people next to each other were friends. Everyone was there with the same intent: to have fun.

Senior film and television major Tiffani Britton said, "This is my third time at Cran and White. It's really great to be back. ... The energy is so great. You can tell everyone is happy to be here. Everyone is dressed up to the nines. It's wonderful."

As the night carried on, the energy on the floor picked up. Happy laughter could be heard over the music. Friends danced with each other and encouraged another.

As the night began to wind down, students, guests and staff said their goodbyes, talking about the fun they had. The tradition brought the Rider community together, making for another successful Cranberry and White Affair.



Tristan Leach/The Rider News

Students danced the night away in the Cavalla Room decorated with winter decor.

# John Mozes takes 107.7 The Bronc to new heights

By Justin Riebman

RIDER'S student media organization 107.7 The Bronc was nominated for its second consecutive National Association of Broadcasters Marconi Award for College Radio Station of the Year. However, The Bronc's success didn't come overnight.

John Mozes, general manager at 107.7 The Bronc, said that the station's recent success was not immediate, and a long process was ahead to build an award-winning college radio station. Mozes had to work for it. In fact, he did not even think he would have the job as general manager today.

"My first reaction when I went for my interview and was given my tour was, I will work here six months and then I will be gone," Mozes said.

## Rebuilding and rebranding

Mozes came to Rider with a long background in the radio broadcasting industry. Mozes started off with a sales job at a small AM radio station called WBCB located in Levittown, Pennsylvania. He then went on to have a few more gigs before finding his new home for the next 13 years in Lawrenceville, New Jersey. Other jobs Mozes had before coming to Rider included working at popular music station WPST located in the Philadelphia Metropolitan Area, co-hosting sports radio and working part-time as the master of ceremonies for former New York Yankees Minor League Baseball Affiliate, Trenton Thunder.

The Bronc was formerly located in the Bart Luedeke Center before relocating to their new home in the Fine Arts Building in the summer of 2020. The Bronc, 13 years ago when Mozes was hired, looked nothing like their new professional state of the art studios.

"I couldn't have been more unimpressed with the facilities. They were dilapidated. There was a hole in the wall. It was not really cared for," Mozes said on the setting of 107.7 The Bronc when he started his job as general manager.

Mozes had to overcome obstacles and rough patches at the beginning of his tenure, turning around a rundown college radio station on a small campus to get not only where the station is today but to have a studio better than their old one.

"It was an education on the university on what a radio station can and should be, college or otherwise. It's been an education process to educate facilities or the Office of Information Technology that we need to remain on the air at all times. It was an education process to show that it was OK to do any kind of events and they can be a success," Mozes said of building the Bronc to the station it is today.

## The station's student-led team

The station is entirely run by Rider students. Students take on executive staff positions based on how a professional radio station operates. Students invest their time at The Bronc to make the station the best it can be. They all must buy into what Mozes overall is trying to sell.

Senior communication studies major Tommy Franks, news director at 107.7 The Bronc, has a strong relationship with Mozes and invested his dedication and time to make The Bronc sound like a Marconi nominated radio station. Franks is most well-known for starting The Bronc News Flash, a two-minute newscast broadcast at the top of the hour.

"He is not only your boss, he is a teacher in a lot of ways. He has assisted me and made me a lot better in terms of annunciation and ways to handle business. All facets to the radio station at Rider, he has helped out tremendously," Franks said of Mozes.

## The Bronc's success

Students, staff and faculty learned Mozes is determined to always make 107.7 The Bronc the best possible.

Mozes said, "Never take no for an answer. Always turn no into a yes and you will succeed. That's what we have done here. We have taken all the noes and turned them into yeses, and we have made things succeed. I think if you go with that mentality in life then you will be successful."

Despite losing the award, the transformation Mozes led is monumental in its own right. Mozes turned a beat-down college radio station into a top college radio station in the country, now located in the Fine Arts Building with shiny new equipment and studios.

*Justin Riebman works for 107.7 The Bronc. He was not included in the editing process of this story.*



Photo courtesy of Justin Riebman

John Mozes sitting in his office located in the Fine Arts building on campus.

# The international women's basketball players: Far from home

By Hannah Newman

**T**E players of the Rider women's basketball team come from a variety of countries—including Canada, Germany, Sweden and The Netherlands—all to pursue their passion for the sport.

Each member of the team prioritized basketball in their early teenage years. Their young and wondrous minds led them to the court they now call the home base for the family they found in the United States.

As the thought of becoming an excelling player evolved in their heads over time, they knew in order to turn their dreams into reality, they would have to come to the United States. It was not long after arriving when they knew that coming to the U.S.



Anna Ekerstedt

was the right fit for them, and their ambivalence quickly turned into certainty. The women agreed that their passion filled the distance gap from home and opened the door for a new feeling

of independence.

Raphaëla Toussaint, a sophomore criminal justice major from Canada who is a forward for the team, shared how seeing other places in the world can change an individual's feeling toward life.

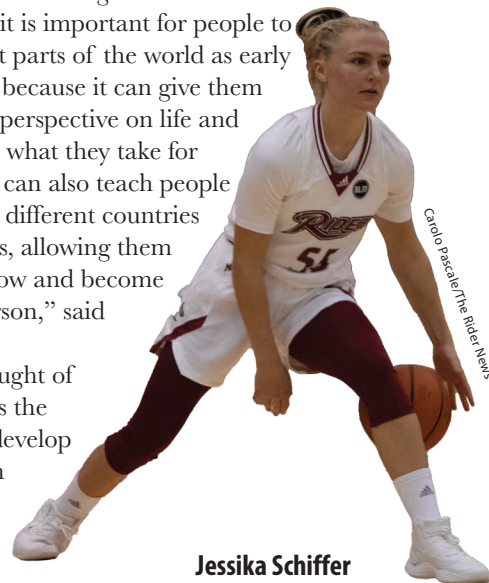
"I think it is important for people to see different parts of the world as early as they can because it can give them a different perspective on life and show them what they take for granted. It can also teach people a lot about different countries and cultures, allowing them to learn, grow and become a better person," said Toussaint.

The thought of being across the world can develop anticipation within students pulling them away from becoming precisely who and what they want to be in life. Distance has tested students' strength of independence and ability to work efficiently in a foreign setting considering that they were completely blinded to the new normality they will be finding themselves a part of.

Jessika Schiffer, a junior guard and a graphic design major from Germany, discussed how a foreign education experience is one of a kind.

"I would say take the opportunity because you learn so much about yourself and other people. Even just one year away from home can teach you so much that you can't learn any other way," said Schiffer.

Anna Ekerstedt, a junior forward and a psychology major from Sweden, talked about how living overseas contributed to her personal growth.



Jessika Schiffer

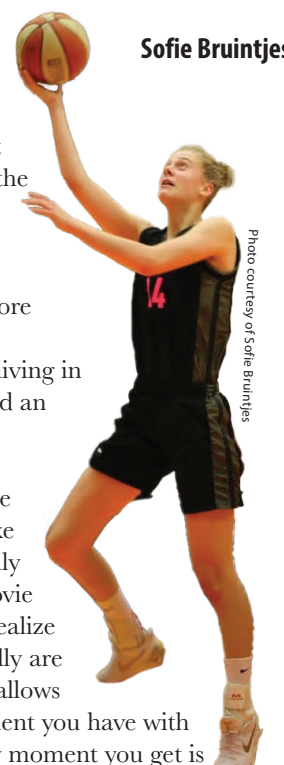
"If I compare myself to the person I was three years ago, first coming to the states to now, I am more independent than I ever was. ... I remember when I was younger I could never imagine not being home for a time like Christmas, but after three years of doing it, the experience has strengthened my independence," said Ekerstedt.

Sofie Bruintjes, a sophomore psychology major from The Netherlands, explained how living in a different country has shaped an appreciation for her home.

"Being away from home definitely makes you value the small things in life. Things like having dinner with your family every night or watching a movie with your sister makes you realize how big the small things really are in life. The time away really allows you to appreciate every moment you have with the people from home. Every moment you get is valuable," said Bruintjes.

Although the distance from home can emphasize its value, it also develops an understanding of what defines a family and how it can be found through other means besides blood.

"I would also say that being on the team and being around everyone with such a passion for basketball fills that gap of distance from family," said Schiffer. "The team is its own family. You always have people around you to go to."



Sofie Bruintjes



Raphaëla Toussaint

## UPCOMING EVENT CALENDAR

**THU, DEC. 2**

**Dog Therapy Event**

**6 p.m. - 8 p.m. SRC Auditorium**

**FRI, DEC. 3**

**Rider Dance Ensemble Fall Showcase**

**5:30 p.m. Yvonne Theater**

**TUES, DEC. 7**

**Green Film Series**

**7 p.m. Sweigart Hall Room 115**

**THU, DEC. 9**

**Tea for 24**

**7 p.m. Mercer Room at Daly's Dining Hall**

# Westminster Choir College: identity and experience after transition

**S**INCE the move to integrate Westminster Choir College (WCC) onto Rider's Lawrenceville campus and the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic, this semester has been one of the first relatively normal opportunities for WCC students to experience classes and daily life in their new setting. Many students, however, have complicated feelings regarding the transition after seeing its aftermath firsthand.

## Ties to the Princeton Campus

If there is one thing to know about WCC students, it is that they are proud of their college's history – one that has thrived and was entwined with the physical setting of the WCC Princeton campus.

Sophomore music major Bella Nakum, who uses they/them pronouns, reflected on their own personal connection with the old campus.

"The choir college has its own history with a lot of really famous and reputable conductors using their spaces. ... The Princeton campus has a lot of rich, rich history, and I'm finding that over time, a lot of that is kind of dying," Nakum said.

A lot of Westminster students like Nakum and junior music education major Rachel McNamara grew up on the Princeton Campus attending various camps that inspired them to apply to WCC in the first place.

McNamara explained, "I transferred to Westminster the year that they moved to the Lawrenceville campus. But I have a lot of connections to the old campus because I went to camp there for several years. So that was the first campus I was ever introduced to."

Marion Jacob, a second-year master's student studying choral composition, also felt drawn to the Princeton campus and has been more or less disillusioned with the new Lawrenceville experience.

Jacob said of her time surrounded by other musicians during a choral institute workshop in Bristol Chapel on the Princeton campus, "I just was immediately steeped in this rich musical tradition."

## Students fear erasure

This move was not the first for WCC, originally cited as Westminster Choir in 1920 by John Finley Williamson in Dayton, Ohio. In 1929, WCC was officially established and resided in New York on the Ithaca College campus, before moving again to Princeton, New Jersey in 1932, merging with Rider in 1991 and now landing on the university's Lawrenceville campus.

Students like Nakum, however, want to be proactive in ensuring the future of WCC's legacies and traditions.

"I don't think, and a lot of people don't think, this move necessarily means the end of anything. But one thing that is different about this move is that Westminster's identity as a school is kind of being dismissed," Nakum said. "I think a change a lot of us would like to see is that Westminster history kind of be acknowledged and that the legacy of the school continue as it has for many years because I don't think this move has to stop that from happening."

Another point of concern is keeping the distinction between Westminster Choir College and Westminster College of the Arts, which was originally established in 2007. McNamara expressed disappointment in a lack of WCC specific signage around campus and merchandise in the bookstore, for example.

McNamara said, "I was under the impression ... that we would be keeping most of our identity and would be merging with Westminster College of the Arts, but still keeping our WCC identity. But I don't think that that really played out the way that we expected."

## Physical concerns and constraints

Aside from the legacy and history of WCC, a tangible concern in this merger is the space, or lack thereof, for rehearsals, practices and performances.

Jacob said, "The facilities on the Lawrenceville campus are completely inadequate to support the robust program that we do have at WCC. ... Instead of having several different rooms available for different classes, for performance-based classes and singing studio and conducting classes and choir rehearsals, we have Gill Chapel, and that's our only rehearsal space. And it's not quite big enough to accommodate our symphonic choir, which is why it had to be restructured."

## Being heard in a bigger way

After feeling ignored and dismissed in an administrative capacity, Jacob and Debbie-Ann Francis, a first-year graduate student studying piano pedagogy and performance, created a petition addressing their disappointment with the handling of WCC's integration onto the Lawrenceville campus. The petition, which was emailed to Rider President Gregory Dell'Omo, Provost Donna Jean Fredeen, Westminster College of the Arts Dean Marshall Onofrio and the Board of Trustees on Nov. 30, received over 130 signatures and counting from current WCC students as well as alumni.

The petition outlined several disappointments on the Lawrenceville campus: "Gill Chapel is acoustically deficient ... pianos for students do not reflect a conservatory-level department ... These [Fine Arts] classrooms are unsuitable for choral and ensemble rehearsals and studio classes."

The petition also calls into question the lack of WCC memorabilia on campus, decreasing enrollment from students and the "lack of transparency and clear communication from the administration" regarding unfulfilled promises from the WCC move.

Signers are requesting "a response from the administration before Dec. 15, 2021, indicating that [their] petition has been read thoroughly, and providing details regarding how these issues will be addressed and resolved."

## Administration response

University spokeswoman Kristine Brown provided a statement to The Rider News regarding WCC student's concerns:

"We welcome all feedback from students on their experience at Rider. Given the opportunity to investigate and respond to such concerns, we are extremely confident in our ability to resolve them to the satisfaction of students, faculty and staff.

"Ensuring our facilities meet or hopefully exceed expectations is a constant focus. That's why we worked closely with industry experts to create or adapt practice rooms, performance spaces, classrooms and more on the Lawrenceville campus, including the same acoustic consultants who worked on Hillman Performance Hall on the Princeton campus.

"This fall, audiences have enthusiastically greeted new recordings by Westminster choirs and their long-awaited return to live performance. We are fully dedicated to maintaining the high level of artistry and musical expression that makes such events — and Westminster's unique legacy — possible."

## Moving forward

WCC students have made it clear what actions need to be taken from an administrative standpoint to alleviate their stressors and concerns, and now Rider needs to follow through.

While some people are trying to remain positive, like music education professor Jason Vodicka who mentioned how nice it has been to be near Lawrenceville campus colleagues, especially in the education department, it is clear that this entire situation could use some improvement.

WCC students have lost a lot of tangible history in this move and have felt dismissed by Rider's administration. Diligence on the administration's part in not only making the Lawrenceville campus suitable for WCC practices but allowing WCC to thrive as its own entity with its own history may bring the overall Rider community closer to what Vodicka likes to describe as a "blended family."

*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*

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## VOLLEYBALL

# Rider comes up short defending MAAC title

By Luke Lombardi

**E**VERY championship team dreams of going back-to-back. Unfortunately Rider fell right at the finish line to Fairfield in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) finals.

Coming into the tournament, Rider had a lot of momentum. They entered the tournament with a five-match winning streak, including two reverse sweeps to end the regular season. The Broncs just finished the most successful regular season they ever had since joining the MAAC with a conference record of 14-4 and the second seed.

Rider started the tournament against the seven-seed Iona. The match started sloppily for both sides, splitting the first two sets. Once the third set started, the Broncs hit their groove. They took the last two sets with each set's final score being 25-19. Junior opposite Morgan Romano led the team with 26 kills while senior setter Anilee Sher had 52 assists.

Their semifinal match wound up being against six-seeded Quinnipiac. The match was close, containing the most exciting set of the weekend for Rider. The second set ended with a final score of 27-25 with Rider failing to lead until 25-24. The Broncs took the last set 25-20 and clinched a spot in the championship. Yet again, Romano led the team in kills with 26, and Sher led the team in assists with 42.

"You had two good offensive teams. We have a pretty good offense and so does Quinnipiac. We were both battling, and obviously, we got the better of it. I think we hit around .300 for the match. They were around .200, so our offense performed just a little bit better," Head Coach Jeff Rotondo said.

The semifinal match became important to Sher for another reason. During the match, Sher set the record for assists in a single season from a Rider player with her 1,177th assist. This enabled her to achieve the record of holding the single-game, single-season and career assist records for the Broncs all at once.

"It's surreal in a sense. I didn't really focus on it the entire season. I didn't know that there were old records to break," Sher said. "I didn't keep up with a lot of it, so it kind of just shows that when you're involved in a season and you're putting a lot into it, you're working hard for it, things kind of just happen and everyone starts playing a lot better and you're focused on other things than just your individual statistics and things just fall into place."

The Broncs had a chance to repeat as champions as they head into the MAAC tournament finals when they faced top-seeded Fairfield. The last time Rider matched up against Fairfield during the regular season, they had a seven-match winning streak with the last win streak being against Quinnipiac.

Going into the championship, the circumstances were the same. Unfortunately for Rider, the result was as well with Fairfield taking the match three sets to none.

The Broncs started the match slowly and dug themselves a hole they couldn't climb out of. The first set went in Fairfield's favor with a score of 25-11. The second set went slightly better for Rider, but they still lost 25-18. The third set was when the Broncs started playing like a championship-caliber team. In the case of this match, it was too little too late as Fairfield took the sweep with a 25-21 third set victory.



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

Senior outside hitter **Jillian Chan** helped Rider reach the MAAC finals for the second straight year.

In the end, while the Broncs did not win the conference, they did make back-to-back championship match appearances.

"I think it's awesome getting to the finals two years in a row. It's obviously program history because we'd never been to the finals before and then winning last year was the first time in program history," Romano said. "Just going again [and] having a feeling knowing that we're capable of doing it is something to look forward to next year, too."

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

# NOTEBOOK: Rider sinks to 0-5 again

By Dylan Manfre

Rider women's basketball started the season 0-5 for the second year in a row. The last time that record happened was in the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 seasons. The team's struggles start at the top and trickle down the latter.

It has been difficult for the team that ended up in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) semifinals last March to find its footing. Rider's recent stretch of games offered answers about what the team needs to do to improve after going 0-3 with losses to St. Francis Brooklyn on Nov. 20, Lehigh on Nov. 27 and Columbia on Nov. 28.

## Still without a win

Rider's game against St. Francis resulted in one team getting its first win, and it was not the Broncs. They lost their home opener 74-62 and Head Coach Lynn Milligan took full responsibility for the loss.

"Bottom line is I didn't have my team ready," Milligan said. "I'm gonna work to correct that ... all of it's on me. It starts at the top."

At times during the game, it looked like Rider was not in sync with each other, especially when it was down as much as 20 points.

"I feel like we get within ourselves rather than reach out when we need help," sophomore guard Makayla Firebaugh said. "I feel like that was probably a big contributor."

The first half followed an unattractive pattern that the Broncs saw against Penn State and La Salle. They quickly faced a double-digit deficit down 18-6 after 10 minutes and Rider's bench played an average of five minutes in the quarter without producing a bucket.

"We didn't come out with energy, and that's been our problem for the past few games," Firebaugh said.

Rider corrected some of its bad play in the first half against Lehigh and kept it competitive, however it faltered the rest of the way and ended up losing by 25.

Columbia seemed to be the game when the Broncs found a lot of its footing. Firebaugh tied her

career-high of 26, Rider led a majority of the way but could not pull out the win losing 63-60, its closest deficit all year.

## Rider's small-ball options

The Broncs played some small-ball lineups probably out of necessity on Nov. 20 against St. Francis Brooklyn. After sophomore forward Raphaella Toussaint got two fouls in three minutes in the quarter, she was held out until the start of the third period.

Milligan made some adjustments playing the 6-foot-2 forward Anna Ekerstedt at center. She shared the court with freshman forward Emily Strunk, junior guard Jessika Schiffer, senior guard Lenaajha Evans running point guard along with Firebaugh. It gave the impression that Milligan made the change out of necessity.

"We saw an opportunity to put it out there [against St. Francis] to see what it looked like," Milligan said. "I do think it's something we can play around with. Like I said, because of our depth, if we can stay healthy, we have a lot of options to play different kids together and get different looks."

Against Lehigh, Milligan made an official change to the starting five, and it was a pretty big one. Senior guard Amanda Mobley was replaced with Evans and sophomore guard Maya Hyacienth was swapped with Schiffer.

Hyacinth did not play against Lehigh because of a hyperextended knee, according to Milligan.

## Guard depth now a concern?

That is a sizable "if" when Milligan said, "if we can stay healthy." The Broncs have been pretty banged up and the guard depth Milligan touted at the beginning of the season has become a concern.

The list goes as follows: junior guard Sophia DeMauro was not present for the St. Francis game because of recent ankle surgery and is out indefinitely. Freshman Madison Johnson is still on crutches with a left leg injury. Sophomore guard Molly Lynch rode around Alumni Gym on a scooter

on Nov. 20 with a right foot sprain. Milligan said she is now on crutches. Mobley was seen in a walking boot but Milligan said it's more of a "precautionary" measure so she can feel comfortable around campus. She does not anticipate it limiting her in any way.

The pesky injury bug almost "never went away," Milligan said. It has been lingering around the team for the whole season.

"It happens sometimes," Milligan said. "Every team faces it. Injuries are not new to us and they're not new to anybody else. It's part of the game."

Against Lehigh on Nov. 27, Rider used nine active players. That went down to eight when Rider played Columbia on Nov. 28.

"It makes it easier [to make lineups,]" Milligan laughed after the Lehigh game. "I'm choosing from nine players and not 15."

Redshirt sophomore guard Lauren Saa has played six games in her three years at Rider because of knee injuries and surgeries. Milligan said Saa feels "confident" and is close to a return.

These injuries put more emphasis on the role players to perform better, especially since one player scored in double-digits in each of the first two games. Evans has stepped up big for the Broncs and now will likely be a regular starter.



Carolo Pascale/The Rider News

Rider women's basketball Head Coach **Lynn Milligan** (left) talking with new starter **Jessika Schiffer** as she checks out of a game.

## CLUB ICE HOCKEY

# 'Brotherhood' takes on new meaning for Giwerowski's

By Sam Steward

**T**HE Rider Club Ice Hockey program has always referred to their team as "The Brotherhood." A program based on family, friends and the love for the game of hockey, the tight-knit closeness of the group has always been the shining light of Rider Ice. For 22-year-old Tyler and 20-year-old Trevor Giwerowski, "The Brotherhood" is more than just a saying; the two biological brothers from Bensalem, Pennsylvania, are now able to play one season together, wearing the same jersey, for their now shared university.

Currently, Tyler Giwerowski, a senior right-winger, was honored with the captain's "C" on his jersey for the 2021-2022 season. Through 16 games this season, he has recorded three goals and seven assists for a total of 10 points. Trevor Giwerowski, a freshman goaltender, has a personal record of 8-1-0, with a save percentage of .924, goals allowed average of 2.03 and three shutouts.

Growing up in a hockey family, Tyler Giwerowski began playing ice hockey at the age of 4-years-old, with his little brother Trevor Giwerowski following in his footsteps at the age of 5. The boys were able to play on the same team multiple times in their youth hockey careers; at the age of 6 and 7, they played for the Bristol Blazers youth hockey club together and for Archbishop Ryan in their high school careers.

Tyler Giwerowski also played individually for teams such as the Warwick Wildcats and found himself on the Rider Broncos in the fall of 2018. Trevor Giwerowski was on a different path after high school, moving away from home at the age of 15 to play junior hockey in the Midwest for six years.

"I grew up playing in Pennsauken, New Jersey for Team Comcast until I was 14 and then I made the jump out to West Chester, Pennsylvania to play for the Junior Flyers. I spent one year there before being recruited to play for South Kent Selects Academy, a boarding school up in Connecticut. I spent my sophomore, junior and senior years up there. From there I was in Des Moines, Iowa for a year playing for the Des Moines Buccaneers. After that year I started the next year in Odessa, Texas with the Odessa Jackalopes. After those two months, I finished the rest of the year in Charleston South Carolina with the Charleston Colonials," said Trevor Giwerowski.

After having spent so much time apart, Trevor Giwerowski's decision to commit to Rider was an emotional day for the family, especially his big brother.

"The day I found out that Trevor decided to commit to Rider was full of many emotions," said Tyler Giwerowski. "Trevor had been away from home since he was 15 years old and I missed a big chunk of his teenage years. This is basically my last year of playing hockey and there is nothing better than ending it with my brother by my side."

Their parents, Heather and Doug Giwerowski,



Tyler Giwerowski (left) wears no. 22 for the Rider Broncos. Trevor Giwerowski (right) wears no. 29 for the Broncos.

have played a huge role in the brothers' hockey careers. Driving to the early practices, away games, and their dad even served as part of the coaching staff on some of their teams, it is clear that hockey runs in the Giwerowski family. Heather Giwerowski couldn't help but get emotional the first time she saw her sons on the same rink, in Rider uniforms.

"The first game they were on the ice together was a very emotional and extremely proud moment for us. Six years have passed since they wore the same jersey. To see them on the ice, on the same team, in the same jerseys was definitely a sight for sore eyes. And it has been the same feeling every game since," Heather Giwerowski said.

Their success as players and brothers have greatly contributed to Rider Ice Hockey's impressive 14-1-1 start this season. The team has put up impressive numbers against all of their opponents, most notably completing the regular-season sweep against their



Photo courtesy of the Giwerowski family

Tyler Giwerowski (left) and Trevor Giwerowski (right) playing together on the Bristol Blazers as children.

largest rival, Rowan University. Trevor Giwerowski had both wins against Rowan between the pipes. Head Coach Sean Levin noted that the boys' dedication to hockey and leadership skills has helped them win in various ways.

"Tyler is engulfed in the hockey community, he is always absorbing hockey. He will block shots and do whatever he can to help the team, he is the shutdown defensive forward," Levin said. "Trevor has the same 'I got your back' mentality with a save, and he doesn't need the accolades every time."

Both brothers are well-respected and well-loved throughout the Rider hockey community and within the locker room. Teammates and friends had nothing but rave

reviews about their playing style, personalities and Tyler Giwerowski's captaincy. Sophomore forward CJ Perkins captured the essence of both players, from a teammate and friend point-of-view.

Perkins said, "Tyler and Trevor have always been close as brothers and players. They build off each other and make each other better whether it is on or off the ice. Tyler and Trevor are hardworking, down-to-earth and emotional players that want the best for everyone. They both stand out in their own unique way whether it is their game, mentality or leadership. Tyler is hardworking, straight up, and one of the best leaders anyone could have on their team. Trevor is also hardworking, straight up, and a great leader but a little more on the quiet side."

Looking forward, the Giwerowski's offered advice to each other in regards to their hockey careers and lives as a whole. When asked to advise his younger brother, Tyler Giwerowski said, "To not take anything for granted while playing for Rider, as this is a brotherhood that you will have for the rest of your life."

As for Trevor Giwerowski, he hopes his brother will "just always keep pushing forward. [Tyler] has a bright future ahead in the real world and I know he can be a real successful person when he's striving."

However, their mom offered a great piece of advice for both of her sons, one she hopes they take with her wherever they go, both on and off the ice.

"We hope that each of them know that no matter where life takes them, their brother will always have their back and be there for them," Heather Giwerowski said. "Family is everything. We tell the boys all of the time to 'enjoy the moment.'"

The Giwerowski brothers and the rest of the Rider Broncos will be back on home ice on Jan. 15 versus William Paterson. Before heading back to Lawrenceville, Rider will travel to Virginia to take on Liberty University on Dec. 10 and 11.

# Sports

INSIDE

## BROTHERS UNITED

*Sam Steward shares the heartfelt story of the Giwerowski brothers of the club ice hockey team.*

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

## NOTEBOOK: Broncs lose five of six on the road



Carolo Pascale/The Rider News

Rider men's basketball Head Coach **Kevin Baggett** has stressed the importance of not getting into foul trouble.

By **Carolo Pascale**

**N**ONCONFERENCE play comes to a close as the Broncs win just one of their last six on an extended road trip that took them as far north as Buffalo, New York, and as far south as Riviera Maya, Mexico. Rider played six games in just 14 days, and with Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) play on the horizon, it definitely gave the Broncs time to face some top level competition.

### Hitting the road

The Broncs started off their long road trip by playing against Bucknell on Nov. 17. Despite senior guard Dwight Murray Jr. having a career night, scoring 30 points and 13 rebounds and the Broncs fell short 81-74.

"We need to get some guys off the bench to give us good minutes and we need our best players to be our best players," said Head Coach Kevin Baggett.

Sophomore forward also Nehemiah Benson set a career high in points as well with eight and played a career high of 20 minutes.

"I'm just getting better day by day," said Benson.

The team also got into foul trouble as Benson and junior forward Mervin James fouled out and senior forward Ajiri Ogemuno-Johnson had four fouls.

"We've got to get better, which we will," said Baggett.

### South of the border

After the loss against Bucknell the Broncs got right back to it, facing the Buffalo Bulls in their first game of the Cancun Challenge on Nov. 20. The Broncs would fall in this one as well, 87-65, suffering their first consecutive losses of the season.

This was the first time this season the Broncs were trailing at the end of the first half and the first time they were outrebounded.

Sophomore guard Corey McKeithan led the Broncs with a career-high 13 points, going 6-for-8 from the field and 1-for-1 from the 3-point line.

Rider's second game of the Cancun Challenge was against Middle Tennessee on Nov. 23, which the Broncs dropped, for their third straight loss, 60-54. Murray and graduate student forward Dimencio Vaughn led the Broncs with 13 points each.

The Broncs did go on an impressive run in the first half, outscoring Middle Tennessee 31-11 after a rough start, but faltered in the second half.

"I am trying to find 40 consistent minutes from start to finish," said Baggett.

The Broncs were without Ogemuno-Johnson for this game and the next due to a visa issue that hindered him from playing in the games in Mexico.

The Broncs' third and final game of the Cancun Challenge was against Bucknell once again on Nov. 24. This time the Broncs were able to hold on and secure the win 85-79, their first in three games.

"We knew we needed to have this game. We went in at halftime and said we needed to do whatever we needed to do to win," said Baggett.

James had a great night for the Broncs, scoring 23 points in just 21 minutes, before fouling out again.

"I was just trying to get outside of myself. There wasn't anybody holding me back but myself," said James. "I was in my head. I talked to my family and said some prayers and got myself right."

Along with James, four other players scored double digit points.

### Southeast struggles

Once the Cancun Challenge ended, the Broncs traveled to the southeast to take on South Carolina on Nov. 28. The Broncs looked sharp for much of the game but lost 65-58.

The Broncs led at the end of the 1st half 28-25, with Powell leading the Broncs in points with seven.

Despite working hard for that lead, South Carolina kept pushing and eventually went on a pivotal 24-6 run that ultimately won them the game.

"We just haven't been able to close out games enough," said Baggett, "It's a learning process."

The Broncs faced foul trouble again with Ogemuno-Johnson and James fouling out. This was the third straight game that James had fouled out and his fifth time in eight games.

After the loss to South Carolina, the Broncs faced off against Ole Miss on Nov. 30, losing 75-51.

Rider once again competed in the first half but the second half was the downfall yet again. The Broncs went down by as much as 29, but would bring the deficit back down to 24.

"It's a mindset. When you're down you just have to keep competing," Baggett said, "You've got to give your team a chance."

### Gaels up next

The Broncs end their long seven-game road trip with their first MAAC play game of the season against last season's champion and this year's favorite, the Iona Gaels. The Gaels, who have looked even stronger than last year, already have several statement wins under their belt this season, capped with a win over an Alabama team that was ranked 10th at the time.

"We have to prepare the same we do for every opponent. It's a league game, but it's no different," said Baggett.

With Iona looking to win their seventh MAAC Championship in nine years, and start another streak of repeat championships, Rider faces one of its toughest opponents of the season on Dec. 3 at 7 pm.

### KEYSTONE CLASSIC

*The wrestling team took fourth place at the Keystone Classic at the University of Pennsylvania. Trey Wright has more from the action.*



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### NAME, IMAGE, LIKENESS

*Volleyball has grown in popularity because of NIL legislation. See what Rider's volleyball team has to say about it.*



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



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