



AAUP leaders want Board of Trustees to remove Dell’Omo

By Sarah Siock and Shaun Chornobroff

RIDER’S chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) started the process of asking the Board of Trustees to remove President Gregory Dell’Omo from his position by presenting a no-confidence motion to union members at a Feb. 1 meeting.

The AAUP executive committee sent an anonymous survey to its members asking if they support a call for the Board of Trustees to remove Dell’Omo.

The motion’s resolution blames Dell’Omo for Rider’s projected \$20 million cash flow deficit, stating his strategic policies “have led to a weakening of the university’s financial condition.” The resolution also cites dwindling university enrollments, failure to improve student retention and increasing debt under Dell’Omo’s leadership.

“At some point, you have to say ‘we need new leadership,’” said AAUP Chief Grievance Officer and sociology professor Jeffrey Halpern, pointing to the increasingly worsening financial situation of the university among other complaints.

In 2017, less than two years into his tenure, the AAUP passed a no-confidence vote against Dell’Omo after he cut academic programs and attempted to lay off tenured faculty. The vote was the first-ever in Rider’s history, but it did not ask the Board of Trustees to remove Dell’Omo.

In an interview following the Feb. 1 meeting, Halpern said, “There were strong feelings on both sides” in 2017 about voting no confidence. In the most recent meeting, which Halpern estimated had 90 participants, he said not one member of the AAUP raised concern about the motion. Halpern, who has been at the university for four decades, said he expects the motion to be “overwhelmingly approved.”

In a statement to The Rider News on Jan. 31 Dell’Omo said, “As a leader, whenever you have to make difficult organizational decisions during challenging times, it comes with the territory that you are going to receive a certain amount of opposition. In making these decisions, it is important to keep a focus on the efforts to weather the challenges being faced and to work toward building a stronger future for the institution, while also being as sensitive as possible to the impact these efforts have on individual stakeholders. This is the commitment that my senior team and I, along with the Board of Trustees, have in guiding our institution forward. We don’t expect



Peter G. Borg/Rider University

An anonymous survey was sent to AAUP members asking if they support a call for the Board of Trustees to remove President Gregory Dell’Omo.

everyone to agree with, much less like, all of these efforts, but I hope the reasoning behind them is understood and that we can work together as a community for a successful and thriving Rider University.”

The motion also comes after the university administration’s announcement of a voluntary separation program for non-faculty employees to reduce salary and benefit expenses, with a warning that layoffs were possible if savings goals weren’t met.

“Before President Dell’Omo reduces staff whose work supports the educational mission of the institution, provides services for students, maintains the physical facilities and keeps the campus safe, he should take responsibility for the deficit and resign,” said Barbara Franz



COVID-19 implementation team adjusting to omicron challenges

By Shaun Chornobroff

AT the turn of the new year with students and professors home for winter break, the highly contagious omicron variant of COVID-19 caused a nationwide spike of positive cases, leading to widespread fears for the spring semester for colleges around the country.

After its efforts aided Rider in avoiding a large outbreak of positive COVID cases in the fall semester, the school’s COVID-19 Implementation Team’s latest task in the ongoing pandemic was to prepare the university for its return with yet another potent variant causing havoc.

The team had to make decisions about starting classes in-person, adjust to a trove of new guidelines from state and national authorities as well as concerns about quarantine space with an influx of positive cases a possibility at any time.

“It’s like you’re moving at 75 miles an hour every day, with it feels like no end in sight,” said Rider’s Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Secretary to the Board Debbie Stasolla, who also serves as one of the leaders of the implementation team. “In terms of keeping up with the changing nature of different variants, what we know of the different variants and the surrounding circumstances that makes them challenging.”

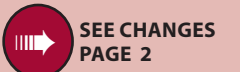
An in-person start

When colleges like Princeton, Rutgers and Monmouth among many other schools in the state of New Jersey decided to start their semester online, Rider sent its students into classrooms on Jan. 24 for in-person instruction on the first day of classes.

“We felt that by Jan. 24, we would be past the height of omicron,” said Stasolla, who serves as Rider’s vice president of strategic initiatives and secretary to the board. “And our philosophy continues to be not only supporting the safety and well-being of our community but also to support as normal operations as possible. So we need to learn to live with this virus.”

In an email sent to the student body on Jan. 11 announcing the plan to start the semester in person, the implementation team stated that the plan was, “based in part on our Jan. 24 start date, which should ideally coincide with a reduced transmission rate of omicron and be past the peak of infections in our region.”

New Jersey saw more than 21,000 positive COVID-19 cases on Jan. 11, according to the state’s COVID-19 dashboard. Less than two weeks later when professors



THE Rider News COVID-19 COUNTER

<p>Confirmed Cases: Last updated: Jan. 28, 2022</p> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">24</div> <p>Cumulative total of laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 at Rider University (Since January 2022)</p>			<p>COVID-19 cases reported to Rider University by week:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Month/Year</th> <th>Student Case Reports</th> <th>Employee Case Reports</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Jan. 24-28</td> <td>20</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nov.27-Dec.3</td> <td>9</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Rider University reports its testing numbers and other coronavirus statistics every Friday at rider.edu/dashboard</p>			Month/Year	Student Case Reports	Employee Case Reports	Jan. 24-28	20	4	Nov.27-Dec.3	9	3
Month/Year	Student Case Reports	Employee Case Reports												
Jan. 24-28	20	4												
Nov.27-Dec.3	9	3												
<p>On Campus Student Testing:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Weeks</th> <th>Health Center</th> <th>Surveillance Testing</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Jan.24-28</td> <td>5</td> <td>114</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Information courtesy of rider.edu</p>		Weeks	Health Center	Surveillance Testing	Jan.24-28	5	114	<p>Student Quarantine and Isolation:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>This week there are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 student(s) quarantining on campus 2 student(s) quarantining off campus 8 student(s) isolating on campus 0 student(s) isolating off campus 						
Weeks	Health Center	Surveillance Testing												
Jan.24-28	5	114												

Information from Rider.edu

Adrienne Unfreed/ The Rider News

INSIDE **WINTER ROUND UP**
Women’s basketball’s four-game stretch has been everything but ideal.
PAGE 11



DELL’OMO’S WARM WELCOME
Voluntary separation program announcement on the first day of classes stirs student concerns.
PAGE 8

R FACTOR’S COMEBACK
Past contestants compete against new contestants in the return of R Factor.
PAGE 6



SECURITY BRIEFS

BY SARAH SIOCK

Suspicious activity

Found in plain sight. On Jan. 27 at 12:10 a.m., Public Safety was dispatched to Hill Residence Hall, for suspected marijuana. Upon their arrival, Public Safety met with the Residence Life staff who had detected the odor of suspected marijuana coming from a student's room. Public Safety proceeded to the room and spoke to the residents inside. Public Safety questioned the student who stated they had been smoking marijuana off-campus. The student permitted Public Safety to search their room. The search was completed in the presence of the students and Residence Life staff and drug paraphernalia was found. The paraphernalia was confiscated, and the incident was referred to the Officer of Community Standards.

Persistent flame

The "Eternal Flame." On Jan. 27 at 5:13 p.m., Public Safety was dispatched to the general services building for the report of a fire. Upon their arrival, they found a smoldering trash can that had previously been on fire but had since been extinguished. While on location, Public Safety observed the fire to reignite and used a fire extinguisher to put the fire out. No significant damage was observed. The township fire marshal was notified.

Downpour in Daly's

Don't look up. On Jan. 30 at 2:30 p.m., Public Safety was performing a building check of Daly's Dining Hall when they observed a large amount of water leaking from the ceiling. Upon further investigation, it appeared that a sprinkler pipe had broken, causing a large amount of water to flow into the hallway. Public Safety shut the water off, and Facilities Management was notified of the issue.

-Information provided by Public Safety Capt. Matthew Babcock

AAUP displeased with Dell'Omo's handling of Princeton campus

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

AAUP president and political science professor in an interview with The Rider News on Jan. 27.

Student Government Association (SGA) President and senior computer science major Liz O'Hara recognized the complexity of the situation and the confusion it may spur among students.

O'Hara said, "The Student Government Association recognizes the right of faculty members to express their points of view through their statements regarding the removal of the President, but acknowledges that the decision ultimately lies with the Board of Trustees. In no way is the SGA taking a position on the statement calling for President Dell'Omo to be removed. We hope that more information will be released publicly to our campus by the AAUP and that all stakeholders will be given an opportunity to respond. We understand the complex nature of the problem at hand and will continue to advocate for an outcome that has a positive impact on the student body, as well as the longstanding health of the university for future generations of students."

Another factor in the AAUP's decision to bring this motion relates to Rider's inability to sell its Princeton campus, formerly used by the Westminster Choir College (WCC). Rider moved WCC students to the Lawrenceville campus in 2020, but the Princeton campus is currently not marketed for sale as alumni and students fight the university's relocation of the choir college in court.

"The botched sale of the campus of the Westminster Choir College has cost Rider millions including the lawsuits. At the same time [Dell'Omo] has continued paying himself and his inner circle of VPs very handsomely," said Franz.

The most recent copy of the university's IRS 990, which spans from July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020, showed Dell'Omo's salary was \$532,400 and \$87,712 in additional benefits, nearly \$55,000 more than the prior year. Eight administrators also earned a base salary of over \$200,00. In contrast, Rider's faculty went without any pay or cost-of-living increase from 2013 to the fall of 2021.

Faculty members have one week to complete the survey, multiple members of the union's executive committee confirmed.



Courtesy of AAUP

American Association of University Professors started the process of asking the Board of Trustees to remove Dell'Omo.

Changes in quarantine guidelines due to omicron variant

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

welcomed students into classrooms, positive cases had plummeted to below 10,000 statewide.

Changing Guidelines

As the virus mutated and caused a nationwide outbreak in cases and crisis in available tests, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the New Jersey Department of Health updated guidelines that treat students who have not received a booster as if they are unvaccinated for the spring semester.

During the fall semester if a fully vaccinated student was a close contact they may not have had to quarantine, but with the most recently updated COVID-19 guidelines, those who are fully vaccinated but have not submitted proof of a booster will be placed into quarantine if they are identified as a close contact.

The first update of Rider's COVID-19 dashboard displayed nine students in quarantine as of Jan. 28 and started keeping data on the first day of classes.

Omicron is an extremely contagious variant of COVID-19 and as a result, Stasolla is expecting a rise in cases at the school in comparison to the fall semester, which saw a surprisingly low 64 cases throughout the entire semester and the university never experienced more than 16 cases in a single week.

Stasolla's fears were quickly proven accurate. In its return for the spring semester, Rider recorded 24 positive cases, the most the university has seen in a single week since November of 2020.

To combat the expected rise in positive cases and quarantine numbers, Stasolla and the implementation team decided to create more space for quarantine and isolation by emptying unvaccinated students of Poyda Hall and placing them among the vaccinated and boosted students in normal residence halls.

"As more information and studies came to light, it was clear to us that [unvaccinated students] was not a big risk for our community, our bigger risk in light of how contagious omicron is, was not having sufficient space to accommodate and with the change guidelines to accommodate, quarantined and isolated students. So we felt that was a big risk not to have sufficient space," Stasolla said.

Students who test positive with COVID-19 will have to quarantine for five

full days and can end as long as students are fever-free for a whole day and have improvement with other symptoms, according to Rider's Resolved and Ready guidelines.

The guidelines also explain that students who live within two hours are expected to quarantine at their homes.

Of the positive COVID-19 cases that found their way to the university in the fall, more than 90% of them were among vaccinated individuals and the school found "very few" positive cases during its weekly surveillance testing, Stasolla explained.

As the new semester starts and the implementation team has to oversee several changes to protect the community, they're well aware that the challenges of omicron are just the latest one it faces and is likely not the last.



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

Students return to campus with new COVID guidelines for Spring semester.

Dell'Omo announces newest cost-cutting innovation

By Sarah Siock and Shaun Chornobroff

In response to nearly two years of great financial uncertainty brought forward by the COVID-19 pandemic, Rider President Gregory Dell'Omo announced a voluntary separation program for certain employees in an attempt to lower the university's projected \$20 million cash-flow deficit.

The program, which was announced on Jan. 24, is the latest cost-cutting initiative put in place to address Rider's massive budgetary issues. A campus-wide communication said all non-union employees are eligible to partake in the program that is intended to reduce salary and benefit expenses at the university. However, employees who volunteer to resign from their employment at the university will be offered financial incentives that are not normally in place.

Why voluntary separation?

In an interview with The Rider News on Jan. 27, Dell'Omo said the administration has long discussed how the university can bring its expenses more in line with its revenue.

"This was one area that we felt we had to go in this direction. No one ever likes doing anything like this. This is not the ideal situation. But we felt the voluntary separation plan was a way to at least give some employees an informed approach and a little bit of choice in the process," said Dell'Omo.

Benefits offered to those who sign-up for the voluntary separation program include a lump-sum payment equivalent to one week per year of service for a minimum of six weeks and a maximum of 26 weeks and a payout of all accrued, unused vacation time, up to allowable limits, and any applicable personal time. While all non-union employees can apply for voluntary separation, human resources will ultimately determine who will be approved.

Dell'Omo said the pandemic-related enrollment declines escalated the university's financial challenges. At the 2021 fall convocation, the president revealed Rider's total enrollment numbers took a hit with 3,827 students enrolled, which is down from 4,218 students the previous academic year. Recent attempts to cut costs at the university include the closure of the College of Continuing Studies in 2020, elimination of staff positions and salary freezes for top administrators.

Trimming the deficit

Dell'Omo made it clear in an email sent to university employees on Jan. 24 that the voluntary separation program is only the first step in his plan to reduce the university's monstrous debt and that involuntary reductions will follow unless "the voluntary separation program is sufficient to meet the university's financial goals."

"Rider plans to achieve significant savings from voluntary and involuntary reductions of its non-AAUP workforce this year. We will also factor in open budgeted positions that will not be filled to help meet these financial goals, as well as through implementation of other cost-saving measures," Dell'Omo said in his email to faculty.

In his interview with The Rider News, Dell'Omo said that he hoped to erase the entirety of Rider's deficit.

"That's our goal, whether we'll be able to accomplish that in one year is questionable," Dell'Omo said honestly. "... When we talk about that \$20 million deficit that we're trying to correct, it's a combination of people cost savings, operations cost savings, not filling certain positions that are currently open and restructuring some. That way we can work in certain areas, as well as revenue that's over and above what we projected; enrollment-wise, auxiliary revenues, housing and other things we do. So it's a combination of all those things that we're looking at to help how much of that \$20 million we can whittle down."

President of Rider's Chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) and political science professor Barbara Franz was critical of the voluntary separation program and said those affected are "crucial" to academic departments.

Franz said, "Before you reduce staff that works directly with students and that provides services for students, [Dell'Omo] should really trim this bloated administration."

Future changes

When looking toward the future of Rider, Dell'Omo said he wanted to build the university's endowment to help "safeguard" Rider from unforeseen financial obstacles.

"When you rely on the revenue from students as much as we do, then you're subjected to the ups and downs of how many students are available. ... If you have a strong endowment that allows you to take the interest from that endowment every year and fund a larger percent of your operating budget, you're not as dependent on student tuition," said Dell'Omo pointing to fundraising initiatives and endowment scholarships that can help fund university operations in the future.

Among the catalysts of the many changes set to hit the university shortly are administrative and academic prioritization processes that began last fall. The administrative prioritization is "a little ahead of the academic one," according to Dell'Omo.

The university president stated that by the end of February, he's hoping for results of the administrative prioritization process. The administration also anticipates the results of the information for the academic prioritization at the end of March.

Dell'Omo and his cabinet have been the target of consistent skepticism from AAUP leadership for its partnership with the academic consulting firm Credo, which is aiding the university in its prioritization processes. Dell'Omo assured that any final decisions based on the consulting firm's recommendations will be made by the administration and affirmed his confidence in the decision to partner with Credo.

"They're just providing sort of a set of eyes and experiences and ideas that we look at," said Dell'Omo. "So, they aren't really providing any decision making, they aren't making any tough decisions. That's going to be the management, the administration going through this process."

In the eyes of Dell'Omo and his cabinet, the voluntary and involuntary separation programs, along with the prioritization programs that go hand-in-hand with the Credo partnership serve one purpose: to aid the future of Rider University.

"We want to continue to make Rider as attractive to more students, and more faculty who want to come work here and other people who want to come here," Dell'Omo said. "We've got to continue to figure out those areas of investment that are going to allow you to continue to grow and be more prosperous. And so it's sometimes you take a step back to take two steps forward in how you approach the university. And that's [what] we're trying to accomplish."



Peter G. Borg/Rider University

In an interview with The Rider News, president **Gregory Dell'Omo** said that administration has long discussed how Rider can bring its expenses more in line with its revenue.



Adrienne Unfreed/The Rider News



Tori Pender/The Rider News

Westminster students feel ignored by university response to petition

By Sarah Siock

DESPITE the administration providing a lengthy response to a Westminster Choir College (WCC) petition signed by students, alumni and faculty that outlined several disappointments with WCC's integration onto the Lawrenceville campus on Dec. 16, students are not satisfied and are calling for more action from Rider's leadership.

The petition, which called on Rider to either provide students with suitable performance facilities, or re-open WCC's former Princeton campus, received over 130 signatures. Rider President Gregory Dell'Omo, Provost DonnaJean Fredeen, Westminster College of the Arts Dean Marshall Onofrio and the Board of Trustees were emailed the petition on Nov. 29 and asked to respond by Dec. 15.

Marion Jacob, a second-year master's student studying choral composition and Debbie-Ann Francis, a first-year graduate student studying piano pedagogy created the petition after connecting over their disappointments of the Lawrenceville campus. Among their concerns, Jacob and Francis were unhappy with the small practice space and substandard acoustics in Gill Chapel, the primary rehearsal and performance area for WCC.

"We have all of these things that are inadequate about the facilities, we have numerous cases of students reaching out to administration asking for assistance or asking for answers and getting no response again and again, so we wrote the petition," said Jacob.

The petition also included complaints of decreasing enrollment and a lack of WCC promotion on campus.

A four-page response signed by Dell'Omo, Fredeen and Onofrio was emailed and solely addressed to Jacob. The response addressed the concerns in the petition including the issues regarding Gill Chapel.

"Starting at a high level, please know we have invested considerable time and millions of dollars in Westminster Choir College campus transition and the facilities to support it, all in a very challenging fiscal and COVID-impacted environment. We know transitions are hard and often require sustained work to get right. We are continuing our work as explained below," the response reads.

The administration also said Gill Chapel "can accommodate 230 singers. ... However, COVID protocols required a change to all seating arrangements. When we are able to safely return to unrestricted seating, Gill Chapel will easily accommodate the Symphonic Choir, which enrolls approximately 80 students at this time."

However, Jacob and Francis have both experienced numerous occasions where they could not secure a practice room. Francis said the limited space presents many obstacles for her as a piano student with a strict practice schedule. She said she was once given the option to utilize practice rooms inside of a dorm building, but felt it was not a realistic choice.

"I am a grad student, I am not an undergrad student. But I'm supposed to run to a dorm that's not my own to practice there. That doesn't make any sense. This building [Gill Chapel] is supposed to be the place where I practice," said Francis.

Jacob and Marion felt the administration's response did not present solutions or recognize the concerns as true problems. The graduate students have not had any further communication with the administration since receiving the response.

"It's just several pages of gaslighting. They didn't address our concerns, other

than to say we're doing better than you had before," said Jacob.

Francis wished for a more urgent response.

She said, "Many times they said 'we'll wait for next semester.' I'm saying we don't mean next semester these buildings are already two years behind schedule."

The petition also detailed dissatisfaction in the presence of WCC at Westminster. The 1991 Merger Agreement between Rider and WCC states that Rider has an obligation to, "preserve, promote and enhance the existing missions of WCC's purposes, programs and traditions and ensure its separate identity." However, the petition states there is no WCC merchandise in the bookstore and few WCC specific signage in buildings on campus.

The administration's response said the university intended to install items from the Princeton campus at various locations around the Lawrenceville campus.

"The pandemic slowed some of that progress, but now that we have moved through the first semester of more normal on-campus operations, these plans will be revisited," the response reads.

Joel Phillips, professor of music composition and theory spoke to the importance of WCC's identity.

"These students feel it most above all. These are people that work seven days a week together to make beautiful music. It's very unusual for young people to meet together like that, to do something that's bigger than any one of them is by themselves. We have a fantastic thing in that regard," Phillips said. "So when they feel like the administration is literally doing everything in its power to devalue what they do and to erase their identity it's easy to understand why these people are both angry and depressed."



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

Gill Memorial Chapel located in the back of campus where WCC students currently use for practice.

Rider announces new plans for Princeton parking lot

By Olivia Nicoletti

RIDER'S Princeton campus, previously housed by the Westminster Choir College (WCC), has new plans to occupy its parking lots.

In a council meeting on Jan. 10, an ordinance was introduced by The Princeton Council that allows for business employees to park in a WCC lot with a permit, according to a Jan. 18 Central Jersey press release.

On Nov. 8, the agreement was made official by Princeton's mayor and council, according to Kristine Brown, associate vice president for university marketing and communication at Rider.

Brown confirmed that the township will pay Rider \$2,000 per month for use of the space.

"We regularly receive inquiries and consider them on their merits, including whether they might conflict with our needs," Brown said. "We currently have a small number of agreements with non-profit community music organizations for use of some of our spaces, but no other agreements at this time."

In 2020, Rider moved WCC to its Lawrenceville campus with the intention of selling the Princeton campus. However, students and alumni fighting the relocation of the choir college have prevented Rider from selling the property while their lawsuits play out in court. For now, the Princeton campus is still used by the Westminster Conservatory of Music — a branch of WCC that teaches young community students.

Due to the relocation of WCC students, there was speculation that the leasing of the parking lot would create a rift.

Bella Nakum, a sophomore music major, understands the reasoning behind leasing the lots.

"To be fair, Rider originally announced that Westminster was gonna have to switch over campuses, it was a money thing. For a while, I think us as students were a little confused ... it felt kind of like a slap in the face to a lot of us because at the time that they were still gonna hire people to work there. So now, they're making money off of the parking lot and that kind of makes sense to me," Nakum said. "I think I feel like we're annoyed by it, obviously, it is another slap in the face - but I think logistically, this is kind of the first thing since the actual move that made sense. This actually lines up with their original statements."

The agreement, as of now, will run until Aug. 31 of 2022, according to Brown.



Olivia Nicoletti/The Rider News

Rider is leasing a parking lot on the Princeton campus for \$2,000 per month.

"The municipality has a need for additional parking and asked us if we might help," Brown said. "Our parking is not being fully utilized, so we are happy to help the town."

ADVERTISEMENT



BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2022

STILL RISING
IN BLACK
EXCELLENCE



RIDER.EDU/BLACK-HISTORY-MONTH

ALL MONTH ACCESS

Black History Month Book Display and Reading List

rider.edu/black-history-month

Check out our Black History Month book display and reading list. It features a variety of books that explore the history of Black Americans in the United States, from the early days of slavery to the present. The books are available in the library and online. Visit our website to learn more about the books and the display.

Sponsored by: [Center for Diversity and Inclusion](#)

FEBRUARY 1

Flag Raising: Black History Month Kick-off

On Tuesday, February 1st, the University will hold a flag-raising ceremony to mark the beginning of Black History Month. The ceremony will be held in front of the Student Center. The flag will be raised at 10:00 AM. The ceremony will be broadcasted on the University's YouTube channel.

Sponsored by: [Office of Student Activities](#)

17 Years in a Minute: A real-world dilemma's struggle with social justice through the lens of George Orwell's dystopian novel, 1984

George Orwell's dystopian novel, 1984, is a powerful commentary on the dangers of totalitarianism and the loss of individual freedom. The novel is set in a future where the government has taken control of every aspect of life. The citizens are monitored and controlled by the government. The novel is a warning about the dangers of a society where the government has too much power.

Sponsored by: [The Center for Diversity and Inclusion](#) and [The Center for Black History and Culture](#)

FEBRUARY 9

Panel Discussion on Spike Lee's School Daze

Spike Lee's 1986 film, School Daze, is a powerful commentary on the experiences of Black students in college. The film explores the challenges of navigating a predominantly white campus and the importance of Black student organizations. The film is a must-watch for anyone interested in the history of Black students in higher education.

Sponsored by: [Center for Diversity and Inclusion](#), the [College of Arts and Sciences](#), and the [College of Education and Human Services](#)

FEBRUARY 10

Black Excellence Day

Black Excellence Day is a day to celebrate the achievements of Black Americans. The day is observed on February 10th. The day is a time to reflect on the contributions of Black Americans to the United States and to the world. The day is a time to celebrate the resilience and strength of the Black community.

FEBRUARY 11, 12, 13

Under the Spotlight: The Grand Celebration of Black Musical Theatre

Under the Spotlight: The Grand Celebration of Black Musical Theatre is a three-day event that celebrates the history and impact of Black musical theatre. The event features performances by Black musical theatre artists and a discussion about the importance of Black musical theatre in the arts.

FEBRUARY 17

KNOW IN SPORTS: The Soccer, the Ball, and the Glory

Know in Sports: The Soccer, the Ball, and the Glory is a book by John H. Garvey that explores the history and culture of soccer. The book is a comprehensive guide to the sport, from its origins to its current status as a global phenomenon. The book is a must-read for anyone interested in the history and culture of soccer.

FEBRUARY 21-25

BSA's Spirit Week

BSA's Spirit Week is a week of fun and games for the Boy Scouts of America. The week is held from February 21st to 25th. The week features a variety of activities, including games, contests, and performances. The week is a time to celebrate the spirit of the Boy Scouts of America.

FEBRUARY 25

COLLEGE CONNECTIONS in South

College Connections in South is a program that connects students from different parts of the South. The program is designed to help students build relationships and support each other as they navigate college. The program is a valuable resource for students who are looking for a supportive community.

FEBRUARY 27

Soar Feed Series

Soar Feed Series is a series of events that celebrate the achievements of Black students. The series is held on February 27th. The series features performances by Black students and a discussion about the importance of Black students in the arts.

Good Fit

Good Fit is a program that helps students find the right fit for their college. The program is designed to help students explore different majors and careers. The program is a valuable resource for students who are looking for a good fit for their college.

Sponsored by: [The Center for Diversity and Inclusion](#)

Approved by Campus Life - U222
Partially Funded by M&P



R Factor returns with all-stars and new stars

By Hannah Newman

RFACTOR, Rider's singing competition, returned with intensity as contestants from the previous fall competition were up against first-time contestants on Jan. 29 in the Bart Luedeke Center.

The finalists included freshman film major Will Dusinberre and junior criminal justice major Christine Ruggieri who took the R Factor stage for their second time along with junior music education major Eddie Tamanini, senior popular music studies major Trevor Sullivan, senior biology major Daria Brockington-Gray, sophomore musical theater major Skylar Noyes and junior elementary education major Mo Mahmoud.

The judges were Dani Knights, a former "X Factor" finalist and returning judge for R Factor, Brad Fischetti, a former member of the band LFO, Karin Torchia, a legacy R Factor judge and Associate Dean of Campus Life Nick Barbati.

Tamanini was first to take the stage with his acoustic performance of "Don't Stop Believin'" by Journey. The judges commended him for exceeding their expectations in playing acoustic while singing.

"You didn't skip a beat," said Barbati in reaction to Tamanini's performance.

The next to perform was Brockington-Gray who threw glow sticks into the audience as she sang "Slow Dancing in the Dark" by Joji.

The judges mentioned how touched they were with how Gray delivered this emotional piece.

"At one point I put my hand over my heart. I was really feeling it," said Torchia.

Mahmoud received a standing ovation from both the judges and the audience with his performance of "Jealous" by Labrinth.

Torchia acknowledged how visible Mahmoud's connection to the song by his execution of each lyric.

"I could feel the emotion coming out of every word you sang," said Torchia.

Returning performer Ruggieri sang "Like I'm Gonna Lose You" by Meghan Trainor and received a pleasing reaction from Fischetti.

"I would love to see what a producer could do with that beautiful tone of yours," said Fischetti.

Sullivan also received a standing ovation from the audience with his performance of "Tonight" by John Legend and was complimented for his skilled vocals by Torchia.

"You definitely, most certainly, have a gift," said Torchia. With a standing ovation from the judges and audience, returning performer Dusinberre satisfied the theater with his performance of "Tennessee Whiskey" by Chris Stapleton.

Torchia recognized Dusinberre's ability to take the stage effortlessly. "You are natural performer, you make it look so easy," said Torchia.

Noyes finished the first round of performances with a standing ovation to "People" by Barbra Streisand.

"I can definitely see you rocking a Broadway stage one day," said Fischetti in response to the performance.

The audience voted via text while former winner of R Factor and junior musical theater major Shamica Thompson took the stage for yet another performance that had the audience responding with a roaring applause.

Thompson also shared her thoughts on this semester's theme of All-Stars vs. New Stars.

"Honestly the soundcheck was so good and I feel like in comparison to the R Factor last semester there's a lot more stronger voices which is really exciting," said Thompson.

Dusinberre, Mahmoud and Tamanini made it to the final three where they each had the opportunity to perform their second song of the night.

Mahmoud started the second round with "Feeling Good" by Michael Bublé where the audience gave him his second standing ovation of the night.

"I wanted you to start all over again, that's how good it was," said Torchia.

With an original song titled "Livia," Tamanini gained the respect of the judges.

"Showing us an original piece was risky but really showed your confidence as an artist," said Knights.

Dusinberre got the judges on their feet yet again with his performance of "Vincent (Starry, Starry Night)" by Don McLean.

"I think you are someone we will all be talking about in 20 years," said Barbati after the performance.

After another round of voting, Mahmoud was crowned the R Factor All-Stars vs. New Stars champion.



Photo courtesy of Hannah Newman

Freshman film major and R Factor contestant **Will Dusinberre** performs on stage with a yellow light illuminating on him.

An opera powerhouse's way to honor her late grandfather

By Kaitlyn McCormick

TO transform an interest into a passion is one of the most rewarding feelings, but for sophomore music education major and opera singer Sienna Grinwald-Alves, music permeates every daily life.

Not only is Grinwald-Alves a student at Westminster Choir College (WCC), but she helps her family's foundation supporting kids in the arts, runs her own vocal studio and has even been contacted by the Metropolitan Opera for her talent.

Grinwald-Alves was originally on a dance track and didn't always intend to pursue music. However, her grandfather was adamant that she would follow in his footsteps. "He always told me, 'You're gonna sing one day,'" Grinwald-Alves said. Though she was hesitant at first, with the support of her grandfather — an opera singer himself — vocal performance slowly moved to the forefront of Grinwald-Alves' life.

"He wanted to hear me sing this song called 'Caro

Mio Ben,' and I did it, and I really, really enjoyed it. So, I think from that point on, I think just listening to the voices of famous opera singers and his voice itself just really brought me to the beauty of opera and how I could be in that place," Grinwald-Alves said.

Most of her resume credits come from musical theater, Grinwald-Alves said. She spent years performing with groups like SurfFlight Theater in Long Beach Island and the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn, which Grinwald-Alves credits with being one of the more interesting places she's performed.

"That was one of the first places that I got my EMC card, so my equity membership card, which was really cool, and that was from a really young age. Paper Mill was definitely one of the greatest places that I've been to with some amazing people," Grinwald-Alves said.

After her grandfather passed away from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) when she was 13, Grinwald-Alves's mother and aunt brainstormed ways to honor him and his legacy, before finally settling on the Applaud Our Kids Foundation, which helps fundraise transportation and lesson fees for children who may not be able to afford training otherwise.

"The kids become literally different people from the time that they started from the time that they end for their recital. ... It just helps their self-confidence so much, from something that they never thought they'd be able to do," Grinwald-Alves said proudly.

After working closely with her family's foundation and directing the youth performance group, Grinwald-Alves realized how much she enjoyed teaching. She now runs her own vocal studio, called Operatunity Performing Arts Centre (OPAC), where she helps students pursue their own passions in the arts. OPAC currently services around 20 vocal students, but Grinwald-Alves hopes to branch out to dancing and acting instruction in the future.

"I realized how cool and individual you can be with a student, and how personal it can be and how their experience can really change their perspective of music," Grinwald-Alves said. "I remember all of my private music teachers being my guardian angels for myself, literally guiding me through life, and I wanted that opportunity to do that for other children ... so

opening my studio was a way to kind of formulate that whole system of just helping kids out."

Music education professor Jason Vodicka, who works closely with Grinwald-Alves, lauded her talent and passion as someone who "certainly stands out in that regard, in terms of her dedication [and] her seriousness."

Vodicka said, "I think with Sienna in particular it's been very interesting to work with her as a future teacher, but also as a musician. ... In some ways, I feel like I'm working with one of my future colleagues."

Teaching is not the only career goal for Grinwald-Alves. Her dream is to perform with the Metropolitan Opera, another passion she shared with her grandfather.

Grinwald-Alves said, "The Met has always been a really big dream of mine, and also something that I want to be my reality ... not even just the Metropolitan Opera house in New York, but the opera houses in Italy especially."

Reflecting on her grandfather's passing, Grinwald-Alves said, "It made me want to [perform at the Metropolitan Opera] even more, to just be like 'I did this for us.'"

When she was 17, Grinwald-Alves caught the attention of the Met after she auditioned for an ensemble role in the opera "Das Rheingold." After being offered a spot in the production and going over payment details, the casting team realized Grinwald-Alves's age was an issue.

"They didn't realize they put me in the wrong pile, because they thought I was 18 and not 17," Grinwald-Alves said, explaining that due to her age the production company would have had to hire a child-wrangler. "So, they said 'call us back when you're 18, and we'll try to, you know, see what we can do in our season,' and then COVID hit."

While pursuing a degree has pushed this goal back a little further on Grinwald-Alves' timeline, she is still keeping her eyes on the Met stage.

For now, Grinwald-Alves continues to pursue her passion for music through both teaching and performing and will be playing the lead role in WCC's spring opera, "Ballymore: Winner."



Photo courtesy of Kaitlyn McCormick

Sophomore music education major **Sienna Grinwald-Alves** hopes to teach skills to young students across the performing arts spectrum.

Side hustle to business: A student's wig business lands her a celebrity client

By Amethyst Martinez

HAIRSTYLING has been a part of senior criminal justice major Aletta Behyee's life ever since she was young.

"I am African, so from a very young age, we are taught how to do hair. I've been doing hair since I was 6, and it's just grown into a passion," said Behyee.

Behyee now runs her own business, Hair by Aletta, where she customizes wigs for her clients. Although she just began her business in 2021, Behyee has been doing hair for customers since middle school when she decided to make it a "side hustle," she said.

Social media has taken Behyee's business to new heights, where she posts the wigs she makes on TikTok,

Instagram and Facebook. However, the short clips Behyee posts on TikTok have boosted her business the most, reaching millions of viewers.

"TikTok is a whole different ballgame," said Behyee.

Her wigs even caught the attention of a celebrity and her stylist.

JT, a singer in the popular rap duo City Girls, reached out to Behyee for a custom wig after her hairstylist, who was looking for wig makers on their Instagram story, received a response from Behyee with some of her work.

"She [direct messaged] me like, 'oh my god, JT really likes this wig,'" said Behyee.

When the stylist asked if Behyee had the wig on hand, she responded 'no'. It seemed like her chance to create a wig for JT was lost when the stylist said that they needed it that day.

Behyee said, "I think 20 minutes went by, and they hit me up again [saying], 'can you make this color?'"

Behyee said yes, then drove the wig up to New York after spending the entire night making the custom hairpiece.

"I drove up to New York the next day after zero hours of sleep to drop the wig off," said Behyee.

Although Behyee didn't meet JT the first time she made a wig for her, she did when she made a second wig for her after some adjustments to the sizing of the original.

After dropping the wig off, Behyee took in the moment with her cousin who drove up with her.

"We sat in the car for an hour just crying," said Behyee. "We used to work in high school and take clients in my room. ... I was just like, 'wow, I don't know who else to celebrate this moment with but you.' It just ended up working out."

With her business booming, Behyee still attends Rider as a full-time student.

As she showed her dorm room through a Zoom call with The Rider News, she recollected that she called her room last semester a hair salon. Behyee is now trying not to bring all of her wig supplies back on campus.

"There's so much stuff that I have to carry back and forth. ... I'm going to try my hardest to only work on weekends and not during the week," said Behyee.

Nenleah Konah, Behyees' cousin, is in awe of the hard work that Behyee does while attending school.

"I feel like it's a great accomplishment for her. And for my other little cousins, I feel like they look up to her as well, because she's going to school and she's also still running a business too," said Konah. "To see her blossom up to 23 this year has just been marvelous."

As of Feb. 1, Behyee's TikTok depicting JT's wig had almost 2 million views on the app.

"I went from having 200 followers to having 7,000 overnight," said Behyee. "I always say I think I'm famous, like, jokingly, and I only had 100 followers. So I guess you have to speak it into existence."



Photo courtesy of Aletta Behyee

One of senior criminal justice major Aletta Behyee's styled wigs.



Photo courtesy of Aletta Behyee

Senior criminal justice major Aletta Behyee and JT, a singer from the duo City Girls.

UPCOMING EVENT CALENDAR

WED, FEB. 2

Club & Organization Fair
3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Student Recreation Center

FRI, FEB. 4

Love Is A Drag
8 p.m.
The Yvonne Theater

SUN, FEB. 6

Maritess Zurbano Tarot Card Reading
12 p.m.
Zoom - Head to Bronc Nation to sign up

MON, FEB. 7

House of Cupcakes Food Truck
12 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Outside Student Recreation Center

Dell'Omo announcement draws student concern

RIDER President Gregory Dell'Omo started the semester on Jan. 24 with a warm welcome: announcing a voluntary separation program to students and employees via email. The program was enacted in hopes of cutting down payroll and benefit expenses to help supplement an estimated \$20 million cash deficit faced by the university this fiscal year.

This new program comes alongside concerns from students, staff and faculty, as the future of the university under the Dell'Omo administration is called yet again into question and, more importantly, how much work is being put into keeping students up-to-date with administrative proceedings which will affect them in the long run.

Students respond

Of the timing of the message, senior psychology major Maureen Guilbot said, "It just doesn't create a very welcoming environment to new students who are coming on to campus."

Guilbot, who is considering staying at Rider for her graduate degree, described the announcement as "nerve-wracking," not only due to the timing, but due to the very real implications that a deficit so large will have on the university as a whole, as the administration continues to find ways to make up for it.

If students are concerned about the program, one can only begin to imagine the worries of not only eligible staff but all of Rider faculty who may fear the greater potential impacts on their departments if the program is not successful.

Discrepancies in correspondence

The voluntary separation program FAQ section of the Rider website reads, "Unless the voluntary separation program is sufficient to meet the university's financial goals, involuntary separations will follow."

A separate email was sent to Rider faculty and staff including this information about potential involuntary separation, as well as specifically addressing the \$20 million amount of the cash deficit the university is looking to close – information that, while available on the university website, was withheld from the mass communication sent out to students.

Senior sociology major Nida Bajwa said of the email, "It was very wordy, and sometimes it feels like they dance around saying certain things."

Guilbot said, "I actually read the email three times because I wasn't sure about what I was reading. ... I was like, 'wait a minute, is that really what's happening?'"

One statement included in Dell'Omo's email to students, however, is that "The voluntary separation program, coupled with the academic and administrative prioritization processes currently underway, will address critical immediate needs so in the long-term Rider can continue to invest and grow." Meanwhile, the role that employees at Rider play in keeping the university running efficiently, and more so the changes that will occur in their absence, is still a concern.

While department chairs are assessing their staff and operations, one question remains: will the voluntary separation and most-likely involuntary separation of non-AAUP [Academic Association of University Professors] staff to follow be at the detriment to not only the employees left to bear the workload but the students paying for a Rider education?

Assessing the cash deficit causes

If the voluntary separation program is the necessary financial move to alleviate Rider's massive deficit, then the criticism stays in questioning how the university made it to this point in the first place.

Higher education in general during the pandemic has faced a lot of challenges, especially in the financial department with students unenrolling or choosing not to pay for on-campus housing, but the pandemic cannot be fully to blame for the monetary stress now causing the university to cut down its staff expenses.

While the COVID-19 era has undoubtedly exacerbated underlying financial issues faced by the university, they still existed in the first place and have had a continued presence under the Dell'Omo administration, for example the ongoing issues with selling the Westminster Choir College Princeton campus and the involved legal fees.

Calling for student vigilance and involvement

Introducing this program has not only posed a concern for the eligible staff it directly affects and the AAUP faculty members who may be fearing the implications of the program not meeting the needs of the deficit but also students who, as mentioned before, are not always kept tightly in the loop with administrative happenings.

Guilbot said, "I feel like decisions are made, and then we find out about them when the decision has been made."

While it is understandable that students may not be fully informed or involved in every higher-level conversation and decision, this program, as well as many other issues happening under the administration right now, like the ongoing prioritization process, often fly under the radar of the larger student body.

It is fundamental to remember that Rider students are still adults who are paying tuition to receive a Rider education. They should be kept more clearly aware of the decisions that will trickle down from an administrative level with the potential to impact not only their educational environment but also the value of their degree in the future.

Bajwa said, "I'm getting a degree from here, and I'm hoping that my institution stays alive and well many years after I leave, but I don't know. It is scary."

In the same way that the university has a responsibility to be more forthcoming with information that will affect students, students have a responsibility to themselves to pay attention to what is happening on an administrative level. In the instance of this voluntary separation program especially, shifts in the working environment for faculty and staff will on one level or another impact the quality of education that students will receive.

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

THE Rider News

Longstreet House, 2083 Lawrenceville Road, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

©2022 General Meetings: Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m.

Executive Editor

Sarah Siock

Managing Editor

Shaun Chornobroff

News Editors

Tori Pender

Olivia Nicoletti

Features and Arts & Entertainment Editors

Amethyst Martinez

Tristan Leach

Opinion Editor

Kaitlyn McCormick

Sports Editors

Dylan Manfre

Carolo Pascale

Photography Editor

Andrew Xon

Video Editor

Bridget Hoyt

Copy Editors

Emily Kim

Logan VanDine

Jeremy Hester

Michelle Pellegrino

Design Manager

Adrienne Unfreed

Business/Advertising Manager

Danielle Jackson

Circulation Managers

Jordan Wilson

Karagh Tait

Social Media Editor

Zada Penick

Faculty Adviser

Dr. Jackie Incollingo

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

 @RiderNewsSports

 @theridernews

 www.theridernews.com

 @theridernews

 facebook.com/theridernews

 ridernews@rider.edu

SENIOR INSIGHTS

Men's mental health and the lasting harm of social stigma

Bea man. Grow some balls. You cry like a girl. These are phrases almost every man has heard throughout their life. In a sense, these statements are just normal things to say in our society due to how generations of people were raised. They shouldn't be.

There are plenty of stigmas about mental health, but I can only touch on the ones I have seen and experienced as a man. In our society, traditional cultural norms dictate that men aren't allowed to show emotions in most settings. Although some people just acknowledge this as a dumb sentiment and move on without much thought, in my opinion, everyone should fight back against statements like this.

According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), men are 3.63 times more likely to commit suicide than women. It is obvious how society plays a role in this statistic becoming fact. By being constantly told they can't show emotion, cry or tell people their problems, men often feel they must suffer in silence. The stress and pain can build and build until the person suffering hits a breaking point.

While I have never hit my breaking point, I have experienced the "problem" of being a man and showing emotions. Throughout middle and high school, I went to the guidance counselor. Most of the time, we wouldn't talk about school; we'd just hang out. This helped me mentally a lot as I felt like I had someone who knew me and could help whenever I needed it.

However, kids will be kids.

Whenever someone got in trouble, people would assume I snitched, since I was always hanging out with the guidance counselor. Instead of thinking I was doing something for my mental health, people automatically assumed I was trying to get them into trouble. This led to some groups of friends excluding me. Essentially, because I was able to have an outlet to show my emotions that some people didn't like, they ostracized me from hanging out with them. I have a strong belief that part of the reason I got such flack for going to the guidance counselor a lot was that I was a guy, and I wasn't supposed to show my emotions.

Luckily, I didn't enjoy hanging out with people at that point. I've always been a homebody, so not being invited to parties didn't bother me like it would have for

some others my age.

I have also always been a crier. The stigma of men not being able to cry and let out their emotions has never seemed right to me. If I felt like crying would help, I would cry. From a young age, it made no sense to me that women could cry but men couldn't. This didn't help my reputation at school, but I would prefer people looking weird at me to being depressed.

The story about my guidance counselor also serves another purpose. A second dangerous stigma about mental health regards getting help. Some people think attending counseling for their problems or seeing a therapist means they are crazy or weak for not being able to deal with the emotions they are feeling. While this is slowly changing due to more role models, like professional athletes and celebrities sharing their therapy experiences, it is still a very dangerous stereotype.

Most people who seek therapy have already struggled with being inside their heads. If you add the outside perception of therapy, that is sometimes enough for people to decide against getting the help they need. I hope I have made it clear that I am someone who doesn't care about how others view me when it comes to how I process my emotions. However, this does not mean I am perfect. For a long time, I have been aware that I probably need therapy. I have a generalized anxiety disorder. I know how much talking to others helps me process things.

Even with the ability to self-reflect, it took a lot for me to finally build the courage to start therapy due to all the stigmas about it. Without the support system that I had to help me work through the decision, I honestly don't know if I would have ever started going.

All in all, there are plenty of mental health stigmas that bother me and must be heavily addressed. If these problems are ignored, the issue of mental health in men particularly will only get worse which is something we as a society need to avoid.

*Luke Lombardi,
senior journalism major*

GREEN CORNER

Overfishing: the implications of mass consumerism overlooked

MORE students are laying off red meat and, if not going vegetarian, becoming pescatarians. A pescatarian is someone who follows a mostly vegetarian diet but also eats fish and seafood. When choosing to become a pescatarian, one should consider the factors of overfishing and the effects it has on the environment.

Have you ever wondered how much of an impact humans have on oceans? What if I told you that the ocean serves as the lungs of our planet and not the Amazon rainforest? Although many believe that the Amazon produces the majority of our air, according to Surge Activism, "50 to 85% of all the oxygen we breathe comes from marine phytoplankton, tiny ocean plants that through the process of photosynthesis," produce oxygen.

The oceans play an incredible role in regulating temperature and overall climate in the world and when they are disturbed by overfishing, things change like the size of fish remaining, as well as how they reproduce and the speed at which they mature. When too many fish are taken out of the ocean, it creates an imbalance that can erode the food web and lead to a loss of other important marine life, including vulnerable species like sea turtles and corals.

According to Coty Perry, chief marketing officer of YourBassGuy.com, overfishing is a rational reaction to increasing market needs for fish. Most people consume approximately twice as much fish as they did 50 years ago, and there are four times as many people on Earth as there were at the close of the 1960s. We have a huge impact on what is happening in the ocean because of our demand for fish and the stock of available fishing waters that are being depleted faster than they can be replenished.

The biggest misconception is that if you can't find the fish in a certain area then you can go somewhere else, but many species are being pushed close to extinction by overfishing such as cod, halibut and even lobster. There is even a significant amount of fish at your local fish market and on the shelves of your local grocery store that aren't what they are labeled as. It may say cod, but it isn't cod; for example, according to Perry only 13% of the red snapper on the market is actual red snapper, and the others are commonly silk and blackfin.

Government agencies around the world are giving away over \$35 billion every year to fishermen. That's about 20% of the value of all the commercially caught fish in the world every year. Subsidies are often directed at reducing the costs for mega fishing companies — things like paying for their massive fuel budgets, the gear they need to catch fish, or even the vessels themselves. This effectively allows for large commercial fishing operations to take over the market or recapitalize at rates significantly below that of the market, disproportionately favoring them over their smaller competitors.

It is this advantage that drives large mega fishing companies into unsustainable fishing practices. The result of this is not just depleted stocks, but also lower yields due to long-term overfishing, as well as lowered costs of fish at the market, which has some advantages for the consumer, but also makes it significantly harder for smaller operations to turn a profit, as stated by Perry.

There is a federal law to prevent overfishing called Magnuson-Stevens Fishery

Conservation and Management Act even though this law is in place, fisheries understand that the more fish they bring in, the more money they will receive. If they were only to bring in the bare minimum they would need a new job, but by fishing with giant nets scraping the ocean floor they are creating harmful algae blooms and oxygen-deficient dead zones, as well as taking too much bycatch, the extra and unwanted fish from this type of commercial fishing.

If this hasn't already tugged at your heartstrings, just imagine food security. When bluefin tuna goes extinct, it's not coming back. That would mean no more cans of tuna on the shelves of your local supermarket. Now that may sound extreme, but it is something we need to be cautious about, and it's a much bigger issue in developing countries.

That's a major protein depleted forever, there will be competition for the resource that remains. Even if you're not concerned about overfishing and the problems it creates, the issue may still be at your doorstep if you don't take corrective measures. An easy step any fish-eater can take is to choose plant-based meal replacements to slow the demand for fishing and avoid the dangers of overfishing. You can also start looking up where your seafood is coming from and if the business tries to replenish the ecosystem. For example, Lusamerica, founded in the San Francisco Bay area, is a family-owned, woman-owned and minority-owned company that specializes in the quality of seafood and an array of sustainable options.

Companies like these are who we want to support by being eco-certified; they are not only helping the planet but helping our health as well. Sophomore psychology major Olivia Pascal said, "We are the change we want to see in the world. If you stop eating certain foods every other day or weekly you can have an impact on what happens to our ocean life. Even if you are struggling to convert, look up where your seafood is coming from and how it is being processed. Change happens with us, let's educate one another and lead into a sustainable and healthy lifestyle."

Let's leave this world better than we found it.

*Kayelena Brimage,
junior entrepreneurial studies major
and Rider eco-rep*

Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons



ADVERTISEMENT

Report and Support

Do you need to report an incident related to:

- » Sexual violence
- » Bias, discrimination or harassment
- » Concern about a student
- » Crime or student conduct
- » Hazing



Rider is here to help.

ALL REPORTS ALLOW FOR ANONYMITY.

[RIDER.EDU/REPORT-AND-SUPPORT](https://www.rider.edu/report-and-support)



RIDER
UNIVERSITY

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

NOTEBOOK: Recent losses beg more questions than answers



Carolo Pascale/The Rider News

Senior guard **Amanda Mobley** returned to the lineup after missing nine games due to a foot injury.

By **Dylan Manfre**

AFTER Rider's scrimmage against TCNJ on Nov. 3, women's basketball Head Coach Lynn Milligan said the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) slate was going to be the most competitive in a while.

She was right. My goodness was she right.

Let's fast forward to the midseason media call when all 11 women's basketball coaches addressed reporters on Jan. 18. A common discussion was the "parity" of the conference showing how anybody can beat anybody.

Rider has not experienced that yet having lost its last four games.

Ninety-two is an anomaly

The Broncos scoring 92 points, as they did against Niagara on Jan. 15, will not happen again for a while. It seemed like they were turning a corner.

That thought left as fast as it came.

What followed was a one-point loss to Niagara, where Rider trailed for the last 19 seconds and a 38-point slap in the face to Siena on Jan. 20 which had Milligan saying, for the second time this season, "I didn't have my team ready."

Those 92 points were an anomaly and was the most Rider scored since 2014. As for Siena's 82 points, it was the second time this season Rider allowed 80 plus.

"We made a promise in that locker room [after Penn State] that we would never give up 80 again, and we did," Milligan said.

Rider committed 33 turnovers against Siena, and the whole experience had sophomore guard Makayla Firebaugh nearly mute as she looked at the iPhones placed on the media table recording her words.

"It's an indescribable pain right now actually," Firebaugh said.

After a week off ...

Rider practiced three times before facing Monmouth on Jan. 27 and hosting Iona on Jan. 29.

The Broncos lost both games, but the first half against Monmouth gave a recognizable reflection of what Rider can be. It had a solid showing for the first 20 minutes but reverted to old mistakes in the second half.

The first quarter was a refresher for the Broncos based on their performance. They held a 17-12 lead after 10 minutes and only turned the ball over once. The Hawks' main options of Belle Kranbuhl and Stella Clark shot a combined 3-of-11 from the field in the first half, and the game was tied at 23 at halftime.

Senior guard Amanda Mobley returned to the lineup after missing nine games with a foot injury, and her leadership is better served on the court rather than the bench. She was cheerful. Smiling and boasting

a signature laugh as she did high-knees to adjacent sidelines.

"Amanda does a really good job of talking through everything," junior center Victoria Toomey said. "She's used to playing the position. She's a very good leader, so with her on the court, I think things just flow."

Milligan finally has some guard depth and could rotate players.

"It's huge, particularly when you're playing Thursday-Saturday [games]," Milligan said. "We need to make sure we get kids rest that need rest and be able to play when we need to play."

Rider and Iona's game was played under the fermented stench of the Broncos' 38-point loss to Siena at Alumni Gym. It produced a theoretical lid on the basket and Rider not producing sustainable offense. It shot 16% from the field in its lowest-scoring first quarter all season and resulted in a 63-40 Gaels win.

One issue Firebaugh identified numerous times has been communication.

"I think that's what we need to improve on," Firebaugh said. "Part of that is my problem as well, I need to communicate 100% of the time on the floor and it's a hard job to [do] but I'm doing my best."

Rider did show improvement in probably its biggest plague all season: rebounding. It outrebounded Iona offensively which made Milligan happy.

She can also be happy about is the way Toomey has played off the bench as she has increased her points and rebounding averages.

"No matter if I'm starting or coming off the bench, my goal is to do whatever I can to help us be successful," Toomey said.

So, what is the state of the team after losing four straight games, three of them by double-digits?

"They're disappointed, obviously we are. We go into every game prepared and expecting to win," Milligan said. "Those are the expectations that we have of this program, those are the expectations that won't change based on anything."

CLUB ICE HOCKEY

'Tonight was about me, not we'; Broncos fall in overtime



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

Senior winger **TJ Evan**, sophomore defender **Nick Pedulla**, and senior goaltender **Eric Lineman** were stunned after Stevenson won in overtime.

By **Trey Wright**

RIDING the momentum from a hard-fought shootout victory against Penn State on Jan. 22, the Rider Club Ice Hockey team (16-3-1-1) looked to even the season series with Mid-Atlantic Collegiate Hockey (MACH) rival Stevenson Mustangs (2-14).

The Mustangs bested the Broncos in comeback fashion in the shootout the last time the two teams met. Lightning struck twice for Stevenson, as they notched another comeback win over the Broncos in overtime 5-4 on Jan. 28.

"A lot of the issues of us were just trying to do too much," said Head Coach Sean Levin.

The game was played at CURE Insurance Arena in Trenton and got off to a quick start with a goal from junior winger DJ Sucher to put the Broncos on the scoresheet with 2:28 left in the opening period.

Stevenson responded later in the first, tying the

game and poked in a loose puck past senior goaltender Eric Lineman.

Rider lit the lamp less than three minutes into the second frame when sophomore winger CJ Perkins fed a pass to fellow sophomore winger and Broncos leading goal scorer, Dominick Cerceo, which put the Broncos up one.

Perkins found the back of the net midway through the second off of a stretch pass from sophomore defender Nicholas Pedulla that extended the Broncos' lead to 3-1.

Rider was crushing it in both offensive-zone time and shots similar to the first game against Stevenson. The Broncos led 27-11 in shots-on-goal at the beginning of the third period.

However, the major shortcoming for the Broncos was the inability to stay out of the penalty box.

Rider took five minor penalties in the game and it sucked much of the Broncos momentum away.

"We started to have a little bit of momentum, and we'd take it away with a penalty," said Levin.

Rider's power-play unit, which has been dominant, went 0-for-2 against the Mustangs.

Stevenson came within one early in the third period, but freshman Joey Cole responded 30 seconds later, shooting five-hole on the Mustangs' netminder to make it a 4-2 lead.

A scary moment occurred in the middle of the third period when one of the Broncos' captains and senior winger, Tyler Giwerowski, crashed into the boards while chasing the puck. He had to be assisted off the ice by his teammates and did not return to the game.

Two straight Stevenson goals, each originating from defensive-zone turnovers from the Broncos, tied the game with six minutes left in regulation. Sixty minutes was not enough to decide the game, sending it in to overtime.

"The idea of us trying to keep it simple was out the window," said Levin. "Stevenson, tip the cap to them, did a great job of playing a simple game. Their whole mentality was to capitalize when Rider gives a giveaway."

The Broncos had five shots in the extra period, but it took one for Stevenson, who won the game with 63 seconds remaining in overtime to secure the win.

"We got a little too complacent out there," said senior team captain Chris Walako. "They're a hardworking team, and when you take your foot off the gas, hard work is gonna beat your skill, any day of the week."

"Tonight was about 'me,' not about 'we,' and that's a reason why we're taking a loss," said Levin.

Rider, now with a record of 16-3-2-1, will match up against Delaware on Feb. 4 back home at Ice Land Skating Center.

Sports

ONLINE

'IT PUTS US ON THE RIGHT PATH'
Wrestling splits weekend matchups against
Bloomberg and Bucknell.

FIND THE STORY ON THERIDERNEWS.COM

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Broncs split during cold and snowy weekend



Carolo Pascale/The Rider News

Senior guard **Dwight Murray Jr.** and junior guard **Allen Powell** each had 16 points in the win over Canisius on Jan. 30.

By **Jacob Tiger and Carolo Pascale**

RIDER men's basketball was back at home for a chilly, winter-weather-filled weekend that saw them go 1-1, falling to Fairfield 76-65 on Jan. 28, and defeating Canisius 70-62 on Jan. 30. The Broncs now stand at 7-13 overall and 3-7 in conference play.

Lack of consistency

The Fairfield Stags arrived in Lawrenceville escorted by a scourge of ice and snow that froze the ill-prepared Broncs, leading to cold shooting, glacial defense and a 76-65 loss.

The defeat marked Rider's fifth loss in an undoubtedly frustrating six-game stretch.

"From game to game, I'm not really sure what we're going to get, to be honest with you. I mean, it's been very inconsistent all year long," said Head Coach Kevin Baggett.

Collectively, the Broncs shot an unacceptable 38.5% (25-65) from the field, often desperately chucking the ball up as the shot clock expired.

"We gotta pick it up. That's really it," said junior guard Allen Powell. "We gotta do better."

Powell played well against Fairfield, though, finishing with 21 points and three assists, both of which were team-highs. He also impressed from 3-point range, shooting 42.8% (3-7).

Unfortunately, the Broncs as a team were frigid, only converting on 26.7% (4-15) of their 3-point attempts.

"I've not seen us put it together where we have four or five guys playing and doing the things we need 'em to do," said Baggett.

The Broncs' futile efforts on offense led to messy, uninspired defensive possessions, giving up several easy baskets.

"[I've] never seen a team leave guys open more than this team does, and it's all about a lack of communication," said an blunt Baggett. "If you don't

open your mouth and talk, guys are running free."

While the Broncs were floundering about, the Stags and their deadly backcourt continued to distance themselves from the Broncs, both on the scoreboard and the court.

"We said for us to win this game, we had to stop [Taj] Benning and [Jake] Wojcik and they both went off, so we didn't execute the scouting report," said Powell.

Fairfield's backcourt duo torched the Broncs with ease, accounting for 44 of the team's 76 points.

"We left guys open. Wide-open," said Baggett. "You allow guys to get in a rhythm [and] that's what's gonna happen."

'This team's not far off'

As for the second game of the wintry weekend, the Broncs faced off against the Canisius Golden Griffins on Jan. 30 and were finally able to put together a complete effort on both sides of the ball, earning their third Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) win of the season, beating Canisius 70-62.

"It's good to be on the winning side today," said Baggett. "We can smile for 24 hours and enjoy it."

This was the second time that Rider and Canisius had faced off in just nine days, with the Golden Griffins taking the first game on Jan. 21 by just a single point. However, this game was much different for the Broncs, who played strong on both sides of the ball.

The first 10 minutes of the first half was very back and forth with both teams taking blows at each other, but a big 3-point shot from sophomore forward Nehemiah Benson spurred the Broncs to a 17-3 run to get the Broncs to a 36-27 point lead with just under two and a half minutes left in the half.

Canisius pushed back, but senior guard Dwight Murray Jr. would beat the halftime buzzer with a midrange, pull-up jumper to give the Broncs a 39-32

lead at the end of the first half.

"I can do this every game," said Murray. "It's just some games you have slumps, and I've had a couple slumps this year. But I never stopped shooting."

At the end of the first half, the Broncs had shot 50% from the field, going 15-for-30 while doing an excellent job on the defensive side, holding the Golden Griffins to 32% from the field (8-for-25). One of the standout players on defense for the Broncs was junior guard Sedrick Altman, who made several crucial stops to keep the Broncs ahead.

"It was just getting back to the simple things really," said Altman. "It's all just buying into what my coaches are telling me and staying with it. I'm buying into that role defensively."

The second half saw Canisius go on an early 9-0 run which whittled Rider's lead all the way down to two points, but back-to-back 3-pointers from Murray and Powell pushed the lead forward. The Broncs lead grew to as much as 14 at one point, with Powell being the driving force on offense in the second half.

As time continued to wane off the clock, Canisius tried to claw back with the final six points of the game, but the lead was too much, and the Broncs earned their third conference win of the season.

"We learned from the other night," said Baggett. "We talk about details, things that matter. This team's not far off."

By the end of the game, Murray had nearly posted a triple-double with 16 points, 12 rebounds and seven assists. Powell also had 16 points for the Broncs.

"At the end of the day, the energy has to be the same. The way we execute at the end has to be the same. But it's still gotta be better though," said Murray.

The Broncs will be taking a trip up to Albany to face off against the Siena Saints on Feb. 4 at 7 p.m. The game will be streamed on ESPN3.

ONLINE MEN'S BASKETBALL PHOTO GALLERY

Check out men's basketball photos from its match against Canisius this weekend.

FIND THE GALLERY AT THERIDERNEWS.COM



THE SPORTS SECTION PODCAST

Check out all episodes of *The Sports Section* podcast on all platforms.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO LISTEN TO SEASON 2



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PHOTO GALLERY

Check out women's basketball photos from its first win of the season against Monmouth.

FIND THE GALLERY AT THERIDERNEWS.COM

