

## Dirty divers spike campus control fears



Carolo Pascale/The Rider News

Centennial Lake collects a fair amount of campus trash including the mask pictured above. A large group of individuals was filmed jumping into the lake early on Sept. 27. An investigation has been opened for the incident.

## Former governor backs Biden and talks Supreme Court at Rebovich event



Sarah Siock/The Rider News

Former Gov. Christine Todd Whitman spoke with students at the Rebovich virtual event on Sept. 24.

By Sarah Siock

**F**ORMER New Jersey Gov. Christine Todd Whitman spoke about the importance of bipartisanship and the role the Supreme Court vacancy will play in the upcoming election at an event hosted by the Rebovich Institute for New Jersey Politics on Sept. 24.

Whitman is a lifelong Republican who served as New Jersey's 50th governor and later as the Environmental Protection Agency administrator under President George W. Bush. Now, she is leading a group of prominent Republicans and Independents who are working on behalf of Democratic Presidential Nominee Joe Biden to oust President Donald Trump

from office.

In August, Whitman joined various Republican women who voiced their support of Biden at the Democratic National Convention. Whitman discussed her decision to speak at the convention with students.

"We have gotten so partisan on everything, and the divide is so great, that I was never going to be a Trump supporter. And frankly, he has done nothing in these last 3 1/2 years that have led me to change my mind," she said.

Whitman went on to say that she finds Biden to be "a strong person with a



## Rider closes College of Continuing Studies

By Stephen Neukam

**R**IDER has decided to close the College of Continuing Studies (CCS), one of its five colleges, in a further effort to cut costs as the university deals with significant financial losses, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs DonnaJean Fredeen announced Sept. 29.

The news was broken to CCS staff and faculty in an abrupt meeting, with Fredeen saying that the financial projections for the university make the move necessary, giving the school "significant annual cost savings." The closure is effective immediately.

The move will eliminate five positions and save about \$500,000 annually, according to Fredeen. Others have been reassigned to different positions in the university.

Fredeen explained that the structure of CCS, which embedded faculty and programs into different colleges and departments, made the closure an attractive option. CCS focused on nontraditional students working to complete unfinished college degrees, and also managed Rider's summer and January term classes as well as pre-college summer programs.

Some of CCS' programs and functions have been relocated to different areas of the school.

Two university employees within CCS, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said that CCS Dean Boris Vilic was laid off. When asked directly, Fredeen declined to discuss personnel matters. Vilic could not be reached for comment.

According to university projections, CCS had come in at 86% of its fall enrollment projection in 2019 and 85% in 2020.

The college's summer and winter programs exceeded its revenue projections for 2020, bringing in \$5.8 million, according to university data.

The move comes after the university made an effort last semester to invest in the college, relocating CCS to a newly-renovated office space on the second floor of the Bart Luedeke Center.

The release of Vilic as a dean is a move that bucks a trend of an enlarging management system at Rider. The university is planning on adding at least one more cabinet position with the addition of a chief diversity officer.

Between 2013 and 2018, management positions at Rider increased by 36 people, with a nearly \$3.4 million boost in aggregate pay, according to data from the National Center for Education Statistics.

INSIDE

### FRUSTRATED

Rider ice hockey struggles to get back on ice.

PAGE 12

### POWER OF PETITIONS

After the charges in Breonna Taylor case, can petitions bring forth actual change?

PAGE 8

### ROB BEBENEK

Comedian Rob Bebenek performs stand up-set over Zoom covering topics such as the on-going pandemic, life in Canada and the college experience.

PAGE 6

## SECURITY BRIEFS

BY STEPHEN NEUKAM

### Dirty Diving

Swamp swimmers. On Sept. 27 at 12:55 a.m., Public Safety received an anonymous tip that a large group of students were jumping into Centennial Lake. When officers arrived, everyone started running and officers were unable to identify any of the individuals. Public Safety reviewed the camera footage later and the film was inconclusive. The matter is under investigation.

### False Alarm

We're not squatters. On Sept. 24 at 6:39 p.m., Public Safety received an anonymous complaint that there may have been non-Rider students living in a dorm in Beckett Village. Residence Life was contacted and it was determined that the occupants were students that had just moved in. There were no violations.

— Information provided by Interim Capt. Matthew Babcock



Stephen Neukam/The Rider News

Students gathered around Centennial Lake, many without masks, spurring an investigation.



Carolo Pascale/The Rider News

The lake is a man-made home to a variety of plant and animal species. Trash regularly collects in the water.

## Lake leapers make waves

By Stephen Neukam

**A** LARGE group of individuals was filmed jumping into Centennial Lake in the early hours of Sept. 27, many down to their underwear and without masks, spiking concerns about coronavirus protections and raising suspicions about who was responsible.

The videos, viewed thousands of times on social media, show at least 20 people gathered closely around the lake. A second video shows the group running from the lake toward residence halls after a Public Safety officer responded.

Public Safety says it was unable to identify any of the individuals at the scene or through nearby security footage. The incident is under investigation.

A portion of the videos has piqued speculation about who the group was, with someone running from the scene yelling, “we’re track people, baby, don’t

[f---] with us.”

Reactions on social media agonized over the irresponsibility of the individuals and stood in horror over the conditions of the lake, with one Twitter user saying “that lake [is] so dirty.”

Geological, Environmental and Marine Sciences Department Chair and Associate Professor Kathleen Browne has worked on research with the fish and plant life in the lake, but said she would “not recommend” swimming in the water.

Associate Vice President of University Marketing and Communications Kristine Brown said the university was aware of the incident but would not comment because of the pending investigation.

“However, if anyone has information to assist with this investigation, they are encouraged to contact Public Safety,” said Brown.

## Whitman says GOP should wait to confirm court nominee

center core that guides him.”

She also applauded Biden’s choosing of California Senator Kamala Harris as his running mate. She said the choice showed that Biden would not be “pushed around” if he was in office and that he would pick people who he felt were best for the job to work alongside him.

A topic much of the event focused on was Whitman’s views on the new Supreme Court nominee. She spoke about the tradition and value of keeping a partisan balance in the court system.

“The thing that worries me is that, if they go ahead and appoint the Trump nominee before the election, and then the Democrats win the Senate, and perhaps the presidency, that they will try to pack the court,” Whitman said. “You want the best judges and you want ones that are clear in their opinions that have not been overridden. So it’s a little frustrating to see what’s happening now.”

Director of the Rebovich Institute for New Jersey Politics Micah Rasmussen pointed out that every judge Whitman appointed to the state Supreme Court during her time in office was reconfirmed by subsequent governors.

“At a time when the nation is so polarized, it is especially noteworthy. Whitman’s reflections on what partisanship means to her ought to be thought-provoking on what it means to us, too,” said Rasmussen.

Whitman also described changes the Republican party has seen in recent years. Whitman defines herself as an “Eisenhower Republican” and said the party should stand for a central core of shared principles.

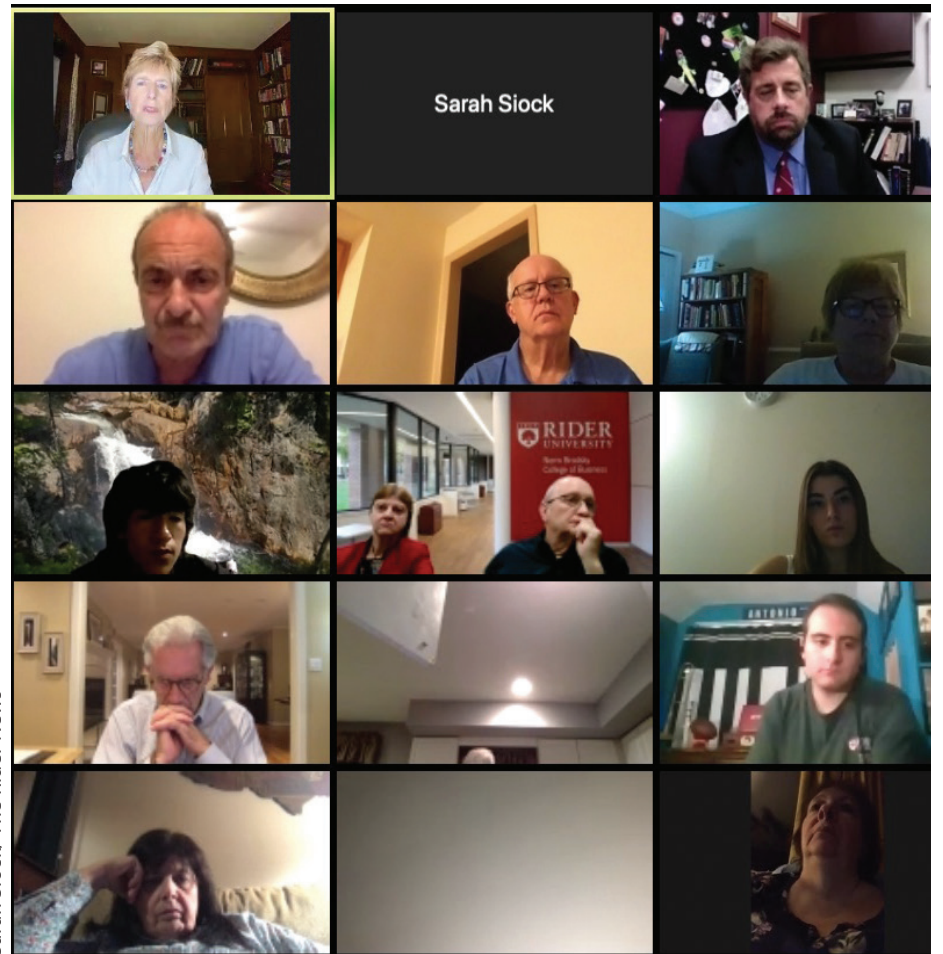
“I go back to the days when the party was something that respected individuals. We do not have a Republican party now. We stand for whatever Trump tells us to stand for and that is not a party,” said Whitman.

During the event, students had a chance to directly ask Whitman questions. Whitman touched on several topics that were sparked from these questions, including her experience as the first female governor of New Jersey and the growing need for politicians to address climate change.

Sophomore criminal justice major Daniella Jeannot found Whitman’s honest viewpoints to be refreshing in today’s political landscape.

“I do feel it’s important to have politicians like Gov. Whitman to show bipartisanship. I like how she didn’t have a filter, she said what she wanted to say without thinking twice. She’s really trying to get people to vote so our nation has a better leader,” said Jeannot.

Throughout the event, Whitman stressed the importance of voting in the upcoming election. She said more substantial voter turnout leads to greater



Sarah Siock/The Rider News

Faculty, staff and students listened to former New Jersey Gov. Christine Todd Whitman discuss bipartisanship and the future of the Republican party.

bipartisanship in politics.

“Last time we had people saying, ‘I do not like my choices so I am staying home.’ That is what got us into this mess in the first place. The most important thing is that everybody gets out and votes in this election,” said Whitman.



# Business of Media Lecture Series

**MEDIA AND THE MOVEMENTS:  
CIVIL RIGHTS TO BLACK LIVES MATTER**

**Wednesday, October 7  
Noon to 1 p.m.**

**Featuring Professor Angela Y. Davis**

Distinguished Professor Emerita of History  
of Consciousness and Feminist Studies,  
University of California Santa Cruz

Founding Member of Critical Resistance

Author of 10 books, including:  
*Are Prisons Obsolete?*  
*The Meaning of Freedom*



***Please register via the link below.***

*In collaboration with:*

*Additional sponsorship provided by:*



College of Liberal Arts  
and Sciences

## Longstreet House named after Rider alumnus due to \$1 million commitment



Tatyanna Carman/The Rider News

Former Board of Trustee member Dennis Longstreet '69 talked about how Rider gave him a "head start" on his career at Johnson and Johnson.

By Tatyanna Carman

**A** DEDICATION ceremony was held for the residence hall Longstreet House, formerly known as Ridge House, with limited capacity on Sept. 24.

The residence hall was named after Rider alumnus and former member of Rider's Board of Trustees Dennis Longstreet '69. He served 14 years as a member of the Board of Trustees and spent 36 years at Johnson and Johnson, a multinational medical device company, "working through various decisions," according to Longstreet.

Longstreet committed \$1 million in December 2019, according to the Associate Vice President of Campaign Operations and Director and Corporate and Foundation Relations Denise Pinney. She said that \$500,000 of his gift contributed to the renovation of Longstreet House and the \$500,000 contributed to the Dennis Longstreet '69 Residence Hall Renovation and Enhancement Endowed Fund.

"This creates a restricted endowment that will grow over time and be available in perpetuity," Pinney said. "A small percentage of the fund will be allocated annually for continued residence hall maintenance, renovation and enhancement."

The dedication was streamed via Zoom for students, faculty, staff and other members of the Rider community. Board of Trustee member William Rue '69 talked about his classmate Longstreet at the virtual event.

"I might add that what elevates Dennis even more in my mind, in addition to his professional success, it's his philanthropy, which I know actually extends even beyond Rider University," Rue said. "Dennis did not actually live on campus, but he knows as a former board member and parent that residence halls contribute to a

student's college experience and they need ongoing maintenance and renovation."

Longstreet talked about his "strong commitment to college education" and the "warm spot" in his heart for Rider.

"It was here [where I] got my head start on a career and it was also here at Rider through their placement office that I got a chance to meet the company that eventually became my career, Johnson and Johnson," he said. "And I recognize that the placement office had a lot to do with that."

Longstreet also explained how his contribution has helped Rider amidst the pandemic.

"We are in difficult times with this coronavirus and when I made the decision to make a gift, this was just before this all took place," Longstreet said. "And I think the timing was great both for Rider University and for students because it allowed me to contribute to making life more comfortable here for on-campus residents and also to provide financial support to Rider going forward."

He said he felt very good about the gift and Rider's future.

"I'm looking forward to students, many more, having the same benefits thanks to Rider and I feel very good and my wife does as well, making this contribution," Longstreet said.

Student Government Association President and senior musical theater major Dylan Erdelyi talked about how Longstreet has inspired and impacted the Rider community.

"Mr. Longstreet exemplifies the best of us in this time —patience, dedication, hard work and philanthropy," Erdelyi said. "It is truly so inspiring for us that are still working towards success to see a Rider alumnus who has achieved so much and taken the opportunity to return that support back to our community. The success of our student population is so deeply enriched by generous gifts such as Mr. Longstreet. These contributions make our campus the vibrant living and learning community that it is and will continue to be."

Erdelyi gave Longstreet and his family gifts including Longstreet House T-shirts. He also introduced the unveiling of the Longstreet House sign on the building.

Vice President for Student Affairs Leanna Fenneberg let Longstreet know in her speech that the Rider community and especially the students appreciated Longstreet's, "very kind investment in the college experience and how much living on-campus is a special part of that experience."

Rider President Gregory Dell'Omo shared some remarks regarding what makes Rider "special."

"It's not the buildings or the beautiful campus. It's the people —the alumni like Dennis, the students like Dylan and the faculty and staff who have and are continuing to make a difference in the lives of our students everyday," Dell'Omo said. "Dennis you are among our elite alumni who have used your education wisely and have gone on to have a stellar career. As importantly, you have remembered your alma mater and made it your mission to impact our students' lives."

Dell'Omo said that the dedication was an "opportunity to celebrate an outstanding act of kindness and generosity."

"Dedications such as this are very very important. Whether it is tomorrow or years from now when someone sees Longstreet House, they will know that a dedicated and proud alumnus gave back to our university," he said.

## Student Government Association moves to assist students with slow internet

By Hailey Hensley

**T**HE Student Government Association (SGA) sent an email to all residential students on September 23 informing them that they would have the opportunity to pick up a free ethernet cable for more stable internet connection in their residence halls.

In their announcement, it is stated that these ethernet cables will be available for pickup at the Bart Luedeke Center (BLC) information desk seven days a week at varying times.

The Ethernet cables will not need to be returned at the end of the year and belong to the student to keep, according to the email.

The Office of Information Technology (OIT) will also be providing USB-to-ethernet adapters for students who do not have an ethernet port on their device, however, those adapters will need to be returned at the end of the academic year.

The email emphasized the importance of students bringing their Bronc IDs with them if they wished to pick up a cord or adapter.

SGA President and senior musical theater major Dyan Erdelyi clarified that this program specifically ties into the Students Come First Initiative unveiled by SGA earlier this year.

"We received comments from several students who said they were experiencing unstable internet connections — when we followed up with OIT on those comments, they told us that plugging directly into ethernet would greatly improve connectivity," Erdelyi said. "We decided to purchase the ethernet cables because this was exactly the intention of the Students Come First Initiative: setting aside funding to address students' needs during the transition to remote learning."

Erdelyi specified that this initiative has been funded in several ways, such as the SGA budget and the student activities fee (SAF) money.

"The Students Come First Initiative was funded partially by a restructuring of our own SGA budget, but also access to emergency reserve funding from the SAF, as outlined here [in the SGA Students Come First bill]," he said. "As mentioned in the bill, the initial stage of this initiative ends on Sept. 30. It included a reduction to the Student Activities Fee, creation of the new SGA Comment Box and availability of free Ethernet cables."

The text of the Students Come First Initiative bill specifies key areas where students need the most support in the 2020-2021 school year and begins to outline some ways in which that will be provided.

The bill states that "In line with SGA's May 28 Recommendations to the Fall



Courtesy of Rider University

Student Government Association has been receiving student commentary in their newly-unveiled suggestion box.

Planning Task Force, the following areas have been determined to hold the highest priority in the allocation of emergency funding: student financial support, access to personal protective equipment, access to comprehensive mental health care and access to coronavirus testing."

Senior organizational psychology major Ally Ward highlighted the fact that though internet access for on-campus students is important, off-campus students are struggling as well.

"A lot of students just do not have access to fast, steady internet at home. So real-time Zoom classes are incredibly difficult for them to manage, and students feel bad for having all these connectivity issues in class. I'm so happy on campus students are getting some help with this, but off-campus students like me are just screwed," she said.

Erdelyi specified that the Students Come First Initiative is adaptive to student needs and new programs may be unveiled as the year goes on.

"If we find that there are new, outstanding student needs during this time, we will certainly consider extending the initiative to continue accessing that funding," he said. "In reality, students always come first to us, but this initiative was a reminder that in this difficult time, the university community should be doing all that we can to lighten the burden on the student body."

ADVERTISEMENT

HOSTED BY THE CENTER FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION



CENTER FOR  
 DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION  
 Unity + Diversity = University



**EVERY FRIDAY from 1 to 3 p.m.**

**Beginning Friday, September 25 to Friday, November 13, 2020**

Register in advance for this meeting: [rider.edu/open-door-conversations](http://rider.edu/open-door-conversations)

# "Your Story Open Mic" night returns on a virtual stage

By Sarah Siock

WHILE entertainment venues may be closed to the public, Rider students still have the chance to express themselves at the new virtual "Your Story Open Mic" nights.

The first-ever completely virtual "Your Story Open Mic" took place on Sept. 24 over Zoom. Students were allowed to submit a video of themselves performing any talent of their liking to be shown at the open mic night. There were no creative limitations and performances could range from a musical rendition to a stand-up comedy routine.

Traditionally, "Your Story Open Mic" is a monthly in-person event on campus. However, due to the coronavirus closures, open mic night stopped in March. Organizers of "Your Story Open Mic" felt it was important to bring the event back despite the virtual format.

"Continuing to hold open mic events will provide Rider students with an outlet to express themselves. I realized how much open mic night has helped my confidence over the years and I knew I had to keep the organization running," said senior global supply chain management major and "Your Story Open Mic" President Steven Evans.

September's open mic night was arranged with pre-recorded performances while an audience watched live. Each performer submitted a video of their talent and then Evans compiled them together to be shown at the open mic night. Evans said the pre-recorded

performances resulted in the least amount of technical difficulties.

"When you record your performance beforehand, you get the opportunity to practice more and show off the best take of your performance," he said.

This year's "Your Story Open Mic" started small with just two performances.

Evans performed an acoustic version of the song "You Found Me" by The Fray and senior popular music major Catherine Rommel sang "My Everything" by Ariana Grande.

While organizers were happy with the outcome of the event, they said it was difficult to spread the word about the new format of "Your Story Open Mic."

"A lot of students at Rider seem to be disengaged with clubs and organizations this semester due to online classes so we are going to try extra hard in the future to make this a show people don't want to miss," said senior political science major and Secretary of "Your Story Open Mic" Griffin Carnegie.

Senior marketing major and "Your Story Open Mic Night" Vice President Sarah Carbonaro envisions the virtual event expanding as the semester continues.

"When we hosted in-person open mics, there was so much pride the performers had and I loved the feeling of the energy in the room as the crowd got excited. When we were in person we were able to grow the attendance," said Carbonaro. "We hope that we can do the same thing virtually. It is important to host this event despite the current situation because it keeps people's spirits up."

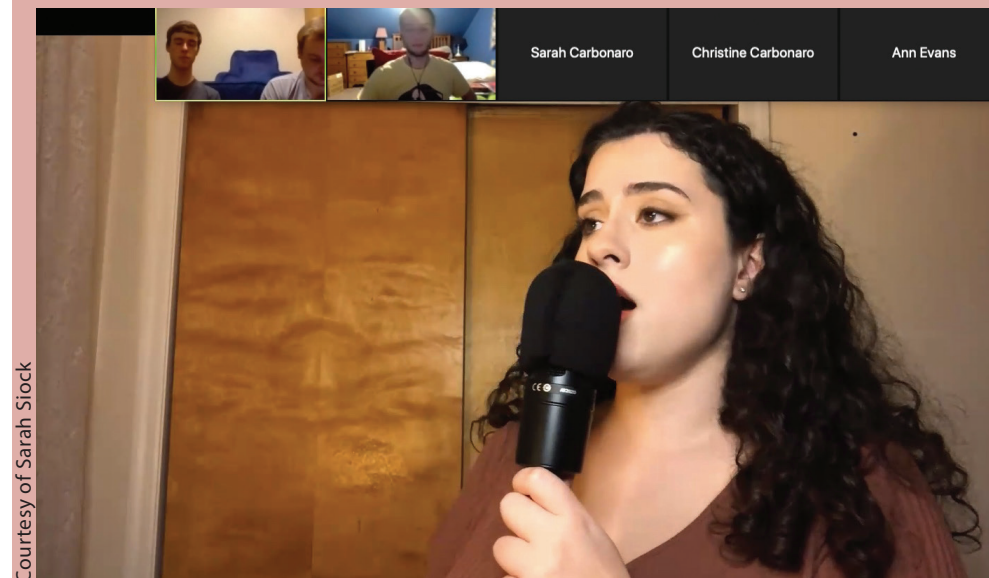
Carbonaro added that open mic night may shift to featuring live virtual performances later on in the semester. For now, there are plans for "Your Story Open Mic" to continue each month this semester.

"Although we will be missing the feeling of performing live with people watching in-person, we still provide an opportunity to showcase student talent. No pandemic can stop that," said Evans.



Courtesy of Sarah Siock

Senior global supply chain management major and "Your Story Open Mic" President Steven Evans performs "You Found Me" by The Fray.



Courtesy of Sarah Siock

Senior popular music major Catherine Rommel performs "My Everything" by Ariana Grande at open mic night.

# Rob Bebenek logs on from Canada for a unique comedy event

By Christian McCarville

SINCE the outbreak of COVID-19, many aspects of life still cannot return to the way they were. Stand-up comedy certainly falls into this category, along with many other performance acts. However, the Student Entertainment Council has found a way to incorporate stand-up comedy into a remote format for Rider students to enjoy.

Comedian Rob Bebenek was selected as the comedian for the event on Sept. 25. Bebenek has worked with MTV Canada and headlined a large number of comedy festivals. He was also a finalist in Sirius XM's Top Comic and has opened for Bob Saget, Steve-O, Gerry Dee and more.

Bebenek's set began as he logged onto the Zoom meeting at 8 p.m., standing in front of a brick wall that imitated a traditional stand-up comedy backdrop.

He began the set by interacting with audience members who had their web cameras on within the Zoom meeting. He asked many questions to the audience regarding their college experience during the pandemic.

Bebenek expressed a lot of sympathy for those enrolled in college during these difficult times of remote learning and precautionary safety measures. "Comedy is weird right now, but it's got to be weirder for you guys," said Bebenek.

The audience agreed and shared some of their own college experiences during the unique fall semester. Bebenek was entertained by this and shared a few of his own stories from his time in college. Living in Toronto, Bebenek also shared many of his experiences from his life in Canada.

"The drinking age is, like, 12 in Canada," joked Bebenek.

He also explained that the majority of Canadians are concentrated in major cities. Following this, he gave some insight as to why Canadians tend to make fun of Americans. Bebenek explained that much of what happens in America affects Canada, citing the recent California wildfires as an example.

Throughout the set, Bebenek repeatedly asked questions from the crowd and drew inspiration from their answers. This was fairly unique to the remote format of the event. While comedians commonly interact with crowd members during their in-person sets, the majority of Bebenek's performance revolved around candid audience interactions and improvised jokes.

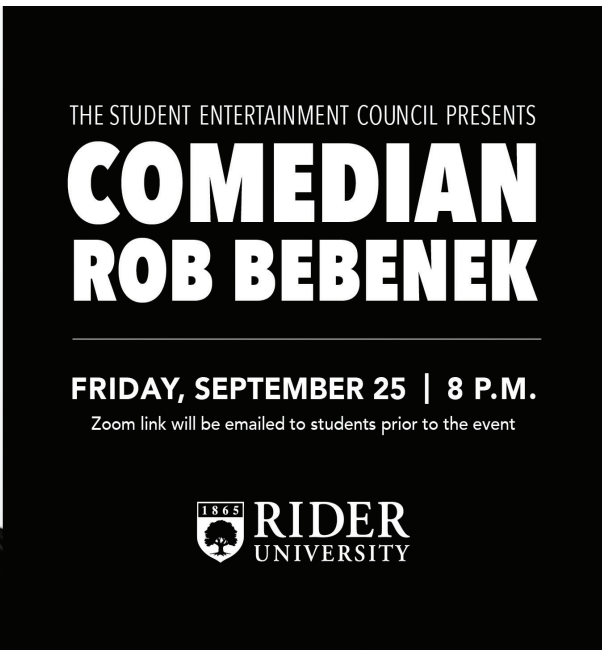
"I enjoyed how [Bebenek] interacted with the students on the Zoom call," said senior elementary education major Elaina Stark. "I had the opportunity to briefly talk to him about Philadelphia sports."

Throughout the event, Bebenek covered many different topics including his childhood, his father and even a little bit of politics. He also joked about his generation in comparison to those older than him.

"We grew up without computers but we still know how to turn files into PDFs," said



Courtesy of The Student Entertainment Council



The Student Entertainment Council has consistently held interesting live events utilizing the Zoom platform. Many more remote events should be on the horizon for Rider students throughout the rest of the semester.

Bebenek.

Despite the wide variety of subject material, he frequently circled back to discussing life during COVID-19. Bebenek made a few jokes at the expense of COVID-19 deniers while reinforcing the need to trust science and stay safe.

After about an hour of jokes, stories from his life in Canada and discussion with audience members, Bebenek concluded the event and logged out of the Zoom call. While performing stand-up comedy remotely was surely not an ideal circumstance, Bebenek made the most of his situation and catered his set towards the unique virtual format.

"I was unsure how this event would go, especially since I had never seen a comedian perform live on a Zoom call," said Stark. "However, I truly enjoyed the show and was pleasantly surprised by Bebenek's performance."

# Outreach Team offers new drop-in spaces to support students

By Bridget Gum

RECENTLY, there have been movements to bring mental health into the forefront of public discussion and eliminate the stigma around asking for counseling support for mental health. Rider started a new program in the Outreach Team for virtual drop-in hours to support the mental and emotional health of its students.

The goal of the Outreach Team is "to improve self-awareness and the emotional well-being of Rider students through mental health and wellness programming," according to the peer educators on the team.

There are three different options for these drop-in hours. There are general drop-in hours on Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:20 p.m. For these drop-in hours, "members of the Outreach Team and Counseling Services are present, to facilitate healthy group dialogues and conversations between students about whatever they choose to discuss or share," according to Hayley Francobandiero and D'Amani Bowman, both Counseling Services Outreach Team graduate assistants.

While these drop-in hours are not formal group therapy or counseling sessions, there is no strict structure so that the conversation can flow in whichever direction the students want to take it. The Outreach Team also provides information about counseling services provided for students at Rider, as well as discussing questions like "how they are, how are classes, what brought them to us, what they hope for, etc.," said Francobandiero and Bowman. There are also athlete drop-in spaces on Tuesdays

from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. The athletic department asked to collaborate with the Outreach Team because student-athletes have had a lot of new stressors this year. "With practices being different, lack of play/competition, and athletes losing seasons we felt it was necessary to provide a drop-in space," according to Dan Maida, another Counseling Services Outreach Team graduate assistant. This drop-in space provides the student-athletes a place to speak about their practices and athletics in general, as well as an opportunity to connect with other athletes.



Courtesy of Outreach Team

All are welcomed to the drop-in sessions offered every week.

Finally, the Outreach Team has collaborated with Chi Sigma Iota, the Counseling Honors Society, to host drop-in hours for people of color and their allies on Fridays at 6 p.m. For this group, "the focus is to support one another as we try to navigate through racial tensions and injustices during this time while being advocates for underrepresented populations," said Francobandiero and Bowman.

This space was opened up mostly in the light of the coronavirus and its aftereffects. The Outreach Team recognizes that many students have not been able to socialize with their friends as they normally would, which has a huge effect on students.

The Outreach Team hopes that these spaces will allow students to connect with other students, as well as to have a place to openly communicate their thoughts and feelings in a safe and comfortable environment. They also give students information about the Outreach Team and Counseling Services, other on-campus resources and those in the local area. "Moreover, we hope that students feel comfortable with discussing topics or expressing their concerns to potentially find a resolution, or just to try to get something off their chest," Francobandiero and Maida said.

Since this is a new initiative, the Outreach Team is hopeful that many students will attend these virtual meetings, as it believes they could be extremely helpful to the mental and emotional wellbeing of all students at Rider.

The drop-in spaces offered by the Outreach Team give students a chance to discuss stressors in their daily lives.

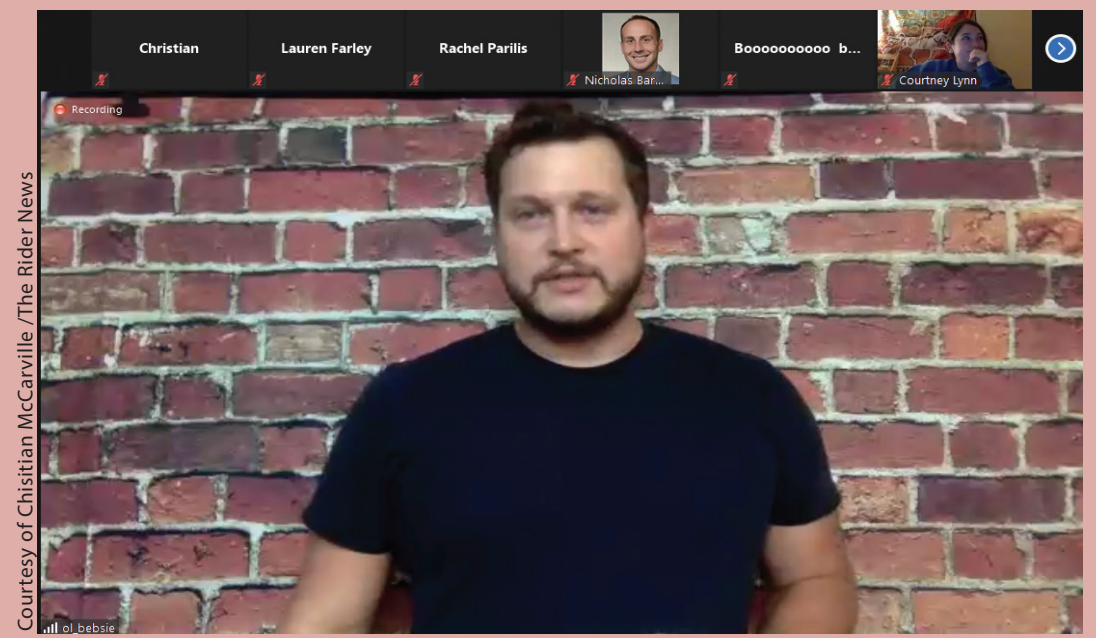
Courtesy of Outreach Team

# Stay-in comedy: Making students laugh from home



Courtesy of @Ol.Bebie on Instagram

Bebenek has been doing comedy for over 13 years. He has opened for comedians such as Bob Saget (pictured), Steve-O and Charlie Murphy.



Courtesy of Christian McCarville / The Rider News

Performed entirely over Zoom, Bebenek addressed the new ways of life that people have grown accustomed to during the COVID-19 pandemic. He interacted with many students and asked them about their college experience during these strange times.



Courtesy of RobBebenek.com

Throughout his stand-up set, Bebenek shared lots of humorous stories from his life in Canada. He also discussed the ways in which the actions of America affect Canada.

FROM THE EDITOR

# The power of the petition

**A** NAME I did not know became a name I will never forget. Breonna Taylor, 26, was a young medical worker in Louisville, Kentucky, who was shot and killed by Louisville police officers in March during a botched raid on her apartment, which led to wide-scale demonstrations in the summer as the case drew more attention. After six months of rallying behind her name and calling for the arrest of her killers, the officer who allegedly shot Taylor, Brett Hankison, was recently charged with the class D felony wanton endangerment, punishable with fines of up to \$10,000 and up to five years in prison. The officer was not charged with the murder of Taylor, but rather with the shots he missed that hit the neighbors' apartment. The devastation, the neglect and fury that I felt was unexplainable, I asked myself: Why even try to fight?

As protests were underway, people were also taking initiatives to social media to help raise money for protestors in police custody or for families affected by police brutality. Another way social media has helped the public get involved, besides monetary aid or even risking their health by going out and protesting during a pandemic, was petitions. There have been petitions for Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery etc, all demanding justice for the victims of police brutality. Taylor's petition has now reached over 10 million signatures.

The grand jury's decision made me think to myself, were all those petitions I signed worth it? Did signing all these petitions and obtaining all these signatures really matter if no real change is plausible?

I believe maybe the role of petitions is to raise awareness more so than to bring about tangible change. Ten million signatures clearly was not enough to bring forth justice for Taylor, but that is 10 million more people that know her story, that will remember her name and hopefully continue to demand justice for her and police brutality victims.

"Learning about an issue through an online petition or other digital campaign can lead folks to do further research and reading online, which can lead to higher levels of involvement and commitment," said Rosemary Clark-Parsons, the associate director of the University of Pennsylvania's Center on Digital Culture and Society.

Signing petitions is indeed a social act and gives non-profit organizations your name and contact information (but you may remain anonymous if you so choose) and when you sign a petition organizations can send you other initiatives and petitions for you to get involved in.

So while it may just begin with the click of a button, piling your signature on a list of others calling for change means you are publicly stating your support for an issue. "That is very likely to influence where you spend your money in the future, how you vote, how

you influence your friends," said Paynter, the founder and CEO of Care2, a site that hosts petitions, to CNN. Paynter believes those who add their sign a petition are more likely to get involved in the issues those campaigns target and become inclined to donate to nonprofits working around those issues.

"We've recruited over a hundred million individuals over the last 20 years to support several thousand nonprofit organizations," he said. "Through those individuals, organizations have raised over a billion dollars."

There has been conversation that petitions put forth little to no effort in actual change. My opinion is back and forth on the topic. Petitions were all I had when I could not financially donate any more or when I could not make it to in-person demonstrations. In the height of the protests during the summer, I made sure to sign every petition I saw on social media. It took under a minute to sign five petitions, and given the amount of regrettable time I spend on social media, spending less than 10 minutes of my time toward something productive would not kill me.

To answer the question why even try, I try because if I do not, all the names that I did not know but now will not forget will die in vain. I try because Taylor, Floyd, Arbery and so many other names were once beings walking among us, regular people living regular lives. I feel obligated to reinforce that victims of police brutality are not martyrs, they are not hashtags or pop culture figures to be plastered on magazines and memes but people taken by force and violence. Although 10 million names were not enough for justice, it is more than enough names to remember hers. Say her name. Breonna Taylor.

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




Courtesy of Creative Commons



Courtesy of Creative Commons

## THE Rider News

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

- Executive Editor**  
Stephen Neukam
- Managing Editor**  
Austin Boland-Ferguson
- News Editors**  
Tatyanna Carman  
Hailey Hensley
- Features and Arts & Entertainment Editors**  
Christian McCarville  
Sarah Siock
- Opinion Editor**  
Qur'an Hansford
- Sports Editors**  
Dylan Manfre  
Shaun Chomobroff
- Photography Editor**  
Carolo Pascale
- Video Editors**  
Drew Jacabacci  
Ben Ross  
Gerard Blandina

- Copy Editors**  
Sydney Jeffery  
Jenna Dean  
Emily Kim  
Cristalia Turck  
Nicoletta Feldman
- Design Manager**  
Arianna Marino
- Business/Advertising Manager**  
Danielle Jackson
- Circulation Managers**  
Drew Jacabacci  
Kaylee Ettinger
- Social Media Editors**  
Gerard Blandina  
Hannah Drew  
Juliette Eddings
- 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](mailto: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](mailto:ridernews@rider.edu).

 [@theridernews](https://twitter.com/theridernews)  
 [www.theridernews.com](http://www.theridernews.com)       [@theridernews](https://www.instagram.com/theridernews)  
 [facebook.com/theridernews](https://facebook.com/theridernews)       [ridernews@rider.edu](mailto:ridernews@rider.edu)





ADVERTISEMENT

#RIDERVOTES

JOIN  
US!

# MY VOTE MATTERS:

Transforming Oppression into Opportunity (Part 1 & 2)

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 | 7 P.M.**

Register in advance for this meeting: [rider.edu/ridervotes-part1](https://rider.edu/ridervotes-part1)

The first session of this 2-part teach-in series will discuss the long and sometimes difficult history of voting in America, starting with the nation's founding. We will trace who was deemed worthy of the franchise and when, and the implications of those choices. We will then survey recent methods of voter suppression in the context of contemporary U.S. politics and the intersection of race and partisanship. And lastly, while electoral or voter fraud is rare, it has surfaced as an issue in the 2020 presidential campaign. We will look at the five most enduring myths about voter fraud and the allegations of fraud that emerged from the 2016 presidential race.

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6 | 7 P.M.**

Register in advance for this meeting: [rider.edu/ridervotes-part2](https://rider.edu/ridervotes-part2)

The second session of this 2-part teach-in series will focus on some of the practical ways students can get involved in the upcoming election. For many young voters, environmental concerns are front and center. Our discussion will define environmental voting, the Green New Deal, and the Paris Climate Agreement. We'll look at the cross-section of environmental and social justice and how it plays a role in the environmental vote from the federal to the local level. We'll also explore and correct much of the frequent misinformation on voting by mail and other election myths that are circulating this year. Finally, we will learn all about **#RiderVotes** and see why we're one of the nation's most voter friendly campuses. We'll share resources to make sure everyone's vote is well informed and counted.

**In collaboration:**

Center for Diversity and Inclusion, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Norm Brodsky College of Business, Department of Service & Civic Engagement, Rebovich Institute for New Jersey Politics, and Office of Sustainability



**RIDER**  
UNIVERSITY

CENTER FOR  
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION  
*Unity + Diversity = University*

## CLUB ICE HOCKEY

# Rider hockey waits to get back on ice

By Carolo Pascale

**R**IDER Ice hockey is vying to be one of the first of Rider's club sports to get back into action and have official practices and games.

The coaches and players are hoping to get back on the ice and finally get the ball rolling on having a season this year.

As of now, none of Rider's club sports are having any official in-person practices or games.

"We're not doing anything right now and everything is pretty much on hold for us," said Head Coach Sean Levin.

"We are working, however, with the mindset that we will be practicing and playing games come January. The ACHA (American Collegiate Hockey Association) is leaving it to the discretion of the universities to decide if they want to play. We are really just waiting on Rider to give us some opportunities right now."

"I think with some of the [Division I] sports like men's and women's soccer starting to practice with protocols, I think there are some opportunities where we can try and bring people into the loop and open a dialogue to maybe see what options are available. There are high school and youth hockey teams that are starting to play as well, but you have to look at the bigger picture, which is health and safety."

Some Division I athletic teams at Rider have recently started practicing, and teams like men's and women's basketball recently had their schedules announced.

Ice hockey has taken note of those practices and many of the players on the team have taken it upon themselves to try and set up unofficial, player only, open-team skates.

Senior forward Michael Klein had been to the few open skates the team has had.

"When you get back on the ice you're a little bit rusty, but it feels amazing and it's one of the best feelings in the world. All I really want to do is just get back out there and skate. That's what we have been doing with some player-organized open skates recently and during the summer. We would get 10 to 15 guys out and just skate around."

The team has also been getting together from time to time to play roller hockey, Klein said.

In addition to setting up the player-run skates, many of the players live together, which has been aiding the team in staying in shape and keeping morale high for when real practices and the season has the chance to come around.

"There's about three hockey houses that the guys have and most of us live with each other. We all do homework together and hang out with each other. Obviously we would like to be on the ice together two to four times a week, but we're doing the best we can right now to stay close," Klein said.

Sophomore defenseman Eddie Coyne also commented about being a commuter this year and how he has been able to stay in touch with the rest of the team.

"I'm the only one commuting here. I'm about 45 minutes away down in Point Pleasant, so I don't get to see the guys too much. But I'm able to stay in touch through our group chats and texts."

There are other commuters on the team and multiple players said the main way the team communicates is through team chats or texts.

Bringing in freshman or transfer players has also been hard for the team with no way to integrate them into the team's system.

Levin mentioned using Zoom and other coaching programs to teach core team values, philosophy and basics.

Zoom meetings are a short-term way to be able to give freshmen and transfers a chance to learn what the program is all about and what is expected of them once they get back on the ice.

Junior forward Tyler Giwerowski lives in one of the hockey houses the team has and two freshman players live in that house with him.

Photo by Carolo Pascale/The Rider News



Senior forward **Michael Klein** stares down a Delaware defender during a game last season.

Giwerowski was very adamant about how well the freshmen were being integrated into the team, even though none of them had played together.

"It's been great so far. I actually went to high school with two of them, so they knew what to expect when they got to Rider. I've been in their ear a lot talking about school and I know the rest of the guys are really helping them out big time."

Overall, the players and coaches are just frustrated that they can't start to practice or have games at this moment.

Klein expressed his frustration at how Rider's Division I sports can practice but the team can't.

"It's very frustrating being able to see the [Division I] teams practice and we can't. We usually practice two to three times a week. I just think that's kind of unfair to us. It's frustrating in that aspect because if they can practice then we should be able to as well. Especially because our practices are off-campus and we wouldn't have 20 to 30 guys coming on campus."

Levin also expressed some frustration on the matter.

"Mike's right and it's definitely frustrating, but we have to remind ourselves we aren't a varsity program sometimes. I know there's ways and I know there's restrictions. Maybe we would be able to get small groups on the ice. There are creative ways to do it and I hope they will evolve over the coming days and weeks."

Levin spoke about how the season and practices can be started, but his final words summarized it best.

"There are some opportunities, if done extremely smartly, with keeping health and academics at the forefront, we can do something to get the program going again and growing for the future," Levin said.

## COLLEGE BASKETBALL

# NCAA announces COVID-19 testing protocols

By Dylan Manfre

**T**HE NCAA released its testing protocols for the 2020-2021 college basketball season, which will begin on Nov. 25.

The highly-anticipated ruling confirmed multiple reports that the association will require student-athletes to be tested three times a week throughout the regular season. During the designated "preseason period" of Oct. 14 to Nov. 24, the guidelines call for student-athletes to get tested once a week.

"This basketball resocialization guidance is based on the best information available in a rapidly changing COVID-19 environment," NCAA President Mark Emmert said in the statement. "It is predicated on the assumption that rapid testing capabilities will be readily available later this year. We will constantly assess emerging information as we prepare for the start of the basketball season at the end of November."

The NCAA said if any Tier 1 individual — which includes student-athletes or people who are required to be near athletes regularly — is infected with COVID-19, the school should "consider quarantining the entire team, including coaching staff and other essential personnel who are part of Tier 1, for 14 days."

The NCAA has not provided a plan for individuals needing to test out of quarantine.

College basketball is currently in the "transition period," of Sept. 21 to Oct. 14. During this time, the NCAA said in the announcement that a "surveillance testing should be considered for 25%-50% of student-athletes and Tier 1 individuals every two weeks if physical distancing, masking and other protective features are not consistently maintained, plus additional testing for symptomatic and high contact

risk individuals."

Testing should commence one week before the season begins, according to the announcement. However, it is unclear when Rider's three-times-a-week testing will begin because the nonconference slate has yet to be released.

According to Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Planning and Secretary to the Board Debbie Stasolla, Rider secured 2,100 COVID-19 rapid antigen tests to be used specifically for the testing of its winter sport student-athletes.

Stasolla said the 2,100 tests are "about half of what we would anticipate needing and those are easily ordered at this point in time."

This is different from the 200 total nasal and saliva tests the university began the semester with. Those tests are specifically for residential symptomatic students, according to Stasolla.

The rapid antigen test produces fast results that help people determine whether viral antigens are present in an individual.

Stasolla refused to disclose the full amount the school paid for the 2,100 tests, saying that they are "still determining the price."

Stasolla said that the PCR-based tests that the Student Health Center possesses will only be used on symptomatic residential students.

Both Stasolla and the NCAA acknowledged rapid antigen testing is less accurate than a PCR test, however, the NCAA suggested if an asymptomatic student records a false positive, they should receive a "confirmatory PCR test" just to make sure an individual is not infected with COVID-19.

# Sports

INSIDE

**COVID-19 TESTING WITH BASKETBALL**  
*The NCAA releases testing guidance for men's and women's basketball.*

FIND THE STORY BY DYLAN MANFRE ON PAGE 11

BASEBALL

## Former Bronc finds footing in MLB



Photo courtesy of Nick Margevicius

Former Rider standout **Nick Margevicius** has become one of the Seattle Mariners' most reliable pitchers in the 2020 season.

**By Shaun Chornobroff**

**T**HREE years ago, Rider students could have seen Nick Margevicius in their business class as he prepared for his junior season as the ace of Rider baseball's pitching staff.

Fast-forward and now Margevicius dons the teal and white of the Seattle Mariners as one of their starting pitchers.

Margevicius experienced a rapid development that started the summer after his freshman year in Lawrenceville, which is when Major League Baseball scouts first took notice of the lefty from Ohio after a productive summer league campaign.

"After my freshman year I started throwing a little bit harder, went to summer ball and had a really good summer against some really good competition then some scouts started talking to me," Margevicius said. "Then, I'd say at the beginning of my sophomore year, it kind of became my one drive, my one goal, I said, 'I have two years to get ready for the draft and it starts right now.' I didn't go to Rider with that intention, but after my freshman year that became my sole focus."

Margevicius had an earned run average (ERA) of 4.29 his freshman year. The two years after Margevicius made baseball his "sole focus," his ERAs were a dominant 2.59 and 2.89. Margevicius' strikeout numbers also jumped from 50 his freshman year

to 67 his sophomore year and 79 his junior year.

This rapid improvement paid off, as Margevicius got drafted by the San Diego Padres in the seventh round of the 2017 MLB Draft.

Most drafted players spend at least three years in the minor leagues before being called up to the majors. Margevicius spent a single season in the minors.

"It's sort of a unique situation for me, most guys don't go that quickly. I was kind of fortunate to be in a situation where I had a really good first year, I finished being called up for the Double-A playoffs, which was great, I had success there," Margevicius said. "I ended up getting the call to big league camp and all you need really is that opportunity, that invite, and you never know what could happen. There happened to be a spot in the rotation open and I was the guy who they wanted to fill it at the time. It was crazy, it's not something anybody expected, I didn't expect it myself, but it was an awesome experience for sure."

Unfortunately, Margevicius' cinderella rise had a rough end, as the Padres moved on from the 2017 All-MAAC selection after one season. Margevicius proved to be flexible as he was used as a starter and a reliever, but his 6.79 ERA was telling off hitters' success when facing him.

Some players get released from a team and never hear their name called

at the major league level again. Luckily for Margevicius, his second chance came quickly with the Mariners.

In his first season with the Mariners, Margevicius has established himself as a reliable starter, accruing a 4.57 ERA in a fanless MLB season. A 4.57 ERA may seem high, but in a shortened season, one poor start can inflate a pitcher's ERA, which Margevicius was a victim of as a result of his Sept. 9 start against the San Francisco Giants when he gave up seven runs in less than five innings of work. In Margevicius' 36.9 other innings of work, he had a 3.41 ERA.

Mariners General Manager Jerry Dipoto had some great things to say about Margevicius on Sept. 1 on The Leadoff Spot, a program on MLB Network Radio.

"[Margevicius] has been great for us, he's smart," Dipoto said. "He's a guy who kind of flew from A-ball to the big leagues and struggled as a 23 year-old big leaguer. And we were the benefactor of that. Now at 24, he has been able to slow the game down."

Margevicius' stark improvement from San Diego to Seattle made people wonder — what was wrong in San Diego?

Margevicius' answer was nothing.

"I wouldn't say something went wrong there. I'd just say it's a part of my development process. I did spend only a year in the minor leagues, even now I'm not a finished product yet,

there are still some things I need to work on, there are things I'm going to need to work on for years and years to come, so I had some really good outings there and I had some really bad outings there ... The things I've learned from that are what's helped me this year being in Seattle," Margevicius said.

Despite his growing success, Margevicius still credits Rider Head Coach Barry Davis and the university for their help.

"It played a huge role for me, during my time at Rider I discovered myself and what I need to be good at this game and how hard I needed to work and a lot of that was instilled by [Barry] Davis and the staff there," Margevicius said. "So I think that had a pretty big impact on how I started to work towards my goal of being a major league pitcher."

Davis recruited Margevicius despite never seeing him play live, only getting videos of him pitching, which the youngster from Ohio sent to multiple schools.

Margevicius looked at baseball a lot differently back then, as he said "the draft wasn't even on my radar."

Margevicius wanted a school that believed in him and would let him start as a freshman and pursue his finance major. Never did he expect to walk away with a chance at his dreams coming true.