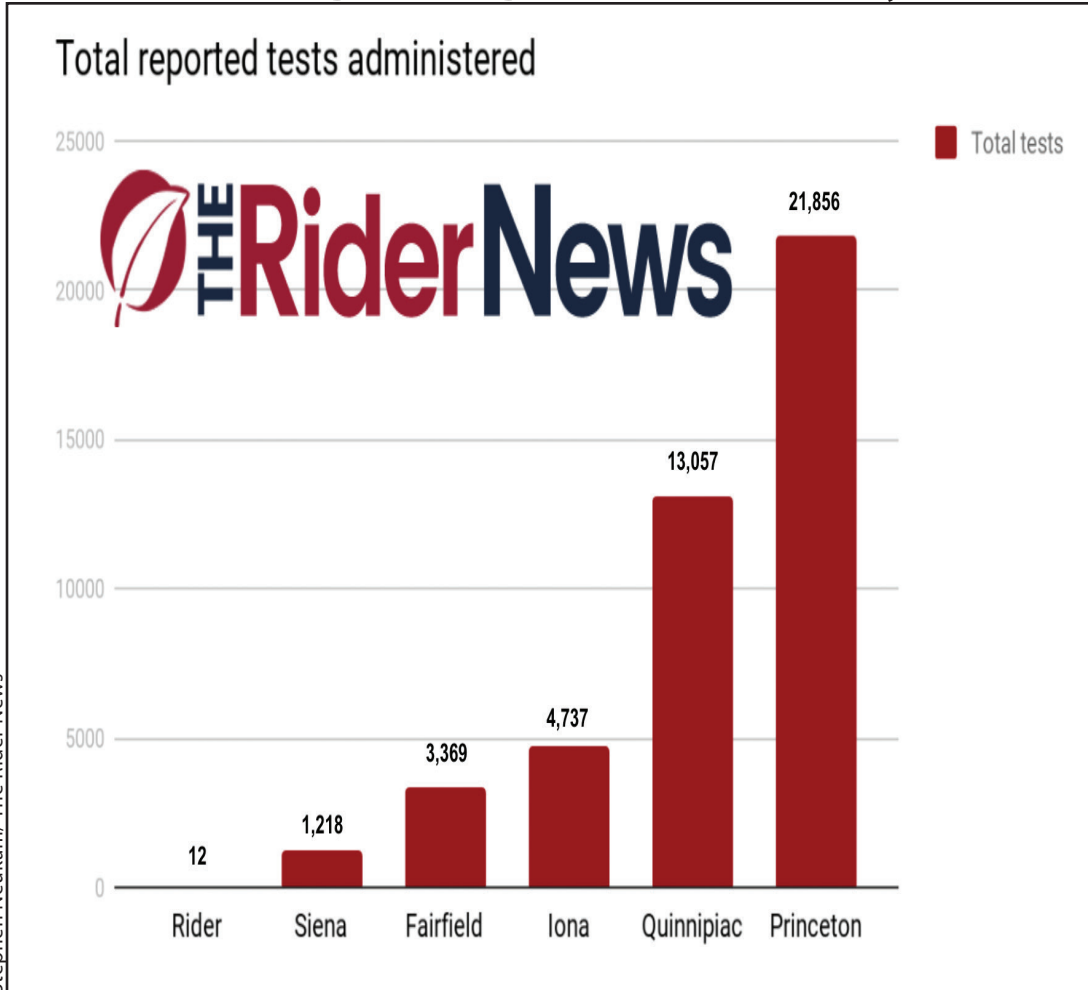


Rider lags significantly in coronavirus testing



Rider is running behind other institutions in coronavirus testing, developing plans for random surveillance testing.

By Stephen Neukam

RIDER has tested only 12 students for the coronavirus on campus since the start of the semester, a worrying sign for residents and a clear indicator of the uncertainty of campus safety, the university revealed in updated testing data on Oct. 4.

The statistics, released after weeks of the university refusing to disclose the information, showed the school lagging significantly behind other comparable institutions in testing for the virus.

The 12 total tests give a stunningly incomplete picture of COVID-19 at the university — around 900 students are currently living on campus, and more travel to campus to attend the in-person classes that began Sept 21.

The university’s weekly COVID-19 dashboard disclosed three new positive student cases, all non-residential students, the most Rider has reported in a single week. Rider’s total reported confirmed cases from the start of the Fall 2020 semester sits at seven as of Oct. 4, which consists of six non-residential students and one employee.

Before the semester, the university’s agreement with the health care provider it courted to help with testing and contact tracing, Capital Health Care Management, fell through due to liability concerns and contractual hold-ups, according to Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Planning and Secretary to the Board Debbie Stasolla. The defunct agreement with Capital Health Care Management has not been previously publicly disclosed.

While the school has a partnership with the provider for off-campus testing, the burden of on-campus testing and contact tracing has fallen on administrators at the university.

On Oct. 6, Stasolla said the university reached an agreement with Pennsylvania-based Personal Care Medical Associates (PCMA) to conduct student surveillance testing beginning the week of Oct. 12 through the week of Nov. 16.

While Rider has tested under 1% of its student population, other universities have



Trauma behind the curtain: SFPA students drop bombshell allegations



Backed by a decade of experiences, current and former students in the Theater and Dance Department compiled a 44-page complaint, detailing alleged abuses and inappropriate behavior by faculty in the program. The allegations are the focus of a university investigation, with students pushing for programic reforms.

By Stephen Neukam

“You are such an amazing dancer — for a girl of your size.”

It was Sydnie Roy’s first day of her freshman year, in a dance class in which she performed well, and after, a professor told her the words that have been a “staple,” stuck in the back of her mind since.

Roy, now a senior musical theater major, experienced what many current and former students say they have endured in Rider’s Theater and Dance Department — a toxic and inappropriate learning environment, marred with allegations of sexual harassment, racism, inappropriate relationships and widespread body shaming, according to a 44-page list of complaints against current and former professors in the program.

The document, with 120 submissions from current and former students, outlines troubling systematic issues at Rider and in musical theater at large. This story relies on conversations with over half a dozen current and former students and their experiences at Rider. While over 25 faculty members were contacted for this reporting, the university has instructed them not to speak about the allegations, according to Rider’s Chapter of the American Association of University Professors President Art Taylor.

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs DonnaJean Fredeen said that the university takes the accusations seriously, saying, “We are fully committed to investigating the allegations, to giving all parties the opportunity to be heard and to



INSIDE CINDERELLA STORY

A look back at Rider’s 2000 field hockey team.
PAGES 10 AND 11



THE VOTERS’ RIGHT

As voter registration day draws near, the importance of voting this election is crucial.
PAGE 8



DRAG RACE

Rider’s Drag Race makes a powerful return via a broadcasted live stream.
PAGE 6

SECURITY BRIEFS

BY STEPHEN NEUKAM

Ranting and Raving

Voicemail venting. On Oct. 3 at 3:40 p.m., a staff member at Moore Library called and reported receiving a threatening voicemail left on the voicemail system. Public Safety listened to the tape and concluded that nothing threatening was said, but the caller was ranting about how the university was being run. It was discovered that the caller was an alumni who has a history of this type of behavior.

Passed Out

Medical emergency. On Sept. 29 at 12:48 p.m., Public Safety was dispatched to Kroner Hall for a medical emergency. A female student passed out lying on the ground and an ambulance was called after the student was evaluated. The student recovered before the ambulance arrived and refused further treatment.

COVID Quarantine

Moving to Conover. On Oct. 1 at 3:45 p.m., Public Safety received a call that a student was possibly exposed to COVID-19 and the student was then transported to Conover Hall for quarantine housing.

— Information provided by Interim Capt. Matthew Babcock

Students willing to “spoonfeed” faculty to understand their complaints and allegations

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

taking appropriate action if needed.”

It was stories like Roy's and others, some even darker and menacing but submitted anonymously, that prompted students to confront professors last month with the allegations and have led to investigations from the university.

The revelations at Rider can be placed in a national moment of consciousness. A movement that mobilized demonstrations around the world and has brought to the forefront a painful past and an embattled future, Black Lives Matter, also spurred the students to hold their university community accountable.

Shameia Thompson, a junior musical theater major from the Bronx, New York, said she was severely isolated by her introduction to Rider — a Black student, she said she felt undervalued, underrepresented and left behind by the program that she worked so hard to get into.

“I just stopped talking,” said Thompson. She feared there were no allies around.

Then Black Lives Matter, reignited after the brutal killings of several unarmed Black people at the hands of law enforcement, carried a current of dialogue to Thompson.

“I started talking. I didn't be quiet. I haven't been quiet since.”

Thompson made a social media post, finally letting go of her anxieties and frustrations. She found other students, if not allies, at least fighting a common enemy and system that had battled them for years. They formed what they dubbed “The Woke Police,” committed to calling out insensitivities and transgressions in their program.

Racial issues were the backdrop of Thompson's struggle in the program and at the university. She said she felt tokenized — she was recruited to the program, from a family with no educational background, and felt deserted when she struggled to adjust. She felt objectified — she changed her hair, was called “exotic” and people continuously attempted to touch her head. While these experiences animated her trials, she found that her peers were clashing with other conflicts — not the same as hers, but all the products of what she believes is an abusive system that must be addressed collectively.

Once she started talking, she also started listening. The floodwaters of pain, backed up for so long, started to break the dam.

“In the conversations that were happening, it shook me to a very clear understanding that my house isn't the only house on fire,” said Thompson.

The experiences of current and former students poured in as Thompson and other Rider students gathered the stories into a document. While what started the discussions was a movement against racial discriminations, it became clear that the traumas were rooted in other causes as well.

Troubles plaguing the department jump off the pages of allegations. Some professors have sections seven pages long, detailing accusations of deeply troubling behaviors. Perhaps most prominent is complaints of body shaming, with professors telling students to lose weight and prompted at least two students to get costly cosmetic surgery. Some students say they spent small fortunes on such procedures, and others fell into unhealthy eating habits and struggled with mental health issues as a result of damaging interactions with faculty.

Students also detail a pattern of disregard for sexual assault allegations, quite a few claiming that professors protected and stood up for a student suspected of the violation.

The complaint also brings attention to claims of inappropriate conduct and relationships. This ranges from male professors touching female students without consent, getting involved with the personal lives of students, physical abuse in classrooms and disparaging students to their peers.

The allegations also outline a toxic learning environment, with professors throwing around their weight and connections in the industry to intimidate students. Some sections claim that professors play obvious favorites, with some preferring the more “masculine” men in the program.

In a nearly three-hour meeting with department faculty on Sept. 16, students read the entire 44-page document to professors. Senior musical theater major Dean Klebonas, who is no longer planning on going into the industry, said that while some faculty were supportive of the students, others claimed during the meeting that the charges against them were false and defamatory, and refused to acknowledge that there could be a problem in the program. Klebonas said that students will continue to work to make sure the faculty understand their concerns.

“If they need to be spoon-fed what the problem is, then that's what we will do,” vowed Klebonas. “While some of them have taken it with such great gusto and honor [to support students] ... There are professors and faculty members who are resisting change.”

Fredeen added, “We also are committed to addressing the cultural concerns that have been raised. As such, we currently are working to identify outside consultants who can assist in moving these processes forward.”



Courtesy of Dylan Erdelyi

Students protest in a meeting with professors on Sept. 14. Each student set their image on Zoom to the same graphic demanding action.

While these problems linger in Rider's Theater and Dance Department, they are an attribute of the profession as a whole and are not specific to the university.

Darin Earl II, a 2017 graduate of the department, has seen some of these issues manifest themselves in the industry. While Earl said he has always been treated with respect in his communities, including at Rider, he has seen how theater companies and productions value their bottom lines over true representation and equity.

“It was a theater company in particular that put on a show about Third World countries, essentially — it was a little sensationalized,” said Earl. “And as a person of Jamaican descent, I went to see it with a couple of friends ... they more or less praise themselves on being able to tell the story, rather than the opportunity to bring in people who can also contribute to the story after having first-hand experiences.”

Fellow Rider alumni, Earl said, have opened up a network and a space for people to air their grievances and shared experiences in an effort to collectively deal with traumas from the program. He said he hopes current students will join the network once they graduate to receive guidance and support from alumni as they begin their careers.

As students sound the alarms, they are finally recognizing the flames they fight back are related and from the same source, and won't resolve to just yell for help. Students have presented demands to the administration for reforms in the program — a bottom line of action they believe is necessary.

These demands include additional funding, including scholarships, for Black students and students who come from impoverished areas; a permanent Black faculty member (the faculty roster in the program is overwhelmingly white, with little Black representation); a liaison between the students of the School of Fine and Performing Arts and the faculty and administration; sensitivity training; mandatory curriculum reviews and a resident therapist for students in the school.

The demands were sent to Rider's administration on Sept. 23, specifically requesting a meeting with President Gregory Dell'Omo and Fredeen. Fredeen confirmed receipt of the email from students two days later, promising to reach out and set up a meeting date with the students — a meeting has yet to be scheduled.

Thompson said she fears the faculty will be protected against the allegations, because of the power of the faculty union. The union declined to comment on the complaint.

Roy, who is biracial, said the environment in the program made her want to quit and give up, an experience that “has diminished me as a human at some points to where I feel like I am so small that I couldn't say anything.” She has found strength through her peers and fellow students, a dynamic so telling in their resistance against their obstacles.

“It shouldn't be this way. I had to have so many conversations with myself and say, ‘[the professors] don't matter. They are a little pinch of salt in the whole pillar of salt.’ It just doesn't matter.”

ADVERTISEMENT



¿Quién Somos?
(Who are we?)

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH 2020

SEPTEMBER 15 to OCTOBER 15

rider.edu/events/Hispanic-Heritage-Month

Monday, September 14 | 5 to 6 p.m.
A Diverse Welcome Reception
 Zoom - register in advance: rider.edu/diversewelcome
 A reception to welcome and introduce incoming freshmen and transfer students to the many diverse multicultural clubs and organizations that enrich Rider University's campus in different traditions and cultures.
Rider's multicultural clubs, Fraternity and Sorority Life organizations and the Center for Diversity and Inclusion

Wednesday, September 30 | 9:30 p.m.
LASO Talks: A Mental Health Event
 Zoom - register in advance: rider.edu/hispanic-mental-health
 (Note: Zoom link is no longer active)
 Laso will host an open discussion on mental health in the Latinx community, along with discussing how to cope when it comes to family, environment, and treatment. We will engage in stress free activities, ensuring that it is a safe space for everyone to speak.
LASO and the Center for Diversity and Inclusion

Monday, October 5 | 7:30 p.m.
Azucar! The evolution of music
 Zoom - register in advance: rider.edu/azucar
 Appreciating the eclectic sounds of Latinx culture through sounds of the Chicano/Hispanic/Latinx communities, we will explore the genres of Latinx music and how it has been used to help address social justice concerns in the Latinx community.
LASO and the Center for Diversity and Inclusion

Thursday, October 8 | 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Solidaridad: A peek into Latinx/Multicultural Greek Life
 Zoom - register in advance: rider.edu/multicultural-greek-life
 A panel discussing Latinx/Multicultural Greek life on campus. Included in this panel will be general information about these Greek organizations, why they choose these organizations, values that their organizations bring to the community, and examples of service that they do with the Latinx/Hispanic/Chicano communities.
Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity, Inc., Chi Upsilon Sigma Latin Sorority, Inc. and the Center for Diversity and Inclusion

Thursday, October 15 | 7:30 p.m.
Telenovelas: A Conversation about Colorism in the Latinx Community
 Zoom - register in advance: rider.edu/colorism
 Join us as we examine the impacts of colorism on the Latinx/Chicano/Hispanic community from the lens of our elders' favorite Telenovelas.
Center for Diversity and Inclusion

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

September 15-16 | 7 p.m.

COOKED: Survival by Zip Code

Zoom: rider.edu/greenfilms

The film tells the story of the tragic 1995 Chicago heat wave, the most traumatic in U.S. history, in which 739 citizens died over the course of just a single week, most of them poor, elderly and African American. A brief discussion follows the film.

Office of Sustainability and the Center for Diversity and Inclusion

Thursday, September 17 | 6:30 p.m.

Race Relations: A Community Discussion Continued

Zoom - register in advance: rider.edu/race-relations

Following the passing of George Floyd and others, the response of protestors and law enforcement have captivated the world. Discussions regarding police reform and race relations have ensued, with some calling for radical change within the U.S. criminal justice system. Led by Rider alumni, Jelani Walker and Dalin Hackley, this event will continue a dialogue among the Rider community regarding these issues. Attendees will be engaged in a conversation with a panel of students, faculty and staff to discuss the state of race relations in America, as well as suggest solutions to foster equality and acceptance within both Rider University and our own communities.

Center for Diversity and Inclusion

Wednesday, September 30 | 7 to 9 p.m.

My Vote Matters: Transforming Oppression into Opportunity (Part 1)

Zoom - register in advance: rider.edu/ridervotes-part1

The first session of this two-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.

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

Tuesday, October 6 | 7 to 9 p.m.

My Vote Matters: Transforming Oppression into Opportunity (Part 2)

Zoom - register in advance: rider.edu/ridervotes-part2

The second session of this two-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.

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

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

Media and the Movements: Civil Rights to Black Lives Matters

Zoom - register in advance: rider.edu/business-media-lecture

Business of Media in collaboration with the student group, Tapestry, presents "Media and the Movements: Civil Rights to Black Lives Matter." This program features esteemed civil rights activist, author, professor and one of Time magazine's 100 Most Influential People of 2020, Dr. Angela Y. Davis.

Business and Media and Lecture Series, Tapestry: A Blending of Cultures, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, TRIO programs

Sunday, October 11, 6:30 p.m. | Campus Mall

VIGIL: For Those We've Lost

We are welcoming the rider public to the Campus Mall for a remembrance vigil in honor of those who lost their lives to racial injustice. The ceremony will consist of speeches/performance highlighting the events that have occurred, and words of encouragement for the black community.

Black Student Union and Student Government Association

Wednesday, October 14 | 6:30 p.m.

The Archivettes: Lesbian Herstory Archives

To receive a Zoom link, those interested must contact Dr. Erica Ryan at eryan@rider.edu by Oct. 13. Founded in the 1970s in a New York City apartment, The Lesbian Herstory Archives is now the world's largest collection of materials by and about lesbians. For more than 40 years, the all-volunteer organization has striven to combat lesbian invisibility by literally rescuing history from the trash. Come join the Center for Diversity and Inclusion in collaboration with the Gender and Sexuality Studies program for an evening with filmmaker Megan Rossman as we explore her documentary film: *The Archivettes*.

Department of Gender & Sexuality Studies and the Center for Diversity and Inclusion

Rider prepping for voluntary surveillance testing next week

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

far exceeded that mark. Princeton University has administered over 21,500 tests; Quinnipiac University over 12,000; Iona College over 4,500 and Fairfield University over 2,700.

Some of these schools have started random surveillance testing of asymptomatic students, a process Rider has yet to implement. Some also made getting a test a requirement before returning to campus, an effort Rider did not make.

The surveillance testing will be voluntary, a quirk that will make generating higher testing numbers more difficult. Stasolla said that students must volunteer for the testing because the university did not notify them before the semester about a random testing program.

The plan, Stasolla said, is to test 80-100 students a week, which includes the thrice-weekly required testing of student-athletes. The university has thousands of rapid antigen tests set aside for the men's and women's basketball teams as well as for the wrestling team — resident students will not receive rapid antigen tests and instead will be given PCR tests, which are more suited for once-weekly testing because of their accuracy.

Testing will occur over a four-hour period each week, with results promised within 48 hours. The testing will be done in the tent outside the Student Health Center and will be administered by PCMA staff. Students' health insurance providers will be billed and the university will pay any remaining costs to make sure there are no out-of-pocket expenses for students. Stasolla said testing should take "no more than 15 minutes."

After a "trial" run to end the fall semester, the university is hoping to make the surveillance program mandatory in the spring.

"The university has been moving toward the direction of voluntary random surveillance," said Student Government Association Vice President of Academic Affairs Liz O'Hara. "And, while it does not mean every resident on campus will be tested, it will provide meaningful context to the reported data."



Carolo Pascale/The Rider News

After the university's agreement with Capitol Health Care Management fell through, administrators were left to pick up contact tracing and testing duties.

Rider implements online Master of Science program in cybersecurity

By Tatyanna Carman

RIDER has implemented a new online Master of Science program in cybersecurity, which will start in spring 2021, according to the program director and Adjunct Assistant Professor in Computer Science and Cybersecurity Elizabeth Hawthorne.

"Before joining the Rider faculty this January, I was contacted in 2019 as a curriculum consultant to help [Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Computer Science and Physics] John Bochanski develop the online M.S. in Cybersecurity degree," Hawthorne said. "The degree is online to attract both working professionals and students."

Bochanski said that the cybersecurity program joins "a small group of masters degrees that are already offered here at Rider."

Hawthorne said that some of the six-week courses that will be offered online include "CYBR 500 Beyond Code: Cybersecurity in Context and CYBR 501 Cryptography for Cybersecurity." There will be 10 students during the initial launch of the new online program, but Hawthorne projects "tremendous growth each semester thereafter."

"I believe the [online Master of Science program in cybersecurity] will have a long-term positive impact on the Rider community for both existing undergraduate and prospective graduate students. Rider is planning a new facility near the science building to house both the new computer science undergraduate program and Masters in cybersecurity program."

Bochanski said that cybersecurity is one of the most "in-demand fields in all job opportunities" right now.

"I think it's pretty obvious that cybersecurity is going to play a huge role in everyone's lives in the coming decades. This program is designed to meet the demand of today and the challenges of tomorrow and offers our students a diverse set of courses that include hands-on and theory-based courses."

Rider alumna Anastasia Kolovani '15 is one of the 10 students in the online program. She said that the program being online is "very flexible" and liked how the classes are for six weeks, which allows her to finish quicker.

"I think this program will help me gain more skills that complement the skills I gained from my undergrad degree. Based on what I read about the courses Rider is offering here, I'm excited to learn about so many different aspects of this field from cryptography to digital forensic analysis."

She also said that the flexibility offered in the program can attract many people looking to further their knowledge in this field.

Junior computer science major Koby Laurent said that this program is a great option because it is online.

"It would build a lot of great reputation for Rider, you know, to expand our profile because if we have more master's programs like cybersecurity or even robotics, it would really put us on the map even more," Laurent said. "To say that, 'Oh have you heard of Rider. Oh yeah, they have a really good master's program in cybersecurity or robotics or whatever.' Overall, it's just a really good move to add that [program] even if it's online."



Stephanie Jessiman/The Rider News

Master of Science online program in Cybersecurity joins a small group of master's degrees offered at Rider according to Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Computer Science and Physics John Bochanski.

COVID - 19 Counter

Confirmed Cases
Last updated: Oct. 6, 2020

14

Cumulative number of laboratory-confirmed COVID - 19 cases at Rider University (Since March 2020)

COVID - 19 case reports to Rider University by month:

Month/Year	Student Case Reports	Employee Case Reports
October 2020	3	0
September 2020	1	0
August 2020	3	1
July 2020	0	0
June 2020	0	2
May 2020	0	0
April 2020	0	1
March 2020	1	1

Carolo Pascale/The Rider News

ADVERTISEMENT



THE ARCHIVETTES

LESBIAN HERSTORY ARCHIVES



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14 | 6:30 P.M.

TO RECEIVE A ZOOM LINK, THOSE INTERESTED MUST CONTACT DR. ERICA RYAN AT ERYAN@RIDER.EDU BY OCTOBER 13

FOUNDED IN THE 1970S IN A NEW YORK CITY APARTMENT, THE LESBIAN HERSTORY ARCHIVES IS NOW THE WORLD'S LARGEST COLLECTION OF MATERIALS BY AND ABOUT LESBIANS. FOR MORE THAN 40 YEARS, THE ALL-VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION HAS STRIVEN TO COMBAT LESBIAN INVISIBILITY BY LITERALLY RESCUING HISTORY FROM THE TRASH.



COME JOIN THE CENTER FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN COLLABORATION WITH THE GENDER AND SEXUALITY STUDIES PROGRAM FOR AN EVENING WITH FILMMAKER MEGAN ROSSMAN AS WE EXPLORE HER DOCUMENTARY FILM: *THE ARCHIVETTES*. A Q&A WILL FOLLOW.



College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

CENTER FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION
Unity + Diversity = University

A new Rider Drag Race winner is crowned

By Sarah Siock

WITH wild wigs, stunning stilettos and fierce performances, drag queens took over the Bart Luedeke Center Theater for the fourth installment of Rider Drag Race on Oct. 2.

The competition kicked off at 7 p.m. with a limited in-person audience while hundreds watched the show via a Facebook livestream.

The show featured three segments: individual lip-sync, runway and a Q & A. The contestants also performed a group lip-sync to Whitney Houston's "I Wanna Dance With Somebody."

Senior popular musical major and the Student Entertainment Council Stage Chair Dean Klebonas hosted the event as his drag persona Tye Tot. Klebonas explained the decision for the queens to perform in-person.

"Drag is something that needs a stage. No queen wants to perform a lip-sync in her living room. It's all about selling it, performing, the bigger the better," said Klebonas, who planned the event with senior public relations major Janette Bowman.

Throughout the night, Klebonas encouraged viewers to donate to The Okra Project, a charity that is working to end the hunger crisis facing Black transgender people.

The contestants at this year's Drag Race were junior musical theater major Jack Wood as Vicky Vibrato, freshman musical theater major Luke Ferrari as Alexia Stallion and junior musical theatre major Andrew Smith as Peach Waters. All three queens were first-time competitors, with each stating they began creating their drag personas while self-quarantining during coronavirus lockdowns.

"I am a 'RuPaul's Drag Race' super fan so, over quarantine, I wanted to learn makeup. To me, drag means love and acceptance. It is a process but once you are in full beat and costume it's a feeling unlike any other," said Smith.

Despite all the queens being new to the world of drag, they worked the stage with ease. Ferrari strutted across the stage in 6-inch heels and Smith said it took him three-plus hours to complete his stage-ready look. The competitor's dedication to their performances spoke to the large crowd Rider Drag Race draws each year.

"Drag is universal, it is for everyone. You never know what will happen at a drag show. It is pure joy and entertainment. Rider Drag Race is also a great learning experience for those who don't know a lot about what drag is," said Wood. "I can't describe what it's like getting into hair and makeup, it's like you're a whole new person. It is a form of expression."

After all rounds of the competition were complete, a live vote took place. While each of the three drag queens had unique performances that showcased their distinctive personalities, ultimately, Ferrari was crowned the winner as his drag persona Alexia Stallion.

"Drag is one of the most accepting and loving environments to be around. Drag is undeniably one of the hardest things for anyone to do and the fact that the effort and love for it is shown in such a glorious event is so spectacular," said Ferrari.



Senior popular music major Dean Klebonas (left) hosts Rider Drag Race as his drag persona Tye Tot.

Ferrari also explained what drag means to him and the newfound confidence he feels while performing.

"I just graduated from high school and I jumped into drag over quarantine. I love the idea of blurring gender lines. To me, they are a construct that we have been given and I think we are in a time where you should just be who you are," said Ferrari. "My femininity is something I could not express in high school. Now that I'm out in the world I can be my own person. I finally feel like I can express that part of my life in such a beautiful way."

Rider Votes Team encourages students to partake in election

By Aaliyah Patel

ON Sept. 21, the Rider Votes Team stood outside the Moore Library with a table dedicated to educating and sharing resources with students about voter registration.

The team focuses on bringing the Rider community together in a coordinated effort that promotes student engagement, registering 60 students so far in the upcoming presidential election.

In collaboration with the Rider Votes Team, this initiative is ran by the Rebovich Institute for New Jersey Politics, the Center for Diversity and Inclusion, The Leadership Development Program, The Office of Service and Civic Engagement, The Women's Leadership Program, the Office of Sustainability Management, Greek Life and Student Involvement.

Joan Liptrot, director of service and civic engagement, explained the importance of establishing democracy for the future leaders of our country.

"The population of students at colleges and universities has diversified in the past 50 years but higher education institutions, including Rider, have continued their commitment to preparing students to be actively engaged citizens after they leave our university," Liptrot said.

The Rider Votes team has been involved in a number of national initiatives including the "All In Democracy Challenge," a program encouraging college campuses to increase student voting rates.



Since the Rider Votes initiative has begun, student voter participation has increased at Rider.

Scoring a Bronze and Silver Award in 2018, Rider University was named in Washington Monthly's 2020 Best Colleges for Student Voting Honor Roll.

According to the article Voting in America: A Look at the 2016 Presidential Election, by Thom File, a sociologist in the U.S. Census Bureau's Social, Economic, and Housing Statistics Division, the Current Population Survey (CPS) collects data on the entire U.S. population, including voting and registration.

"Citizens 65 years and older reported higher turnout (70.9%) than 45 to 64-year-olds (66.6%), 30 to 44-year-olds (58.7%) and 18 to 29-year-olds (46.1%)," File said.

Rider students have demonstrated a higher voter turnout rate than the national average.

Liptrot said, "Since we started the Rider Votes initiative, we have seen an increase in student voter participation."

Alex Long, a freshman undeclared major and member of Rider Votes, expressed the importance of voter education that is non-partisan.

"This week we are hosting Zoom calls to present different websites that people can use to get more information about the candidates on their states upcoming ballots. In these presentations, we are also providing websites that have compiled quotes from each candidate and fact check them," Long said.

The Office of Service and Civic Engagement is hosting Vote Ready information sessions that are open to all students and faculty members on BroncNation.



The Rider Votes team focuses on educating and sharing resources regarding voter registration.

A look inside Rider Drag Race's fierce competition



The Rider Drag Race contestants at this year's competition were freshman musical theater major Luke Ferrari as Alexia Stallion, junior musical theater major Jack Wood as Vicky Vibrato and junior musical theater major Andrew Smith as Peach Waters.



Junior musical theater major Andrew Smith performs during the lip-sync round as his drag persona Peach Waters.



Junior musical theater major Jack Wood performs a lip-sync to Lady Gaga's "Replay" during the competition as Vicky Vibrato.



Alexia Stallion, more commonly known as Luke Ferrari, is crowned the winner of Rider Drag Race's fourth installment.

"Big Brother" stars set to determine Rider's most dynamic duo

By Christian McCarville

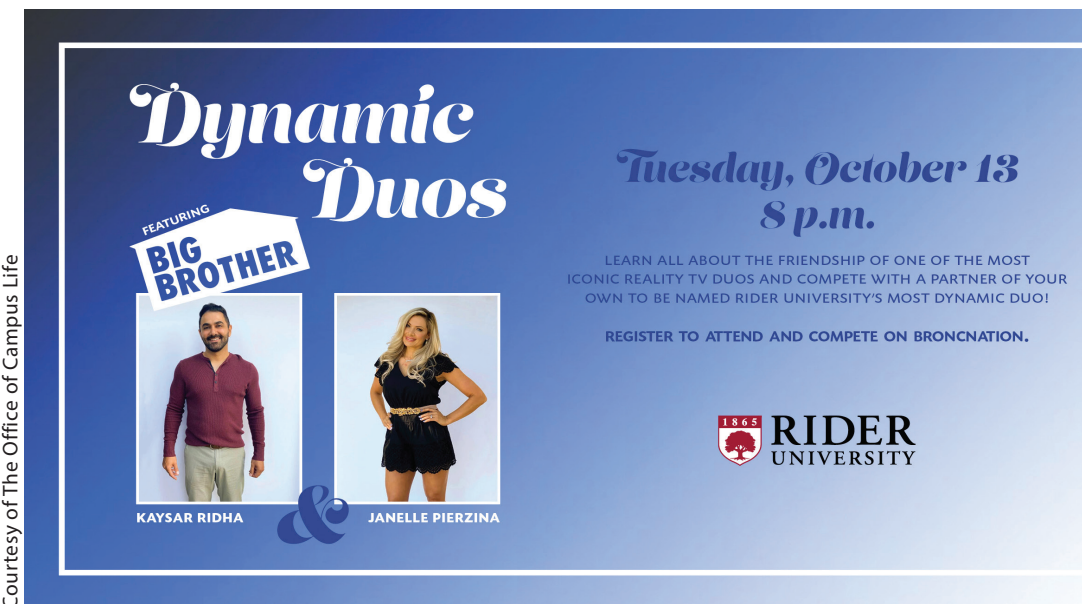
CONTINUING to think outside the box for virtual campus events, Rider is hosting an upcoming competition that focuses on teamwork and collaboration. This event, titled Dynamic Duos, will also feature two stars, Kaysar Ridha and Janelle Pierzina, from the hit television series Big Brother.

Dynamic Duos follows the format of several other virtual events that took place this semester — a Q & A with the special guests followed by the event involving the participating Rider students.

Associate Dean of Campus Life Nick Barbaty commented on how this event came to fruition.

"The Dynamic Duos event is one that we've been planning on introducing for a few years as an in-person obstacle course based event that just never was fully developed," said Barbaty. "As we were looking for new ways to bond our community this year, Dynamic Duos was reimaged for the virtual format to stress the sense of friendship that exists at Rider University."

Participating students are asked to complete a Google form indicating who their partner will be for the event. Students will be putting their friendships to the test, completing several partner activities that will reveal who Rider's most dynamic duo is.



Stars from the widely popular show "Big Brother" will take part in the upcoming Dynamic Duos event. Students attending this event will have the opportunity to ask the duo any questions that they may have.

"The challenges that the students will be competing in right now are a secret, but will be similar in nature to some of the types of challenges that take place on Big Brother," said Barbaty. "We promise, though, that there won't be a crazy endurance competition."

The guests for the event, Ridha and Pierzina, are highly respected in the Big Brother community. The two have been known for their teamwork and strong alliance on the show, making them great candidates for the event.

Ridha has appeared on Big Brother seasons 6, 7 and 22 and set many records from his time on the show. Pierzina, also holding many notable records on show, was featured on Big Brother seasons 6, 7, 14 and 22. She also won the "America's Favorite Houseguest" award for her impressive success in the show's seventh season. These two commonly worked together throughout their respective seasons, forging a strong alliance that became a highlight in the show's long-running series.

"There is perhaps no other duo on television that best exemplifies friendship, particularly the bond that can be created with others who have a different life experience, than Kaysar and Janelle," said Barbaty. "I was able to reach out to an agent that we have worked with to connect us, and the program was created quickly."

Junior finance major Sam Poehlmann is a recent fan of the Big Brother series. He provided some insight regarding the role that teamwork plays in the show.

"Alliances and the social aspect of Big Brother is just as important as the competitions in my opinion," said Poehlmann. "You can see from the first episode of the season that contestants immediately seek out others that they want to work with and form alliances."

Students who would like to attend the event have the opportunity to ask a question to Ridha and Pierzina. The Google form sent out to active students' Rider email includes a text box where a question may be submitted.

Barbaty explained that the goal of this event is to showcase the many strong alliances within the Rider community.

"The inspiration for Dynamic Duos was about showing some of the strong bonds that exist at Rider University and celebrating the friendships that make up our larger Community while also introducing our students to some well-known individuals that embody what true friendship is about — overcoming adversity, appreciating each other's differences, and working together for a common cause," said Barbaty.

For those interested in watching the event or competing alongside other pairs of Rider students, Dynamic Duos will take place via Zoom on Oct. 13 at 8 p.m.

FROM THE EDITOR

The right to vote

OCT. 13 is the last day in New Jersey to register to vote. As someone who will be participating in their first presidential election, the idea of our vote being so significant, now more than ever, is overwhelming. It can take a toll to think about how different the voting process will be now that we are in a global pandemic.

BBC reported a survey last year that found that 43% of 18-29 year olds said they were likely to vote in their party's primary but actual turnout appears to have been far lower than that. An analysis of exit polls from Tufts University suggests youth turnout in the Super Tuesday states ranged from 5% to 19%. Why are young adults reluctant to vote? Possibly because voting is looked at as an added responsibility rather than a right that should be exercised.

Also, younger voters may not know exactly who to vote for, which could be their deciding factor. Many young people complain about registration deadlines, and for students living out of their home states, getting an absentee ballot can be even more complicated.

Political science professor Olivia Newman said, "Voting is always important, but this year more than ever. Our country is facing so many challenges that can only be resolved by a government that truly reflects and represents all of its citizens. It is especially important for young people to vote because they have the most at stake."

As constituents of the U.S. government, American citizens seem to believe that laws and policies are something that happens to us, not with us. Although citizens have the right to vote, it is not always easy to.

A lot of young people can feel disengaged from politics. A Harvard survey found that only 16% of those aged 18 to 29 agreed with the statement that "elected officials who are part of the Baby Boomer generation care about people like me."

Actress and activist Yara Shahidi described voting as an upper middle class hobby — you have to have the time to physically go vote. If you have an hourly job that is not always your reality. Then there is voter disenfranchisement, the practice to prevent a person from exercising their right to vote. But, when we look at lack of voter education there is a political jargon that is used that intentionally targets a specific group of people. A group of people who actually understands our political system. But, for those who are outside of that, then voting in our government is something that happens to you, rather than something that happens with you.

"It is easy to feel alienated from the political process when the political process can be so ugly and it seems like nothing ever gets done," Newman said. "But our system depends upon input from the people, and voting is one of the easiest ways for us to have a say. You may wonder what 'one small vote' can change. But all those votes add up. Make sure that your voice is heard in this

and future elections."

One voice can often feel inadequate in this political climate, but it is important to remember that many successful politicians and social justice advocates probably felt the same as you at one point or another.

If you do not feel like current politicians reflect the viewpoints of their younger constituents, then take action. It is common for someone to ask, 'what can I do?'

You do not have to become a politician or even be well versed in the political tensions, debates, and climate of our country to take action, although, it is often recommended. The most basic way to make an impact on your community or a social justice issue is to vote.

Many people often forget that voting is a privilege and many people do not have that privilege, both inside and outside this country. There are many people to this day that do not have a say in the politics of their country, not to mention the people excluded from voting in this country. Those who are non-citizens of the U.S., those who are or have been in prison and those who are deemed mentally incapacitated are all excluded depending on the state.

This doesn't count for the populations that have been historically excluded from voting. Women only got the right to vote in 1920; this year marks the 100th anniversary of this event.

"Voting and citizenship was largely denied to people of color until 1870," according to americanprogress.org, and while people of color were legally granted voting rights after the Civil War and Reconstruction, this country continued to block them from voting using other methods.

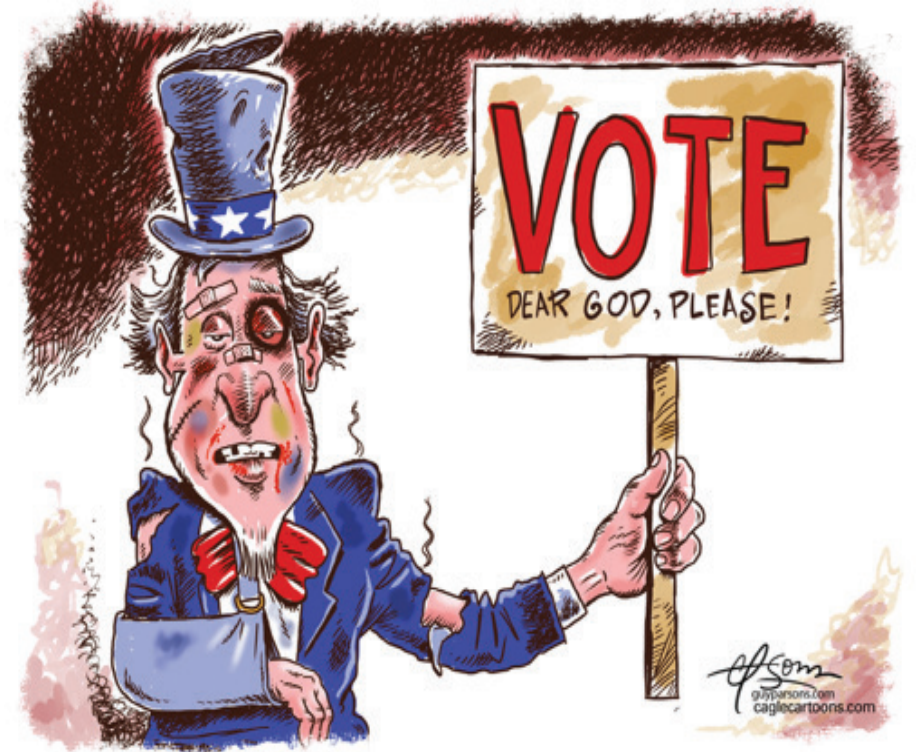
Many people feel like if these minority groups fought for the right to vote, then those groups specifically should vote. Even if you're not a minority vote, this country was founded on the principles that people should have a more vocal and representative role in the government because they were so oppressed in Great Britain.

Everyone who is eligible to vote should exercise that right. One voice may not seem that powerful, but it can make a big difference. Even if you don't feel very connected or passionate about politics, there will be at least one issue that you will be concerned about and your voice should be heard.

This editorial expresses the unanimous opinion of The Rider News Editorial Board. This week's editorial was written by Opinion Editor Qur'an Hansford and freshman psychology major Bridget Gum



Courtesy of Cagle Cartoons



Courtesy of Cagle Cartoons

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 Jacobacci

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 Jacobacci

Kaylee Ettinger

Social Media Editors

Gerard Blandina

Hannah Drew

Juliette Eddings

Faculty Adviser

Dr. Jackie Incollongo

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.

 @theridernews

 www.theridernews.com

 @theridernews

 facebook.com/theridernews

 ridernews@rider.edu

COVID CHRONICLES

The transfer student perspective: From Mercer County to Rider University

THE current pandemic has allowed for periods of reflection as well as newness. Yet, a process that should have been simple, transferring colleges has become harder and more awkward during this time.

I graduated from Mercer County Community College in May, received my diploma via mail and the college skimped on online graduation or even mailing the graduates tassels.

Nothing about graduating was exciting to me. I missed out on a journalism conference in New York City and missed out on making valuable connections for my career field. When I won awards for my previous news pieces, I could not be excited due to the confusion of everything that happened since March.

When it came time to finally commit to a college, I was stuck between Ursinus College in Collegeville, Pennsylvania, and Rider University. For me, these colleges were on equal footing, both were giving me the same amount of aid. Both had the same clubs I was interested in, but the final decision was made due to location.

According to McKinsey.com, 21% of students surveyed have changed their first-choice school due to the pandemic, most cited cost and location to be a factor.

I have lived in Hamilton Township my whole life, I have been to Collegeville, Pennsylvania, once when I was 11 years old for a dance competition. So Rider it was — since it was the only school I was familiar with.

I could not get excited about making my decision. I just wanted to be done with school. I kept telling myself, “maybe I should take a gap semester.”

According to Insidehighered.com, “fourteen percent of college students said they were unlikely to return to their current college or university in the fall, or it was “too soon to tell.” Exactly three weeks later, in mid-April, that figure had gone up to 26 percent.”

However, I knew if I took a gap semester, I most likely would not come back to a school environment.

“Transfer students have it especially tough because, by one’s junior year, a lot of students already have friend groups, clubs they’re involved in and they’ve found their niche,” stated Kathleen Smith, a communications alumna of James Madison University.

Besides, being shy and a little anti-social, I found it extremely difficult using Zoom to connect and join new clubs. Zoom makes conversations uncomfortable at times especially when lag occurs on either end.

I joined the Multicultural Student Leadership Institute - Transfer only because I knew of the culture of that club since my friend joined it her freshman year and I already knew the board and student workers through that mutual friend. If I was

left up to my own devices, there is no way I would have joined any club until we were physically on campus.

I have not joined any dance-based club for that same reason. I am not going to do virtual dance sessions after being a dancer for 16 years of my life. The excitement has vanished when it comes to any events that I would have typically been thrilled to participate in.

There is a newness to everything, first being on a new campus. I do not know where anything is. All my previous connections with professors are not here. There are not many familiar faces on campus.

“It’s only two more years,” is the deadly mentality that I started to develop during this process. Two years is nothing compared to four years, why should I bother putting myself out there if it is only two years.

Aaliyah Patel, a freshman communications major stated, “Transitioning from any school to another is always overwhelming, especially now during a pandemic when the process is all virtual. Rider did a great job at being accessible and holding events remotely which made it easier.”

junior multiplatform journalism
Tori Pender

FRESHMEN FINDINGS

Voting in 2020: What is my vote worth?

WHAT is my vote worth? Doesn’t the Electoral College decide everything anyway? Why does it matter? These are questions that many citizens ask themselves every four years when the presidential election comes around.

When it comes to the Electoral College deciding who the next president will be, that is in fact accurate. But what is the Electoral College? What is the popular vote? The popular vote is the actual number of citizens who voted for one of the candidates. According to the New York Times, “The Electoral College is a group of people that elects the President and the Vice President of the United States.” Sounds pretty unfair, right?

Although, we actually have more power than it sounds like. Each person gets to vote for “electors” who are appointed by the political parties in each state. This means that you do not vote for the president directly, but you can vote for an elector who is of the same political party as the candidate you want. However, the electors do not have to vote for the candidate that is of the same political party as the one they were appointed.

So why is voting so important? According to freshmen political science major Nick Kelly-Wilson, “I feel like the people who can vote really need to because it’s our country and we need to be an active member of society.”

I happen to agree with Kelly-Wilson because so many people complain about the policies in this country and fight for certain social issues, but if you are not willing to vote, how passionate can you be?

Kelly-Wilson also mentions the fact that “It’s actually the 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage which is super cool and I feel like it would be like, honestly, as a woman super disrespectful to my ancestors, if I did not vote because all these women fought for this right.”

I can speak to the same experience. Yes, this year, voting was definitely different and it was not how I dreamed my first time voting would be, but it was incredibly empowering to have my first time voting be on the 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage.

Unfortunately, not everyone feels that way. In the 2016 presidential election, only 60.2% of eligible voters actually voted, according to NPR, and in our age group, 18-29, only 46.1% of eligible voters voted, according to the U.S. Census. Some people do not vote because they do not feel educated enough. Some feel that with all of the political tension and arguments, it can be really challenging to pick a side without offending someone or starting a fight.

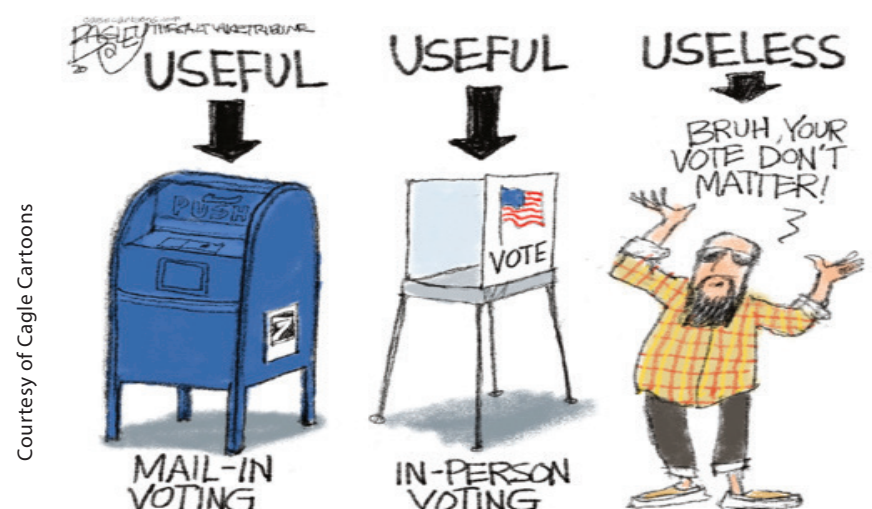
For the people who do not feel educated enough, it is important to find a non-biased website to get your information from so that you can become properly informed about the issues. I find that ISideWith.com is one of the best websites to get information from.

What I love about ISideWith.com is that they offer a voters’ quiz and based on your answers, it suggests which presidential candidate you should vote for, like a compatibility test for presidential candidates.

It is more than that though, they rank your compatibility on every candidate. I find that it really helps these political barriers fall away and it could open your eyes to see these candidates and parties have some merit, even if you do not agree with everything they may think.

The website also provides expandable information like more information, discussion forums, viewpoints from the political parties, and statistics, so if you are not informed on a particular issue, you can educate yourself. You can also rank how important the issues are to you and answer more questions on the topics you are very interested in.

Freshman psychology major
Bridget Gum



Courtesy of Cagle Cartoons

An ode to the 2000



Photo Courtesy of Lori Hussong

Members of the 2000 Rider field hockey team after they defeated Quinnipiac 1-0 to win the championship. It was **Lori Hussong's** first season as the head coach of the Broncs.

By **Dylan Manfre**

THERE is no denying Lori and Dan Hussong's, head coach and assistant coach, ear-to-ear smile and candid laughter when they reminisce about the 2000 Rider field hockey season.

Lori Hussong pulled out a burgundy red chest with a team photo after Rider won the Northeast Conference (NEC) championship and grinned as if she was looking at a photo of their five children and the memories kept flooding back. It was filled with individual thank you cards from each of the players.

Rider finished the 2000 regular season at 5-5, losing to Siena in the final seconds of the last game. The Broncs snuck into the playoffs as the No. 4 seed because they allowed the fewest goals in conference play.

Then came top-seeded Monmouth in the semifinals, who were only shut out once in the regular season.

Monmouth was a team Rider had no business defeating, according to former midfielder Christine Cabarle.

Monmouth, a mammoth competition

"Our rival was Monmouth. If there was any team we wanted to beat it was Monmouth," said Cabarle, who was a First-Team All-NEC selection in 2000. "They were well-coached and they had good stick work and great speed. And they were a culture of winning. So that's powerful. When it's part of the pedigree, it's a very powerful thing."

Was Rider intimidated?

"No," Cabarle said with certainty. "Intimidated is not something I think any of us ever felt. ... We were, by that point, pretty relentless."

The game was personal for captain Tracey Speck (now Speck-Cistaro). She got chills reminiscing about the semifinal game, especially since Monmouth was her second choice. She spoke to Monmouth's Head Coach Monica Morgan Levy in high school and was born and raised in West Long Branch, New Jersey.

Rider tightened its corners and worked on stick work in the final tune-up before the semifinal began. Multiple former players recalled the cold weekend and grey sky that added to the atmosphere of facing rival Monmouth.

Erika Tocce had one painfully distinct memory from the semifinal game. Darting for the ball, the official got in her way, accidentally colliding with Tocce's left shoulder. The official sustained a broken rib.

"I remember the ref was literally in the path of the shot and I knew if I didn't get there, I don't know, and I rammed right into her," Tocce said. "I felt so bad and I found out the next day I broke her rib. She didn't call a foul on me because she was in the way. ... I remember that vividly. I will never

forget that."

Jannette Freeberg scored in the early minutes of the game, forcing Rider to rely heavily on its defense. The goal gave the Broncs momentum, especially since they were the visitor. It was the only goal they needed to complete the 1-0 upset and Monmouth's second shutout of the year.

Jen Cushinotto, nicknamed "Cush" by her teammates and coaches, immediately felt the mounting pressure in the cage throughout the game.

"There was a lot of excitement. We were together as a team. You know, right, just the feeling of, that anticipation as we were walking to the field, I remember walking to the field," Cushinotto said. "And it was a little like, 'We deserve to be here.'"

"We would be on a high, and then we would lose a game we should not have lost," Cabarle said. "So it was very up-and-down for the athletes, and I'm sure for coach [Lori Hussong] and coach Dan [Hussong] it was probably incredibly exhausting. But I remember that final game against Monmouth, and I don't think that was not a done deal til the whistle blew."

Rider was a heavy underdog in the 2000 postseason, but the team felt it deserved to be there.

In 48 hours, the Broncs went from upsetting the No. 1 seed in the semifinals to hoisting the program's first NEC championship after defeating defending champion Quinnipiac 1-0.

With under 30 seconds left in the Quinnipiac game, Lori Hussong said Cushinotto made a head-first diving save to secure the championship.

"We were just shocked. I think we were all shocked," Lori Hussong said. "You know, we were all just smiling. We couldn't wipe the smile off our face. But I think it made you think 'OK, we got one, now let's go for the second one.'"

Coming Together

To the players, Monmouth was the climax of the unprecedented season. That game in particular stuck out to them — mainly because of where the Broncs started that Cinderella season.

"If you compared that game with our first day of preseason it would be pretty unbelievable," Cabarle said. "You would never look at that first practice, that first run, and be like 'yeah this team's going to win the final.'"

Cabarle, trying not to make the situation sound as bad as it was, chuckled when she said the first run of preseason practice "wouldn't constitute as a run for some people."

The goal of the practices was to get the best out of the players. And it is exactly what the Hussongs did.

"I love having someone who pushes me, I love having their passion for the game there," Cushinotto said. "They

expected a lot from us, they had very high expectations. I'm sure it exhausted them, but they got out of us ... the potential that I don't think another coach could have gotten out of us. And in the years previous had not been able to pull out of the teams [they coached]."

Lori Hussong and Dan Hussong came to Rider after successful careers in the West Windsor-Plainsboro school district. The Broncs teams before 2000 were nowhere near what the winning atmosphere the Hussongs were used to. The Hussongs had high expectations.

"We were young coaches. So you know, even though we were older than those girls, it was a new experience for us and so we came in as authority figures. But I think we were also open, like, we knew we were going to learn a lot," Dan Hussong said. "And we were going to learn under fire. As we went in, I think we went in kind of as an open book ... we had a plan. And we were going to stick to the plan. But we were also going to have a plan B and a plan C because plan A wasn't working. You've got to make adjustments. And I think that you know, we were adjustable even though we still stuck to the principal."

Some of the players were not used to the heightened intensity level either. Cushinotto made it to the New Jersey championship game as a senior at Ocean City High School, but went 4-14 in 1999 as a freshman at Rider.

Tricia Carroll, the head coach before Lori Hussong, was a dual head coach of the Rider softball team. Tocce, who played under Carroll for her first three seasons, said field hockey wasn't Carroll's "baby." She was more focused on coaching softball, whereas the Hussongs devoted their lives to field hockey.

"She was really good at softball," Tocce said. "Field hockey was secondary ... [When Lori Hussong came,] we got a coach who lived and breathed field hockey."

As she sat in front of her computer screen, Cabarle laughed when she heard Dan Hussong described the 2000 team as "unorganized little fireballs" in a prior interview with The Rider News.

Cushinotto said that was an accurate description of the group.

"They wanted to be coached, they wanted to be successful," Lori Hussong said. "They just needed a little bit of direction and how to get that accomplished because the talent was there. But the guidance wasn't there. They were very receptive to us coming because they desperately wanted to be successful to our program."

Desperate may be too soft a word to articulate their drive and insurmountable hunger.

When asked who the fireball was, Cabarle admitted it was "probably" her.

"I'm very, very aggressive," Cabarle said. "And I was

field hockey team



Team	NEC Pts.	Overall Pct.	Streak	Home	Away	Neutral
1. Monmouth*	9-1 .900	11-9 .550	L1	6-5	5-4	0-0
2. Quinnipiac*	6-4 .600	9-11 .450	L1	4-3	4-6	1-2
3. Rider*	5-5 .500	10-12 .455	L1	5-5	4-7	1-0
Sacred Heart*	5-5 .500	6-13 .316	L1	3-3	3-9	0-1
Siena	5-5 .500	5-10 .333	L2	3-5	2-5	0-0
6. UMBC	0-10 .000	0-11 .000	L11	0-5	0-6	0-0

* Clinched NEC Tournament berth



Graphic by Carolo Pascale/The Rider News

an uncontrolled aggressive, when [Dan Hussong] says uncontrolled fireballs, that's a nice way of putting things."

Lori Hussong said Cabarle was "the ultimate competitor."

Cushinotto called Cabarle a natural leader. She rallied the troops when they needed to be uplifted. She does not remember the game it happened, but Cushinotto recalled a time when she was feeling down during a game and Cabarle snapped her right out of it.

"She grabbed me by the facemask. And she looked at me, 'We need you, you've got this,'" Cushinotto said. "She knew what to say in the moment. And it snapped me out of it. And you know, she did that for all of us. She really did. She could really snap us out of it and pull us along."

Ironically, Cabarle, who ended up making First Team All-NEC in 2000, was almost not a member of the 2000 team. She played field hockey before college but "didn't want to know anything field hockey-related," when she got to Rider.

She had a communications class with Speck-Cistaro, who gave her the final push to join the team.

"I do remember her personality, her hard work that I saw in the classroom," said Speck-Cistaro, who was named Second-Team All-NEC in 2000. "And she just had that athletic look to her. I had spoken to her that she did previously play, and I'm like, 'We need more players.' We were a small team. I was like, 'You need to come out,' And she ended up coming out."

The team bonded through its intense practices and fierce

runs all leading up to its first win of the regular season against West Chester University.

"They were euphoric afterward. And we were saying, you know, 'Do you feel the difference?' I mean, it's a 1-0 game either way. But it's so much better when you get the one and the other team doesn't get a goal. You know you feel terrific. ... and I think they caught on to that," Dan Hussong said. "So I think they went from being kind of scattered in their effort to now learning, 'Hey, let's play together, you know, play good with your teammates around you, and good things are gonna happen.'"

And they did. The team of unorganized little fireballs went on to defeat Quinnipiac in the 2000 NEC championship 1-0 with Speck-Cistaro scoring the winning goal with less than two minutes remaining.

Where are they now?

During the spring of 2001, the players came back for the alumni game between the graduating class of 2000 and the 2001 team. To the surprise of the Hussongs, the players treated it as an actual game while it was meant to be a light-hearted scrimmage.

"You know, they weren't in game shape like the 2001 kids, but they were battling like it was for a championship and we were like, 'Calm down. There's no trophy at the end of this game,'" Dan Hussong said. "You know, we were just afraid someone could get hurt because they were fierce competitors. And they were ready to come and defend their honor."

Now the players have families of their own, but are still connected to the field hockey program in some way.

Freeberg's daughter Jade was a 2019 graduate of the field hockey program and wore her mom's No. 11 jersey.

Cabarle was the head coach of the Hussongs' daughter, Colby, when she was a senior at West Windsor-Plainsboro South. The Hussongs were also at Cabarle's wedding last summer.

Cushinotto's children met the Hussongs at an alumni event in 2014.

One of the final times they were all together was their end of season banquet. Coming off of the championship, the Hussongs only knew them for about six months.

"The banquet is so touching because it was full of laughter. But there was a lot of pride ... they were really like, thankful for being driven hard, being brought together," Dan Hussong said. "And the banquet was so nice because when the seniors spoke, they were kind of like feeling 'I wish I was a freshman, you guys, you're lucky, you're going to experience more of this and we're moving on,' but it was touching to us really, ... But they were really speaking from their heart to each other."

From the undeniably sincere gaze in her eye, Lori Hussong probably felt those same emotions as she looked at the glass-protected photo of the team who got the biggest upset in Rider field hockey history.

Sports

ONLINE

THE SPORTS SECTION PODCAST

Check out episode 2 of The Sports Section Podcast on Spotify!

FEATURING DYLAN MANFRE, SHAUN CHORNOBROFF AND CAROLO PASCALE

WOMEN'S SOCCER

New Bronc Chloe Fisher out to make her mark



Photo courtesy of Chloe Fisher

After transferring from Kansas State University, **Chloe Fisher** figures to be a big part of the Broncos' 2020-2021 team.

By **Shaun Chornobroff**

THE legend of Chicago Bulls legend and NBA Hall of Famer Michael Jordan being cut from his sophomore basketball team has become folklore among the sports world. While Jordan's success may be an outlier, his story of being rejected and using that to fuel his success is seen among several athletes, including Rider women's soccer forward Chloe Fisher.

Fisher admits to playing with a chip on her shoulder and a sense of resiliency, something she acquired in her teenage years.

"It started when I was trying to go into an academy when I was 13 and I got denied into every team I tried out for. It gave me a bit of eagerness to see whether I'm good enough, then the year after, seeing I'm good enough and I just didn't believe in myself was a bit more of an 'OK, now I'm going to prove it to people,'" Fisher said confidently.

Fisher is from Warrington, England, and started playing soccer when she was 9 years old, joining a grassroots team called Crossfield.

At 13, Fisher decided to test herself and try out for major clubs Manchester United, who her family were die-hard supporters of, Liverpool, Manchester City and Everton. No team offered her a spot. The next year, Fisher tried out for Manchester United, Everton, Liverpool and Stoke City and was offered a spot at her favorite club, Manchester United, along with Everton.

Fisher represented both Manchester United and Everton by the time she came to the United States for a new challenge.

One day, Fisher received a message from College Scholarship USA (CSUSA), a company that helps provide students with opportunities for athletic scholarships in the United States. Fisher admits to thinking it was a scam at first, but she talked to her father and they gave it a chance.

"I went to the one a couple of weeks later... There were seven scouts there and I got scouted by all seven, one of them was Kansas State University. I ended up going to K-State," Fisher explained.

Fisher's time at Kansas State was a roller coaster from day one.

"We got into the first game and only the juniors and seniors got played and I was confused by that and he said he 'always gave them more of an opportunity because they've been here longer.' That kind of threw me off, so I asked him after the game because that's what we do in England, we go up and ask the coach, but he kind of took it to heart. The next game, he put me in the last 15 minutes of the game and he said 'come on' because we were up 2-1 and he's like 'try and get your name on the goal-scoring sheet,'" Fisher explained. "This is my first time on the field and on my first touch, I scored. It was a good feeling because it kind of proved a point to him that even though I was a freshman I could still do it and there were about three internationals there and I was the only one that played that season."

Fisher appeared in all 18 games the Wildcats played that season, but struggled with the number of minutes she played throughout the season.

Although at the end of the season one of her coaches told her "your time will come, it's your sophomore year where you get more time," Fisher always had her doubts.

In the spring season, Fisher showed her talent and proved she could be a consistent contributor for Kansas State.

"I did well in spring, we played four games, I scored four and assisted a couple and that was the first time I started a game as well," Fisher said.

The spring was a preview, but Fisher made a statement in an exhibition game against the University of Arkansas.

"I got started, I scored the first goal we were one-nil up, assisted the second goal we were two-nil up, then he brought me off and said, 'Oh well done you've done your job,'" Fisher said. "Thirty minutes later we're 3-2 down now and he's like, 'Chloe. I want to put you back on' and I'm like, 'Right, OK.' I get right back on and assist the next goal and we finish 3-3... At the end of the game, I didn't even get one well done and other girls did, so I was a bit like 'huh' and ever since that game, when I did so well and was involved in all three goals, I never got any recognition

and after that, I kept getting 10-15 minutes a game and in that game, I got 70 minutes. It was in the middle of that season, not even the middle, the start because I had doubts since my first season, that I was like 'I can't do this' it was mentally hurting me too much to know I was trying to give everything in training and never really getting an opportunity to show what I've got and so at the end of the regular season I come to the meeting and I just said 'I don't want to stay here no more.'"

Fisher entered the transfer portal in December 2019 and after talking to many coaches and creating a spreadsheet weighing the pros and cons of many schools, the forward committed to Rider in January 2020.

Fisher heard about the school from former England youth national team teammate and junior defender Niamh Cashin.

Head Coach Drayson Hounsome is particularly excited about Fisher joining the team as she gives the option of a strong target forward. And according to Fisher, Hounsome sees her as the potential final piece in getting Rider back to the MAAC Championship.

"It also caught my eye because they've been caught out, they told us in the last three years in the quarterfinals they've missed out on the MAAC Championship and he said 'with the asset of me in the team as a strong forward getting goals that might be one of the difference makers in getting extra goals which could lead us to there and the aim is to win silverware and put your name out there.'"

Fisher is happy to be at Rider, but is also trying to prove a point to her old coaches at Kansas State.

"The point that I went out there and I had two years of misery on the soccer side of it, gives me even more fight. Because I feel like even though I knew I had it in the last two years, I wasn't able to give it, so now going to Rider, I'm going to make sure I win it and to show K-State, they can kinda lose, but I'm not going to lose no more."