

Professor Angela Davis shares views on Black Lives Matter at Rider

By Hailey Hensley

OVER 250 students attended the Business of Media lecture with Professor Angela Davis, a prominent activist and civil rights movement icon. The event was put on in collaboration with Tapestry, a co-curricular initiative that seeks to amplify minority student voices.

Davis has authored more than 10 books and was named one of Time Magazine's most influential people of 2020.

According to Davis, she was raised by activists in what was then known as the most segregated city, Birmingham, Alabama.

Davis cited her education in segregated schools as a "gift," stating that it allowed her to receive an education that encouraged her to stand up against the racism that was so normalized at the time, especially in the Jim Crow south.

"I point out that was actually a gift to have been taught by teachers in segregated schools because my teachers encouraged us all to resist the way things were organized according to racism at that time. I can remember that while we did know about the Ku Klux Klan and witnessed bombings and so forth, we also had examples of our teachers who stood up and taught us about Black people who had fought against racism in the past," Davis said.

Davis emphasized that for as long as she could remember, she was taught to fight the way things were. That was then manifested in her activism throughout her life.

"Fortunately I grew up in a family of activists. So as I learned about the meaning of racism and racial segregation, I also learned that we had to challenge it and that we had to stand up and fight back. So that's kind of been in my blood, in my DNA you might say," she said. "My activism today is very much connected to the way I grew up and the lessons I learned from my parents: that we had to stand up for our own dignity, for our rights, for our freedom."

Davis has persevered as an activist on a wide variety of issues, such as criminal justice system reform and the detriments



Courtesy of Rider University

Professor Angela Davis has authored 10 books including "Are Prisons Obsolete?" and "The Meaning of Freedom."

Surveillance testing program delayed at least another week



Carolo Pascale/The Rider News

An administrative holdup will cause Rider's surveillance testing program to be delayed for at least another week.

By Stephen Neukam

RIDER will delay its random surveillance coronavirus testing program for at least a week after the university learned that the out-of-state company the university contracted with is unable to work in New Jersey, according to a top university official.

Personal Care Medical Associates (PCMA), a Pennsylvania-based health care provider that Rider retained for its new testing efforts, must register with the New

Jersey Communicable Disease Reporting and Surveillance System, which reports and tracks cases for the state. This was overlooked by administrators in talks with the company and when designing the testing program.

The delay is another setback in the university's testing infrastructure, which was majorly disrupted when negotiations with another health care provider fell through before the start of the semester. Rider lags significantly behind peer institutions in testing, a troubling sign for those on and off campus.

There are also worrying signs for student involvement in the random testing infrastructure. The program, which is voluntary for the fall semester, has only received 38 student applications, according to Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Planning and Secretary to the Board Debbie Stasolla. The goal is to test 80-100 students a week.

With the testing delayed, the university still plans to start testing all members of the men's and women's basketball teams this week, which, according to Stasolla, was mandated by the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC). The student-athletes will receive the test kits that the school already has in its possession, purchased when the university learned early in the semester that it would have to take on testing duties.

Stasolla was unable to confirm the cost of the PCR tests the university has purchased because she said she did not know the price.

MAAC testing obligations mean that the university must test the men's and women's basketball teams weekly, although since the semester began six weeks ago, a total of only 18 tests have been administered by the Student Health Center, according to data released on Oct. 13.

Students who enrolled in the voluntary random testing program were scheduled to be first tested on Oct. 13. The students were notified the day before that the testing had been delayed.

While the administration is hopeful that the delay will only last a week, Stasolla said the school was attempting to expedite the approval process but was unsure if it would be ready in time for next week's scheduled testing.

Stasolla also confirmed that the university is not testing the sewage of residence halls after some



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REWIND

Take a look back at the Rider football program.
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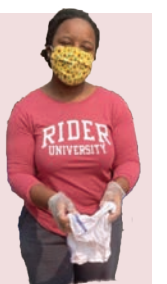


CHAUVIN POSTS BAIL

Former Minneapolis police officer is released on bail of \$1 million.
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MEALS ON WHEELS

The Meals on Wheels program implements safety protocols to continue feeding those in need.
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SECURITY BRIEFS

BY STEPHEN NEUKAM

Smells Clean and Green

Funny smell. On Oct. 6 at 11:45 a.m., Public Safety was called to Olson Hall for a report of a possible smell of marijuana. When officers arrived, they found that the smell was just the disinfectant spray that was being used to clean the building.

Dented Ride

Bad parking job. On Oct. 6 at 5:18 p.m., a student went to her car in the parking lot behind Kroner Hall and found that her car had been damaged and that the car parked next to her also had damage. The suspect car was unregistered at Rider. The incident was referred to the Lawrence Township Police Department.

Flooding Issues

Running water. On Oct. 5 at 3:32 p.m., Public Safety was called to the Fine Arts Center for a report of damaged costumes. When officers arrived, it was found that the basement of the building had flooded with about four inches of water that damaged nearly 750 costumes stored by the Theater and Dance Department. It is expected that the water entered the building on a day that there was a lot of rainfall and the damage was not discovered until days later.

— Information provided by Interim Capt. Matthew Babcock

“There are no sacrifices for justice,” says Angela Davis at Rider event

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of capitalism. “I think that that the work that we have to do is to help people to become aware of the fact that what they think they want, our desires that are very much conditioned by ideologies and even the deepest aspirations are often framed by capitalism, and I’m not saying that we have to beat ourselves up over that, but we do have to recognize and realize how important it is to build collectives and communities,” Davis said.

Davis also touched on the issue of women’s rights in her talk, as she has been a longstanding advocate for women since the early days of her activism.

“It’s so important to point out that you know women and people who don’t identify with the gender binary have not only been the targets of racist repression, but have been involved in the organizing of movements is a matter of fact the majority of the members of the Black Panther Party were women and hardly anybody knows that,” Davis said.

Davis clarified that women in the history of the civil rights movement are often glossed over, with men being credited with the vast majority of the movement, despite the massive role that women played.

“Those of us who argue for a for an anti-racist anti-capitalist feminist perspective find ourselves constantly having to do a kind of correction that you cannot do this work effectively if you discount the part that progressive radical anti-racist anti-capitalist feminism plays,” she said. “We wouldn’t have a civil rights movement if it weren’t for the women and I’m not just talking about Rosa Parks. I’m talking about the vast numbers of black women, black women domestic workers who joined that movement and created this



Hailey Hensley/The Rider News

Davis emphasized her personal growth that was spurred by hardships she endured, making it very clear that she did not view her hardships as sacrifices for the movement.

Collective imagination of what the future could be.”

Davis then discussed the role social media plays in today’s social movements and specifically in the Black Lives Matter movement.

“I think the work that social media and mainstream media has done has been so important. And I think that having people who do media work who are aware and conscious and encouraging people to ask questions is important. It’s not just about presenting the facts because we know that when Rodney King was assaulted in the way he was and the trial of his police assailants took place, they transformed those images of him being beaten by the police into the exact opposite,” Davis said.

Junior film and television major Danielle Jackson served as the host for the event as a member of Tapestry.

Jackson spoke about the planning of the event stating that it was “a combination of stressful and exciting.”

Jackson cited feeling “breathless” at the beginning of the event, but nonetheless was able to effectively introduce Davis at the beginning of the event.

“The first few minutes I was definitely breathless, but I think I managed to get it under control once the discussion got underway. But her wise, thoughtful answers still gave me chills,” Jackson said.

Davis highlighted the importance of the collective good towards the end of her talk, referencing the fact that her hardships have only made her stronger and a better activist.

“As I grow older I have realized that what might have appeared to be sacrifices have often been moments of intense learning and growth and development...I have to say that I have no idea what my life would be like had I not experienced those hardships and so I don’t even think of it as a sacrifice... I do think that it is important that we encourage people to get involved but not as a sacrifice because oftentimes that means that there’s something more fulfilling that they might be doing...I think we have to make it central so that people can recognize that there is joy that emanates from being involved in this movement,” Davis said. “We don’t have to always think about it as sacrificing our own individual life and happiness for the greater good.”

Editor’s Note: News editor Tatyanna Carman, Opinion editor Qu’ran Hansford, and Advertising manager Danielle Jackson are all Tapestry members who also serve on The Rider News editorial board in varying capacities. None of them played a role in the writing or editing of this story.

Testing continues to lag as Rider re-ups its COVID reporting system

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schools across the country have turned to this method to identify coronavirus cases. Stasolla said that Rider considered the testing but ultimately decided that it was too inefficient since a positive test would not make clear which student was positive.


In September, 300 students in a dorm at the New Jersey Institute of Technology were quarantined and tested after traces of coronavirus were found in sewage. Public health experts have said sewage testing is a strong early-warning system, especially useful in detecting asymptomatic students living on campus.

During the first weeks of the semester, Rider publicly released only vague statistics about coronavirus cases and did not disclose testing numbers. Rider recently expanded its coronavirus dashboard to include more specific information, such as tests administered and students in quarantine and isolation. The university is again expanding its reporting system, making a clearer distinction between on-campus and off-campus cases, after feedback from the state. The university will no longer report positive cases from those who work or reside off campus and have had no contact with the campus since the start of the fall semester.

According to data released on Oct. 13, testing numbers at the university have remained low. Between Oct. 5 and Oct. 11, the school tested only six students, with none coming back positive. There was an uptick in off-campus quarantining numbers in the past two weeks, with a total of 30 students in quarantine in that span.

Student Government Association Vice President for Academic Affairs Elizabeth O’Hara, a junior computer science major, said that the organization is creating a program to incentivize student involvement in the testing program.

“Students who are chosen to be tested will then be entered into a weekly raffle to win gift cards to local eateries and on-campus favorites,” said O’Hara. “We believe that such giveaways will encourage participation while also keeping students motivated in Rider’s efforts to keep our campus community as safe as possible.”



COVID – 19 Counter

Confirmed Cases
Last updated: Oct. 13, 2020

15

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	4	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

ON CAMPUS STUDENT TESTING

Weeks	HEALTH CENTER	SURVEILLANCE TESTING
OCT. 5-OCT. 11	6	0
SEPT. 28-OCT. 4	4	0
SEPT. 21-27	5	0
SEPT. 14-20	1	0
SEPT. 7-13	1	0
AUG. 31-SEPT. 6	1	0

STUDENT QUARANTINE

Weeks	ON CAMPUS	OFF CAMPUS
OCT. 5-OCT. 11	3	17
SEPT. 28-OCT. 4	4	13
SEPT. 21-27	3	3
SEPT. 14-20	2	1
SEPT. 7-13	0	2
AUG. 31-SEPT. 6	1	10

Carolo Pascale/The Rider News

Student use of Rider counseling services stagnant despite pandemic stresses

By Tatyanna Carman

DESPITE the effects of the coronavirus impacting students' mental health, student usage of counseling services has not increased since the end of the last spring semester and the summer, according to Director of Rider Counseling Services Nadine Heitz.

Heitz said that there has been a slight decrease in the number of students using the counseling services, which she presumes is because, "students are still getting used to classes, and negotiating remote and hybrid classes in a way they've never had to before."

She also said that some other reasons why some students choose to use or not use the services are due to logistics, clinical issues and self-awareness. According to Heitz, typically about 10% to 15% of the Rider student body utilizes the counseling services.

Heitz also explained that the counseling services are working diligently to offer "the same types of services in a remote fashion."

"We are still doing programming, for example, but [we] can't go into [Daly Dining Hall] and talk to people and hand out prizes," she said. "Instead, we're highlighting our events online with newsletters, flyers and shared activities that students can do in their own homes or rooms while being together on Zoom. We've also increased the number of drop-in spaces for students, as well as partnering with other departments and organizations so students aren't overwhelmed by too many Zoom meetings. Of course, we still have our individual counseling spaces, and we're meeting students either by Zoom or by phone."

However, senior film, TV and radio major Jada Peterson said that she felt as though the counseling services do not have much of a presence nor does it "go out of their way or try to meet the students."

"I feel as though if they were more vocal or they were more out and present, more students would go because mental health sometimes people think of it as negatively like, 'Oh you're seeing a therapist? Blah blah blah. This person must be crazy,'" she said. "But I feel as though if they were more vocal and really talked to us about mental health other than sending emails or sending text blasts or something like that, kids would be more prone to like go and see them. But since it's not really there and it's here once or twice for an event, kids are like, 'Oh OK. It's whatever.'"

According to senior communication studies major Elizabeth Curcio, the pandemic has impacted the mental health of students, including herself, by making themselves more "vulnerable to sensitive situations" and "realizing just how temporary our normal routine lives can be."

"We have been in isolation for so long, it has affected how young teens and college students have been reflecting on themselves and the world around them," Curcio said.

Heitz also mentioned how the pandemic created an "artificial isolation" that would not usually be present in a college setting and, as a result, "people are having



Stephanie Jessiman/The Rider News

Counseling services are now working to offer "the same types of services in a remote fashion," according to Director of Rider Counseling Services Nadine Heitz.

to change their expectations and lifestyles in ways they would not have anticipated."

"During any transition, especially one which separates us from one another, it's important to find and create connections to each other," Heitz said. "Counseling can help students understand how to better support themselves by understanding more completely what they need, what will help them, and helping them find effective ways to fill their needs."

Junior psychology and sociology double major and community assistant at Olson residence hall explained that learning how to adapt to a different learning environment has been stressful for her.

"So, having like no difference in like my bedroom from a classroom it's like a very weird environment," Kunz said. "It was interesting this year because before we went all online, I had planned to take a single online class this semester anyway to kind of like see like feel it out and we ended up going all online anyway."

She also mentioned that she used to get a better experience in the classroom and she noticed "that people don't want to be there."

Senior film, TV and radio major Demara Barnes explained that the pandemic has impacted her "mentally and physically" and said that "hopping on technology" as a way of getting an education is mentally draining for her. "It's kind of just sluggish," Barnes said. "I think mentally, especially for me, I don't know if I can speak for other students, but when I do my work I don't really care as much about it as I would if I was actually in class, like 'Oh, maybe I should get this done. Let me hurry up and do this.' As for now, I'm waiting until the last minute to get things done."

Barnes said that she also works at UPS in addition to being a full-time student and goes to work between 12:45 a.m. and 1:45 a.m. and does not leave until 8:30 a.m.

"I work super, super early in the morning, so when I come home I try to like get some sleep and then when

I wake up I try to start the rest of my day," she said. "With schoolwork being virtual, it's like I go to work, then I come home, then I sleep for five, 10 minutes maybe like an hour or so and then I wake up and I'm kind of still sluggish and I have to get assignments done that I really don't want to do. So it adds stress to that."

She said she has used the counseling services once before the pandemic and said that it helped her. Barnes also said that she thought about going to them again.

"I actually thought about it, talking to them about schoolwork and just having someone actually sit down and talk to like, 'Listen, I'm stressing so much right now and my anxiety is through the roof,'" Barnes explained. "But I thought about it and I don't know if I'm actually going to do it because sometimes I like to have my own coping mechanisms that I do. So I'm going back and forth with myself."

Kunz said she has participated in some of the counseling service's outreach activities like pet therapy before the pandemic. She also said that she knows people that have used the counseling services and it helps them because, "they do a really good job of helping you de-stress and understand navigating the college life."

"So I think it's just really it's a resource for students and like that's the most important thing is for students to realize that it's a resource for them. We pay a lot of money to come to this school and they do provide us with a lot of resources so like, you might as well use them."

Professor and Director for the School Counseling and Coaching Programs Juleen Buser added that many individuals may feel isolated, have their anxiety heightened or may struggle with depression.

"It is very important to seek support early for mental health struggles. One thing we talk about a lot in our professions is reducing the stigma of counseling. You do not have to be in crisis to seek counseling support. You may just be struggling with increased stress or anxiety or a sense of being overwhelmed. Counselors can help with increased coping tools to manage stress before it becomes a crisis or is unmanageable."

Rider alumna Sravya Gummaluri '16 and '19, who graduated from the clinical mental health program and is a Ph.D. counseling student at George Washington University, said that in addition to counseling, students should keep reaching out to people.

"So whether it is your friends, your family, your professors, whoever it might be, whoever you trust, keep reaching out to them," she said. "Whether it is just telling them about your day or if you're stressed about something or you're sad about something, make sure that you aren't isolating yourself, which sounds weird because I said the pandemic is super isolating. But kind of just making that effort to connect with others is extremely important for a person's mental health, especially now, especially if you're indoors all day."

Veteran Associated Press reporter speaks at Rider event about covering the White House

By Austin Ferguson

THE Rider community gained insight on what it is like to report on the White House on Oct. 12 when The Associated Press (AP) reporter Darlene Superville spoke to students and faculty in a Zoom event.

Hosted by communications and journalism professor Myra Gutin, the hour-long event covered Superville's career in political journalism, starting with her AP internship in Newark, New Jersey, all the way to supervising the AP national political desk for four presidential elections and the president of the United States.

Superville first touched on covering the New Jersey Statehouse, one of her earlier professional assignments, and its geographical connection to the university.

"I used to live close by when I covered the statehouse, [New Jersey] politics and state government for the AP back in the 1990s," Superville said. "And I would drive by up and down Route 206, see the signs for Rider College, and I never really imagined that I would end up going from the New Jersey State House to the White House."

Superville said she was excited to "peel back the curtain" and take questions from attendees about the ins-and-outs of covering the White House, particularly during the 2020 election cycle.

The first question Superville answered surrounded her experience at the first presidential debate at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, though she was not able to be in the debate hall due to restrictions with the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We were held in separate rooms elsewhere in the debate hall and watched the debate on large television screens ... but it's still always, you know, thrilling to go to a big event like a presidential debate," Superville said. "Given the stakes in this

election, and how the stakes were raised for this first presidential debate, it was very exciting to be there, even though I wasn't exactly in the room with the candidates in real-time."

Superville also talked about the uniqueness of covering President Donald Trump as a reporter as opposed to her previous assignment of President Barack Obama. Superville said that Donald Trump has tended to divulge information on Twitter that has made it more difficult to cover the White House since 2016.

"Early on, he [announced White House staff firings on Twitter] a lot and would catch White House officials off guard," Superville said. "When you would go to them for information to find out, 'You know, what's happening? What can you tell us about this, that or the other.' They often wouldn't know what he had just tweeted, or they didn't have any information to give us."

According to Superville, Donald Trump did a lot of traveling up until his COVID-19 diagnosis and soon plans to start traveling again, giving her a busy schedule up until election day.

"They haven't announced where he's going yet, but there was some guidance from the campaign that he wants to be out on the road every day until Nov. 3, so we're talking 21 days on the road from here on out, it's a lot," Superville said.

A faculty member asked about Donald Trump's wife and First Lady Melania Trump's availability to the media, which Superville noted was scarce.

"I can't really recall very many instances where she's done one-on-one interactions with reporters," Superville said. "Her interaction with us is very limited."

Superville did later note that Melania Trump's attitude toward media availability was similar to First Lady

Darlene Superville compares coverage of former President Obama and current President

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Michelle Obama, saying that “First ladies are not elected, so I think they feel less beholden to interacting with [reporters] than the president or vice president.”

However, Superville said that one of her favorite stories to work on involved a trip to Morocco where she followed Donald Trump’s daughter, Ivanka, and had a chance to interview her, which eventually found its way onto Good Morning America, ABC’s national morning news show.

“At some point during the interview, before we went, we asked for an interview with Ivanka and they agreed. And we did this interview, and it was picked up by a lot of the morning talk shows,” Superville said.

Superville shared that some of her most tense moments covering the Trump presidency came when having to attend and cover his rallies, often noted by their raucous crowds.

“I’ve certainly been to a number of rallies where there is always a point in the president’s speech where he raises his finger and points at the back of the room and talks about fake news and then the whole rally crowd starts chanting, ‘Fake news!’ or whatever it is,” Superville said.

Despite admitting that the situations were “uncomfortable”, Superville noted that she “never really yet felt threatened in that environment.”

When asked, Superville said the AP’s biggest worry about election night on Nov. 3 is that there will not be a clear result by the end of the day.

“Well, the big concern is that we won’t have a declared winner on election night,” Superville said. “And that counting the ballots will go on for a couple of days, maybe even a few weeks with the volume of mail-in ballots that are being expected from voters all across the country.”

During the event, Gutin offered her experiences as a female journalist and asked Superville if any of those experiences have changed over time.

“In the bad old days, when I was a journalist in the 1970s and 1980s, women journalists had a rough time getting respect in the newsroom, as well as from male sources, in many industries and positions,” Gutin said.

Superville offered that she had shared similar feelings in her earlier career, but felt that the modern landscape of journalism had changed, citing vast amounts of women in leadership roles.

“I think female journalists are very much respected these days,” Superville said. “And I know that in, for example, in the Washington bureau of AP, where I work, the head of our Bureau is a woman, our Deputy Chief of Bureau is a woman, we have a news editor, who is a woman. The head of AP overall is female.”

Though she did not work for one herself when she attended New York University, Superville commented that college newspapers are “excellent training grounds for up and coming journalists.”

The biggest piece of advice that Superville gave to students that aspire to have a career in journalism is to not have a fear of questioning authority, citing her early experiences in the State House.

“I was just a few years into my journalism career and had not yet been around lawmakers and governors and people like that, powerful people, people who make decisions, and admittedly was a little bit timid about being in the position of having to question them,” Superville said. “I don’t have that reservation now after many



Courtesy of Rider University

Associated Press White House reporter Darlene Superville shares her experience covering the unprecedented 2020 presidential election.

more years in journalism, but knowing what I know, now, if I could go back to myself in the early 1990s, I would do things a little bit differently.”

When advising students, Superville reminded students of their power as aspiring journalists.

“As a journalist, you have an awesome power to hold people in positions of authority, people in positions of power to account for their decisions, their actions, and to inform the public on what those decisions and actions mean for them and how it will affect them,” Superville said.

University revenue shortages contribute to delay in pay invoices

By Autsin Ferguson

FUNDING shortages have caused Rider University to process and pay invoices on 60-day terms, a move that has implications for organizations across campus, according to a member of Rider’s Disbursements Department.

According to the department, the 60-day maturing period applies to all invoices that it is receiving for the time being.

The prolonged wait period’s effect on specific clubs depends on the type of payments being processed. For organizations that book events or speakers months in advance, the invoice is more likely to mature in time for the anticipated event. For shorter-term expenses, such as purchasing supplies and food for events, the prolonged maturing periods can create a financial strain for individual clubs and organizations across campus.

The university’s revenue shortages have been the source of cutbacks throughout Rider, including budget cuts, faculty furloughs and layoffs, most notably with the cutting of the College of Continuing Studies.

In Dell’Omo’s convocation speech on Aug. 30, he mentioned that the university has lost \$9.2 million in revenue, \$1 million more than what the university had projected before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

There is a steep deficit that the university has faced due to financial constraints and revenue losses from the COVID-19 pandemic. According to a report from the university before the start of the fall 2020 semester, Rider projected \$17 million in budget deficits for the next year.

In an interview with The Rider News on Sept. 9, Dell’Omo expressed that the financial situation at Rider did not have an immediate remedy, saying that the school would “have to continue to tighten our belt.”

According to Rider’s office of Disbursements, the 60-day maturing period applies to all invoices that they are receiving for the time being.

The side effects of funding shortages stem back to prior to the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, with Rider’s administration enforcing a university-wide spending freeze on supplies, materials and other professional services from January through the end of the fiscal year in June. The freeze had affected both university offices and student-run clubs and organizations.

As of Oct. 13, Disbursements Manager Barbara F. Huff did not respond to requests for comment on the matter.

Editor’s Note: Among the clubs and organizations affected by the delay in invoice maturity is The Rider News, whose invoices for its printed editions has been processed, but not yet matured.



Courtesy of Rider University

The 60-day maturing period for pay invoices is the result of funding shortages, which are stemmed back to before the pandemic.

Life as a freshman Bronc in the midst of a pandemic

By Christian McCarville

THE class of 2024 has had a very unique experience during the COVID-19 pandemic. Stripped of the luxuries of a high school senior year, these students are now off to college for one of the strangest freshmen semesters to date.

Depending on state restrictions, there is a wide variety of policies for colleges and universities across the country. A common theme among these policies is limiting the amount of in-person classes, which would therefore stiffen the chances that COVID-19 could be passed from student to student.

At Rider, professors were ultimately allowed to dictate whether their class would operate in a fully remote, hybrid or in-person setting. Students were also allowed to move into on-campus housing as long as they agreed to follow specific safety protocols.

These circumstances, while undoubtedly in the best interest of the health and safety of students, certainly took away from the traditional first-semester experience for incoming freshmen. With a large portion of students taking primarily remote classes, it became an appealing option for many students to live at home this fall. Without paying for housing, this option also provided an opportunity for freshmen to save money during their first year.

Freshman psychology major Bridget Gum is one of many freshmen students opting to stay home this semester. She explained the reasoning that brought her to this decision.

“The decision was an extremely challenging one for me to make because I’m a tetraplegic and I have been since I was 7 months old,” said Gum. “I’ve always wanted my independence so badly since people had to help me with a lot of things growing up. But my disorder is neuroimmunological, so I’m also immunocompromised and I ultimately couldn’t risk it.”

While staying at home during her first semester wasn’t an ideal situation, Gum is successfully making the most out of her semester regardless.

“People keep telling me that my college experience will be so much better when I’m actually in college, but I’m one of those people who tries to make the best of a bad situation,” said Gum. “I’ve been going to Rider events, trying to get involved in clubs and making friends the best I can in the virtual setting. I think Rider is doing the best they can to get people involved and to create events virtually, but it’s challenging and a little awkward.”

This type of mindset is essential for incoming freshmen to have during these strange and uncertain times. Taking advantage of online opportunities and getting involved virtually is the best way to turn an unfortunate situation into an unforgettable one.

Gum also commented on her experience regarding a fully remote class schedule.

“I don’t think I’m a virtual learner naturally,” said Gum. “I really need more social interaction, but I still feel like I’m learning a lot in this virtual learning setting and I definitely have more time for my school work and studying, so I’m grateful for that.”

Freshman arts and entertainment industries management major Megyn Kukulka has also decided to remain home for the fall semester. She provided her perspective on the matter.

“It was definitely a hard decision to make knowing that I wouldn’t get the full freshman college experience I’ve always had in mind,” said Kukulka. “I did consider all the pros and cons of dorming or staying home. I found that staying home and taking classes online was the best option for me.”

Similar to Gum, Kukulka has been making the most out of her experience this semester.

“Although I am home, I have taken advantage of every opportunity I can to get to know people on and off-campus. I like that I get to spend time with my family and I am able to spend time with my friends who are also remote,” said Kukulka. “I obviously would have really liked the ‘full college experience’ by going on campus but I am staying positive and trying to make the most out of it.”

Since many of the plans for the upcoming spring semester are still up in the air, Kukulka explained that she does not yet have a definite plan to move onto campus in the future. However, she has high expectations for this semester that will ultimately improve her experience at Rider as a whole.

“I hope to meet new people and build friendships even while online. I also want to learn a lot in my classes and explore new creative outlets,” said Kukulka.

With many freshmen not having the most ideal college experience, both Gum and Kukulka demonstrated the importance of staying positive and making the most out of the current circumstances. Many of these freshmen are patiently waiting for an opportunity to truly experience all that Rider has to offer. For now, however, there is an extensive number of online activities and organizations that freshmen can consider participating in.



Courtesy of Megyn Kukulka

Freshman arts and entertainment industries management major Megyn Kukulka made the decision to stay at home for the semester. While this is a difficult choice for many, Kukulka explained that this option was the best for her.

“I’M ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO TRIES TO MAKE THE BEST OF A BAD SITUATION,” SAID GUM. “I’VE BEEN GOING TO RIDER EVENTS, TRYING TO GET INVOLVED IN CLUBS AND MAKING FRIENDS THE BEST I CAN IN THE VIRTUAL SETTING.”

“I OBVIOUSLY WOULD HAVE REALLY LIKED THE ‘FULL COLLEGE EXPERIENCE’ BY GOING ON CAMPUS BUT I AM STAYING POSITIVE AND TRYING TO MAKE THE MOST OUT OF IT,” SAID KUKULKA.



Courtesy of @RiderOrientation on Instagram

While a large amount of freshmen made the decision to live at home this semester, there are still those that opted to live on campus. While it certainly is not the traditional Rider experience, there are still many opportunities for these freshmen to find a sense of community on campus.

Performing arts students adjust to online classes

By Sarah Siock

BEFORE the coronavirus pandemic, senior acting major Katherine DeLong's classes were filled with group scene rehearsals, learning movement techniques from fellow actors and watching live performances on campus.

However, along with the other students studying in Rider's School of Fine and Performing Arts, DeLong's classes look different this semester due to their remote formats.

"My acting style comes from connecting. A lot of my inspiration comes from when I do scenes with other actors, and I can see their facial expressions. I can feed off their emotions. Zoom only lets you see so much," said DeLong. "I have not been able to see other people's body language. Sometimes if someone's Wi-Fi is kind of crummy, I cannot see their facial expressions either. It's really hard to connect with other actors through a digital medium."

Performing arts students like DeLong are forced to learn their craft in a completely new format this semester, which is met with many challenges. Dance majors are unable to touch their dance partners while musical theater majors are performing from their bedrooms instead of a stage.

DeLong said her professors are doing their best to ensure students are receiving the most out of every class. However, she said the adjustment to Zoom classes is not easy.

"Before we went on Zoom I really did not have a lot of film experience. And what my professors have been doing is taking these classes and using it to teach us about film acting, and how to construct professional reels. Which is kind of an unexpected bonus," said DeLong. "The downside of it is that if something weird happens, like my sound cutting out, no one is going to be able to hear me and give me notes to improve."

While live in-house performances will not be taking place this semester, students still have the opportunity to take part in productions virtually. DeLong has a role in Rider's first-ever radio drama "The Ungodly Hour."

Auditions for the production took place remotely with students submitting a pre-recorded video over email. DeLong said that while the virtual production is challenging, she appreciates the space to express herself creatively.

"I love the work that I am doing. I love working with the people and they make Zoom exhaustion a lot more bearable," she said.

Actors in virtual productions are finding new ways to express their characters, according to sophomore musical theater major Tiffany Beckford who has a role in "The Ungodly Hour" as well another show titled "Chasing Grace."

"With these shows, we have been doing more improv work and thinking about how to portray our characters' personalities through just speaking. It's been a fun experience and Zoom is not doing too much to hinder our ability to rehearse," said Beckford.

Beckford said one of her biggest obstacles this semester is staying focused during class. Typically, Beckford has several classes that involve movement and interacting with others. Now Beckford is learning from a screen and is confined to a smaller space.

"It's not easy to sit still in front of a laptop for an hour and a half. I get antsy. I want

to move," she said.

For some students, the hardest part is not having access to the same tools that they would have on campus. There is no stage for students to fully expand on what they are learning.

"So much of what our major is and what we do is connection based. We are hands-on learners, we want to get up and move. When you are stuck at home it does not feel like you are being pushed. It does not feel like I am growing as much as I could if we were in-person," said junior musical theater major Andrew Smith.

Smith is also a board member for the student-run production company, The Bronway. The board produces shows that are written or directed by students. Smith said Bronway also faced difficulties this semester with a remote format.

"We were set to put on a virtual cabaret on Oct. 9. But we are dealing with some licensing issues with the publishing companies since it is a virtual performance and it could be rewatched from people not from Rider. So we had to postpone it," said Smith.

Now the event will take place on a later date and will consist of pre-recorded videos. "Of course, it is not ideal. Everyone is just trying to create and keep the drive going while we are stuck in this pandemic," said Smith.

Ultimately, students in the fine arts department are using remote productions as a placeholder for in-person performances. DeLong said while she is thankful for the space to express herself creatively that nothing will replace the experience of in-person theater.

"You will never replicate that feeling of sitting in an audience of 2000 people and watching a play that makes you feel all these emotions. And not only feeling it by yourself but feeling it with 2000 other people. It's an energy that radiates through the room, that you cannot replicate by watching something alone," said DeLong.



Courtesy of Andrew Smith

Junior musical theater major Andrew Smith prepares for his Zoom class from home.

UPCOMING EVENT CALENDAR

WED, OCT. 14

The Green Films Series
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

THU, OCT. 15

Telenovelas: A Conversation about Colorism in the Latinx Community
7:30 p.m.

MON, OCT. 19

Scream Screen Blood Drive
11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

TUES, OCT. 20

Scream Screen Blood Drive
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Courtesy of Arianna Marino

Meals on Wheels continues to provide Mercer County community

By Bridget Gum

RIDER University has always put a huge emphasis on the importance of community service. Volunteering is held in such an important light that it has become a part of the engaged learning program graduation requirement.

The Center for Service & Civic Engagement, headed by Joan Liprot and Susan Perls, works to provide community service opportunities for students throughout the school year. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, many of the typical service opportunities have been temporarily stopped to keep students and those they are volunteering with safe.

One such service opportunity that is still open to all students is the Meals on Wheels program. According to Susan Perls, the Meals on Wheels program was introduced at Rider in 2018 and works in partnership with the Meals on Wheels branch of Mercer County.

Originally, there was only the delivery aspect available to students. The delivery system works by bringing pre-made meals to homebound residents in Mercer County via two volunteers, one driver and one runner, and they deliver by area or street, depending on the population.

According to Perls, students typically "were able to go inside the home, have some light conversation, drop off the meal, check and see how they're doing." However, due to the coronavirus, students have only been able to leave the meals on the participants' doorstep or door handle.

The Center for Service & Civic Engagement has now added two new aspects of the Meals on Wheels program to the original program, which was planned before the pandemic and had to be slightly modified because of it.

One of these aspects is that volunteers now have the option to help prepare the meals that get delivered. Perls said that volunteers work in Daly Dining Hall along with kitchen staff and a dietician, to provide nutritious, balanced meals that stick to an appropriate portion control according to each participant.

These meals must be accommodated according to certain dietary restrictions and other health concerns that the volunteers are made aware of. Since the people being served are home-bound individuals, the majority of those individuals also struggle with chewing or using utensils. Often the volunteers have to cut or puree the food so it's easier for participants to eat.

Things have changed in this process due to the pandemic. The morning shifts on meal preparation are solely dedicated to making meals. All of the volunteers must wear gloves, masks and be cleared through the Campus Clear app. The afternoon shifts are dedicated to some meal preparation but mostly sanitization and maintaining extreme cleanliness to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

Typically the Meals on Wheels volunteer opportunities at Rider extend to surrounding community members. Perls mentioned that, "In the past, we have permitted friends of Rider, staff, students and siblings or children of people who work at Rider or have a friend who's a student at Rider." This has been limited now because of the coronavirus and the campus policies on visitors.

Another new aspect to the Meals on Wheels program is the Friendly Visitor Program. This program was designed to provide some contact with people for those who are homebound as they usually live alone and have very little outside contact with others. This was mostly done to monitor the participants' mental health.

During the Coronavirus pandemic, the program has faced a lot of change. Instead of going into the participants' home and having in-person visits, the volunteers now call or video chat with the participants. Throughout the pandemic, these home-bound individuals are also usually the ones who are most high-risk for the coronavirus, so they have even less contact than normal.

Angel Delcid Palacios, a senior sociology major, has been volunteering with the Meals on Wheels program in one way or another since his junior year through his fraternity, Alpha Phi Omega (APO).

Delcid Palacios has been primarily volunteering with the Meals on Wheels through delivery, but this year, he's also been involved in the Friendly Visitors program. Palacios is a commuter, so he comes in for classes and to volunteer. He said, "It's annoying wearing a mask for the entire time, but I do it because I do not want to get sick and I respect the people around me by wearing it."

Volunteering, especially with the Meals on Wheels program, is important now more than ever, as Susan Perls mentioned.

"We're in a pandemic right now but that doesn't halt food insecurity, we still have people in the community who need food, more than ever, so there is still a need, there will always be a need to help out folks in the community," said Perls.



Courtesy of Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels volunteer Ashley White packages meals for homebound residents in Mercer County.

COVID-19 won't stop Meals on Wheels deliveries



Courtesy of Rider University

Rider students volunteer for Meals on Wheels in 2018. While this semester may look different due to the coronavirus pandemic students still have the opportunity to volunteer for the Meals on Wheels program.



Courtesy of Rider University

The Meals on Wheels program was introduced at Rider in 2018 and works in partnership with the Meals on Wheels branch of Mercer County.



Courtesy of Rider University

Meals on Wheels volunteers stand with packaged meals ready to be delivered to homebound Mercer County residents in 2018. Students are continuing to package and deliver nutritious and balanced meals to participants this semester.

Chauvin posts million dollar bail

In the closing of May, George Floyd, a man in handcuffs, died after a Minneapolis, Minnesota, police officer pressed his knee against Floyd's neck for several minutes as Floyd said he couldn't breathe. Floyd's death was captured by a bystander video that set off protests around the world. Four officers were fired. Officer Derek Chauvin was charged with second-degree murder, third-degree murder and manslaughter; Thomas Lane, J. Kueng and Tou Thao were charged with aiding and abetting both second-degree murder and manslaughter.

Chauvin was recently released from Oak Park Heights Correctional Facility, east of Minneapolis (a maximum-security state prison), after he posted bond on a \$1 million bail, according to CNN.

As we were at home during the beginning stages of COVID-19, we were forced to watch police brutality take the life of Floyd, sparking a 100 days of protest in all 50 states (for the first time in history) and over 60 countries. Protestors hit the streets as the victims of police brutality achieved no justice. This led to Minnesota's governor activating the National Guard to help keep the peace in the event of protests.

Judge Jeannice M. Reding set bail for Chauvin four months ago, putting it at \$1 million with conditions or \$1.25 million without conditions, according to NPR.

In Minnesota, someone who posts a bond is required to pay 10%, in this case, \$100,000, to the bail bond company. Then, the company and the defendant work out an arrangement for collateral to back all or part of the rest of the bond amount, said Mike Brandt, a criminal defense attorney who spoke with AP News.

Chauvin had the option of posting bail for \$1.25 million without conditions or \$1 million with conditions. Under the conditions of his release, "he must attend all court appearances, cannot have any direct or indirect contact — including social media contact — with any members of Floyd's family, cannot work in law enforcement or security, and must not possess any firearms or ammunition," according to AP News.

By posting the lower bail amount, Chauvin will have to abide by all laws, have no contact with Floyd's family and surrender any guns and firearms licenses. He will also be required not to leave Minnesota.

In a handwritten note on her order setting the bail amounts, the judge added a stipulation for Chauvin: "Do not work in law enforcement or security." Chauvin's next court date is on March 8, when his trial is slated to begin.

Floyd's family attorneys Ben Crump and Antonio Romanucci released a statement to AP News saying Chauvin's release "is a painful reminder" that the family is far from getting justice.

"The system of the due process worked for Chauvin and afforded him his freedom while he awaits trial. In contrast, George Floyd was

denied due process, when his life was ended over a \$20 bill. There was no charge, no arrest, no hearing, no bail. Just execution," the attorneys wrote.

The term "bad apple" gets thrown around a lot in discussions revolving around police brutality but when there seem to be numerous bad apples it makes me question if it is a bad tree. Nearly one thousand people have been shot and killed by police in the past year, according to the Washington Post. How can that be reformed? How do you train the individuals when it is the system that is broken? Although the job of a police officer is not an easy one, I think that is even more reason why we should take better care of who we have to fill these jobs. The police should be held accountable for their actions but in a lot of cases, they are not, either suspended with paid leave, fired with no jail time or are allowed to post a preposterous bail and walk free. What message does that send to the people? It sends a message that there is indeed a thin blue line. It sends the message that one is untouchable behind the badge.

As someone who went out and protested for George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and against police violence, Chauvin's release is honestly discouraging. It is discouraging because it makes me believe that even with the whole world watching justice will never be truly served. Although my sentiments are not uplifting, it is my feelings on the matter, but because my words have meaning and the potential to reach another dispirited individual I will say this:

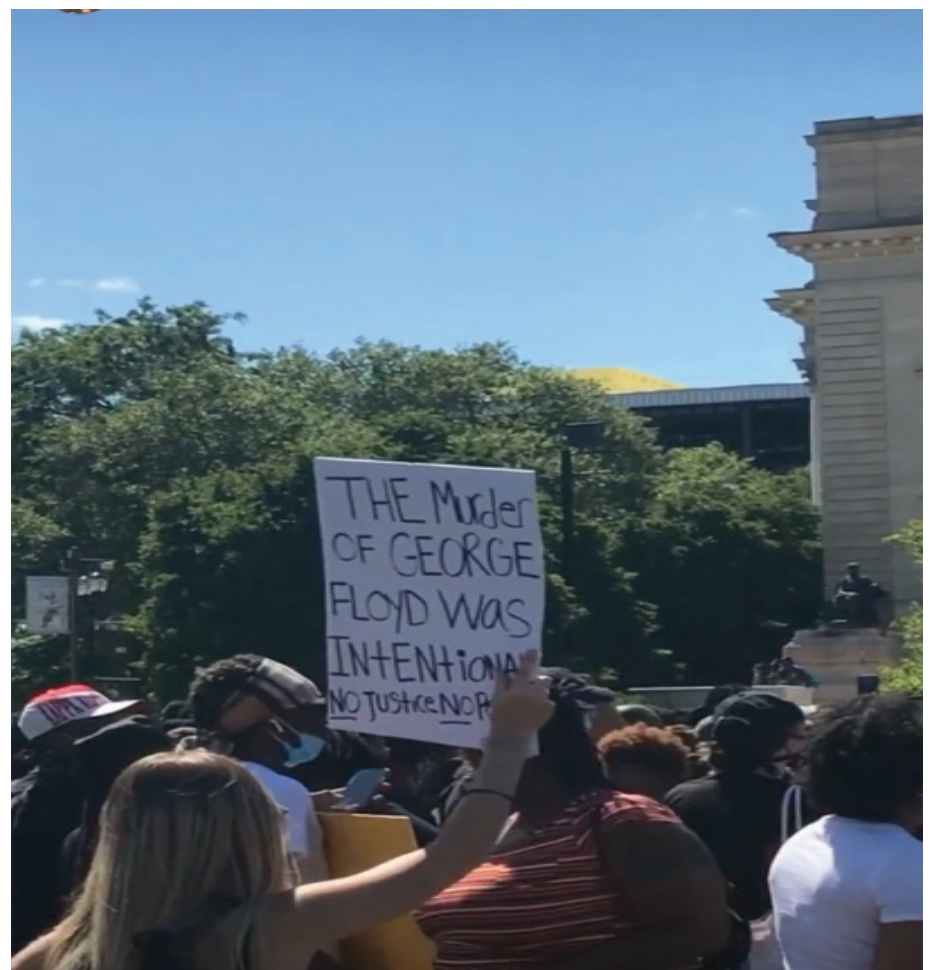
Despite losses, never stop trying. Continue to try so that all the names that we know and do not know will not die in vain. Once beings that walked amongst us, regular people living regular lives, victims of police brutality and not martyrs, they are not hashtags or pop culture figures to be plastered on magazines and memes but people were taken by force and violence. Continue to seek hope in times of adversity and do what you can no matter the size of the role because your voice matters.

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



The Rider News/Qur'an Hansford

The Rider News/Qur'an Hansford



THE Rider News

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Ellen NotSoGenerous: How to handle work place nightmares

DEAR Qur'an,
Following the Ellen DeGeneres scandal, what advice do you have on workplace nightmares? Seeing as Ellen's talk show just debuted its 18th season, is there any winning as the little guy?

Sincerely,

The Little Guy

The Little Guy,

For those of you who may not know, Ellen DeGeneres was recently under fire for accusations of workplace misconduct, including sexual harassment and racist comments. DeGeneres' whole brand was "be kind" as she was well known for her charities and giveaways, but perhaps that was only while the cameras were rolling.

First things first, memorize the number of human resources. Please do not be afraid to call HR (human resources) — its job is to manage, coordinate and direct the administrative functions of an organization. It oversees the recruiting, interviewing and hiring of new staff; consults with top executives on strategic planning; and serves as a link between an organization's management and its employees. That is what you call when there are any grievances or even when you have a question about the job.

Now, in the case of Ellen NotSoGenerous, when there are claims of obvious mistreatment in the workplace and to the extreme degree of racism and sexual misconduct, the steps you make forward are crucial. They are crucial because you are not dealing with your typical quarrels of scheduling issues or whether or not your check was short. Situations of blatant harassment and disrespect or those exceptions where you need to ask yourself "is this job worth the abuse I face consistently?"

When dealing with a workplace nightmare sometimes all you need to do is wake up. Always know your worth in any workplace environment, you are there because they need you. I remember a piece of advice (paraphrased of course) that I received from when I got my first job at 18 years old. If you were to die

right now, your job would have someone to replace you by morning so call out of work today. This is the best advice I have ever received because it reminded me that I am only being used until I am not, I am merely a commodity in the eyes of my employer. Granted, you may go on to have better work experiences where the environment is not toxic and you have room to grow. But, in the case where a job makes you uncomfortable or uneasy, it is time to look for a new one.

I was glad to see former employees of DeGeneres decided to finally speak about their experiences working with the famous TV personality. A lot of times the more well-known the employer, the harder it is to convince others. Famous people tend to have a team of people to protect them and their brand as well as money to persuade and bribe. But, despite those odds "the little guy" stood 10 toes against workplace mistreatment, as should you. Never underestimate the little guy.

Onward and upward,
Qur'an



GREEN CORNER

Ruth Bader Ginsburg: The environmental activist

If you were on campus Sept. 18, you may have noticed that the flag outside of Moore Library, and flags across the country, were flying at half-mast. On that day, three weeks ago, we lost one of the country's strongest Supreme Court Justices, Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Ginsburg lost her final battle with cancer at the age of 87 after a long career as a champion for gender equality, being only the second woman to ever serve on the nation's highest court. Adjunct Rider faculty member John Tedeschi said of Ginsburg, "Ruth Bader Ginsburg was a great aspect of our environment and the Rider environment. She has truly changed our world for the better."

Ginsburg's most prominent lasting impression is of the enormous strides she has made as an activist for women's rights, but she was also a major contributor to environmental action during her time as a Supreme Court Justice. Muriel Baki, a sophomore arts and entertainment industry management major and Eco-Rep, stated, "Ruth Bader Ginsberg is an incredible example of how there isn't really a separation between being a feminist, an environmentalist, and a civil rights activist. She was the perfect example of what it means to care about all aspects of an issue, not just where it manifests itself visually."

Ginsburg voted on landmark decisions in the fight for climate action such as the 2007 Massachusetts v. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which determined that the EPA has the authority to regulate carbon emissions from vehicles. This then gave the administration of President Barack Obama the ability to regulate greenhouse gases from cars and trucks at a federal level for the first time in history.

After this case, Ginsburg authored another in 2011, American Electric Power v. Connecticut, that reaffirmed the EPA's power to regulate and monitor carbon emissions that were established through the previously mentioned case. This case, however, set her apart from other climate activists because, although she then ruled against states attempting to sue private energy companies, the EPA's federal jurisdiction took precedent over the state's claims asserting that the federal government would be the body taking definitive action against climate change.

Throughout her career, Ginsburg demonstrated a tendency towards nuanced decisions. As demonstrated by her position on American Electric Power v. Connecticut, she did not always take the most obvious route in her support of environmental issues, but she voted in such a way that ruled on the most constitutional and strong course of action in combating climate change.

Ginsburg holds her "notorious" title for being one of the most talented lawyers to serve on this country's highest court and, with that, came to her extraordinary integrity. As stated in an article from Bloomberg Law, "Environmental advocates appearing before Ginsburg knew that justice was never a vote they could assume. Her vote always had to be earned. And the only way to earn that vote would be the force and persuasiveness of their legal arguments."

President of the Natural Resources Defense Council and former EPA administrator Gina McCarthy said of Ginsburg, "Through her expansive mind, sound temperament and unwavering judicial integrity, she plied the Constitution as a living instrument of American life, lending it meaning in the life of us all."

Ginsburg's impact will be a long-lasting one. Her lifelong commitment to making the world a better, kinder and more just place for all will not be forgotten.

Emma Harris
Rider Eco-Rep



Courtesy of Cagle Cartoons

caglecartoons.com

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ATHLETICS

Alumni Gym receives multimillion dollar donation

By Logan VanDine and Dylan Manfre

Rider Athletics received a \$2.5 million donation from two anonymous donors to help renovate Alumni Gym, home to the basketball, volleyball and wrestling teams.

The total cost of the renovation tallies \$17.7 million, and the school now possesses \$11 million from 112 donors to put toward the construction.

The goal of the renovation is to transform Alumni Gym into a modern basketball facility.

One of the donors said in a statement to the university, “Now is the time for all of us to do everything we can to support Rider athletes, and the best way to do that is to invest in the arena project.”

“The project plans are fantastic, and we know just how impactful this facility upgrade will be for the entire University community,” one donor said. “Now more than ever is the time for our fellow alumni and friends to do all they can to support this project in a significant way.”

Rider President Gregory Dell’Omo was grateful for the donations the anonymous donors made.

“We are incredibly grateful for this leadership gift,” Dell’Omo said in a statement. “It will help us realize our vision of turning Alumni Gym into an arena and make athletic competitions there an even more enjoyable experience for both student-athletes and the spectators who cheer them on.”

Rider Athletic Director Don Harnum said renovating the gym is his top priority.

“The gift is not anonymous to me, or the university advancement staff, as we have been working with donors for the arena campaign for a number of years. However, the donors in this case wished to remain publicly anonymous for the time being. Nevertheless, it is very exciting to receive this level of support for our No. 1 athletic facility priority.”

Harnum’s goal with the renovation of the Alumni Gym is to enhance the student-athlete experience, add more premium seating, larger ticket booths, bigger concession stands, a giant scoreboard above the court and expanded seating.

Women’s basketball head coach Lynn Milligan, whose team won the 2020 Metro Atlantic Athletic



Photo courtesy of Rider University

Two anonymous donors gave \$2.5 million to aid in the renovation of Alumni Gym, in an effort to transform the gameday experience for fans and the athletic programs for athletes.

Conference (MAAC) championship, is looking forward to playing games again in a renovated Alumni Gym for years to come.

“Rider Athletics, led by our [Athletic Director] Don Harnum, has continued our path and growth despite very difficult times. An anonymous gift of this size is a blessing, but really shows the love that our alumni have for Rider University and athletics and the impact this place has made on their lives,” Milligan

wrote in an email. “We are extremely appreciative and look forward to playing our games in front of our fans and in a newly renovated Alumni Gym very soon.”

The construction of the seating was already completed during the spring and summer, when a majority of the Rider community was doing remote learning, thanks to a \$1 million donation from Chuck and Isabel Baker in May 2020.

THE RIDER NEWS
THE SPORTS SECTION
PODCAST

A look back at Rider football



Courtesy of Rider Archives

The 1949 Rider football team had the program's most successful season since its revival with a record of 7-1.

By Shaun Chornobroff

THE year was 1946. Rider was on the heels of World War II, and the Trenton campus was returning to normal. A sense of pride could be felt across the nation. But the Roughriders students (yes, the Roughriders), who were sporting their purple and gold, were feeling good as they had a football team to support every weekend for the first time in 15 years.

The 1948 Rider College yearbook said that the 1947 Roughriders were the first team to have varsity football. A quick peek at the 1931 team shows that it was actually a freshman team that failed to score a point during its four-game season and earned one tie that year.

But the 1947 Roughriders were going to be different. The team had played the 1946 season at the junior varsity level and was ready for the leap.

In the end, Head Coach Tom Roemus felt the pain of having an upstart program. Rider's lack of experience showed as it went winless and failed to make it into double-digits in a single game throughout the season, which opened with a 79-0 drubbing of now Metro-Atlantic-Athletic-Conference (MAAC) rival Canisius College.

Following that season, Roemus was replaced by Smith L. Byham which seemed to be a turning point for the purple and gold. The 1948 edition of "Shadow," which was Rider College's yearbook, stated, "This year football will turn over a new leaf at Rider. Smith L. Byham has received the position of head coach for the 1948 season. The squad will go through intensive spring and summer training and all efforts will be in the direction of making Rider a standout football school among the smaller colleges of the East."

And that's exactly what Byham did.

The 1948 Roughriders started 10 freshmen, and despite "looking fearfully" towards their first game against West Chester, Rider was successful to the surprise of many.

The Roughriders, led by quarterback Allen Costil, who wore two different numbers throughout that season, went 6-3.

The season started with a hard-fought loss to West Chester, but the team's second game, a 49-6 blowout victory of a significantly bigger City College of New York team was a statement win.

Rider scored 25-plus points three times that season, proving Byham's efforts successful.

It would be Byham's only season at the helm, albeit a great one considering where the team was the year before. But, new coach Joe Behot improved off of an already incredible job done by Byham.

The 1949 Roughriders, like the 1948 team, started the year with a loss, this time to Bowling Green State University.

After that game, Rider continued to go onto a

seven-game winning streak to finish their season 7-1.

Rider had two blowout victories in the season, a 39-7 win over St. Michael's College (of Vermont) and a dominating 53-0 win over Panzer College (later merged with Montclair State University).

The game of the year occurred on Nov. 5, 1949, when the Roughriders took down Wilkes College in a 41-34 shootout on the Colonels' homecoming night.

The 1950 team had less depth than the '49 team. Behot said of the team, "our lack of backfield depth will really hinder us this year." Behot also said the team had a much tougher schedule, even admitting losing multiple games was possible.

The team lost multiple games, but had a good season finishing 5-2-1. Once again, the Roughriders started poorly.

For the third-consecutive season Rider dropped its opening game, only to finish with a winning record. Rider lost to Geneva College 14-0 before fighting to a scoreless tie with Bowling Green the very next game.

Over its last six games, Rider found its stride and had a record of 5-1 and averaged 26.5 points per game, as the backfield depth seemed to not hinder the Roughriders as much as Behot initially thought.

Just as impressive as Behot's offense was his defense, which repeatedly stifled opponents throughout the season, only giving up 10.6 points per game and surrendering more than 20 points only once that season.

The 1951 Roughriders were hit with a tough blow in the middle of their season, as sophomore halfback Eddie Wilson was dismissed from the university. Wilson was the team leader in touchdowns and was dismissed from the school for not reporting to classes.

For the first time since its revival on the varsity level in 1947, Rider won its season opener. Once again it played Geneva College, this time slaughtering them 44-0.

The Roughriders continued their success concluding with a 6-2 record in the 1951 season.

This season was the final season of Rider football and, if there is any silver lining, the team won its final game as a program, a 26-7 home victory against East Stroudsburg.

The rumors of the school cutting the football program ran rampant not long after the football season's conclusion. It seemed that these rumors could not be escaped, and the loss of Roughriders football seemed to be inevitable.

In the Dec. 7, 1951 edition of *The Rider News*, Sports Editor Donald Oberholzer published an open letter to the athletic committee in an attempt to save football at Rider. Oberholzer said in the letter that the athletic committee was considering the plan, but "no definite decision" had been reached.

Oberholzer made several points as he passionately pleaded with the school at one point saying, "Football, gentlemen, is a great sport. Most students would hate

to see it go. Dropping the sport certainly isn't going to build school spirit."

Oberholzer continued this point in different points of his letter, even showing the athletic committee that this issue goes beyond dollar signs and revenue.

"The last pep rally convinced me student spirit was rising. Dropping football would put more of a damper on the rising tide of Rider spirit than the showers did that night in October," Oberholzer wrote. "Money matters are out of my field. But remember, gentlemen, there are intangible things that money can't buy. Spirit is one of those. High school students intent on choosing a college consider football synonymous with college life. These are things a profit and loss statement don't reveal."

Oberholzer concluded his letter by saying, "Football is king. Long live the king."

Unfortunately, Oberholzer's pleas did not suffice, as the college eventually cut football not long after. And as Oberholzer said, students were upset.

In a letter to the editor published in September of 1952, a student who referred to themselves in the conclusion of the letter as "Miss Football" embodied the feeling of most Rider students then and to this day.

"It is nearly Fall, in the country the leaves are beginning to turn color. There's a chill to the air and almost every collegian is looking forward to the reign of King Football."

"However, here at Rider, there is nothing to look forward to, for football was discontinued last year," the letter started by saying.

The letter stated some of the university's reasons for cutting football, like the formation of a soccer team, improvement of intramurals, a decision to stress basketball further and that the sport cost too much.

The author of the letter admitted football was a high-priced sport and that basketball is the most important sport for a school to stress "if it wishes to obtain a big name in athletics." But it was in the last paragraph where the writer made a point that identified both with students in 1952 and myself, among many students today, who openly wish the university had a football program.

"The gist of this letter is that, for me and most students, something is missing this fall — something that, however little, was here last year. The thing which is lost and should be returned is football," the letter stated.

Head Coach Joe Behot was deservedly inducted into the Rider Athletics Hall of Fame in 2008, not long before his death in 2010. Behot compiled a record of 18-5-1 in his three years at the helm.

Almost six decades after its final game not much lives on for Rider football. Most, if not all, of the players and coaches have passed, but there are old articles and archives, along with the "Undeclared since 1951" T-shirts which many students continue to wear today.

Sports

ONLINE

GALLERY
Full collection of vintage Rider College Roughriders football pictures from 1947-1952.

GALLERY BY CAROLO PASCALE/COURTESY OF RIDER UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

On The Gridiron:
An archival look back at Rider football on page 11

