

Rider sued by student for not offering tuition refunds



Carolo Pascale/The Rider News

Senior marine sciences major Joscelyn Quiroz and her father paid the university over \$14,000 in spring 2020.

By Stephen Neukam

LITIGATION is underway in a lawsuit against Rider for its refusal to issue tuition refunds for the spring 2020 semester, putting the university on a long list of schools facing legal challenges due to its response to the coronavirus pandemic.

The suit, brought forward by senior marine sciences major Joscelyn Quiroz and her father, argues that due to the pandemic-related switch to all-remote learning, the university did not provide the benefit of the education that students paid for without refunding tuition and fees. Quiroz is seeking a prorated refund for all students who paid to attend the university in spring 2020.


Quiroz and her father paid the university over \$14,000 in spring 2020, according to the suit.

In March 2020, Rider instructed students to not return to campus at the end of spring break and instead canceled all in-person classes and held remote instruction for the remainder of the semester.

The quality of remote education was not on par with the value of a traditional Rider experience, the suit alleges. Instead, “The online learning options being offered to Rider students are subpar in practically every aspect, from the lack of facilities, materials and access to faculty ... The remote learning options are in no way the equivalent of the in-person education,” read the suit.

While students did not walk away with tuition refunds for the semester, the university did offer prorated refunds for room and board, a move that cost Rider millions of dollars. Associate Vice President of University Marketing and Communications Kristine Brown said those refunds were a “responsive way to soften the financial pain inflicted by COVID-19 on students and their families in very difficult times.”

“Rider did so even if the refund may not have been required and even as the financial hardship inflicted on Rider was severe,” said Brown. “Rider stayed focused on ensuring the continuation of classes so the semester would not be lost, not on whether it might be

 SEE DAUGHTER PAGE 2

Rider coronavirus numbers rise slowly amidst surveillance testing

By Austin Ferguson

AFTER establishing a dashboard to track positive COVID-19 cases within the campus community during the fall 2020 semester, Rider University has created a new dashboard to do the same for spring 2021.

Starting on Sept. 28, 2020, the university updated positive cases of COVID-19 every Tuesday onto an online dashboard on Rider’s website, reflecting new positive cases in on-campus students, off-campus students, on-campus employees and off-campus employees. As of Oct. 13, the dashboard is updated every Tuesday and Friday.

Before the start of surveillance testing the week of Oct. 12, Rider University’s health center only administered 18 COVID-19 tests during the Fall 2020 semester. From Aug. 31 to the start of surveillance testing, the university only received six positive tests for COVID-19; three from off-campus students, two from on-campus employees and one from an on-campus student.

For the portion of the semester after the start of surveillance testing through Jan. 3, 2021, 80 positive tests were returned, half of which came from on-campus students between Nov. 9 and Nov. 22.

With surveillance testing now mandatory for on-campus students, Rider has administered over 1600 surveillance tests since Jan. 4. In that span, 21 positive cases have returned as of Feb. 9, most of which have come from off-campus students.

Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Planning and Secretary to the Board Debbie Stasolla noted that an uptick in positive cases is likely with an increase in surveillance testing.

“Because we are doing more testing, we’re going to have more cases and close contacts” Stasolla said. “That is the nature of the beast.”

The university’s dashboard also contains information on the number of students in quarantine and isolation on and off campus. According to the dashboard, “Students or employees in quarantine have been identified as close contacts of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, are completing their travel advisory required quarantine or have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and are awaiting test results,” while “students or employees in isolation have tested positive for COVID-19.”

According to the dashboard, up to three students and four employees were in quarantine at any given time through the end of January, with only one student

COVID - 19 Counter

Confirmed Cases
Last updated: Feb. 9, 2021

21
Cumulative total of laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 at Rider University (Since January 2021)

COVID - 19 case reports to Rider University by month:

Month/Year	Student Case Reports	Employee Case Reports
January 2021	10	6
February 2021	5	1

Rider University reports its testing numbers and other coronavirus statistics each Tuesday and Friday at rider.edu/dashboard

ON CAMPUS STUDENT TESTING

Weeks	Health Center	Surveillance Testing
Week 6	15	203
Week 5	3	157
Week 4	0	678
Week 3	0	366
Week 2	1	127
Week 1	0	128
Total	19	1659

STUDENT QUARANTINE

Weeks	On Campus	Off Campus
Week 6	13	1
Week 5	34	0
Week 4	0	0
Week 3	0	6
Week 2	1	7
Week 1	0	1
Total	48	15

Arianna Marino/The Rider News

Rider University has started a separate dashboard to keep track of new positive coronavirus cases on campus for the spring 2021 semester.

To that same point, up to four students and the same amount of employees had been isolated, all of them off campus.

In the following two weeks, as of Feb. 5, as many as 19 students on campus and 15 off-campus were in quarantine and as many as three students on campus and nine off-campus students were in isolation. There have been no reported employees in quarantine or isolation during that span.

INSIDE ON THE COURT

Sports Editors Shaun Chornobroff and Dylan Manfre give updates on the men’s and women’s basketball teams.

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DEMOCRACY’S BIGGEST THREAT

Political shift after the attack on the U.S. Capitol.

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WESTMINSTER PLAYERS

Westminster Players surprise audiences with a virtual show, “Songs for a New World.”

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SECURITY BRIEFS

BY STEPHEN NEUKAM

A Smoking Start

This is college, not “high” school. On Feb. 1 at 7:02 p.m., Public Safety was dispatched to Switlik Hall for a report of an odor of marijuana. When officers arrived, the smell was tracked to one room and the student admitted to smoking marijuana in the room that day and a subsequent search located a small amount of marijuana and paraphernalia. Lawrence Township police responded and the matter has been referred to the Office of Community Standards.

No Overnight Guests

Breaking the rules. On Feb. 7 at 8:25 a.m., Public Safety was attempting to have a car removed from the roadway in front of Ziegler-Moore Hall when it realized the vehicle was not registered with the university. Lawrence Township police were able to identify the owner of the vehicle and it was determined that the person was not a student at the university, but rather an unregistered guest staying overnight with a student in the residence hall. The guest was asked to leave campus and the matter has been referred to the Office of Community Standards.

Don't Forget The Faucet

Running water. On Feb. 7 at 12:02 p.m., Public Safety responded to Switlik Hall after a report of a water leak. It was found that a faucet in a custodial closet was left on and overflowed onto the floor. The water flowed into the hallway and a room below. The water was cleaned up and the leak was stopped.

— Information provided by Interim Capt. Matthew Babcock

Daughter and father seeking tuition refunds for all students

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

sued, and through the dedication of faculty and staff, classes continued and were completed, credits were earned and degrees were awarded.”

Two federal coronavirus aid bills, administered in March and December, pumped money to all universities, many in need of the boost. The federal legislation provided some support for Rider — over \$9.1 million in total — but the funds were only a bandaid to a gaping wound. Brown clarified that given administrative hurdles, the university has yet to see the money from the second stimulus bill.

Students have similarly been left behind by the government. Outside of a moratorium on federal loan payments, students were locked out of stimulus payments and other forms of support.

The legal action puts Rider in line with other universities around the country that have been sued for not offering tuition refunds. It's a delicate situation that pits

universities and their already-strained financial health against its debt-burdened students.

The financial fallout of the pandemic on the university has been steep, coupled with underlying budget issues that exacerbated the fiscal hit. President Gregory Dell’Omo has, in recent months laid out plans for cost-cutting across the university to make up for depressed revenues. While the outlook remains fragile, more should be learned at a town hall meeting with Dell’Omo on Feb. 25.

Quiroz and her representatives could not be reached for this story. The case was moved from the U.S. District Court of New Jersey to the Superior Court of New Jersey in October.

Eugene Marsh, pillar of the Rider community, passes away at 71



Peter G. Borg/Rider University

Marsh developed a passion for education due to his illiterate foster mother in South Carolina, where he was one of many foster children.

By Hailey Hensley

EUGENE Marsh ‘13 ‘18 — a lifelong learner, activist and veteran — passed away on Jan. 29 at 71 years old due to complications from COVID-19, according to email updates sent out by the Rider Veterans and Military Affairs Office (VMAO).

At the time of his passing, Marsh had received two degrees from Rider and was working on his Doctorate in Educational Leadership, also from Rider. He had previously received a bachelor’s in liberal studies and a master’s in clinical mental health counseling, according to a Jan 31 article from the university.

Marsh wanted to be educated not just for himself, but to help serve the communities he hailed from.

“African Americans are less interested in seeking mental health care than any other population,” he stated in a 2019 interview with university communications. “There’s a stigma within the urban communities, so I’m trying to identify some of the issues that are affecting people of color and raise awareness about the benefits of counseling.”

Marsh was born in Lancaster, South Carolina, in the midst of segregation and Jim Crow laws. He was raised by a foster mother who was unable to read or write. He chose to enlist in the United States Army as a way to escape the very limited opportunities available to him as a Black man in the south.

“I thought my life was doomed because I was poor, black and uneducated, I didn’t think the world had anything to offer me, and I didn’t have anything to offer the world,” he recalled in that same 2019 interview.

Sadly, when Marsh returned to the United States after his tour of duty, he was once again in an unfriendly environment, both as a Black man and due to negative sentiments towards Vietnam veterans at the time. This caused Marsh to be unable to become employed and he was then forced into homelessness for three years before finding his footing in the construction industry.

“My dignity as an African American and as a soldier was denied because of continued racism, discrimination and political controversy over the war,” he said in his 2014 commencement address.

Marsh always heavily emphasized the importance of education in his life, and especially the important role Rider played in shaping him into the educated person he became.

“I was accepted at Rider as a student who came with his heart full of hope, with a dream of obtaining a college degree. While acknowledging that Rider would not be easy, I found that the world of education I encountered would change my entire life,” he said in his address. “When discussing topics and writing essays that reflected my increasing knowledge, I learned that education is power and that what I was learning would increase my interest in the world. I now feel confident engaging in topics such as the environment, politics, and community issues.”

Marsh seemed to make strong impacts on every group he interacted with, with members of the military-connected community at Rider speaking especially highly of him.

Thomas Reddington, coordinator of VMAO at Rider expressed a deep fondness for Marsh, saying, “Eugene had a lot of energy. He was the consummate ‘people person.’ He loved to meet and learn about the people around him. He was always concerned about veterans. He always stopped by the Veterans and Military Affairs Office to find out what was going on and what he could do to help,” he reminisced. “When I started to work in the VMAO, Eugene and I started to work on more and more activities together. He would come booming into the office and say, ‘Little Brother! This is Big Brother! How are you doing today? What are we going to do to help veterans today?’ Eugene was fun and it was always comforting to have his big laugh in the office or lounge. I miss him a lot already.”

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2021

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FEBRUARY 1-15

School Supply Fundraiser

Promoted through social media

This will be a school supply fundraiser to split between the students who need school supplies on campus; money donations will go toward Homefront NJ.

Sponsored by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

FEBRUARY 3

Kultured

9:30 p.m., rider.edu/kultured

A Zoom discussion on the fashion and music that originated with the Black community and the influences that still remain today.

Sponsored by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

FEBRUARY 6, 13, 20, 27

Being Black in Music: A Celebration of the Black Musician

February 6, 7 p.m., rider.edu/the-composer

February 13, 7 p.m., rider.edu/the-conductor

February 20, 7 p.m., rider.edu/the-performer

February 27, 7 p.m., rider.edu/the-music-educator

Join BHA (Black & Hispanic Alliance) during Black History Month for weekly Q&A sessions on Zoom featuring an amazing panel of Black composers, conductors, performers, and music educators. Each week will feature one of these professions and highlight the importance of Black men and women in music careers.

FEBRUARY 8

Flag Raising: Black History Month Kickoff

11 a.m., in front of Moore Library

The flag raising will be used to kick off Black History Month. We will share a few words with students on the importance of studying our history before raising the Black Lives Matter flag.

Sponsored by Black Student Union

FEBRUARY 9

R.N.B. Rhythm No Boundaries

9:30 to 10:30 p.m., rider.edu/no-boundaries

An event educating the community on the different influences of the Black culture and also speaking on how the culture has developed over the years with its influences through the music industry by using different artists.

Sponsored by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

FEBRUARY 11

Galentine's Day

9:30 to 11 p.m., rider.edu/galentines-day

A virtual PJ Party, talking about Black Love, Valentine's Day-themed and the importance of sisterhood and self discussing romantic love, sisterly love, and self love.

Sponsored by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

FEBRUARY 12

Black Hairstory

9 to 10 p.m., rider.edu/black-hairstory

Part one of two-part program. A showcase/discussion of the history of Black hair originating from African countries and how hair changed in the U.S. (Tribal identification, storing rice, etc.).

Sponsored by L.O.C.K.S.

FEBRUARY 15

Unpopular Opinion: Appreciation and Appropriation

9 to 10 p.m., rider.edu/unpopular-opinion

Part two of two-part program. A continuation of the first discussion, tackling the significance of appropriation and appreciation within Black hair culture.

Sponsored by L.O.C.K.S.

FEBRUARY 16

Unmasking the Black Man

9:30 p.m., rider.edu/unmasking

A Zoom discussion on the troubles Black men face within the Black community.

Sponsored by Black Student Union

FEBRUARY 18

Brown Skin Girls

9:30 p.m., rider.edu/brown-skin-girls

A Zoom discussion on how to empower, support, and uplift Black women and the importance of doing so.

Sponsored by Black Student Union

FEBRUARY 22

Black Jeopardy

9:20 p.m., rider.edu/black-jeopardy

A Zoom discussion based on the popular game show, Jeopardy, discussing prominent African Americans, who have made an impact on our culture and where we are today.

Sponsored by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

FEBRUARY 23

How Black is Black Enough?

9 p.m., rider.edu/black-enough

Discussion of important issues within the Black community (colorism, black unity, toxic masculinity, mental health, the 'N' word, culture appropriation, etc.).

Sponsored by SGA Equity & Inclusion and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

FEBRUARY 25

Represent!

9:30 p.m., rider.edu/represent

A Zoom discussion on the importance of representation for younger generations and the effect it still has on adults.

Sponsored by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

FEBRUARY 28

Soul Food Sunday (for the Rider community)

4:30 p.m., *Daly Dining Hall*

Enjoy the culinary delights of the cultural contribution of "soul food" from early African American generations that continue to satisfy our palates today! Please pick up your dinner at Daly Dining Hall.

Sponsored by Center for Diversity and Inclusion

FEBRUARY 28

Gospel Fest

5:45 to 7:30 p.m., *link to be provided through email*

Unite with us for a virtual closing celebration of Black History Month through gospel song, dance and spoken word. Experience enormous joy and excitement as performers from Rider University and surrounding areas end Black History Month on a high note! This event is free and available to the public.

Sponsored by Center for Diversity and Inclusion

In celebration of Black History Month, listen for Milestones in African American History every hour exclusively on 107.7 The Bronc and the all-new 107.7 The Bronc Retro. Download our **free** WRRRC1 and WRRRC2 apps and skills in the Apple, Google Play and Amazon Alexa stores.

Students struggling to adjust to spring changes to Rider dining

By Stephen Neukam

A GROWING number of students at Rider have grown frustrated with the school's dining system after nearly two weeks on campus, with cut back hours, long lines and technical difficulties plaguing a coronavirus-adapted infrastructure.

Junior criminal justice major Derek Monahan remembered the university's "decent" dining selection and "painless" ordering system of the fall semester. When he returned for the spring semester, however, things had changed — and not for the better.

Besides a blistering snowstorm that complicated things further, Monahan said issues with Grubhub, the university's main dining app, set him back by half an hour several times to even order his food. He waited over an hour to pick up his meal from Wendy's. He's frustrated that Daly Dining Hall's menu has changed, limiting students' choices for food.

Monahan isn't alone. The same inconveniences have popped up for other students, including concerns about social distancing in dining halls.

The issues aren't going unnoticed by the university. Assistant Vice President of Auxiliary Services Andrew Pignataro said that the school is keeping "students at the forefront of service."

Pignataro acknowledged that the university is still trying to communicate with students about the changes to dining hours, including the Daly Dining Hall to-go feature not being available on the weekends. Instead, students have to walk into the dining hall and grab to-go food from the food stations.

The limited options and cut back hours have disappointed senior political science major Matthew Schantin in his first time back to campus since spring 2020. The drawn back hours leave "no real late-night option" for students, making weekends more difficult. He has also been frustrated by the lack of options for students with dietary restrictions.

"Options at Daly [Dining Hall] have been severely limited, especially for those who don't eat meat," said Schantin.

Monahan has noticed large groups of students gathering in dining areas, specifically at Cranberry's and Starbucks. Despite these transgressors, he said that a majority of students he sees are adhering to social distancing mandates.

Social distancing measures have been taken seriously, according to Pignataro. With tables spread apart and the dining room broke off into sections, the university can accommodate 233 people in Daly Dining Hall — an occupancy count that is monitored by the university's dining app. While staff does wipe down tables and chairs and watches for clusters of people, Pignataro said it is a shared responsibility



Carolo Pascale/The Rider News

Students are growing frustrated with the kinks in the dining system's new protocols.

to keep everyone safe.

Over the past few years, the university has made major changes to dining areas, large investments that unfortunately coincided with the onslaught of the pandemic. Only a limited number of students have been on campus to use the new facilities, with around 895 students living on campus this semester, according to the university.

The dining services will hope to be a large draw for prospective students in the coming semesters. With the university battling enrollment challenges and budget issues, the improved quality of the dining system will be a focal point.

Rider student wins \$10,000 John Galt Solutions' Scholarship



Courtesy of Nunana Honutse

Senior global supply chain management major **Nunana Honutse** said she "cried so much" the day she found out she won the \$10,000 John Galt Solutions' Scholarship.

By Tatyanna Carman

SENIOR global supply chain management major Nunana Honutse received a \$10,000 scholarship for Future Supply Chain Leaders from John Galt Solutions, a renowned supply chain software company, on Dec. 18.

Honutse is the second Rider student to receive the scholarship. Senior global supply chain management major Lillian DeMarco won the scholarship in 2019.

Honutse said that she was not interested in applying for the scholarship at first because she thought she was not qualified and feared rejection.

"I actually missed the deadline to apply, but he sent out another email that the scholarship deadline has been extended so I started looking more into it and began writing my essay," she said.

Honutse said that DeMarco encouraged her to apply since she was still having doubts about applying.

"I had received lots of rejection letters this year from jobs that I had applied to, so I was afraid of having to receive another one. But the push from my friend and the constant emails from Professor Miller persuaded me to apply," Honutse explained.

She submitted an essay and her transcript as a part of the application process. In the essay, Honutse had to describe her achievements, plans for the future, financial hardships that she may have faced and any other information that might be relevant.

"My volunteer work and achievements in education contributed highly to awarding me this scholarship," she said. "My essay outlined my ambition to pursue a supply chain degree and the reason why I chose a minor. Also, though working two

jobs, I have continued to volunteer and serve a leadership role on campus. I think my ambition and hard-working spirit contributed to earning this."

She said that when she received the call that she had won the scholarship, she could not believe it.

"First of all, I was not expecting to win because I know lots of people applied so I did not think I was qualified enough to be the recipient," she said. "I cried so much that day and told my sister who also cried with me. There was so much joy and excitement."

Honutse said that this scholarship was a "lifesaver" and will help to cover her tuition and pay off loans as she finishes up her last semester at Rider University.

Professor of Information Systems in the Department of Information Systems and Supply Chain Management Lauren Eder said that the scholarship is a "terrific opportunity for our global supply chain management students."

"It is a prestigious award that provides recognition for motivated, diligent students in the field of supply chain management, and the financial benefit also offsets students' higher education costs," she said.

Eder also added that Honutse's scholarship award demonstrates "the high quality of our students as well as the strength of our Global Supply Chain Management program."

"I have enjoyed teaching our global supply chain management majors in GSC385, Information Systems for Supply Chain Management since the inception of the program. As a group they are consistently enthusiastic, hard-working and eager to learn about the field of supply chain management," she said.

Dean of The Norm Brodsky College of Business Eugene Kutcher shared his thoughts on Honutse winning the scholarship.

"I understand that this is a nationwide competition that drew hundreds of worthy applicants," he said. "The fact that our students have been successful says a lot about the quality of our program and the potential of our young professionals. Nunana is a perfect example: she is motivated, dedicated and passionate about the field of supply chain management."

Honutse said that she plans to go back to school in the fall for her master's degree and has accepted a full-time offer with Amazon as an area manager after graduation. She said that she is looking into pursuing a master's degree at Penn State or Rutgers University for their supply chain program and is also applying to Fairleigh Dickinson University for their MBA program with a concentration in management. She also explained one of her career goals is to give back to the Ghanaian community with a focus on food insecurity.

"Food insecurity is especially rampant in Ghana, which is partly due to the low employment and wealth inequality," she said. "With supply chain, I would be able to make significant improvements in my community by utilizing what I have learned and I would do this by building a food bank or community center. One of my goals is to also create a scholarship fund like this to support students like myself."

She also gave some advice for people that are hesitant to apply for a job or scholarship like her.

"My advice to everyone is to apply for that job or that scholarship that you are hesitating about. Take that extra mile and see where it takes you. Do not be afraid to fail because it only makes you better and stronger," said Honutse.

Westminster Players "Songs for a New World" leaves audiences with a powerful message

By Sarah Siock

WITH in-person theater still on hold at Rider, the Westminster Players were tasked with the difficult challenge of creating a full-length musical from a distance. The student-run organization rose to the challenge by producing a completely virtual version of Jason Robert Brown's "Songs for a New World" that premiered on Feb. 6 and Feb. 7.

Despite the cast performing remotely, the show still managed to provide vast scenery and several ensemble numbers. From the deck of a Spanish sailing ship in 1492 to Mrs. Claus' home at the North Pole, "Songs for a New World" took audiences around the globe to examine the many paths that lead one to self-discovery.

The show followed five performers who all played multiple nameless characters. While each character seemed different from one another, they were all tied together by the musical's central theme — that one moment can change anyone's life.

"It redefines the idea that we as humans are defined by one mistake. We go about our days, not realizing that one singular, tiny moment that might not feel like anything to us could really change our life," said sophomore musical theater major Ella Kriegel, who played woman two.

While many aspects of in-person theater are difficult to replicate for virtual shows, the Westminster Players still succeeded in creating a memorable performance.

The production was pre-recorded, however, it aired via a live stream which allowed the audience to experience the show at the same time. The cast performed in front of individual green screens that frequently changed backgrounds to signify when a new character's story was beginning. The team that worked behind the scenes to edit together the show said crafting a virtual production was no easy task.

"In live theater, the bulk of the work is in the rehearsing and refining. For this show, there were hours upon hours of video and audio editing. Since it was virtual, it needs to have that special look to it," said senior music education major Leigh Huber, who served as a visual editor and artistic director for the show. "If it was just a black screen with someone's face on there, the audience is going to get very distracted. What we did was take video footage and make something happen."

Huber explained that cast members recorded their audio and video individually, then the footage was sent to editors to piece together the performances. Without a live audience, the cast had to find new ways to be energetic while performing.

"An audience and live music propel a performer. There is an adrenaline rush. The

hardest part was trying to find and capture the same energy alone in a room. However, it is still our job to leave people feeling inspired," said Kriegel.

The editors were able to overlap video and audio so it appeared the cast was singing together for the musical's ensemble numbers. This aspect of the production proved to be important to convey the show's overall message. For instance, in the final song of the musical, titled "Hear My Song," all the characters come on the screen to discover that their hopes and dreams will guide them to a new world. The theme is one that Westminster's Players hoped would resonate with audiences.

"In times like these, it is so easy to get discouraged and say, 'I am not going to do the things that I love' because of all that has been lost. I hope our show gives people a sense that eventually everything will be fine. I hope it can be something beautiful that people are refreshed by," said senior voice performance major James Harris, who played man two and served as the show's artistic director.



Sarah Siock/The Rider News

(From left to right) Sophomore musical theater major **Ella Kriegel** as woman two, professional singer and actor **Noah-Lee Andre** as man one and senior voice performance major **James Harris** as man two in "Songs for a New World."



Sarah Siock/The Rider News

Senior voice performances major **James Harris** performs "She Cries" as man two in Westminster Players' "Songs for a New World." Harris also served as the shows artistic director.



Sarah Siock/The Rider News

The cast of "Songs for a New World" appears together on screen. While the cast recorded their parts individually, the show's editors pieced together the performances for ensemble numbers.

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RADICAL RECYCLABLES: ROBOTS!

Individuals or **teams of up to four people** will work to create Robots out of varying types of recycled materials covered in the Campus Race to Zero Waste.

Building materials must be repurposed. No building materials may be purchased new. Binding materials such as glue, tape, and staples may be purchased, however, additional points may be given to those who employ recycled binding materials.

All contest entries must be completed and received by March 22, 2021

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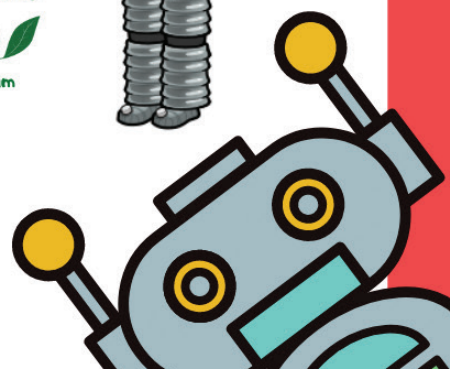
Most Diverse Use of Materials

Celebrity Robots

Most Creative

For details and applications for entry, email

BEEP
BOOP
BEEP



Monique Heart shares makeup tips and tricks with students

By Christian McCarville

THE art of drag is something that is frequently celebrated at Rider University in a variety of ways. There have been several events on campus that have celebrated drag culture, including many popular drag queen appearances.

The Student Entertainment Council (SEC) hosts its drag race each year, which typically draws a large crowd and makes for some incredible performances. The money raised from the show is donated to Rider's Relay for Life, benefiting the American Cancer Society. A drag bingo event was also included among last semester's family weekend activities, featuring drag queen Alyssa Edwards.

On Feb. 5, a new virtual drag-themed event was introduced to Rider students via the Zoom platform, kicking off the spring semester. This event starred a very prominent figure in the drag community: Monique Heart.

Heart is most commonly known for her appearances on the tenth season of "RuPaul's Drag Race" and the fourth season of "RuPaul's Drag Race: All-Stars." In these appearances, she has developed a strong following and a powerful presence in the world of drag.

Associate Dean of Campus Life Nick Barbati explained how the previous drag bingo influenced this brand new event.

"We were able to be connected with Monique Heart through our previous work with Alyssa Edwards," said Barbati. "We wanted a new event since we had already had a super successful drag bingo."

Heart was brought to campus virtually to provide students with a live makeup tutorial. Makeup plays a large part in the drag experience, as it assists the individual in transforming into their drag queen appearance. Heart was able to share her makeup process with the Rider community, providing helpful tips and assistance to the audience.

Coordinator of Campus Life Lucia White commented on the positive interactions that she witnessed during the event.

"Throughout the event [Heart] was helping students individually with make-up directions, offering advice for specific students that asked for her assistance and 'hyping them up,'" said White. "It was awesome being able to watch the students interact with Monique in such a personal and individualized way."

The majority of the audience likely left the event with helpful makeup tips and tricks along with some insight into the drag preparation process.

"We thought the makeup tutorial would be a fun way for students to interact with Monique while learning some new tricks to be the most fabulous versions of themselves," said Barbati.

Heart also took time during the event to talk about her experiences as a drag queen, sharing various stories from her endeavors.

"Monique was very fun and charismatic, making it the most enjoyable evening but also down to earth and humble," said White. "I was surprised she was able to paint

her face so quickly while making it look effortless and even threw on a wig and dress to show us a completed look."

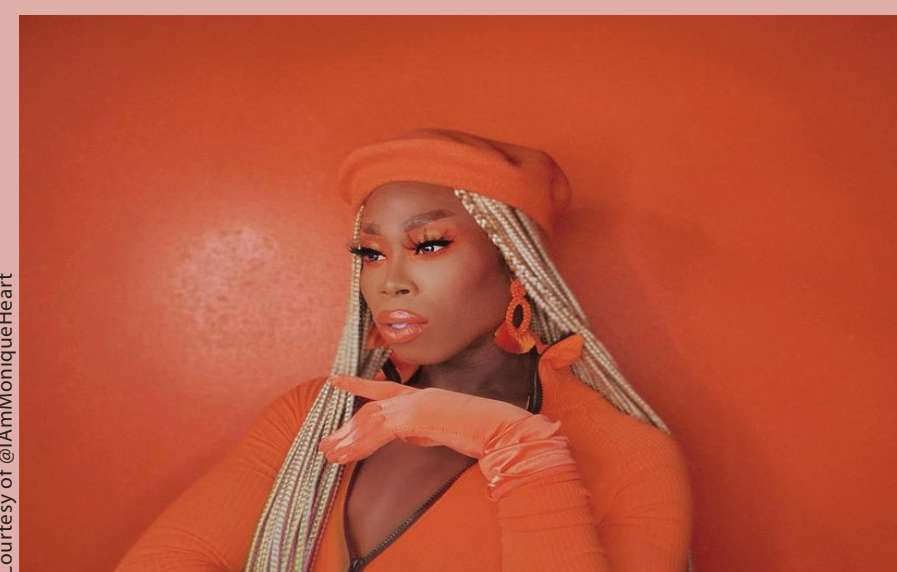
Overall, Heart's unique personality and talent for makeup made for both an informative and entertaining event.



Monique Heart provided individualized makeup instructions to her virtual audience.

Courtesy of Monique Heart

Drag queen superstar makes her mark at Rider



Monique Heart is commonly known from her appearances on both "RuPaul's Drag Race" and "RuPaul's Drag Race All-Stars."

Courtesy of @AmMoniqueHeart



Courtesy of @AmMoniqueHeart

During the event, Heart shared several stories from her experiences as a drag queen.



Courtesy of @AmMoniqueHeart

Heart has also dabbled in music, with several singles and musical collaborations released under her name.

Student Government Association remains committed to student safety

By Aaliyah Patel

TO start the spring 2021 semester, the Student Government Association (SGA) has implemented coronavirus precautionary measures to ensure safety on campus during remote and hybrid learning.

In collaboration with the Student Health Center, students, faculty and staff are subject to participate in the random mandatory COVID-19 surveillance testing program if they are frequently utilizing the campus.

This saliva-based PCR test serves as an effort of contact tracing, preventing others from becoming infected or spreading the virus.

Dylan Erdelyi, a senior musical theater major and SGA president, shared how the organization supported efforts with the Office of Community Standards and Public Safety to enforce the COVID-19 protocols.

"We have many members of the campus community that are immunocompromised or go home to family members that are at high risk for this virus. Despite the fact that many of us have been weathered by the effects of this virus, we cannot let up and cannot leave any members of the Rider community behind," Erdelyi said.

The Student Government Association (SGA) has increased awareness of student health and wellness through actively communicating the changes through their various social media platforms, Zoom meetings, emails and university website updates.

Elizabeth O'Hara, a junior computer science major and SGA vice president for academic affairs, shared how the continued commitment to safety precautions will ensure health and safety this semester. She highlighted the importance of mental health for students during the pandemic.

"Last semester, the Health and Safety Committee brought in a variety of guest



Courtesy of @RiderSGA

This past semester, members of SGA assisted on-campus students in their move in process. Left Liz O'Hara, middle left Dean Klebonas, middle right Sydnie Roy, right Dylan Erdelyi

speakers who talked about mental health, body positivity and supporting students with autism, among other things. In the coming weeks, we will be announcing some exciting new mental health initiatives to bring necessary support to our campus community," O'Hara stated.

Keeping students, staff and faculty in the loop with the university's Resolved and Ready plan is key to helping slow the spread of the virus on campus.

O'Hara continued, "Other precautions being enforced include utilizing the Campus Clear app, wearing a face-covering in indoor areas and when within 6-feet of others outdoors, adhering to the residential guest policy and maintaining other healthy practices."

The comprehensive list of the university's guidelines and expectations is constantly being updated as the semester progresses.

Megan Raab, a senior musical theatre major, mentioned how SGA has taken many steps to reduce the continued stress of the pandemic.

"SGA is working to ensure that student's mental health and wellbeing is a top priority. We are working on expanding the support available so students don't have to go through these hard times alone," Raab said.

Students take part in long distance holiday gift exchange

By Aaliyah Patel

WHILE Broncs were away for an extended winter break, the Student Entertainment Council (SEC) found a way to still spread the holiday joy, with students participating in a "Secret Snowman Gift Exchange" toward the end of November and beginning of December.

Participants that registered through the Google Form received the name, email and home address of another Rider student that they would be purchasing a \$10 to \$15 gift for.

For the exchange to have been facilitated effectively, the gift had to be sent out by Dec. 1 to ensure that the recipient would receive it before the end of the fall semester.

Lauren Matticoli, a senior human resource management major and the SEC traditions chair, said that this was the first time Rider held a school-wide gift exchange.

"We chose to have this event because we thought that it would be a creative and fun way to celebrate the upcoming holidays. We also thought that it was a unique event that could be from home, as students do not need to be on campus to participate," Matticoli said.

Shortly after registering, participants received an interests list to help develop gift ideas for who they were purchasing for.

"Having this event and seeing how many students signed up to participate made me so happy to see. I think that as nice as it is to receive gifts, it is just as nice to give them," Matticoli said.

Senior business management major and SEC President Goanio Chavarria expressed the importance of conducting virtual events, especially during the holidays.

"As president, I just wanted the students to have fun with it, just like at any of our events. Times are different right now, but there are still ways to connect with each other and make it fun," Chavarria said.

This event had a great turnout rate with 58 student participants.

"I think this was a great alternative. Students can easily engage and benefit from it. They sent a secret Santa present and a gift from the SEC for participating. I am happy to see so many students taking part in it," Chavarria said.



THE STUDENT ENTERTAINMENT COUNCIL PRESENTS

SEC Secret Snowman Gift Exchange

Sign Up due by Nov. 20th
Gifts must be sent by Dec. 1st

1865 RIDER UNIVERSITY

Courtesy of The Student Entertainment Council

In a time where students may feel more apart than ever, the SEC Student Gift Exchange was created to bring Broncs together in light of the holiday season.



Courtesy of @RiderSGA

Adhering to COVID-19 guidelines, the newly elected SGA members were sworn in via Zoom last semester.

A Wednesday in January

To me, it was a random Wednesday in January. I had been taking a winter course that met everyday for three hours. My day had been consumed with academia, therefore, my social media was dormant. I was in for a big surprise.

On January 6, not even a week into the new year, our political lifestyle took an unexpected turn for the worst.

Two runoff elections in Georgia that would determine control of the Senate still had not been decided as the day turned into Wednesday. A joint session of Congress convened to certify Joe Biden's electoral vote win while thousands gathered on the The National Mall in support of former President Donald Trump, who continued to falsify the claim that the election was stolen from him, according to the Washington Post.

According to Cornell Law School, an insurrection is defined as someone or someones who incite, sets on foot, assists or engages in any rebellion or insurrection against the authority of the United States or the laws thereof, or gives aid or comfort thereto.

On this "random" Wednesday in January, Trump supporters, Proud Boys, Republican Party officials, GOP political donors, far-right militants, white supremacists, off-duty police, members of the military, even adherents of the QAnon myth – those that believe that the government is secretly controlled by a cabal of Satan-worshiping pedophile cannibals – were all in attendance.

These various groups, some with different agendas, all gathered at the Capitol. Around 1:30 in the afternoon, the crowd outside the building grew larger, eventually overtaking Capitol Police and making its way up the steps, some even climbed the capitol wall (oh, the irony.)

The world was watching it happen — live.

This editorial is not a recap of that Wednesday afternoon in January, but more of an explanation as to why it happened.

What is the greatest threat to democracy? I believe there are a plethora of threats to democracy: miseducation, racism, classism and capitalism, to name a few. But, the biggest threat to democracy is immorality. None of these "-isms" would exist without the wrongful and unethical ideologies of those who perpetuate them.

This "random" Wednesday in January was not so random after all. In fact, on Dec. 21, writer and political analyst Arieh Kovler tweeted: "On January 6, armed Trumpist militias will be rallying in DC, at Trump's orders. It's highly likely that they'll try to storm the Capitol after it certifies Joe Biden's win. I don't think this has sunk in yet."

How didn't anyone know? Insurrectionists with "January 6" t-shirts and riot gear, even the infamous man with the 27-inch

nylon tactical restraints, typically used to immobilize large amounts of prisoners or hostages, this was a premeditated mission. So, perhaps January 6 was a random Wednesday for most of America, but for those at the Capitol that day, it was a new beginning.

I think it is rather difficult to not point out the lack of urgency from law enforcement when dealing with violent protesters. The difference in police response at the Capitol versus any Black Lives Matter protest is comical yet repulsive, obvious yet discreet, typical yet daunting. The insurrectionists roamed freely through the Capitol halls, taking selfies, stealing souvenirs, smashing doors, defacing statues and spewing sporadic calls like "Hang Mike Pence!" Many of the rioters shoved and beat officers, one of whom later died (so much for blue lives matter.) They ransacked the office of the Senate parliamentarian, took paperwork and computers, and a rioter was even photographed with a piece of the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi's, mail. As if invading the Capitol was not already a big enough federal crime. The National Guard showed up a day later.

According to the Washington Post, on the first day of June, a crowd of similar size gathered outside the White House to protest the killing of George Floyd. Their reasons for being there? A call to end police brutality and racial inequity. These demonstrators were met with an army of federal agents, tear gas and rubber bullets after Donald Trump's demand to show domination. Two demonstrations, both protesting on the symbols of democracy in the nation's capital, will forever define Trump's legacy.

Then President-elect (and current president) Biden said that if the rioters had been a group of Black Lives Matter protesters, they would have been treated "very differently than the mob of thugs that stormed the Capitol," he said to the Washington Post.

These "thugs" Biden spoke of in fact wear a multitude of hats besides Make America Great Again. A lot of the insurrectionists as mentioned were Republican Party officials, GOP political donors, off-duty police and members of the military. Immorality resides in many people, even in our most morally upstanding professions. We must get rid of the stereotype that white supremacists are uneducated hillbillies. They are our real estate agents, teachers, doctors, lawyers and politicians. And this is the very thing that feeds directly into the systemic racism in our society today.

When I saw that the confederate flag entered the capitol for the first time in 150 years since the end of the Civil of War, I knew their agenda was not liberty or democracy and definitely not equality. Just months after statues of Confederate leaders and racist figures were removed or torn down around the world, a man carried the emblem of racism through the Ohio Clock

corridor, past a portrait of Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts, an abolitionist.

No more denying that "this is not who we are." This is exactly who the United States is — who it always has been and what it is made of .

Was everyone at the Capitol immoral? Who's to say? But what we do know is that immoral ideologies brought them there, whether deliberate or against their better judgement.

I want this to be a reminder to America that we must unlearn the hatred ingrained in our history and it starts with telling future generations the truth (and I mean the whole truth, plus our ugly history) of what happened on a random Wednesday in January.

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

Qur'an H



Courtesy of Cagle Cartoons

THE Rider News

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UPON THE SHOULDERS WE STAND

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15 | 7:30 P.M.

From its inception, *Upon the Shoulders We Stand* has been a student-made, student-run all-Black production that promotes the performance of diverse art. This performance spotlights the talent and ingenuity of Rider's Black students, and is an opportunity to annually showcase underrepresented art at this institution. Join us as we create an experience that empowers and inspires current and future Rider students to engage with Black art and experiences.

PERFORMANCES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO VIEW ON:

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Illustrations by
Ylexis Butler

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Broncs go 3-3 in last six after rough start

By Dylan Manfre

As the saying goes, if you don't love them at their worst, you don't deserve them at their best.

5-14 is not indicative of a team doing its "best," but it is an improvement from the women's basketball team's 1-7 start to the season.

The above phrase was a social media trend over the summer when people posted throwback pictures followed by a second photo of the present day. Now that the Broncs have won three of their last six games, freshman guard Makayla Firebaugh said the phrase described the team's situation nicely.

"We all know how good we are and how good we can be. We were trying to figure that out in the beginning and it was hard for us, kind of, obviously," Firebaugh said. "We all knew the connection was there; we just needed the pieces to fit tighter and we struggled some games, figuring it out obviously as you could tell. I think in the future we will be a good team and we won't have those issues as [you were] starting to see this past weekend."

Rider has miraculously played all of its games without a positive COVID-19 case in the regular season. The Broncs were on pause once before, but it was during the preseason period when games were not played. The same cannot be said for teams such as Monmouth and Niagara, to name a few, which have felt the full brunt of the pandemic.

Getting 21 games in gives the coaching staff plenty of time to canvass the players and see what works, especially over the latest stretch of games where the team has won three of its last four games. Some mid-season lineup adjustments and essential growth have boded well for the Broncs and provided momentum going forward.

Daija Moses out for Raphaëla Toussaint

Toussaint, a freshman forward, replaced senior forward Moses in the starting lineup for the last three games, all of which Rider has won by a combined total of 46 points. Head Coach Lynn Milligan swapped because of Toussaint's chemistry with post teammate Victoria Toomey. Rider is 3-0 when Toussaint starts over Moses.

"They're always working on their, you know, high low passes, their counter move, just getting a feel for where each other is," Milligan said.

Toussaint has steadily proven she belongs in the starting rotation. She has four double-doubles,



Photo by Carolo Pascale/The Rider News

The women's basketball team has won three of its last six games and could potentially have three weeks off before the MAAC tournament.

averages eight points per game in her 14 starts and is shooting just over 46% from the field in all games.

Moses, on the other hand, might be more suited to come off the bench. She came off the bench much of last season, starting six games as a junior. Milligan said she is comfortable with that role too, based on experience. She recorded 14 points on 6-of-10 shooting off the bench against Monmouth on Jan. 31.

Toomey's growth in 2021

Milligan touted the sophomore center as one of, if not, the most improved players this season. As a freshman, Toomey saw 5.7 minutes per game, off the bench playing behind a senior-heavy frontcourt. Milligan called her their "rim protector" and Toomey has conformed to the role exceptionally well. She had a career-high eight blocks against Quinnipiac on Jan. 23 and is now fourth in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) in that category.

From freshman year to now, Toomey is averaging 5.7 more points per game and 5.0 more rebounds per game. She is also shooting 70% from the free throw line.

"There was a lot of growth left for a lot of our sophomore class and I think they've all really taken

to it," Milligan said. "But yeah, Vic has really bought into that role of being our rim protector."

Overall growth

The first Quinnipiac loss was a gut punch. "I just think it was a game where we just didn't play the way we were supposed to play," Milligan said. "But I think it was one of those games where the team recognized it without me having to tell them. They were like 'Wait a minute, this isn't [us.]" Milligan said. "It wasn't anything I had to call their attention to ... They felt it, they saw it."

Through its first 10 games in 2021, Rider has averaged 57.6 points per game which is up from 46.5 through nine games in 2020. A clear improvement.

Losses to Quinnipiac and most recently Marist on Feb. 7 and 8, gave the Broncs a little more guidance on what they need to work on to be a successful team. Rider will have plenty of time to correct any mistake when it faces a three-week gap between the Niagara series on Feb. 13 and 14 to when it leaves for the MAAC tournament on Mar. 7.

Graphic made by Carolo Pascale/The Rider News

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Rider hoops taking steps forward



Photo by Carolo Pascale/The Rider News

Dwight Murray Jr. has established himself as a star in his first season in the MAAC, averaging 15.4 points per game.

By Shaun Chornobroff

THE monster that is the 2020-21 college basketball season has reared its ugly head at the Rider men's basketball team recently.

On Feb. 5 the team announced that there had been a positive COVID-19 test among tier-one personnel, putting the team on pause.

A mere two weeks before the positive test, Rider was hit with another blow when junior forward Dontrell McQuarter left the team due to a family emergency and has yet to return.

Despite the hardships that have found their way to Lawrenceville recently, the Broncos have been much improved since the calendars turned from 2020 to 2021, giving many reasons for optimism in a time when buoyancy was hard to find.

Rider lost 87.5% of its scoring from the previous season — the only school that lost more was Kentucky. Head Coach Kevin Baggett's roster was a complete remodel from the year before and with an unusual offseason, the team didn't have as much time to practice and gain chemistry and it showed early.

New Year, Improved Broncos

The Broncos endured the worst start of Baggett's tenure, sitting at 1-6 when 2020 came to an end. The team hasn't done a complete 180, but it has been much improved and given many reasons for optimism.

Rider has accrued a record of 3-5 since the ball dropped on New Year's Eve, sitting at 4-11 on the season and 4-8 in Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) competition this year. It is still not a great record by any means, but it is improved from where Rider was at the beginning of the season.

Murray All-MAAC?

In Rider's embarrassing season-opening loss to Syracuse, there was a single standout player: junior guard Dwight Murray Jr. The transfer from Incarnate Word dropped 20 points against the Orange, a feat he has done four more times this season, immediately establishing himself as not only a team leader but one of the best guards in the MAAC.

"I fit right in, as soon as I got here I was watching film with coach [Baggett] in the summer, just seeing how the offense works and I fell in love with the Rider way," Murray said after a Dec. 11 win against Manhattan. "He just told me if he could trust me and I could trust him, then I could be that glue guy for the team. My teammates helped me a lot with that, just being there, finishing shots and playing hard with me."

The six-foot guard is averaging 15.4 points (third-best in the MAAC), 4.6 assists (best in the MAAC) and 6.5 rebounds (eighth-best in the MAAC) per game in his first season at Rider. The Georgia native has carried on the lineage of great guard play at Rider and is a near-lock to get all-conference honors this season.

Powell's Sophomore Surge

On Jan. 15 against Siena, Baggett made a change, inserting guard Allen Powell into the starting lineup. Powell had started when sophomore guard Christian Ings was absent from a near-upset against St. John's, scoring 17 points and making 50% of his three-point shots, but was held scoreless in the opening game of a back-to-back against the first-place Saints.

Baggett kept Powell in the starting lineup the next night and the sophomore from Philadelphia did not

disappoint, scoring 17 points and hitting clutch shots down the stretch, falling just short of a come from behind upset win over the Saints.

"I wanted him to show he's the Allen Powell that we know he's capable of being, being more aggressive and being the player we recruited in here," Baggett said after Powell's standout performance. "He and I met today and I just said 'it's go time,' he's a sophomore now, it's time for him to take the next step."

Powell has started five games this season and in those games, he averages 13.6 points per game and has converted on 59% of his three-point attempts.

Starting Off Slow

In the latter game of the series against Siena and Marist, Rider fought hard, but it found itself in large deficits early in the game that it could not escape from. Against Siena, Rider had a 17-point deficit and ended up having a chance to send the game to overtime and face Marist, but the team found itself down 41-7 in the first half (I promise this isn't a typo), only to cut the deficit to seven in the second half.

"We're still young, figuring things out, we're very inconsistent," Baggett said after the heartbreaking loss against Siena. "For these guys to continue to fight and not give up because you can give up when you're down 17, again just speaks to the character of guys like [Allen Powell] and all the other guys that were part of that comeback. Live and you learn, we're still learning... We're still learning how to win too."

Rider will play its next games at 4 p.m. on Feb. 20 and 21, facing Quinnipiac on the road.

Men's basketball goes on pause

By Shaun Chornobroff

WITH a little more than a month until the tip-off of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Tournament, the Rider men's basketball team was hit with a huge setback, going on pause after receiving a positive COVID-19 test, according to a release from the team.

The positive test was recorded among the team's tier-one personnel which consists of coaches, athletes, team managers and support staff.

The team announced the positive test on Feb. 5 on its social media pages less than 24 hours after the

MAAC rescheduled its series for the next two weeks.

Rider said in a statement that, "the team is following MAAC, local and university public health guidelines to prioritize the health and safety of all student-athletes and staff as well as the campus community."

Head Coach Kevin Baggett said that the team will be out of quarantine on Feb. 11 and back practicing on the 12, "if everyone tests negative."

The pause is Rider's second COVID-19 related pause of the year, with the first coming after a positive test on Nov. 4.

Many teams in the MAAC are struggling to hit the 13 game threshold necessary to qualify for postseason play. Fortunately for the Broncos, they are not one of them, having already competed in 15 games this season.

Rider had an almost two-week break before it was scheduled to play Canisius on Feb. 5. Now, Rider has almost a month off and is scheduled to next take the floor on Feb. 20 when the team travels to Hamden, Connecticut, to take on Quinnipiac at 4 p.m.

Sports

ONLINE

WRESTLING UPSETS NO. 25 LEHIGH

*The wrestling team scored its biggest upset of the season over Lehigh.*FIND THE MATCH RECAP ONLINE AT THERIDERNEWS.COM

WRESTLING

John Hangey back and stronger after stroke



Photo courtesy of Corey McKeithan

John Hangey would not let a stroke hold him back from coaching.

By **Olivia Nicoletti**

JAN. 9 started like any other day for John Hangey, the head coach of Rider's wrestling team. His team had finally opened up their wrestling season, suffering a loss against Binghamton. Nothing was out of the ordinary.

But as the team was headed back to Rider, the veteran coach was struggling to get words out of his mouth as he was talking to his head assistant coach, Nic Bedelyon, as they waited for the vans to fill up with gas. Bedelyon and Tim Lengle, the head athletic trainer, insisted that Hangey should go to the hospital once they got back, but he fought them on it.

Once they arrived back at Rider, Hangey was still set on having his wife pick him up so he could go home and try to sleep it off, but yet again, Bedelyon and Lengle reassured him that going to the hospital was the right move — eventually, he relented.

Good thing they did — Hangey was suffering a mild stroke.

"About four o'clock in the morning, I was pretty coherent with everybody as far as the ambulance staff and nursing staff," the 50-year-old coach said. "They then transferred me over to another hospital, which has a better neurology department."

That night, he was admitted and eventually discharged in the afternoon two days later. Within such a short amount of time, Hangey was already back to his routine.

"I was on a staff conference zoom call by the next morning. I was back at practice on Wednesday," Hangey said.

Hangey was physically at practice, but he was not out on the mat with the team. The team had been asking about him, but he was not able to do anything yet, so Bedelyon was running the practice.

"I wanted to be there and just rest their minds that I was okay and that I was doing better," Hangey explained.

Ethan Laird, a senior wrestler, was initially scared when he had heard the news, but when Hangey showed up at practice he was reassured everything would be fine.

"It was like two or three days, I mean, if you know the guy, he never stops," Laird said. "He is always going nonstop, so it honestly wasn't a huge surprise, it didn't slow him down too much. He's one of the toughest guys any of us have ever met and seeing him back in the room a couple of days later, it kind of made everyone settle down and made us less scared about what happened. We just have to wrestle better and make it less stressful so we don't give him strokes."

Jesse Dellavecchia, a senior wrestler, has always had a close relationship with Hangey and commends him for returning so soon while continuing to have a positive outlook.

"That's just something that Hangey and Nic preach — to be tough and stubborn," Dellavecchia said. "He wanted to come back fast and that's just the kind of person he is. It's nice to see that when they're coaching and preaching those things that they actually do it instead of just saying it."

Hangey became the assistant coach at Rider in 2000 for Head Coach Gary Taylor, serving under him for 17 years until he took over the job in 2017. In his many years of coaching, he had a consistent clean bill of health. However, now having survived a stroke, provided him with even more experience to be a better coach and mentor.

Hangey explained, "Right off the bat it makes me tougher. It just puts things in perspective for me. I talk to the kids and try to get more analytical in their

heads, getting the emotional connection and getting them fired up and getting them excited. I started talking to them more regularly, I'm sending them things to think about and things to read about. So I think I've kind of evolved into that."

After the Binghamton dual meet, the team had been struggling to get on the right track again until Laird won against a top-five wrestler in the country at Lehigh. The win may have been what the team needed to move forward and come together.

"Our first match we lost to Binghamton and on that same day Hangey had the stroke so we haven't really been able to rebound as a team until yesterday when we won that match," Laird said. "Now our confidence is back and we're back to being the team that we know we can be."

Hangey believes he has made a full recovery and in regard to the team, he visualizes continuation of growth from here on out.

"It definitely makes you appreciate what you have and it makes you appreciate your job," Hangey stated. "I feel like the team is progressing well and developing through the trying times of the pandemic circumstances and all that stuff. So I expect nothing but us to continue to grow and recruit good kids and have success on the mat."

Regarding Hangey's mental growth, he has learned that you do not need to do everything on your own to reach success.

"You have good people around you, you gotta lean on them and they'll do wonders for you," Hangey said. "I think you learn to appreciate it a little bit more and you learn to cherish things. You realize nothing is forever."