

State stops Rider plan for on-campus vaccine clinic

By Stephen Neukam

NEW Jersey has put a hold on Rider's plan to distribute the COVID-19 vaccine on its campus in the coming weeks, with the state yet to authorize the use of the shots at the university, according to an email from the school on April 20.

The university is in agreement with a provider to distribute the Moderna vaccine on its campus, according to Vice President for Strategic and Planning and Secretary to the Board Debbie Stasolla. The school was hoping to make an announcement about the vaccine in the coming weeks.

The hold up, according to Stasolla, is the supply of vaccines from the state. The provider, which she would not disclose, has to wait to secure the doses from New Jersey, but the process has been disrupted by national supply chain issues with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and worries about its safety.

"I think it has been influenced somewhat because of some of the redistribution of vaccines very recently because the Johnson & Johnson vaccine has been taken out of the picture," said Stasolla.

The company's vaccine was put on hold to investigate possible links between the shots and serious bloodclots, putting the national vaccine rollout in flux. Centers for Disease Control representatives are expected to meet later this week to discuss how to move forward, according to reporting by CNN.

Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Anthony Fauci said on April 18 that he expected the vaccine to be back in use by the end of the week, possibly with new restrictions.

Stasolla said that there were "several hundred" students indicated that they would be willing to get vaccinated on campus. Rider President Gregory Dell'Omo said that there was "a lot of interest" in getting the shots at the school, in an interview with The Rider News on April 13.

The administration will not abandon its pursuit to offer the vaccines on its campus. Stasolla said that while the news was "disappointing", the school is still working to offer the immunizations.

SEE UNIVERSITY PAGE 2



Courtesy of Tessa Douglas

Senior musical theater major Tessa Douglas received her Pfizer vaccine in April, with immunizations becoming available for younger and healthier New Jersey residents.

Rider coronavirus positive cases once again in single digits

By Austin Ferguson

RIDER university's COVID-19 case, quarantine and isolation numbers were once again in the single digits as the university draws near the end of the semester, Rider's online COVID-19 dashboard reported on April 20.

The university dashboard reported six new positive cases of COVID-19 between April 12 and 18, which is up from one positive case reported the week prior.

Rider's decreased positive numbers related to COVID-19 are coupled with increased testing numbers on campus. The university reported two of its five largest weeks in terms of testing numbers the previous two weeks, reporting 306 and 324 tests respectively.

As of April 20, five students were reported to be in quarantine, with only one being reported as doing so on campus. The number is a decrease from the seven students reported to be in quarantine on April 16, all of whom were doing so off-campus.

According to the online dashboard, six students were reported to be in isolation as of April 20, which is up from four students reported on April 16. On both dates, all isolated students were reported to be doing so off-campus. The back-to-back weeks of a lack of students in isolation on campus were the first span of having no students in isolation on campus since February 19.

The university's continued decline in COVID-19 numbers mirrors the decline on a statewide level. According to the New York Times, New Jersey's daily COVID-19 positive case numbers have declined since April 1, when it reported 5,608 new cases. As of April 19, the seven-day average of new COVID-19 cases in New Jersey was 3,581, according to the New York Times.

In an email from the university's COVID-19 implementation team on April 20, Rider announced that it will offer self-administered, free rapid antigen testing for students as they prepare to leave campus for the semester.

According to the email, the nasal swab tests will be administered on May 4, 5 and 6 in Alumni Gym. Tests will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis and do not require an appointment to take, the university email said.



Confirmed Cases
Last updated: April 20, 2021



COVID-19 case reports to Rider University by month:

Month/Year	Student Case Reports	Employee Case Reports
April 2021	14	0
March 2021	63	4

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 16	2	74
Week 15	6	306
Week 14	1	323
Week 13	7	210
Week 12	19	250
Week 11	16	224
Total	112	3300

STUDENT QUARANTINE

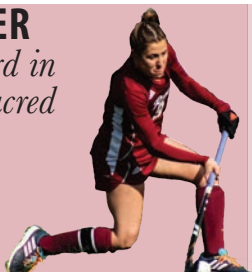
Rider University reports quarantine numbers on a rolling basis, so there is no accurate way to keep a cumulative total of quarantined students. This week, there are:

One students quarantining on campus
Four students quarantining off campus

Arianna Marino/The Rider News

As of April 20, five students were reported to be in quarantine, with only one being reported as doing so on campus.

INSIDE UNDEFEATED NO LONGER
Rider loses undefeated record in penalty shootout against Sacred Heart.
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THE FINAL EDITORIAL
College seniors, what's next after pandemic graduation?
PAGE 8

PEP BAND
Rider Pep Band performs a socially-distanced benefit concert for the Trenton Music Makers.
PAGE 6



SECURITY BRIEFS

BY SARAH SIOCK

Shed Damage

Reckless driver. On April 12, at 11:01 a.m., Public Safety was dispatched to the Daly Dining Hall parking lot to meet with the director of the Meals on Wheels program. Public Safety was informed by the director that there was damage to a storage shed used by Meals on Wheels. It appeared that a larger vehicle had backed into the shed, causing damage to it. It is unknown who or what caused the damage at this time, Public Safety is investigating.

Exit Sign Thief

Cover your tracks. On April 15, at 6:44 p.m., Public Safety was performing a Park, Walk, and Talk at Poyda and while going through the first-floor hallway, an officer discovered the cover had been stolen off of an exit sign. No one was present in the area at the time and no other issues were discovered in the building. Facilities were alerted to replace the cover.

Suspected Marijuana

Funky smell. On April 19, at 12:17 a.m., Public Safety was dispatched to Olson Residence Hall for the odor of suspected marijuana. Public Safety met with the community assistant on duty who reported the incident. Public Safety and the community assistant checked the area, but the smell dissipated and the source was not found.

— Information provided by Public Safety Capt. Matthew Babcock

University has reached an agreement with provider for vaccine

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

“We’re still working with a provider to see if we can provide vaccines for students, only at a later time frame,” said Stasolla. “We’re certainly going to work toward that end.”

The campus vaccinations would be a step in the right direction for the university, which is planning on more normal operations for its campus next semester.

The pandemic has wreaked havoc on university budgets across the country — Rider has not been immune to the effects. Increased operations on campus would be a boon to university spreadsheets, which lost tens of millions of dollars in revenue due to the pandemic.

The increased availability of vaccines has seen New Jersey move to among the top states in percentage of residents vaccinated. As of April 19, over 46% of New Jersey’s population has received at least one shot, with 30% fully vaccinated, according to statistics from the New York Times. New Jersey is the seventh-highest state in vaccination percentage.



Senior political science major **Matthew Schantin** showed his COVID-19 vaccination card, days after he received his second dose of the Pfizer vaccine.

Rider co-signs letter to Biden administration urging carbon reduction

By **Olivia Nicoletti**

RIDER signed a letter to President Joe Biden urging his administration to adopt carbon reduction goals — a plan that has hopes of reducing 50% of carbon emissions by 2030, leading to a further goal of net-zero emissions by 2050, according to a university press release.

Rider co-signed the letter with 74 other universities and colleges on April 8, a sign of increasing pressure on the federal government to adopt eco-friendly public policy initiatives.

The press release also stated that Rider has pledged to be carbon neutral by 2050. The school is already on the path to doing so, with its decrease in carbon emissions by 40% since 2006. It is now 25% toward its final goal.

“The United States re-entered the Paris Agreement in February and needs to submit a carbon emission goal, known as a nationally determined contribution,” according to a university press release. “Rider, along with the letter’s co-signers, hopes the bold 2030 goal will be adopted by the White House.”

Rider has shown dedication in the past to the national effort to combat climate change. It has been partnered with Second Nature, an organization “that aims to advance solutions toward climate change specifically through institutions of higher education,” according to a university press release, for over 12 years and has taken advantage of opportunities to get involved, according to Director of Sustainability Melissa Greenberg.

“Having an annual deadline for greenhouse gas emissions reporting through Second Nature keeps us on top of all our campus carbon contributors and generates meaningful goals for reduction opportunities,” said Greenberg. “Being part of a group of colleges and universities that have made combating climate change a priority puts us in good company and gives Rider University a global platform for our efforts.”

Rider’s Carbon Neutrality plan was amended in 2016. The plan suggests ways to reduce the main contributors to its overall annual greenhouse gas emissions.

“Since then, many energy efficiency projects have taken place — the Tri-Gen energy plant was built, [The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design] LEED buildings were added to our inventory, electric vehicle charging stations were introduced, a 740-kW solar array was constructed and green offsets have been purchased to offset our annual energy use,” Greenberg said. “The plan is also tied to the facilities master plan completed in 2018 and the Energy Master Plan that was done in 2019. All of these initiatives have put Rider in a position to achieve our carbon neutrality goal earlier than the 2050 target.”

According to the press release, The Princeton Review has named Rider “one of the nation’s most environmentally responsible colleges for 11 years straight.”

The next step is to continue to evaluate the student interaction with climate change and promote ways to get involved. Greenberg expressed her gratitude towards the volunteer Green Team and their increased motivation to become educated on the matter.

“Since I began my position at Rider in 2008, there has been a steady increase in student involvement around sustainability,” Greenberg said. “I attended a student job fair in 2009 in order to build a team of Eco-Reps and have not attended a job fair since. Any vacant positions are quickly filled through word-of-mouth by students



Director of Sustainability Melissa Greenberg said that she saw the importance of involvement in improving climate change because she understands the detrimental effects of inaction.

with an interest in getting involved advocating for the environment.”

Greenberg sees the importance of involvement in improving climate change because she understands the detrimental effects of doing nothing.

“I am proud to work for a university that is committed to reducing our environmental impact, has included sustainability in our overall campus master plan and is working toward a goal of carbon neutrality,” Greenberg said. “There is a growing awareness on the campus and we cannot do it alone. I want to thank the members of the Rider community for their continued support in this endeavor.”

Athletic Department introduces new plans for renovations of Alumni Gym

By Shaun Chornobroff

RIDER has introduced a new strategy to accrue donations for the renovations of Alumni Gym — offering naming opportunities in a multitude of spaces in exchange for a donation, according to a release from the university on April 20.

The plan, which will contribute to making the gymnasium, “a modern Division I NCAA facility,” will allow donors to potentially name an arena seat for \$500, a locker for \$1,000, an arena courtside padded seat for \$2,500, as well as potentially join others on a “Donor Wall” that includes gifts of above \$5,000. Other opportunities can be found on the university website.

“This endeavor will create an exceptional game-day experience for both student-athletes and their fans and help build school pride and engagement across the university,” said Director of Athletics Don Harnum. “This is a great opportunity for former athletes, fans and others who wish to make their mark on this ambitious project.”

“The Rider Arena Project” will see an overhaul of the Alumni Gym, which was the first building on the Lawrenceville campus. The planned changes include a center-hung scoreboard, a new lobby with ticketing and concession areas and expanded seating along the baseline into the corners.

“I think it adds onto the excitement of what is the Bronc Zoo,” men’s basketball Assistant Coach Marlon Guild said of the improvements to the arena. “I think before the renovations went into place it was already a tough place to play... Adding more fans and finding a way to incorporate them to a home court advantage is always a plus.”

In addition to the arena improvements, the school announced a significant expansion: to the Sports Medicine Center, a new \$1.7 million strength and conditioning center for student athletes and a dedicated locker room to the volleyball team, who recently made its first appearance in the NCAA Tournament main draw in 27 years.

“As a program, we are obviously thrilled at the plans for a new locker room for the volleyball team,” said Jeff Rotondo, the head coach of Rider’s volleyball team. “It does mean a lot to our players to have a place they can call their own that is top notch. It goes to the overall appeal of the program and athletics department, and will definitely aid in recruiting. Even in mid-major conferences, players and recruits want to have nice facilities and be able to have pride in the areas they call their own.”

In October of 2020, the athletic department received its largest gift in its history — receiving a \$2.5 million anonymous donation to the project which is only 40% away from its goal, needing \$7.2 million to reach the needed \$18.2 million dollar overhaul of Alumni Gym.



Courtesy of Rider University

“The Rider Arena Project” will see an overhaul of the Alumni Gym, which was the first building on the Lawrenceville campus, a project estimated to cost over \$18 million.

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Rider Model United Nation team takes home top awards

By Hailey Hensley

RIDER University's Model United Nations (MUN) team took home a multitude of awards in their annual conference, including the outstanding delegation award and an outstanding position paper award.

The annual conference usually occurs in New York City, but was held virtually this year. The team represented the Republic of Cyprus in various UN Committees as well as Norway in the Security Council.

Head Delegate and senior political science major Griffin Carnegie spoke about his experiences being a team leader this year.

"When I was elected to the position, I knew I would be dedicating a year of my time to preparing a team for only one week of work. Learning how to be a delegate and teaching a team to be delegates were two very separate experiences," he said. "I'm proud of every member of the team we formed this year and that I had the chance to educate the next generation of delegates. I got to face new challenges no head delegate had seen before and still get the same feelings of pride for my team every head delegate can relate to."

Sophomore political science major and MUN delegate Maheen Mumtaz emphasized the fact that she feels MUN can help model the changes many young people would like to see in the world.

Mumtaz said, "I enjoyed collaborating with some of the most talented and motivated individuals from around the world to come up with effective solutions to important topics. It was a really empowering experience that showed me the potential of our generation to address some of the most pressing issues."

Sophomore political science major Andrew Bernstein served as a MUN delegate and clarified that despite his love for the competition, there are definitely stressful parts.

Bernstein said, "I think the most stressful thing about Model UN is the fact that all of the work during the semester builds up to a one-week conference. So it's not like a normal class where you can always bounce back after a bad exam, if you aren't prepared for the conference, the whole team suffers. Each week has its own tasks and mastery of each week is necessary for success in the end-of-year conference."

Rider's team has consistently received awards and accolades from the national conference, with several consecutive years of winning outstanding delegation.

Carnegie specified that the MUN program at Rider looks for candidates with the right skill set for success, which helps the team win awards.

Carnegie said, "Rider's MUN program prides itself on doing everything in committee the right way. This means finding students with already established skills and students that can be molded into model delegates. The program strives




Courtesy of Matthew Schantin

Members of the Model United Nations team spent the entire semester preparing for a single competition that occurred in the spring.

for excellence because everyone chosen for the team has the capacity to become excellent. We do not sacrifice one skill for another; everyone on the team once conference week occurs will be comfortable public speaking, writing papers, and working diplomatically with their peers. No one person is responsible for Rider's success, it is a lineage passed down from generation to generation."

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Professors answer students' questions and concerns at SGA event

By Sarah Siock

STUDENTS had the opportunity to ask questions and raise concerns about several university-related topics in an open dialogue with faculty members at the Student Government Association's (SGA) "Popcorn with Professors" virtual event on April 15.

SGA chose to focus the event on five topics: diversity and inclusion, fall 2021, academic advising, engaged learning and bridging the gap between Westminster Choir College (WCC) and the School of Fine and Performing Arts (SFPA).

"SGA chose the topics for discussion based primarily upon student concerns. We listened to student opinions at our weekly senate meeting and we talked with our fellow peers to gauge what students were concerned about and what needed to be discussed. We wanted to focus on what students cared most about and what issues had the most significant impact on campus culture," said sophomore political science major and newly-elected SGA Vice President of University Affairs Andrew Bernstein.

The event garnered nearly 60 student and faculty participants. Each topic was given a breakout room on Zoom and participants were able to move rooms throughout the hour-long event. SGA gathered professors, deans and staff members from various departments at the university to speak with students at the event.

Since there was a wide range of faculty and staff members present at the event, students had the chance to ask a variety of questions. Each breakout room focused on a specific topic and facilitated an open discussion. Staff members present at the event included: Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Kelly Bidle, Executive Director for the Center for Diversity and Inclusion Pamela Pruitt, Provost DonnaJean Fredeen and Chair of the Theater and Dance Department Ivan Fuller.

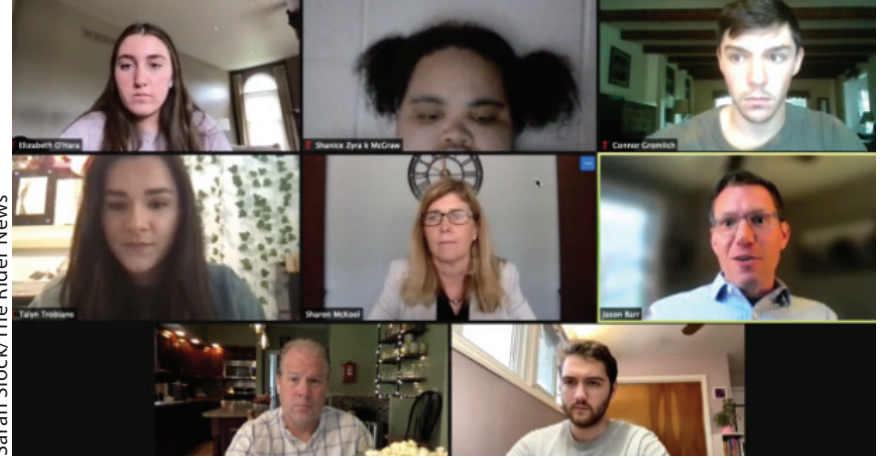
For instance, in the diversity and inclusion breakout room, students raised concerns about microaggressions students of color have faced on campus. Students spoke about how diversity and inclusion training for faculty and staff members could help combat microaggressions on campus.

"This was a recurring issue that students expressed, and is something that is quite frankly inexcusable. One of the many possible solutions to this problem is education and training for staff and faculty on how to be aware of microaggressions and to be cognizant of how they are expressing themselves toward students," said Bernstein.

"Popcorn with Professors" also gave students insight into the fall 2021 semester. Several students asked if they could expect to see a campus that resembles pre-pandemic life in the fall.

During the event, Bidle said, "Pending guidance from the CDC, public health officials and our governor, I have every expectation that in the fall we will be back to normal operations."

Students also had the opportunity to discuss their schedules and the class registration process in the academic advising and engaged learning break-out room. In these sessions, students asked questions about graduation requirements and voiced



Students gather in the engaged learning breakout room to ask questions about the graduation requirement.

concerns about the engaged learning program at Rider. During the event, Elizabeth O'Hara, a junior computer science major and newly-elected SGA president, shared suggestions on how staff members can help students navigate engaged learning.

O'Hara said, "As a freshman, engaged learning isn't necessarily in the front of their mind because they probably think 'oh well, I have four years to do this.' So I think part of it is just being persistent throughout their four years and making sure each class year, starting as soon as we can, is in the loop about engaged learning and making sure we're getting those requirements."

Finally, WCC and SFPA students had the chance to speak about the integration of the colleges that took place this year. Dean of WCC Marshall Onofrio expressed how in-person classes will help WCC students feel more accustomed to the Lawrenceville campus.

During the event Onofrio said, "Now, it'll just be the case, you're sitting in a room with 20 other students in a history class from all across the university. And I think organically that'll just get people talking."

"Popcorn with Professors" served as an event that SGA hoped would bring meaningful change on campus.

O'Hara said, "We believe that Academic Affairs at Rider is better enhanced through collaborative conversation between students and faculty. It is important to hear both perspectives as we all have the goal of making changes to promote academic success. Both parties get the chance to learn from each other, and the more students voice their concerns in front of faculty, the more accountability they have to make the changes necessary to improve students' academic experience."

Student Entertainment Council holds hybrid hunt

By Aaliyah Patel

A HYBRID spring scavenger hunt, hosted by the Student Entertainment Council (SEC), was held for students outside throughout the campus and from home on April 17 from noon to 3 p.m.

Students were asked to register through a Google Form by April 9 to become eligible to participate, resulting in about 100 form submissions. The event was split into a hybrid and virtual section so more members of the Rider community could become involved.

Hybrid and virtual participants were given two different lists of tasks to complete, but the one who completed it the fastest received a Rider gift basket, regardless of modality. The off-campus tasks included things such as taking a picture in your favorite Rider gear and posting a picture of either a sport, club or organization that you are involved in. The on-campus tasks included ideas such as these along with taking photos with Rider landmarks.

To show that you had completed the tasks, you had to take a photo and post it to your Instagram story, tagging the SEC. An alternative method was to email the photos to one of the hosts.

Kayla Wagner, a sophomore digital marketing major, and a co-chair of public relations for the SEC who hosted this event discussed the importance of involving all students in these

interactive activities, not just those who are physically on campus.

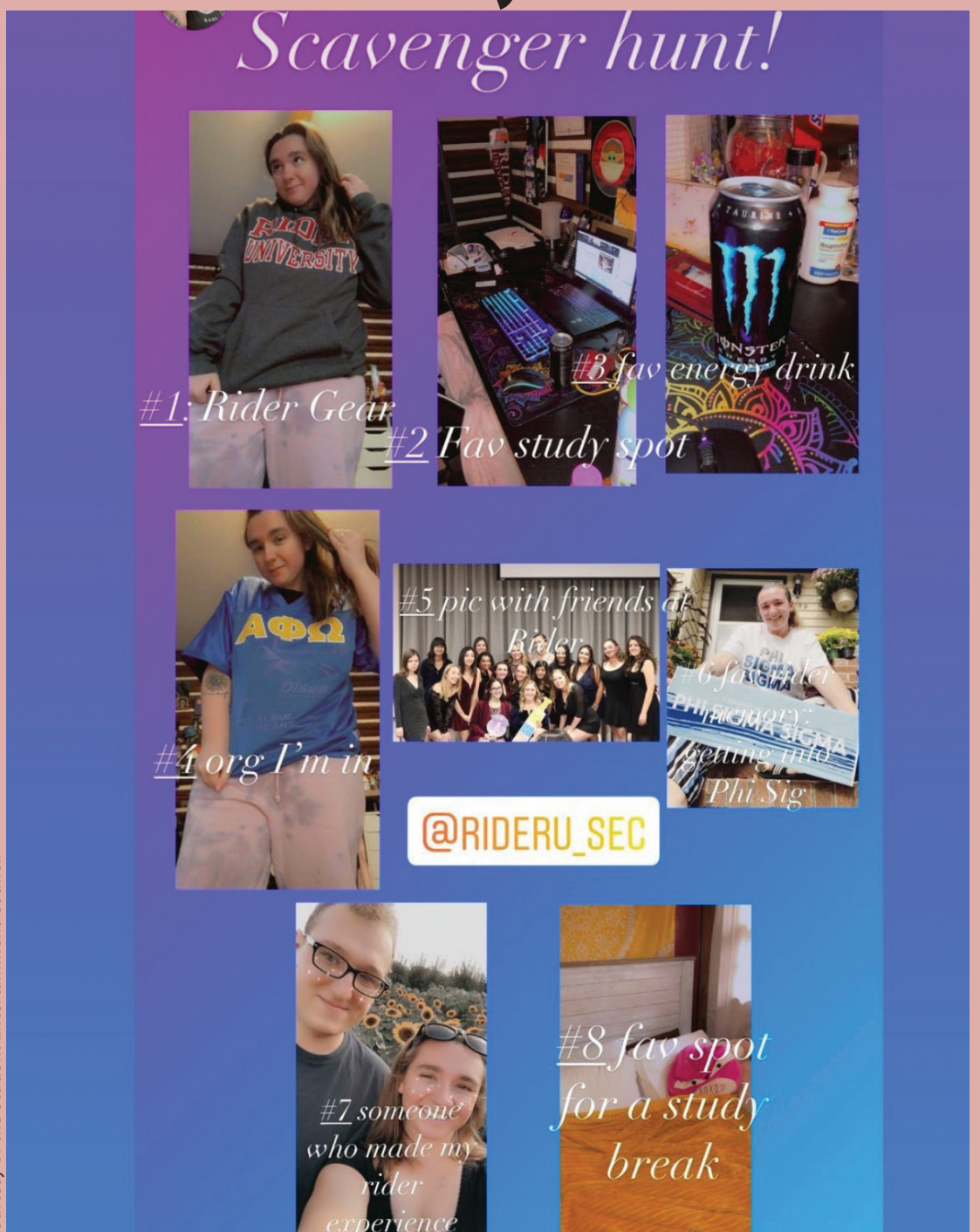
"As we're nearing the end of the semester, Lindsay and I were looking to collaborate on an event that would bring the Rider community, both on and off-campus, together in a fun way. We thought that hosting a scavenger hunt would be a great event to get everyone outside and find some sense of normalcy in a time that is definitely far from normal in many aspects," Wagner said.

Students were accompanied by a DeLorenzo's pizza food truck during their time outside, courtesy of the SEC.

Lindsay Clarke, a sophomore management and leadership major and traditions chair of the SEC, wanted to host an event that relied on active participation.

"The planning process was super fun. This is Kayla and I's first year on the Student Entertainment Council, so being able to plan and create an in-person event where students can be either off and on campus and interacting with each other on social media is so exciting to bring to life," Clarke stated.

Ultimately, senior global studies major Ashley Sherry completed the scavenger hunt the fastest and was named the winner. However, each participant was given a free t-shirt for participating, regardless of how long it took them to complete the tasks.



After completing a scavenger hunt task, students posted their findings on Instagram.

Courtesy of the Student Entertainment Council

Rider Pep band hosts benefit concert for Trenton Music Makers

By Amethyst Martinez
Despite a non-traditional year due to COVID-19, Rider's Pep Band hosted a virtual benefit concert on April 16 with all of the proceeds going to the music education school, Trenton Music Makers.

All performances were by Rider groups, alumni and current Rider students, with seven acts in attendance. The performances included singing, tap dancing and a musical number by the pep band, all while adhering to social distancing rules.

The pep band chose to raise money for the Trenton Music Makers, who provide musical education to children in the urban area of Trenton.

"We wanted to use a musical school (for donations) since we are a Pep Band and music is our life," said senior elementary education major Pamela D'Addato, Rider Pep Band's equipment manager.

Among the performers at the event were the Rider Pep Band themselves, Moon Motel Records, AM Reflection, sophomore musical theater major Tiffany Beckford and sophomore pop music major Alex Lathon, Rider Cheer, Unashamed Gospel Choir and sophomore marine science major McKaela Jones.

"We had a bunch of ideas of who we wanted to have perform at the concert. We wanted a nice variety: a little bit of performance, instrumental and voice, but I think we found a nice mix," said D'Addato.

Alumni Alex Murphy and Ethan Lane helped put together the virtual benefit concert months after creating their virtual concert for their band, AM Reflection.

"I actually started a media company with my friend, and I asked if the pep band needed help," said Murphy.

Murphy and Lane mixed and mastered the entire event, which premiered on Youtube.

"Ethan and Alex did a phenomenal job... it looks really amazing," said D'Addato.

Murphy was also one of the founders of the pep band during his time at Rider and still contributes to the campus community frequently.

"I really enjoyed my time at Rider. I had one of the best experiences that I could've had, and whenever I can give back and help is amazing," said Murphy.

Luckily, although COVID-19 posed setbacks to events such as concerts, virtual concerts have now become the new normal for bands and groups.

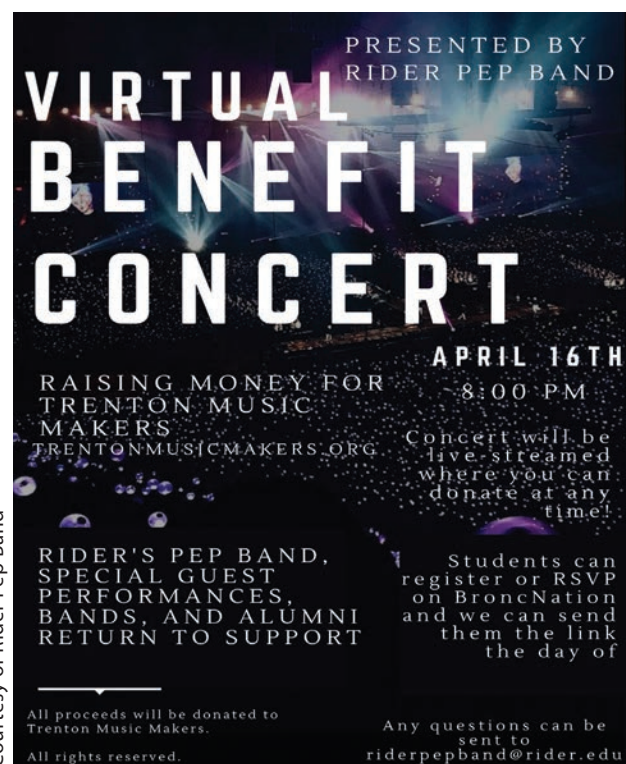
"The benefit is completely virtual, some of the videos were taken before COVID[19], some taken around two weeks ago," said D'Addato.

It's been a tough year for the pep band when it comes to performing, due to the pandemic, but the benefit is prerecorded and abides by coronavirus guidelines.

"It's been very difficult keeping members involved and keeping all members invested in their instruments [during COVID]. We have been trying very hard to be together in a Zoom setting. It's been hard, but we've been managing and we have a good following and a good amount of members who are still invested and who want to come back, hopefully in the future in person," said D'Addato.

Despite the difficulties presented due to COVID-19, the pep band continues to perform and practice virtually until things reach normality again.

Despite it already premiering, the virtual benefit concert can still be viewed on the Rider Pep Band Youtube channel.

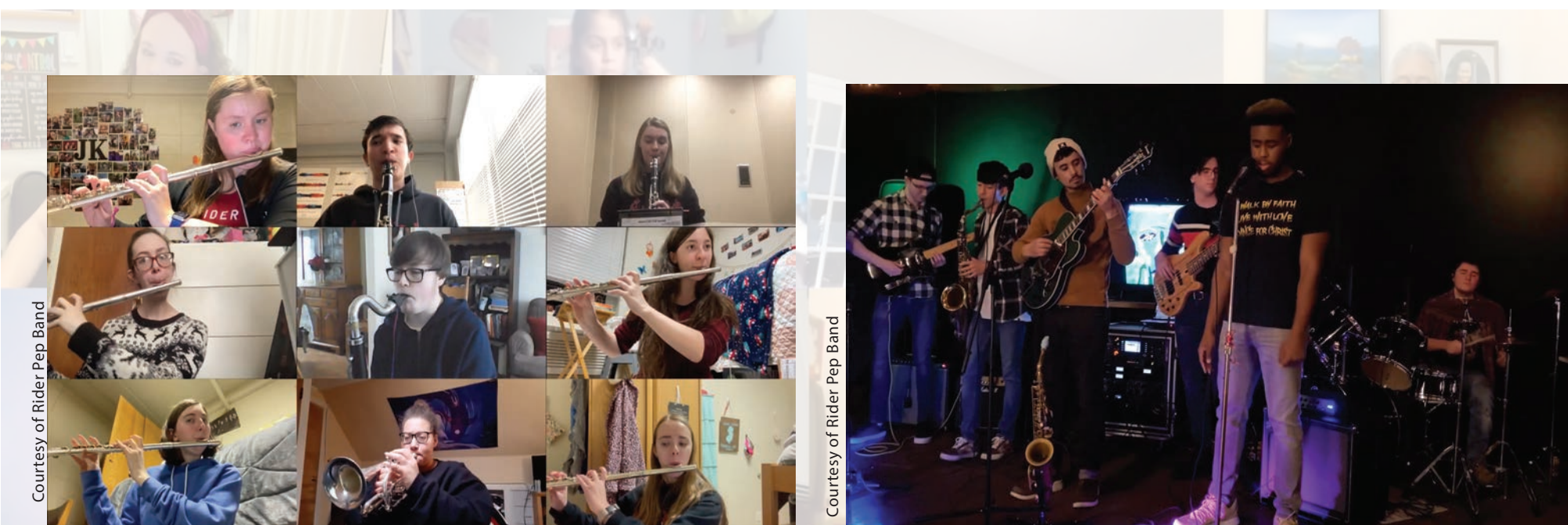


The virtual benefit concert was livestreamed to a virtual audience and can be viewed on the Rider Pep Band YouTube channel.



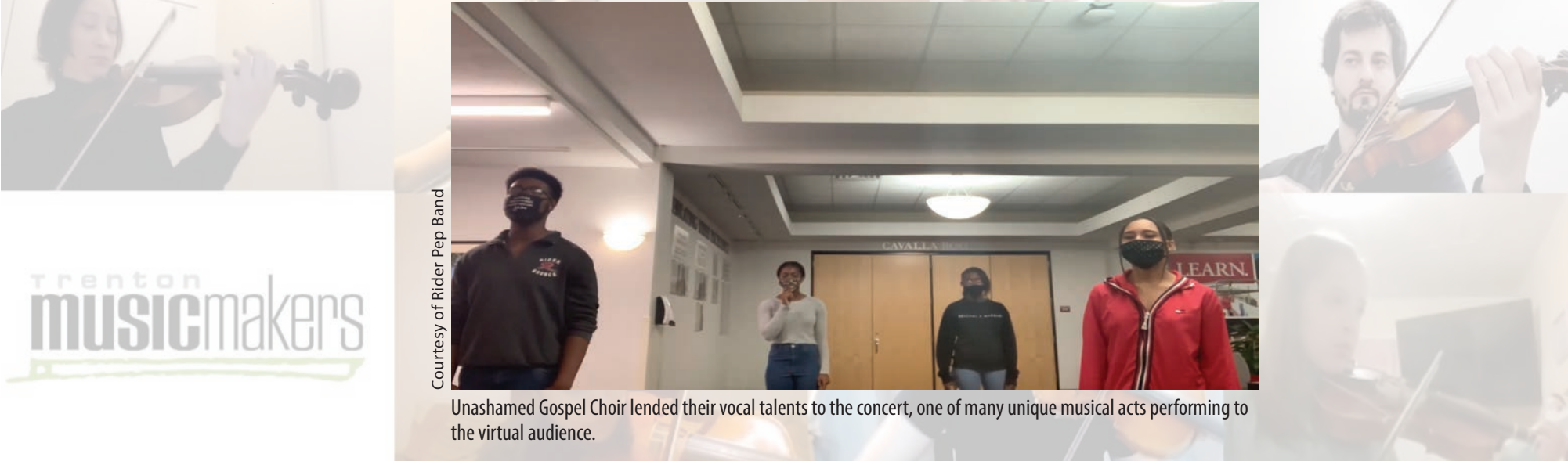
Many different musicians took part in the virtual concert, playing a variety of instruments.

Talented musicians take part in virtual performance supporting local community



The Rider Pep Band combined a variety of prerecorded performances, with screentime to each performer.

Rider Pep Band's founding member, Alex Murphy, performed alongside his band AM Reflection.



Unashamed Gospel Choir lent their vocal talents to the concert, one of many unique musical acts performing to the virtual audience.

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Alumnus Cassandra Nemzer gives audiences a magical performance

By Christian McCarville
As the end of the semester nears, many students tend to focus on their final projects and exams, failing to take the necessary time to unwind and relax.

The Rider Outreach team is dedicated to providing students with de-stressing activities and entertainment to allow for some distraction from this busy time of year.

"Going to the different events that Rider has offered this semester both virtually and in-person has definitely helped with my stress levels, especially during this unique semester," said junior film, TV and radio major Kelly Phillips. "Not only does it give us something fun to do, but it allows us to socialize with our peers in a safe manner. As we all know, socialization is something we've all been missing this year."

Outreach's most recent event featured Westminster Choir College (WCC) alumna Cassandra Nemzer. This event, held on April 13 at 8 p.m., revolved around Nemzer's magic skills.

Frequently referred to as "The Songstress of Magic," Nemzer has performed for many individuals in the New York City area, including celebrities and past presidents. She began performing early, at the age of 8 and was winning opera competitions by age 16.

Nemzer went on to study opera and musical theatre at WCC. She also studied at Mannes School of Music. Following her schooling, Nemzer performed in a variety of Off-Broadway productions along with several appearances in television and movies.

Currently, Nemzer has been conducting a unique magic show, using her performance skills to create an interesting experience for audiences. She incorporates elements of her singing, dancing and acting to bring excitement to the stage.

Nemzer's success caught the attention of the Outreach team who booked a performance for the Rider community. This event is also a part of the Office of Recreation Program's Stress Management Month.

Director of Recreation Programs, Dianna Clauss, spoke on the structure and goals of Stress Management Month.

"The well-being monthly campaigns are designed to focus on one specific area (or dimension) of well-being," said Clauss. "For example, this past February we focused on Heart Health Month, March was our Nutrition Month, and April is our Stress Management month. The campaigns are targeted to focus on one dimension to really provide enough opportunities for students to engage in at least one or two events focused on their wellbeing in order to build their capacity in that area."

Nemzer's performance, held over Zoom, consisted of various sleight of hand magic tricks. These types of magic tricks typically involve a deck of cards and quick, subtle movements.

While sleight of hand magic is typically used in traditional magic shows, this show was anything but traditional. Each magic trick was done in its own unique style, showcasing each of her impressive talents.

During the event, Nemzer also spoke about her journey as a performer and her experiences as a WCC alumna. Her story is inspiring to those also seeking a career in the performing arts.

Nemzer's performance was ultimately an unforgettable magic show, a performance truly unlike any other.

JOIN THE OUTREACH TEAM FOR AN AMAZING EVENING OF MAGIC

with WCC alum, Cassandra

Tuesday, April 13th, 8 to 9pm via Zoom

Attendees should be aware this virtual event may be recorded

Cassandra Nemzer, also known as the Songstress of Magic, combined elements of magic, singing, dancing and acting to create a unique performance.

The new college experience

CANNOT believe I am sitting here writing my last editorial as an undergraduate and as an opinion editor for The Rider News. What a bittersweet feeling it is to write this, proud to see my collegiate writing career come full circle, relieved to be graduating in less than a month, but I cannot help but to think about how much of a toll these last few semesters have been, for all of us. I could have done my usual “end of the year” editorial where I give words of wisdom to our Rider community about how we survived such a painstaking year. Stay tuned for my usual encouraging signing out at the end of this article. But, before we get to that, I do want to address this painstaking year I mentioned and elaborate on it.

In a span of over a year, I have written 10 articles about COVID-19 and how this global pandemic has ultimately changed the dynamics of society, especially college culture. I remember being a senior in high school, feeling as though you are on this high of achievements and milestones. From college acceptance letters, to prom, graduation, to freshman move-in day. An incoming college freshman can feel the adolescence leaving their body and a false sense of maturity and independence taking its place. It is (for me at least) the first time I felt like an adult, at the very ripe age of 18. It just felt like I was experiencing something new all the time, from your first roommate, first day of classes, first college party, college game, for me, the first time calling my teacher “professor.” So many firsts, experiences turned memories for my fellow graduating seniors. We remember those firsts, how we felt at our first college party or failing our first test but just being happy it was over.

I am scared that the new generation of college students will not be able to experience these firsts or not be excited for them given the year we all had. Who can blame them? I had to watch my younger sister (a freshman at Bloomfield College) get robbed of her high school senior experience, no prom nor graduation. To sitting in her bed as a freshman in college thinking “is this even worth it?” As someone who was amidst their senior year being stolen but also having the most of the “college experience” it broke my heart to see my sister dread her freshman year, one of my most memorable moments. It got me thinking about how she is probably not an outlier in this case, that many incoming freshmen most likely share her exact sentiments.

Rider freshman and English major Kate McCormick believes that the college experience will definitely have a new meaning moving forward.

“I believe it will 100% influence how incoming students view higher ed. Given the circumstance, there are so many reasons to wait on higher ed right now, which I can only imagine will make students picky about choosing a school, knowing the climate they’re about to enter. How schools have handled the

pandemic and keeping students safe is also going to be a major factor in that decision making process. In this pandemic the task of choosing a school for higher education has become even more daunting,” said McCormick.

I watched my sister, who was excited for college, wish she chose a different route. College freshmen were let down from, for some, a very memorable time in a young adults life.

College seniors had no choice but to come to a halt and pick up the pieces toward the end of their college career. This can begin to take a toll.

Rider senior and broadcasting journalism major Andriana Rice-Gilmore is excited about graduating this spring but spoke about her feelings in regards to the months leading up to the big day.

“So graduating in general, I feel like it’s a huge accomplishment because it’s something that we all have waited for for a while. However I feel like it’s an even greater accomplishment because some of us couldn’t mentally make it through the semester or through the year to graduate. I have a couple friends that aren’t graduating until next year because of just the pressure and stress alone. so I’m very grateful to be able to graduate and finish my school year and get my degree,” said Gilmore.

An unexpected transition of being on campus, to functioning a completely different way than before. Whether you lived on campus and now are at home or still residing on campus post quarantine. Even the commuters — everyone’s way of life shifted.

Last year’s graduates, the class of 2020, are still feeling the effects of the pandemic a year later as they make their way into their own lives. Rider graduate Jason Mount experienced an unusual beginning and end. What was once an “LOL” is now a sour dose of reality.

“I think this experience is going to be a fun story to tell the grandkids at the very least. I imagine this is going to greatly impact my professional life, though. I studied acting when I went to Rider, and when the lockdown started the entertainment industry hit a huge halt and is still slowly making its way back to a functioning standard. I didn’t do too much acting work during the lockdown and even some months after that due to health concerns, so I’m worried that a gap in working time will count me out of future opportunities,” said Mount.

“Student debt still isn’t forgiven and is probably a ways out from getting to that point, so I don’t believe it’s worth it for someone to put themselves in more debt to get less bang for their buck. At least for me, I know my main focus is to try and save money to find decent job opportunities and be financially secure enough to move out of my parent’s house,” he continued.

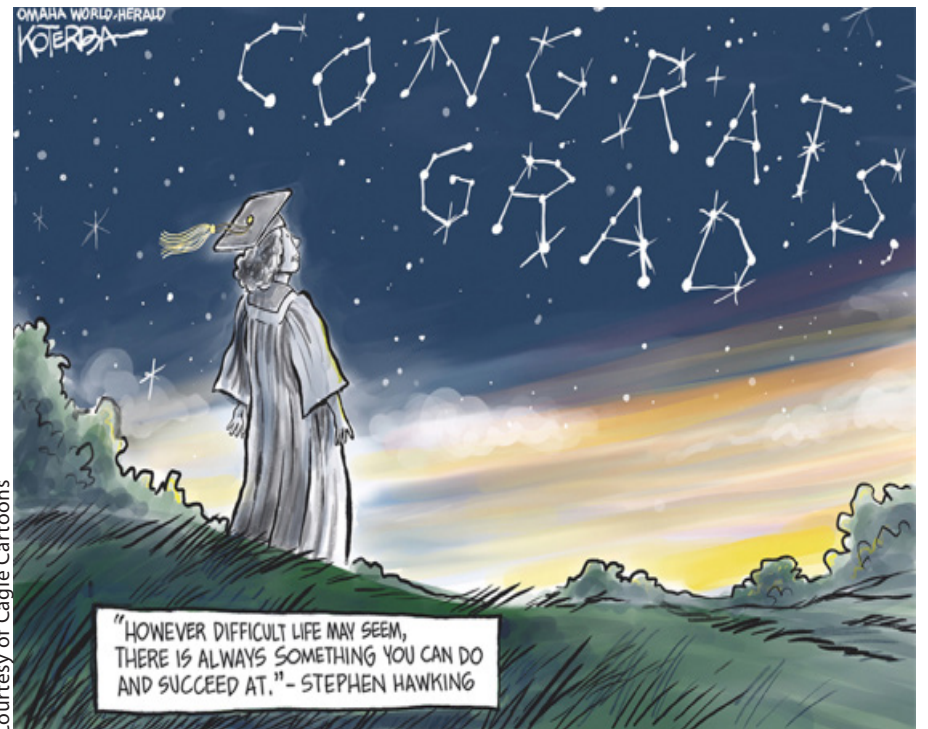
This chapter of our lives is coming to an end — for me an end to an identity that I never thought I

would part with. Being a student was my whole life and I loved everything about it. But, even I know when a break is needed. After a year of masks and increasing COVID-19 cases a break should be encouraged.

I thoroughly enjoyed my years at Rider, as well as the fleeting months in the past year. I loved writing for this publication and sharing my opinions with my peers. I hope for a safe and healthy end of the semester for our community, congratulations to the class of 2021 and best of luck for the current and incoming students. This isn’t goodbye.

Qur’an Hansford

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



Courtesy of Cagle Cartoons

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FRESHMEN FINDINGS

Is there such thing as ethical consumption in the realm of fast fashion?

In an age where fashion trends are constantly changing and options are becoming available at lower and lower prices, how conscious do we need to be about the products we are buying and the companies we are supporting? People are quick to call out brands like SHEIN for fast fashion and instead promote options like thrifting or sustainable clothing companies, but how accessible are these options, and do they really make a difference?

One thing is for sure: there is no ethical consumption under capitalism.

When people hear the term 'fast fashion' they may think of brands like SHEIN, Fashion Nova and ROMWE, and while it is true that these brands all qualify, we utilize fast fashion far more frequently than we realize. Urban

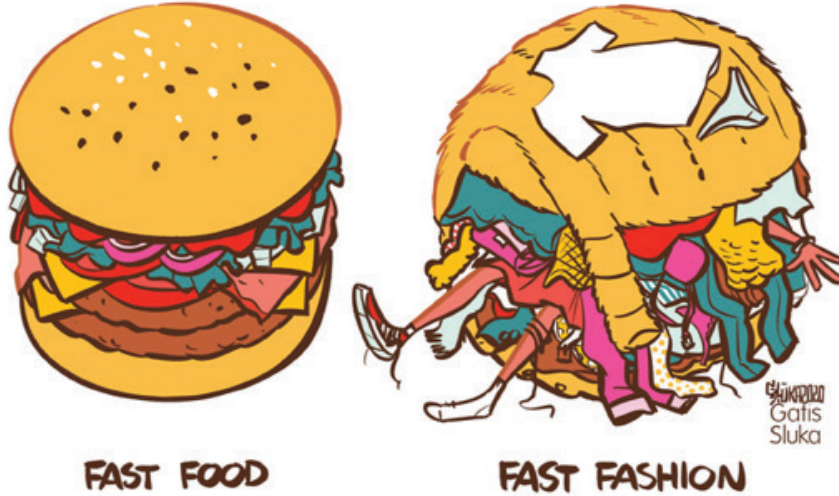
Outfitters, Zara, Forever 21 and more all fall under the fast fashion umbrella. Fast fashion is any clothing turned out at an increased pace for cheap prices, often using cheap materials to bring trending designs and styles to mass-market consumers.

The issue with fast fashion is that it is the antithesis of sustainable and ethical production, both in terms of labor and pollution. Many of these brands have come under fire for utilizing sweatshops in their production alongside cheap synthetic fabrics which pose a threat to the environment. The EPA reports that, in 2018, over 11 million tons of textile waste were landfilled.

So how do we combat this issue? Many people turn to promoting options like thrifting and investing in sustainable merchandise, but these ideas come with a slew of their own issues and setbacks.

Thrifting has taken off as a trendy and popular way to avoid fast fashion and reuse garments before they end up in landfills, but there is also a socioeconomic toll to the practice. Being dubbed thrift store 'gentrification,' the rise in popularity of buying secondhand has, in turn, caused companies like Goodwill and Salvation Army to up their prices. This is simple supply and demand, but increased prices mean that people who need to rely on thrifting for clothing and other goods are

Courtesy of Cagle Cartoons



now fighting against price changes. This problem is only exacerbated when people buy out thrift stores, only to turn around and sell items for profit.

The idea that people should start shopping exclusively from sustainable and ethical companies is also inherently classist, because, more times than not, the process of creating and selling eco-friendly textiles comes with a price tag.

It's bad to support fast fashion, but people also shouldn't thrift too much because it creates socioeconomic rifts for the people who depend on buying used items, and while sustainable clothing is wonderful, that option is not always accessible to everyone in regards to pricing and size inclusivity.

There are so many facets to this issue that it is virtually impossible for consumers to practice 100% ethical shopping techniques. Do what you can, where you can. Be a conscious shopper, but also remember that the burden of ethical consumption should not rest on the shoulders of the consumer, rather the corporations and capitalist systems

that create these issues in the first place.

Kate McCormick
freshman English major

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MAAC SPORTS

MAAC supports independent NCAA investigation

By Dylan Manfre

AFTER seeing the disparities in treatment during the men's and women's NCAA tournaments, the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Council of Presidents released a statement supporting the NCAA's independent review of inequitable treatment.

The presidents authorized a request that the NCAA "support an independent review," of the inequality by the NCAA.

Issues of inequality between the two tournaments went viral on social media when Oregon women's basketball forward Sedona Prince posted videos and pictures of the equipment and space designated for the men's weight room versus the women's weight room. Her posts, which had over 17 million views, show a drastic difference in the number of weights and overall equipment available to use.

"It's evident we dropped the ball in supporting women's athletes," NCAA President Mark Emmert said in a news release on March 31.

ESPN quoted Emmert, who spoke with the Associated Press saying, "We should have had better communication between my teams."

The MAAC Council of Presidents said in the release that there is "systemic" unequal treatment of women's sports and female athletes.

"Obviously," MAAC commissioner Rich Ensor responded when asked if there was inequality during the tournament. "There's a long laundry list of kinds of issues that are related to that and how it can be rectified."

Ensor said the Council of Presidents wants the investigation done by a "third party" who will not directly report to the NCAA. The association will be "retaining" the law firm Kaplan Hecker to conduct the investigation, according to a statement from Emmert.

"The question is how transparent is the process going to be and will the full report be shared with the membership," Ensor said. "Or is this going to be something that the law firm provides to the NCAA leadership and then they don't share the details?"

One inequality Ensor noted was the difference in court branding during the two tournaments. The men's basketball tournament flaunted the popular



Carolo Pascale/The Rider News

The MAAC Council of Presidents authorized a request that the NCAA support an independent investigation into the inequalities at the NCAA women's basketball tournament.

term "March Madness," which is synonymous with postseason college basketball everywhere, while the women's court said "Women's Basketball."

He joked and said, "as if we couldn't figure that out by ourselves."

Rider's basketball teams acknowledged the glaring inequality at the tournament as well. Assistant men's basketball coach Marlon Guild called it "obvious." Guild has a 15-year-old daughter who plays basketball in high school. He said his daughter was in "disbelief" with the disparities between the tournaments.

Women's Basketball Head Coach Lynn Milligan was on a large webinar with the Women's Basketball

Coaches Association (WBCA) which had prominent women's basketball coaches, along with Emmert.

"I think they were all a bit embarrassed about what happened," Milligan said. "I feel like they're realizing some of the error in their ways."

When asked if there is any inequality between the men's and women's basketball programs at Rider, Milligan said "No," paused and said "no," again.

Ensor added he did not have any conversations with Marist Head Coach Brian Giorgis, who represented the MAAC in the NCAA tournament in San Antonio, Texas, but said Giorgis "isn't afraid to pick up the phone and call me."

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FIELD HOCKEY

Rider loses to Sacred Heart in penalty shootout

By Dylan Manfre

THE biggest threat to the Rider field hockey team having an undefeated regular-season record was Sacred Heart's star goalkeeper Hailey Power.

Power is one of the more renowned netminders in the Northeast Conference (NEC) with a .773 save percentage – an average of 2.12 goals allowed per game in her career – and is the defending NEC Goalkeeper of the Year. Her resume speaks for itself.

The last time these two teams met in November 2019, Power had 20 saves and faced 23 shots on goal. On April 15, Rider put up 35 shots (17 were on goal) in its 1-0 loss in a double-overtime shootout and to Head Coach Lori Hussong's dismay, the Broncos' shot selection was suspect.

"Any time you shoot 35 times at the goal, something should go in," said Hussong who called it "surprising" that nothing went in.

Sophomore goalkeeper Kaitlyn Tomas faced a shootout for the first time in her collegiate career and on the first attempt from Sacred Heart, controversy brewed.

Tomas dove for the ball on an attempt from Kayla Kruk. She knew if she moved, it would be called a trip and Kruk would be awarded a stroke. The umpire ruled in favor of Kruk who ended up scoring the go-ahead goal for Sacred Heart.

"I did contact the ball first and I did lay there," Tomas said confidently. "I didn't move my stick but [the umpire] thinks I hooked her foot. Of course I didn't think the call was right."

Rider sent five players of its best shooters in junior midfielder Tess van Ommeren, junior forward Carly Brosious, sophomore midfielder Sierra Giuliano and senior defenders Brittany Romanczuk and Kaitlyn Flemming up to shoot against Power — all missed. During the game, one surprising miss was a clear one-on-one attempt from Divorra. What is normally a



Carolo Pascale/The Rider News

Junior midfielder **Carly Brosious** had 15 shots against Sacred Heart.

routine shot for her, went to the right side of the cage when she took the shot about 10 feet from the goal.

"Every shot that she shoots can't go in," Hussong said. "Generally, she's able to put that ball in the back [of the goal]."

Brosious took 15 of the 35 shots and said Rider needed to be more dynamic in its approach to one of the league's premier goalkeepers.

"We were working really hard, we were just struggling to get it in the goal," Brosious said. "[Power] is just a great goalie. She always makes the game fun."

Hussong was critical of the team's shot selection

on the day and thought the Broncos could have taken better looks at the goal.

"We needed to move the goalie before we shot the ball," Hussong said. "We actually made her look really good and just shot straight at her and we waited a little bit too long for the perfect opportunity to put the ball in the goal instead of shooting right away."

Rider will face another strong netminder in LIU's Rachel Vellis in the NEC Championship game on April 22 at Ben Cohen Field at 4 p.m. Vellis lost 1-0 to the Broncos in the first meeting of the season for the two teams. LIU has won four straight games since then.

MEN'S SOCCER

Broncs leave the MAAC tournament with loss

By Shaun Chornobroff

WHEN Charlie Inverso was watching the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) title game between Monmouth and Quinnipiac, the veteran head coach could not avoid the feeling that his Rider team was good enough to be playing.

The second-seeded Broncos were one game away from being in the championship, but played its worst game of a unique spring season against Monmouth in the MAAC Tournament semifinals on April 14.

"I mean, I certainly think we could have been there," Inverso said. "But, I'm not sure whether we deserved it or not because we all knew after the game that we didn't play well."

The Broncos came into the game undefeated and clicking on all cylinders, but were never able to find its footing in the playoff matchup.

"We did not play as well as we did in past games and that leaves us hungry and wanting to get back on the field playing again," senior midfielder Taner Bay said. "I don't think it was a lack of effort on the day as everyone was fighting and giving it all they had, but we just didn't get to playing the way we know we can play."

Rider was slow in the opening moments of the game and the Hawks quickly made them pay, giving Rider its first deficit of the season — a foreign position for a largely inexperienced roster that had only played four games together.

"You have to play a lot of games in order to face a lot of different situations," Inverso said. "Half the team was new. Even though we meshed pretty well through the first four games, probably better than can be expected, there are still a lot of things that you need to work out when half the guys you have are new."

Monmouth dominated the entire first half, but was



Dylan Manfre/The Rider News

Senior goalkeeper **Pablo Gatinois** had three saves in a loss to Monmouth.

unable to extend its lead. Five minutes into the second half, Monmouth buried another goal in the Rider net, handing the Broncos a 2-0 deficit and putting an end to its season.

Rider had 14 shots in the game, but most of them came in the second half with the team already trailing 2-0 and playing with pure desperation to keep its season alive.

"I think we have to improve in certain areas, in terms of breaking down defenses... We probably need to become a better counter-attacking team because that's a big part of the game now," Inverso said. "The big strategy is to let the other team have the ball and look to counter. And that's probably not the way that we would prefer to play, but we still have to get better at being a counter-attacking team."

The loss concludes an unconventional season that only saw Rider play a handful of games as COVID-19 ran rampant through the conference.

All in all, after having its fall season cancelled, Rider was just happy to have a chance to play.

"It was definitely a weird season playing in the spring but I think we were all grateful that we still got to have a season and play some soccer this season," Bay said. "I think if anything this spring season just makes us all more excited for next fall, as we know what good potential we have now and since we fell short of our goal this year we already want to get it back next year."

After getting a test run of sorts in the spring season, the Rider men's soccer team will play its next game in the fall 2021 season, as it tries to win its first MAAC Tournament Championship since 2018.

Sports

INSIDE

BASKETBALL INEQUALITY

Dylan Manfre has news from the MAAC Council of Presidents request to the NCAA's investigation

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VOLLEYBALL

Rider gets spiked out by UCLA



Mark Kuhlmann/NCAA

Senior outside hitter **Ali Ward** (left) and sophomore opposite hitter **Morgan Romano** (right) each had four kills against UCLA on April 14.

By **Shaun Chornobroff**

THE Rider-UCLA NCAA Tournament matchup wasn't Superman versus Batman or Godzilla versus Kong. If anything, it was David versus Goliath.

The Broncos were one of the hottest teams in the nation riding into the matchup, but UCLA is not a normal first-round NCAA Tournament opponent in any year, much less for a team coming out of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC).

The Broncos fell victim to the prowess of the four-time national champions in the match, getting swept in all three sets and never scoring more than 12 points in a single set.

"UCLA is really, really good. They're really, really big, they're very athletic," Head Coach Jeff Rotundo said. "We knew that going in, but it's one thing to see that on film and another to see it right in front of you... They were having fun out there, they weren't letting the moment ruin their morale or anything like that, even though UCLA was beating us up pretty good."

The Broncos were outmatched from the get-go and made many errors, particularly on serves. But that didn't bother Head Coach Jeff Rotundo. The errors were part of a necessary risk for him to try and upset one of college volleyball's perennial powers.

"We were okay with the misserves tonight," the second-year head coach said. "We were trying to serve

a little bit more aggressively... We were okay with going a little bit higher error because if we served too easy to UCLA, they were going to side-out very easily anyway, so we had to take a little bit more risk on the serves."

Junior setter Anilee Sher may have had only 13 assists in the game, but the MAAC Tournament MVP made the most of a lot of poor situations, putting her hitters in great positions to make plays.

"I know she was really looking forward to competing in this match because there's some history with her dad playing at UCLA... [Anilee] is always a gamer anyway, I never have to worry about her effort," a complimentary Rotundo said of his star setter. "She did really well, I think she did put our hitters in some really good positions tonight."

The junior setter made several great passes that may have not been rewarded in the stat sheet, but showed up on film. Despite her great plays, Sher learned that she still had a lot to improve on as a setter in the defeat.

"Honestly, I just want to be more deceptive as a setter, I want to be able to get my hitters one-on-one a lot more," Sher said. "Because I noticed from the UCLA setters they are very calm, they're very calm and patient with their balls and they're very good at reading other designs and seeing where everyone's going."

Despite the loss, Rotundo emphasized that he is

nothing but pleased with his team for overcoming adversity to make history.

"Obviously, we're thrilled to have this opportunity, first and foremost, especially in a really tough year for the athletes. We're really proud of the program to get here, proud for the players, and really just happy to see them get a chance to experience this," Rotundo said. "We got a chance to see one of the best teams in the nation tonight and see what that looks like, so again just a little bit of awareness and a lot of pride that we were able to do this and get these athletes here to experience this."

A trip to the NCAA Tournament is the conclusion and reward for what has been a unique season, to say the least. After losing four of its first five matches, Rider went on a hot streak for the ages, winning its last six matches en route to the MAAC Tournament title and the right to play on the biggest stage the sport offers at the collegiate level.

"It was definitely an earned season," Sher explained. "I would say we had to make a lot of sacrifices, we had to make a lot of adjustments and give up a lot of things. But we did it because we wanted to be in this position."

Sher, Rotundo and the rest of the Broncos will play again in the fall of 2021 with a lot of momentum and a desire to once again earn the title of MAAC Champions.

ONLINE

SENIOR DAY PICTURES

Check out Carolo Pascale's photo gallery from softball's senior day.

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