

Students and AAUP attend rally, calls for Dell’Omo’s removal continue



Rider students and faculty hold signs in front of the Bart Luedeke Center for a “Save Rider Rally” on March 2.

By Sarah Siock and Kaitlyn McCormick

TENSION between Rider’s chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) culminated in a “Save Rider Rally” on March 2 in front of the Bart Luedeke Center (BLC), where nearly 100 faculty and students gathered to call for the removal of Rider President Gregory Dell’Omo.

The rally was coordinated to coincide with a meeting between the Rider Board of Trustees and Dell’Omo that took place inside the BLC the same day. Dell’Omo, board members and administrators walked into the building while the crowd held signs calling for the president’s removal and shouted “Greg Dell’Omo has got to go.”

‘We must speak loudly’

“People came out and I think that’s important to the point the AAUP has been making for a long time. We really need to change the leadership of the institution in order to survive. We hope the Board of Trustees realize that they should look more deeply into Greg Dell’Omo’s career and see there is a lot of mismanagement,” said AAUP President Babara Franz in reaction to the large crowd at the rally.

The rally was a response to the Board of Trustees’ rejection of the AAUP’s no-confidence motion against



Members of Rider’s Ukrainian American population react to war



Left to right: Freshmen triplets, Olena, Taras and Chrystyna Mykhaylyshyn whose parents emigrated from Ukraine have been doing their best to stay in contact with their family in Ukraine.

By Kaitlyn McCormick

FOR many members of the Rider community, the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine may feel far removed from day-to-day business, but for some of the campus’s Ukrainian American population, updates from the war are only a phone call away. Freshman triplets Olena, Chrystyna and Taras Mykhaylyshyn have extended family on both their mother and father’s sides currently living in Ukraine.

The siblings, whose parents emigrated from Ukraine before they were born, explained that while they have not visited Ukraine since they were 3, they hope to visit in the future, but this desire is only accentuating the heartbreak brought on by the war.

Olena Mykhaylyshyn, an accounting major, said, “In the future, I do want to go [to Ukraine], and I want there to be a place to go to.”

The Mykhaylyshyns have been doing their best to stay in touch with their family,

though they mentioned the underlying concerns of having cousins that are of fighting age as well as older relatives who would not be able to defend themselves.

The triplets also spoke on the overall uncertainty prevalent in their conversations with family as Russia’s invasion continues from multiple fronts to take substantial territory in Ukraine, including the capitol Kyiv.

Olena Mykhaylyshyn said, “It’s important to note that we’re from the West ... at first we thought that we’re going to be more safe.” Ukraine has been dealing with aggression from Russia since 2014, primarily in the eastern part of the country, but the Mykhaylyshyns’ family had been able to live peacefully up until Russian President Vladimir Putin’s invasion last month.

Psychology professor Chrystina Dolyniuk, a proud first-generation Ukrainian American, has both familial and professional ties to Ukraine through her involvement with the Ukrainian Catholic University as a 2011 and 2014 Fulbright Specialist Award winner and agreed that it has been scary having limited contact with the people she cares about in such a tumultuous time.

Dolyniuk maintained the unfortunate truth that while the current news out of Ukraine is devastating, Russia’s belligerence under Putin is not entirely unpredictable in retrospect.

“As a Ukrainian, I’m not surprised that this happened. Ukrainians have suffered this type of Russian aggression for centuries,” Dolyniuk said. She further explained that what the world is witnessing now is “evidence of the Russian brutality against the Ukrainian people that has been happening for a very long time.”

Dolyniuk and the Mykhaylyshyn siblings have been clear about one thing: the call for members of the Rider community to educate themselves and help where possible in showing support for Ukraine as this war unfolds.

Olena Mykhaylyshyn expressed gratitude for the support she and her siblings have received from professors, the counseling center and peers alike, before recentering the conversation around the need for direct help for Ukrainians. “We specifically don’t need help,” she said. “All those people there need help. ... We just want support for Ukraine.”

Dolyniuk said, “If you believe in freedom and democracy and you want world peace, you have to speak up for Ukraine.”

Multiple communications were sent out last week from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences as well as the



INSIDE

SEASON OVER

Rider women’s basketball lost in the first round of the MAAC tournament to Iona.

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TAKE A BREAK

Midway into the semester, students are encouraged to use spring break for rest and relaxation.

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RIDING HIGH

Rider’s equestrian team is on a winning streak, with one member going to regionals.

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SECURITY BRIEFS

BY SARAH SIOCK

Barbecue gone wrong

They started the fire. On March 5 at 12:45 a.m., Public Safety was dispatched to the residential complex behind Wright Hall for the report of a fire. Upon their arrival, they observed students around one of the barbecue grills who were attempting to light the fire. After speaking with the students it was determined they used too much paper to start the grill and the fire was extinguished by Public Safety. No damages were reported.

Printer problems

Kicking never solves anything. On March 2 at 11:37 a.m., Public Safety was dispatched to the Fine Arts building to meet with staff from the Office of Information Technology regarding a damaged copy machine. The OIT staff said that it appeared someone had tried to put paper into the copier tray rack but possibly became frustrated and kicked the tray. There was severe damage to the tray and it is unknown if the entire copier needs to be replaced.

Rowdy residents

Off-campus noise. On Feb. 27 at 4:27 a.m., Ewing Township Police responded to a residence in their township that is rented by Rider and TCNJ students, for the report of a noise complaint. Upon arrival they observed a party occurring. The police dispersed the party and the students complied. Later, the Ewing Township Police reported the incident to Rider Public Safety who referred it to the Office of Community Standards.

- Information provided by Public Safety Capt. Matthew Babcock

AAUP maintains Dell'Omo is unfit to run Rider

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against Dell'Omo that passed with an 86% majority last month and called on the board to remove the president. However, the union strongly maintains Dell'Omo is unfit to run the university.

In a Feb. 25 communication announcing the rally to its members, the AAUP Executive Committee wrote, "For Rider to have a future, the Board of Trustees must carefully consider facts outside the information silo provided by Greg Dell'Omo and his financial team. ... We must speak loudly and clearly and let the board know we are not backing down, we are not walking away, that all stakeholders should be heard and not patronized and dismissed without any consideration."

The demonstration reflects manifestation of frustrations the AAUP has cited throughout the academic year, including Rider's \$20 million projected deficit, declining enrollment and the university's decision to move Westminster Choir College (WCC) to the Lawrenceville campus in 2020.

WCC concerns

In an interview with The Rider News on March 8, Dell'Omo said he recognized the faculty's right to protest, but he did not agree with the rally's premise.

"It really does not change the fact that we still have to make some tough decisions. We have to deal with the issues and deal with the reality that we're confronted with. ... I don't agree one bit with the premise or the message [of the rally], and we're going to continue working toward trying to get Rider back on the right track" said Dell'Omo.

WCC students also attended the rally to support the AAUP and have their voices heard by performing several songs. Orry Walter, a junior music education major at WCC, said he attended the rally to show the administration that change is needed at Rider.

"I do believe that doing this will send a message saying that not only the students, but the faculty and other members of this community are not happy with how the school is being run. ... We're surviving, but we're just surviving," said Walter. "We're not thriving, and we all feel like there could be a better way of doing things that is kind of being locked out because it's not somebody's plan."

However, Dell'Omo reaffirmed his confidence in the decision to move WCC to Lawrenceville and said there is no possibility of the choir college returning to its Princeton campus.

"[The move] was a well-thought-out decision. It wasn't a decision that was just made in a vacuum or by an individual. It was made through a careful study by the Board of Trustees and the administration over a number of years. ... We'll continue to work toward making [WCC] as strong as possible and where we have the resources to make investments, we'll make those investments," said Dell'Omo.

A different future

Some students, expressed their disappointment in the current administrative tone at Rider and their hopes for a stronger future under different leadership.

Freshman acting major Emily Porter-Siegel said, "It is sad and it is embarrassing that our school has taken something so beautiful and allowed it to become so incredibly harmed. ... Schools are for education. They're about education. They're about bettering students and making sure we leave the world a better place when we're out of here. We need someone who will represent those ideals."

While Rider's Student Government Association (SGA) did not take a stance whether students should attend the rally, SGA President Elizabeth O'Hara, a computer science major, did encourage students to express their concerns.

"Faculty members have every right to hold a peaceful demonstration like this one and express their viewpoints. And we hope that more students, if they don't feel comfortable in this setting, come and use us to express their opinions and their viewpoints," O'Hara said, watching the rally from the BLC balcony. "That's what we're here for as a Student Government Association, and that's what we want, people to speak up and express their views, whether that's in support of whoever or whatever decision. So we hope more people become more informed as a result of seeing this and use their voice in a positive way to create change that is going to impact our university and help the long-standing health of Rider."

Shaun Chornobroff contributed to this report.

The Rider News' faculty adviser Jackie Incollingo attended the "Save Rider Rally" on March 2, Incollingo did not partake in the writing or editing of this story.

Photo Gallery: "Save Rider Rally" March 2

By Andrew Xon



"Save Rider Rally" March 2 Video

By Bridget Hoyt



Tori Pender/The Rider News

The Rider News COVID-19 COUNTER

Confirmed Cases:
Last updated: March 4, 2022

58

Cumulative total of laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 at Rider University (Since January 2022)

COVID-19 cases reported to Rider University by week:

Month/Year	Student Case Reports	Employee Case Reports
Feb. 26-March 4	3	0
Feb. 19-25	2	2

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

On Campus Student Testing:

Weeks	Health Center	Surveillance Testing
Feb. 26-March 4	8	124
Feb. 19-25	7	151
Feb. 12-18	6	159
Feb. 5-11	17	145
Total	46	827

Information courtesy of rider.edu

Student Quarantine and Isolation:

Students 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. Students in isolation have tested positive for COVID-19. This week there are:

- 0 student(s) quarantining on campus
- 0 student(s) quarantining off campus
- 0 student(s) isolating on campus
- 1 student(s) isolating off campus

'Can't kill the want for freedom'

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the Office of the President condemning the Russian invasion and drawing attention to ways the Rider community can get involved.

Dolyniuk has been working closely with the St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church of Newark collecting donations for Ukrainians through a humanitarian aid drive. The current round of acceptances ends March 10, but volunteers are also needed for packing and sorting, and Dolyniuk foresees a continued need for humanitarian efforts.

Dolyniuk also encouraged other ways to show support for Ukraine, such as wearing blue and yellow and boycotting Russian gas.

The passion and perseverance displayed by the people of Ukraine as a sovereign country have been nothing short of inspiring, and this judgment follows the Ukrainian American population at Rider as well.

Taras Mykhaylyshyn, a business administration major, said, "You can't kill the want for freedom. No matter how hard you try."

Dolyniuk echoed this sentiment. "I am so incredibly proud," she said. "I take tremendous pride in the fact that this is my ancestral homeland."

The Ukrainian American students and faculty at Rider are planning a 'blue and yellow day' on March 10 in solidarity with Ukraine. A campus vigil will be held at 6 p.m. in the Kaplan Plaza with the rain location being Lynch Adler room 202.

Adrienne Unfried/The Rider News

Bathroom vandalism incidents come to a complete stop



Olivia Nicoletti/The Rider News
Marissa Harding, a sophomore English major, using the electric hand-dryers in the Hank and Bonnie Moore Hall bathroom due to paper products being removed to stop vandalism.

By Olivia Nicoletti

FROM November 2021 through the beginning of the spring semester, bathroom vandalism incidents took over Rider's campus resulting in \$65,000 worth of damage.

This series of vandalism was first reported by The Rider News on Feb. 9, the expenses for repairs, since then, have increased by \$15,000.

The vandalism consisted of students stuffing the toilets with paper products until they were overflowed and clogged. Due to the frequent damage, The Lawrence Police Department was contacted and subsequently they launched a search for the person who was committing these crimes.

There was an overall total of 54 incidents, but after the release of The Rider News story, the vandalism fully stopped in full according to Vice President for Facilities and University Operations, Mike Reca.

Apart from the frustration students had from the constant closure of their bathrooms, they also raised concerns about the withdrawal of paper products in bathrooms to help stop these incidents.

For any bathroom that has electric hand dryers, the paper towels were removed. While the vandalism has stopped, Reca said the paper towels will not return to the bathrooms.

"Our issue is we haven't caught the person, so there's a fear that if we put things back, it could start up again, so we're gonna wait a little bit longer," Reca said. "We'll begin to really re-evaluate after spring break."

Reca voiced his concerns that Rider had supplied the university with a lot of paper products and hand sanitizers to reduce the spread of the coronavirus, so it was unfortunate but, "it helped too because when [they] were taking them out, there were less opportunities [to vandalize] in various buildings."

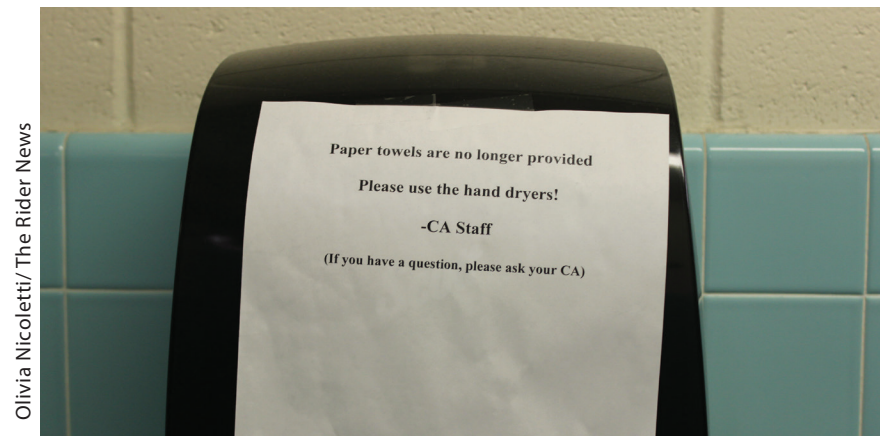
Sophomore English major, Marissa Harding, lived in Hill Hall until March 2, when she and her roommate moved out due to inhabitable conditions.

One stall had been out of order all semester due to plumbing backups. Harding explained the toilet was gurgling and flooding constantly.

Harding and her roommate moved into Hank and Bonnie Moore Hall, where she feels more comfortable.

So far, Harding has had minor inconveniences with the new bathrooms, but she countered that by saying, "I can't even complain. ... I like it so much better."

She, too, has to deal with the loss of paper towels within her dorm building bathrooms, but she understands that "there are people that ruin it for everybody."



Olivia Nicoletti/The Rider News
The sign taped to the paper towel dispensers in the Hank and Bonnie Moore Hall encouraging students to use the electric hand dryers.

Rider announces voluntary separation program results

By Shaun Chornobroff

THOMAS Reddington is beloved by those who know him on Rider's campus. The longtime coordinator for veteran and military affairs is known for making any student connected with the military immediately feel like a part of the Rider community.

On March 1, Reddington was notified by the school that he was one of 29 Rider employees selected for the school's voluntary separation program, a cost-cutting measure Rider is deploying to slash its debt, allowing full-time non-faculty employee volunteers to take a financial package to leave the school. Reddington's last day was March 4.

"I guess, I just figured, might as well just apply for it and see what happens kind of deal because I figure, if Rider is asking people to leave, things can't be too good," Reddington said with a laugh. "At the time, I figured it made sense for me to at least apply to it."

Rider President Gregory Dell'Omo said in a March 1 campus-wide update that initial analysis showed the program will lead to \$2.5 million in annual savings, which he described as "a positive step forward toward addressing Rider's financial challenges."

Rider received 49 applicants for the program by the Feb. 24 deadline, of which 59.2% were accepted. In the March 1 email, Dell'Omo said that the decisions were based on "whether accepting an application would create a beneficial, ongoing cost savings to the university through permanent elimination of that position."

"When we put the program out there and we said 'we assess everybody's application,' we weren't assessing people per se, we were assessing positions and there are certain positions that we felt that we simply could not do without," Dell'Omo said in a March 8 interview with The Rider News.

The large number of declined applicants was not a surprise to leaders of Rider's chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP). The faculty union has been at odds with Dell'Omo and his administration this school year, last month calling on the Board of Trustees to remove him from his position.

"The large amount of people who were denied this buyout shows you exactly what the AAUP has always said. They have a list," AAUP President Barbara Franz said confidently. "They already had a list of names before they even proposed this policy."

Dell'Omo emphatically denied the notion when asked by The Rider News.

"If it's purely a numbers game based on finances, enrollment and those kinds of direct economic measures, then it could have been done in five minutes," Dell'Omo said. "Just like the voluntary separation plan, if we just wanted to cut X number of positions, we'd just take whatever voluntary separation application comes forward and say fine, we're going to accept them. We assess them based on the needs of the university and figure out how we need to run the university."

The program is one of Rider's first major steps in attacking a projected \$20 million for the upcoming fiscal year as it tries to make itself financially sustainable for the long term.

The voluntary separation program is a possible precursor to layoffs. The university website explains that unless the response from the voluntary program is sufficient to meet the school's benchmarks, involuntary separations will follow.

In a Jan. 27 interview with The Rider News, three days after the announcement of the voluntary separation program, Dell'Omo said the decisions behind the voluntary and the potential for layoffs were made because of financial necessity.

"We would love to avoid voluntary and involuntary. Like I said, nobody likes these things," Dell'Omo said. "You'd love to be able to be riding in at very least a balanced budget environment, if not creating surpluses for the university. It gets to the point where you have to bring your budget in line ... hopefully we do it in a way that's as sensitive and as caring as possible to everybody involved in the university."

Those accepted to the voluntary program, like Reddington, will receive a severance package equivalent to one week's pay per year of service that can accumulate over a period of six to 26 weeks, in addition to reimbursements of healthcare costs during the period.

However, any employee laid off will only receive a package of one week's pay per year of service for a minimum of two weeks and only up to 12 weeks. Any employees laid off will not receive reimbursement of health care costs during the period, according to the university website.

While Dell'Omo said no official decision had been made on layoffs, Reddington — a retired member of the military who was not reliant on his position to "pay the bills" — said the potential was a factor in his decision to volunteer.

"That's definitely part of the motivation because they basically said, we're doing a voluntary separation and then we'll see who applies and how the chips fall, and then we're doing involuntary," Reddington explained. "Definitely that's a motivator to apply for it because the involuntary would be coming after that and you could just get laid off and be gone anyway."



Courtesy of Rider University

Thomas Reddington was the coordinator for veteran and military affairs until he was selected and approved for voluntary separation.

Meal swipe program to help students with food insecurities



Kaitlyn D'Alessio/The Rider News

Cranberry's is a dining option that students can use with donated a meal swipe.

By **Hannah Newman**

To address food insecurity on Rider's campus, Broncs Against Hunger has partnered up with Swipe Out Hunger, allowing students to donate meal swipes to peers in need.

Broncs Against Hunger is a branch of Swipe Out Hunger, a program that pairs with colleges across the nation to end student hunger. This program was released at Rider during the fall of 2021 as a part of the Rider Resource Pantry.

Food insecurities among young adults have always been an issue, however, the pandemic has strengthened this conflict and continues to do so despite restrictions being lifted.

A recent statistic from the Hope Survey concluded that since 2020, one in three students attending a four-year university experience food insecurities.

At Rider, the demand for swipes is high and cannot be provided to every student that needs them. Broncs Against Hunger wishes to maximize the number of donated swipes and said they would like to make students more aware of the change they are capable of creating by donating their extra swipes that are oftentimes forgotten about.

Joan Liptrot, the director of service and civic engagement at Rider talked about the impact that students can potentially have on their peers.

"It's such a shame because most students will not use their five guest meal swipes. They are paid for and they will be wasted. Meanwhile, a Rider student who is struggling is sitting in class hungry and wondering when they will be able to purchase food again," said Liptrot.

During the fall semester, 36 swipes were donated and so far this semester, 25 were donated.

A donated guest meal swipe allows students in need to have full access to the restaurant options at Rider including Daly's Dining Hall and Cranberry's. This accessibility allows students to join their friends while they eat rather than having to be isolated.

Giulia Santisi, graduate assistant for service and civic engagement, mentioned her future goal for this program and the change that she wished to make possible.

"Over this next year through this program, I am hoping that all students that need this program can access it and we are able to give them the appropriate resources and [allow] them the meals that they need to succeed here at Rider," said Santisi.

Rider is one of more than 140 colleges in 41 different states that are partnered with Swipe Out Hunger. During the 2020-21 school year, the program was able to give over 500,000 meals to students nationwide. The committee of Swipe Out Hunger at Rider hopes to inform the entire student body of this concern to bring assistance to students who are fighting to maintain sufficient grades while battling hunger.


Students can donate their swipes using the barcode below. Any questions on this matter can be emailed to Pantry@Rider.edu.



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

A donated guest meal swipe allows students access to Daly's Dining Hall.

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The SGA Equity and Inclusion Committee Presents


RIDER WOMXN OF POWER:

Marking a Milestone; Continuing the Momentum

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Monday, March 21, 2022

6:30 to 8 p.m., BLC NJM Community Room



**Join us for an International Women's Day forum
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Leaders will discuss topics of leadership, equity and
inclusion, and womxn's ceaseless contributions to
hope and healing.**

The Rider Rangers: An ultimate frisbee community



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

The frisbee team plays in the alumni game on Rider's campus.

By **Adrianna Jaccoma**

THE Rider Rangers encourage those interested in ultimate frisbee to come out and join their team — no experience necessary. The team plays in tournaments in the Northeast area, and some members play in a winter league during the off-season.

Rider's ultimate frisbee team welcomes beginners and non-beginners to join their club sport.

The Rider Rangers are a co-ed team, but there are more male than female players. The team consists of an estimated 30 players, including seven women.

"Although I used to see it this way, I don't anymore, it used to be like 'oh I'm on a team with all guys' but now it's like, I'm on my team," junior elementary education major Melanie Tsai said.

The team practices three times a week in the winter season when the sport is indoors and four times a week in the outdoor spring and fall seasons.

Alex Yakowenko, a junior secondary education major, is the captain of the team.

"[As captain] I'm in charge of what we do at practices, how our team functions at tournaments ... [I] basically make sure it's going well and that we're getting better," said Yakowenko.

Junior biology major Ryan Bowman shared some of his responsibilities as the team's risk manager.

"My job is to make sure everybody on the team practices and plays safely. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the job of risk manager as a whole as we are responsible for safe COVID practices within our team as well as when we host our home tournaments," said Bowman "... I must be CPR and first aid certified and make sure at least one other member is certified as well."



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

Alex Yakowenko (left) plays with alumnus Brett Bealer (right) at the alumni game.

Bowman is also responsible for reporting all injuries to ensure that players get the care that they need.

When asked about the community and what they like most about the team, all team members mentioned the community they've built.

"It's almost like a small family, everyone's really good friends with each other ... [ultimate frisbee is] a really good way to meet new people and play a new sport," Bowman said.

"I really like the community we've built and how I can just ask somebody and they will come study with me at the library," Tsai added.

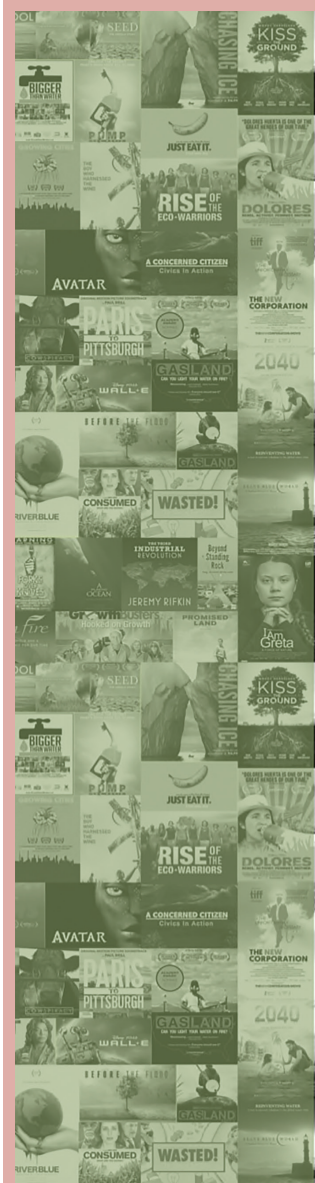
The team encourages players to learn from their peers, build their social skills and create bonds.

"It's an absolute blast getting to teach some of the newer players some new things and learn from everyone else," said Bowman, who has been on the team since his freshman year at Rider.

Shaun Chornobroff and Michelle Pellegrino are members of the Ultimate Frisbee Team and editors for the Rider News. Neither participated in the writing or editing of this piece.

The Rider Rangers holds winter 2022 indoor practices in the Student Recreation Center courts every Monday from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Tuesdays from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Thursdays from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. All students are welcome to come.

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The Office of Sustainability Presents

2021-2022

Green Film Series



**Monday and Tuesday
March 21st + 22nd**

7 P.M. | RUE AUDITORIUM (SWEIGART HALL RM 115)

Featuring Liam Neeson, Jaden Smith, and Matt Damon, *Brave Blue World* explores the technologies and innovations that have the potential to solve the world's water crisis. The film highlights scientific and technological advancements to ensure the world's population has access to clean water and safe sanitation services, and that the environment is protected. From reuse to energy generation, new innovations across five continents are explored in this documentary about building a future for sustainable water.

Brief discussion following the film.

RSVP at www.rider.edu/greenfilms



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Graphic by Adrienne Unfreed

Arts & Entertainment

The Rider equestrian team's winning streak



Olivia Nicoletti/The Rider News

The Rider Equestrian Team invites anyone who wishes to join, regardless of their prior experience.

By Olivia Nicoletti

THE underdog of organizations on campus has come close to regionals, as their top competitors fight for a spot on March 12.

The Rider equestrian team, consisting of 10 females, has been thrown for a loop during the pandemic, but they came back strong this year.

Due to a majority of the team being freshmen and sophomores before being sent home in 2020, the team has had to relearn how to work together.

United by their passions for riding, they commit hours and weekends at practice together, which ultimately strengthened and regained their bond.

Due to the pandemic, the schedule looked different for their 2021-2022 season. Usually, the team has competitions mostly in the fall, but this year, some shows were postponed to the spring semester.

Devon Shaw, a junior political science major, is the captain of the team and works closely with each member.

"The nice thing about having a small team is that we're all so close now," Shaw said. "Especially toward the end of the show day when we're all just tired and ready to go home. We're laughing and joking with each other and half the time, we're just laughing about things that we don't even know why we're laughing ... so I'd say we have pretty good chemistry."

When they travel to competitions, the team carpools allowing everyone to get acquainted with their teammates on a personal level.

According to Nichole Hall, a junior gaming interactive media design major, everyone has to get up

early on competition days, around 5:30-6 a.m., and they stop at Wawa before hitting the road.

"I met everyone through [being on the] team, it's pretty cool," Hall said. "We're all in different majors and just all doing different things, but we all have this one thing that connects us."

Dahlia Devivo, a junior criminal justice major, shares the same experience in connecting with other students on campus that she may not have known apart from being on the team.

"It gave me a sense of purpose on campus, like, I am a really team-oriented person," Devivo said. "It also gave me a sense of community, like making friends with people who have similar interests and goals as me."

According to Shaw, the team accepts everyone and no tryouts are required to join. The team is well-rounded, with some riders who have little experience versus others who have pursued this their whole life.

Devivo emphasized that she did not come to Rider to be a part of a Division 1 team, therefore, being able to continue her horseback riding career at Rider was "a really big deal."

Some obstacles occurred along the way for team members of the equestrian team. For Hall, she grew up performing a different style of riding.

She had experience with dressage, a traditional style of riding where the horse and rider perform different movements together, but had to switch to hunt seat riding, a style of forward straight riding when she joined the team.

She now lacks the connection with one specific horse because, at each show, they are given a random horse

from the ranch and must perform with the randomly chosen one.

Others on the team, such as Shaw, described competition days as stressful, for similar reasons.

"When you get to the shows, you draw your horse out of the hat, and you get the name of your horse, you get on the horse, and you walk in the ring and you don't even get to try or practice for like a few minutes," Shaw said. "Honestly, the hardest part is just making the best of the situation that you're given."

Hall agreed that it can be defeating, especially when they do not get time to adjust to the new horse in ample time before the showing.

Hall continued, "I think it's just part of the experience because we're taught in our lessons how to deal with different types of horses. So even if you don't ride wonderfully on that horse, I would say it's still like a learning experience."

Apart from the stress that competition entails, the team members agreed that they feel that being a part of the equestrian team is a great outlet from school life.

Looking forward to the rest of their season, on March 13, Shaw, and co-captain, Caitlyn Kube, a junior elementary education major, will perform in a competition in hopes of making it to regionals.

If they do not qualify, they expect to continue into the postseason which is when they have team bonding and elections to elect the following semester's executive board.



Olivia Nicoletti/The Rider News

Nichole Hall, a junior gaming interactive media design major, bonds with horse, Tigger.



Olivia Nicoletti/The Rider News

Junior political science major Devon Shaw with horse Martel. Shaw is currently preparing for regionals.

Rider Dances presents: 'Here We R'

By **Tristan Leach**

THE lights begin to dim in the lobby, the last of the lingering audience heads to their seats. As the lights go out in the theater, a hush falls over the crowd. Rider Dances: "Here We R," is about begin.

After a year of virtual performances, the dancers of Rider are back on stage. The theme, "Here We R," was picked to reflect the vulnerability that performers are in again after 18 months of being virtual. The show is an annual performance that started 17 years ago.

Kim Chandler Vaccaro, an associate professor of dance, said, "This year when we went back in person, people are a little bit shell shocked. We have 18 months of this pandemic trauma. So the prompt this year is 'Here We R,' you know, this is what happened. This concert is incredibly eclectic."

This year's show featured pieces choreographed by Laney Engelhard, Jennifer Gladney, Merli V. Guerra, John Barella, Julia Johnson Thick and Kim Chandler Vaccaro, all of whom are professors at Rider.

Each choreographer picked a theme or themes to which their piece was tailored. They were encouraged

to pick themes that they had a passion for, ranging from stories about emotions during quarantine to climate change.

The show opened with a tap number that expressed the pain of having to do classes over Zoom. However, the number had a happy ending, performing to the song "I'm Still Standing" by Elton John, the students of the dance programs showed that they had come out stronger from the pandemic.

Anna Fredeen, a senior dance science major, said, "Being back on the stage means the absolute world to me. This is my last performance as a senior at Rider, so it has a lot of meaning. I think the show overall shows our perseverance."

This year's performance not only featured amazing performances but also advanced technology. Using cameras installed above the stage, dancers' movements were tracked and projected behind them. This technology was used for pieces like Vaccaro's and Guerra's.

"We're exploring new mediums," said Vaccaro. "It's not just recording dance, it's actually creating

dance with the technology. We have interacted with the projection designer Yoshi Tanokura, and we're experimenting with a new technology."

This experimentation allowed the audience to see the dancers in new ways. Guerra's piece was about the stars, and students in the piece laid on their backs while stars were projected onto them. This immersed the audience into the story and allowed for a deeper understanding.

"The technology is really cool. I never experienced a show that has so much technology in it. The technology is very advanced, and we're very fortunate to be working with it," said Fredeen.

While the technology was stellar, it was the passion of the dancers that brought it all together. Thunderous applause followed every number with friends and family cheering on the performers.

After a night of fun, audience members gathered outside of the theater, waiting with flowers and gifts. The smiles on everyone's faces showed just how happy they were to be back. Performance is back and better than ever, and Rider Dances is here to prove that they are still here.



Photo courtesy of Peter Borg

Cast members of "Here We R" performing on the stage of the Bart Luedeke Center Theater.

New students open up on why they chose Rider

By **Amethyst Martinez**

THE Student Recreation Center (SRC) courts filled up with students and faculty to welcome the Rider's newly accepted students for Admitted Students Day on March 5 for the fall 2022 school year.

The SRC greeted everyone with neatly packaged cupcakes and balloons, and tables were set up in the courts for clubs and sororities on campus to ignite interest in admitted students. The event also featured important student affairs organizations such as dining, military recruitment and more.

According to Vice President of Enrollment Management Drew Aromando, enrollment funnel numbers were strong this year, with applications up 7% and admitted students up 6% in comparison to last year, when COVID-19 played a big role in the difference of numbers.

Applications were received in 71 majors and across 53 different countries, including Puerto Rico and Washington D.C., Aromando said.

Aromando also said that 1,700 unique visitors have visited Riders campus this year in comparison to 1,335 last year, most likely affected by COVID-19 restrictions. It is also estimated that over 800 more people will visit campus from the two admitted student days on Feb. 12 and March 5 and spring events being held to welcome new students.

Although all new students that attended were accepted to Rider, some didn't choose their college yet. Admissions also offered deposit acceptance for students who committed to Rider on the spot.

Hannah Harrison got accepted to Rider as an accounting major and will begin her freshman year in the fall.

"Rider has a very good accounting program.

It's very prestigious and accredited, and I know someone that went here for accounting, so I looked into it and it seemed like a great fit for me," said Harrison.

Many students were also looking at their options after their acceptance.

Kamryn Keaton-Pitchford, a student who hasn't committed to a college yet decided to apply because she wanted to commute and received an email from the university. Other colleges she applied to were Penn State University, Rutgers University, Drexel University and Cabrini University.

There were also plenty of Rider students working to make the admitted student's day -possible for newcomers.

Haley Hartline, a sophomore acting major and Center for the Diversity and Inclusion (CDI) student employee, worked the event by representing CDI and interacting with potential students.

Hartline is also a transfer student, which gives her unique insight to share with students who are still deciding where to go for their degree.

"I've seen a whole bunch of people who are really interested in being here. I think they just really love the community that the campus provides and also the great opportunities that are here, especially because we have so many different organizations to help them feel welcomed culturally, spiritually and just like with their hobbies and interests," said Hartline. "It's just a nice place to help people feel involved."

The next and last Admitted Students Day is April 9 in the Student Recreation Center (SRC) courts.



Amethyst Martinez/The Rider News

New students and their parents explore the many clubs that Rider has to offer.

Spring break: a time to rest, reflect and recharge

SEVEN weeks into the spring semester, it's finally time for students to have a well-deserved spring break – emphasis on the word break. In a culture that prioritizes constant productivity and a collective drive to perform bigger and better than before, it's important to remember the importance of rest.

Following the initial strict quarantine and isolation mandates of the COVID-19 pandemic, the public has been thrown abruptly back into a culture of burnout: A constant competition of who can work the hardest, achieve the most and still come out on top. College students especially are no exception to this expectation. The stressful and exhausting effects of jumping back into an in-person learning environment have already been discussed numerous times regarding both Rider and the larger community of higher education, but that's just one piece of what may be stressing students out.

It's been virtually impossible this academic year to ignore the extensive tensions between the faculty and the administration at Rider. This is especially true after the "Save Rider Rally" that was hosted by the university's chapter of the American Association of University Professors outside the Bart Luedeke Center on March 2. Students and faculty alike right now are at a sort of crossroads. There is an overwhelming amount of information up in the air about their education, their careers and the future and integrity of their time at Rider. Not having answers to these huge questions has undoubtedly been presenting an added sense of anxiety influencing the mental health of Rider's community.

Now take this Rider-specific example and tack on the current devastating Russian invasion of Ukraine that has been dominating news channels and causing uncertainty for future global relations. Add to this global crisis the pandemic anxiety that has been persisting since March 2020 and growing with the ebb and flow of vaccination, policy and mask requirement changes. All of these factors exist in addition to the very real fact that juggling a heavy course load on top of the many extracurriculars that students participate in is arduous. College is one of the most stressful and transformative periods in many students' lives, without any of the extra pressure involved in hearing one catastrophic news story after another.

It's easy to look at spring break as an opportunity to get ahead of classwork or pick up some more shifts at that hometown job, but if they can, students should also pencil in some time for themselves. This academic year has been anything short of easy, and being in the homestretch brings an overarching cloud of pressure and extra anxiety. Using this time to slow down and relax will alleviate the harsh impacts of these stressors.

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

Kaitlyn McCormick



Adrienne Unfreed/The Rider News

THE Rider News

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SOPHOMORE SIGHTINGS

If I was a man: the double standards between sports and pop culture fans

AFTER the Super Bowl last month, users on TikTok began pointing out the double standard between male sports fans and female pop culture fans.

Many users have been using pop sensation Taylor Swift’s song “The Man” in their TikToks to demonstrate the difference between the perceptions of each fanbase, particularly focusing on the lyrics, “I’m so sick of running as fast as I can, wondering if I’d get there quicker if I was a man.”

The TikToks show photos of sports fans during big events like the Super Bowl as opposed to pop culture fans at big events like concerts. In the videos, the sports fans are being called “passionate,” while pop culture fans are being called “crazy” and “obsessive.”

So what is the difference here? Both sports fans and pop culture fans are just that: fans. So why are they labeled so differently?

Jon Machota, a writer who covers the Dallas Cowboys for The Athletic, tweeted a video of the AT&T Stadium doors opening for the Jan. 16 Cowboys vs. 49ers game. The video showed thousands of fans sprinting through the doors to their seats.

One Twitter user quoted Machota’s tweet, saying “but girls get made fun of for doing the same thing when they see their favorite [musical] artist.” Another user quoted the tweet saying “But I’m a hysterical little girl if I do it.”

Many people will say there is no right answer to this question. Many people will choose to ignore that these biases are even occurring.

When you look at the typical fanbase of sports like football, most of them are stereotypically men. In contrast, most people who are pop culture fans are stereotypically teenage girls and women. Although society is slowly improving, sexism is still prevalent today. As someone who has dealt with being called “obsessive” when it comes to my favorite musical artists, I have felt this sexism first hand.

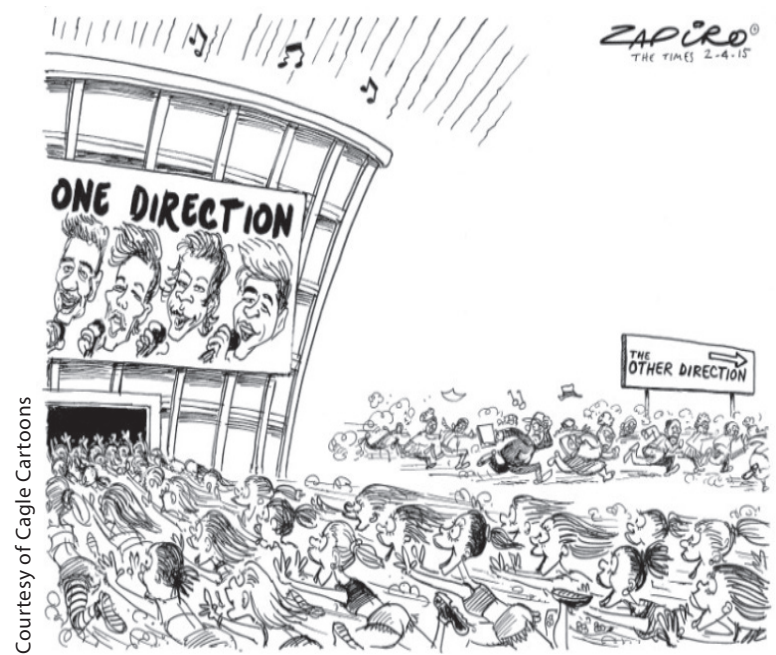
I have always been very passionate when it came to my favorite musical artists and pop culture. I watched my male family members get together to watch football games and scream at the TV when their team lost. I went to school and heard everyone talk about how angry they were with the game’s score. But when I would talk to my friends about my favorite band’s new album, my classmates would call me “crazy” and “weird.”

I have even witnessed men saying they cannot listen to certain music artists because “that’s for girls.”

The TikToks that recently went viral depict accurate ways society describes sports and pop culture fans, but they shouldn’t. Sports fans and pop culture fans act the same way toward their passion, so they shouldn’t have labels that describe them differently. They should just be called fans.

In 2022, we should not accept a society in which gender stereotypes still exist. Women and men should both be allowed to enjoy whatever they want to without dealing with the double standards society puts on them.

*Cissie Brotzman,
sophomore journalism major*



Courtesy of Cagle Cartoons

GREEN CORNER

Go green: how to make a splash for World Water Day 2022

HAVE you seen the Bronx Go Green “Fill it Forward” barcode stickers around Rider? Perhaps you noticed them at the Elkay bottle-fill stations around campus or have seen Rider Eco Reps promoting them at events? Maybe you already have one on your water bottle but often forget to use it? With World Water Day taking place on March 22, consider scanning your barcode sticker with every water bottle refill to contribute to clean water initiatives around the world from the Fill It Forward app.

Since 1993, the United Nations and people across the globe observe World Water Day. The purpose of this day is in part to inspire action that works toward the U.N.’s Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) six: water and sanitation for all by 2030. World Water Day is also an opportunity to celebrate this natural resource while raising awareness for the two billion people worldwide currently living without access to safe water. The theme for 2022’s World Water Day festivities is the hidden, easily overlooked yet crucially important water source known as groundwater.

According to Worldwaterday.org, “Groundwater is invisible, but its impact is visible everywhere. Out of sight, under our feet, groundwater is a hidden treasure that enriches our lives. Almost all of the liquid freshwater in the world is groundwater. As climate change gets worse, groundwater will become more and more critical. We need to work together to sustainably manage this precious resource.”

It is important to protect our local groundwater from contamination and everyone has the power to do so. As spring nears, if you find yourself walking around campus, why not include a stroll around the beautiful Centennial Lake? Increase your good karma by collecting any litter you see along the way.

Our lake waters and groundwaters collect in watersheds across campus and flow along, eventually reaching residents in Trenton and Philadelphia. Keeping our local groundwater clean is of crucial importance to not only our fellow Rider community members but also to everyone who resides along that route depending, at least in part, upon our groundwater for their everyday drinking, cooking and bathing needs. It is our ethical duty to keep the groundwater as clean and as uncontaminated as possible.

Rider senior musical theater major and Eco Rep, Ashlyn Whiteside shared her surprise after learning more in-depth about watersheds in a Rider honors environmental class, “It really shocked me to learn that water pollution on our campus from litter near Centennial Lake or our car spillage into watersheds around campus actually ends up in the Delaware river which is Philly’s drinking water. It’s crazy to think that our actions at our smaller university are really crucial to people’s water supply.”

May you embrace the popular anti-crime slogan, “If you see something, say something” and even take it further by doing something. Whether scanning an app, refraining from littering or having the courage to spread sustainability to

those you encounter – there is always something you can do on World Water Day and every day.

Our planet, its people and future generations need you to act now more than ever. Dare to care and stay environmentally aware. You might just surprise yourself with how good it feels knowing that your actions matter and can ripple out like the waters which nourish us and which deserve our respect and protection.

Join Rider’s Office of Sustainability and the Eco Reps for events happening just after spring break. The next Green Film Series presentation is Brave Blue World with screenings on March 21 and 22 at 7 p.m. in Sweigart Room 115. There is also a fun and informative event celebrating World Water Day on March 22, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. near the hammocks and gazebo adjacent to Centennial Lake if weather permits.

*Jillian Loyas-Stryker,
graduate assistant for sustainability*



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

BASEBALL

Broncs drop three of four games on the road

By Luke Lombardi

RIDER baseball lost two of its three games against Delaware over the weekend, falling on both March 4 and March 5, but finished the weekend with a win on March 6, before losing to West Virginia on March 9.

The Broncs started the weekend with their worst loss of the season. Delaware scored two runs in the first and never looked back. By the fifth inning, the score was 7-1 and the Blue Hens went on to add eight more runs before the night was over.

The lone bright spot of the game was the top of the second for Rider. The team had three baserunners in the inning with utility senior Jake Barbieri scoring the sole Rider run of the evening.

The second game of the series went a bit better for the Broncs, but still ended in a 6-3 loss. Senior pitcher Frank Doelling started poor, allowing two runs in the first.

From there, Doelling only gave up two more runs but pitched three innings where he didn't even give up a hit.

"As a starting pitcher, your job is to limit the damage so looking back on it, holding a good hitting team like that to four runs in six innings after the bad start I had in the first inning, it gave me some confidence going forward to next weekend," said Doelling.

On the offensive side of the ball, the middle of the game was where Rider shined with a group of walks leading to two runs in the fourth. The following inning junior infielder John Volpe hit a solo home run, shrinking the lead to one run. Unfortunately for Rider, Delaware went on to score two runs and win the game.

The final game of the series was the one to end the offensive cold streak, as they had their best offensive game of the season so far winning 14-6.

Early on, it looked to be a pitching duel as heading into the fourth inning, it was tied at one. Senior outfielder Alex Diamantis hit a two-run triple in the fourth and the team never looked back.

Delaware was able to close the gap temporarily thanks to a three-run shot in the fifth. Unlike the other games in the series, the Broncs answered back as they dropped six more runs in the sixth inning, putting the game out of reach once and for all.

Even though the team struggled early on, the performance in the final game of the series gave Head Coach Barry Davis hope.

"Once we got the bats going, I mean it's just we forced the pitcher to work," said Davis. "[We] got the guy's pitch count up, got into their bullpen which is something you want to do."

The Broncs went into a road game against West Virginia on March 9 knowing they had to play perfectly. They came close, but fell painfully short, losing 5-4 in 10 innings.

West Virginia took an early lead in the third before it settled into a pitching duel for a majority of the game. Rider's bats woke up first as they scored three runs in the seventh before West Virginia answered right back with two to tie it at four in the eighth.

This score held until graduate student reliever Cal Stalzer gave up a walk-off double in the tenth inning.

Rider next travels further south to take on East Tennessee State on March 11 at 3 p.m.



Andy Mead/Rider Athletics

Redshirt senior utility **Jake Barbieri** knotted two hits, two runs and an RBI in the win against Delaware on March 6.

BASEBALL

Four Broncs to play in MLB Draft League



Josh McDaniel/Rider Athletics

Senior pitcher **Frank Doelling** is one of four Broncs that will be participating in the draft league this summer.

By Carolo Pascale

In the summer of 2021, the MLB Draft League was created, giving an avenue for college baseball players to see what playing professional baseball is like. It also allowed players to be looked at by MLB scouts, staff, coaches and for a chance to get drafted to the MLB.

With the league coming back this summer for its second season, four of Rider's own will be participating. Those players are junior catcher Socrates Bardatsos, junior pitcher Kenny Quijano, junior pitcher Dylan Heine and senior pitcher Frank Doelling.

One of the Broncs got a taste of the league last year, that being Doelling, who worked as a part of the grounds crew for the league in its inaugural season.

"I didn't get to participate in any of the games. But me and another one of my teammates Cal Stalzer, we were working on the grounds crew for the draft league," said Doelling. "We were pretty much able to see what the draft league was all about."

Another Bronc got a feel for what the league was

like last year too, although the experience was much different than Doelling's.

Rider Assistant Coach Mike Petrowski worked as a pitching coach for the Trenton Thunder last summer, who played a majority of their home games at Rider. It was a brand new league, so an opportunity like this was huge for him.

"We didn't really know what to expect," said Petrowski. "And then when we got there, we were almost, I guess shocked at how good it was. It was just a great experience all around."

The league prides itself on giving its players exposure and learning how to compete at the professional level. That's exactly what Doelling, as well as the rest of the players, are looking to get out of it, besides, of course, the chance to be drafted.

"Being able to be on the same team and compete against some of the other great players across the country that are also coming into this league with the same goals as we are, and developing the relationships with those great players," said Doelling.

Petrowski added a similar sentiment.

"I'm not really sure why that never just never happened in the past," Petrowski said. "But, you know, to kind of make it fresh in the scouts and the organization's eyes, right before the draft is a great idea."

The league itself is split up into two halves, the first is all college and amateur players, while the second is professional players who have exhausted their amateur eligibility. This means the four Broncs will be playing in that first half of the season.

Another wrinkle the four players will have to deal with is playing against each other. Last season, the players were randomly assigned to teams, but according to Petrowski, this year the league will be doing a draft to decide who is on what team.

"I think they're doing a little different this year," said Petrowski. "I think they're doing a draft to assign the kids on a team. They're not just randomly assigning them. I think that's the last I heard."

If that's the case, all four players could be on separate teams and play against each other.

"I think it'd be pretty cool because three of us are pitchers," said Heine. "If we're both pitching on the same day it'll be cool because it's not usually something we get to do. It's more of competing together. And

instead, we'll be competing against each other."

Doelling, the oldest and most experienced of the four players, had a specific team in mind.

"I'm hoping I'm able to play on Trenton," said Doelling.

The thought of all four of the players being on different teams is very different for each of them like Heine said. But with it comes the chance to improve their own game by playing with top college baseball talents from across the country.

Head Coach Barry Davis spoke about how rewarding of an experience that playing in the league will be for the four Broncs.

"The goal for these guys is to get exposure, to learn something, and to compete with some of the best players," said Davis. "They'll take away the day to day grind, practice preparation, you know all the things that are involved with professional baseball."

Now that the Broncs have started the 2021-2022 season, Doelling, Heine and the rest of the players who will be participating in the draft league have the full season to look forward to and get ready for the draft league come summer. The Broncs are 6-4 to start the year, and looking to repeat as Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Champions.

But despite the season at hand, Doelling said what all four of them are feeling about the summer.

"I'm just really excited for it."



Courtesy of Stockton Photo

Last season, the Broncs defeated Fairfield in the MAAC Championships 7-2, sending them to the NCAA Tournament.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Broncs bounced in MAAC tournament

By Dylan Manfre

Atlantic City, N.J. — Each time Rider played Iona during the regular season, its shooting was always suspect. What Head Coach Lynn Milligan saw in practice was not the product on the court.

Junior guard Jessika Schiffer's 19 points were the only bright spots for Rider in its 74-58 loss to No. 9 Iona to open and end the Broncs' Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) tournament stay on March 8.

Rider's weaknesses were showing as the game progressed. Careless turnovers complicated a potential comeback effort as Iona's lead ballooned to 18 with under two minutes left in the third period. Every time Iona hit a big shot, Rider was pushed down further.

"Every time we got some momentum and made a run, they answered pretty quickly," Milligan said.

Despite Iona's dominance in the second half, the Broncs began the game well. They missed one shot through the first seven minutes of the opening quarter and held Iona to under 10 points in the same stretch.

The Broncs proceeded to miss their next six shots but still took a 16-15 lead into the second quarter.

"I think we did get off to a hot start and I think then once they started hitting their shots, we just fell apart," sophomore guard Makayla Firebaugh said.

Iona's complement to All-MAAC Second Team guard Juana Camilion, who scored 21 points, was Shyan Mwai. The 5-foot-6 guard had her first 12 points all come in the second quarter and helped the Gaels to a 40-28 lead at the break, as the Gaels racked up a 25-point second quarter.

Milligan spoke about the "backbreakers" the team

has which include giving opponents extra opportunities throughout the game and how they plagued Rider.

"We only got 49 shots at the basket today, they got 62," Milligan said. "They got second chances on 50% of their makes. That's not a good stat ... when you're not taking shots at the basket and you're turning the ball over, it doesn't really matter. That's where we have to get better."

Senior guard Lenaejha Evans had two points at halftime after missing her first four shots. The All-MAAC Third Team selection is someone Rider needed to hit shots to keep the game close. Evans finished the game with seven points on 1-of-10 shooting.

"She was definitely a focus for us," Iona Head Coach Billi Chambers said of her plan for guarding Evans. "We wanted to make sure to stop her to disrupt their rhythm a little bit. We would send someone right to her to make sure we knew where she was and didn't let her get going in transition to get her pull-up game going."

Milligan called the rebounding woes the "Achilles' heel" of the team saying it is about "want and desire." Rider's effort to defend Iona's Ketsia Athias did not go over well as she finished the game with 12 points and 16 rebounds. Camilion ended with seven.

That led to 32 points in the paint for Iona who held Rider to 16.

Rider's quick exit of the tournament was a microcosm of its season. Even though it shot the ball decently in the opening-round game, flawed rebounding as well as handing opponents a plethora of opportunities, came back to haunt the Broncs again on the biggest stage.

IONA	74
RIDER	58



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

Senior forward **Teresa Wolak (left)** and senior guard **Lenaejha Evans (right)** hug as their Rider careers end.

MAAC TOURNAMENT

Rider can't get boards on the boardwalk

By Jacob Tiger

Atlantic City, N.J. — In its 74-58 win against the Rider's women's basketball team, Iona's key to victory was simple: win in the trenches.

Over the season, a lack of rebounding tormented the Broncs at nearly every turn, and it ended up being their downfall, as the Gaels owned the paint and accrued a wealth of offensive rebounds in the opening game of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Tournament.

"To me, rebounding is want and desire," said Head Coach Lynn Milligan after the season-ending loss. "We were standing around just a little too much hoping that shot went in, so we were pretty much one-and-done... they were not."

Iona finished with a 17-10 advantage on the offensive glass, primarily because of Iona's Ketsia Athias who had nine offensive rebounds.

The ripple effects of this advantage could be seen all over Iona's offense. The Gaels took 28 layups, many of them being quick putback lay-ins by Athias.

All together, Iona scored 32 points in the paint, 16 more than Rider.

Rider lost by 16 points.

"We lost to them three times. Iona had our number this year. There's no question about that," said Milligan. "They played into some of our weaknesses, they're physical with us, they made big shots."

The Gaels made many big shots in the game, as their presence under the basket collapsed the defense, leading to wide-open kick-out threes on the arc. Iona had 20 assists on 29 field goals.

"We talked a lot about giving up the good shot for the great shot, and our players just found each other and where they could get those great shots," said Iona Head Coach Billi Chambers.

Iona had no trouble capitalizing on those opportunities, shooting 50% (11-22) from three. The Gaels' efficiency at such high volume speaks to how easily they were able to find space and set their feet for an easy bucket.

"They got kick-out threes. We played 25, 30 seconds of great defense, they get... an offensive rebound, kick-out three. Those are backbreakers," said Milligan. "We've talked about that all year long. We just gave other teams too many chances."

No matter what the Broncs were doing offensively, their defense, or lack thereof, prevented them from doing any real damage to Iona's lead. Iona almost always answered back with a score of its own, usually without having to give as much effort.

"We're not gonna make excuses for things that we did or didn't do well," said Milligan. "The bottom line is we didn't get the job done."



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

Junior guard **Jessika Schiffer** led the Broncs with 19 points in Rider's game against No.9 Iona on March 8.

Sports

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MAAC TOURNAMENT COVERAGE

Check out the multimedia tab online for more coverage of the MAAC Tournament including photo galleries and videos.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Ogemuno-Johnson shines as Broncs defeat Manhattan

By Carolo Pascale

Atlantic City, N.J. - Rider men's basketball was dealt a royal flush as all five starters netted double-digit points in its opening-round, 79-67 win against Manhattan at the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Tournament on March 8.

"I'm proud of my guys; I'm proud of everybody that's on our team," said Head Coach Kevin Baggett. "To come back and play as well as we did is continuing to show growth on this team as the year goes on."

The first half started exceptionally well for the Broncs. Netting the first points of the game was senior forward Ajiri Ogemuno-Johnson, who put on some nice moves to get the Broncs rolling early.

That first basket seemed to give the Broncs a big boost, going to work on both sides of the ball by getting steals and using their size in the paint to score.

One thing that helped the Broncs early on was quick bench usage by Baggett and making good use of their fast breaks and size. The Broncs, while undersized compared to most of the conference, actually matched up fairly well to the Jaspers. This helped the Broncs a lot in the first half especially, when it came to rebounding.

All of this combined to help Rider jump out to a quick 15 point lead.

But just as it seemed like all was going well for the Broncs, Manhattan turned right back around with a dunk to shift the tone of the game. After this, the Jaspers pushed hard to take a one-point lead with 8:47 remaining. The Broncs took it back right after, but the game had changed for both teams.

Only a minute later, junior forward Mervin James got up for a massive block at the rim, nearly sending the ball back to Manhattan.

Both teams went back and forth for the rest of the half until the Broncs jumped out to a three-point lead with three minutes left.

And with just 18 seconds left, Manhattan's Jose Perez received a technical foul when he attempted to guard Broncs junior guard Allen Powell. Perez received the technical for throwing a water bottle on the floor after the play, being very unhappy with the call.

By the end of the half, the Broncs held a 42-36 lead. James led the Broncs with 13 points, while Ogemuno-Johnson had eight. Rider shot a solid 46.7% from the field and an excellent 55.6% from the three. The Broncs also had six steals in just that half.

"We went back to practice and could emphasize being dogs, playing hard, so that's what we did as a team tonight," said Ogemuno-Johnson. "We needed this one."

The second half saw Manhattan open up the scoring with a deep three, but once again Ogemuno-Johnson put on the moves in the paint, netting another two points for the Broncs. That basket once again started a nice run for Rider, going 8-0 over a 1:43.

The defense continued to work in the second, forcing more turnovers and steals that helped send graduate student forward Dimencio Vaughn down the court for a rim-rattling solo dunk, bringing the Rider fans in attendance to their feet.



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

Senior forward **Ajiri Ogemuno-Johnson** recorded a double-double that includes 15 points and 12 rebounds in a win against Manhattan.

"Dimencio played unbelievable," said Baggett. "You know that was one of the best games I've seen him play all year long."

Once Rider got out to a 10-point lead in the second half, it never let it up, increasing to as much as 16. Ogemuno-Johnson forged ahead to 16 on a big lay-in that gave the Broncs substantial momentum going into the final seven minutes.

As time continued to expire, the Broncs started to clamp down on defense. The rebounding on the defensive side of the ball was imperative to the success of the Broncs in that second half, notching 13 defensive rebounds. That total nearly matched the Broncs first-half total of an even better 16.

"We had to box out," said Ogemuno-Johnson. "We had to make adjustments because a lot of the games that we lost were just little stuff, and if we call that out, we win games."

As the final buzzer sounded, the Broncs had won with a final score of 79-67, securing their spot in the quarterfinal round of the MAAC Tournament. The final scoresheet read like a New York Times bestseller: it was fantastic from front to back.

Vaughn led the Broncs with 20 points, Powell had 16, James had 16 and Ogemuno-Johnson finished with a double-double that included 15 points and 12 rebounds.

"These guys set the tempo; they were ready to go, they were hungry," said Baggett. "You know it was chippy down there with things going on [...] there's no time for that. We just try and keep our heads and play, and if we keep our composure, as Ajiri said, if we can do that, we know we can beat anybody."

The Broncs will move on to face the No. 1 seed Iona Gaels in the quarterfinals of the MAAC Tournament on March 9. The game will start at 7.



LENAEJHA EVANS
THIRD TEAM ALL-MAAC





DIMENCIO VAUGHN
THIRD TEAM ALL-MAAC