

Local drag queens and students give stunning show



SEE DRAG PAGE 6

SGA president looks to bring a fresh perspective to campus

By Sarah Siock

As a tour guide, former orientation leader and longtime Student Government Association (SGA) member, Elizabeth O'Hara is a familiar face on Rider's campus. O'Hara hopes that her presence on campus as an involved student will help her succeed in her newest role as SGA president. O'Hara plans to rejuvenate SGA by amplifying student voices, promoting accountability and welcoming the campus community back to in-person learning.

"SGA members have established relationships with people that allow us to amplify the student voice and fight for change at almost every level. So I wanted to not only increase the visibility of SGA but have an accessible way for students to share those concerns with us," said the senior computer science major.

Campus life

O'Hara was elected president last spring and acknowledged the current SGA administration's unique challenge of building relationships with students who have spent little time on campus.

"We're in a weird situation now because we have two full classes of undergrad students that have really never touched campus. Then our junior class was here for maybe three quarters of the year before COVID happened and then were sent home," said O'Hara, who joined SGA her freshman year.

O'Hara wants to address students' concerns about returning to campus by promoting the "Rider experience" that was missing through online learning. She explained that since the start of the pandemic, student involvement has declined. O'Hara said upperclassmen will play a role in helping new students become involved.

"SGA has been very intentional of joining all welcome week events to make ourselves visible and approachable to new students. ...We want to try and have our student leaders that are about to graduate really take the underclassmen under their wing and show them the ropes and help them feel confident in the new positions that they will be taking on," said O'Hara.

Senior criminal justice major and SGA Executive Vice President Athena Skirianos added that she ran for a leadership position to help support students' transition to in-person learning.

"That transition is going to be a lot, and I want to be at the forefront of that.



Courtesy of Elizabeth O'Hara

SGA President **Elizabeth O'Hara** is hoping to bring life back to Rider after a rough 2020 school year.

I want students to feel like they can come to us and be comfortable and get their voice heard," Skirianos said.

Holding the administration accountable

SGA members have the opportunity to speak with administrators more often than the average student, and

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Westminster teacher arrested for sexual assault of a minor

By Sarah Siock

DEZHENG Ping, a Westminster Choir College employee, was arrested and charged on Sept. 23 with one count of second-degree sexual assault, one count of third-degree endangering the welfare of a child and one count of fourth-degree criminal sexual contact, prosecutors said.

Associate Vice President for University Marketing and Communications Kristine Brown said Ping is currently on leave, but would not specify if the leave is paid or unpaid. Brown declined to comment further citing the ongoing investigation.

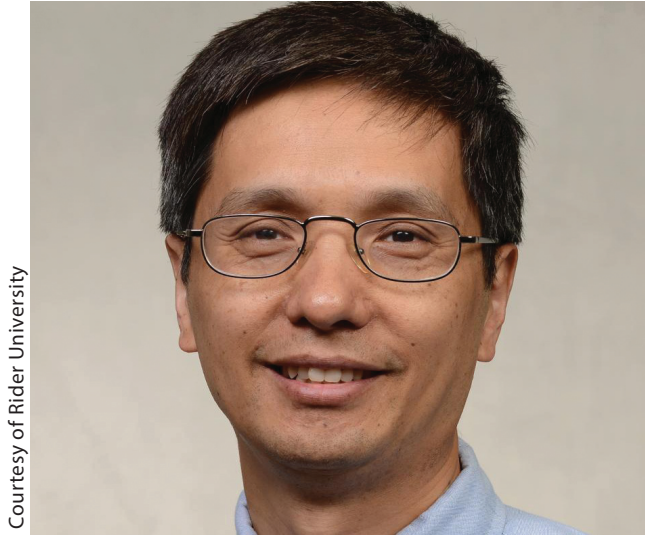
An investigation by Detective Patrick Miller of the Plainsboro Township Police Department and Detective Linda Infusino of the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office found that in 2016, Ping inappropriately touched a 12-year-old child, during violin lessons held in Ping's residence, which was at that time in Plainsboro, New Jersey, according to a press release from The Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office.

Ping, 57, is a teacher at the Westminster Conservatory of Music -- a branch of WCC that teaches young community students on the Princeton campus. He is not listed as teaching any courses at Rider's Lawrenceville campus this semester, and has taught at the Conservatory since 2006, according to his profile at rider.edu. Additionally, Ping provides private violin

instruction in West Windsor and Plainsboro, according to prosecutors.

Ping currently resides in Lawrence Township.

The prosecutor's office said the investigation is active and ongoing.



Courtesy of Rider University

Dezheng Ping was arrested and charged with three crimes.

CORRECTION

A story that appeared in the Sept. 15 issue of The Rider News contained an incorrect spelling of a name. Madeleine Yu-Phelps was incorrectly identified as Madeline Yu-Phelps. The Rider News regrets this error.

Rider to host Lieutenant Governor debate next month

By Tori Pender

RIDER will host New Jersey's Lieutenant Governor debate between current Democrat Lt. Gov. Sheila Oliver and her challenger Republican Diane Allen on Oct. 5 in Lynch Adler room 202.

This event will be hosted by the Rebovich Institute of New Jersey Politics, with its Director and Rider political science professor Micah Rasmussen as one of the panelists.

Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy and his opponent Republican Jack Ciattarelli will go head to head in two debates. The first debate was held on Sept. 28 at the Performing Arts Center in Newark and the other will be held at 8 p.m. on Oct. 12 at Rowan University in Glassboro. While their running mates, the Lieutenant Governors, will only engage in debate once.

According to AP News, "The debates were expected because they're required under law when candidates receive public matching funds, as both Murphy and Ciattarelli are this year."

The last time an official debate was held on Rider's campus was Oct. 17, 2012, for New Jersey's 12 Congressional District between Representative Rush Holt (D) and Eric Beck (R).

The New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission awarded Rider the Lieutenant Governor's debate because of the innovative ideas that the Rebovich Institute proposed in partnership with the New Jersey Globe, a political news site devoted to New Jersey politics and Project Ready, a social justice advocacy organization.

Rasmussen explained, "Including extending the audience beyond traditional debate viewers by breaking it up into smaller segments for targeted social media promotion to interested groups across the state. Given the current state of the pandemic, we also proposed foregoing a live debate audience, except for student observers."

The Candidates

Oliver, the current lieutenant governor, is the first Black woman to serve in this role. Oliver grew up in Newark, New Jersey, and resides in East Orange. In 2010 she was the first Black Speaker of the New Jersey General Assembly through 2014. Oliver also previously served the 34 Legislative District in the New Jersey General Assembly.

Allen is the Republican nominee for lieutenant governor. She grew up in Moorestown, New Jersey, and resides in Edgewater Park Township. Allen served as a Member of the New Jersey Senate from the 7th district from 1998 through 2018.

Allen was a television anchorwoman for KYW, the Philadelphia affiliate of CBS and WCAU, the NBC affiliate in Philadelphia. Allen is now the President of VidComm, Inc., a media production company she founded after her broadcasting career ended.

Student Involvement

Rasmussen explained, "We are also fortunate to be working with several filmmaking, TV and radio majors and their advisor, Scott Alboom."

The students will provide camera work as well as other communications support.

Rasmussen continued, "And because it takes a village, we are also working closely with Dayne Lewis and Jonathan Jones of Rider's Office of Information Technology, who will provide technical support for the production, which will be live-streamed via New Jersey Globe, Facebook Live, Twitter and LinkedIn and broadcast on WOND and WABC radio."

Rasmussen is grateful for having a great team to support the inner workings of the debate.

Students will also have the opportunity to propose questions as well as speak directly to candidates after the debate.

"I think the debate will bring to the state is, the chance to try some new ideas and learn from them, to figure out how to grow the state's public debates into a modern

voter education tool," said Rasmussen. "We're very grateful to the members of the Election Law Enforcement Commission for the opportunity to mix it up and see what we can learn."

It is Rebovich's mission for students to be able to closely interact with New Jersey's state public officials.

"I'm also excited that our students will be able to closely interact with our state's public officials, which is part of what is so essential to the Rebovich mission," said Rasmussen.



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

The lieutenant governor debate between **Sheila Oliver** and **Diane Allen** will be held at Lynch Adler room 202.



Courtesy of Rider University

Rebovich Institute Director **Micah Rasmussen** will be one of the panelists for the lieutenant governor debate.

Mental health is at the forefront of SGA's agenda

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O'Hara aims to make these conversations more transparent to the student body. She pointed to the previous SGA administration's attempt to secure student voting rights in committees that control academic governance at the university; O'Hara said this initiative will continue.

"We should have a commitment to students to follow through on what we say we're going to do. That's how we are going to build trust with the student body. So just being very transparent on initiative progress. The other side of that would be holding the administration accountable, to keep us informed on projects that are affecting our quality of life here, especially ones that happened behind closed doors..." said O'Hara. "A lot of the times in our SGA roles, we get asked for feedback about the student experience and they want to know what's happening there. ... I think we need SGA to do a better job of following up on what we say and make sure that what we say is actually going to influence the change that happens within whatever area of the university that we had discussed."

Conversations with the student body

After an emotionally exhausting year and a half, O'Hara explained that students' mental health will be at the forefront of SGA's agenda. Currently, SGA is participating in an external review of the counseling center at Rider. O'Hara said in the coming weeks, SGA will be launching a counseling center survey for current students and recent alumni to share their experience with the counseling center.

"I thought that we need more representation, especially when it comes to something like counseling services or mental health," said O'Hara.

With an SGA administration mixed with both long-standing members and

newcomers, O'Hara hopes they will bring a fresh perspective and an open dialogue with students. Both O'Hara and Skirianos encouraged students to attend SGA's weekly senate meetings every Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Sweigart Hall.

"I want our relationship to be as communicative as possible. I would love to hear students' opinions on anything because I want everyone to be as pleased as possible." Skirianos said. "College is a major experience in our life. In order to have the best experience, you need to share your opinion as much as you can."



Courtesy of Athena Skirianos

SGA Executive Vice President **Athena Skirianos** wants to help students transition back to in-person learning.

Fondling incidents spark conversation on sexual assaults at college campuses

By Sarah Siock

THE notice of two fondling incidents sent by Public Safety on Sept. 7 serves as a reminder of the importance of raising awareness on the "Red Zone," a time where sexual assaults increase on college campuses throughout the country.

What is the Red Zone?

A 2007 report published by the Department of Justice found that around 50% of sexual violence incidents on college campuses happen between August and November. This time period is referred to as the Red Zone.

The Sept. 7 incidents both involved the same individual who is known to the survivors, according to the notice published by Public Safety. One incident occurred near Daly's Dining Hall and the other occurred off-campus.

Associate Vice President for University Marketing and Communications Kristine Brown and Public Safety Director James Waldon declined to comment on whether the individual is currently allowed on campus and, what township the off-campus incident took place in. However, as Public Safety's notice said, the university issued a no-contact order to the suspected individual involved in both incidents. Additionally, the notice said university officials were conducting an investigation as per Title IX and Rider's Anti-Harassment and Non-Discrimination Policy.

Brown said neither incident was reported to the police at the request of the survivors.

"When individuals make a report to the university, they are offered the chance and provided information on how to make a police report. They are not required to do so. In this instance, neither student wanted to make a report to the police," said Brown.

Sexual assault and violence at Rider

The most recent security and fire safety report, which is from 2020, states there were three reported rape cases and six domestic violence incidents on campus that year.

However, Title IX Compliance Officer Thomas Johnson said that based on Rider's data, the campus does not experience a Red Zone period.

"There hasn't been anything that stood out to me to say that there is a time of year that there is a spike in cases reported throughout the year. What I would say about reporting, is that it's not necessarily a linear process. Somebody might experience something in one month, and they may wait, or they may not want to

report for several months later. So there's not necessarily that correlation," said Johnson.

Typically, freshman and newer students are most vulnerable during the Red Zone since they are adjusting to a new environment, according to the Justice Department's study. However, Johnson said he has not found one particular group of students to be vulnerable during a specific time frame at Rider.

Support for survivors

Johnson added that Rider does offer supportive measures to survivors of sexual assault and violence in various ways, including through the nonprofit organization Womanspace, the counseling center and the option to alter housing assignments. Johnson added that the university also offers support that is specific to a survivor's request.

"If someone comes to us and asks for specific assistance, the goal is to help restore access back to the institution and have them have full access of their education. That's what the support measures are there for," said Johnson.

Student Government Association (SGA) President and senior computer science major Elizabeth O'Hara noted the support offered to survivors through SGA. The student government extends support for survivors of sexual assault through its sponsorship of the "Me Too Monologues," which serves as a platform for students to openly discuss mental health and sexual harassment via real stories and experiences submitted anonymously by Rider students.

"This type of behavior has no place at our university and these allegations are taken very seriously...SGA's Health and Safety Committee also has signs installed on the back of bathroom stalls that provide resources, including phone numbers and websites, for victims of sexual assault, violence and rape. We encourage students to report all incidents to the appropriate channels that best suit their needs," said O'Hara.

Johnson also gave advice on how students can stay safe on campus and why it is important to be a vocal bystander. However, he emphasized that the blame is not placed on victims

"That's where I think of the more global bystander intervention. Are you willing to step up, because that keeps people safe," said Johnson.

Rider University Lawrenceville Campus Sex Offenses from 2018-2020

Sex Offenses

	Rape	Statutory Rape	Fondling	Incest	Dating Violence	Domestic Violence
2018	2	0	4	0	0	11
2019	1	0	4	0	0	10
2020	3	0	0	0	0	6

Adrienne Unfreed/The Rider News

Administrator happy that COVID cases are 'relatively low'

By Shaun Chornobroff

AFTER seeing a growing number of positive COVID-19 cases over the first two weeks of having fully in-person classes, Rider saw a stunningly large drop in positive cases from Sept. 18-24, according to the university's COVID-19 dashboard.

After seeing 10 cases between students and employees from Sept. 11-17, the university dashboard only recorded a single case in its most recent update released on Sept. 24.

"I don't see great fluctuation; we're still talking a relatively few number of cases and we're going to have to expect fluctuations from week to week," Rider's Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Planning and Secretary to the Board, Debbie Stasolla said.

Stasolla added, "When you think about it, we're talking less than 20 cases, that's a very low number of cases. And we're going to have to expect that it will fluctuate."

The positive case in the most recent update brings Rider up to 15 positive COVID-19 cases this semester, according to the dashboard. Nine cases have been on-campus students, one of the recorded cases is an off-campus student and five of the cases have been on-campus employees.

"I'm pleased to see that the numbers are still relatively low," Stasolla said. "That said, I think that we all need to continue being knowledgeable about our on-campus requirements, and what we all need to be doing day-in and day-out to help mitigate the spread of COVID ... I'm talking about things like masking. I'm talking about getting tested if you are required to be tested every week, getting tested if you are considered a close contact. If we all continue to do what we're supposed to do, it should help, not a guarantee, but it should help keep the number of cases down so we can continue our more normal operations."

The school administered 201 tests between Sept. 18-24, an 18 test decrease from the previous week. However, Stasolla did admit that Rider still has a number of students who are required to test regularly who are not and that said students are being referred for Code of Conduct violations.

The dashboard reported that 98% of full-time faculty and 91% of staff that have reported their vaccination status are vaccinated. Although, Stasolla did say the university may not

know what percentage of its faculty is truly vaccinated.

"Let's say if I'm a faculty member and I did not report my status, then I'm not included in the 98% who's vaccinated," Stasolla said. "I'm now included in the 2%. Of the 2%, how many are truly unvaccinated? I can't tell you. Some of them might be, but they just refuse to report their status."

Faculty members and employees who do not show proof of vaccination are "assumed to be unvaccinated and have to be tested weekly," according to Stasolla.

Rider's quarantine numbers saw a slight uptick in the most recent update, stating that three students are quarantining on the school's campus, and one student is quarantining off campus.

The dashboard also reported that Rider had one student isolating off campus and one employee in isolation.

The Rider News COVID-19 COUNTER

Confirmed Cases:
Last updated: Sept. 24, 2021

15

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

COVID-19 cases reported to Rider University by week:

Month/Year	Student Case Reports	Employee Case Reports
Sept. 18-24	1	0
Sept. 11-17	7	3

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
Sept. 18-24	33	168
Sept. 11-17	43	176
Sept. 6-10	15	24
Total	91	368

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:

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

Adrienne Unfreed/The Rider News

Students speak their opinions towards Rider's positive ratings

By Olivia Nicoletti

RIDER has yet again made the list for top universities in New Jersey. The Wall Street Journal released their 2022 Higher Education College Rankings with Rider coming in eighth out of 20 schools in the state.

According to a university press release, Rider earned a spot on the list of the top 300 institutions in the U.S., as well as in the top half of colleges in the Northeast region.

A university press release also said that The Wall Street Journal ranked, "universities and colleges based on graduate success and student learning. The rankings use 15 individual performance metrics, grouped into four pillars: resources, engagement, outcomes and environment."

It goes on to say, "Approximately 20% of the rankings are derived from the annual Times Higher Education U.S. Student Survey, which includes data from more than 170,000 current U.S. students across all ranked colleges."

Although this may be a major boost for the employees, students have shared opinions as to whether Rider deserved this spot.

Olivia Venier, a senior music education major, attended Westminster Choir College (WCC) before relocating with the rest of the students to the Lawrenceville campus in the Fall of 2020. She has lived on campus since the beginning of this fall semester but has been to campus for rehearsals in the past year.

Venier's experience at the Princeton campus was great but feels her move has so far been unpleasant.

"Overall, the people are nice here, but the facilities are not even close to adequate for the WCC people. I feel Rider being selected as one of the best colleges is laughable. For the WCC people, we were taken from our campus, losing teachers and students alike," Venier said. "We were given a place with few practice rooms, a not nearly large enough practice space for our symphonic choir with terrible acoustics, and some people I know were met with hostility by some of the other teachers and students."

Brandon Rios, a junior global supply chain management and sports management major, has lived on campus until this current fall semester. Rios prides himself in being involved on campus and has more planned for his future at Rider.

"I am happy to hear that Rider has been selected as one of the best colleges because it makes the 'on-campus life' more enjoyable," Rios said. "I think when people are happy with their education and have good experiences, the campus becomes more of a lively, positive environment."

Rios too believes that Rider should make some changes.

"I believe Rider can improve their campus social life. They can do this by adding more late-night meal and snack options," Rios said. "I feel as if campus shuts down past 11 p.m. especially on weekends. With some changes, students can enjoy campus a little more on the weekends. I cannot imagine the environment was marked high on Rider's score sheet for the rankings."



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

Rider has received multiple positive ratings from the Wall Street Journal to the Princeton Review.



Adrienne Unfreed/The Rider News

R Factor finalists compete for the “R Factor” crown

By Amethyst Martinez

RIDER'S annual singing competition R Factor came to a close on Sept. 24 with finalists battling it out to be named the winner in the Bart Luedeke Center.

This year's finalists were sophomore global supply chain major Kevin O'Brien, junior musical theater major Shamiea Thompson, junior theater major Josh Payne, junior political science major Sania Rashid, junior secondary education major Christine Ruggieri, freshman music production major Sebastian Leak and freshman film and television major William Dusingberre.

The judges were Heather Thompson, a creative director who has worked with talents such as Jennifer Lopez and Beyoncé, “X Factor” finalist Trace Kennedy and five-time winning R Factor mentor and Associate Dean of Campus Life Nick Barbaty. Each judge had their own finalists who were on their team, and each mentor helped students throughout the week practice for the finale.

The first to perform was O'Brien who performed “You Make Me Feel So Young” by Frank Sinatra. Many of O'Brien's track and field teammates were in the crowd and cheered him on throughout his performance. O'Brien was on “Team Trace” who mentored him in preparation for the finale.

When it came time for the judges' critiques, Kennedy said, “[O'Brien] worked harder than everybody on my team. He talked to me everyday. ... I'm proud.”



Gerard Blandina/The Rider News

After earning multiple standing ovations, junior musical theater major **Shamiea Thompson** was officially voted this year's R Factor winner.

Rashid, who was on “Team Nick,” was sixth to perform and sang “We Don't Have To Take Our Clothes Off” by Ella Eyre.

When it came time for the judge's critiques, Kennedy said, “It was effortless. It was easy, but there was still something very engaging about it. You didn't even ... move around too much. But I was still focused on you, and I love that. You have an amazing voice.”

Barbaty added, “We were riveted by you because of the atmosphere that you created from your voice. That's a carryover from the audition but it's also a unique trait that you carry with you. You are a true artist that can command the space but also command everybody here to believe what you're saying.”

The last to perform was Ruggieri, who was on “Team Trace.” She performed “Always Remember Us This Way” by Lady Gaga, which was popularized in the movie “A Star is Born”. Her mentor Kennedy said, “I think you've had the most emotion out of everybody and it's hard to do that. ... you have it naturally. You don't have to do anything extra.”

As the performances wrapped up, the audience voted through text. As votes were being tallied and the attendees were putting in their votes, a brief intermission was held to introduce newly added ‘R Factor’ hall of fame inductees.

These inductees were students and hosts who've contributed to the show throughout the years. Newly inducted participants were Kennedy, and Rider alumni Caleb Holt and Dalien Hackley.



Gerard Blandina/The Rider News

The audience was able to vote on who they believed best deserved the title of R Factor champion.



Gerard Blandina/The Rider News

Freshman music production major **Sebastian Leak** delivered a passionate performance of “Love on the Brain” by Rihanna.

Next up was Leak, who performed “Love on the Brain” by Rihanna. He received a round of applause at the end of his performance. Leak was on “Team Nick,” and Barbaty called Leak an ‘expert’ at singing.

“The good acts are those who like music and the great acts are those who love music. ... It was clear from the moment you entered of your connection with the audience. ... there wasn't one word that wasn't connected to your spirit there,” said Barbaty.

Third to perform was Payne, who was not initially chosen as a finalist but replaced another finalist who dropped out of the competition. Payne, who was on “Team Heather,” sang an upbeat version of “Wonderwall” by Oasis.

“We're going to see different things today, but you have been the most fun so far,” said Kennedy.

Fourth up was Shamiea Thompson who performed “I'm Going Down” by Mary J. Bilge. The crowd and judges gave her a standing ovation at the end of her performance, and Heather Thompson enthusiastically said, “It was smooth and pure and perfect and soulful and real and honest, and I just love watching every second.”

At the end of her critiques, Shamiea Thompson said to the audience, “Thank you for being able to share this experience with me.”

The fifth performance was Dusingberre from “Team Heather” who performed “Take Me to Church” by Hozier.

Barbaty said in his critique, “It felt like you were a rockstar up there. ... you truly were brilliant, and your artistry came through in every element of that song. I mean, I'm blown away. ... he took us to church.”



Gerard Blandina/The Rider News

After close voting from the judges, freshman film and TV major **William Dusingberre** was chosen to be a top three finalist.

After Kennedy, Holt and Hackley were inducted, the top two finalists chosen by the audience were revealed to be Shamiea Thompson and Ruggieri. The judges chose the last finalist, which led to a deadlock in votes between the three performers O'Brien, Sebastian and Dusingberre. The crowd cheered, and the last finalist chosen was Dusingberre.

Shamiea Thompson was the first person to perform again, and she performed the song “Listen” by Beyoncé. The crowd gave Shamiea Thompson another standing ovation at the end of her performance.

Next up was Dusingberre who performed the song “Everybody's Gotta Live” by Love with his guitar. He asked the crowd to sing along throughout his performance.

The final performance was Ruggieri, who performed “All I Want” by Kodakline. The crowd gave her a standing ovation. In the final judges' words, Kennedy said “You can do anything you want to do, but I think you should do this.”

The crowd voted again by text message among the top three finalists. The top two were Shamiea Thompson and Ruggieri. Dusingberre was eliminated.

The ‘R Factor’ winner was Shamiea Thompson who was on “Team Trace.” In an email to The Rider News, Shamiea Thompson said, “The experience was very fun. This is my second time doing R Factor. This time around [I was] more relaxed and confident. My overall experience winning R Factor was extremely fun. I'm very glad to have participated.”

A standing ovation for Rider's Drag Race

By Tristan Leach

WITH nearly all 400 seats in the Yvonne Theater occupied, Rider held its annual Drag Race on Sept. 25.

Of the nine performers of the night, four were Rider students. The first to perform for the students was sophomore dance performance major Maikol Calixto as Aristocrats, followed by freshman musical theater major Mia Mintz as Miss Texas, then junior Spanish major with a philosophy minor Joe Giambelluca as JJ CoolWhip and finally senior musical theater major Jack Wood as Vicky Vibrato. Each performer chose one song to which they lip synced, danced and interacted with the audience. This year, the event was not a competition as it was in past years.

Audience members were given paper fans and disco ball necklaces of different colors. The Drag Race has been happening since 2004 when it was started by former student and current faculty member Nick Barbati. Barbati started the event after a friend encouraged him to do drag. According to Barbati, his friend “dragged him out of the closet.” Barbati reflected on the fact that his mom was in the audience, and he remembered the pride in her eyes.

Barbati asked his friend who goes by the drag name of VinChelle to host this year's event. The Philadelphia-based drag queen sported a lovely yellow floor-length dress embellished with black and pink stars. She kicked the event off with a lip-sync performance of “Make It Happen” by Mariah Carey. VinChelle encouraged audience participation by requesting the audience to shout “Oh Yeah!”

Mintz said, “I have always really loved drag since about middle school, and I always thought it was just a boy thing until very recently. I watched RuPaul's [Drag Race] of course cause

who doesn't? My best friend is a baby drag queen, and as I'm helping him figure out makeup and tricks and music, I also gained a huge interest in it myself. ... I saw Victoria Scone who was the first female drag queen on 'UK RuPaul's Drag Race', and I suddenly realized, okay, women can do this.”

Mintz performed Britney Spears' “Circus” in a homemade bedazzled outfit. This was her first ever performance, and she was met with a standing ovation.

Five professional drag queens also performed: VinChelle, Pumpkin, Phoebe, Cyannie and Morgan Wells. Each queen performed two numbers, and each made an outfit change, with the exception of VinChelle.

When asked why she chose to come to Rider and why she does drag, VinChelle said, “I know Nick. We did a play together; we did ‘My Big Gay Italian Wedding’ together, and so he saw me there and I told him I do drag full time. He got me to the gig. I started doing drag because I actually went to The University of The Arts for Musical Theatre and then I decided maybe full-time theater was not for me, but I still wanted to be on stage. And so, I decided to become a drag queen.”

VinChelle closed the show with an ecstatic performance of “I'm Every Woman” by Whitney Houston. The queen danced in the crowd with the audience, at one point ripping her dress on one of the railings next to the seats.

She enthusiastically said, “I'd only ruin an outfit for Rider.”



The Rider News/Andrew Xon

Drag queen VinChelle, who also hosted the show, joins the audience for her

Rider welcomes Hispanic Heritage Month

By Hannah Newman

HISPANIC Heritage Month begins on Sept. 15 and runs until Oct. 15, recognizing the Hispanic, Latinx and Chicana communities of the United States. During the month, Americans demonstrate their gratitude towards these communities for their significant role in shaping aspects of America's culture and history along with their contributions to America's success in many different professions and areas of expertise.

Students from different countries and cultures share Rider's campus, and Hispanic Heritage Month serves as time to celebrate these students.

Senior psychology major Maureen Guilbot established her club at Rider called Rider Latinas Unidas (RLU), an inclusive club for Hispanic women that focuses on embracing the originalites of being a woman from these communities and discussing the obstacles faced within the community while using the strength that is exchanged between members to overcome adversity.

“The name “Latinas Unidas” means Latin Women United (RLU), however, anyone can join and find a hogar [home] in RLU. We want a legacy of Hispanic/Latinx women who feel welcomed and empowered at Rider University, who will be able to find a new family through a sense of belonging and connection,” said Guilbot.

In addition to RLU, clubs such as the Latin American Student Organization, the Center for Diversity and Inclusion, along with Chi Upsilon Sigma, are all different ways for students to get involved in the Latinx community at Rider, promising safe and accompanied grounds for every student as they work their way to becoming successful both before and after graduation.

“This entire month of celebration allows for the Hispanic community to display the impact we have had in this country. From culture, to fashion, to food and even our language, the Hispanic community has changed the way America functions,” said junior psychology major Yezenid Soto in an email to the Rider News.

Aside from the clubs that can be found on campus year round, Rider signifies Hispanic Heritage Month with many different events and activities each week of this month, giving students the chance to expand their knowledge of these cultures with games, dance lessons and Q&A sessions.

These sessions allow students from different backgrounds to express how they feel about the Rider community and how they value their nationality, while giving others a chance to learn first-hand what their peers' heritages mean to them and what everyone can do to ensure that the feelings of comfort and pride in oneself are spread throughout the campus.

¡Bienvenidos al Mes de la Herencia Hispana aquí en Rider!

The next event of the month will be Latin Beats Nights on Oct. 1, which is a chance for students to familiarize themselves with Latin music and talk to members of the Hispanic/Latinx clubs and sororities on campus. The event will be held at 7:30 p.m at the Bart Luedeke Center fireplace.



Courtesy of Maureen Guilbot

Rider Latinas Unidas club members left to right: sophomore chemistry major and Secretary Ashley Perez, junior mathematics major and Vice President Belveth Simon, junior political science major and Treasurer Karla Lopez-Rosa, and senior psychology major and President Maureen Guilbot.

Students and professional drag queens perform at Rider's Drag Race



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

Drag queen VinChelle, the host of this year's Drag Race, in a yellow dress garnished with pink and black stars.



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

Freshman musical theater major Mia Mintz who goes by the drag name 'Miss Texas', performing.



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

Drag queen Cyannie performing on the stage in front of Rider students.



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

Professional drag queen Pumpkin wooed the crowd by her performance.



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

Junior spanish major with a minor in philosophy Joe Giambelluca, performing by his drag name JJ CoolWhip.



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

Professional drag queen Phoebe stunned in a yellow sequined dress for the audience.



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

Students filled the Yvonne Theater to watch the drag acts for the night.

FROM THE EDITOR

Disabled students discuss accessibility at Rider

THE shift from home to campus can be difficult for any student to navigate, but for disabled students, there exists an entirely separate realm of preparation in terms of accessibility and accommodations.

Sophomore elementary education major, Bridget Gum-Egan, who uses a wheelchair as well as a service dog, Sheriff, is very familiar with this process.

“I don’t mind doing this, because I know what works for me, and I know exactly what I’m doing, but not everyone does,” Gum-Egan said.

Every individual’s experiences with accessibility and accommodations are different based on the specific help that they need. Freshman psychology major Noelle Hazel, who also uses a wheelchair, recounts that while her experience with Rider thus far has been “really life-changing ... every disabled person’s experience is so different ... although we’re all like universally disabled and we share in that, everybody has a different way of dealing with their disability, different accommodations they need.”

Often, the process to reach those needs and accommodations can be exhausting.

At Rider, the Student Accessibility and Support Services (SASS) helps students with a range of disabilities, both cognitive and physical. SASS Director Barbara Blandford explained that the first step in meeting a student’s accommodations is having them fill out a confidential disclosure form so the office can get acquainted with the services they may need. Although this service is helpful, due to the wide expanse of accommodations disabled students may need, the process is not always the easiest to navigate.

Freshman acting major, Madz Yu-Phelps recounts their experience as being “hectic.”

“I have found people who have helped me, but the getting there process has been ... frustrating,” Yu-Phelps said.

Though there are offices and services set up to assist disabled students, those assistances don’t take away from the fact that being in a constant mode of

self-advocacy places a taxing burden on the students.

“When you have any kind of disability ... it’s like having your phone on 50%. ... that’s gonna drain real quick,” said Gum-Egan.

Generally, when it comes to accommodations, aid for cognitive disabilities is much easier to get than for physical disabilities.

Take for example sophomore music major Bella Nakum, who uses they/she pronouns.

“It was very easy to get my accommodations that are based on my cognitive disabilities. ... I did find it a little more difficult to get the physical accommodations, more specifically trying to find rooms where I can take my voice lesson,” Nakum said.

Nakum described herself as chronically ill and dynamically disabled, one such facet being difficulty with stairs, so when their vocal lesson was placed on the second floor in a building with no elevator, she was not only inconvenienced, but set behind their peers academically until the issue could be resolved.

Physical accommodations, however, are not always the easiest to accomplish, and because the path to solution involves many different avenues, it can take a while before a disabled student can be accommodated.

“We’re the last line of defense,” said Vice President for Facilities and University Operations, Mike Reca.

“It’s not as simple as just one little thing ... because we have to meet so many codes and reasonable accommodation and things like that, it’s, you just can’t go throw a ramp in somewhere you just can’t go put a door opener on something. You have to follow the trail,” he said.

“While I can say I was accommodated easily because my disability is very visible, I do know some people who don’t get their accommodations or things they need so easily,” said Hazel.

While bigger physical accommodations, like ramps and elevators, tend to stay at the forefront of people’s minds, students also point out that smaller

issues often fly under the radar.

“Simple things such as signs to show you where the elevators are would be helpful, because, personally with my disability I can’t walk very far, so it’s not always feasible for me to go around looking for the elevator ... the physical accessible features will not be useful if the disabled people who need them cannot find them,” said Nakum.

A lot of these smaller improvements are ones that able-bodied people wouldn’t initially recognize as an issue.

“It’s all of these things that people are like ‘I didn’t even know you had to think about that.’ ... in the nicest way, why would you?” said Gum-Egan.

Although Rider is trying, to some extent, to meet accessibility and accommodation requirements for their disabled students, there is always more to be done, and a lot of responsibility ends up falling back onto disabled students.

“The basic foundation that’s provided to a lot of people on campus as both faculty students and staff is just not there for people with disabilities, and it’s exhausting to keep having to educate people,” said Gum-Egan.

The main takeaway from these conversations is not only the need for better accessibility and student support on campus but also more conversation about disability in general.

“Disability, as a whole, just needs to be treated better by the general public. I do think this is a societal issue, and I think it’s just extending into what’s happening on campus,” said Nakum.

Yu-Phelps put it best: “Disability is not a bad word ... I’m proud to be disabled.”

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



Scan the QR code to watch!

Hear Rider students discuss accessibility experiences on campus in a brand new video.

Adrienne Unfreed/The Rider News

THE Rider News

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FROM PAGE TO SCREEN

Catch the book first: "One of Us is Lying" review

WHENEVER a book is adapted into a television show or movie, I want to check out the book first to see what it's all about. I did just that with "One of Us is Lying" by Karen M. McManus.

The book was released on May 29, 2017 with the television show premiering on Oct. 7, 2021, on NBC's streaming service Peacock. The story follows five teenagers serving high school detention. When one of them suddenly dies, the book follows the other four students as they try to figure out what caused the death of the student.

My favorite aspect of the book is how well McManus builds character. Writing any book from the perspective of four different characters is an admirable task to take on due to juggling multiple points of view simultaneously. The fact that she portrays each character so differently, yet equally amazing is a testament to her writing ability. In particular, I like how she portrays one of the characters named Cooper.

Cooper's dynamics and school life were the most interesting to read out of the four main students, and the way McManus articulates his thoughts as the events unfold to make the reader feel sympathy for him is masterful. Cooper is such a deep and fleshed-out character, a type that does not generally get written in a book with so many perspectives to address.

Another thing McManus does well is making the book feel unique. A high school murder mystery isn't the most original plot. What makes this book different, though, is how well McManus understands teenagers. Some writers will make every teenage character they write seem bratty and unrealistic. McManus does not.

McManus handles every character like they are a teenager who is going through a traumatic experience while also experiencing normal high school things, like dating and coming to terms with who they are. The mystery is definitely the main element of the book, but the side stories are fleshed out and drive the book from good to excellent.

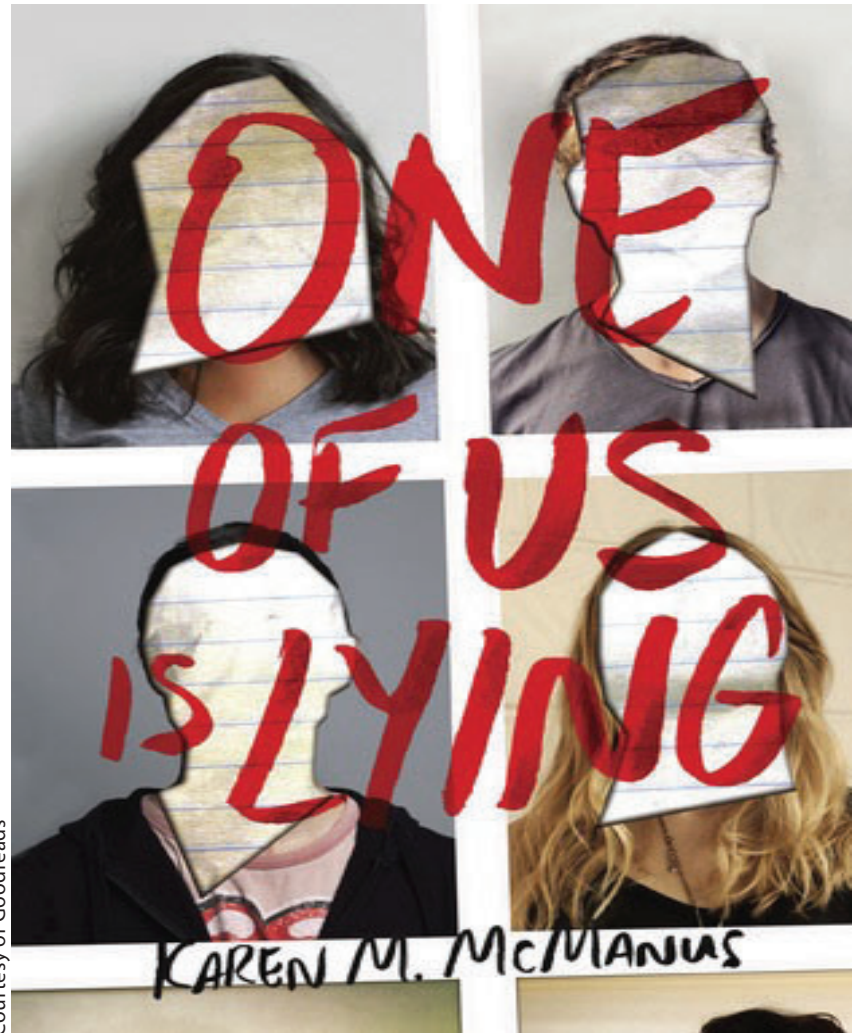
While I love how McManus handles the main characters, I do feel that some of the background characters are too one-dimensional. Certain characters feel like they are going to be expanded on and eventually become important characters only to just go back to being a simple cog in the story. If an author is going to start to flesh out a side character, I want them to become an integral part of the story. But there are some characters that McManus just neglects for decent chunks of the novel that I wish were more involved.

As a whole, this book is made perfectly for television. The story and the way it is presented were made for the small screen. Many TV viewers love teen dramas and this is a great one. Even though I believe the book is going to be better than the show, I wouldn't be surprised if the opposite is true. The book draws obvious inspiration from shows like "Gossip Girl," which will make it easy to succeed

with templates to use and modify.

All in all, I highly recommend reading this book before the television show premieres, as some of the character's thoughts and monologues may get lost in translation. If you are a fan of mysteries and thrillers, this book should be read immediately.

Luke Lombardi,
Senior journalism major



Courtesy of Goodreads

GREEN CORNER

Extreme weather: why is it worse than ever before?

On Sept. 1, not long after some students had returned to Rider, cars, basements and entire highways were submerged with rainwater. Senior musical theater majors Theresa Hall and Andrew Smith reported how scared they were when they got stuck in the flooded streets of Ewing, New Jersey.

Hall said, "I've never seen so much rain come down so fast. It was no joke."

According to NJ.com, the tropical storm blew in with mass amounts of rain and tornadoes that touched down in multiple counties lasting for extensive lengths with record strength. If you receive Rider alerts, then you are aware that a tornado was reported in Lawrence Township and students were told to stay indoors and shelter in place—a very scary experience for those on campus.

Just this past week, a storm shut down the power on campus with heavy rain, lightning and thunder, leaving students wondering if evening classes would take place. While storms are normal and extreme weather has been affecting the Earth since before humans walked on it, the frequency of extreme weather events is on the rise. The severity has dramatically increased as well.

According to Carbon Brief, a UK-based website that focuses on climate science, studies are showing that "human-caused climate change has altered the likelihood or severity of an extreme weather event in 79% of cases studied."

Have you ever wondered how humans affect the weather? The answer is more complex than day-to-day weather, and the focus should center on the long-term impacts of climate change.

As human activity causes rising sea levels, an increase in emissions and warming of the atmosphere, the global sea temperatures have also risen. As the ocean temperatures rise, more water vapor is held in the air which makes regular storms turn into bigger, more destructive storms by pouring out large amounts of water at a rapid pace, more than the ground, rivers and streams can handle.

While New Jersey has always been susceptible to flooding, replacing old and outdated infrastructure of storm drains has remained a low priority. After Governor Phil Murphy visited Central Jersey following Hurricane Henri, he said, "Every state, every country at this point, is going to have to tune up the playbook because we're in uncharted waters."

Like the storm on Sept. 1, the extreme weather events are not going to get better unless there are dramatically increased efforts toward stopping the adverse effects of climate change. In addition to storms with increased flooding, climate change is responsible for many extreme weather events like heat waves, drought,

wildfires, coral bleaching, ecosystem function and more. A study from Carbon Brief found, "Of the 132 attribution studies that have looked at extreme heat around the world, 122 (92%) found that climate change made such an event more likely or more severe."

These events aren't going to get better on their own. As senior musical theater major Ricky Cardenas said, "Witnessing the extreme weather changes during storm Ida was a huge wake-up call regarding climate change and the environmental issues that are going to progressively get worse if people don't make changes in their everyday habits and lifestyle."

Individually, there are several ways to reduce your carbon footprint, including driving less, carpooling, limiting meat consumption, wasting less, recycling more and using heat, lights and appliances more consciously in your living space.

How can you get involved? Join the Green Team to help on campus, and get involved in local communities like the Sunrise Movement and other student-centered networks to learn more and to help the causes that speak to you. Although climate change isn't reversible, we can slow the climb to avoid disaster. Get involved and do your part or New Jersey's new normal might be underwater.

Ashlyn Whiteside
Rider University Eco-Rep



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

VOLLEYBALL

Broncs continue soaring start in MAAC play

By Dylan Manfre

THERE was almost a normal setting for Rider volleyball's victory in its home opener against Saint Peter's. The sideline table was set up with normal seating; no plexiglass was set up around the broadcast table, the premium seating in the gym was available for paying fans and not covered by Hercules Tires advertisements.

This was not the case when Rider played its makeshift spring 2021 season, which resulted in a Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) title.

Rider athletics has held outdoor events this fall largely without a hitch. The teams utilized Ben Cohen Field to play games. Students showed their Campus Clear app, and outside fans signed a COVID-19 waiver form. Sept. 25 was the first indoor sporting event in the Alumni Gym with fans since early March of 2020.

Players on both teams were dancing and lip-synching pregame warmup songs such as "Dreams and Nightmares" by Meek Mill and "Papas" by Farruko. Players were not wearing masks while they were playing, which is a noticeable change from last year when noses and mouths were covered as they soared through the air. They were, however, required to wear them while on the bench.

Even before the game, Rider held a pregame ceremony for senior setter Anilee Sher and junior opposite hitter Morgan Romano.

Sher became Rider's all-time assist leader with 3,114 and Romano was named Rider's 2020-2021 Co-Female Athlete of the Year.

These are normal events, from the appearance of the gym to the game-day preparation and it definitely made Head Coach Jeff Rotondo feel good.

"When I came into the gym yesterday and all the bleachers were out, it just finally felt somewhat normal," Rotondo said. "It was going to be great to have family and friends and some of the people they know from school here."

The crowd was sparse for the game which Rider swept in three sets. Fans trickled in and cheered loudly as Rider was showcasing an open house to prospective students as they watched some competitive volleyball.



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

Rider has won five of its last six games after a victory against Saint Peter's.

Rotondo said he'd score this game a "B-" even after his team got its third straight MAAC victory.

"[I feel] so-so," Rotondo said. "I know I hate to say that but we win in three [sets] and obviously there's some things we did really well. There are some things we need to be better at in the execution phase."

Rider got out to an early lead but Saint Peter's erased it quickly as leads and spikes over the net went back and forth. Rider's junior opposite hitter Morgan Romano, who was named MAAC Player of the Week on Sept. 28, had five kills at the media timeout putting the Broncs up 15-14.

Later in the set, Saint Peter's cut the lead down to two as the Broncs closed in on an opening-set victory. senior outside hitter Jillian Chan ended the first set with a spike that descended across the court.

The second set saw the two teams trade points and exchanged impressive blocks at the net. Rider was the

first team to score 20 points in the set again and pulled away by its biggest margin, 25-16.

Routinely, when Romano spiked the ball, Saint Peter's players were impressed and erupted in "oohs" when a teammate successfully blocked Romano. She finished the game with 21 kills.

She elaborated on the strong practice the Broncs had yesterday where they went through six-on-six scrimmages and felt in sync with each other. Romano attributed their win today to a successful practice.

"Everyone [was] making great plays," Romano said. "Jeff [Rotondo] even said right after that, 'That's what it looks like to be back-to-back MAAC champs.'"

The Broncs will play games two and three of their three-game homestand against Siena on Oct. 2 and Marist on Oct. 3. Both games will be at 1 p.m. and will be streamed on ESPN+.

WYB = WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL
WSOC = WOMEN'S SOCCER
MSOC = MEN'S SOCCER
FH = FIELD HOCKEY

■ = Home
■ = Away

RIDER UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

WEEKLY SPORTS SCHEDULE

Sept. 29	Sept. 30	Oct. 1	Oct. 2	Oct. 3	Oct. 4	Oct. 5
<p>WSOC VS MONMOUTH 7 P.M.</p> <p>MSOC VS MONMOUTH 7 P.M.</p>		<p>FH VS MERRIMACK 1 P.M.</p>	<p>WVB VS SIENA 1 P.M.</p> <p>WSOC VS CANISIUS 1 P.M.</p>	<p>FH VS LOCK HAVEN 12 P.M.</p> <p>WVB VS SIENA 1 P.M.</p>		

Carolo Pascale/The Rider News

FIELD HOCKEY

Comeback complete: Broncs top Hofstra in overtime

By Jacob Tiger

THE unyielding spirit of Rider field hockey was on full display in its Sept. 24. matchup with Hofstra University, as the Broncs scored three late goals to conquer a 2-0 deficit, defeating the Pride by a score of 3-2 in overtime.

“It was a great team win and we’re super proud of our team. I think the beauty of our team this year is that, when we do get down, we know that there’s always a chance we can come back because they have that fighting spirit in them. They’re fighters and they fight to the end,” said Head Coach Lori Hussong after the victory.

It certainly was an inspiring win for the Broncs, with many players making key contributions to the winning effort.

Though, like any great comeback, the triumph was preceded by a period of mediocrity.

While Rider was fairly stout defensively in the first half, only allowing one goal, the Broncs struggled to get on the scoreboard.

However, Rider was getting plenty of shots off, so it was only a matter of time before it broke through Hofstra’s wall.

The Broncs’ offensive impotency carried over into the second half, in addition to giving up another goal to the Pride with five minutes left in the third quarter.

Six minutes later, down 2-0, senior forward Carly Brosious struck paydirt, giving the Broncs their first goal and igniting its offense.

A palpable confidence washed over the team, and with five minutes left in the fourth quarter, the Broncs scored again when senior forward Tess van Ommeren evened the odds with a goal.

Just before the end of regulation, sophomore goalkeeper Kaitlyn Tomas, who was benched against Drexel after giving up a flurry of early goals, came through when the team needed her most by denying a Hofstra shot that likely would have been to Rider’s detriment.

The game entered overtime and Tomas came up with yet another clutch save for the Broncs.



Dylan Manfre/The Rider News

Senior forward **Carly Brosious** scored two goals, including the game-winning overtime goal, against Hofstra.

“[Tomas] stepped up and did a really good job in cage. She played really confidently. Despite getting the two goals scored on her, she played probably her best game of the year,” said Hussong.

Nine minutes into the overtime period, senior forward Julia Divorra intercepted a poor pass by Hofstra and swung the ball upfield to Brosious, who whipped the ball around the goalkeeper for the game-winning goal, completing a comeback that was built on both ends of the field.

Brosious continued her offensive dominance by scoring two goals for the second straight week, with her goals this week being the spark that the Broncs needed and the eventual game-winner.

“She is a definite offensive threat ... she works so hard. Those goals against Drexel were second, third, fourth-effort goals. When she plays like that on the field, it’s very hard to stop her,” said Hussong.

But Brosious’ game-winning goal would not have been possible without the savvy play of Divorra, who orchestrated the Rider offense, assisting on the Broncs’

second and third scores.

“Today’s goals were beautifully set up by Julia. There’s a great connection between [Julia and Carly]. They’re very used to connecting and giving us a chance to score,” said Hussong.

Another welcome contributor to the win was junior midfielder Sierra Giuliano, who made her season debut after recovering from an undisclosed lingering injury.

“It was awesome to be on the field for that win. It’s definitely been a long time on the sidelines, so it felt really good to finally be able to help,” said Giuliano.

“Having her back is a real big bonus for us. She’s got a lot of experience, she’s a returning all-conference player, and she’s got a lot of poise in her play,” said Hussong. “She only had one day of practice to get ready for the game, but I think she did a really good job making her debut.

Now at full strength, the Broncs move to 7-2 as they begin Northeast Conference play against Merrimack on Oct. 1.

WOMEN’S SOCCER

Stags stomp Broncs: Rider shutout in third straight loss

By Carolo Pascale

RIDER women’s soccer looked to snap its two-game losing streak against the Fairfield Stags on Sept. 25. Rider was hungry for their first conference win of the season, but it was the Stags that prevailed and stomped out the Broncs in a 3-0 shutout.

The action started early in the game when in the seventh minute, the Broncs were called for a foul in their own box, giving the Stags a prime opportunity to score with a penalty kick. Fairfield capitalized and took an early 1-0 lead.

“We have been unlucky for sure in the first two games,” Head Coach Drayson Hounsome said.

Fairfield stayed on the attack, and only eight minutes later, they got on the board again, making it 2-0 just 15 minutes in.

“The formation we played to start the game compared to theirs and how they played did not suit us as they had extra players in the wide channels that caused us problems,” said Hounsome.

Fairfield took its 2-0 lead into halftime as the Broncs looked to adapt and get back into the game.

“Coach was able to motivate us to want to compete in the second half. He reminded us of our game against Fairfield in the spring when we were able to score four goals in the second half,” said senior midfielder Ailis Martin.

Now trying to mount a comeback, the Broncs aimed to get off to a better start to the second half. That didn’t quite happen as the Stags scored only 11 minutes into the second half, taking a 3-0 lead. This was Fairfield senior defender, and eventual Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Offensive Player of the Week, Lexi Lehan’s second goal of the game, and that score would hold as the Stags shut out the Broncs with a final score of 3-0.



Courtesy of Rider Athletics

Sophomore midfielder **Hannah Freeman** had two of the three shots on goal for Rider against Fairfield.

“I think we needed to be better at possessing the ball. There were too many times we lost the ball which made it difficult in transition,” Broncs senior defender Niamh Cashin said.

Rider was only able to get nine shots off on the day, with only three hitting the net. Meanwhile, the Stags had an astounding 29 shots with 10 on target.

“Fairfield had very athletic girls on their backline that made it difficult for our team to get in behind them and create dangerous opportunities,” said Martin.

Leading the Broncs with shots on goal was sophomore midfielder Hannah Freeman with two of the three shots that hit the net for Rider.

The leader in total shots for Rider was Martin, who led the team with three.

“Ailis puts herself in very good positions off the ball. She is strong on the ball which allows her to control it and create chances,” said Freeman.

In goal, Broncs sophomore goalkeeper Ellie Sciancalepore made seven saves in the match.

Rider had four players play all 90 minutes in the match, one of them being Cashin, who has played in every minute of every game this season.

“Niamh is one of the best players that I have ever had the opportunity to play alongside. Myself and everyone on the team have great confidence in her ability as she rarely loses a tackle or arial challenge,” said Freeman on Cashin’s importance to the Broncs.

Rider will try to break its losing streak and get its first conference win of the season against Monmouth University at home on Sept. 29.

“We have to focus on doing the basics well, staying disciplined in our defending and taking our chances when they come,” Cashin said. “We also have the home advantage and so we are going to make it difficult for them to come and play here.”

Sports

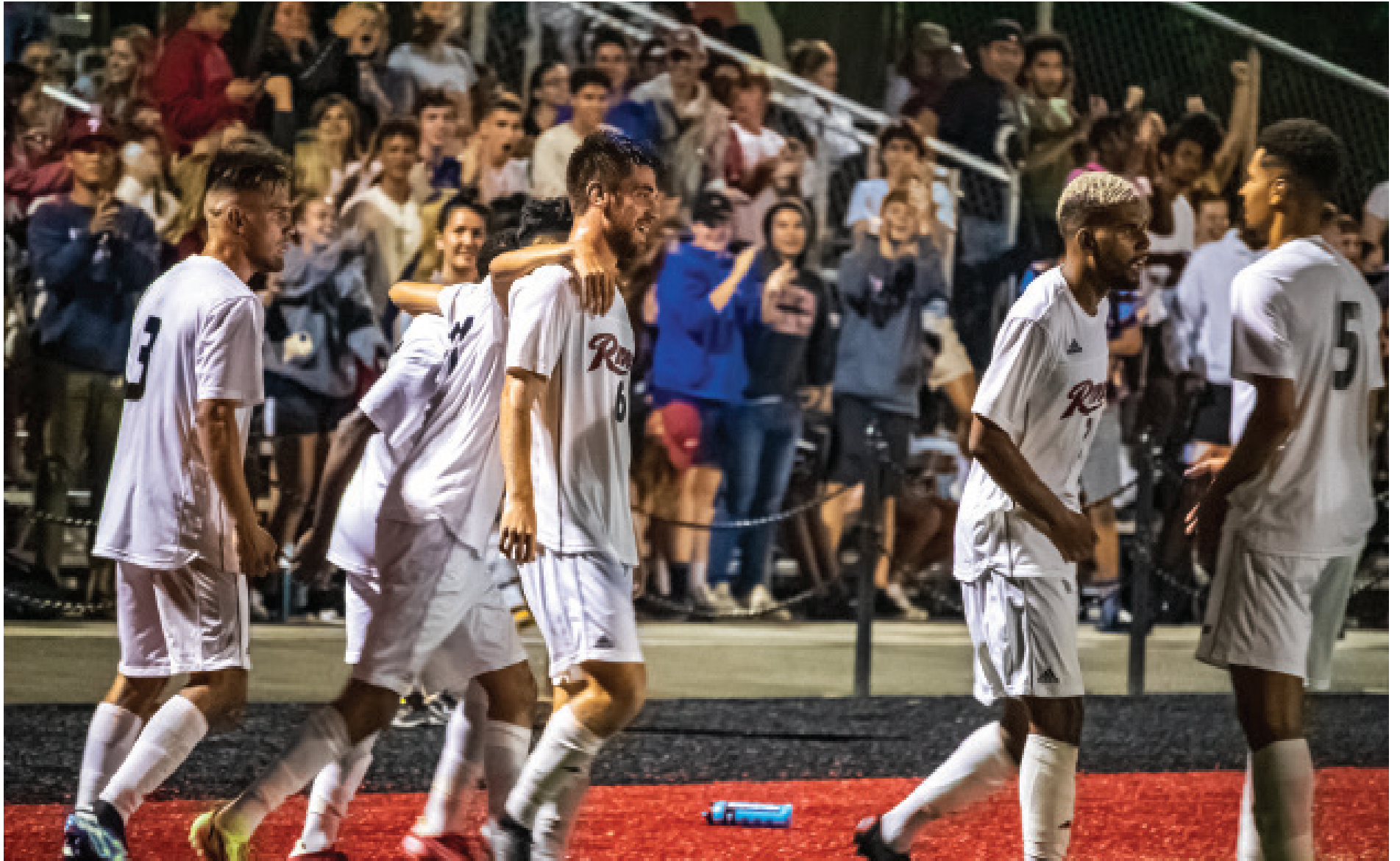
INSIDE

FIELD HOCKEY COMPLETES COMBACK
Rider preps for NEC play with another overtime victory. Sports reporter Jacob Tiger has more.

FIND THE STORY ON PAGE 11

MEN'S SOCCER

Rider edges Fordham in under the lights thriller



Shaun Chornobroff/The Rider News

Graduate student midfielder **Taner Bay** (center) scored an 80th minute game-winning goal versus Fordham, giving Rider a 4-3 win.

By **Trey Wright**

COMING off of an eight-day break from competition, Rider men's soccer returned to action and looked to ignite the start of a winning streak in its Sept. 22 matchup against the Fordham Rams (2-4-1). The Broncos did just that, securing an exhilarating 4-3 win in their last non-conference matchup of 2021.

While the Rams took the opening kickoff, Rider came rocketing out of the gate early in the first minute, when a shot from sophomore midfielder Adel Al-Masude was mishandled by the Fordham goalkeeper, giving the Broncos a very early 1-0 lead.

"When you get a goal in the first minute you thank your lucky stars," said Head Coach Charles Inverso.

The next 44 minutes were quite uneventful, with Rider still leading by a goal at the halftime horn, and the shots equal at one apiece.

However, the second half was an absolutely different beast. In the 48th minute, junior goaltender Guillaume Veinante made a point-blank save on a Fordham shot, but a minute later, the Rams scored on a crucial penalty kick that tied the game, making the score 1-1.

"It's disheartening, because we made that foul from a bad angle," said Inverso.

From this point forward, the final 40 minutes of play would become a scoring derby, complemented by physical play from both teams.

In the 54th minute, Al-Masude answered the bell

with his second goal of the game, a header to put the Broncos ahead 2-1.

However, Fordham answered right back three minutes later, taking advantage of a Rider defensive miscommunication to tie the game for a second time.

Just six minutes later, Broncos graduate student defender Ty Moore scored his first collegiate goal, once again giving Rider the lead. With 26 minutes left in the match, Al-Masude, looking for his third goal of the night, was tripped inside the box. The Broncos were unlucky to not receive a penalty kick.



Shaun Chornobroff/The Rider News

Sophomore midfielder **Adel Al-Masude** scored two goals in the win against Fordham and was named MAAC Men's Soccer Rookie of the Week.

"[We] felt the ref wasn't really with us tonight," Al-Masude said.

This incident, along with more physical play, led to a shoving match near the spectators, similar to the previous game against Stony Brook.

"It's soccer," said Inverso, "You're talking about athletic guys in what's basically a major contact sport and all in all I thought we handled it pretty well."

Fordham, once again, took advantage of another defensive miscommunication by the Broncos, which tied the game up at 3-3 in the 79th minute.

But thanks to a crucial assist from Moore, graduate student midfielder Taner Bay gave the Broncos a 4-3 lead, and that is the way it stayed when the final horn sounded.

"This team has been working hard all season, and we've had a little bit of a roller coaster," Moore, a transfer from national powerhouse Wake Forest, said after the match. "I was feeding off of my teammates' energy, fighting for them while they were fighting for me. We were trying to do anything to win the game."

"These guys had to fight back like three times, but this is a great win for us, as this is an excellent program from Fordham," Inverso said. "We have to be better at preserving the lead, and can't lead the gaps in the back like we did."

Al-Masude would be named Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Men's Soccer Rookie of the Week on Sept. 27 after his two goal performance.

"I'm happy to help the team get this win. It was a tough game," said Al-Masude.

After a tough non-conference slate, the Broncos, with a record of 3-3-1, open up MAAC play on Sept. 29 at Ben Cohen Field against Monmouth (2-2-2).

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