



## Township makes move to acquire WCC campus

By Jake Tiger and Jay Roberson

**P**RINCETON'S Municipal Council passed an ordinance on Sept. 23 that authorizes the township's acquisition of the dormant, former home of Westminster Choir College, a property whose sale has been the subject of multiple ongoing lawsuits since 2017.

The township will look to acquire the 23-acre plot, located on 101 Walnut Lane, either by negotiating a private sale with Rider or declaring eminent domain if an agreement cannot be reached, Princeton council members said.

Council President Mia Sacks said, "I wanted my son to come tonight, because I wanted him to see us vote on something which I really believe is historic. ... This is not something that we could live with ourselves if we walked away from the ability to make sure that Princeton residents are able to determine what's best for this site."

The ordinance was one of two proposed on Sept. 9 related to the land, the other seeking to appropriate \$50 million for the purchase of the campus.

In a Sept. 16 interview with The Rider News, President Gregory Dell'Omo said it would be "a great outcome for the township and the community to have that property go to public usage."

Members from the Westminster community, parents and teachers alike, attended the meeting to offer their take on the proposed move, with some locals saying the land should stay true to its roots and at least partially remain a place for music education.

The municipality is not impeded by the litigation

surrounding the property in its pursuit of the land, Sacks said, as Rider's sale of the campus was the target of two lawsuits from former Westminster faculty and the Princeton Theological Seminary.

The seminary's 2018 lawsuit claimed the sale of the campus violated WCC's longstanding land agreement that the land must be held as a religious charity advancing Christian music education.

During the public hearing portion, longtime Westminster Conservatory teacher and parent Amy Wolfe said, "[Westminster] has been in existence for 54 years. It's educated children and adults that whole time, private lessons, private music lessons, classes, the orchestra ... I'm really speaking from my heart."

Though Princeton Township does not have their official plans laid out for the Westminster campus, Wolfe hopes that the council considers continuing Westminster's legacy on campus.

Another Westminster teacher Linda Mindlin said, "We are not easily convinced that Rider has an interest if they have anything to say in any of this. The Westminster choir college was not just a music school. I mean, it was a gleaming asset for all of Princeton. When Rider announced that they wanted to sell the property, our governing body and school board glowed on the idea of acquiring that property."



Bridget Hoyt/The Rider News

Princeton Township is planning to purchase Westminster Choir College's original campus.

Members from the council also expressed their concern for the buildings' deterioration due to lack of use, hoping to preserve the history and importance through public utilization.

Sacks said, "I know that my colleagues and I are very aware of those facilities [Westminster Princeton campus] and the importance they play for the people that have used them ... we don't want them to continue to deteriorate because we understand the value that they have for those of you who have been in and continue to use them."

The hearing for the second ordinance will be on Oct. 14, the council said.

## Conover update delayed amid enrollment dip

By Jake Tiger

**N**ESTLED in the northeast corner of campus, Rider's Conover Hall was slated for a summer refurbishing, but the plan was tabled in late spring, causing about 60 students to be assigned different dorms a month before the fall semester began, according to university administrators.

Conover's scheduled makeover was similar to Poyda Hall's 2023 renovations, which included new air conditioning, paint, flooring and lighting.

Vice President of Enrollment Management Drew Aromondo, who oversees Residence Life, said the decision to delay the renovations came after Rider's enrollment and housing numbers dipped, meaning the extra rooms Conover supplied were no longer a necessity.

"Where we had anticipated [an incoming] class close to 860, we landed with a class of 721," Aromondo said. "We decided, if we don't have the volume of students to fill the space [Conover], let's redirect the money into other stuff we need to do right now."

Conover, which sits parallel to Route 206, was closed to students last year to create more dense residential communities. With Conover closed again, Rider reached 98% capacity for on-campus students in fall 2024 despite the lower enrollment, Aromondo said.

The Conover renovations would have been worth between \$500,000 to \$1 million, according to Mike Reza, Rider's vice president of university operations. This was about the cost of the 2023 Poyda update.

Ida DeMarco, a senior arts and entertainment industries management major, said she planned on living in Conover this fall – her final semester at Rider – but in early August, an email from Residence Life said she would be living in Olson Hall instead.

According to Aromondo, she and the 60 other students that were set to live in Conover were assigned rooms that were "comparable" to what Conover would have offered: singles with and without air conditioning.

DeMarco said, "I feel like there could have been a better way to go about replacing everybody. ... It was definitely a really big inconvenience being told Conover was opening, only to be told a month before moving in that it wasn't."

DeMarco said Conover was initially appealing to her because it was supposed to be a refurbished, upperclassman dorm with a reduced cost for single-person rooms similar to Poyda, where she lived for the prior academic year.

In Olson, she said her floor was almost all freshmen and they could be rowdy at times, unlike the jaded upperclassmen she had grown used to in Poyda.

"It's not a huge deal, but as a senior, it kind of sucks being housed with a bunch of freshmen," DeMarco said. "Everybody on my floor is very nice ... but it can get pretty loud."

Fortunately for DeMarco, her university bill showed that Rider did honor the \$6,240 Conover rate, as DeMarco's double-as-a-single room in Olson would normally cost \$6,850, according to university housing

prices.

Aromondo said reopening Conover is important to him, and there are already discussions about Rider's enrollment prospects and the future of the hall.

"I absolutely want to make [Conover] happen," Aromondo said. "We'll spend the year going through what we want to do to renovate it and plan for it to be open."



Destiny Pagan/The Rider News

Conover Hall was scheduled to open for the fall semester, but plans were delayed due to lower housing numbers.

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### FORMER BRONC PLAYING AS A PRO

Danny Kirwin '22 '23 is striking out the competition as a pro.

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### READING BOOKS AND FIGHTING CENSORSHIP

Banned Books Week aims to raise awareness about censorship.

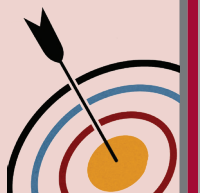
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### ARCHERY COMES TO CAMPUS

Rider Club Sports introduced a new archery club for experts and amateurs alike.

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## SECURITY BRIEFS

BY COLLETON

### Weeding Lincoln

Hide and seek. On Sept. 19, at 9:51 p.m., Public Safety was dispatched to Lincoln Hall for the report of the odor of marijuana. The odor was reported by Residence Life Staff. Public Safety checked the entire building, inside and out, and could not locate the source of the odor.



### Faint Issue

Medical emergency. On Sept. 20, at 3:07 p.m., Public Safety was dispatched to the Fine Arts building for the report of someone that had fainted. Upon arrival, Public Safety found a student laying on the floor. An ambulance was called and they were transported to a hospital for further evaluation.



### Too Tired

Wheels up. On Sept. 20, at 7:52 p.m., Public Safety was dispatched to the south entrance of campus for the report of a motor vehicle accident. Upon arrival, Public Safety met with a student who reported that a wheel had fallen off of their car, disabling it and obstructing traffic. Lawrence Township Police and a tow truck were called and the vehicle was towed out of the way.

## ACLU director talks constitutional rights at Rebovich event

By Caroline Haviland

**A**MOL Sinha welcomed a crowd of about 50 people with a bright smile on his face as guests helped themselves to hors d'oeuvres outside of Lynch Adler Hall Room 202 on Sept. 18. They all came to hear Sinha address a topic he is well-versed in: constitutional rights.

As guests filed in to find their seats, Micah Rasmussen, director of the Rebovich Institute for New Jersey Politics, presented Olivia Newman chair of the government, politics and law department as the moderator for the evening.

Newman introduced Sinha as the executive director of New Jersey's American Civil Liberties Union, a nonprofit, multi-issue and multi-faceted organization that focuses on defending and expanding constitutional rights.

"[The ACLU] wants to make sure we're not just changing laws and policies but also changing the views of people to be a more expansive and inclusive democracy," said Sinha.

As a nationally recognized civil rights leader, Sinha has spent his career advancing racial justice, holding institutions accountable and defending rights and liberties, according to the ACLU's website. Sinha also worked as a state policy advocate at the Innocence Project, a national organization that works to improve the criminal justice system.

### Presidential election concerns

Many of the issues Sinha touched upon in relation to the upcoming presidential election include abortion access, immigration, the criminal justice system and affirmative action.

Newman dove right in, asking the honorary guest what issues he and the ACLU are watching carefully. Sinha responded with a chuckle, saying, "Democracy."

Sinha labeled immigration as the dominant conversation of this election season. He pointed out that the ACLU pushed back against family separation policies during the Trump administration and they anticipate worse in this "go-around."

"In either administration, the work is going to be there to make sure we are keeping families together and treating people humanely," said Sinha.

Despite immigration being almost solely controlled by the federal government, Sinha explained that people at the state level can have a role in the tone setting for immigration, calling New Jersey one of the most welcoming states in the country.

The ACLU affiliate in New Jersey played a major role in sounding the alarms for state legislation to protect abortion rights, allowing New Jersey to have one of the best abortion protections in the country. However, this was not codified until months before *Roe v. Wade* was overturned in 2022.



Caroline Haviland/The Rider News

Left to right: Olivia Newman and Amol Sinha address questions about constitutional rights.

"Initially, [the law] said 'abortion is a fundamental right for any resident in New Jersey.' We changed that language to say, 'anybody present in New Jersey.' And I hope folks can appreciate the difference there," said Sinha. "This means anyone out of state is just as entitled to have an abortion as anyone living here."

### Concerns close to home

Halfway through the evening, Newman switched gears and brought up the concerns related to freedom of speech on college campuses. Sinha responded, "How do we do that? Don't call the police on your students."

He mentioned the administration at Columbia University from this past school year and its response to the protests that flooded its campus.

"I think college campuses have a unique responsibility to foster dialogue and academic freedom, and any time you say this amount of speech is not welcome here, you're causing active harm," said Sinha.

As a non-partisan organization, the ACLU has a long history of protecting the rights of speakers from all political backgrounds, even if it does not agree with their beliefs. Sinha added that people in power cannot decide who can practice their first amendment rights or not.

Newman added on to his point, saying, "I think one of the things I've seen people struggle with is the degree of really holding on to the first amendment, which means supporting speech even if it's reprehensible."

The evening closed out with the floor open to any questions from the audience, which included a wide variety of topics from gun rights to the criminal justice system.

Following the closing questions of the evening, Sinha gave a final remark: "It wasn't that long ago that same sex marriage was illegal in the United States, but here we are. You would be hard-pressed to find people that disagree with the notion that people in same-sex relationships should be able to get married. It takes time for the law to catch up to the will of the people. So hopefully we'll soon see a more compassionate world."

## Arbitrator ends dispute between admin and AAUP

By Hannah Newman

**T**HE dispute over the administration's elimination of programs came to an end on July 19 with the arbitrator deciding there was no violation of the Rider faculty union's collective bargaining agreement, a contract between the administration and Rider's chapter of American Association of University Professors.

"None of these programs cost a lot of money. None of these cuts saved very much money," said Chief Grievance Officer for the AAUP Jeff Halpern. "But what it did do was lead to the starvation of offering to students."

An improper-elimination-of-programs grievance was taken to arbitration by the AAUP on Feb. 14, 2023, when the university announced cuts for 25 academic programs on June 7, 2022.

The AAUP believed the move was a breach of contract, since the union's collective bargaining agreement states that existing programs cannot be discontinued without the approval of the Academic Policy Committee, according to the official arbitration settlement.

The administration denied the grievances, arguing that, in the past, some academic offerings had been eliminated through the governance process and others through just administrative action, according to the official arbitration settlement.

The administration cited prior instances when they eliminated programs unilaterally without grievance due to pressing circumstances, such as financial distress and low student enrollment, according to the official arbitration settlement.

The programs cut ranged from free-standing programs like American Studies to majors within departments like the Department of History and Philosophy.

Although some of the programs did not contain a lot of students, they set the foundation for many career pursuits, Halpern argued.

"We are gratified that, through the grievance process, an impartial third party arbitrator supported the University's position in denying the union's grievance... [we have found] that there is nothing in the collective bargaining agreement between the parties that confers on Academic Policy Committees [as] a monopoly on eliminating academic programs," said Provost DonnaJean Fredeen in an email sent to The Rider News. "The arbitrator's decision is binding on both parties."

As the elimination of these offerings was motivated by the ongoing budget deficit the university faces, said Halpern, the AAUP fears it will see another set of cuts.

# The Rider News

Wednesday, Sept. 25



## News



### Princeton makes move on Westminster campus

Princeton's municipal court passed a new ordinance at a hearing on Sept. 23 that allows the township to acquire the land.



By Jake Tiger and Jay Roberson  
Photo by Bridget Hoyt

## Features & Entertainment



### Archery club aims for inclusivity

Rider Club Sports introduced a new archery club.



Story by Grace Bertrand  
Graphic by Destiny Pagan

## Opinion



### Reading books and fighting censorship

Banned Books Week aims to raise awareness about modern-day censorship



Story by Libby D' Orvilliers  
Photo by Destiny Pagan

## Sports

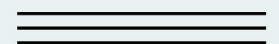


### Bronc makes the minor leagues

2023 graduate Danny Kirwin is striking out the competition as a pro.



Story by Benjamin Shinault  
Graphic by Josiah Thomas



Madison Lewis/The Rider News



The Rider Resource Pantry is located in room 23 of the Joseph P. Vona Center.

# 'A burden off of students': Rider's pantry

By Madison Lewis

**P**AST Daly Dining Hall, through the doors of the Joseph P. Vona Center, there is an expanse of hallway. After a few twists and turns lies Room 23: a pantry stocked with school necessities and food items.

The Rider Resource Pantry is a volunteer-run organization where items are purchased weekly with the help of grants and offerings.

Students can donate their own items to the pantry online or in person; however, certain items like clothes and used products are excluded.

According to graduate student and two-year pantry volunteer Kripi Jain, if a student receives a fine from Public Safety, they have the option to donate items to the pantry, so long as the items are of equal monetary value to their ticket.

A student can utilize the pantry two times a week. There is a point system based on the sections within the pantry that ensures that customers have equal opportunity to acquire the items they need. There is a section for school supplies, produce, personal care and other options. Each category has a number of points allotted and each item is worth points; students cannot

exceed the labeled amount per section.

When the pantry-goer completes their shopping, they fill out a Google Form that keeps track of student attendance and what items the student took.



The Rider Resource Pantry is open to all students.

Any student can use the pantry, no questions asked. "[The pantry] is a small way of taking a burden off of [the students]," said Jain.

Students can also volunteer, responsibilities including restocking the pantry, cleaning the shelves and counting inventory. Volunteering at the pantry can earn students Engaged Learning points.

Gianna Rabasca, a junior psychology major, has been working at the pantry since the beginning of the semester and has utilized the pantry since she was a freshman.

"There are some people who live off campus ... or live far away from home, and they do not have easy access to school supplies or food," Rabasca said. "The pantry is able to provide."

Jain has plans to elevate the marketing and advertising for the pantry on social media since the pantry's location is not ideal for visibility and recognizability.

"It's a great resource for all students," said Jain. "Let's say you have a rough week. ... You might need that extra help ... so we are there."

For hours and more information about the pantry, visit the Rider Resource Pantry's page on the Rider website.

# New archery club targets breaking down barriers

By Grace Bertrand

**R**IDER'S new club sport's target is to embrace inclusivity and provide a safe space for archers of all skill levels to practice and potentially find a unique pastime.

"It's not like a lot of the other sports around here that are super competitive," said sophomore chemistry major Evan Mickle, founder and president of the archery club. "The main focus is to eliminate as many barriers to make sure anyone can join if they want to."

Drafting the idea for the club last spring, Mickle explained how it started out as a joke between him and his friends. Over time, the group began to contemplate how they could actually bring their club to life, having to overcome a handful of obstacles when establishing safety protocols and finding a meeting space.

The club quickly got into contact with Public Safety regarding where to store their equipment and where they can practice after being denied access on campus.

The bows and arrows used are regarded by the university as potential weapons, leading the club to have to store the equipment at Public Safety if they were to bring them onto campus, which Mickle described as being difficult.

Iron Peak Sports and Events, a sports complex in Hillsborough, New Jersey, worked with the club to provide training space, coaches and equipment to use. Simple compound bows are just some of the

equipment available to use with no charge. For those interested in purchasing their own bow and arrows, Iron Peak will also provide suppliers from whom players can buy.

"One of the biggest factors we had to consider was that we had so many people interested in this club," said Treasurer Kaya Basatemur, a sophomore behavioral science major.

Basatemur, who uses they/them pronouns, was brought onto the executive board as a friend of Mickle, who also had experience in the sport.

They explained how the wide-scale interest served as both an aspect to account for and an advantage for getting the club approved to run.

The club currently has 43 members on BroncNation with more joining each week. The first general interest meeting was held on Sept. 9 with around 15 to 20 people in attendance, according to Mickle.

Moving forward, the club has plans to branch out to include a competitive team for more advanced archers, while still maintaining a noncompetitive team for amateur archers.

"Our goal is to really have an archery club for anyone of any kind of experience level," said Basatemur. "The two groups aren't mutually exclusive, so there's not going to be a strict barrier to do one or the other."

The club currently has an upcoming competition in February at Iron Peak to potentially qualify for the Novice Rec Archery League.



Destiny Pagan/The Rider News

The Rider Archery Club offers both competitive and noncompetitive teams for students to participate in.

# Reading books and fighting censorship

**T**HIS week, your Instagram feed might feature a few stray posts here and there about “banned books,” and you might scroll on by, onto the next meme of a screaming baby hippo or what have you. Let’s stop our endless scrolling, pause for a moment and look into what this is all about.

This week is Banned Books Week, an annual time dedicated to spreading awareness of the harms of censorship while highlighting the value of open access to information and literature. It is valuable to understand what is happening across the country as book censorship rapidly increases so we can determine how to improve the circumstances surrounding such essential texts.

The American Library Association’s Office for Intellectual Freedom collects data on books that are “challenged,” or have been targeted for censorship, by removing or restricting access to them in libraries and institutions. According to the ALA’s website for Banned Books Week, 2023 saw a total of 4,240 unique titles disputed in the U.S. This is nearly a 50% increase from last year’s data, which mentioned 2,571 unique titles challenged.

Why is this happening? Books are most often disputed simply because an individual or a group of individuals do not agree with material presented in the book. This material could encompass the whole concept of the book or be as minute as a single paragraph deemed “unfit” for public consumption. The ALA notes that a large percentage of books that are commonly challenged represent “the voices and lived experiences of LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC [Black, Indigenous and people of color] individuals.”

We must stop censorship with your help. I consider the challenged books that make the ALA’s yearly top 10 list essential reading. If there are any books that make the list that I have not read yet, I make a point to pick them up next.

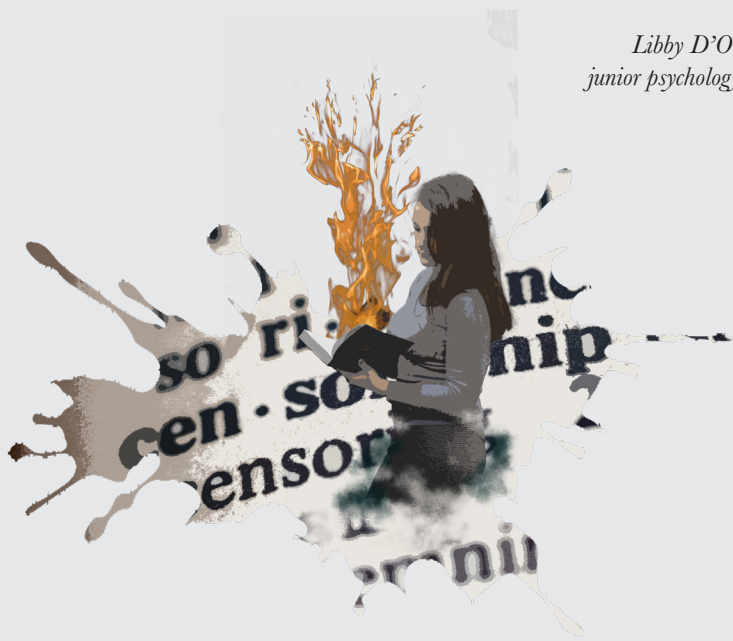
Some of my favorite books are frequently challenged. This includes but is not limited to: “The Perks of Being A Wallflower,” “The Hate U Give,” “The Giver” and “The Glass Castle.” Shocked to see some of your favorites on my short list? Maybe you were even assigned to read some of these books for school. Chances are you have read at least one of the 4,240 books that were challenged this year alone, even more so if you are an avid reader like myself.

Author Oscar Wilde notes in his book “The Picture of Dorian Gray”, “the books that the world calls immoral are books that show the world its own shame.” To address this feeling head-on, celebrate Banned Books Week. Explore different kinds of books. Share them with others. Talk about these books and topics. Fight against censorship – not just this week, but every week.

Just because there is material out there that may not agree with your personal views and beliefs does not mean that you have the right to keep this material from others. Instead, expose yourself to and learn about these differing points of view by actively seeking them out.

Author Haruki Murakami explains in his novel “Norwegian Wood” that “if you only read the books that everyone else is reading, you can only think what everyone else is thinking.” Break from the herd of simply reading what is prescribed by society, and look into what society is trying to keep you from reading. Those are the books that are going to expand your horizons and help you gain different perspectives on the world.

*Libby D’Orvilliers  
junior psychology major*



Caitlin Lawlor/The Rider News



Destiny Pagan/The Rider News

2023 saw the largest number of challenged books.



Destiny Pagan/The Rider News

“The Perks of Being a Wallflower” (left) was the fourth most commonly challenged book of 2023.

Tune in to our new show on 107.7 The Bronc and Spotify for a ‘Roundup’ of the week’s news!



# Perry's latest album is shockingly out of touch

**T**HE release of Katy Perry's newest album, "143," on Sept. 20 marked a day of triumph in her long career, as it launched her back into superstardom with levels of success that she had not seen in over a decade.

Or rather, that's how the record label executives told Perry the day would go. "143," Perry's first album in four years, was pitched as a comeback for the pop star after years of underperforming albums and significant loss to her luster. In reality, the album dropped like a tree in the woods with nobody to hear it. If Katy Perry attempts a comeback album and nobody cares, is it really a comeback?

For context, in 2014, singer Kesha accused Lukasz Gottwald, known in the music industry as producer Dr. Luke, of sexual assault. Two years later, in the midst of lawsuits, Kesha sent a private text message claiming that Gottwald had also sexually assaulted Perry.

Gottwald used this text, which had been exposed through a prior lawsuit, to sue Kesha for defamation. In 2018, Perry testified in court that she had never been assaulted by Gottwald. After years of legal appeals and overturned rulings, the case was settled just last year.

While nobody other than Gottwald and Kesha will truly know what happened between the two, countless musicians took Kesha's side throughout the legal battle, including Perry. Despite her 2018 testimony on the side of Gottwald, Perry ceased working with the producer for over a decade.

With "143," Perry once again employed the help of Gottwald for producing 10 of the 11 songs. For the bold social stance that the collaboration signifies, Perry had to be expecting a substantial increase in song quality, a true return to pop star status for someone who was once the biggest artist in the world.

Instead, Perry finds herself with less identity than ever. The songs of "143" hardly sound like Katy Perry songs at all, which is ironic during an era in which her roots in sound and genres heavily influenced today's popular artists. The album is full of drum-heavy, same-sounding, artificial instrumentals that sit closer to the average free-to-use Soundcloud beat than a high-budget pop album.

The bright synthesizers, campy lyrics and charming melodies that made Katy Perry songs surefire hits once upon a time are not present at all. The album feels sterile, created in a corporate office instead of a music studio. "143" is the audio equivalent of an Apple Store.

The songs are strikingly immature. Perry, in her heyday, was never a profoundly mature artist, but she grew across the albums preceding "143." Much of her previous album, "Smile," was written with her own mental health struggles and her marriage to Orlando Bloom in mind. "Smile"'s lead single, "Daisies," was a tribute to Perry's daughter, whose birth coincided with the album's release.

In "143," instead of unique insights on a mother facing new challenges raising her daughter, or really anything that a 40-year-old mother would realistically talk about, Perry instead sings about having crushes, "trippy trippy daddies" taking her on rides and other similar focus-grouped topics. For someone who once had an iron grip on pop culture, Perry has become shockingly out of touch.

The album employs four features, which is more than Perry has ever had for a single release. Each feature only does Perry a disservice, as it never feels as though 21 Savage or Doechii are making a special appearance on the newest Katy Perry song. Instead, each song sounds like it could be their own as much as it could be Perry's, if not more so. The soullessness of the album is amplified when it is continually proven that anybody could be singing these songs.

The closing track, "Wonder," attempts to be a genuine message of optimism to Perry's daughter, the sole example throughout the album. The cherry on top comes with her four-year-old providing guest vocals, which is arguably a fifth feature. The potential for a sweet moment, a heartwarming chance for Perry to duet with her own daughter, is ruined with a comical amount of autotune. Instead of a kid singer, uniformed listeners are more likely to identify the guest vocals as a robot or AI voice than a real child. It makes the song sound far worse than Perry's daughter's out-of-tune singing ever would have.

"143" is, by all metrics, a spectacular failure. Any chance of a true Katy Perry revival has been squandered. A once-beloved discography has been tainted forever by one last attempt to appeal to a demographic that Perry and Gottwald do not understand in the slightest. Katy Perry had her chance to ride off into the sunset. Instead, right at the horizon, with the whole world watching, she jumped off the "dark horse," falling flat on her face.

*Elijah Nevin  
senior marketing major*



Maggie Kleiner/The Rider News

Musician Katy Perry's latest album release is met with criticism.

## Rider's "fishbowl" classrooms need to go

**I**MAGINE you are taking the biggest test of your college career. You know that you're prepared, but you're still nervous. It feels like you have so much riding on this exam.

Since this is such a big test, you would want to have as few distractions as possible to maintain your focus. However, you're in one of the classrooms on campus that, no matter how quiet your professor makes it, has plenty of distractions right outside the door.

These classrooms are located on the second floor of the Fine Arts building and the first floor of the Science and Technology Center. These "fishbowls," as I like to call them, allow anyone to see what you are doing any time, making you a source of entertainment while restricting your ability to learn.

Classrooms that are visible to any passerby are not only annoying, but extremely unsafe. Every student and professor on campus remembers where they were during the lockdown in Spring 2023, when it was suspected that there was a shooter at Rider. While I was not in one of the fishbowl classrooms during this event, I cannot imagine how terrifying it must have felt to have been in a classroom with barely any protection from a potential threat.

I believe that when Rider renovates Fine Arts, a necessary action for a number of reasons, namely the confusing classroom numbering, one of the first priorities should be transforming the classrooms with glass walls into traditional ones.

Every student and professor deserves a classroom where they can focus and feel safe. The only way for that to happen at Rider is getting rid of our fishbowls.

*Sarah F. Griffin  
senior journalism and  
political science major*



Destiny Pagan/The Rider News

A classroom in the Science and Technology Center has a large wall of windows.

## THE Rider News

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## FIELD HOCKEY

# Rider regains ground at Lock Haven

By Kadie DiGiuseppe

**F**OLLOWING its victory at Georgetown, Rider field hockey continued to dominate on the road. The Broncos won 5-3 against the Lock Haven Bald Eagles on Sept. 22.

Junior forward Valeria Perales and freshman forward Olivia Machiavelli each scored multiple goals during the game, leading the Broncos to another win as they improved to 4-3.

## Locked in at Lock Haven

Rider traveled to Lock Haven University looking to improve its record before entering the Northeast Conference play.

The Broncos were hungry for a goal. By the eighth minute of play, Rider was able to attempt three corners, all initiated by Perales.

Rider's offense proved it's not a one-person game, as they got four shots off, including ones from junior back Megan Normile, sophomore midfielder Ang Borisow, sophomore forward Emma Bonshak and Machiavelli.

Leading the team in assists, Borisow explained her strategy to keep helping her teammates.

"I am the transition point between the defensive side and the offensive side, coming from the midfield, passing it to the offense, either having a tip or they're going to dribble it and do a few dodges and score," said Borisow, "I feel like I was able to prescan and see the field and then see that they were open and on my assists."

With help from Borisow, Perales scored the first goal of the game following two points from the Bald Eagles in the second quarter.

Lock Haven responded just a couple minutes later by getting past freshman goalkeeper Jade Regnart to tie the game at halftime.

## 'We didn't let up at all'

In the first 30 seconds of the second half, Machiavelli broke through all defenders, allowing Perales to score her second goal of the game.

Not even two minutes later, Perales broke away from the Bald Eagles' defenders once again. She

marched right down the field, putting the ball in the back of the net and securing her hat trick and fifth goal of the season.

"I was really excited to be playing back again. After halftime, I was like 'We need to get back to the game. We need to win this game,' so I was able to score," said Perales.

Lock Haven was able to pull out another goal a couple minutes later to keep the game close, but Rider's offense did not stop.

Machiavelli, Perales and Normile contributed to more offensive efforts, including three corners and three more shots, but none were able to get by the Bald Eagles' goalkeeper.

With 10 seconds left in the third quarter, Machiavelli chipped the ball over the keeper for her fifth goal of the season.

The fourth quarter started out aggressive on both sides, but the Bald Eagles were able to come out of the fight with a goal.

Lock Haven threatened to tie the game in the final quarter after Rider allowed three corners and four shots. Fortunately, Regnart was a brick wall in the cage.

With three minutes left, Machiavelli initiated a corner, where freshman forward Anna Finn's shot was saved but deflected back in Machiavelli's direction, which gave her another chance to score.

Machiavelli ended the game with two goals, bringing the final score to 5-3 and giving her six goals in the season, which she leads the team in.

Head Coach Alicia Govannicci said after the win, "We played really hard and found a way to still follow the game plan. I think that they did a great job of doing that. We also focused on framing the goal."

The Broncos finished the game with 20 shots and seven corners while Regnart finished with five saves.

Rider will return to Lawrenceville on Sept. 27 at 4 p.m. to play Fairfield in its second NEC game of the year. The Broncos then travel to Philadelphia to play Drexel on Sept. 29 at 12 p.m.



Alban Theunissen/The Rider News

The Broncos gather in the cage before a corner.

## MEN'S SOCCER

# Broncs win six straight, defeat Mercyhurst

By Rich Saile

**F**RESH off its fifth straight win, Rider men's soccer traveled back home to Ben Cohen Field to host the Mercyhurst Lakers on Sept. 21. The Broncos, despite being outshot 11-6, shut out Mercyhurst 2-0 to improve to 6-2 on the season.

Early on in the game, the Broncos missed a pair of shots, including a blundered corner kick.

## Early lead

Fortunately, in the 12th minute, senior midfielder Bryan Akongo was able to fire the ball above Mercyhurst's goalkeeper off of an assist from senior back Martin Chladek, getting the first goal of the game and providing an early lead for the Broncos.

The score was Akongo's fourth goal of the year, as he remained the team's points leader with 12.

The Broncos' defense forced the Lakers into several missed shots, including one in the 39th minute. Junior goalkeeper Adam Salama, the most recent recipient of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference defensive player of the week, saved a shot heading for the top-left corner of the goal. This was the closest the Lakers were to tying the game before the half.

The Lakers' offense came out aggressively in the second half, seeking to tie the match. However, Salama saved another shot top right. The Broncos were dictating the game on their terms, forcing the Lakers to miss multiple attempts.

## 'One game at a time'

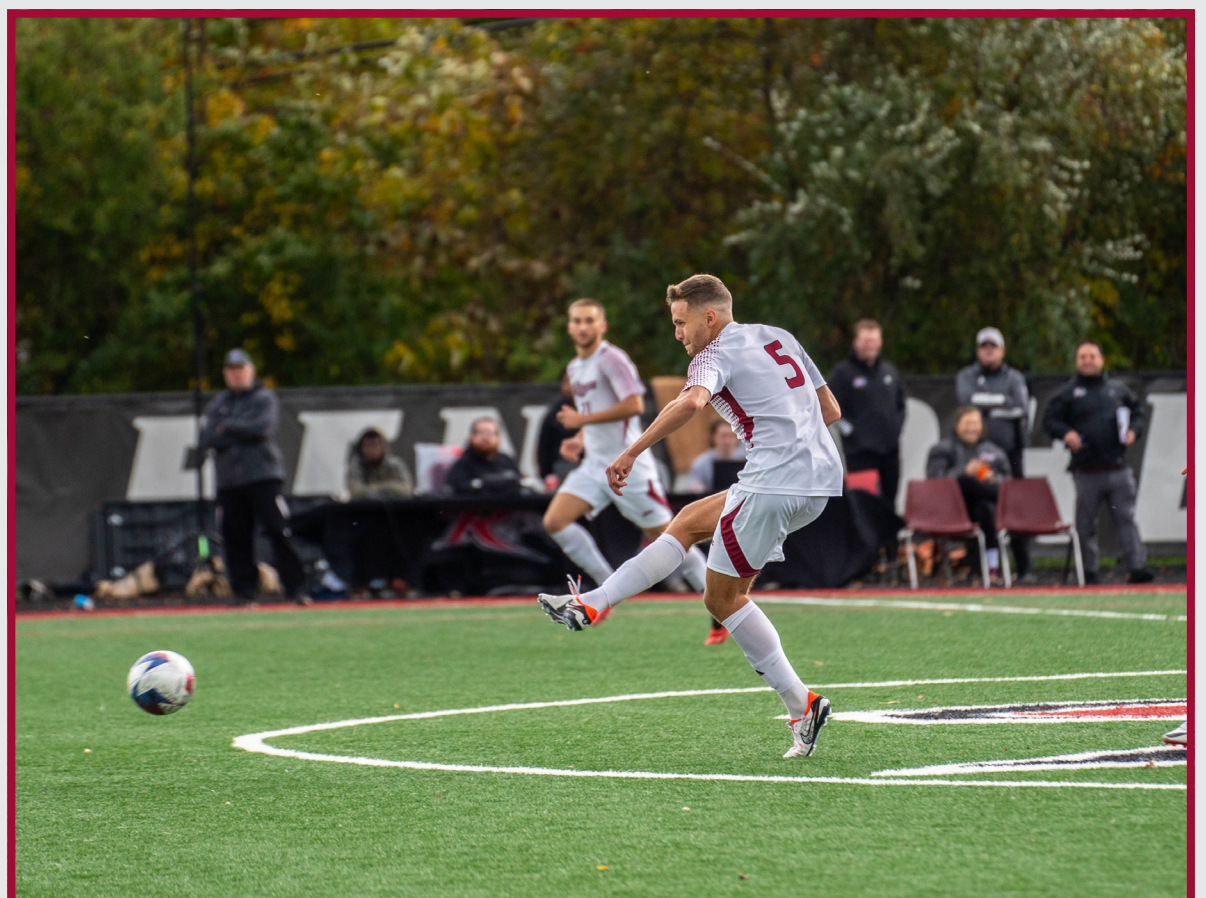
In the 65th minute, junior midfielder Momo Diop set up a cross to the 18-yard box to sophomore forward Patryk Rojek, where he shot it inside the left post, scoring his first goal of the season and extending the Broncos' lead to 2-0.

The Broncos' defense held on to win their sixth straight game.

"We don't like to set our goal as 'let's win six straight games in a row.' We just focus on getting better every day." Head Coach Chad Duernberger said after the victory. "A win is a win. We'll take it."

The Broncos have won six straight games in

consecutive seasons. Last year, Rider had a seven-game winning streak as it headed to the MAAC championship. The Broncos will begin MAAC play as they travel to New Rochelle, New York, to take on Iona, a rematch of last season's MAAC championship.



Kaitlyn D'Alessio/The Rider News

Senior back Martin Chladek passes the ball up the field.

# Sports

ONLINE

## ICE-COLD BRONCS

Rider volleyball continued its cold streak down in Virginia as it has now lost eight straight matches.

FIND THE STORY ON [THERIDERNEWS.COM](http://THERIDERNEWS.COM)



Graphic by Josiah Thomas/The Rider News, Photos by Tiffany Henry and Brent Butler

Danny Kirwin 22' 23' finished his first season with a 3.63 ERA and 69 strikeouts.

## Former Bronc making waves in Salem

By Benjamin Shinault

**F**LASH back to the 2023 NCAA tournament, where nationally ranked Coastal Carolina tailed Rider baseball by one run in extra innings.

With the bases loaded and two outs in the bottom of the tenth, the pitch was dealt, lined to center and caught, allowing Rider to capture its first NCAA tournament win since 1987. The man on the mound was Danny Kirwin, a graduate student.

On April 23, the former Bronc signed a minor league contract with the Boston Red Sox, so Kirwin now toes the rubber for a different team.

### The road to Salem

Kirwin, a native of Langsdale, Pennsylvania, finished his collegiate career in 2023, during which he was named an All-American, the first Rider baseball player to do so since 1995. Kirwin was also named the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference reliever of the year and had 14 saves, ranking third in the nation.

In the past, a resume like Kirwin's likely would have led to a phone call on draft day, but since the Major League Baseball Draft was cut down from 40 to 20 rounds in 2022, Kirwin's phone never rang.

As a result, Kirwin's first step to a professional career was pitching for an MLB Draft League team, the Mahoning Valley Scrappers. Kirwin also went through player development training to make his deadly fastball even more devastating.

"After the Rider season in 2023 ..., I went to

Tread Athletics in North Carolina, and I was there for two and a half months and topped out [my fastball] at 97.7 mph after my previous personal record was 95," Kirwin said, "and then I was signed to the Oakland Ballers."

Before Kirwin could even step on the mound for Oakland's Pioneer League team, a scout from the Boston Red Sox approached him. On April 23, the Rider Alum signed a minor league contract with the team. With the signing, Kirwin became the first ever Oakland Ballers player to sign a professional contract and he is only the eighth Rider Bronc to sign with a major league club and the first since 2006.

Kirwin had a solid first year with the Salem Red Sox, Boston's Single-A affiliate, ending the year with a 3.63 ERA, 69.1 innings pitched and 69 strikeouts. To the 285 batters he faced, Kirwin only allowed 54 hits.

"It was a great year. I liked all my stats, metrics and velocity. It was all good," Kirwin said.

At the conclusion of the Red Sox season, Kirwin brought out his best stuff as he pitched three innings, struck out five and only allowed one hit.

### Power of the coach

Kirwin listed Rider baseball Head Coach Barry Davis as one of the biggest people he had to thank in his journey to professional baseball, along with others.

Davis, who saw Kirwin as a freshman, told us about a time in Kirwin's 2023 season that he felt truly characterized Kirwin as a player.

The Broncs, who just took the lead over nationally-ranked Duke, were going to be without their closer – or so they thought.

"He was not available, that was the agreement ... and then all of a sudden, I look down to the bullpen and he's warming up. He just decided that he was going in and closing this game," Davis said.

Kirwin gave a list of individuals that have helped him get to where he is today.

"Barry Davis was a big part of it, coach [Mike] Petrowski, the pitching coach at Rider, Tread Athletics, a big thank you to them and my parents for sure. [I] wouldn't be here without them," Kirwin said.

### What's next

The Salem Red Sox season recently came to an end, and Kirwin already has his eyes set on the next place he will be playing baseball.

"[Salem wants] me to be in Double-A by the end of the year, and I'm going to the Arizona Fall League in a couple weeks here," Kirwin said.

The Arizona Fall League will open the season on Oct. 7 and will serve as yet another stepping stone in Kirwin's minor league career and ultimately his path to the major leagues.

"I'm very proud of Danny and his work ethic. He made himself into the player he is," Davis said, "He took every opportunity we gave him and he has maximized [each one]."

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