



Students show patriotism on Election Day

By Jake Tiger

OUTSIDE the Bart Luedeke Center, five Rider students, each filled with anxiety and excitement, filtered into a small, white shuttle bound for a nearby polling site.

During the six-minute shuttle ride to the Lawrence Senior Center, senior acting major Aileen Pujols talked about her “obsessive” following of the presidential race and the excitement she felt about voting.

Beside Pujols in the tightly packed shuttle was freshman film and television major Jalyma Harris, who admitted she did not follow the race as closely but still felt it was important to vote.

They, like many others at Rider, were taking their pick of presidents for the first time, weighing issues like reproductive rights, the economy and

immigration in a race billed as a genuine tossup for months.

With the presidential election featuring Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump finally nearing its dramatic finish, Rider was imbued with a sense of patriotism on Nov. 5: ballots were cast, Harris-Walz shirts and red MAGA caps were donned, and political chatter dotted campus.

Rolling to the polls

Rider’s Bonner Community Leaders program offered a shuttle service on Election Day for students registered to vote in Mercer County, which has also been the case for prior elections, according to Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs Nick Barbati.

The service ran from the morning to afternoon, with Pujols, Jalyma Harris and three others filing in around noon, squeezing into the van’s rear benches.

On the ride to the polling site, Pujols said, “I am so excited to vote. ... It’s also my mom’s first time voting. She just became an American citizen a couple years ago, so it’s really exciting for all of us. ... Reproductive rights is huge for me. Immigration is a big one because I am a first-generation Dominican American. It’s something that directly affects me and my family.”

Pujols said she planned to vote for Kamala Harris with the caveat that it was more of a vote against Trump, as she did not align with all of Kamala Harris’ beliefs, specifically her stance on the Israel-Hamas war.

To Pujols’ right was freshman political science major Alexis Pennyhooke, who echoed worries about reproductive rights while adding that she liked Kamala Harris’ plan to “remedy” the cost of living.

Pujols, Pennyhooke and Jalyma Harris all said Trump’s character was a major concern in how they voted.

Jalyma Harris said, “I just like [Kamala Harris] more than Trump. The things he says and does, it’s just not really the best in my eyes. The campaigning has been very hectic.”

The other two students in the shuttle, sophomore

Destiny Pagan/The Rider News



psychology major Connor Meletta and junior music major Jack Tharp, who uses they/them pronouns, also supported Kamala Harris.

Tharp said, “I’m nonbinary, so trans rights are very important to me, also reproductive rights and healthcare because I’m a medicaid user. I’m voting for Kamala but mainly voting against Trump.”

When the shuttle arrived at the senior center, the students followed the patriotic signs into the building (where there was fortunately no line).

They exited one by one, but only two emerged with “I Voted” stickers.

Jalyma Harris and Pujols did not have Rider as their registered address and could not vote in Mercer County. Pujols quickly began making calls at the senior center to arrange a last-minute ride home to Hudson County so she could vote, while Jalyma Harris said she was disappointed but did not make arrangements.

Meletta, who was registered in Passaic County, could not turn in his mail-in ballot at the polling site and was unsure if he would be able to vote before polls closed at 8 p.m.

Pennyhooke and Tharp were able to cast their ballots without issue, proudly returning to Rider with their stickers.

SEE ‘REBOVICH’
PAGE 2

Jake Tiger/The Rider News



Rider students **Jack Tharp** (left) and **Aileen Pujols** (right) utilized the shuttle service to head to the polls on Election Day.

Rider reveals Presidential Search Committee members

By Caroline Haviland

SINCE Rider President Gregory Dell’Omo notified the university of his retirement plans for July 2025, the Board of Trustees has spent weeks comprising a search committee with a balance of members throughout the community.

Joe McDougall, chair of the Presidential Search Committee, announced the list of individuals who agreed to participate in the ongoing search in a universitywide email on Nov. 5.

Alongside Trustees Joe McDougall, Joan Mazzotti, James Bush, Michele Powers, Christopher Carothers, Thomas Mulhare and Wright Seneres, the committee includes Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs Nicholas Barbati, Norm Brodsky College of Business Dean Gene Kutcher, faculty union President Quinn Cunningham, associate professor Alison Thomas-Cottingham and Administrative Specialist for Graduate

Education Anne Rees.

“The Presidential Search Committee is a critical element in selecting a new University president as it brings together a diverse group of stakeholders — faculty, staff, students, alumni and trustees - ensuring that the process is inclusive, thorough and aligned with the University’s mission,” McDougall’s email read.

The student representative will be Student Government Association President Christina Natoli.

According to the email, the search committee is responsible for working with the board’s search consultants, screening and interviewing candidates and ultimately finalizing a list of presidential candidates to the Board of Trustees.

The email said the committee will begin reviewing candidates in December.

Josiah Thomas/The Rider News



INSIDE

PERFECT WEEK

Rider volleyball swept all three of its MAAC opponents.

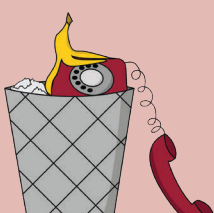
PAGE 8



STUDENT JOURNALISTS DESERVE RESPECT

Rider News staff editors express frustrations with wasted time.

PAGE 6



NOVEMBER HOROSCOPES

See what’s in store for your sign this month!

PAGE 5



Rider-MCCC partnership continues; TCNJ jumps in

By Hannah Newman

RIDER has extended residency opportunities to Mercer County Community College students. The conversation began in the 2016-17 school year but died when the pandemic hit. The colleges' relationship saw its peak post-pandemic, as the quantity of MCCC students has only grown since, according to Vice President of University Operations Mike Reca.

"They have programs that are very unique, and people do come a distance, and that's why they had approached us," said Reca. "We had approached them too ... they had some programs that ... draw a lot of international athletes. They draw from all over the country ... that's pretty much how we figured that they needed housing."

Although 2020 brought an all-time low to students living on campus, during the 2021-22 school year, Rider regularly brought MCCC students to on-campus living, according to Reca.

"Original conversations took place before the pandemic, but it really became a deeper contract and a deeper relationship after the pandemic," said Reca. "After the pandemic, the responsibility came over and we met with the Mercer County College folks and really structured what we thought was a very good situation for both entities."

Reca noted that the number of students on campus before 2020 is uncertain; however, since campus living elevated in 2021, the university saw the number of MCCC students on campus jump from eight to around 22. This year, there are 18 MCCC students living at Rider, according to Reca.

Although MCCC students attend school on another campus, their on-campus life remains parallel to those

of Rider students, according to Reca.

MCCC students have a pre-negotiated rate and must buy a meal plan; however, they have access to campus services, such as the Student Recreation Center and Moore Library, according to Reca.

MCCC students share the residence halls with Rider students across campus.

Vice President of External Affairs Kristine Brown said, "I believe it [MCC students on campus] can help to envision themselves as part of the Rider community. This familiarity can make the transition from community college to a four-year university smoother and more appealing, as they already have a sense of belonging and a support system in place."

In July of 2024, The College of New Jersey announced its partnership with MCCC to allow those students to live on their campus as well, according to a press release.

The release said, "The agreement, which includes a specialized rate for MCCC students, also aims to make admission and transfer to TCNJ seamless for these students once they complete their associates degree."



Mercer County Community College students live in various dorm halls on Rider's campus.

Reca was unaware of their decision until the press release; however, he still hopes to strengthen the relationship between Rider and MCCC, despite any potential barriers.

"I'll say that we had an exclusive relationship for the last several years [with MCCC], and then somehow, which I don't know how, TCNJ got involved with ... [nearly] the same amount of students that we've had in the past," said Reca. "However, I know that Mercer would like to have an increase in numbers, and we're working on that with them, but I can't say I wasn't disappointed to find out TCNJ got [in] the game."

Rebovich director calls Harris 'clear choice'

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1



Jake Tiger/The Rider News

Alexis Pennycooke (left) and Jamyla Harris (right) express the reasons they are voting for Kamala Harris.

Calming the campus

Back on campus, conversations concerning politics could be heard in hallways and at lunch tables across campus, but the Center for Diversity and Inclusion's "Vote and Vibe" event, supplying snacks and groovy jazz music, was a much-needed respite for students who would rather be thinking about anything else.

The gathering featured coloring, crafts, poetry and other distractions for students ahead of a fateful evening of politics. Over a dozen students enjoyed the event's offerings when it began at 11:30 a.m.

"In a time of uncertainty, anxiety levels are definitely raised, so it's good to create some calm and community," said Jasmine Johnson, the center's director. "It's a space to disconnect from the election and unplug for a little bit."

Micah Rasmussen, director of the Rebovich Institute for New Jersey Politics, was not looking to unplug, as he called Election Day his "Super Bowl." He recalled the 2020 presidential election, where he was in his office all night watching the electoral map as votes trickled in and states flipped.

This year, Rasmussen said he planned to vote for Kamala Harris, citing an opportunity to "turn the page" on MAGA conservatism.

"I think there's a clear choice as far as the future is concerned," Rasmussen said. "Most of us are

exhausted by the politics we've experienced the past 10 years."

Rasmussen helped "several dozen" students make a plan to vote in recent weeks, whether it be applying for a mail-in ballot or finding a way to get to a polling site.

In his classes, Rasmussen likes to start with an open political discussion with his students, and, in recent talks, he noticed that issues like the economy, the housing market and student debt relief were "weighing heavily" on students as they considered each presidential candidate.

Rider's Counseling Center in Zoerner House is available to students for post-election support. Appointments can be made online, by phone or over email.



Destiny Pagan/The Rider News

Scan the QR code to hear this week's top headlines!





Students find solidarity in the Haitian Student Association

By Grace Bertrand

As tensions rise against Haitians and Haitian Americans across the country, Rider's Haitian Student Association is standing firm in who they are as a community, prepared to educate people about Haitian culture.

"I feel like it's up to us to try to re-educate people on who Haitians really are," said Haitian Student Association President Dan-Iael Alexandre, a senior communications major.

The HSA is an organization on campus meant to give students the opportunity to discuss Haitian culture, while understanding the issues they face amid current events.

A home at Rider

The HSA has only recently become active with a rising population of Haitian students on campus.

Kimyata Valere, the faculty adviser for HSA said, "When I was a student at Rider, the organizations did not really speak to my identity as a Haitian woman. I know a lot of students who are Haitian or Haitian American find community through the organization now, which is great."

Valere said she was grateful Rider had expanded its ethnicity-based organizations on campus, and she hoped they would continue to grow.

When first transferring to Rider, the HSA pulled Alexandre in. Being Haitian was part of his identity, and he knew he would feel right at home within the organization.

"One of my main goals when I came to Rider was to meet new people," said Alexandre. "So I thought, what better opportunity to meet people like me than to go to a Haitian Student Association meeting?"

Springfield aftermath

In the wake of recent false claims made against Haitian immigrants in Springfield, Ohio, Haitian Americans across the nation have undergone scrutiny toward them and their culture.

In a recent presidential debate, former President Donald Trump falsely stated there were illegal

Haitian immigrants in Springfield that were stealing and eating household pets. His running mate JD Vance, who has also openly made the same claims, acknowledged during a CNN interview that his statements were based on alleged "firsthand accounts from my constituents," rather than facts.

City authorities in Springfield have repeatedly said there is no truth to the claims, and most recent immigrants from Haiti are in the nation legally.

"Unfortunately, I cannot say it was surprising," said Valere. "However, as always, the Haitian community always stands firm and strong when there are false accusations."

Alexandre explained how daunting it can be for him to speak about the issues Haitian Americans are facing in the aftermath of inaccurate statements. He recalled feeling nervous to even promote the HSA's most recent event, "game night," during his public relations class.

"I'm a very confident individual, but there was a slight part of me that [knew,] once I mentioned the Haitian Student Association, I know there's probably one person in the class that immediately thought of all the stuff going on right now," said Alexandre.

Alexandre emphasized that he feels the best road to take moving forward is to not let those attacks on their character define Haitians, but to let others learn who they are from their actions instead of what they hear.

"I feel like it's our responsibility to be ourselves," said Alexandre. "If we let these narratives dictate how other people look at us, then we're letting it go as far as it will go."

Growing community

Alexandre added that he feels the number of Haitian students will only grow at Rider, and he is excited to usher in a new era of Haitian students that can easily inherit the club once he graduates.

"It's not hard to not come across a Haitian anymore," said Alexandre. "There's been a boom of Haitians in the U.S. as of recent

years, so I feel like it's quite important to have a club on campus."

Alexandre is fearful of the club's future once he leaves Rider. He explained how the presidency left him in charge at the start of this past spring semester, after all the former members of the executive board graduated.

Looking ahead, Valere emphasized that she hopes the HSA will be able to come together with other ethnicity-based clubs in the future for joint events.

"I think we could do something greater on campus that will not only unify the Haitian students here but that would unify the campus as a whole," said Valere.

The HSA has events like painting, "Rep your Flag" and a jewelry-making workshop in the works that Alexandre plans to utilize to emphasize Haitian American culture on campus.

"I was given a perfect opportunity at Rider, as the president of the HSA, to make an impact, even if it's very small," said Alexandre. "An impact is an impact nonetheless."

Photo courtesy of Dan-Iael Alexandre



The Haitian Student Association at an event from last semester.

ADVERTISEMENT

Sweet. Savory. Spicy. Tangy. Crispy. Creamy.

There's No Limit To What You Can Make!

Cook or bake with reckless abandon to win more than \$10,000 in prizes, including a \$500 Visa card, four Club Suite tickets to a Philadelphia Flyers game and more!

TheBronc Rider University
WRRC 107.7 FM

Enter October 24 to November 20 at 1077TheBronc.com/AnythingGoes

Roommates get rich quick through game show

By Sofia Santiago

THE audience cheered as an energetic host walked onto the Cavalla Room stage to ask, “Any broke roommates in the crowd tonight?”

On Nov. 2, the Student Entertainment Council hosted its second game show of the semester, “The Roommate Game Show.” This is the first time the event has taken place.

Senior communications major Nick Witkowski, game show and comedy coordinator of the SEC, explained why these new events were different compared to previous years: “I decided to change it up a little bit. During the summer, I put a poll out on the Rider SEC Instagram asking people what they would want to see the most ... the dating show was the most popular, so I did that one first. The roommate game came in second.”

The stage setup for the game included a center divider with four chairs on each side. Pairs of roommates sat on either side of the divider and wrote their answers to questions about each other on white boards to earn points for matching answers.

The audience was also involved in whether or not the answers were valid enough. The questions varied from “What size shoe does your roommate wear?” to “Which movie title best describes your roommates’ love life: ‘Psycho,’ ‘The 40-Year-Old Virgin,’ ‘The Proposal’ or ‘Friends with Benefits?’”

The main game went on for three rounds,

Destiny Pagan /The Rider News



Roommates compete for money to see who knows each other best.

each with a \$40 prize for the winning pair. Then followed a lightning round that consisted only of “who is most likely to ...” questions. There were also two mini games with \$20 prizes for any audience participants.

Freshman arts and entertainment industries management major Try Quain and roommate freshman vocal performance major Briseis Muñoz participated in the game after hearing about it on Instagram. Even though they have only known each other for a few months, they won a prize, admitting the hardest question was “Who’s concert would your roommate most want to attend?”

Senior arts and music major Jessica Koscak and

her roommate of four years, senior sociology major Jennie Mae Sprouse, heard about the event through an SEC email.

Sprouse said, “We don’t get to actively see how much we know about each other from these past four years, so it was a chance to show how much we’ve been listening to each other.”

Despite tough questions about roommate attire, the pair took home one of the prizes.

Witkowski described the process of bringing the different game shows to campus: “Neon Entertainment is an entertainment company we work with to get the events happening ... I went on their website and looked for what I think the students would be most interested in and what would bring people together the most and what would be the most open for the broader Rider community.”

He shared future plans for possible comedy and game shows such as “Trivia and Cash Attack,” similar to “Deal or No Deal,” for students to participate in.

“There is a lot more that Rider has to offer, some of these on campus events that maybe aren’t as well recognized ... can actually be really fun and a good experience if you can get your friends out and just enjoy it ... and you can win money so that’s pretty cool.”

ADVERTISEMENT



Do You Want to Lead Change, Influence Policy, and Shape the Future?

SCHOOL OF DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



Explore Our Graduate Programs

www.shu.edu/diplomacygrad

UPCOMING EVENT WORD SEARCH

c a f g o p s l y w b r v f j c
e t x n z q e q d a v t g p n l
l j b j c j a b o r d v q f q i
e p c h a b b q g t x q w i l g
b x o r r p i e t t n n m b i h
r y n r e l n v h h f i z i q t
a g e z f v g e e e s f c m r s
t b v r a x l n r r n m x b k w
i y s e i w o t a a u o m f u j
o r f d r d w c p p c g c v x b
n w a h d a p k y y b s l q g p
c e r h o q s l i l z n g n r v

WORD BANK

celebration
dog therapy
art therapy
sea binglow
care fair
lights
event



SCAN HERE FOR THE ANSWERS!

November Horoscopes

Scorpio

OCT. 23 - NOV. 21

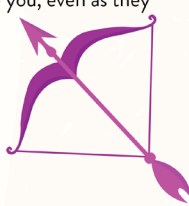
This month brings a powerful opportunity to ground yourself in a new blueprint focused on your love life, Scorpio. Your open heart is building connections and opening doors that even hard work alone could not reach. Remember, you are exactly where you need to be. While small stresses may arise, your compassion and generosity will guide you forward in ways you cannot yet imagine.



Sagittarius

NOV. 22 - DEC. 21

Sagittarius, even if past experiences left you feeling misunderstood and lost, know that you are valued and supported. Your long-standing friendships and soulful connections still nurture you, even as they have evolved. Now is your time to thrive, so move forward with joy rather than glancing back at old doubts.



Capricorn

DEC. 22 - JAN. 19

This month is less about action and more about rest, Capricorn. Take time to recharge, and trust that the cosmos have your back. Watch for subtle signs that remind you of the universe's support, and remember not to rush life's timing. Take things slowly and allow everything to fall into place.



Aquarius

JAN. 20 - FEB. 18

Aquarius, this month's cosmic energy invites you to dive into exploration as Pluto enters your sign. This transformative chapter urges you to set strong boundaries and build self-confidence, knowing that you can value yourself without diminishing others. Lean into this balance as you move forward with new clarity and purpose.



Pisces

FEB. 19 - MARCH 20

Pisces, break free from any restrictions holding you back — if you see the sun, you can reach it. Let go of fears, and nourish your dreams instead. Others may not fully understand your vision, but that does not make it any less real. Keep manifesting, and those who appreciate your worth will be drawn into your orbit.



Aries

MARCH 21 - APRIL 19

This month, Aries, a gentle energy encourages you to reconnect with loved ones and mend any strained relationships. The key is to smooth out the harsh edges to create a softer path forward. Focus on healing without worrying about how others perceive you. The universe has your back. As you move onward with purpose, the only requirement is to stay true to yourself.



Taurus

APRIL 20 - MAY 20

Taurus, it's time to retreat and reset, as burnout and stress may have been weighing you down. This month, give yourself permission to release your burdens and expectations, especially those that were not truly yours. Embrace the end of this intense chapter and welcome a new, fulfilling phase. Prioritize rest, let go of old pressures and trust that this reset will help you move forward with renewed energy and peace.



Gemini

MAY 21 - JUNE 20

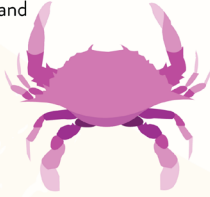
Gemini, let go of the mundane, and focus on what truly excites you. Now that you have invited the universe to guide you, follow the path unfolding in front of you. It is time to leave firm routines behind and make room for everything that genuinely uplifts you and sparks joy in your life.



Cancer

JUNE 21 - JULY 22

Cancer, this month, stand firm and practice self-acceptance as you do for others. Archangel Michael is helping you set healthy boundaries and keep love at the center of your relationships. Choose your battles wisely, and hold on to dreams that truly inspire you instead of trying to solve every challenge that comes your way.



Leo

JULY 23 - AUG. 22

If you feel surrounded by uncertainty, Leo, understand you are already soaring. Reflect on your journey and be grateful for the progress you have made. As you prepare to leap ahead, trust that the universe has safety nets in place. Appreciate all that is in place right now as you take the next steps toward your dreams.



Virgo

AUG. 23 - SEPT. 22

Virgo, release the pressure this month and let your dreams shine without harsh judgment. Silence the inner critic, and trust your worth. Life is meant to be enjoyed, not dictated by rigid standards. Allow yourself to have a more open-hearted approach, embracing spontaneity as you move forward.



Libra

SEPT. 23 - OCT. 22

Libra, your success depends on you working harder than ever before and recognizing when to step away from overwhelming pressures. This month, reflect on past situations and offer a quiet acknowledgment to any mistakes or people you may have unintentionally affected. True fulfillment lies in your ability to connect deeply and savor life rather than in collecting material gains.



PRESENTED BY KAITLYN SEAWOOD
DESIGNED BY MAGGIE KLEINER

Reporters briefly ghosted by administrator

It is The Rider News’ duty to report on matters that impact the Rider community in a timely fashion. This includes interviewing high-ranking administrators who are incredibly knowledgeable in their respective fields, making them crucial to balanced, well-informed coverage. Often, we do not have any issues contacting and scheduling interviews with administrators, but we recently ran into difficulties with Public Safety Director James Waldon.

When emailing administrators, we often get a reply within the day, and they are available within the next 24-48 hours for an interview. With respect to their time, a majority of interviews only take 10-15 minutes to complete.

The Rider News initially reached out to Waldon on Oct. 7 via email to discuss the 2023 Annual Security and Fire Safety Report. With no response, we called Public Safety three times on Oct. 8 and were unable to speak with Waldon, as we were told he was in meetings.

We reached out via email on Oct. 10, requesting an interview before Oct. 15, and got a response from his assistant, Lalena Grossman. In the email, Grossman stated, “I can add a meeting to your calendar to speak with the Director on October 17th? If you’re unable to meet with him on October 17 please email me the questions you would like to ask him.”

We were unable to meet at the provided time, so we attempted to reschedule via email for Oct. 24, but Waldon was out of office. On Oct. 28, we emailed Waldon to follow up and received another response from Grossman, stating he would be available on Oct. 29 at 10:30 a.m. Grossman also requested we send interview questions in advance so Waldon had time to prepare.

Once a reporter arrived at the scheduled time, they were informed that an interview was never arranged, and Waldon had not yet come into the office to prepare. The reporter was asked to wait an additional 30 minutes to talk with Waldon once he came in.

At 11:15 a.m., Waldon told the reporter that he might be available for an interview at 12:30 p.m., and he would give them a call by 12:15 p.m. to confirm. An hour later, Waldon called to ask the reporter if the interview could take place at 6 p.m. instead.

At 6 p.m., a reporter called Public Safety, requesting to speak with Waldon, only to learn he already left the office. After asking again, Public Safety informed the reporter he was available and transferred the call to Waldon, who expected the interview to be in person. Since Tuesday nights are when we assemble the newspaper, the reporter was unable to meet Waldon in person.

It is routine for journalists to record their interviews to ensure accuracy when reporting, but when asked for consent, Waldon refused to be recorded. In compliance to New Jersey law, the journalist could have kept recording, but did not want to disrespect a source. This meant the reporter had to write down each word he said as he spoke. When asked to repeat information for clarity, Waldon often changed the wording or spoke about another part of the report.

In the provided questions, the reporter incorrectly stated numbers from the

report after misreading a statistic. Rather than providing the accurate statistic, Waldon simply stated the reporter was wrong and did not provide clarification until the reporter asked. A majority of Rider’s administration is happy to provide The Rider News with more context when needed, but trying to get that from Waldon felt like pulling teeth.

The Rider News respects the hard work administration does for students, but we also expect the same respect for what we do. We are all busy students taking classes, working internships and writing at least one article a week. Waldon was unable to take into consideration that our time is as valuable as his.

Jay Roberson
senior English and secondary education major
Caroline Haviland
junior journalism major



Public Safety Director **James Waldon** was difficult to reach for an interview with The Rider News.

THE Rider News

Longstreet House, 2083 Lawrenceville Road, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
©2024 General Meetings: Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m.

-  @theridernews
-  www.theridernews.com
-  facebook.com/theridernews
-  @theridernews
-  @theridernews
-  ridernews@rider.edu

The Rider News serves as a public forum for student expression and welcomes letters to the editor from all members of the university community. Letters must include the writer’s telephone number and email address for verification. Letters that constitute personal attacks on individuals or groups are unacceptable. We reserve the right to edit letters to the editor for length, clarity, accuracy, grammar and libel. Letters must be appropriate in terms of taste and civility. Brevity is encouraged. All decisions are at the sole discretion of the editorial board, which may reject any letter. Send to The Rider News via email at ridernews@rider.edu. Letters must be received by midnight on the Monday preceding publication. Any tips or suggestions can be sent to ridernews@rider.edu.

One copy per person, bulk copies available for purchase at \$1 each

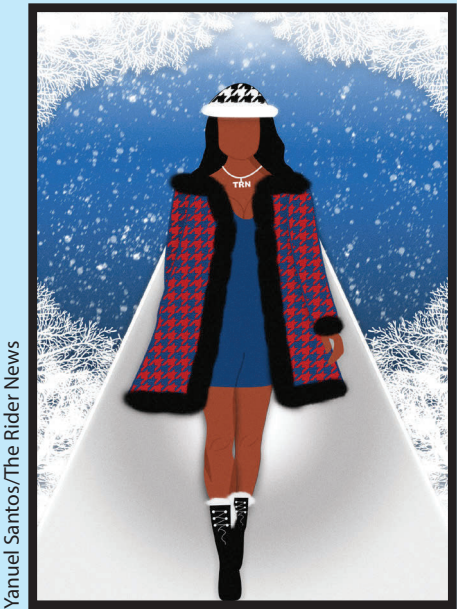
- Executive Editor**
Jake Tiger
- Managing Editor**
Hannah Newman
- News Editors**
Jay Roberson
Caroline Haviland
- Features and Entertainment Editors**
Grace Bertrand
Madison Lewis
- Opinion Editor**
Libby D’Orvilliers
- Sports Editors**
Kadie DiGiuseppe
Benjamin Shinault
- Photography Editor**
Destiny Pagan
- Video Editor**
Josiah Thomas
- Copy Editors**
Klaudine Bessasparis
Colleton
Brianna Velazquez
Caitlyn Sutton
- Social Media Editor**
Kaitlyn Seawood
- Design Manager**
Maggie Kleiner
- Circulation Manager**
Matthew Cirola
- Faculty Adviser**
Dr. Jackie Incollingo



Scan to read other student opinions from this week!

DIGITAL EXCLUSIVE:
FASHION GUIDE:
How to stay ‘cool’ as the weather gets cold

By Jenna Munswami



Yanuel Santos/The Rider News

DIGITAL EXCLUSIVE: Rider needs more female Public Safety officers

By Sarah F. Griffin

MEN'S SOCCER

Broncs shut out Manhattan, draw with Marist

By Rich Saile

RIDER men's soccer traveled to New York on Oct. 30 to shut out the Manhattan Jaspers 2-0 before tying 2-2 with Marist on Nov. 2.

Rider moved to 5-1-1 in Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference play, locked in a tie with Iona for the top seed.

Broncs strike quick

In the first half, the Jaspers offense was aggressive, pushing the ball into the Broncs territory and putting pressure on junior goalkeeper Adam Salama.

The Jaspers attempted three corner kicks in the span of 66 seconds, but the Broncs defense blocked the goal, preventing the Jaspers from scoring early.

The Broncs offense started slow with only two shot attempts in the first 22 minutes of the game, but they picked it up for the last 23 minutes of the half.

Rider forced multiple shot attempts but could not make a goal before heading into the locker room.

Rider and Manhattan entered halftime scoreless in a tight defensive deadlock.

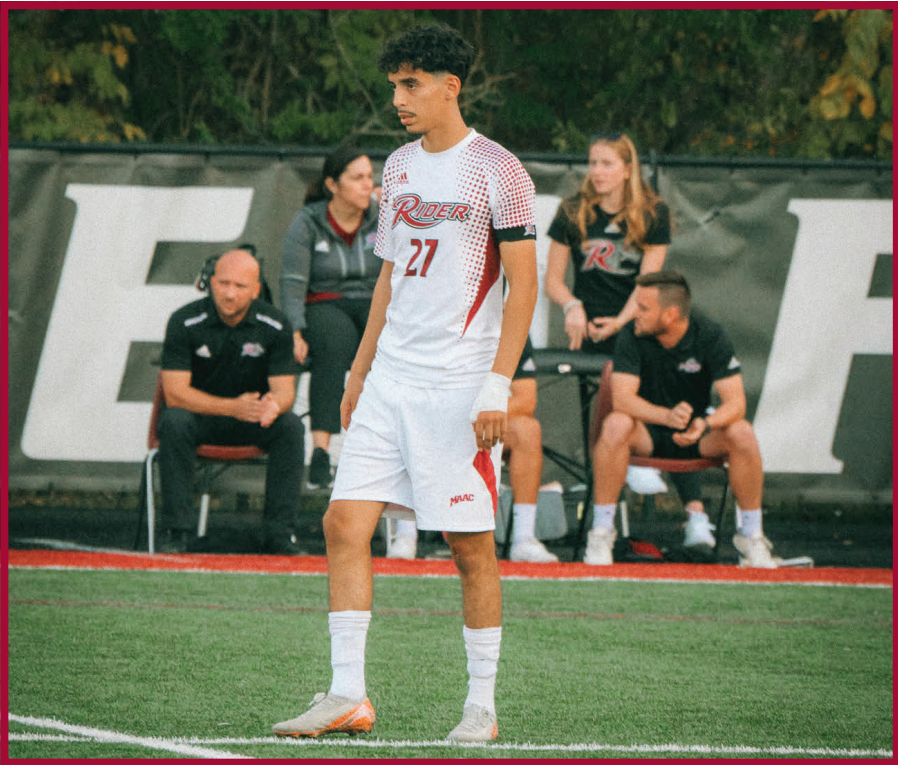
Coming out of intermission, the Broncs played the game at their pace, pushing the ball into Jaspers territory and testing Manhattan's goalkeeper with two shots on goal. Both shots, however, were unsuccessful.

Rider's offense finally broke through with a goal from freshman midfielder Ezra Punsellie, who scored off an assist from senior midfielder Bryan Akongo.

Akongo evaded defenders along the left sideline to set up a cross for Punsellie in front of the goal, giving the Broncs a 1-0 lead.

Once on the board, the Broncs hurried down the field to strike again, their second goal in 65 seconds, for a 2-0 lead.

Junior midfielder Theo Da Silva connected a pass to junior midfielder Momo Diop towards the 18-yard box, where Diop slashed the ball through two defenders inside the post, scoring the second goal for the Broncs.



Graduate student midfielder **Adel Al Masude** stares down the pitch.

The Broncs held on and earned a tough road win against the Jaspers, who won four of the last five games against the Broncs heading into the matchup.

‘There’s a lot to play for’

Looking for its sixth consecutive win on Nov. 2 the Broncs traveled back to Ben Cohen Field to host the Marist Red Foxes.

The Broncs offense struck first with a goal less than 90 seconds into the game from senior midfielder Jack McGeechan, who completed a pass from Diop at the 18-yard box.

The Red Foxes responded with a tying goal 10 minutes into the game, cashing in on a one-on-one opportunity against Salama.

The Red Foxes offense pushed the ball into Broncs territory, but the defense held its own, as both teams went into halftime tied 1-1.

After returning to the field, the Broncs offense tried rolling with a go-ahead goal but could not convert early opportunities.

In the 56th minute, Marist had a chance to go ahead on a penalty kick, but Salama saved the shot, keeping the score tied.

The Red Foxes finally broke through the Broncs defense to make the score 2-1. The Broncs trailed for the first time since the Merrimack game almost a month ago.

Rider scored an equalizer goal with seven and a half minutes left in the game from Diop off a give-and-go into the box with a pass from sophomore forward Patryk Rojek.

The Broncs offense found their groove, seizing the opportunity for a clutch go-ahead goal, but they missed two shots, the closest being in the 86th minute from graduate student back Cole Sotack. Rider and Marist ended the game with a 2-2 draw.

“Anytime you play in a match win, lose or tie, you try to find positives out of that, and one of the positives that I felt I saw in the group was we fought back late when we got the game-tying goal with six minutes left in the game. ... There’s a lot to play for, which is great. You want to be in that position to still be able to earn a championship,” Head Coach Chad Duernberger said after the game.

Rider and Iona are now tied atop the MAAC standings, with 16 points each. Diop scored his eighth goal of the season and went into sole possession with 20 points, while McGeechan scored his third goal in the Broncs’ last three home games.

Rider seeks their first regular season championship title since 1997.

The Broncs wrap up regular season play on Nov. 6 when they host Mount St. Mary’s on Senior Day at 4 p.m. and will be broadcast on ESPN+.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Last-minute goal dashes Rider’s playoff hopes

By Benjamin Shinault

RIDER women's soccer appeared destined for the playoffs once again as two minutes remained in a must-win match; seconds later, its season came crashing down with one shot.

Needing a victory to qualify, the Broncs were one point shy of making the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference tournament after a 1-1 draw with Mount Saint Mary's on Oct. 30, with the Mountaineers' tying goal coming with just 95 seconds left.

The Broncs will miss the postseason for the first time in 11 years.

“It’s heartbreaking for sure. You’re about 90 seconds away from making the playoffs, and things are falling your way and all we got to do is get it over the line,” Head Coach Drayson Hounscome said to Rider Athletics.

The lights lit the Ben Cohen Field for one of the team’s biggest matches in recent history. With a win, the Broncs would make the tournament. If they lost or tied, their season would come to an end.

The match started out well for Rider, as it had 10 shot opportunities in the first half alone. The Broncs kept their defensive attack strong, limiting the high-scoring offense of Mount Saint Mary’s to three shots.

As both teams battled for a seat in the tournament, the two teams shared 17 fouls.

The match was scoreless after the first half, but the Broncs had momentum heading into the break. Rider limited the Mountaineers’ chances and kept the Mount Saint Mary’s goalkeeper busy.

The second half began with the Broncs finding the back of the net off a strike from sophomore forward Noa Menzing. Menzing, dribbling the ball straight to the 18-yard box, pushed it into the bottom-left corner of the net to give the Broncs a 1-0 lead.

Rider’s defense was stout until the 88th minute.



The Broncs huddle up on Ben Cohen Field.

With less than two minutes to go and a playoff spot on the line, the Mountaineers got a shot past graduate student goalkeeper Ellie Sciancalepore.

After a crushing tying goal, the Broncs could not get another shot opportunity in the short amount of time left on the clock.

The draw ended Rider’s season, as well as Mount Saint Mary’s. Their final record fell to 4-9-4. Throughout the season, Rider’s defense shined through with seven shutout wins. However, Rider’s offense was shut out nine times.

The Broncs had quite the up and down journey

with the season. It took them until Oct. 12 to pick up their first conference win, but they were still only one win away from the cracking the tournament.

“I’m proud of this team’s resilience for sure this season,” Hounscome said.

The Broncs also saw on a period during the somber season where they didn’t win a match for 52 days.

The Broncs will now look to start up the tournament appearance streak once again next season.

Sports

ONLINE

BASKETBALL IS BACK!

Read the latest stories on how the Rider men's and women's basketball teams did in each season opener!

FIND THE STORY ON [THERIDERNEWS.COM](https://www.ridernews.com)



VOLLEYBALL

Rider executes trio of sweeps in perfect week

By Lindsay Scarola

THIS week highlighted rematches between Rider volleyball and their Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference opponents. After winning against the Saint Peter's Peacocks, 3-0, on Oct. 30 the Broncos traveled to New York for the weekend to dominate against Siena on Nov. 2 and Marist on Nov. 3, both scores 3-0.

Costume night

Rider swept Saint Peter's for the second time this season on Oct. 30 in the Alumni Gym where students dressed up for "Costume Night." During the game, the Broncos gradually took the lead on the first set, springing forward to 19-11.

However, Saint Peter's went on a five-point run. Back-to-back kills by junior outside hitter Kiannisha Santiago and an error by the Peacocks gave the Broncos set point, taking a 25-20 win to start the match.

Rider had full control of the second game, opening up with a 9-2 lead that later resulted in 17-11. Santiago had back-to-back kills and helped Rider pull away during its 5-0 run, and Rider won the set 25-14.

Saint Peter's struck first in the third, having a 5-0 lead over Rider. That did not stop the Broncos, as they scored eight straight points.

Two kills and a block by sophomore opposite hitter Anja Kelly contributed to Rider's control of the set. The Broncos squashed the Peacocks, 25-14, to win the match in a 3-0 sweep.

'Playing aggressive'

On Nov. 2, the Broncos stepped onto Siena's turf and dominated in conference play again, earning yet another 3-0 sweep.

From the start, Rider scored six points in a row, with senior setter Ryley Frye having a pair of aces.

The first set lead extended to 12-1 after a 6-0 run with sophomore libero/defensive specialist Carly Zimmet's serve. The Broncos won this set 25-11.

Siena trailed 16-11 but got back into the second set



Destiny Pagan/The Rider News

The Broncos huddle up before their next set.

with a 4-0 run, later tying it 21-21. It was a close run in the end, as junior outside hitter Brynn Johnson scored two kills, contributing to the 25-23 win for the Broncos.

The Saints came out first, having a 3-0 start for the third game, their first lead of the match. Rider immediately counterattacked with four straight points.

Siena stayed within Rider's reach until the score was 14-11. The Saints made it 20-15, but Rider kept them at 15. The Broncos came out on top, 25-15.

"The team overall was very efficient versus Siena, really focusing on playing aggressive and smart. Our pin hitters did a very good job of using the blocking,

finding some seams and going for the big swing when needed," said Head Coach Jeff Rotondo.

The Saints did not come marching in as the Broncos swept them 3-0.

Straight sets

On Nov. 3, the Broncos showed up to their rematch against Marist with an undying fighting spirit.

The opening set was slow, as the Broncos fell behind 14-10, but their confidence was high. They scored seven straight with two kills and a block by junior middle hitter Carley McAleavey.

Leading 17-16, Rider scored six-straight points with Santiago making three back-to-back aces. Rider won 25-17.

Once again the Broncos were behind in the second set, 10-9, until they went on a 6-0 run with a kill and an ace by sophomore middle hitter Molly Rohde.

That did not stop Marist, as it had its own 8-2 run for the go ahead against Rider.

Junior libero Keegan O'Connor had a pair of aces during the Broncos' 4-0 response. They held the Red Foxes for a 25-21 victory.

Tied 7-7 in the third set, senior setter Ryley Frye had a trio of aces as the Broncos ran past the Red Foxes.

Up 13-9, Rider extended their lead with an 8-1 run, defeating Marist 25-16. The Broncos stampeded over the Red Foxes with a 3-0 sweep. Rider gained their fifth straight win.

"Overall, everyone is playing very well. We are serving great and keeping teams out of system. Kianny is playing great along with Keegan. Everyone is playing well together and as one, which is helping lead us to victory," said Rohde.

The Broncos, looking to extend their winning streak, will travel to New York once again to play Manhattan on Nov. 9 at 1 p.m. and Iona on Nov. 10 at 1 p.m.

FIELD HOCKEY

Broncs fall to Wagner in battle for top seed

By Kadie DiGiuseppe

FIRST place in the Northeast Conference was on the line on Nov. 1 in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, as Rider field hockey faced the Wagner Seahawks. Wagner left Ben Cohen Field with a 2-1 victory over the Broncos, giving Rider the second seed in the NEC tournament.

'We played hard'

In the last game of the regular season, Rider attacked early, outshooting Wagner 8-1 by the end of the first quarter, with junior forward Valeria Perales contributing more than half of those shots.

The Broncos' aggression continued into the second quarter, but they struggled to get by the 6-foot Wagner goalkeeper.

Rider had five more shots in the second quarter from freshman forward Olivia Machiavelli, junior back Megan Normile and freshman back Anna Finn.

"We got a lot of offensive opportunities, but they were just falling short. We had a lot of chances that were going off the post and just missing the cage. We just couldn't get that momentum because we couldn't put it in the cage," said graduate student forward Katie Wuerstle.

The intensity heightened in the second half as Wagner's offense picked up, getting four shots off in the first two minutes, all saved by freshman goalkeeper Jade Regnart.

Before the Broncos could stop them, the Seahawks pushed past to score the first goal of the game off a rebound.

Multiple players were given cards as their aggression increased, but that only fueled Perales' fire as she scored the game-tying goal, her 10th of the season.

Afterward, Perales initiated another corner, which gave Normile an unsuccessful shot opportunity. The Wagner offense scored yet again off a loose ball reverse chip, making it 2-1.

The fourth quarter was all or nothing for the Broncos, but they could not find a single shot or offensive corner to try and tie the game.

"We played hard during the whole game, but we just missed our opportunities when shooting," said Perales.

Rider lost the hard fought battle 2-1, ending its regular season with a 10-8 record.

Playoff time

Rider took second place in the NEC behind the first seed, Wagner, following the loss. The Broncos play the third seeded Fairfield Stags in Staten Island, New York, on Nov. 7 at 2 p.m.

Perales said, "We're going to try and score more goals to secure the victory, but, other than that, we are going to keep things the same. We're going to keep working together and keep defending all together and giving our best."

+The last time the Broncos and the Stags faced off earlier this season, the Broncos walked away with the close 1-0 victory.

Senior midfielder Lyric Scott said, "My confidence hasn't shifted with my team at all. Just because we are the No. 2 seed doesn't really matter. We've never been afraid to be the underdog, so we're going into the

playoffs completely confident in ourselves, trusting the program, trusting our coaches and trusting our abilities to perform."



Destiny Pagan/The Rider News

Sophomore midfielder Ang Borisow sets up the ball after a foul.