



Fredeen announces sudden April 14 retirement

By Caroline Haviland

PROVOST DonnaJean Fredeen announced her sudden retirement effective April 14 in a universitywide email on April 8. The mid-semester announcement came about three months ahead of Rider President Gregory Dell’Omo’s July 31 retirement.

“I wish ‘all y’all’ much success in the coming years,” Fredeen, raised in Odessa, Texas, said in her email. “Certain life events have made me realize that it is time to find my own path forward and focus on what is currently most important in my life.”

Fredeen declined to comment on her retirement.

Her departure comes after serving as Rider’s provost and senior vice president of academic and student affairs since 2013.

Chief Diversity Officer Heeyoung Kim said Fredeen was “more than my boss but my mentor,” and said her leave was very sudden.

Less than an hour after Fredeen’s email, Dell’Omo’s office announced College of Arts and Sciences Dean Kelly Bidle as the next provost and senior vice president of academic and student affairs.

“I have the utmost confidence in Kelly’s ability to lead our academic enterprise forward,” Dell’Omo wrote. “Her experience, passion and collaborative leadership style will serve Rider well as we continue to build on our academic strengths and pursue new opportunities for excellence.”

The email said Bidle will continue to act as dean as she transitions and future leadership for the college will be announced in the coming weeks.

Bidle declined to comment on her appointment.

The short-notice shakeup at the highest levels of Rider’s administration comes at a critical time in the university’s search for a new president, after 10 years under Dell’Omo. A month ago, Joe McDougall, a trustee and search committee chair, announced that first rounds of interviews were expected in mid-March.

External Affairs Vice President Kristine Brown said at the Student Government Association’s spring 2025 town hall that the presidential search committee had picked the final contenders for the position, and the candidates are planned to meet with groups of faculty, staff and students in the coming weeks.



After 12 years at the university, Provost **DonnaJean Fredeen** is retiring on April 14.

Multiple antisemitic events reported on campus

By Jay Roberson

TWO antisemitic incidents occurred on campus over the past two weeks, including the carving of swastikas on a Jewish student’s door and an anonymous individual using the name “Hitler” when responding to attend an on-campus Passover Seder event, the university announced April 7.

The campuswide email sent out by Rider President Gregory Dell’Omo’s office read, “These acts of hatred are shocking, painful and absolutely unacceptable.”

Ethan Handelman, president of Rider’s branch of Hillel and a senior elementary education major, sent out an email to members informing them and the rest of the Jewish community at Rider that they must stand together.

“I’m not scared right now ... I want the Jewish students to feel safe, which if they’re not feeling safe right now, that’s totally understandable,” Handelman said.

‘This was an attack’

Hillel, Rider’s Jewish student organization, opened its community Passover Seder event form without recording emails on March 24, then received an RSVP with the name “Hitler.” Not two weeks later, another student came back to their dorm in Poyda to see swastikas carved into their door.

Public Safety declined to comment on the matter and directed The Rider News to Rider’s Title IX Office.

The Jewish student who had swastikas carved into their door and wished to remain anonymous did not initially realize what the symbol was as they quickly walked in and out of their Poyda Hall dorm unloading water cases on the night of April 6.

“My initial reaction, I honestly was just weirded out ... It didn’t even register in my mind until a few minutes later after I called my friends and Public Safety. I was like, “This is a hate crime,” said the student.

Handelman, who also lives in Poyda, was

disappointed to hear about another instance of antisemitism.

“This was an attack, not a physical one, but targeted to that specific student,” said Handelman.

Countless members from the Rider community have reached out in support of this student according to the anonymous student and since the incident, the defaced door has been replaced.

The Student Government Association sent out an email in support on April 7 stating, “Hate has no home on Rider University’s campus, and SGA extends its support to all students who were affected by these events.”

The anonymous student said, “On Sunday night I stayed at my friend’s apartment and Public Safety offered to give me a ride there from Poyda if I needed. ... It’s a little jarring, but I wouldn’t have stayed in my room [Monday] night if I had not felt safe,”

Increase in security

In an interview with The Rider News on April 8, Title IX Coordinator Debbie Stasolla said there will be an additional Public Safety presence in residence halls and Residence Life staff is being extra vigilant in their rounds.

Stasolla said Rider was investigating these matters and taking extra safety precautions during this time.

“I have no idea if the two [incidents] are related, but they are concerning and they’re upsetting to people,” Stasolla said. “Not only do we [Title IX] have an obligation to deal with the particular incident and the conduct and the people involved, we have to recognize that it may have an impact on the rest of the community.”

Because of the RSVP including the name “Hitler,” Hillel’s Seder event will now include extra security from Public Safety officers.

Handelman said, “Even before, I wanted there to be security at my Passover Seder because of the RSVP, but now, the Center for Diversity and Inclusion Director Jasmine Johnson has reached out to me and



A student came back to their dorm in Poyda Hall to see swastikas carved into their door.

said there will be Public Safety in attendance.”

Public Safety and Title IX are working together to find who is responsible for the antisemitic incidents.

Stasolla said, “Hopefully by our community’s response to all of this and how [the university] is addressing it, that sends a message to someone that this is not the place where you can get away with this.”

These were not the first antisemitic incidents of the semester, as previous Performing Arts Department Chair Todd Dellinger emulated a raised-arm gesture that resembled the Nazi salute at a department meeting on Jan. 27, attempting to mock Elon Musk.

The university placed Dellinger on unpaid administrative leave for the remainder of the spring semester on Feb. 1, announcing the disciplinary action in a universitywide email.

Handelman hoped that Rider’s Jewish community can continue to feel safe being open about their identity.

“I will not stop what I’m doing. I’m still going to wear my Mets hat with my Jewish star when it’s warm out and I’m going to have my star of David necklace out,” Handelman said. “I don’t feel like it would be right to be scared right now.”

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Rider sues its former law firm as town of Princeton acquires WCC campus



Destiny Pagan/The Rider News

Princeton now has ownership of the Westminister Choir College campus property.

By Grace Bertrand

DESPITE the Municipality of Princeton officially acquiring Westminister Choir College’s embattled Princeton campus for \$42 million on April 1, legal hurdles surrounding the property will likely continue as Rider sued the law firm that helped Rider acquire WCC in 1992, for “legal malpractice over its handling of negotiations around the property,” The Rider News learned on April 3.

According to the lawsuit filed in Mercer County Superior Court on March 21 against law firm Jamieson, Moore, Peskin & Spicer, Rider believed it had full ownership of the 23-acre property and was in full control of its activities.

Rider President Gregory Dell’Omo declined comment on the lawsuit.

In a universitywide email on April 2, Dell’Omo said of Princeton’s acquisition of the land, “This step provides clear direction for the property, bringing closure to a complex and long-standing issue.”

Rider claimed that with the help of JMPS, it reached an agreement with WCC over 30 years ago, in which Rider acquired ownership of the entire school and property, when the renowned musical institution was struggling financially.

After Dell’Omo announced in 2017 that Rider was attempting to sell WCC’s Princeton campus, Princeton Theological Seminary sued Rider in 2018, claiming that if the land was not being used for religious music education, the property would go to the Seminary, according to the conditions of philanthropist Sophia Strong Taylor, who donated the property to WCC in 1935.

Rider Chief Financial Officer James Hartman declined comment and did not say if Rider received any compensation from Princeton’s \$42 million acquisition of the campus.

External Affairs Vice President Kristine Brown declined comment on the lawsuit, stating that such details were confidential.

New lawsuit

According to the most recent lawsuit, Rider accused the legal firm of breaching “its duties to Rider by failing to draft and/or negotiate and implement the aforementioned agreements, and to obtain court approval” to possess the land title free of any future legal claims by the Seminary.

Rider claims the loss of the property is a direct

result of JMPS’s “violation and malpractice of the standard of care” that they had expected.

Rider’s Legal Affairs Vice President Mark Solomon declined comment on the lawsuit, as it is still pending.

Rider is asking to receive back the loss of the value of the property, in addition to all legal fees and expenses it has paid and the sum of money disbursed by the university while it believed it was the owner of the land, according to the lawsuit.

Westminster’s future

The Westminster Conservatory of Music, a community music school, will continue operating on the Princeton property through June 17. The universitywide email from Dell’Omo said the future of the Conservatory will be announced later.

After Westminster Choir College initially moved to Rider in 2021, they anticipated being in a limbo-like state for an extended period of time. What they did not expect was having to completely say goodbye to their former home in Princeton.

“As this process moves ahead, our focus remains on Rider’s future — ensuring the continued success of our students, faculty and staff,” Dell’Omo wrote. “We are optimistic about the opportunities that lie ahead and look forward to devoting our full attention to advancing the university’s strategic priorities.”

Junior music education major Sean Haugh expressed the nervousness his peers in the Conservatory felt about its future. However, he also explained his desire for Rider to use the property loss to better the Westminster experience at Rider.

“I hope that this change will be for the better and that the resources, time and money that was allotted to maintaining the Princeton campus while we have been away, will then get reallocated to benefiting our students on this campus,” Haugh said.

While Haugh expressed his understanding of the legal trouble surrounding Princeton’s acquisition, he feels there is a relief among the Westminster community for wrapping up this “interlude” chapter.

“We are doing good things on this campus and we are still preserving the Westminster name that has a worldwide legacy,” Haugh said. “We’re getting the support from our faculty, our students and our alumni that will be able to conclude this interlude and truly begin this new chapter of the Westminster life.”



Photo courtesy of Emily O'Connor

107.7 The Bronc’s radiothon featured 74 hours of live programming

107.7 The Bronc raised over \$27,000 at first radiothon

By Caitlyn Sutton

THE initial goal for 107.7 The Bronc’s first radiothon was \$10,000; they celebrated surpassing their goal before it even began. With 74 hours of continuous live programming and over 70 different shows, The Bronc invited various alumni back to campus to take part in this cause.

Since the radiothon donation link opened, The Bronc has raised over \$27,000 as of April 4. Michael Brooks ’63, is going to match every donation made toward the radiothon. Brooks founded the radio station in the basement of Hill Hall in 1962, paving the way for Broncs of today.

John Mozes, the general manager of The Bronc, said the radiothon will take place approximately every three to five years in hopes to maintain the station and make The Bronc a positive place to share students’ work.

“We’re going to use [radiothon donations] for computer and equipment upgrades and to enhance the student learning experience,” Mozes said.

Where The Bronc resides currently, the second floor of the Fine Arts building, is not where it has always been. From the basement of Hill Hall to the ground floor of the Bart Luedeke Center, The Bronc’s home has moved around campus over the years.

The station’s relocations brought together its past and current members, as the radiothon, while also fundraising for current and future Broncs, was an opportunity for alumni and current students alike to share stories reminiscing about everyone’s respective times at the radio station.

The Student General Manager for The Bronc, Rosalyn Tiangco, a junior arts and entertainment industries management major, had a show for the radiothon’s 1 to 2 a.m. shift. She was part of the planning process, attending meetings leading up to the event and working out logistics.

The radiothon was an event that helped the students involved at the station grow as people and professionals under pressure.

“I really did learn a lot about myself as a leader, a manager, a person and the things that I’m capable of,” said Tiangco.

Alli Burton, a junior radio and podcasting major, is one of the four co-production directors for The Bronc and expressed the importance of current members interacting with alumni.

“We can bond with alumni like past Broncs ... and it all merges together,” said Burton.

The Bronc’s first radiothon went smoothly and the vision was executed as planned, lacking flaws.

“It’s just a good place for everybody to come back ... [and] reunite, relive and raise,” Mozes said.

Sports Editors Benjamin Shinault, News Editor Jay Roberson and Copy Editor Journey New work at 107.7 The Bronc. They had no part in the writing or editing of this story.

Brief: Jordan Greene detention hearing on April 9

By Jake Tiger

AFTER the court adjourned in the initial hearing on April 4, the former Rider student charged with possessing a gun on campus had a second detention hearing scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on April 9 in Mercer County Superior Court.

Jordan Greene, 20, turned himself into police custody on March 31 and, in connection to an

incident in Olson Hall on March 30, was charged with weapon offenses that included possession of a firearm on the property of an educational institution, terroristic threats, aggravated assault and trespassing.

The Rider News will have online coverage of the April 9 hearing immediately afterward on its website and social media pages.

SGA hosts spring 2025 Town Hall



Destiny Pagan/The Rider News

(Left to right) Heeyoung Kim, Nick Barbati and Kristine Brown answered questions at the SGA town hall along with their colleagues.

By Caroline Haviland

As the university juggles questions about its incoming president and the continuation of diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives, the Student Government Association took to the Cavalla Room on April 3 to host its spring 2025 town hall, in hopes to facilitate these concerns.

SGA President Christina Natoli, a senior political science major, moderated the event to distribute the pre-submitted questions from students between the panel's eight administrators: Rider President Gregory Dell'Omo, Provost DonnaJean Fredeen, Vice President of Enrollment Management Drew Aromando, Chief Diversity Officer Heeyoung Kim, Chief Financial Officer James Hartman, Vice President of University Operations Mike Reca, Vice President of External Affairs Kristine Brown and Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs Nick Barbati.

Campus improvements

Natoli moved the conversation to ask a set of pre-submitted questions about efforts to improve campus outreach, in which Reca boasted about information kiosks coming this summer in various parts of campus, featuring general campus and security information to serve as a concrete source of knowledge, according to Reca.

The university plans to launch a new Rave app to serve as the campus notification system, which is set to come with a "walking blue light" component, according to Reca, allowing students to call and let Public Safety track them in a potentially dangerous situation.

In light of its newly appointed director, Matthew Babcock, Public Safety is aiming to make itself more approachable, with changes including new uniforms of khakis and polo T-shirts, new patrol cars and attending more on-campus events, said Babcock.

In response to a question on a possible increase of weekend campus events, Barbati introduced a new committee created specifically to upgrade students' experiences on the weekend.

"[The committee] is geared for the next fall to revitalize and reassess what we're doing from an activities point of view, with an emphasis on getting people to stay for the weekend and get more outlets for involvement," said Barbati in an interview with The Rider News after the event.

Department of Education impacts

The questions that followed reflected the growing concerns over the U.S. Department of Education's influence on higher education and the student support services they offer. In regards to student financial aid, Aromando said Rider has not seen any changes "in the steps to fund the institution or provide the support [students] have received."

Aromando mentioned he does not anticipate any differences, as the university has already received funding levels for the upcoming 2025-26 school year.

Despite this year's Free Application for Federal Student Aid application improving from an infrastructure standpoint, Aromando encouraged students to apply promptly due to lower staffing levels at the DOE.

Moving to the topic of tuition affordability, Aromando persisted that students come to the financial aid office for support, saying they cannot receive additional funds if they do not initially reach out about their unique situation.

"Whether it's that your financial circumstances are changing or you're concerned about any specific ability to afford the upcoming year, that is what the financial aid office is there for," said Aromando.

The scope of influence from the DOE affects DEI,

which moved the conversation to the current federal legislation cutting back on DEI initiatives and its impact on Rider.

The recent slashes to DEI in higher education come after a Feb. 14 "Dear Colleague" letter sent from the DOE ordering the end of all race-based education, programming, activities, opportunities and financial aid.

Kim reassured the members in attendance that Rider has not changed any support for DEI programs, and the university will continue to allow faith and identity-based organizations and the celebration of cultural months.

Dell'Omo echoed the same sentiment, calling this an "ongoing process," but assured the community that the administration is highly committed to keeping DEI as an integral part of the institution.

The only event impacted by the "Dear Colleague" letter is the former "Multicultural Pre-Commencement," now known as "A Ceremony of Unity, Legacy and Achievement," due to its purpose being to highlight the accomplishments of graduating students of color, according to Kim.

Classroom qualms

Natoli led the discussion with a question for the provost regarding the amount of classes offered each semester, a topic of concern for students in smaller majors and minors. Fredeen correlated the number of students registering for each class to how many classes are available each semester.

"We are doing our best to make certain that we are not offering extremely small class sizes. ... It impacts what happens in the classroom. It's extremely important to have a diversity in perspectives coming from our students," said Fredeen.

The conversation moved to a possible artificial intelligence policy coming to Rider, as AI has been a growing subject in academia over the past few years.

An AI task force was composed in spring 2023 to address the university's stance on the "pervasive" technology, according to Fredeen, but an agreement was not reached.

Fredeen said students should know how to use AI to "help assist not replace," but ultimately it is currently up to each department to set their own limits on AI usage.

Presidential search update

The submitted questions for the panel concluded with a request for an update on the search for Rider's next president.

Brown informed the audience of the search committee's progress, saying "it's moving fairly quickly," and they have agreed upon a final list of contenders to present to the Board of Trustees. The final candidates are planned to meet with small groups of faculty, staff and students in the coming weeks.

"Hopefully within a month or so, the Board of Trustees will make a final decision on the candidate they would like to make an offer to. ... Assuming that they accept the offer, then we would move forward to announce the candidate," said Brown.

Natoli offered Dell'Omo a chance to make any closing remarks amid his nearing retirement in July.

"I would just encourage you guys, whoever this next president is, to welcome them in," said Dell'Omo. "This is a community. ... and it makes the job that much more pleasing and exciting when you know the work is being done for the people and not just business."

Journey New is a copy editor for The Rider News and is student organizations committee chair for the Student Government Association. They had no part in the writing and editing of this story.

Photo courtesy of Rider University



Andy Kim working with Mercer County Meals on Wheels which operates out of Daly Dining Hall.

Sen. Kim to receive honorary doctorate at commencement

By Jake Tiger

New Jersey Sen. Andy Kim will receive an honorary doctorate from Rider at this year's undergraduate commencement ceremony on May 17, the university announced April 7.

Kim will speak to the graduating class upon receiving the distinction, according to External Affairs Vice President Kristine Brown.

Kim, a central figure in New Jersey politics for close to a decade, has made regular visits to campus, speaking with political science classes and working with Mercer County Meals on Wheels, which operates out of Daly Dining Hall, Brown said.

Micah Rasmussen, Director of the Rebovich Institute for New Jersey Politics, said, "It's a perfect choice. ... I think the [honorary doctorate] is a recognition of a relationship that we have with him. ... It's been a more continuous level of interaction with him."

Rasmussen said Kim came to one of his political science classes in spring 2024 to talk about campaign finances, and that Rider has had a number of students intern at Kim's office. Kim, along with Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman and then Sen. Bob Menendez, also came to campus in 2023 for a listening session on the post-pandemic mental health crisis.

Rasmussen noted that Kim, prior to becoming a senator, connected more with Rider because he represented New Jersey's 3rd Congressional District, which includes Lawrenceville.

Junior political science major Billy Malone, who sat in on Rasmussen's class when Kim came as a guest lecturer, said he'd seen Kim come to campus more than any other politician.

"He cares about Rider in particular," Malone said. "Right before my first semester at Rider, I took a trip down to [Washington] D.C. and met with [Kim]. ... When I mentioned I was going to Rider, he knew exactly where it was ... and said, 'I'll be seeing you around.'"

Kim, a Democrat who grew up in Marlton served as a New Jersey representative from 2019 to 2024, recently being elected as a senator last November. He became the first Korean-American elected to the U.S. Senate and New Jersey's first Asian American senator.

Rosephanye Powell '87, a nationally recognized composer of choral music, will also receive an honorary doctorate from Rider during the graduate and doctoral ceremony. She received her master's degree in vocal performance and pedagogy from Westminster Choir College.

DIGITAL EXCLUSIVE:



Rider art gallery no longer functional

By Hannah Newman

Scan to read the story!

Home Away From Home: Louis Schummer's Rider journey

By Jasmine White

ABOUT 3,500 miles from home, 13 hours by plane, Louis Schummer, a quadrilingual senior international business major, ventured to Rider from Luxembourg. He established new friendships, made memories and welcomed experiences from the unknown.

Schummer became aware of the opportunity to study abroad at Rider through a Belgian institution where he studied, known as EPHEC. Where he is from, students only have to complete three years to get a bachelor's degree, and at EPHEC, a student has one of two options in their last year: travel abroad for a semester or complete an internship.

"I wanted to go somewhere where I spoke the local language," Schummer said. "The United States are one of the biggest business partners of the European Union, so I felt like it would be a great idea to get [the United State's] perspective on markets."

Schummer said he liked the idea of being on a campus like Rider, admiring its "charming" appearance. The location of Rider being close to tourist attractions such as Philadelphia and New York played a role in persuading him to become a Bronc.

Through the Office of International Education, Schummer and the other international students are offered opportunities to visit places, giving them a chance to see things they were only privy to through television and film. Schummer visited Philadelphia two times since arriving at Rider, once to see an "NBA match" and to see the famous steps where Rocky Balboa trained.

Schummer smiled and said, "We've been to the Rocky steps [which was] a nice moment. It felt a little unreal, but it was definitely, definitely fun."

His first experience in an American classroom was memorable for him. He recalled the vast difference

from being in a classroom back home compared to at Rider where the class sizes are smaller and there is usage of auditoriums.

"I was a little surprised [at how small the classrooms were], but I feel like it's a good thing," Schummer said. "You can connect more with the professor and the professor actually knows your name."

Schummer created many connections with other students, being international students and students from the United States. He met two people, Juan "JP" Perez, a junior graphic design major and community assistant, as well as Kai Clarke, an international sophomore finance major. They all became friends and roommates at the start of the spring 2025 semester, making memories and a bond that Schummer hopes he will "keep them all in my mind forever."

Perez is friends with many international students, welcoming them to the campus to help guide them in their time at Rider. Upon meeting Schummer, Perez chuckled as he remembered their first interaction.

"He hits me with a question like, 'If you guess where I'm from [I will give you] a million dollars,'" Perez said.

Perez, being a CA in Lincoln Hall, had a suite with two vacant rooms, but that did not last long after he became acquainted with Clarke and Schummer and they filled out the spaces. Perez admits to enjoying the phrases Schummer uses compared to his own. Schummer uses words like "daft" to describe when something is cool, such as "That's so daft!"

Perez cherishes his time spent with his roommates, excited to take trips to foreign places, knowing that he is familiarized with different cultures because of his international friends.

Photo courtesy of Louis Schummer



Senior international business major **Louis Schummer** visits the European Parliament in Brussels to study European Union Affairs.

"It's just interesting that no matter where you are and no matter where you go, you can always meet people," Perez said. "If I go to Europe, I'll have friends and I know they'd be happy to see me."

Though Schummer misses his "little charming town in Luxembourg," his family and his friends back home, he is glad that he chose to take the leap and study in America. He broadened his horizons of connections and education through a different perspective.

There is still time for him to go out and make the most of his time here as Schummer plans to continue to get out of his comfort zone beyond studying abroad.

"I will tell [incoming international students] to enjoy their time here, get as much experience and memories as possible," Schummer said. "Go around, discover the world ... and hopefully that will build character and all those experiences will last a lifetime."



Venture Literary Magazine 'reflects' after its revival

By Madison Lewis

JUXTAPOSED with the sounds of conversations echoing through Sweigart Hall and the large crowd surrounding the Saxbys counter, room 118 was quiet. Some audience members sat in awed silence, while others leaned forward, hanging on to every word of each performance at the Venture Literary Magazine launch party.

On April 3, Venture Magazine held an event to showcase some of the content published in their spring issue — following the theme of reflections.

The English Department sponsored the launch party as an "English Matters" event. Venture Magazine was approved to be an official club under SGA two weeks before the event.

Three students gripped the audience with their stories and poems that embodied the theme.

Carole Cobos, a sophomore English major, presented first, with a story called "A Real Boy."

Cobos chose Pinocchio as the protagonist, and through the nostalgic character, she discussed the stigma surrounding self-identification within a patriarchal society.

"The piece I wrote was a response to a little kid I met working at a summer camp," she said.

Cobos explained that the boy, around 6 years old, wanted to show her a trick. He asked her to hold his jacket, and she suggested that the boy wrap the jacket around his waist.

To her recollection, the boy's response was, "Boys don't do that, my mom said so."

Cobos did not say anything at the time, but wrote "A Real Boy" based on her regret and what she wished she would have said to him.

"I was really upset I didn't say anything, and I

Photo courtesy of Maggie Peña



The members of Venture Literary Magazine gather around **Mariah Ayscue**, the guest speaker.

was really disappointed in myself," she said. "When I wrote that piece, I was thinking, what would I say to him? What would I want him to read?"

Cobos said that she used the motif of a mirror throughout the story to see how Pinocchio reflected on self-acceptance, self-perception and self-actualization.

"Mosaic" came next, a poem by sophomore English major Skye Chernobilsky, who uses they/them pronouns. The piece was loosely based on a TikTok trend. They spoke about how they inherited aspects of everyone they have met and reflected on how they are a product of their environment.

Senior journalism major Kaitlyn Seawood read "Dear Mother," a poetic note to her absent mother. The piece was written from an introspective point of view, recounting her accomplishments not attributed to her mother and how she overcame growing up without a female parental figure.

Last of the student contributors was junior English major Maggie Robinson, who wrote "Mixtape." In the fiction piece, she narrated a coming-of-age story of young love. The crowd laughed throughout the piece, especially at the embarrassing and relatable moments.

Mariah Ayscue, who goes by he/king pronouns, was the guest speaker, and his poetry regarding gender and race elicited tears to trickle down the eyes of enthralled audience members.

Ayscue is a Black, transgender and intersex artist. He worked with "Girl be Heard" as a directing fellow and company member. He also advocated for the rights of marginalized groups as an activist and mental health advocate in his community.

His first piece was called "April Fools Day," which he wrote about Sen. Cory Booker's record-breaking 25-hour Senate speech.

"Yesterday was very Black and very Jersey, and the only April fools were fascists," he concluded, and thunderous applause enveloped the room.

Ayscue performed more works, incorporating singing and drum beats within his work and adjusting his cadence to elevate each piece.

Ayscue was selling his book "When the saints go marching in" and he wrote personalized messages in the front covers.

Senior English major Maura Corman, editor-in-chief of Venture Magazine, introduced the student speakers. She left prospective writers with hope and assurance that the paper would live on and that there would be future opportunities to showcase their talents.

She said, "Whether you got submitted or not, we really appreciated seeing your works ... it was truly an honor."

Executive editor of The Rider News Jake Tiger is a poetry editor for Venture Literary Magazine and Kaitlyn Seawood, the social media editor of The Rider News, was a student speaker at the launch party. Neither had any part in the writing or editing of this piece.

Senior Spotlight: Aileen Pujols ‘forging her own path’

By Kaitlyn Seawood

AILEEN Pujols never planned to be a filmmaker or an actor — at least, not at first. “I really wanted to be Barbie,” she said with a laugh. “I wanted every single job in the world, but I realized that that wasn’t possible. So I was like, oh, maybe acting. ... You really can have every single job in the world.”

The Dominican-American senior acting major is not only preparing to graduate, she is leaving behind a legacy of storytelling that is deeply personal, unapologetically Latina and powerfully vulnerable.

Pujols’ latest project, “Niña Linda,” is a short film she wrote and starred in, presented in Spanish with subtitles. The film explores a young girl’s journey through faith, sexuality and identity within the confines of purity culture, inspired by Pujols’ experience growing up in an immigrant, low-income neighborhood in West New York, New Jersey.

“The fact that we even had an acting program in high school was a privilege,” she said. “That’s not something that you see in neighborhoods like mine.”

Pujols recalled a moment at the Pentecostal church as a child when a boy pointed out the scar on her right hand and grabbed it. The attention left her feeling deep shame, marking the start of her awareness of how society often hypersexualizes young girls of color — even in sacred spaces.

This moment of discomfort and self-awareness became a key inspiration for “Niña Linda,” a film that explores these complex dynamics.

To bring “Niña Linda” to life, Pujols reached out to Ashley Morales, a fellow Latina creative who graduated from Rider in December 2024 with degrees in film and English. Morales directed the film and connected deeply with the script and Pujols’ story.

“It just was an opportunity that I couldn’t say no to,” Morales said. “I hadn’t seen that many female directors or Latin American directors. So it was just a great opportunity.”

“Niña Linda” received recognition at film festivals like the East Village New York Film Festival and the Count Basie Center Breakthrough Filmmaker Fest.

Morales described the experience as humbling and meaningful, especially from a background where creative work often goes unrecognized.

Though “Niña Linda” is in Spanish, Pujols urges all audiences to look beyond the language.

“A certain demographic might not see themselves represented,” she said. “I don’t think that that’s something that should bar you from engaging in the film ... because ultimately, it is a story about a young girl navigating her own life.”

Despite her quiet confidence, Pujols has often stood alone. She explained that, as of last semester, there were only two people of color in the program; the other person graduated early.

“Now I’m the only woman of color in my graduating class, which is crazy,” she said.

Her presence and voice have not gone unnoticed by others, particularly Leandra Acosta ’19, associate director of performance management and box office manager. Acosta has mentored Pujols since her first day at Rider when Pujols was her first student worker.

Acosta recalled Pujols’ first interview vividly, describing her as soft-spoken and eager to say the “right” thing, with air quotes.

Acosta noted the tenacity it took for Pujols to bring “Niña Linda” to life when securing funds and advocating for the importance of her story.

“She had to go out there and say, ‘Hey, I’m this student. I’m trying to put together this work, and here’s why it’s important,’” she said.

Acosta said mentoring students like Pujols is humbling when witnessing the realities students face after leaving the safety net of college.

“As an independent artist coming out of your collegiate experience, I won’t necessarily say that you’re set up for failure,” Acosta said. “Sometimes the college experience sets you up for a sense of safety ... then getting out into the field and actually doing the work is a little bit different.”

Still, Acosta believes that students like Pujols pave the way for others — especially students of color in predominantly white creative spaces.

Through tight budgets, long days and the weight

of forging her own path, Pujols said one of the most meaningful outcomes of her journey has been her family’s growing support.

Although it was hard for her family to understand the concept of their daughter “playing dress-up” and not having a traditional job, Pujols recalled when they realized she was serious about her career.

“They saw me waking up at four or five in the morning, taking the train [to Rider] to film ... I think that really made a difference. It showed them how much this means to me.”

Drawing inspiration from poet and novelist Elizabeth Acevedo, Pujols dreams of one day auditioning for the upcoming screen adaptation of “Clap When You Land.” She also credits Greta Gerwig’s “Barbie” as a film that changed her life.

As Pujols reflects on the stories she tells on stage, on screen and on the page, she hopes her work creates a lasting impact, especially for young Latinas navigating similar spaces. She grew teary-eyed describing how students have approached her, saying her work makes them feel seen and supported.

Despite the vulnerability it takes to put her experiences into the world, that response reminds her why she does it. As she puts it, “That’s all I’ve ever wanted — for people to feel less alone.”



Senior acting major **Aileen Pujols** showing off her film, “Niña Linda,” in which she is featured.

Upcoming April Events

IN CELEBRATION OF ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH*

THURSDAY

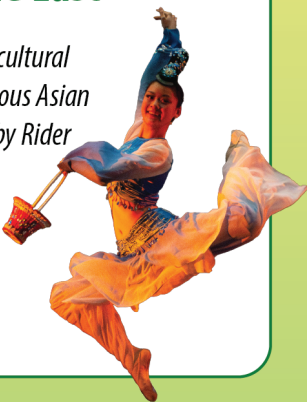
10

BLC Theater
6 p.m.

Heartbeat of the East

A showcase of captivating cultural dance performances, delicious Asian cuisine and performances by Rider student clubs!

Hosted by the Asian American Alliance



FRIDAY

18

BLC Cavalla Room
7 p.m.

Boba Night

An exciting evening of games, friendly competition and delicious bubble tea!

Hosted by the Asian American Student Association



THURSDAY

24

SRC Seminar Room
5 p.m.

Asian Professional Panel

Engage with Rider alumni and faculty as they share their career journeys, offer valuable advice and provide networking opportunities.

Presented by the Office of Campus Life



AAPI Heritage Month Crossword Puzzle



Scan to play The Rider News’ crossword puzzle in celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month!



*Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month is nationally celebrated in May, but Rider celebrates it before commencement in April.

‘THE FIRE’ engulfs audiences

As a former performer turned avid theater-goer, I have been itching to get back into the audience of a theater and immerse myself in a two-hour mental break from my studies. That being said, I was overjoyed to see a notification pop up in my email inbox alerting me that Rider’s theater department would be putting on a devised theater piece entitled “THE FIRE” during the first weekend of April.

By 7 p.m. on opening night — 30 minutes prior to “curtain up” — the lobby of the Bart Luedeke Center Theater was filled with patrons preemptively armed with red and pink roses to give to their actors in celebration of their performances.

As I scanned through my program, waiting for the opening of the theater doors, I was impressed to see that over 40 students have had their hands on creating the play into its current form that was going to be presented. Having had my own hand in writing for the stage in my past, I knew that creating a piece ready for the stage is no easy feat, and I was curious to see what was about to unfold.

Directed by C. Rynne Domingues, “THE FIRE” follows the intertwining stories of a community trying to piece themselves together following a tragic fire in an abandoned school. The play explores the different perspectives each character holds regarding the incident and co-occurring events in the community.

Upon entering the theater, I was greeted by Kelly Clarkson’s early 2000s hit “Since U Been Gone” subtly emanating from the overhead speakers and fellow audience members nodding their heads along to the “throwback” song. Looking up at the stage, I was drawn to the red-laced basketball sneakers sitting near the foot of the stage — I could almost smell the stench of high school gym class and glancing at the lockers downstage right I was transported back into a time period I am only vaguely familiar with — the ancient days of 2004.

What I found to be perhaps one of the most impressive elements of the production was the actors and technical designers’ ability to portray and craft a story encapsulating a time period in which many of them were only around two years old or not even born yet. It became evident very quickly that the performers, script writers and designers had thoroughly researched the time-period.

From the timely costumes consisting of lots of layered shirts and flannel, to the makeup design including some bright pink lip gloss and heavy eyeliner, the technical elements of the show really shone through. Additionally, the use of projection and video elements throughout the performance was unlike any other play I have attended. These unique touches also seemed to impress the audience as I noted a few gasps when the first grainy projection resembling an early 2000s camcorder feed illuminated the flats across the stage.

Focusing more on the performance aspect of the show, the show’s theme of ‘perspectives’ was reflected throughout the play. One scene in which this theme was notably evident was when journalist Rachel, played by junior acting major Kelly Menjivar, was trying to understand what actually happened during the titular fire and the school guidance counselor, Emily Bernstein, played by junior acting major Joei Vita, seemed hesitant to disclose information surrounding the incident with Rachel — implying to the audience that Emily had a different perspective she was not willing — or able — to let the reporters in on.

Additionally, I would be remiss if I did not give a shout-out to junior acting major Nate Fleischer and sophomore acting major Henry Breit portraying characters of Alan and Richy, respectively. These two actors had an intriguing dynamic throughout the show and excellently captured the complexities of friendships that occur during one’s coming-of-age period that is plagued with self-discovery.

While very serious in topic, touching on several issues that the country is still grappling with today: standardized testing, school shootings and the dangers of the internet — just to name a few — the script was still peppered with quippy one-liners that seemed genuine to what angsty highschoolers would utter.

The many moving parts that come with creating a piece of theater involving a large number collaborators all come together seamlessly in “THE FIRE” as Rider University continues to cement itself as an institution that values the arts and encourages student creativity. The entire team, both behind-the-scenes and on the stage, should be extremely proud of the work that they demonstrated this past weekend and know that they thoroughly entertained this theater patron.

Matt Cirola is circulation manager for The Rider News and served as assistant scenic designer for “THE FIRE.” Cirola had no part in the writing or editing of this piece.

*Libby D’Orvilliers
junior psychology major*



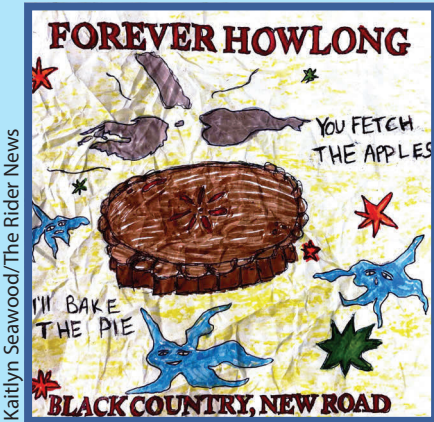
Ritchy (left), played by sophomore acting major **Henry Breit**, and Alan, played by junior acting major **Nate Fleischer**, had an intriguing character dynamic that resonated with audience members.



Scan to read
other student
opinions from
this week!

DIGITAL EXCLUSIVE:
*Simplicity is key in
latest Black Country,
New Road album*

By Kaitlyn Seawood



Kaitlyn Seawood/The Rider News



Illustration by Josiah Thomas/The Rider News

DIGITAL EXCLUSIVE:
*Playboi Carti delivers
‘MUSIC’ to our ears*

By Josiah Thomas

DIGITAL EXCLUSIVE:
Booker reminds us
democracy is worth
standing for

By Libby D’Orvilliers



Photo courtesy of Sen. Cory Booker

The Rider News

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BASEBALL

Rider secures fourth MAAC win over Mountaineers

By Benjamin Shinault

RIDER baseball continued its hot start against Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference opponents with a series win over the Mount St. Mary's Mountaineers. Over the course of the series, the Broncos tallied 23 runs in three games and had 29 hits.

Making the climb

With dreary weather and rain in the forecast over the weekend, the Broncos and Mountaineers played a doubleheader on April 4.

First pitch between Rider and Mount St. Mary's was at 12 p.m., with the Broncos sending senior Brian Young to the mound.

Young, making his seventh start of the season, controlled the pace of the Mountaineers offense, pitching six innings, allowed just one earned run and struck out five.

Young is now tied for fifth in the MAAC with 39 strikeouts and fifth in ERA with an average of 3.24.

The Broncos scored the first three runs in the game to get out to a 3-0 lead. The first was scored in the second inning off a wild pitch and in the third inning, two RBI singles from sophomore catcher Nick Shuhet and freshman infielder Peter Crespo.

Mount St. Mary's struck hard in the fourth inning taking the lead, 5-3. The slight lead over the Broncos did not last long as in the bottom half of the fourth, sophomore infielder Joe Tirolly blasted a ball over the right field fence for a three-run homerun to give the lead back to Rider, 6-5.

From there, the Mountaineers could not get another lead as the Broncos tallied up seven additional runs to make the final score of game one, 13-9.

After game one, the grounds crew took to the diamond, raked the dirt and redrew the white lines, quickly resuming play for game two.

Taking the mound in game two for the Broncos was freshman Kyle Batt, who was faced with immediate turbulence as the Mountaineers scored five runs on him. Out of the four hits Batt allowed, all four scored. This outing is off the heels of another rough outing for the freshman pitcher.

Coming in for Batt was junior Gavin Hawkes, a usual reliever, who gave the Broncos a starting-quality appearance as he clocked in seven innings, allowed zero runs and struck out three.

"He's just been phenomenal," Tirolly said, "He is absolutely electric ... he's just a dog."

Down 5-0 by the end of the second inning, Rider got on the board off a freshman first baseman Charley Magoulick RBI single. The Broncos would score one more additional run in the bottom of the second because of an error committed by Mount St. Mary's.

With the score 5-2, Tirolly stepped up to the plate and once again delivered. Tirolly punished a baseball and watched it sail into the pine trees, bringing the Mountaineers lead to only 5-4.

After the Tirolly homerun, Rider did not have much left in the tank. The Mountaineers would add one more run in the top of the ninth to make 6-4 the final score.

Gray clouds spewing rain hovered over Sonny Pittaro Field for the series finale. With the series split, interim Head Coach Lee Lipinski sent out junior Clayton Policy.

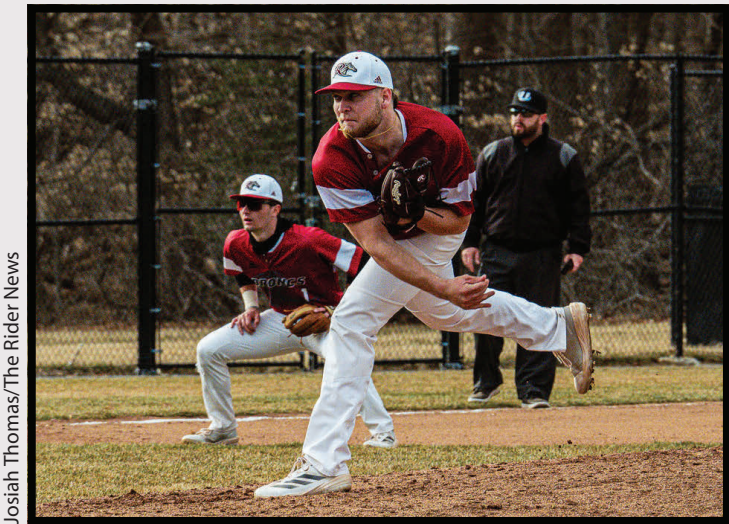
Policy put on a showcase as he ended his outing with six and two thirds innings pitched, allowed two hits, a singular earned run and struck out three. Policy walked five Mountaineers but was able to perform damage control.

The lone-run that Policy allowed was in the first inning of a sacrifice fly to give Mount St. Mary's an early 1-0 edge.

Rider responded immediately in the half of the first with an RBI single from sophomore outfielder Kyle Neri.

In the next inning, knotted up at one, Tirolly did it again, as he launched the ball over the left field fence to give the Broncos the lead, 2-1.

Tirolly, in the Mount St. Mary's series, hit a home



Josiah Thomas/The Rider News

Junior pitcher **Gavin Hawkes** hurls his pitch toward the plate.

run in each game. As of April 7, he is the MAAC leader in slugging percentage, OPS, homeruns and is fourth in RBI.

"I think I'm just more focused on seeing more pitches," Tirolly said to his revised batting approach, "during the last two and a half weeks, I haven't been walking much so it more just getting back to seeing more pitches and trusting myself deeper in the count and trying to do too much with the baseball."

Coming off the Tirolly homerun, Rider added to their lead with a fielder's choice that made the score 4-1. The next inning, the Mountaineers were able to get a run off a fielding error but the Broncos would add the run right back with a fielding error. Finally in the bottom of the seventh, Magoulick dropped a ball into right field which scored a run, cementing the final score at 6-4 and winning their fourth conference series of the season.

"Our goal is to always win the series and we are fortunate enough to be able to do that and that's really just the team goal: winning games and keep doing our thing," Tirolly said.

Rider's next opponent is the New Jersey Institute of Technology on April 9. First pitch will be at 6 p.m.

SOFTBALL

Broncs escape treacherous weekend with a win

By Lindsay Scarola

RIDER softball was on the road this week with a three game series against Canisius from April 4 to April 5, and a doubleheader against Mount St. Mary's on April 8.

The Broncos dropped the series, losing two of three games, but avoided getting swept.

Every game was close in score. In game one, they lost 4-2 and in game two they lost in nine, 2-1 and they won game three 4-3.

In game one, graduate pitcher Anna-Marie Groskritz was on the mound.

The Griffs got on the board first after a leadoff triple and a bunt single scored a runner. Groskritz retired the next two batters.

Sophomore catcher Abby Cruz threw out a runner limiting the damage to one.

Cruz led off with a single and senior infielder Olivia Burroughs followed with a bunt single.

A sacrifice bunt moved the runners up to set up runners in scoring position for sophomore catcher Kendall Reda-Fehsal.

Reda-Fehsal waited for her pitcher and sent a bomb in between the gap in left center for a two-run RBI double giving Rider a 2-1 lead.

Canisius tied it on the bottom of the fourth after an RBI double. In the bottom of the sixth, the Golden Griffins went up 4-2 after a two-run home run gave them the lead.

The Broncos could not come back in this one.

In game two, Cruz broke up a perfect game going for Canisius with a lead off double in the fifth.

The first run of the game scored off a fielder's choice from Reda-Fehsal.

Senior pitcher Kathryn Schmierer did not give up a run for the first six innings, but the Griffs broke Schmierer's shutout and tied the game after a solo home run in the seventh.



Destiny Pagan/The Rider News

Sophomore infielder **Kiarten Buchanon** races to first after a hit.

She retired the next six batters but in the ninth an error occurred, allowing for the winning run to score.

On Saturday, the Broncos were looking to not get swept by the Griffs.

The Broncos struck first with two runs in the top of the first to make it 2-0 right off the bat.

Rider added two more runs in the third after taking advantage of errors committed by Canisius.

With bases loaded, freshman middle infielder Aspen Wheeler delivered a two-out, two-run single to make it a 4-0 lead.

The Griffs would finally get on the board after a double and two-run homer in the top of the fourth.

This was the end for Rider freshman starting pitcher

Gabi Rodriguez, junior Fallyn Stoeckel took over on the mound.

An unearned run cut the Broncos' lead to 4-3 but Stoeckel was dominant on the mound.

The Griffs did not score another run and Rider took game three.

Softball will hit the road again to play Mount St. Mary's University on April 9 at 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

DIGITAL EXCLUSIVE:

Read about Rider women's basketball's new head coach!

By Kadie DiGiuseppe



Photo courtesy of Arcadia Athletics

PLAYING SOON	LACROSSE Rider vs. Canisius 1 p.m. at Ben Cohen Field	SOFTBALL Rider vs. Merrimack April 12 at 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. April 13 at 12 p.m. Herb & Joan Young Field	SOFTBALL Rider vs. Marist 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Herb & Joan Young Field
	APRIL 12	APRIL 12-13	APRIL 15

BASKETBALL

Nine Broncs pounce on transfer portal in offseason

By Kadie DiGiuseppe

In the 2024-25 season, Rider men’s and women’s basketball welcomed eight transfers to Lawrenceville through the transfer portal. Now, in the middle of their offseasons, nine total athletes from the teams entered the transfer portal after both teams continued Rider’s 21-year streak of not playing in the NCAA Tournament.

‘Absolutely love Rider’

Men’s basketball finished its season with a 14-19 overall record and a 9-11 conference record under Head Coach Ke vin Baggett in his 13th season. Before the season, Baggett and his recruitment team welcomed six transfers but during the offseason, seven players have announced they will be transferring.

Senior forward Tank Byard confirmed he had entered the portal through social media. Byard’s impact on the court may have not shown on the stat sheet but his impact arguably provided the Broncs with two of those nine conference wins, with his clutch free throws at Niagara on Jan. 12 and his buzzer-beating, game-winner against Siena on Feb. 8.

Before coming to Lawrenceville, the Atlantic City native spent his 2023-24 season at Alcorn State. Byard expressed that when looking to leave Alcorn, Rider was the first school that he toured and ended up committing two days after the visit. For his freshman and sophomore season, Byard spent his time playing junior college basketball.

Byard also expressed that entering the portal again brought up some old emotions, except it was a little different this time: “The most [difficult part] would be leaving here because I felt that I had a strong connection with the coaches and especially the team.”

The senior explained that he has suffered shoulder problems almost the entire time he has been in college. He believes that he will have to approach this time in the portal “differently” because of that.

“I feel like I got the experience that I needed from playing here,” continued Byard. He also explained that this was the first school where his mother could attend his games, which was a special thing for him.

However, he is staying focused on on-the-court things: “I feel like I could have contributed more and had a bigger role on the team so I feel like I can find that in a different program. Nothing wrong with Rider at all. Absolutely love Rider.”

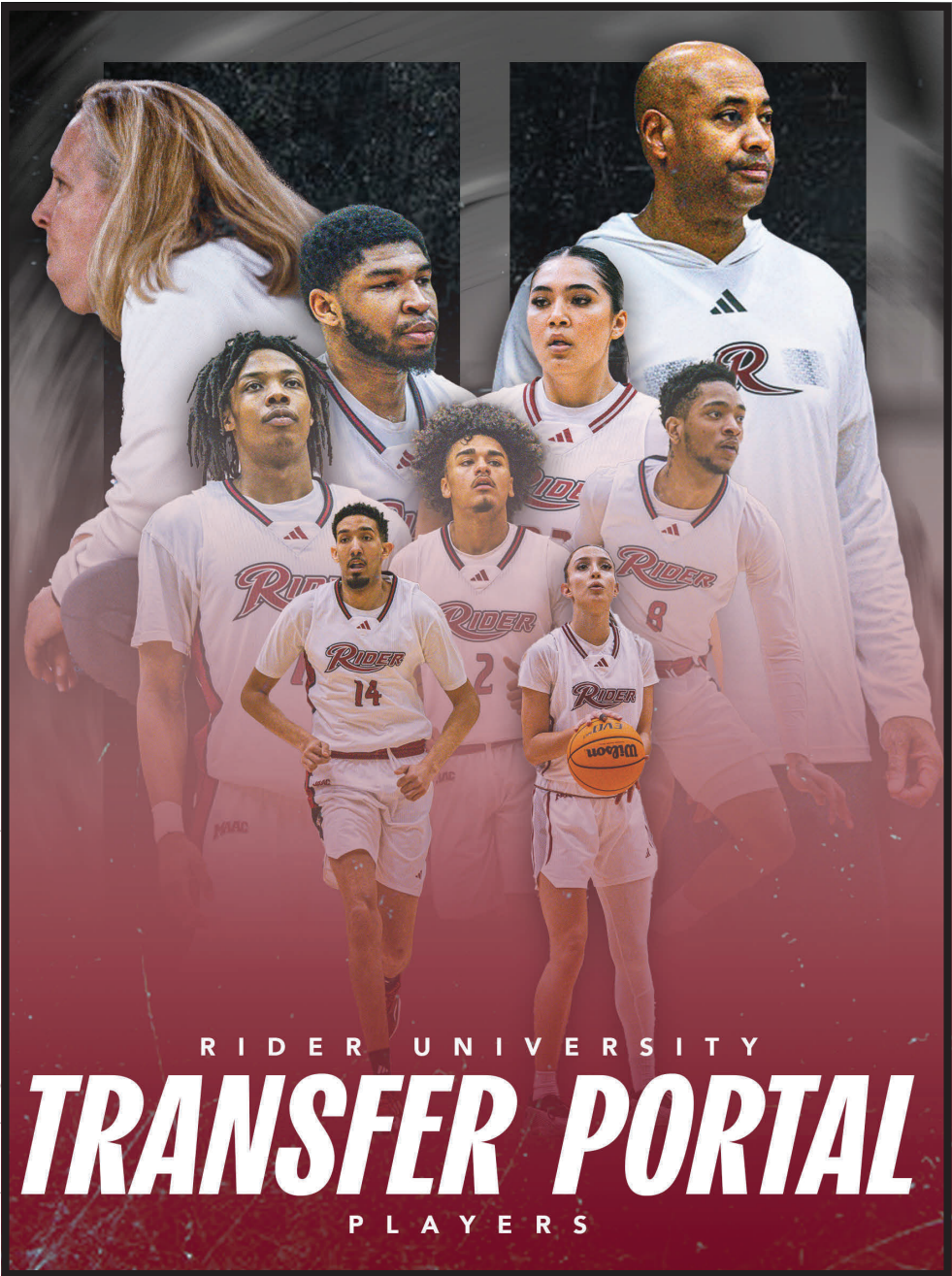
Graduate student forward Tariq Ingraham also confirmed he would be transferring for his last year of eligibility on social media after spending three years playing in every game for the Broncs. In the 2024-25 season, Ingraham averaged under 11 points per game, finished second on the team in scoring and 11th in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference in field goal percentage.

The Philadelphia native played his first three seasons at Wake Forest but suffered injuries during the 2019-20 and 2020-21 seasons, giving him years of eligibility.

“This was not an easy decision but I am excited to see what the future holds,” said Ingraham in his social media post.

Younger Broncs

Sophomore guard Ruben Rodriguez also confirmed he would be entering the transfer portal in a social media post on March 24. The on-and-off starter for the 2024-25 season spent his first two years at Rider,



With the exit of a head coach and an early exit in the MAAC tournament, nine Broncs have entered the transfer portal.

making this the first time he will be in the portal. Rodriguez started the season slow for the Broncs but picked things up near the end of the regular season, averaging 6.4 points in the final 10 games.

The Reading, Pennsylvania, native helped secure Rider’s win over Iona on Feb. 14 with a lead-changing layup and free throw, putting the Broncs ahead in the final seconds of the game that ended 74-71.

Rodriguez explained that during his time at Rider, he grew “both as a player and as a person,” in his social media post. “I’m truly grateful for the lessons I’ve learned during my time here,” he added.

Forward Ife West-Ingram is another sophomore entering the portal for the first time, which was confirmed in a social media post on March 24. West Ingram started in seven games this season including Rider’s third win of the season against Navy on Nov. 12 where he rallied a season high of 14 points to help the Broncs win 90-79.

Another Philadelphia native, West-Ingram was injured for most of the Broncs’ January games, but still finished four games in double figures.

“I was just thinking about my future. I’m still young. I’m just trying to go get a bigger role and be on the floor for more consistent minutes,” said West-Ingram.

Junior forward Tyrick Weeks entered the portal after spending his last two seasons playing alongside his older brother, Weeks Jr. Before Rider, Weeks spent his freshman season at Miami Dade College. In the 2024-25 season, the forward from Warwick, Rhode Island scored his season high seven points in Rider’s 57-53 win over Bucknell on Nov. 23. With being here for two seasons, Weeks explained that he thinks he just needs a change of scenery.

“I want to be closer to home. My younger brother is really starting to develop and I want to be there for him,” said Weeks.

He also said Baggett did not want him to leave at

first but would help in the process: “He gave me the opportunity to play with my brother so I’m grateful for that,” said Weeks.

Weeks also said, in a perfect world, he would like to get more time on the court to “showcase his skills,” which he believes he can get at another university.

Junior center Alaeddine Boutayeb confirmed on social media that he would be transferring to his fourth school on March 28. Boutayeb came to the United States from Morocco to play college basketball in 2022 and has played for Miami Dade College, Florida State and Arkansas State. Boutayeb finished the Broncs’ loss to UCLA with a season high 14 points.

“I look forward to what God has planned for me. Thank you, it’s been real,” said Boutayeb in his confirmation post to social media.

Junior guard Jack McFadden came to Rider in 2022 for his freshman season and has since been with the Broncs. McFadden confirmed he would also enter the portal through social media after he played in four games during the 2024-25 season.

Women’s team

Rider women’s basketball finished its season with a 7-22 overall record and a 5-15 conference record under Head Coach Lynn Milligan for the 18th season. Before the season, Milligan and her recruitment team welcomed six transfers but during the offseason, two players announced they will be transferring.

Senior guard Mariona Cos Morales came to the United States from Spain last season to play for Milligan. She confirmed on her Instagram story that after those two seasons, she would be entering the portal. Cos-Morales started in every game for the Broncs during her senior season including accumulating a season high of 14 points which also tied her career high in Rider’s first win of the season over Long Island University on Nov. 12.

Freshman guard Jocelyn Chavez is the only freshman from the men’s or women’s team that has confirmed they would enter the transfer portal. Chavez said she would enter the portal in a social media post on March 19 after the women’s team missed the MAAC tournament for the first time in program history.

Coming from Arizona, she was a regular use for Milligan off the bench, including reaching her career high of nine points twice against Boston University and Mount Saint Mary’s.

“Rider has been a special place that shaped me in so many ways,” said Chavez in her post.

Effects of the portal

Almost 2,000 Division I college basketball players entered the transfer portal in 2024, according to 247 sports. Since NIL; name, image and likeness; was introduced to college athletes in June 2021, the transfer portal has heavily affected teams on the way they do their recruiting for each season. This means that no matter the graduation year of an athlete, they may transfer at their own leisure.

Rider installed MOGL as the university’s “NIL solution” in June 2023, according to Rider Athletics. Since the 2021 ruling was put into effect to allow college athletes to go where they would like, regardless of the school location, many athletes do not feel they are tied down to a university on decision day.

Graphic by Destiny Pagan/The Rider News, Photos by Josiah Thomas/The Rider News