

RIDER

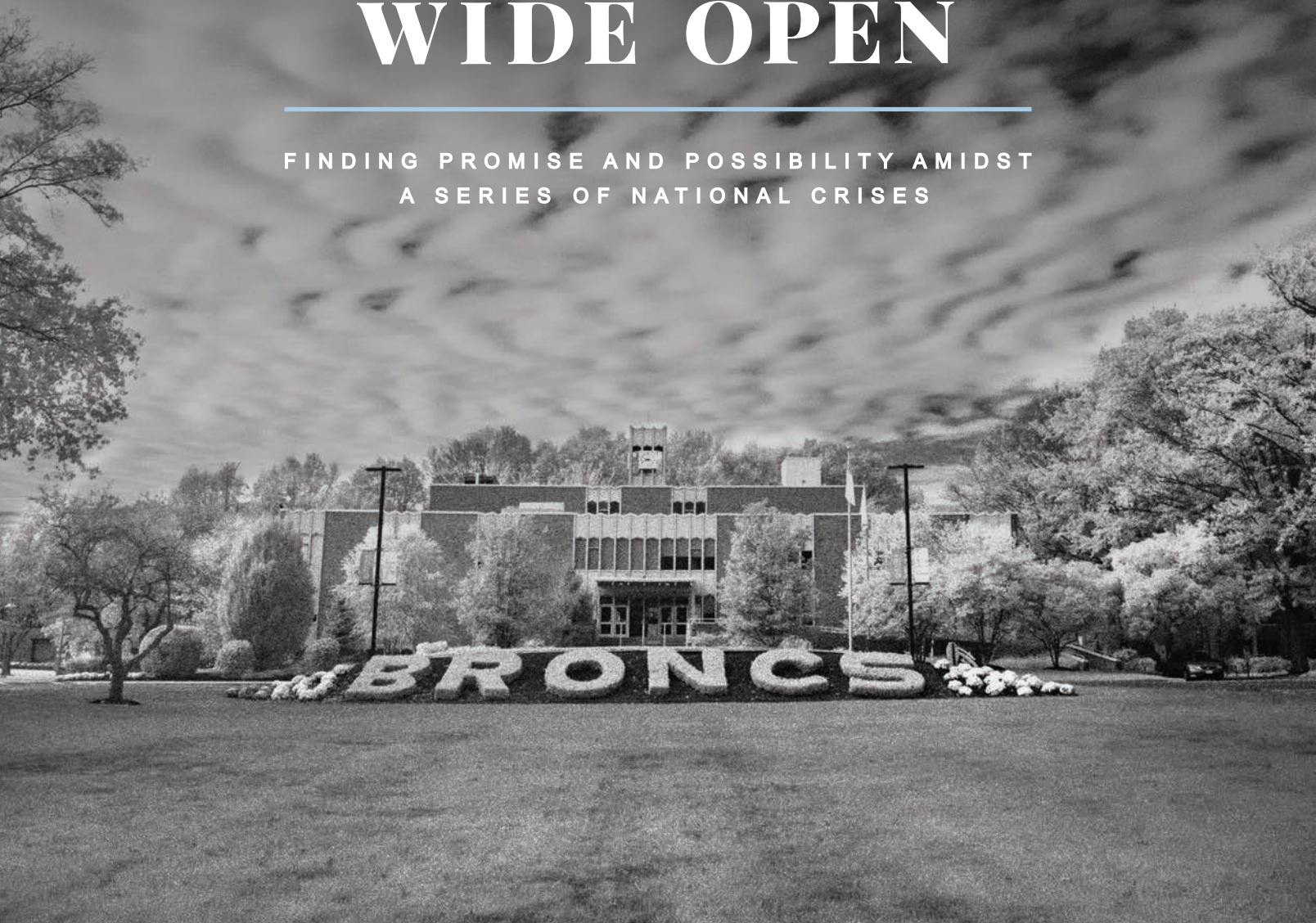
a magazine for alumni and friends

Winter 2020-21

SPECIAL ISSUE

INTO THE GREAT WIDE OPEN

FINDING PROMISE AND POSSIBILITY AMIDST
A SERIES OF NATIONAL CRISES





Deer friend

On March 16, New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy issued an executive order suspending all in-person instruction at public and private schools, including institutions of higher education. Leaving Rider's campus void of students, faculty and staff this past spring, wildlife, like this lone fawn, took advantage of the solitude.



Photo by Peter G. Borg

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RIDER

Volume 22 / Issue 1

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Rider (USPS 892-560) is published for the Rider University community, including alumni, parents, faculty and staff, by Rider University.



Dear alumni and friends,

MANY MONTHS INTO THE PANDEMIC, IT IS EASY TO FALL INTO A SPELL OF WAITING. WAITING FOR A VACCINE. WAITING FOR CAREFREE GATHERINGS WITH LOVED ONES. WAITING FOR A RETURN TO NORMALCY.

During this time, I've taken comfort in the fact that so many of us continue to be engaged in meaningful work. The pandemic has served as a monumental challenge, one that I pray will only happen once in a generation. While we look forward to its end, no one at Rider is standing by in the meantime. In fact, the pandemic has made our mission feel as vital as ever, and I'm very proud to see how integrated the work of our institution and our community is with some of the most urgent challenges we face today. This special issue of *Rider* magazine reveals those connections.

We see Rider's mission reflected in the work of our alumni. Perhaps most notably, New Jersey Health Commissioner Judith M. Persichilli '80 shares insights into how she has helped to lead the state's response to the pandemic, including promoting statewide public education and best practice.

We see Rider's mission reflected in the work of our faculty experts. As a result of living with the coronavirus over these long months, some of the knowledge bandied about in our classrooms has risen out of abstraction and surfaced directly into our lives. Dr. Tan Miller examines the resiliency of supply chains, which as we know, came into question as shortages of hand sanitizer and toilet paper



spiked last spring. Dr. James Riggs explains the scientific underpinning of the coronavirus, including the inner workings of viruses, which might alleviate some of the rampant misunderstandings

regarding COVID-19.

We see Rider's mission reflected in the work to achieve racial justice. Our community has been focused on realizing the commitments outlined in our Inclusive Excellence Plan and promoting equity and inclusion in all aspects of our campus. For example, Dr. Sarah Trocchio illuminates the connection between drug policy and racial equity, the subject of a sociology course she taught this fall.

It is only natural to look forward to the future with high hopes for a better time, one with fewer challenges and more wide-open opportunities. The work we are engaged in presently will help us arrive there in a stronger position. Now is not the time to stand by. Now is not the time to simply wait. Our work, always unfinished, must continue to move us forward.

Sincerely,

Gregory G. Dell'Omo, Ph.D.
President, Rider University

UNIVERSITY *News*



Meet Rider 2024

More than 850 first-year Rider students began the school year this fall, their faith in the promise of a college education undiminished despite the highly unusual circumstances wrought by the coronavirus pandemic.

This fall, the majority of classes are being delivered remotely and residential capacity on campus is limited. Displaying a strong ability to adapt, student engagement has remained high, with most traditional fall programming, including welcome events and campus traditions, moving to virtual programming.

In total, the Class of 2024 represents 23 U.S. states and territories. More than one in 10 students, or 12% of the entire class, have a family member who also attended Rider. Eighteen of those legacy students have more than one family member who attended Rider.

The class is roughly as diverse as last year's class, which was Rider's most diverse in its history. About one of every two students, or 49%, come from underrepresented groups. About 40% of Rider's entire student body is now made up of students of color.

This is in addition to the representation of other diverse identities, including 33% first-generation, 36% low-income, 16% students with disabilities, a diverse representation of religious affiliation and a significant presence of students who identify as LGBTQ+.

Campus pride

Rider is one of only 381 campuses in the U.S. rated by the Campus Pride Index, a national listing of LGBTQ+ friendly colleges and universities. This summer, the University received four out of five stars on the index, an increase from a previous 3.5 out of five stars.



Quotable



“I was able to take a passion of mine and cultivate it into something that can affect change and help my school community.”

- Joan Valentine '20, who graduated last spring among the first class of students in Rider's educational leadership doctoral program



Big tally

Amidst national economic, public health and social justice crises, the Rider community continued to demonstrate strong support for the University's mission and its students last fiscal year by raising more than \$18.4 million for scholarships, the Annual Fund, academic programs, athletics and improvements to campus facilities.

Stepping up, giving back

Last spring, with the outbreak of COVID-19, members of the Rider community sprung into action to support their local communities and one another. Shortly after Gov. Phil Murphy signed an executive order to close all non-essential businesses and ordered residents to stay home, Associate Professor Dr. John Bochanski and Westminster Choir College alumnus Jacob Ezzo '14 put their 3D printers into action.

Bochanski printed ventilator splitters, which allow two patients to be connected to the same ventilator in case of a shortage. Ezzo printed and assembled face shields for local members of the medical community.

To help alleviate the shortage of hand sanitizer, a group of Rider science faculty worked together to produce the virus- and bacteria-killing substance in the University's general chemistry lab and donated it to local hospitals. Dr. Jamie Ludwig, an assistant professor of chemistry, produced the first batch at the urging of Dr. Danielle Jacobs, an associate professor of chemistry.

Several Broncs also helped their local communities as food insecurity grew. Shariq Marshall '18, operations and volunteer coordinator for Arm In Arm, and Allison Anderson '20 packed bags of food staples for Mercer County residents, while senior Giavanna Troilo worked as a multimedia intern at Food Bank of South Jersey, helping to connect residents with available food. Rider's and Gourmet Dining's

partnership with Meals on Wheels of Mercer County never missed a beat since the pandemic began. Matthew Hernberg '20 started a delivery business to help those unable to shop in his South Jersey community.



Welcome to Lawrenceville

This fall, Westminster Choir College began a new chapter, with students living and learning solely on Rider's Lawrenceville campus for the first time ever. This historic moment marked the first time the Choir College has been fully integrated within the University's main campus since Rider and Westminster affiliated in 1992.

The pandemic has had significant effects on the Choir College. Among them, the Westminster Choir is taking a one-year hiatus for the first time ever, and many other activities and concerts have been canceled or altered. Despite these challenges, many milestones integral to the campus transition were achieved, including major construction completed on several facilities projects.

Faculty studios are now located in Omega House. A new music computing lab opened inside Daly's. Talbott Library now occupies the top two floors of Moore Library, with a new circulation desk specifically for Talbott's resources and materials. The new Presser Voice Lab is complete inside the Fine Arts Center. The Casavant organ, also known as the Scheide Organ, was relocated to Gill Chapel — a centerpiece of a major renovation project that also includes a new performing and rehearsal space, many large and small practice rooms, worship spaces, and more.

Speaking of the vision for Westminster in its new home, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs DonnaJean Fredeen, Ph.D., says, "I believe this new living and learning environment has the potential to become a place of comfort — a home — for a new generation of Westminster students as new experiences intermingle with Westminster traditions, and fresh memories take hold."

UNIVERSITY *News*



Open for all

In September, Rider opened a new space in the Bart Luedeke Center dedicated to the University's Center for Diversity and Inclusion. The Center provides support for multicultural clubs and student organizations, encourages a sense of belonging for under-represented, marginalized and/or underresourced students, and promotes education and community around issues of inclusion for all members of the Rider community. The Center's opening completes an important initial objective of Rider's Inclusive Excellence Plan.

New dean

Dr. Eugene Kutcher has been appointed to serve as the dean of Rider University's Norm Brodsky College of Business. His appointment began on April 1. Kutcher had served as the interim dean since September 2019. During this time, he has made a noticeable impact in the College's mission and vision.

"His commitment to Rider has continually shined through, matched by his singular kindness and thoughtful leadership," says Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs DonnaJean Fredeen, Ph.D. "I look forward to the many positive outcomes of Dr. Kutcher's leadership in the Norm Brodsky College of Business as well as the University."

Remembering a fellow Bronc

Pictured left, Tony Whalen '97, an influential Rider alumnus, died on March 25 after becoming critically ill with coronavirus. He is the first known member of the Rider community to die as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. He was 45. Whalen was a founding member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity on Rider's campus and a former president of the Student Government Association. He led the fundraising efforts that culminated in the construction of a gazebo near Centennial Lake.

The brothers of Sigma Phi Epsilon are producing a documentary, *Tony Whalen: A Legend and Legacy*, to be released next summer. If Whalen made an impact on your life and time at Rider, the producers want to hear from you. Please contact Wright Señeres '97 at wright@meteorwright.com.



Editor-in-chief

Nina Rodriguez '17 became the first Latina to ever hold the position of editor-in-chief of the *Rutgers University Law Review* in Camden when she was appointed in April. At Rider, she majored in political science and minored in Spanish. She interned at her local congressman's office, the legislative offices of Rep. Herb Conaway, and was the first member of her family to graduate from college.



19th Amendment

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and women obtaining the right to vote, the Gail Bierenbaum Women's Leadership Council at Rider University released *The Rider University Women's Suffrage Centennial Cookbook* in August. Assembled in the tradition of the suffragist cookbooks of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Rider's cookbook honors the courage and accomplishments of the suffragists and offers the personal messages of contemporary women on the importance of voting and being an engaged citizen.



\$1 million

Dennis Longstreet '69 committed \$1 million to support the recently completed renovation and future maintenance of Ridge House, one of the University's student residence buildings. In gratitude and recognition of the gift, the University held an outdoor ceremony on Sept. 24 to formally name the building Longstreet House in his honor. Shown with Longstreet is his wife, Linda.



Historical markers

A new task force charged with proactively researching the Rider's historical relationship and connection with slavery and enslaved people was formed this fall. Rider is already aware of one such connection. Van Cleve Alumni House, located at the front of campus, is named after Benjamin Van Cleve, one of the earliest known owners of what is now the Lawrenceville campus property. Born in 1739, he fought in the Revolutionary War and was later a member of the state legislature and a judge. According to tax records, he also owned at least one enslaved person. Recommendations on possible actions are forthcoming.

Best college

Rider University was once again named to U.S. News and World Report's Best Colleges list and to the 2021 *The Wall Street Journal* / Times Higher Education College Rankings. Rider earned the No. 38 spot on the list of best regional universities in the north from U.S. News. *The Wall Street Journal* ranked Rider among the top 310 colleges in the country and in the top half of colleges in the Northeast region. The University earned additional accolades from U.S. News in the north region, ranking as the No. 27 best value school among regional universities in the north. It was also recognized for its undergraduate business program and as a top performer on social mobility.

ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS



PICTURED: JUSTIN CAREY '20 AND STELLA JOHNSON '20

In June, Rider Athletics was awarded the Pepsi Zero MAAC Commissioner's Cup overall title for the first time in school history. The Commissioner's Cup is awarded annually as a symbol of overall excellence in athletics and in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) championships. Due to the abbreviated 2019-20 season, the best scores in two championships plus men's basketball (regular season) were accounted for on the men's side. On the women's side, the best scores in four championships plus women's basketball (regular season) were tabulated. Rider's lone MAAC Commissioner's Cup came in the men's standings in 1997-98, the Broncos' first year in the league.

Women's basketball graduate **Stella Johnson '20** made her WNBA debut with the Chicago Sky in July before signing with the Washington Mystics in mid-August. The highlight of Johnson's rookie season was a 25-point performance to help the Mystics win over the Atlanta Dream on Aug. 19. The Mystics have committed to bringing Johnson back for the 2021 season.

Johnson and men's swimming & diving graduate **Justin Carey '20** were named MAAC Female and Male Student-Athletes of the Year,

marking the first time Rider has earned the honor for either gender in the Broncos' 23 years in the league. Carey rewrote the Rider men's swimming & diving record books in his four years with the Broncos, taking ownership of five MAAC Championship meet records and seven team records. To be eligible for the honor, student-athletes must have reached at least sophomore status while completing a full year at their institution, have a grade point average of 3.2 or higher on a 4.0 scale and be a significant starter or reserve for his/her team(s).

Johnson and wrestling graduate **Jesse Dellavecchia '20** were honored as Clair Bee Rider Athletes of the Year. Dellavecchia became Rider's first-ever Mid-Atlantic Conference (MAC) Champion at 157 lbs. and was recognized as a First Team All-American by the National Wrestling Coaches Association.

Baseball graduate **Nick Margevicius '17** and men's soccer graduate **Florian Valot '16** continued to thrive in Major League Baseball and Major League Soccer, respectively. Margevicius was a member of the Seattle Mariners' starting rotation this season, while Valot has been a starting forward this year for the New York Red Bulls after missing most of last season due to injury.

The Ben Cohen Field turf was refreshed last spring. In addition to visual enhancements, with a cranberry border placed around the sidelines and a new fence wrap, the original 10-year-old playing surface was replaced with a brand new FieldTurf CoolPlay system.

Eighteen of 20 varsity athletic teams earned a team grade-point average of over 3.0 in 2019-20. Highlights include: 162 student-athletes were named Academic All-Conference, while 206 student-athletes were honored on the year-end MAAC Academic Honor Roll. Rider's female student-athletes posted a 3.39 GPA, while the male student-athletes combined on a 3.11 GPA.

Led by the Rider University Sports Medicine Department, Rider Athletics coaches and staff became one of the only athletics departments in the nation to become certified in Mental Health First Aid.

In conjunction with MAAC Student Athlete Advisory Committee's Voter Registration Challenge, Rider Athletics' "Bronc The Vote" initiative resulted in 15 teams being fully registered to vote in this November's elections as of Oct. 6.

Bringing it home

Rider's campaign to elevate Alumni Gym into a modern NCAA Division I arena took major steps forward this year. In October, the University announced a \$2.5 million commitment from two unnamed donors. It is the largest gift Rider Athletics has ever received and comes after a \$1 million gift for new seating from Chuck and Isabel Baker last spring.

The \$177 million project is more than halfway toward its goal of creating a facility at the top of its game. Plans include a center-hung scoreboard with digital display, luxury box seating, a new and more spacious lobby with new ticketing and concession areas, and much more. Learn more at rider.edu/bringing-it-home.

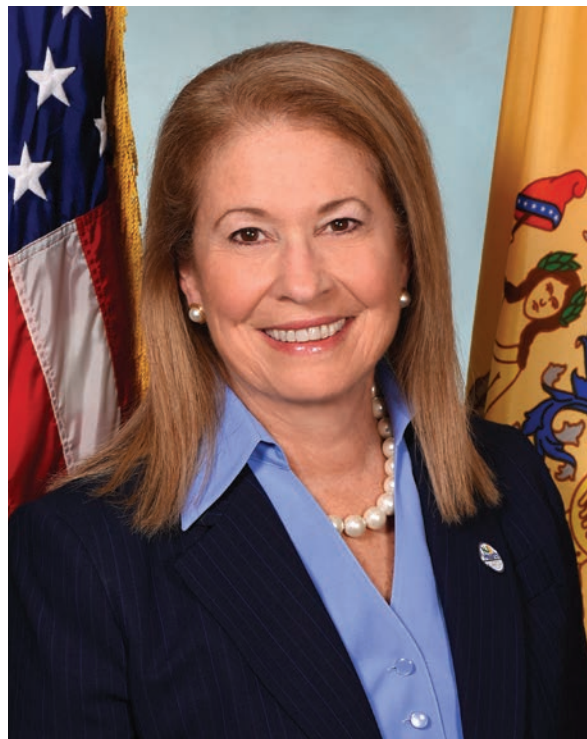


Challenge of a lifetime

N.J. HEALTH COMMISSIONER JUDITH M. PERSICILLI '80 LEADS THE STATE THROUGH A STAGGERING PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

By Adam Grybowski

After serving as acting commissioner of health for about six months, Judith M. Persichilli '80 was confirmed by the State Senate on Jan. 9 to become New Jersey's new health commissioner. At the time, a novel virus first identified in Wuhan, China, was just beginning to make its way around the globe. Only three months into her tenure, the World Health Organization officially declared a pandemic underway, upending daily life and significantly raising the stakes for health officials like Persichilli.



In this interview, conducted in October, Persichilli, a former Rider Trustee who received a Master of Arts in the University's Program for Administrators, reflects on her experience leading the state through a once-in-a-lifetime public health crisis.

When you were confirmed in January, what did you think your top priority would be as you officially began in the role?

When I accepted the position as acting commissioner a little over a year ago, I did it because I thought I could contribute to the state where I was born and where I've lived my entire life.

I knew it would be a challenge because of the many health issues that confront us as a state. But after only five months on the job, we started to get reports of a novel virus in Wuhan, China, and what has followed with more than 14,676 confirmed deaths and more than 263,495 cases in New Jersey is similar in some ways to the

1918 Spanish flu pandemic that killed my grandmother at the age of 36.

COVID-19 has confronted all of us with the challenge of a lifetime and has impacted every aspect of our lives — how we work, how we interact with family and friends, how we go about everyday living, how we go to school or travel, and more.

How has your background as a nurse and hospital executive influenced your approach to fighting the coronavirus in New Jersey?

Throughout my career, I've always believed that frontline workers are vital to making the necessary changes to promote better health in our communities because they have both the knowledge and experience.

One of the values I've found most important, first working as a nurse in a fast-paced ICU and then as a nurse educator before moving into health administration, is having a strong team by your side.

My first 14 months at the Department have been filled with long days and hard work, but the Department of Health team has been incredible. The staff of the Department rose to the occasion, working tirelessly — including weekends through February, March, April and May — as did our health care workers, first responders and certified nursing assistants in long-term care facilities.

This once-in-a-century pandemic requires an all-hands-on-deck response. The team at the Department, all seasoned public health professionals, worked around the clock to ensure the safety of the residents of New Jersey. My experiences in leadership taught me to trust them; to give them a seat at the table; a voice in decision making and the chance to make a difference and, in reality, to be part of making history. They did not disappoint. The more I asked, the more they gave. All of them taking on tasks they had never done before — setting up field medical stations and isolation beds in closed hotels; developing testing sites; monitoring international supply chain disruptions; building

our own strategic stockpile and the list goes on. I directed the orchestra toward a common goal, and they performed expertly.

What has been the single biggest challenge facing New Jersey as officials seek to contain the virus?

We faced not only a medical challenge but the disruption of international supply chains of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and life-saving equipment like ventilators, hospital bed capacity concerns, and being able to care for our most vulnerable and fragile residents.

In expectation of the predicted surge, hospitals doubled their critical care capacity and the Department worked with the federal government to set up field medical stations and open closed hospitals and wings to provide additional bed space.

As part of the response, the state also undertook an unrelenting search for PPE and ventilators, from the White House Strategic National Stockpile to third-party

“This once-in-a-century pandemic requires an all-hands-on-deck response.”

vendors. Now that the second wave is upon us, the state is continuing to build its stockpile of supplies.

Our long-term care facilities have also been at the epicenter of the pandemic. Although the number of outbreaks in these facilities has

Commissioner Persichilli isn't the only Rider graduate helping to lead New Jersey's response to the pandemic. Donna M. Leusner '80, the director of communications at the state Department of Health, received a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from Rider and was editor of the University's student newspaper, *The Rider News*, as an undergraduate. Leusner was a reporter at *The Star-Ledger* for 21 years before joining the Department. This interview was conducted in October.

How important is it to communicate a clear, consistent message during a public health crisis?

Clear, consistent messaging delivered by trusted public health professionals can save lives. There's a reason why Dr. Anthony Fauci is considered the nation's most credible voice on COVID-19. He explains the virus, its treatments, vaccine trials and the importance of wearing a mask in simple terms we all understand. As a scientist at the National Institute of Health, physician and public health advocate, he has earned our trust for over 50 years.

Public health experts provide science-based information and resources and that makes it more likely that people will listen to their guidance. Physicians and nurses have strong, trusted relationships with their patients so it is important that health care professionals have the facts about the process leading up to the approval of a vaccine(s) so they can help us build public confidence in a vaccine. According to an Axios-Ipsos survey in late September, 62% of 1,000 adults surveyed said they would trust an endorsement of a vaccine if it came from their personal doctor. And that's important because skepticism about a COVID-19 vaccine is very high — especially in a state like New Jersey, which has a very vocal anti-vaccine movement.

What effect has the decline of local media had on your role as a communications director?

I was a reporter for *The Star-Ledger* for 21 years. We had all day to write a 25-inch story and work with the graphics team and photo desk. Now, the news cycle is continuous and print stories are also online, posted on social media and are often accompanied by videos. There may be fewer newspapers, but there are many more digital outlets and cable TV stations reporting the news 24/7.

Is there a silver bullet to battling misinformation during a public health crisis?

The key is to provide timely and factual, science-based information to counter misinformation. And don't repeat the misinformation that you are trying to counter. You may have to respond repeatedly as the situation changes. Educational materials/infographics/fact sheets must be updated and disseminated quickly through established channels including the Department website, sister state agencies and various professional organizations and community stakeholders.

The New Jersey Department of Health uses three social media platforms with a total of 100,000 followers to rapidly push out relevant information and to dispel myths, misinformation and misreporting of scientific evidence as it pertains to COVID-19.

decreased, there are still more than 165 active outbreaks. So, we are still very concerned about the vulnerable residents of these facilities.

Gov. Murphy's budget invests more than \$1 million to boost the resiliency of these facilities by creating an Office of Long-Term Care dedicated to assisting these facilities in improving their infection control measures, among other things. The Department has implemented more than two dozen of the reforms recommended in a report by an independent consultant to strengthen the resiliency of these facilities and improve the quality of care. The Department has also issued detailed guidance on reopening that requires facilities to meet certain benchmarks including adequate infection control, testing, staff and PPE.

In the U.S., the coronavirus has taken a disproportionate toll on the most vulnerable, including people of color and low-income Americans. Has that been true in New Jersey?

The pandemic has financially devastated families across our state, but especially those who were already vulnerable. Communities of color, many in our urban cities like Trenton, have been disproportionately impacted by the virus.

The same long-standing inequities that have contributed to health disparities affecting racial and ethnic groups have also put them at increased risk for COVID-19. These racial and ethnic populations are also disproportionately represented among essential workers and those unable to work from home as employees of places such as health care facilities, factories, farms and grocery stores.

Although Black residents comprise 13% of New Jersey's population, they represent nearly one-fifth of the state's lab-reported COVID-19 deaths.

And Hispanics are more likely to die younger as a result of COVID-19 than their white and Asian counterparts. Forty-seven percent of deaths among those aged 20 to 34 were Hispanic.

How can those inequalities be addressed from a public health perspective?

For populations whose vulnerabilities are heightened by COVID-19 and

the country.

People could be asymptomatic and still have the virus, and unknowingly spread it to others in the community.

We've also learned a lot about therapeutics and treatments to provide remedies for patients with COVID-19. As we await a safe and effective vaccine, some medical treatments, like Remdesivir, an antiviral drug, have been found to shorten hospital stays. Additionally, the steroid dexamethasone has been shown to reduce deaths of patients on ventilators

“The same long-standing inequities that have contributed to health disparities affecting racial and ethnic groups have also put them at increased risk for COVID-19.”

for those who are newly vulnerable to the virus, we have used a health equity lens in all parts of the response and recovery. As we plan for a large-scale vaccination program, equitable access is a primary consideration across all planning and delivery elements.

Has your understanding of the virus changed in any significant way?

We've learned a tremendous amount since the beginning of this pandemic, which has informed our decision making moving forward.

Early on, it was thought we saw the most extreme impact on older residents, but as we grew to know, it affects people of all ages, including young adults, who, despite maybe feeling invincible, account for larger numbers of positive cases around

by one-third.

But, what we know for sure is that the best course of action is to prevent getting sick in the first place by taking steps to protect yourselves and others by continuing to practice social distancing; wear a face covering; wash hands frequently for at least 20 seconds; and use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

How has the coronavirus affected your perception of New Jersey's health system in general?

I believe that we've all, myself included, learned important lessons throughout this pandemic. We know that we must strengthen our public health infrastructure — the workforce, information systems and agencies focused on community rather

than individual health — to improve our ability to respond nimbly to COVID-19 and future pandemics.

How is New Jersey preparing for a COVID-19 vaccine, if and when one proves to be safe and effective?

The Department submitted a COVID-19 Vaccination Plan to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Oct. 16 based on the work of our Vaccine Task Force. We formed nine workgroups tackling various aspects of establishing a large-scale vaccination program including public confidence, policy, logistics, special populations, IT, and management and administration. We also have a Professional Advisory and Health Equity Committee advising the Department on priority groups for vaccination.

What steps need to be taken for the state to be prepared for another pandemic?

A second wave of COVID-19 is now upon us and we are preparing based on lessons learned from our prior experiences. If individuals do not adhere to the social distancing and masking guidelines — the wave has the potential to become a surge. We have stockpiled PPE, the anti-viral Remdesivir and ventilators.

Our biggest concern will be staffing if individuals fall ill like in the prior surge. We know that this virus did not take a break. We also know that asymptomatic spread is more prevalent than initially thought so non-pharmaceutical interventions are even more important.

As the cold weather sets in and people move indoors — the threat of spread is even greater. We also



“One of the values I’ve found most important...is having a strong team by your side.”

know that we will be fighting this enemy for a longer period of time and hope that community protection through effective vaccination against COVID-19 takes hold.

To complement traditional contact tracing efforts, the Department launched a COVID ALERT NJ app for mobile devices, which Rider University has shared. It notifies users if they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Knowing about a potential exposure can help individuals quickly make a plan to stay safe, including contacting their physician or the campus health center to get more information about

quarantining and testing to prevent community spread.

Many continue to look forward to “going back to normal.” Is there such a thing?

As I mentioned earlier, the way of life we once knew has changed drastically to ensure that we contain the spread of COVID-19 in our state. And while we continue the road back to recovery, we must remain vigilant in reiterating precautions and practices that helped us to flatten the curve. We must adjust to a “new normal” going forward. ▀

The show must go on

PERFORMERS ADAPT TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

By Rachel Stengel '14, '20

Since March 12, Broadway has been dark. The iconic home of the American theater industry has withstood wars, recessions and the 1918 flu pandemic. The seemingly unstoppable nature of COVID-19 has forced the Great White Way to close its doors until May 30, 2021, at least.

Thousands of actors, dancers and crew members suddenly found themselves out of work, joining the tens of millions of unemployed Americans. Broadway ticket sales topped out at just \$300 million in 2020 before theaters were forced to close, according to The Broadway League, the national trade association for the Broadway industry. In comparison, during the 2018-19 season, Broadway grossed more than \$1.8 billion.

Live theater is just one of the many branches of the entertainment industry that has experienced losses during the pandemic. The Metropolitan Opera's 2020-21 season, canceled. The New York City Ballet's fall season, all digital and free. Rider University's own Westminster Choir took its first hiatus in its 100-year history. Despite the enormous hurdles COVID-19 has placed on entertainment, art hasn't stopped.

The arts, particularly those that involve singing, pose a risk to performers and audience members alike. Singing unmasked and indoors can spread COVID-19, according to a peer-reviewed study from the University of Colorado Boulder. In fact, a choral rehearsal by the Skagit Valley Chorale was classified as one of the nation's first superspreader events; 53 of the 61 members present were



diagnosed with COVID-19 or strongly suspected to have contracted it, while two died. The reason for the swift contraction of the virus — microscopic airborne particles known as aerosols, which are prevalent while singing.

“As artists, we are finding unique ways to share music and performance,” says Dr. Lynnel Joy Jenkins '94, a graduate of Westminster Choir College. Jenkins is the artistic director of Westrick Music Academy, home of the Princeton Girlchoir, Princeton Boychoir and various music education programs. Since March, rehearsals and performances have been virtual.

“The pandemic has actually opened a new door for us because it afforded us the opportunity to offer more classes and work with students more one-on-one,” she says.

Westrick Music Academy has been offering a range of virtual music education opportunities during the pandemic: group piano lessons, a class that explores the vocal improvisation styles of various singers such as Beyonce and Billie Eilish, songwriting, conducting classes and more.



**“As artists, we
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Online music software like Soundtrap and JamKazam, which allow musicians and singers to collaborate virtually, has made the experiences possible.

“We are not changing our programming, rather, we are just changing how we execute it,” Jenkins says. “It used to be that we got 300 girls on stage to perform together, which was enjoyable for the girls and the audience. Now, we’re trying to innovatively share their beautiful singing virtually.”

Technology has been the key to orchestrating rehearsals and performances at Rider. Dance faculty livestreamed technique classes; students used their laptops and AirPods to follow along either at home or on campus in the Student Recreation Center, spaced out on 12-foot dance squares and masked up. Choral ensembles rehearsed virtually, with students using pre-recorded accompaniments to learn their parts and filming themselves singing. Theatre students learned how to self-tape audition material from their own homes. Associate Dean and Professor of Music Education Dr. Frank Abrahams and Westminster Choir College alum-

nus Ryan John '13 even authored a supplement to their book, *Planning Instruction in Music*, providing guidance to teachers for adapting music instruction to an online format.

“While virtual instruction in the performing arts creates challenges, faculty and students have met them as artists do — with creativity and risk-taking,” says David Sullivan, associate dean of the School of Fine and Performing Arts.

The stage moved to Zoom, YouTube and Rider's new student-run online radio station, 107.7 The Bronc Retro. Two radio plays blended old and new, as students focused on voice acting in *The Ungodly Hour* and *It's a Wonderful Life*. The Westminster Opera Theatre took virtual performances a step further by using an interactive online tool, allowing the audience to vote on alternative endings during the streaming of *Marie Begins*.

Students also created original works, including a collaboration between students in the Westminster Chapel Choir with conductor and music educator Dr. André de Quadros and performer Halim Flowers, who was wrongfully incar-



“There is such a need for actors and storytellers and all this technology has made telling those stories more accessible than ever before.”

cerated for 22 years. The team is creating original multimedia works featuring poetry, singing, movement and visual art in response to systemic racism to give voice to those who are marginalized in society.

Industry professionals are learning to adapt as well. In June, actress Melissa Saint-Amand '14 was back on set

filming a commercial after two straight months without work. Nothing about the experience was ordinary.

Following safety protocols issued by Los Angeles County for film and TV production, everyone on set received a coronavirus test and temperature check and wore face masks. A COVID safety officer oversaw all processes to ensure compliance. Saint-Amand brought her own wardrobe, displaying each option to the costume supervisor for approval through a plexiglass screen. She even wore her

own foundation to the shoot. Any additional makeup used was applied with a one-time brush and thrown away immediately. Crew members had their own isolation booths, while actors stood 6 feet apart. Cameras created optical illusions to make the actors appear closer together on film.

“The industry has really figured out ways to get back to work,” Saint-Amand says. “People are determined to keep shows running and are doing everything they can to make sure people are safe.”

In early March, Saint-Amand hit the month-and-a-half mark of auditioning for pilot season in L.A., even commenting to a casting director “you’ll be seeing more of me” after a particularly strong audition. The next week, she was on a plane back home to Georgia, many of the pilots she read for left on hold.

“There have been a few times where shows thought they could start filming in the first few months of the pandemic,” she says. “You’re in limbo because you never know if the show is going to be delayed again, canceled or if you even got the part. There are parts I’ve been waiting more than four months to hear about.”

Since 2018, Saint-Amand has had the recurring role of Jade on the Netflix series *Ozark*. Working alongside the big names of Jason Bateman and Laura Linney on an Emmy-winning show feels like winning the lottery, she says.

Ozark chronicles the Byrde family as they relocate to the Ozarks in Missouri to continue a money-laundering scheme for a Mexican drug cartel. The dark, often violent, crime drama shoots in Georgia, a hotbed for film and TV production. The Georgia Department of Economic Development credits film and television productions for bringing \$9.5 billion to the state in 2018. Productions have gotten off the ground again, but with a litany of guidelines in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19 by the state of Georgia.

The pandemic has opened doors for performers in other ways, Saint-Amand says. Casting is now exclusively through Zoom and via submitted taped auditions. The difficulty lies in the actual taping process though as actors must have their filmed auditions feel authentic. Saint-Amand and four of her friends who are also in the business, quarantined together for two weeks to help one another tape for roles. She sees casting agents continuing to embrace online auditions and workshops.

“I’ve done workshops with casting directors in London and all over the world,” she says. “These people seemed so distant before. Now, you can hop on a Zoom class with them. It’s opened their eyes to the diversity of people and talent that’s out there.”

No one is sure when crowds will gather in a packed theater with the house lights down, waiting for the curtain to open again. For Jenkins, that’s OK.

“We have to rely on science to guide us. Science determined that we should pause in-person rehearsals and that

“While virtual instruction in the performing arts creates challenges, faculty and students have met them as artists do — with creativity and risk-taking.”

didn’t break us,” she says. “Science provides guidance on whether to wear masks when singing, how far apart choristers should be, what type of airflow is needed and how long we should rehearse. We also look to local universities to see how they are conducting their rehearsals for guidance.”

Saint-Amand is steadfast in her belief that the entertainment industry has a wealth of opportunities for performers no matter the circumstances.

“There are so many streaming platforms. People can make their own web series on YouTube and a casting director or producer may see it and turn it into a TV show,” she says. “There is such a need for actors and storytellers and all this technology has made telling those stories more accessible than ever before.” ■

High alert

AS IT EVOLVES, THE CONCEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY HAS THE POTENTIAL TO TURN NEFARIOUS

By Dr. Adam McMahon



Many of us who were alive on Sept. 11, 2001, probably considered it the worst day of our lives.

At the time, it was hard to imagine another event that would be consumed by so much tragedy. But we are now living through a pandemic that has caused not thousands of deaths in the United States like Sept. 11, but hundreds of thousands of deaths.

The coronavirus pandemic is a stark reminder that the concept of homeland security is not limited to terrorist attacks. In its first iteration, the term represented resolve in defending our country domestically, especially from the threat of Islamic terrorism. But in the intervening years since Sept. 11, homeland security has repeatedly expanded to encapsulate a host of issues at the forefront of Americans' minds.

Yes, the threat of global terrorism is still present, but homeland security's second iteration incorporates more threats, like increasingly dangerous natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina and Superstorm Sandy, violent extremism within our own country, and the threat of infectious diseases — whether during a pandemic or as a potential bioweapon attack in the future.

This past summer also made it clear how the concept of homeland security can intersect with issues of race. The killings of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor resulted in renewed Black Lives Matter protests around the country as

Americans petitioned the government to take action to prevent additional deaths of Black Americans at the hands of police.

Portland, Ore., became a particular flashpoint, with President Donald Trump repeatedly referring to it as a “mess” and a “disaster” comprised of “anarchists and agitators” as opposed to peaceful protestors. National news media highlighted the unrest in the city

“Where do we wish to draw the line between security and individual liberty?”

following the arrest of protestor Mark Pettibone, who was taken in a van by officers in camouflage without insignia. It turned out he was detained by members of the Department of Homeland Security's rapid deployment teams sent in to protect the federal courthouse downtown.

The events of this past summer demonstrate the inception of a third iteration of homeland security in the U.S. — one that should raise concerns for everyone in the country, not just

protestors in certain cities.

To understand the emergence of this new phase, a focus on presidential rhetoric will be essential. While homeland security was invented in the aftermath of Sept. 11 to prevent future attacks, President George W. Bush still took care to dissuade violence against Muslims in the U.S. while simultaneously pursuing two wars overseas in Muslim majority nations. Trump used his rhetoric to “Other” immigrants and reorient homeland security to halt border crossings and, in the process, divide Americans. How will future presidents use their rhetoric concerning homeland security as a tool for their particular electoral goals?

Regardless of one's opinions about ongoing protest activity in Portland, the brutality and nature of the arrests raise an important question that all Americans should consider: What do we want homeland security to mean? The ill-defined term lacks clarity in the minds of many Americans. We are presently in danger of slipping into a new, more dangerous iteration of homeland security should a future president choose to use the federal government for nefarious purposes in the name of security.

Each of us must ask ourselves, which threats are most important to protect against? Where do we wish to draw the line between security and individual liberty? It's important to answer these questions before it's too late.

Dr. Adam McMahon is an assistant professor of political science and director of the homeland security master's program. His research interests include the American presidency and Congress, national security, and American political development.



Coronavirus crash course

By Dr. James Riggs

As swiftly as the coronavirus pandemic barreled through the U.S. in early 2020, so did misinformation about the virus. Would it fade out in the summer because of higher temperatures and increased exposure to UV rays? Do masks cause carbon dioxide retention? In short, science says, no. Understanding the basics of how viruses work can help alleviate some of the rampant misunderstandings regarding COVID-19.



WHAT IS A VIRUS?

It's like a rude party guest. It wasn't invited. It crashes the party, raids your fridge and essentially trashes your house. However, unlike any rude guest I'm aware of, it makes thousands of copies of itself before it busts out and invades neighboring homes.

All viruses are obligate, intracellular parasites, meaning they are not cells but must (obligatory) get into cells (intracellular) in order to take over the host cell's machinery and reproduce.



IS COVID-19 LIKE THE FLU?

No. We know how flu impacts the body. That's why there are vaccines for the flu. Science is still figuring out how the coronavirus affects the immune system.

We understand that unlike the flu virus, COVID-19

is not very good at making variant strains. Our body's immune system should be effective at fighting the virus. However, in some patients, COVID-19 runs wild and turns the immune system against the body.

Looking at Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data, the pandemic has proved deadlier than the flu. In just six months, COVID-19 killed more than 200,000 Americans. The worst year for flu deaths in recent years was the 2017-18 season with 61,000 deaths. In the past year, the flu killed 0.83% of infected individuals 65 years and older, while COVID-19 has killed 10.4%.



IF SOMEONE SURVIVES INFECTION DO THEY HAVE IMMUNITY?

We are still learning whether those surviving infection

have long-lasting immunity. Regardless, scientists are making vaccines that will generate durable, protective immunity that stimulates both antibody and T cell production. Antibodies block COVID-19 from entering cells, whereas T cells kill cells that have become virus factories.



ARE YOU SURE THAT THESE VACCINES ARE GOING TO WORK?

COVID-19 establishes infection faster than the immune system can generate protective immunity so vaccines that "train" our immune system to recognize this virus will be essential. Although the unprecedented speed of COVID-19 vaccine development has raised concern, I can tell you that based on my 35 years of experience as a National Institutes of Health trained and funded research immunologist, Dr. Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, can be trusted to support only a safe, effective vaccine. We must be patient and wait for the research and testing.



WHAT ABOUT MASKS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING?

Masks work! Several Asian countries have been using masks for decades to reduce viral transmission. Virus particles are very small and can remain in the air in moist droplets for hours in confined

spaces. A barrier between your mouth and nose is critical to stopping the spread.

Social distancing works! Consider how COVID-19 quickly infected thousands in the densely populated Northeast. Once we went into quarantine, viral transmission dropped markedly. The virus then expanded down South where there was less mask compliance and distancing, but most notably where people were moving indoors due to the heat as spring became summer.

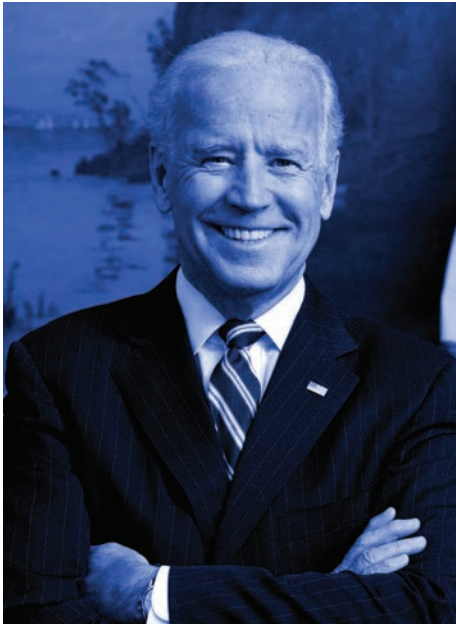
As Scotty, the engineer on the original *Star Trek* series, used to say, "I can't change the laws of physics, Jim." Physical barriers to virus transmission, masks and distancing are our best bet to control this virus. With no new hosts to perpetuate the virus, the transmission cycle burns itself out.



WHAT KEEPS THIS IMMUNOLOGIST/MICROBIOLOGIST UP AT NIGHT?

We have known that a respiratory virus pandemic was coming and that bats could be a reservoir of such viruses (bats, and their viruses, are a fascinating story for another day...). There is a wealth of writing on this subject dating back decades. Our best way forward is to fund pandemic preparedness and research of viruses that may emerge from non-human hosts. Everyone makes mistakes. We all succeed when we learn from them.

Dr. James Riggs is a professor of biology. He has secured more than \$3 million in funding from the National Institutes of Health to conduct biomedical research and has trained dozens of Rider undergraduate science majors. His research interests include immunology, aging and microbiology.



On the trail

TAKING STOCK OF THE ROLE OF PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS DURING AN AGE OF POLARIZATION

By Adam Grybowski

On the day after the first presidential debate between President Donald Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden, Dr. Myra Gutin was exasperated. The debate was widely viewed as a disaster, a classless affair that devolved into a chaotic spectacle of name-calling and bitter personal insults.

“It was outrageous,” Gutin says. “No one has ever seen anything like this in a presidential debate.”

Gutin has taught a course on presidential campaign communication every four years at Rider since 1988, when the contest was between George H. W. Bush and Michael Dukakis. At the time, newspapers still ruled, and one of Gutin’s objectives was teaching students to distinguish between news reporting and opinion in print publications.

Since then, the internet not only changed that model of mass communications but has severely crippled it. Cable news and talk radio sharpened partisan divides. Social media transformed passive consumers of news into active content creators. Disinformation and conspiracy theories left the fringe and entered the mainstream.

By almost any measure, the media landscape is noisier, more contentious and more fractured in 2020 than it was in 1988. Despite these conditions, Gutin believes communication has only grown in importance. “If you, as the candidate, cannot communicate effectively, I don’t see you succeeding in this world of extreme media,” she says.

Although Gutin retired as a professor in Rider’s Department of Communication and Journalism earlier this year, she arranged to teach “The Making of the President 2020” as an adjunct professor this fall so she could teach the course once again, possibly for the final time. She and her students spend time each week analyzing the speeches, advertising, and media chatter that surround the campaigns.

In the week leading up to the first debate, the class reviewed earlier debates that have left a mark on history, like a sickly-looking Richard Nixon debating John F. Kennedy in 1960, and Lloyd Bentsen telling Dan Quayle during the vice-presidential debate in 1988, “Senator, you’re no Jack Kennedy.”

Debates have traditionally provided a powerful platform for candidates to broadly communicate their vision. While they are often remembered most vividly for their moments of drama, at their best they provide viewers a contrast of ideas, personalities and values. Like presidential conventions, their importance has probably waned over time, Gutin says, “but I



would argue that it's still a chance to see the candidates for who they are at a certain point of time."

In the midst of the first Trump-Biden debate, Gutin received a text from a student. She was bewildered by what she was witnessing. It was so different from the debates they watched in class. Gutin had asked students to rate the candidates on certain attributes, such as the content of their message, refutation and stage presence. Taking in the antics, the student was not exactly sure how to complete the assignment.

Biden struggled to fend off an incumbent intent on disrupting him at every turn. At times, he tried to break through the chaos by looking directly into the camera to appeal to the American people. "Biden wasn't perfect, but he tried to talk to the country as a president would," Gutin says.

Overall, Biden's campaign stuck to a conventional message of change and hope — that there are better

“[FDR] could tell them what they didn't want to hear, and why something had to happen.”

days ahead. At its core, that's the message of every challenger, Gutin says. "It's a message that so many American presidents have stressed. The tone is typically one of guarded or outright optimism."

In the campaign as in his presidency, President Trump deviated from

“If you, as the candidate, cannot communicate effectively, I don't see you succeeding in this world of extreme media.”

conventional presidential messaging.

"Incumbents usually focus on their accomplishments and how well they have accomplished certain goals," Gutin says. "I would have expected President Trump to spend more time on the economy and his plans for a second term in office. Instead, the president focused on what he saw as the weaknesses of his challenger. In the speeches I watched, he did not spend much time discussing his administration's response to COVID-19."

Despite these deviations, Gutin believes Trump's communication style served him well in obtaining and maintaining power. "Say what you will about Trump — his sentences aren't wonderful — but he is an effective communicator," she says.

Social media has been central to that communication. Trump's use of Twitter is sometimes compared to the way other presidents have commandeered advances in technology. John F. Kennedy brilliantly crafted his image through TV appearances as the medium was emerging into the mainstream. Franklin Roosevelt famously took advantage of radio to create an intimate connection with the American public, using "Fireside Chats" to make direct appeals to citizens.

"He had an ear for people," Gutin says of Roosevelt. "He could tell

them what they didn't want to hear, and why something had to happen. Roosevelt was a master of using the radio."

Barack Obama is generally considered the first candidate and president to use social media effectively as a fundraising and consensus-building tool. Trump is a more prolific user of social media. For him, Twitter is the bully pulpit, his primary tool to wield power. But while his tweets have moved markets and upended careers, it is not clear if they have accomplished a more primary purpose: persuading more American voters to support him and his agenda. The president's favorability ratings have consistently hovered in the low- to mid-40s for his entire presidency.

"He hasn't found a way to speak to people outside of his base," Gutin says.

After studying presidential communication for more than three decades, Gutin knows for sure that, no matter how important communication is, it can never completely paper over the lack of true substance.

"Even the most talented communicator needs to be able to share what the plan is," she says. "If you don't have anything to talk about, it doesn't matter how good you are. You still need the policy, you still need the ideas." ■

High stakes

CANNABIS LEGALIZATION IN N.J. HAS THE POTENTIAL TO MITIGATE LONG-STANDING RACIAL INEQUITIES

By Dr. Sarah Trocchio

This fall, New Jersey residents voted to legalize adult-use cannabis. While much attention has been paid to the potential economic benefits of the move, less understood is how it stands to advance racial justice goals.

Weeks before the election, Gov. Murphy lauded legalization's prospects, tweeting that "New Jersey spends \$150 MILLION/yr processing marijuana arrests. It is time for the FULL legalization, regulation, and taxation of marijuana, allowing us to reinvest directly in our communities...."

The accompanying graphic was cute. It was a map of the state flushed with small light green cannabis leaves cast against a darker shade of the same color. If you were scrolling fast enough, you might have mistaken it for the back of a \$20 bill. Maybe that was the point.

However, as a sociology professor specializing in drug policy and racial justice, it wasn't the state's sticker price for arrests that struck me the most. It was those additional costs Murphy alluded to, specifically the unique harms imposed on Black and brown communities, the vast criminal records left in the wake of the War on Drugs and the deep potential that legalization has to start righting those wrongs.

The governor's economic messaging appeared to resonate with voters. In a survey conducted in my course "Reefer Madness: From Panic to Profit" prior to the election, of the nearly 350 New Jersey residents surveyed on their feelings about legalization, nearly a third were unsure of the potential im-

pacts on racial justice, compared to less than a 12th that said the same about economic effects.

Regardless of how we got here, New Jersey has arrived at the precipice of massive policy reform. That arrival compels us to assess carefully for whom the new law carries the highest stakes.

Current weed enforcement patterns reinforce long-standing ethnic and racial disparities. A recent analysis of FBI arrest data found that New Jersey arrests the most people of any state for marijuana possession, though it ranks 11th in terms of population size. Over a third of all arrests in the state were due to marijuana violations alone in 2016, vastly outpacing arrests for a host of other offenses combined. New Jersey is a state where traditionally over-policed groups make up a far smaller proportion of the state's population than those arrested for marijuana offenses, even though data consistently shows similar use patterns. For instance, Blacks are 3.5 times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession than whites.

The material and non-material costs of becoming involved in the justice system cut deep, even in cases where individuals avoid incarceration for cannabis possession. Folks may still face hefty fees to avoid jail time and criminal records that significantly impede the ability to secure or maintain housing, education and employment.

If done right, legalization has the potential to directly and swiftly address

one of the most salient drivers of racial inequity in the state's justice system. That's a big if, because the legalization amendment that New Jerseyans voted for does not stipulate that any specific provisions be undertaken to advance racial justice.

It is now critical for New Jerseyans to address the inequities that have and continue to haunt nonwhites in both the illicit and licit cannabis market. The state needs to prioritize forward-looking, feasible yet bold racial equity provisions. We should press legislators to enact regulations that integrate lessons from states that legalized adult use before us.

We should do all of this with an eye toward changing the processes through which folks become or remain entangled in the justice system for marijuana offenses — for instance, by expunging the records of those charged with possession and releasing those presently incarcerated and/or otherwise under carceral supervision for related offenses. Equally important, we should prioritize the inclusion of nonwhites in the emerging legal industry, offering incubators for budding nonwhite cannabis entrepreneurs and assisting in capital investments for nonwhite-owned businesses.

Societal progress is often slow, despite being urgently needed. Yet, voters' legalization of cannabis provides a rare opening to intentionally reimagine the role of cannabis in mitigating rather than stoking long-standing racial inequities in New Jersey.

Dr. Sarah Trocchio is an assistant professor of sociology and criminology.



Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, *The Rider University Women's Suffrage Centennial Cookbook* is dedicated to the vote.

Assembled in the tradition of the suffragist cookbooks of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the book features nearly 100 recipes and honors the courage and accomplishments of the suffragists.

Proceeds from the purchase of *The Rider University Women's Suffrage Centennial Cookbook* will support women's scholarships and programs in the Gail Bierenbaum Women's Leadership Council (GBWLC).

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Cultural competency: a reading list

By Melissa A. Hofmann

One of the initiatives of Rider's Inclusive Excellence Plan is to facilitate "cultural competency and understanding throughout the University community." One way Rider University Libraries supports this initiative is by providing resources to further learning inside and outside of the classroom.

The following highlighted books are a sample of the resources available through the University Libraries. See more at rider.edu/magazine-list.

Melissa A. Hofmann, an associate professor-librarian in Moore Library and a liaison to several departments and programs, including English and Gender & Sexuality Studies, serves on Rider's President's Council on Inclusion.

- 1 **How to Be an Antiracist**
by Ibram X. Kendi

- 2 **An African American and Latinx History of the United States**
by Paul Ortiz

- 3 **The History of White People**
by Nell Irvin Painter

- 4 **Race for Profit: How Banks and the Real Estate Industry Undermined Black Homeownership**
by Keeanga-Yamabitta Taylor

- 5 **When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir**
by Patrisse Khan-Cullors and Asha Bandele



Photo by Peter G. Borg

Don't look back

SPURRED BY NECESSITY, REMOTE INSTRUCTION IS LIKELY TO PERSIST IN SOME WAYS EVEN AFTER THE PANDEMIC RECEDES

By Adam Grybowski

"Why weren't we doing this all along?"

Trent Blanton has been asking himself this question lately, as some aspects of remote instruction prove to be, from his perspective, undeniable improvements.

When the pandemic compelled Rider to institute remote instruction in March, Blanton, an associate professor in Rider's Department of Theatre and Dance, was barely aware Zoom existed. At the time, he could conceive how some parts of the curriculum, such as voice lessons or script analysis, could be delivered from afar using technology. But an interactive discipline like acting?

He was skeptical he could replace the live communal experience of theatre. But the circumstances left little choice. It was, Blanton says, like staring into a tsunami. "You can't get out of the way, so better to hold your nose and dive in."

This fall, Blanton brought in industry experts from around the country as guest speakers. He spearheaded a new formal

partnership with Clark Atlanta University, a historically Black university, to diversify the curriculum. He oversaw a "spectacular" student cabaret performance, with none of the performers in the same space — all from a home teaching studio he has steadily built and added to since the coronavirus turned education upside down last spring.

Blanton has come to see the successes of remote instruction as necessary innovations likely to persist after the pandemic recedes. "There were technology skills that students were lacking and we were lacking ourselves as professors," he says. "What's happened is going to change the way universities teach and bring teaching into the 21st century."

Rider, like so many institutions of higher education, had to learn these lessons in a pressure cooker. As the scope and severity of the pandemic crystallized in March, offices and residence halls were vacated with little warning.

Rider started the abrupt transition from

a strong position, staff from the University's Teaching and Learning Center say. TLC, as the Center is known around campus, provides regular programs and services designed to enhance Rider's teaching mission. Through years of working together, faculty and staff trusted each other and could build off strong existing relationships. Plus, the University had already been offering online programs for more than a decade, and Zoom training had actually begun the previous fall.

"We were ahead of the game," says Senior Instructional Designer Kweli Snowden.

John Gleavy, the coordinator of distance learning, adds, "It's not like we didn't have any bumps in the road, but we had much more capacity and infrastructure than the vast majority of schools."

Led by Dr. Heeyoung Kim, the director of faculty development, the team consistently worked 14-hour days as the University braced for a swift pivot to remote instruction following an extended spring break. The pace barely let up as it became clear summer and then fall would follow a similar pattern.

This semester, few classes took place with professors teaching students in a classroom 100% of the time. This highly unusual structure is almost guaranteed to change once a vaccine is introduced and the health threat weakens, but some features are at least as likely to continue than not.

"Our classrooms will never be the same after the coronavirus crisis, and everyone in TLC looks forward to working with faculty as we continue to find ways to support the flexibility that allows all students to succeed," Kim says.

The delivery of lectures is one of the most likely features to be permanently changed because of the pandemic, the TLC staff says. Pre-recorded lectures delivered asynchronously, they say, leave more time to teach the application of lessons during valuable in-person learning sessions.

"We've received great feedback on instructional videos from students and faculty," says Kim. "Students are finding value in being able to speed them up or slow them down and watch them on their own time. I believe they're here to stay for good."

Blanton has no intention of fully reverting to the previous model. "I'm ready for us to get back together in person but still use a hybrid system where we can use the technology when we can," Blanton says.

Breaking down the supply chain

SUPPLY CHAINS TYPICALLY WORK SO WELL CONSUMERS DON'T EVEN KNOW THEY EXIST. THE PANDEMIC EXPOSED WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THEY BREAK.

By Dr. Tan Miller

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, many people who wanted to buy toilet paper and Clorox wipes couldn't find them. The reason why lies in the typically unseen process of supply chain management.

Supply chains produce and deliver finished goods available to purchase in retail stores or e-commerce vendors like Amazon. Their inner workings remain relatively invisible to many who do not work in the profession. Most consumers only recognize breakdowns in the supply chain when they don't get the goods or services that they need or desire in a timely manner.

» What are supply chains?

A complete supply chain consists of many individual firms' supply chains. It collectively transforms raw materials and components into finished goods and services delivered to retailers and consumers.

Each firm has its own supply chain network. These networks link together to form the overall industry supply chain. In many cases, these supply chains consist of a labyrinth of raw material sources, such as mines, farms, factories, warehouses and more, connected by many forms of transportation.

» What can go wrong?

The non-technical answer is: almost anything!

Supply chains form a complex web of entities that must work together in precisely timed activities. These connections run through a multitude of countries, each with their own laws, regulations and infrastructure.

Most supply chains are vulnerable to disruptions at hundreds or thousands of points. These disruptions can range from the minor to the major, from a flat tire that causes a two-hour delay in delivering a product to a tsunami that wipes out a critical parts production facility.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created enormous supply chain disruptions. Outbreaks of the coronavirus among workers at meat-packing plants forced the temporary closure of many of these facilities, leading to beef and chicken shortages. Shortages of critical protective medical equipment forced our valiant medical personnel to work in perilous conditions. U.S. consumers desperately struggled to obtain scarce products such as sanitizing wipes, gloves and masks.

These disruptions brought on by COVID-19 have made us all acutely aware of the importance of robust



supply chains and the personnel that plan, operate and manage them.

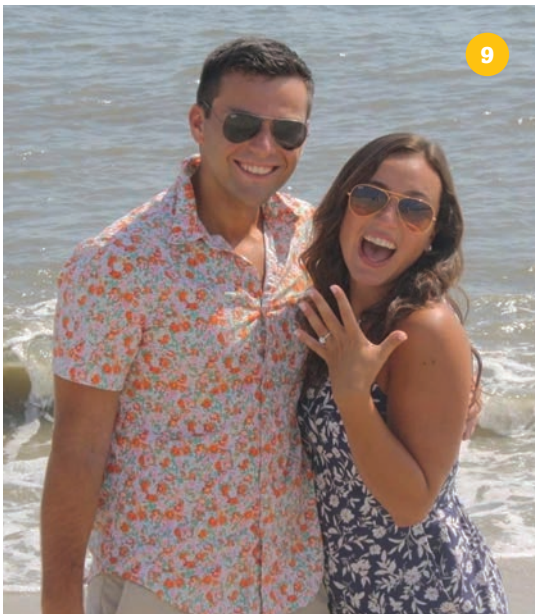
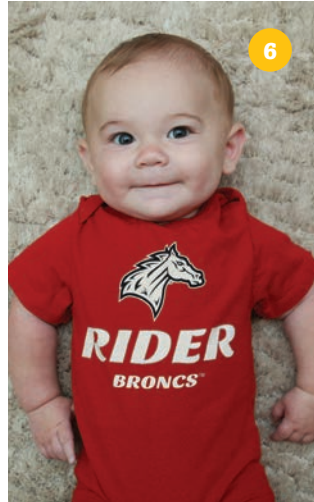
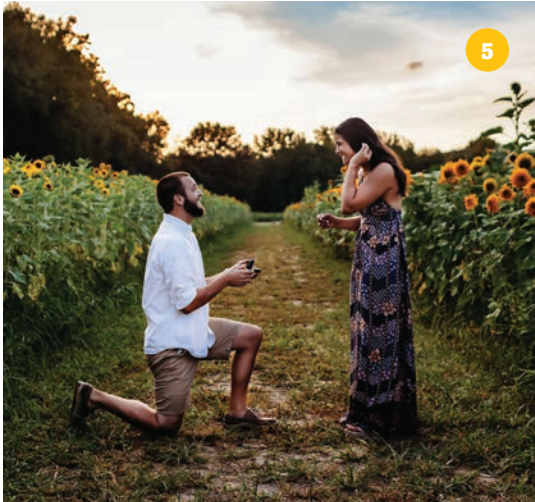
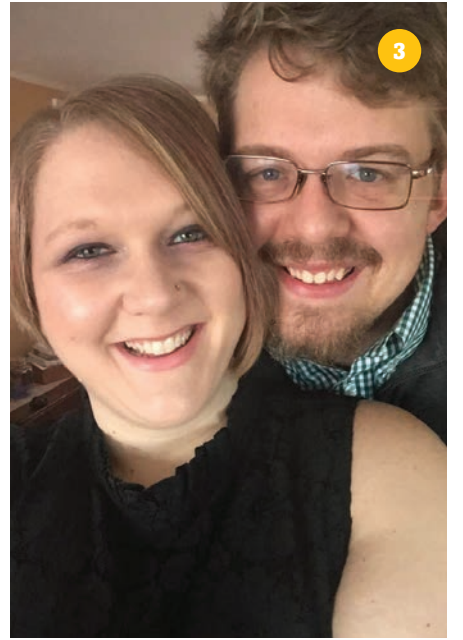
» Can supply chain disruptions be prevented?

Unfortunately, the answer is no — at least, not completely. However, every year the supply chain profession devotes increasing resources to mitigation and prevention efforts. In recent decades, as supply chains have become more global, risk management has vaulted to the forefront of decision-making.

For example, some manufacturers will now forego opportunities to minimize costs by using multiple suppliers for key parts or materials rather than sole-sourcing them from the lowest cost supplier. Some multi-national firms are reconsidering their strategies and migrating toward employing multiple regional and local supply chain networks rather than relying on one larger global supply chain. New technologies, such as 3-D printing and robotics, are being employed to reduce vulnerabilities to supply chain disruptions.

In the end, no full-proof elixir to this ongoing cat and mouse struggle exists. However, innovative strategies and technology will continue to facilitate dramatic progress.

Dr. Tan Miller is the director of the global supply chain management program.





Weddings, births and gatherings

- 1 **Nichole Hitchner '14, '17** and **Joseph Fessenden '17** met in 2015 while working as graduate assistants in the College of Education and Human Services. Joe proposed in January on Rider's campus, right where it all began. Their wedding date is set for Oct. 2, 2021.
- 2 **Salina Vitale '14** and **Kevin Smith '14** were married on Sept. 28, 2019. A couple for 10 years, they have been together since move-in day.
- 3 **Anna Parks '11, '16** and **David Yentema '11** were engaged in August. The couple met in the spring of 2009 in their managerial accounting class held in Sweigart Hall and have dated since January 2017. They are planning to marry in October 2022.
- 4 **Justine Collier '19** and **Ben Krulan '19** were engaged in North Carolina, while visiting relatives. They loved North Carolina so much on their recent visit that they purchased a house in the area. The couple met in their sophomore year at Rider and began dating on Halloween in 2016. They are grateful Rider brought them together and cannot wait to continue their lives side by side.
- 5 **Casey Scharer '16** and **Shane Tubb '15** were engaged on Aug. 28, 2020. The couple both grew up in in Logan Township, N.J., attending the same elementary school, but different high schools. Their paths crossed again at Rider, but they only spoke briefly during a shared history class. They officially started dating in May 2016.
- 6 **Cherilyn (Barbone) Reynolds '08, '11** and **Jeff Reynolds '07** welcomed son Jack Thomas Reynolds at 8:40 a.m. on April 1 near the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. He can't wait to see the campus where his parents met.
- 7 **Xavier Lundy '17** and **Adyaina Camiso '16** are engaged.
- 8 **Skye Hebert '20** and Andy Cuello welcomed their son Cristiano James (CJ) in January. The couple also purchased their first home in July.
- 9 **Noah Fishbein '18** and **Brianna Cichowski '19** met on their first day at Rider and are now engaged. Fishbein was a marketing major and Cichowski was an elementary education and communications studies major.
- 10 **Alan Helimsky '19** and **Haley Vassiljev '18** are engaged with plans to marry in 2021. Both digital media: film, TV and radio majors, the couple met during freshmen orientation and participated in the first Semester in LA program.
- 11 **Jim Resnick '14** and **Erin (McMullin) Resnick '13**, along with their son, Carter, welcomed their second son, James, in May. The couple met in a communications class their freshman year and began dating their sophomore year. Both student-athletes, Jim was a wrestler and Erin ran track. They have been married for four years.
- 12 **Sarah Diefenbach '15** and **Jonathan Knipper '16, '17** were engaged on Aug. 21, 2020, in Cape May, N.J.





Dear alumni and friends,

I am honored to serve as the new president of our Alumni Board of Directors and Alumni Association.

As I greet you for the first time in this role, a couple of things are going through my head. First, what impact and legacy do I want to leave on Rider as president? Second, how do I build upon our plans to have greater alumni engagement? The answer to both questions is that I and my fellow Board members will continue to work hard and dedicate our time to making the Rider alumni experience the best that it can be.

This year has not been easy for anyone. While our world continues to fight the pandemic and social injustice, we want to continue to connect with our alumni and support each other through our shared Rider connection. We encourage alumni to participate in our virtual events and engage with the University.

Please also read Rider's monthly alumni e-newsletter and visit the redesigned website to see the exciting things our alma mater is doing. We are proud of our alumni and we welcome your feedback as we plan the upcoming year. As we look ahead to 2021, I wish you and your families a healthy and happy holiday season.

Stephen Brill '01

President, Alumni Board of Directors and Alumni Association

'60s

Susan Polis Schutz '66 produced and directed a documentary, *Love Wins Over Hate*, which aired on PBS this fall. The documentary explores the lives of six former white supremacists and ultraconservatives. Each one of them explains how they went through a transformation from being filled with hate, anger and rage to acceptance and appreciation of diversity.

'70s

Roberta Specht (née Pentz) '72 and Leonard Specht observed their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 15. She graduated from Bloomsburg University with a bachelor's and from Rider with a master's in business education. She is retired from the Linden School District in New Jersey.

Pat Flannagan '77, '78 retired from King University in Bristol, Tenn., last summer. He directed the King University Choir for 38 years. He earned his bachelor's in church music and his master's in choral conducting from Westminster Choir College.

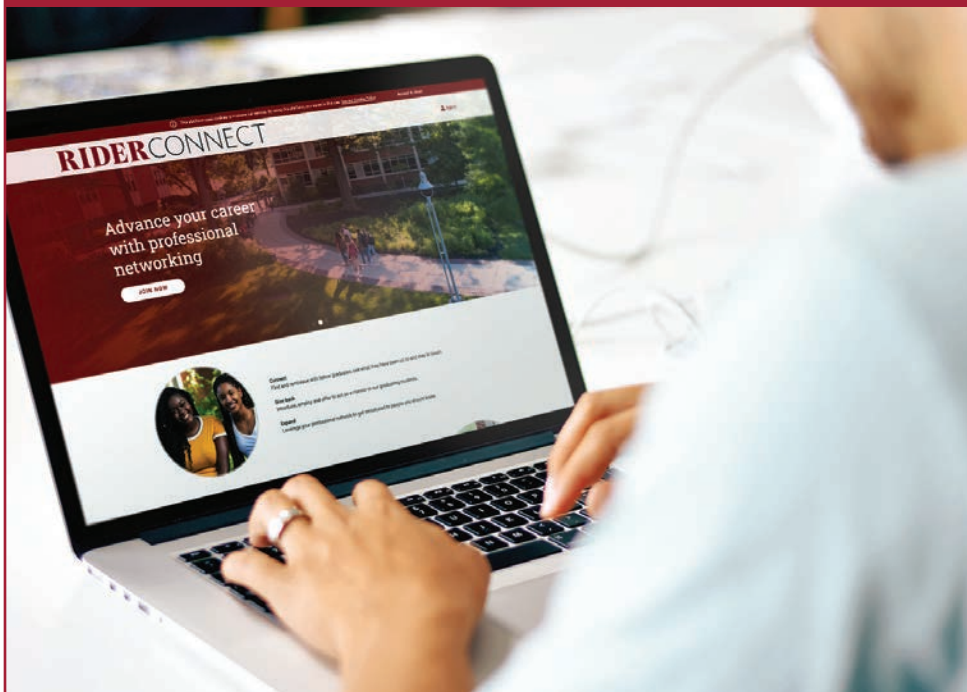
Karen Frison '78 and Leon Frison were the recipients of the 2020 Hedgelawn Foundation Kenny Award from the Kent Cultural Alliance. The award is made in recognition of their decades of service to Kent County in Maryland as public school music teachers. Karen Frison received a bachelor's from Westminster Choir College and a master's from McDaniel College.

Kathleen A. Meller '79, a certified public accountant, was promoted to supervisor of Levine, Jacobs & Company, LLC. Meller received a bachelor's in accounting from Rider.

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'80s

Alan Wexler '85, '90 was appointed to the newly created position of senior vice president, Innovation and Growth for General Motors. Wexler will be responsible for creating, executing and sustaining overall corporate strategies, including identifying future growth opportunities and driving innovation throughout the company. Wexler is a former member of the Rider University Board of Trustees, serving from 2012-18. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Commerce with a major in decision sciences and a Master of Business Administration from Rider.

Theodore Byer '87, of Smolin Lupin was recently selected as *Top CPA of the Decade* by the International Association of Top Professionals. Only one certified public accountant is selected for this distinction. Byer has over three decades of professional experience as a seasoned and trusted expert certified public accountant. Byer earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Muhlenberg College in 1979, a Master of Business Administration from Rider and his certificate in financial planning from Fairleigh Dickinson University in 2002.

John P. McAlpin '87 was named managing editor of NJ Spotlight, an affiliate of NJTV News, in May. His previous experience includes work at *The Record* and as USA Today Network's Trenton bureau chief. McAlpin received a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from Rider.

Eileen Wirth '88, '95 is the new president and chief executive officer of Moorestown Ecumenical Neighborhood Development, Inc. (MEND). Wirth is the first woman to serve in this position in MEND's 50-plus year history. She is responsible for continuing the nonprofit organization's mission of

providing safe and affordable rental housing to senior citizens, persons with disabilities and families of low and moderate income. She continues to maintain MEND's municipal partnerships in Southern New Jersey and directs a staff of 18 affordable rental housing management and maintenance professionals. Wirth earned a Bachelor of Science in Commerce with a major in finance and a Master of Business Administration from Rider. She currently serves as the second vice president for Rider University's Alumni Association Board of Directors.

'90s

Robert Colavita '91, '05 is serving as president-elect of the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials for the year. Colavita is assistant superintendent for business and board secretary for the Hopewell Valley Regional School District. Colavita received a bachelor's in business administration with a major in accounting and master's in educational administration from Rider.

William K. White '94 was appointed senior vice president, head of market access and pricing for BrainStorm Cell Therapeutics Inc., a leading developer of adult stem cell therapies for neurodegenerative diseases. White has more than 25 years of experience in leading successful product commercialization and securing market access for innovative new medicines. He has expertise in rare/orphan diseases, gene therapy, neuromuscular disease, managed care and leadership development. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration with a major in marketing from Rider University.

'00s

Michael Amoroso '00 was promoted to Chief Operating Officer of Abeona Therapeutics Inc., a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company developing gene and cell therapies for serious diseases. In this newly created role, Amoroso's responsibilities broadened to include oversight and leadership of all operations; including but not limited to, research and clinical development, regulatory, medical, commercial, corporate affairs and business development.

Dr. James Morgart '01, '02, '07 was named Potomac State College's 2020 Outstanding Professor of the Year. Morgart is an assistant professor of English. He received bachelor's in both English and accounting as well as a master's in accounting from Rider. His master's and doctorate in English are from The Pennsylvania State University.

Julie Kukenberger '02 is the new superintendent of Melrose Public Schools in Massachusetts. She was previously the interim superintendent of Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District. She was selected by the school committee on March 17. Kukenberger has a doctorate in educational leadership for social justice from Boston College, a Master of Arts in Educational Administration from Rowan University and a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from Rider University.

Leah Pontani '05, '11 joined Goodwill Industries of Middle Georgia and the CSRA as vice president of career development. Pontani joined Goodwill in March. Previously, she was the associate vice president of professional studies and business development at Georgian Court University in New Jersey. Prior to that, she



"My time at Rider was the formative experience that college is supposed to be. Rider supported me in so many ways, and we want to pay that forward for future students."

- **Wright '97** and **Alice Señeres**

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was the dean for the division of lifelong learning at Mercer County Community College. She earned a Master of Business Administration and Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a major in finance from Rider University.

Christopher Cano '08 was appointed chief operating officer and vice president of business development of TFF Pharmaceuticals, Inc. He received a bachelor's in finance from Villanova University and an executive master's in business administration from Rider.

Steven Lang '08 was appointed vice president, biologics, of Aragen, a wholly-owned subsidiary of GVK BIO, a contract research organization based in the San Francisco Bay area. Lang received a master's in business administration from Rider and a doctorate in molecular microbiology from State University of New York Stony Brook. He then undertook post-doctoral work at Stony Brook and Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical R&D.

Anthony Capobianco '09 was hired as the vice president of national sales for Rodney Strong Vineyards.

'10s

Afton Battle '10 was selected as the Fort Worth Opera's eighth general director after a six-month international search. The appointment marks a return to her home state of Texas, where she graduated from the University of Houston with a degree in voice performance, before attending Westminster Choir College and receiving a Master of Music in Voice Performance and Pedagogy.

Christopher Sierra '10 joined the voice faculty at Butler University, where he is teaching courses in

applied voice, vocal pedagogy, vocal literature and lyric diction. Sierra is a graduate of Westminster Choir College.

Kelli Kaelin '12 was admitted to the Global Field Program at Miami University. In her "Earth Expeditions: Connected Conservation" course, she completed a conservation campaign project. She and fellow graduate students created a series of infographics detailing Para La Tierra's (PLT) internship programs, aiming to increase the pool of applicants to PLT's internship program in Paraguay. Kaelin, a teacher at Dedham Country Day School, lives in Newtown, Mass.

Rebecca Smith '15, '16 was recognized by the New Jersey Advertising Club as one of Jersey's Best Marketing and Communications Professionals under 40 for 2020. She is a senior account executive at R&J Strategic Communications, a full-service integrated marketing and public relations agency. Smith earned a bachelor's in public relations and a master's in business communication from Rider.

Sravya Gummaluri '16, '19 began her doctorate in the counseling program at The George Washington University. She previously earned a bachelor's in psychology and a master's in clinical mental health counseling from Rider.

Elizabeth Urban '16 was awarded a prestigious National Science Foundation pre-doctoral fellowship for her work on random gene expression. She is currently a doctoral student at Johns Hopkins University. At Rider, she earned a bachelor's in biology.

Amani Cole-Felder '17, a graduate of Westminster Choir

College, was accepted into the Metropolitan Opera's prestigious 2020-21 Lindemann Young Artist Development Program.

Steven Santos '17', '20 and **Angela Del Collo '18, '19** relocated and started jobs in the Holbrook Unified School District in Holbrook, Ariz. Santos earned a bachelor's in psychology and a master's in counseling services from Rider. Del Collo earned a dual bachelor's in business administration with a major in marketing and psychology.

Cathryn Jolley '18 was invited as a guest panelist for the closing plenary session at the 2020 Annual National Science Foundation Noyce Summit, which was held virtually on Aug. 5. The session, "Voices in the Field," invites only five remarkable STEM teachers from around the country who are teaching in high-need school districts to share their experiences and associated wisdom in the field.

Danielle Russell '18 joined Commercial District Services in a newly created position, creative placemaking and communications manager. She received a bachelor's in arts administration and a master's in urban placemaking and management from Pratt Institute.

'20s

Kiarrah Johnson '20 was accepted into the master's in athletic training program at Thomas Jefferson University. She earned her bachelor's in health studies and psychology from Rider.

Alexis Windecker '20 was accepted into the French Ministry of Education's Teaching Assistant Program in France for the 2020-21 academic year. She earned her bachelor's in biology with a minor in French from Rider.

BRONCS at home

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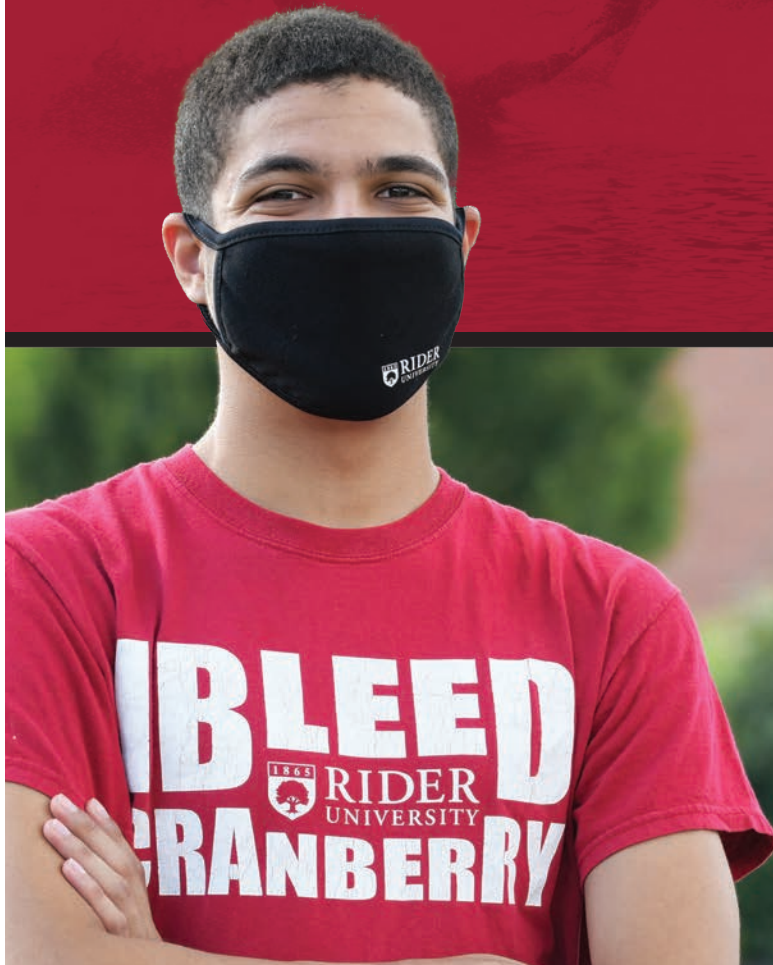
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In Memoriam

- Lois Billard Allen '34
Anna R. McDonald '39
James H. McGordy '39
Doris Hogeland Howell '41
Agnes Maffey Turtur '41
Maribelle Turp Taylor '42
Chester A. Brewer '42
Mariana Garrity Buckley '42
Eva Swenson Weeden '42
Virginia Bauerle McCormack '44
Marian Doney Lewis '45
Marion Winkler Keller '46
Ellen Bakelaar Williams '47
Gladys Meerwald Brewer '47
Julia Semptimpfelter Lubrano '47
Betty Frenz Stanley '47
Alan M. Bank '48
Earl W. Garrison '48
Catherine Chussler Owens '48
Meribah Aikens '49
Richard J. Bloss '49
Samuel A. Conti '49
Alfred J. Dunfee '49
Joseph D. Fishman '49
Joseph P. Iacone '49
Dean A. Neuhaus '49
George P. Papadopoulos '49
William H. Pickel '49
Ernest S. Ronyecs '49
Paul E. Stambaugh '49
Martha Biemesderfer VanderPoel '49
Wayne O. Walls '49
Andrew C. Bourke '50
Edmund R. Davis Jr. '50
Rosella Reimer Duerksen '50
Leon J. Ford '50
Leonard M. Hirshblond '50
Frances Klenawicus Johnson '50
Edward L. Kreyling '50
Doris Zoubek McDonald '50
Rudolph M. Peins Jr. '50
George E. Pribula '50
Nicholas J. Spadaccini '50
Robert A. Young '50
Herbert H. Bentley '51
Dominick P. Colavita '51
Richard F. Doughty '51
Mary Ina Sigmon Fye '51
Hiram R. Hershey '51
Sheldon Kadish '51
William F. Lawyer '51
Arthur F. McQuillan '51
Jay W. Smoker '51
Joseph P. Tognio '51
Frank G. Warburton '51
Walter J. Warfield '51
Claire Williamson Collins '52, '53
Barbara Cabouch DeTraglia '52
Dominick A. Fantini '52
Frank J. Mandato '52
Douglas E. Ossman '52
Theodore E. Partyka '52
Robert L. Rudesill '52
Mary Leavens Schwabauer '52
Joseph A. Simonetta '52
Patricia Tindall Tantum '52
George S. Vassos '52, '53
William B. Meredith '53
Catherine Triano Pyontek '53
Charles M. Weber '54
Victoria C. Amidon '55
Thomas Are '55
Alfred D. Barber '55
H. Robert Daws '55
Shirley Brown Smith '55
Marianne Stankiewicz Battista '56, '70
Edward J. Halvey '56
Kenneth S. Rappoport '56
Carol Lapo Smith '56, '57
Marion Buchman Van Norman '56
George H. Fuchs '57, '58
Stuart B. Gellman '57
Irwin D. Gerechoff '57
Joan Kilmer Brought '58
Genevieve Rossetti Doris '58
Harold L. Mangold '58
Stewart F. Shuster '58
John Yuhas Jr. '58
Allen W. Crobar '59
John J. Csanyi '59
Regina Ranalli Marks '59
Frank H. Reis '59
Robert J. Rockabrand '61, '62
Kent P. Hastings '60
Joseph C. Kale Sr. '60
Peter Kuper Jr. '60
Edwin H. Laubach '60
Frank E. Little '60
Jean Baylor South '60
Rudolph L. Torlini '60
John T. Wasenda '60
Anthony M. Crea Jr. '61
Joseph R. Fink '61
Joseph A. Molony '61
Arlene Smyth Moore '61
David H. Winters '61
James E. Allan '62
William F. Bamka '62
Joseph F. Ehrenreich '62
Jean Dow Hill '62
Raymond J. Klein '62
Andrew P. Gross '63, '81
Sandra Miller Moyer '63
John T. Spitznagel '63
Anthony B. Zulla '63
Robert E. Brown '64
Thomas K. Metz '64
Edward P. Schiffman '64
Joseph J. Cox '65
Patrick C. Gelardi '65
Cathleen Travis Perrier '65
Kathleen Zachman Pontillo '65
Allen M. Reber '65
Thomas E. Rickette '65
Richard H. Robinson '65
Robert H. Corbin '66
Theodore P. Bucon '67, '81
Laraine Moeller Dunlap '67
Janet Kayal Opdyke '67
Donald J. Pfister '67
Ronald D. Sumski '67
Larry L. Blazer '68
Dennis L. Chamberlain '68
William A. Hackmann '68
John F. Hitchcock '68
F. Paul Mulligan Jr. '68
George H. Forczek '69
James E. Gross '69
Thomas G. Marx '69
Daniel J. Wooley '69
Brian Feeney '70
Neil M. Grahame '70
John A. Herrmann '70
Thomas M. King '70
Robert A. Veres '70
Anna M. Jansch '71
Richard A. Powell '71
Jack K. Sassaman '71
Linda Cero Stevens '71
Stephen E. Warren '71
Geoffrey Collis '72
Lawrence C. Ryan '72
James E. Forrest '73
Joseph P. Gibilisco '73
Joanne Eby Hill '73
Henry T. Holzhauer '73
Marjorie E. Pierce '73
Sandra A. Runkle '73
Paul J. Russo '73
Frank Zambo '73
William F. Brenner Jr. '75
John M. Girman '75
Mario D. Ianni '75
Jeffrey C. Leid '75
John M. Lucash '75
Glenn W. Materniak '75, '77
Palma Yackel Stima '75
Jerry A. Clymer '76
Mark Falzone '76
William A. Fischer Jr. '76
Mary C. Gurley '76
Jettie Hutchison Harris '76
Anthony J. Quadagnito '76
Thomas R. Suarez '76
Kenneth L. Erb '77
James J. Gillingham '77
Thomas J. O'Reilly '77
Edward B. Selfridge Jr. '77
Elizabeth Breder Jacobs '78
David R. Lockart '78
Rudolph G. Ammirato '79
Thomas G. Biago '79
Judith C. Colnaghi '79
Karen V. DeFazio '79
Mary G. DiStefano '79
Diane Williams Brett '80
Thomas J. Claesgens '80
Christine Rednor '80
Jack J. Petzko '81
Steven Rheam '81
Robert E. Turkos '81
Patrice Shelmet Hennessy '82
William C. McJames '82
Richard V. Nossek '82
Sandra A. Bound-McCoy '83
Michael P. Dennis '83
Harry X. McGowan Jr. '83
Joseph E. Rosina '85
James T. Beck Jr. '86
Robert A. Vanderloo '86
Ronald A. Velosky '86
Marie Puca '87
Mitchel D. Hausman '88
James H. Graham '90
Andra Baggot Wilson '90
Kathryn D. Fuoto '91
Michele Miller Donoher '94, '01
Carolyn R. Johnson '96
Scott R. McDowell '96
Sherry Szolomayer Johnson '97
Janine Caruso Lang '97
Rebecca Griffith Pearlman '97
Tony J. Whalen '97
Edward M. Gural '98
Barbara Heinold Jacobs '98, '02
Patricia Shard Dell '00
Patricia M. Bates '02
Joan E. Marriott '09
Rebecca E. Davison '13
Brian J. O'Donnell '13
Daniela Meloro Biancanello '15



These photos from the 1970 edition of *The Shadow* reflect a contentious year in history. It was the year when the voting age was lowered to 18, the U.S. celebrated its first Earth Day and The Beatles broke up. Apollo 13 averted a disaster on the way to the moon. Shootings at Kent State deepened political fault lines against the backdrop of the ongoing Vietnam War.

The class that lived through this while students at Rider — the Class of 1970 — celebrated its 50th reunion at Homecoming & Family Weekend this fall. Ready to celebrate your anniversary next fall, Class of 1971? **Contact the Office of Alumni Relations for more information at 609-896-5340 or alumni@rider.edu.**