

# RIDER

a magazine for alumni and friends

Fall 2016

## TRANSFORMING **SPACE**

Westminster College of the Arts' new mission includes creating performances in unusual spaces

Goodbye autographs,  
hello selfies | 12

Students investigate Puerto Rico's  
epidemic of neglected dogs | 14

The rise of the  
radical right | 41





**FEEL THE BERM**

A new berm was installed on the Campus Mall this past spring. Each side of the small hill is adorned with shrubs that spell a word, "Rider" on the west side and "Broncs" on the east.



# Contents



## ON THE COVER

Westminster College of the Arts plans to perform the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Anthracite Fields* at the Roebling Wire Works factory building in Trenton this spring.

## DEPARTMENTS

### 4 Rider Roundup

Inaugurating a new president, naming new deans, and more news from Rider's individual colleges and schools

### 8 Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Sheena Howard, an outspoken voice on race, gender and sexual politics

### 10 Athletics

A new column on sports media, the physics of a curveball and the unveiling of Rider's new practice facility

### 28 Class Notes

### 36 5 Tips

Donna Granato '95 on how to succeed in your job search

### 41 Student Essay

Haley Johnston '16 witnessed the migrant crisis in Europe firsthand

## FEATURES

### 14 Life on Dead Dog Beach

Film students traveled to the southeastern coast of Puerto Rico to investigate an epidemic of neglected dogs

### 20 Good Sports

Student-athletes tally thousands of hours each year volunteering for community service, which plays a major role in the mission of Rider Athletics

### 22 Transforming Space

Westminster College of the Arts has a new mission: transforming communities through the arts

## ONLINE ONLY

Video excerpt of *Satos: A Journey Home*; expanded interview with Dr. Sheena Howard; photo gallery of Rider's new athletic practice facility, and more



*Dear Alumni, Parents and Friends,*

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN, WHEN SUMMER GIVES WAY to the crisp, colorful days of autumn, bringing about a time of change and transformation. Much like the transition from summer to fall, Rider University is also embarking on a season of change as we start this academic year with a renewed commitment to student growth and development.

Last year we introduced the concept of engaged learning at Rider, a holistic approach to education based on the premise that when learning engages the mind and heart, it empowers growth and forges enduring relationships that last a lifetime. Our goal is to build a vibrant learning community that brings together diverse groups of people to explore subjects, tackle problems, share ideas and create solutions.

With a focus on internships, leadership development, faculty collaboration, global experiences, the arts and service learning, our students will have much more than a transactional experience at Rider. Instead, they will be immersed in a transformational journey that prepares them to succeed both professionally and personally as fulfilled, engaged citizens in our ever-changing world.

Much of what you will read in this issue of *Rider* magazine exemplifies our engaged learning approach. Take the

experience of several students who turned a class assignment into a mission to support abandoned dogs in Puerto Rico. This allowed them to collaborate with our extraordinary faculty while expanding beyond Rider's four walls to make a difference in the world. This is engaged learning at its very core, an example of the "Rider experience" that truly sets us apart.

As we transform the lives of students, our campuses are also undergoing a physical transformation. In Lawrenceville, we've just completed a major road paving project, given Moore Library an exterior makeover and upgraded the bookstore. Near the new basketball practice facility, work continues on new offices and locker rooms as part of the Alumni Gym renovation project. In Princeton, you'll see new landscaping outside the Cullen Center, complete with a lush new lawn and irrigation system.

More improvements are on the way. Our Science and Technology Center is being ren-

ovated. Gee Hall is set to receive a major upgrade this year, and a new state-of-the-art dance studio is just about finished. We plan to announce even more campus projects soon.

Much of our progress is due to the generous gifts made by alumni and friends of Rider. Thank you to those who support our work, our mission, our University. Your help is critical to our ongoing success and transformation. For those who have not yet made Rider an annual philanthropic priority, I hope you will consider making a gift to Rider today. It is only through your philanthropy that Rider is able to advance to new levels of excellence.

Go Broncos!

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

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# Rider Roundup

NEWS AND HAPPENINGS AROUND CAMPUS

## EGG HUNT

### Springing ahead

1077 The Bronc hosted the first-ever Eggscellent Egg Hunt on March 23 on the Campus Mall. Thousands of eggs were gathered, and hundreds of prizes were awarded. A bunny and chick petting station also turned up in the middle of the fun.



## GRANT

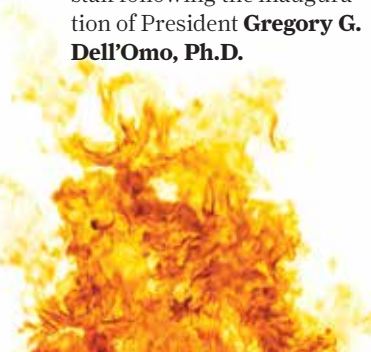
### STEM support

A \$1.45 million grant — one of the largest Rider has ever received — from the National Science Foundation will provide scholarship support to Rider students preparing to become science teachers in high-need urban school districts. As a result, Rider will help deliver 24 much-needed high school science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) teachers to Camden, Trenton and Freehold Borough, among others, potentially impacting hundreds of high school and college students.

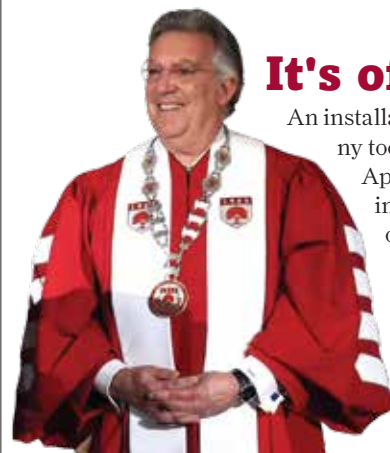
## ON FIRE

### Burning up

A pyre of painted palettes lit up the Campus Green on April 8 for the first-ever Bronc Fire, a bonfire for students, alumni, faculty and staff following the inauguration of President **Gregory G. Dell’Omo, Ph.D.**



## INAUGURATION



### It’s official

An installation ceremony took place on April 8 for the inauguration of **Gregory G. Dell’Omo, Ph.D.**, as the seventh president of Rider University.



Photos, video and more from the event is available at [www.rider.edu/inauguration](http://www.rider.edu/inauguration).

## SHARED READ

### ‘Journey’ worth taking

The entire University community is invited to read Pulitzer Prize winner Sonia Nazario’s 2006 book, *Enrique’s Journey*. During the academic year, it will serve as a launching point for further discussions on topics like the challenges of immigration, the impact of global poverty, and the importance of empathy and hope amidst dire circumstances.

## WHEELS

### Graduate wins car

**Rosie Weber ’16** won a brand new Toyota Scion iM courtesy of Team Toyota of Princeton following Commencement. Her video, “My Promise Fulfilled,” which features an original song, was chosen as the winning entry in 1077 The Bronc’s first-ever #TeamRiderScionContest.



## REUNIONS



### Alumni reunite

Rider broke out its red, white and blue to celebrate the election year and its own Bronc Nation for Reunions on June 10 and 11. Thirty events made up one of the biggest, and most fun, annual occasions at Rider.

Alumni returned to Princeton to reconnect with classmates and rekindle their Westminster experience for three days of Westminster Reunions, May 12-14.

## SOE

### SCHOOL OF EDUCATION



Students traveled to Ireland in May to study Irish culture and history and learn about special education in the UK. The group visited several schools, listened to lectures and saw the sights during this memorable trip.

### On screen

**Linda Hoffman** was featured in an opening plenary video at Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) America 2016, held from June 12 to 14 in Atlanta. Hoffman is a graduate of Rider’s TEACH first class teacher certification program, an innovative approach to encouraging individuals with a strong interest in STEM to pursue teaching. Established in 2005 by President Bill Clinton, CGI is an initiative of the Clinton Foundation that convenes global leaders to create and implement innovative solutions to the world’s most pressing challenges.

### Premium pupil

The 2016 New Jersey Clinical Intern (formerly called New Jersey Distinguished Student Teacher) was awarded to **Ashley Clark ’16** in her certification area of Mathematics and Teacher of Students with Disabilities. Rider has had six Distinguished Student Teachers since 2010 and Clark is the seventh.

## CBA

### COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



### Interim dean named

**Dr. Cynthia Newman**, associate dean for accreditation and graduate programs, is leading the College for the next year as interim dean.

### Time saver

Motivated and academically strong students now have pathways to complete an AACSB-accredited undergraduate business degree in as little as three years — and a graduate business degree in just one year.



Learn more at [www.rider.edu/acceleratedbusiness](http://www.rider.edu/acceleratedbusiness).



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### Seed money

Starting in the fall of 2016, the College of Business Administration has a new program, the Business Living & Learning Community. As part of the program, three cohorts of up to 25 students each now take a class where they are divided into five teams to develop and execute their own business plan. Made possible through corporate donations, each team will be given \$500 as capital and will have to learn to address problems that any startup would face. The goal is to turn a profit that will then be donated to a charity of the team’s choosing. For more information and to get involved, contact **Ira Sprotzer** at [sprotzer@rider.edu](mailto:sprotzer@rider.edu).



CCS

COLLEGE OF CONTINUING STUDIES



Changing paths

**Robyn-Cherry Seigler '16**, who is enrolled in the CCS psychology program, recently learned about the culture, history, ecotourism and sustainable development in Belize, a once-in-a-lifetime adventure made possible by Rider's Nature's Business course. Though she currently holds a degree in chemistry, she was determined to achieve more, beginning with a second degree.

Workshop welcomes Tony Award winner

This summer, the High School Music Theatre Workshop welcomed Broadway artist Alice Ripley, best known for her Tony Award-winning performance as Diana in *Next to Normal*. The workshop is unique, Associate Professor of Theater Trent Blanton says, because of its spirit of community. "Every student is nurtured in a challenging environment dedicated to the success of each individual young artist."

NEW  
**Online**  
B.A. IN PSYCHOLOGY  
[www.rider.edu/OnlinePsychology](http://www.rider.edu/OnlinePsychology)

CLAS

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

New dean

**Dr. Jonathan Millen** was appointed dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences on July 1. A professor of communication, he follows in the footsteps of **Dr. Patricia Mosto** after serving as associate dean for seven years. Millen joined Rider in 1991.

New name

Also on July 1, the College of Liberal Arts, Education, and Sciences and the School of Education began operating as two separate entities. The name of the College of Liberal Arts, Education, and Sciences was changed to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Science building renovation underway

Ambitious plans are underway for Rider to renovate eight of the original science-focused instructional spaces on the ground floor of its Science and Technology Center. Thanks to \$1 million from the New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education Capital Improvement Fund, \$100,000 from The George Alden Trust, and additional funds from Rider alumni, faculty and friends, the University has raised \$1.45 million toward a total \$2.1 million renovation project.



Get involved by visiting [www.rider.edu/sciencebuilding](http://www.rider.edu/sciencebuilding).

WCA

WESTMINSTER COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

WESTMINSTER CHOIR COLLEGE



Certified sustainable

The Marion Buckelew Cullen Center was recently certified Silver by The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System. In 2015, Rider was named one of the most environmentally responsible colleges in the United States and Canada for the sixth straight year by The Princeton Review.

Gov. Christie visits campus

Gov. Chris Christie visited campus May 5 to tout the roughly \$1.3 billion investment New Jersey has made in higher education to help colleges and universities make capital improvements. The Cullen Center at Westminster was funded partly with a \$4.2 million state grant. "By investing in a place like this we are encouraging people to pursue their passion," Christie said.



On record

Four new recordings feature Westminster choirs. *Let Freedom Ring* features the Bell Choir performing creative arrangements of patriotic songs. The Westminster Williamson Voices appear on *Hole in the Sky*, performing works by Westminster alumni Thomas LaVoy and Blake Henson, and *Missa Carolae*, featuring works performed at An Evening of Readings and Carols. *Ode to Joy* is a live recording of the Westminster Symphonic Choir's performance of Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 at a concert celebrating William H. Scheide's 100th birthday.

*Don't Miss a Performance*

Stay up to date with Westminster College of the Arts performances and exhibits in Princeton, Lawrenceville and beyond by visiting [www.rider.edu/arts](http://www.rider.edu/arts)

SCHOOL OF FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS



Learning from pros

Leaders in the field of musical theatre led master classes and met with students this year. They included Andy Blankenbueler (choreographer), Chris Jackson (George Washington), Thayne Jaspersen, and Greg Haney from the smash hit *Hamilton*, and Emmy and Grammy Award-winner Michael Feinstein. Jackson later tweeted the photo above while sporting a Rider hoodie.

Talent showcase

Each year, the musical theatre and theatre senior class members showcase their talents in a fast-paced production for agents and leaders in the field. This year's showcase, at Pearl Studios in New York City, resulted in more students than ever receiving offers for contracts and/or representation, including Broadway productions scheduled for the fall.



Spring Theatre Roundup

**A Little Night Music**  
Director: Ivan Fuller  
Musical Director: Louis F. Goldberg

**Gallathea**  
Director: Dr. Nathan Hurwitz  
The production has been invited to perform at the Dionysus Theatre Festival in Croatia in March 2017.

**Spring Awakening**  
Director: Miriam Mills  
Musical Director: Wendy Feaver  
Choreographer: Robin Lewis



## Faculty Spotlight

### Dr. Sheena Howard

Assistant Professor II of Communication

In a short time, Dr. Sheena Howard has proven to be one of Rider's most outspoken voices in print, online and on air. Her books, blog posts and media commentary cut through many of the most urgent topics roiling the national discourse, from race and racism to sexual politics and gender identity.

In 2015, she leveraged a Rider Summer Fellowship and her relationships with students, alumni and faculty to create a documentary, *Remixing Colorblind*, that examines how the educational system shapes the understanding of race and the nuances of race relations. The film premiered at The Landmark Theatre's Ritz at the Bourse in Philadelphia, Pa.

In 2014, Howard broke barriers when she became the first black female to win an Eisner Award, which is considered the Oscars of comics, for her book *Black Comics: Politics of Race and Representation*.

The book grew out of Howard's dissertation at Howard University, *The Continuity and Extension of African-American Communication Dynamics through Black Comics Strips*. Since its publication, the book has attracted enough attention that she regularly appears at conventions and other comic-book gatherings.

Howard is also the author of *Black Queer Identity Matrix* (2014) and *Critical Articulations of Race, Gender and Sexual Orientation* (2014). She contributes to a number of news outlets, including *The Huffington Post*, and has appeared in other media outlets such as NPR and *The Washington Post*, as well as in documentaries as an expert on popular culture, race, politics and sexual identity negotiation. She has been presented with a proclamation from the City of Philadelphia "for her distinguished accomplishments" and a Certificate of Recognition from Pennsylvania State Senator Anthony Williams.

Her latest project, which is only in the beginning stages, is an encyclopedia of black comics.

—Adam Grybowski



**“I TEACH** because I enjoy the privilege of being able to impart the knowledge I have gained, from both formal education and experience, on to students.”

Q&A

#### What is your favorite black comic? Why?

My dissertation was on *The Boondocks* comic strip (not to be confused with the show). During graduate school at Howard University, I enjoyed the political and social commentary the strip offered and it also reflected black cultural elements that resonated with me. And of course, it was funny. Outside of black comics, my favorite superhero is Captain America. I enjoy his storyline, what he symbolizes and stands for. Captain America has also had some series in the past that have commented on politics and African-American history, such as *Captain America: Truth (Red, White and Black)*.

#### What kind of student were you in college?

I love to learn, so school for me was the perfect place to nurture that need. At Howard University, I had the most transformative experience as a student, especially when it came to identity. I was quite young for a doctoral student, starting at 23 and graduating at 26 — being at a historically black college or university (HBCU) at that time was eye opening. I really found myself and embraced it. You cannot help but be inspired at Howard. I think everyone, regardless of race, should have the opportunity to spend time on the campus of an HBCU.

#### Should colleges and universities continue to affiliate with accomplished, yet deeply flawed, historical figures like Woodrow Wilson, whose record as U.S. president includes setbacks on civil rights for African Americans?

Universities that have figures who are white, who held racist views or did not oppose (but championed) racist practices, are not expected even today to appeal to minority communities. It's like, yes this person was racist or complicit in racist practices and all our students of color have to walk past this person every day on the way to class, but he did all these other great things! There is an expectation that because of their accomplishments, no matter how detrimental to the minorities in this country, that we are somehow supposed to look past those things and embrace these people as our heroes or forefathers, even on college campuses.


I think our younger generation should challenge that line of thinking. I think those on college campuses should demand answers, at a minimum, for the display of those figures, icons and symbols. I am not a believer in erasing history, but I am a believer in the ways in which symbols reinforce notions of race — notions of superiority and inferiority.

#### What are you most proud of?

I am most proud of how far I have come. I have never put a limit on my dreams, or myself, but I have been able to accomplish things and see things that I never dreamed of. I am most proud of the way I have been able to stay true to myself, be fearless and smart in the way I fight for things I care about.

#### What is the most important thing you've learned about how millennials view race?

Millennials are the “colorblind” generation from my research and experience. They are also the most diverse generation, racially, which brings up some very interesting dynamics, especially when we acknowledge that they have had a two-term black president for a large part of their formative years. This creates a generation that is prone to believe we are past race, that policies designed to equal the playing field for minorities are no longer needed and that race really doesn't matter in the grand scheme of things. We will have to wait to see what this will mean for our society going forward.

 This interview has been edited and condensed. For a longer version, please visit [www.rider.edu/ridermagazine/fall-2016/people/faculty](http://www.rider.edu/ridermagazine/fall-2016/people/faculty).

WHAT'S IN YOUR OFFICE, PROFESSOR?



#### ◀Black Queer Identity Matrix

This book is one of my most personal and controversial books. In writing it, my goal was to bring to light the intersectionality of black, female and lesbian identity because academic literature is so lacking in this area, especially in the field of communication.



#### ◀Handwoven blanket from Mexico

This artifact is important to me because it symbolizes the value I place on traveling. I do not take the ability to travel lightly, as not everyone has the privilege to do so. Viewing America from afar makes me a more understanding, compassionate and knowledgeable person. It also helps me better understand history and geography. I encourage students to build their social networks by traveling, if they can. You learn so much when you immerse yourself in an environment outside of your comfort zone.



#### ◀Artifact from trip to Cuba in March 2016

Going to Cuba, when Americans are still legally banned from entering the country freely, was eye-opening for me. To witness the impact of the American embargo on Cubans and its effect on their economy made it real for me. Personally, as an American, I was encouraged to deal with the historical hypocrisy of the USA.





## Practice made perfect

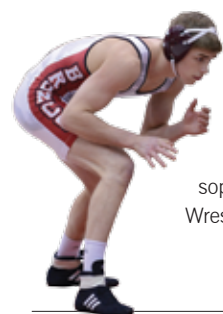
Jason Thompson Court, named for the 2008 alumnus and current member of the NBA's Toronto Raptors, is housed inside a new 8,400 square foot basketball practice facility on the Lawrenceville campus. The facility was completed in April 2016 as the second phase of the multi-phased Alumni Gym project. A ribbon cutting was held on Sept. 17. The third phase, which includes the construction of new men's and women's basketball office suites inside a space that will connect Alumni Gym and the practice facility, is expected to be completed in September. Fundraising for future phases is underway.



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— FOR RIDER ATHLETICS —

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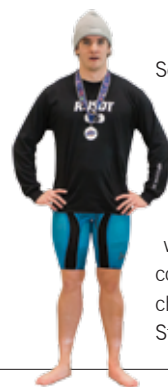
### BRONC BITS



The Eastern Wrestling League named Gary Taylor, who is fourth on the all-time NCAA Division I career win list, Coach of the Year and All-American sophomore **Chad Walsh** Wrestler of the Year.



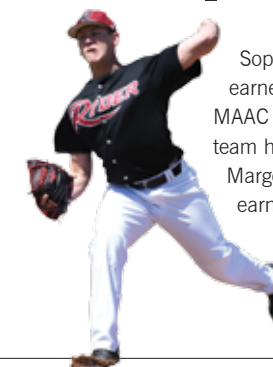
Junior **Robin Perkins** was named Second Team All-MAAC while senior Teddy Okerefor and junior Kahlil Thomas were named Third Team All-MAAC.



Sophomore **Zack Molloy** was named the MAAC Most Outstanding Performer. He won three individual events at the MAAC Championships and was a member of four winning relays. In June, Molloy competed in the 200 free for a chance to qualify for the United States Olympic team.



The golf team tied its best-ever score in MAAC play (293) on the final day to place third in the MAAC Championships, with junior **Parker Mann** earning All-MAAC honors.



Sophomore **Nick Margevicius** earned Second Team All-MAAC and MAAC All-Academic team honors. In the MAAC, Margevicius was second in earned run average (2.57) and sixth in strikeouts (67).



Senior **Nicolette Mateescu** qualified for the NCAA East Regional Track & Field Championships in Jacksonville, Fla. This spring, Mateescu set Rider records for the 10,000m, the 5,000m and the 3,000m.



# Selfies are the new autographs

*Technology is changing how we remember sports*

A tattered baseball scorebook page signed by Harry Kalas and Richie Ashburn, the Philadelphia Phillies famed announcing duo and two of my childhood heroes. It was and remains one of my prized childhood possessions.

This treasure was acquired during a spring training game in Clearwater, Fla., in the mid-1980s, when I stumbled upon them walking the stadium concourse. Upon my surprise, I did what kids did “back then” when they saw celebrities. I handed them whatever I had currently in my possession to sign for an autograph.

About 15 years after that moment became etched in my mind forever, I saw Kalas and Ashburn sign autographs countless times as a co-worker who produced the Phillies radio game broadcasts. Never once did either of them say no to an autograph request from kids or adults. My guess is both signed about 10 autographs every home game. Multiply that by 82 games for multiple decades and you get a rough estimate of how many Phillies fans they made happy just by placing pen to paper.

Both men have since passed

on, but if either was still around today, I speculate they would no longer have to say yes to so many autograph requests. The days of fans pulling out scrap pieces of paper in hope of landing autographs from sports figures have diminished. Today, that action feels like a gesture from a bygone era, stuffed away on the historical shelf next to advertisements of Joe DiMaggio promoting the virtues of Chesterfield Cigarettes.

In 2016, the autograph moment has morphed into the selfie moment. Many people coming in contact with their sports heroes now pull out their phones and walk away with selfies instead of signatures. Call it an obscure evolution of our changing sports media. The selfie is the modern day autograph.

Changes in sports media are popular topics inside the classroom; however, we usually focus discussions around how much streaming video and social media has changed the industry. But new media, which is so mobile and omnipresent, also has more subtle

effects, including how we build memories.

Our trinkets of unforgettable times are no longer stored in tangible memory boxes for us to gaze at individually. Those moments are now made available for public consumption in an effort to craft our own image and communicate how exciting our lives are. A selfie with Tom Brady in an airport or Kobe



A.J. Moore

Bryant at a Starbucks will get much more positive reinforcement than just showing someone a scribbled signature whenever you happen to see him or her.

We value these serendipitous occasions because they provide content we can share with people around the globe who we really don't know but yet consider them our “followers” in a Jim Jones kind of way.

It is as if our memories don't truly exist unless we see it happening first through the screen of our handheld devices. Those digitized memories then must be posted to social media to make them official. In the span of Peyton Manning's career, media has transformed so

dramatically it appears to have changed the way we process our memories.

Sure, that picture of you and the Eagles backup quarterback you ran into at Wawa might last longer than him scribbling his autograph on the nearest available hoagie wrapper, but it does come at a price. Rather than seeing, talking and living in the experience, our first priority is to separate ourselves from the moment and whip out our phones, making the acquisition of digital proof our goal.

We have become habituated to appreciate our memories only when they follow a wall — make that a handheld device — coming between our eyes and those occurrences. That wall is never more than a few inches away from us, regardless of the situation.

As a result, technology is not only changing how we view and consume the experience of sports, it's also impacting how we remember it.

*Associate Professor of Journalism A.J. Moore is the director of Rider's new program in sports media.*

## Hall call

Rider University Athletics Hall of Fame inducted 5 new players on June 11



**Jason Thompson '08**  
BASKETBALL  
12th player selected in first round of 2008 NBA Draft



**Jim McKeown '81**  
SOCCER  
1977-78 Rider athlete of the year



**Don Fisch '08**  
WRESTLING  
2007 NCAA All-American who finished 5th at the National Championships



**Kevin Connolly '75**  
BASEBALL  
Graduated from Rider as the career leader in hits (127) and RBI (96)



**Sarah Artale '03**  
SOCCER  
Rider's all-time leading scorer

# The Science of SPORTS

## the CURVEBALL

The fastball is junior **Drew Tumbelty's** pitch of choice, the one that primarily helps him get the Broncs out of a jam in the 9th inning and preserve a victory. But the right-handed closer keeps a curveball in his back pocket to keep batters guessing.

Pitchers have been using the curveball for almost 150 years to fool batters, relying on its low velocity and big break as it approaches the plate to freeze hitters and keep them swinging and missing. Good hitters can see the way a ball is spinning to determine what kind of pitch is coming toward them, where it will wind up and whether or not to swing. Generally, a late-breaking curveball is more effective at beating hitters than one that breaks big, but the pitch can be difficult to control.

### HOW DOES IT WORK?

To throw a curve, the middle finger is placed along the bottom seam, with the thumb on the back seam, creating a C shape. When pitchers reach the peak of their throwing motion, they begin to rotate their throwing hand and wrist and as the ball is released they snap their middle finger down, which guides the trajectory of the ball.

To get a better snap, Tumbelty grips the ball tighter with his middle finger than his pointer when he's throwing a curve, and pulls his throwing arm hard to his opposite hip. The snap creates topspin, meaning the top half of the ball spins toward its direction of motion, with the bottom half spinning against it. Such spin causes the ball to dive as it approaches its target.

### WHY DOES IT WORK?

The explanation of why the ball dives begins with Newton's third law, which states that for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. When a pitcher fires a pitch into a catcher's mitt, the catcher feels the force of the pitch through the impact, but he or she also exerts a force to slow the ball down. That's an example of the third law in practice.

Something similar happens to a curveball. When a ball is thrown with topspin, “Air hitches a ride to the top side of the ball and gets dragged along and slightly down towards the ground,” says physics professor **John Bochanski**, “but the air on the bottom doesn't get on the same track. The net result is that a top spinning ball deflects some air toward from the sky.”

Essentially, air that is pushed up towards the sky pushes the ball down. The opposite is also true, which is why a ball thrown with backspin, like a fastball, causes it to stay in the air longer.

The ball's trajectory is described more precisely by the Magnus Effect, which is named after the 19th-century German physicist Gustav Magnus who studied it. The Magnus Effect states that a spinning object moving through air will deviate from a straight path.



Illustration by Julie McLaughlin



# LIFE ON **Dead Dog** **BEACH**

Rider film students investigate an epidemic  
of neglected dogs in Puerto Rico

By Aimee LaBrie





“**D**ead Dog Beach” is the colloquial term for Playa Lucia, an area on the southeastern coast of Puerto Rico once popular for beachgoers. It earned its name because it’s the place where dogs go to die.

Dozens of dogs are regularly dumped there each year. There is no fresh water and food is scarce. Dogs forage in nearby trash dumps, often traveling the beach in motley packs. Abandoned, starving and living with unrelentingly high temperatures, most will not survive without intervention. The people who reside near Playa Lucia struggle, too. More than half of them live below the national poverty line. Feeding their own families takes precedence over the animals, many of whom were once family pets.

It is estimated that over 100,000 dogs live in this state of near despair. They are known by the slang term “Sato” and for most people in the United States, their plight is unknown.

**Jillian Belmonte ’15** has always loved animals, but it wasn’t until she adopted Abby, a Labrador retriever mix from the Monmouth County SPCA, that she heard about the Sato dogs and learned that Abby was one of the abandoned animals brought over from Dead Dog Beach. When she was asked to come up with a subject for a documentary in **Dr. Shawn Kildea’s** TV field production class at Rider in the fall of 2014, she seized the opportunity. “When I pitched the idea for the film, virtually no one I knew was aware that there are thousands of stray animals on the island of Puerto Rico,” she says.

Overseeing an average class size of 15 students, Kildea, an associate professor of communication who earned his bachelor’s and master’s from Rider, picks three or four student ideas and then arranges students into groups to work on the films. The goal is for them to collaborate on writing, storyboarding, researching, filming and editing a documentary. “Belmonte’s pitch caught my attention right away,” he says. “It was clear that she was invested in the subject matter and that the problem was fairly unknown.”

**Kaitlin Rust ’16** also has a passion for animals. She had suggested a similar story about the horrors of puppy mills. When she learned she would be helping Belmonte, she was energized. “It wasn’t just a class project for a grade,” she says. “It became much more than that. It became our passion.”

Kildea was not surprised by the students’ enthusiasm. “In our department, we encourage personal involvement in a subject students truly care about and are invested in exploring,” he says. “My only requirement is that the producers care about the subject matter, and if the documentary has a lot of potential, students can apply to work on it for another semester.”

Over the years, Kildea has traveled with students to shoot in Georgia, Washington, D.C., Oregon and Florida, among other places, pursuing topics like a ghost reader at a haunted library in Burlington County, N.J., and Civil War re-enactors at the Daniel Boone Homestead in Birdsboro, Pa.

As Belmonte, Rust and a crew of three other Rider students began the hard work of trying to figure out how to capture the

scale of the dog abandonment problem, they kept coming back to the need to see Dead Dog Beach up close. Interviews and still photographs alone were not going to cut it.

“Going to Puerto Rico was something that we brought up right away,” Belmonte says. “We were all so fired up about making a difference that going to the island and documenting the

**“We wanted to capture the real images of the cruelty these animals face, so our film could motivate others to get involved.”**

dogs firsthand was a necessity. We wanted to capture the real images of the cruelty these animals face, so our film could motivate others to get involved.”

Kildea appreciated their enthusiasm, but he was also a realist. Part of his job is to get students to understand the feasibility of their project. “Especially when they’re developing their ideas, I remind them to be practical about time, budget and scale,” he says. “They have to learn how to do all of this and how to tell a great story visually.”

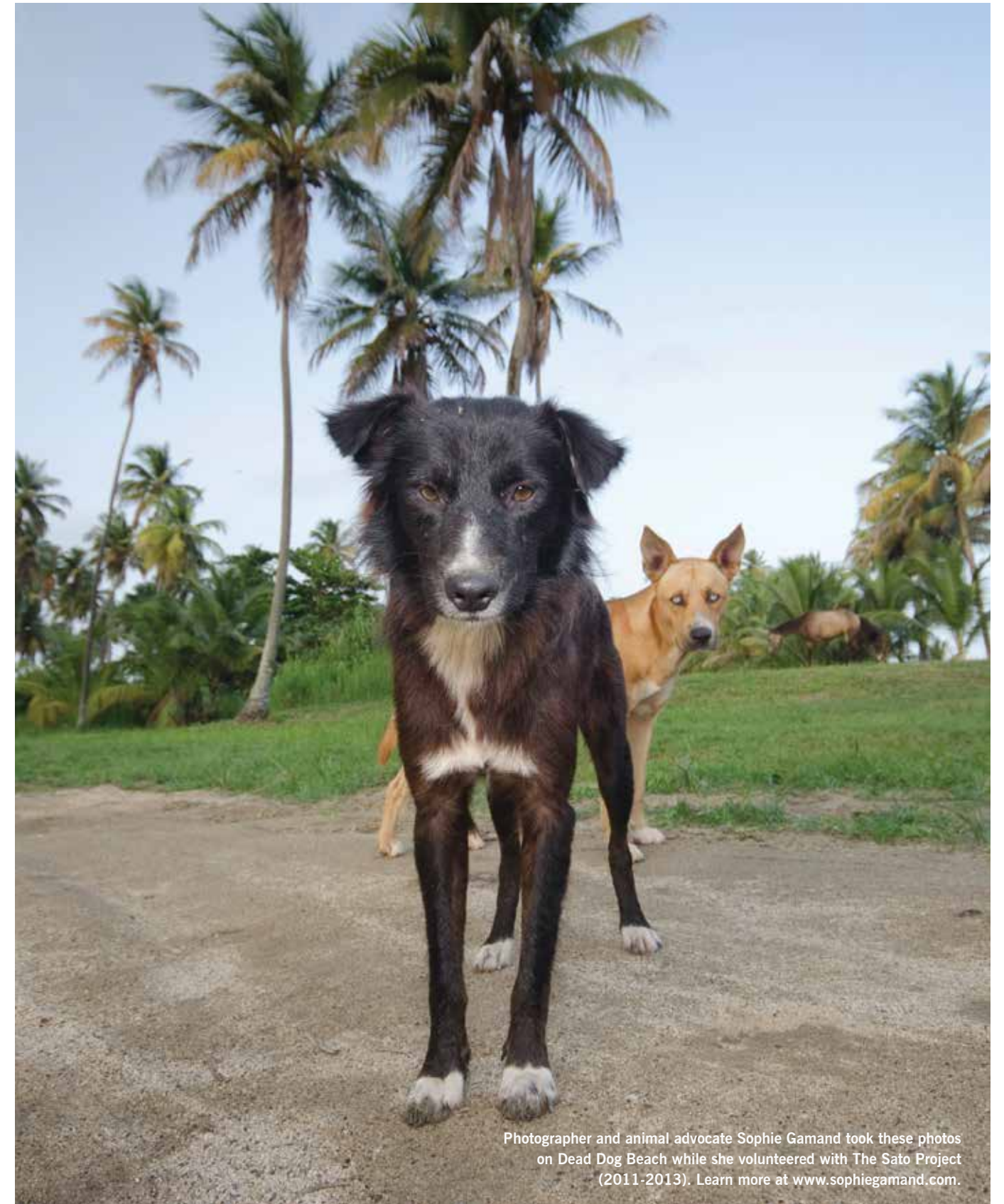
Seeing their passion and determination, Kildea suggested they appeal to the Student Finance Board at Rider, an organization made up of students who assist with student-driven projects they deem to be exceptional. With his encouragement, the students were awarded a grant of \$500 towards travel expenses. Kildea also suggested they consider crowd-funding. Taking his advice, the students raised an additional \$2,000 from Indiegogo. By December 2014, they were ready to fly to Puerto Rico.

**B**oth Belmonte and Rust thought they were prepared for what they would see. They’d researched websites and witnessed dozens of photos of dogs with mange and bones visible through their skin. They knew that only three percent of shelter dogs in the country are adopted. The rest are euthanized.

When she stepped off the plane, Belmonte had a mixed reaction. “My first impression of Puerto Rico was that the island was absolutely gorgeous,” she says. “The beaches and turquoise water, the history of Old San Juan, the amazing people. But I also remember seeing a stray dog look both ways before crossing a busy street, completely alone and fending for himself. It was an intense juxtaposition.”

Rust felt similarly. “What surprised me was seeing animals on the side of the road, weaving through traffic like it was no big deal. I’d see this dog walking in the street with traffic zooming around him. It was very rattling. We continued driving, and it kept getting worse.”

Even though many of the dogs are feral, some are clearly used to human contact. Rust recalls many skeletal dogs that



Photographer and animal advocate Sophie Gamand took these photos on Dead Dog Beach while she volunteered with The Sato Project (2011-2013). Learn more at [www.sophiegamand.com](http://www.sophiegamand.com).





Photo by Peter G. Borg, University photographer

Kaitlin Rust '16 (right) and Marissa Perl '16, who adopted a black dog named Bentley from Puerto Rico while working there on a documentary.

ignored the food placed before them, instead jumping up again and again, tails wagging, wanting to be held.

Over the course of three jam-packed days, the team got as much information and footage as they could. They were helped by Liza Arias, the director of El Faro de los Animales Animal Sanctuary in Puerto Rico, who took them around the island and told them stories about the struggle to rescue the dogs.

On the last day of the shoot, they spotted a little white dog on a road near a motel. They were headed back to San Juan but pulled over to feed him and shoot some final footage. Almost completely hairless and thin, the animal was still a puppy, and

**“I want to go back and help as much as I can. It’s the most personally fulfilling thing I’ve done in my life so far.”**

though it was clearly starving, the dog ignored the food they put down, wanting to be touched instead. Already late, the students pulled away in the car. As they headed down the road, the puppy chased after them. It was crying and tripping over its feet. “We were planning on leaving him,” says Belmonte. “We had to leave so many behind. We just couldn’t do it, not that time.”

The dog now belongs to Belmonte. His name is Beau.

**F**or Rust, the first trip to Puerto Rico ignited her determination to make a difference. Though they had finished the class project with an amazing 15-minute reel, she wanted to do more. “I feel very passionate about this issue and I have been an animal lover my entire life,” she says. “To actually be involved in something that mattered to me felt good. It just didn’t seem like I’d done enough.”

She signed up for an independent study in the fall of 2015 and began assembling another crew of Rider students to work on the project. Having made contacts with several people connected to the issue, Rust reached out to Ken McKeel who works at Monmouth County SPCA to let him know that they were going to continue with the film. He suggested they contact Citigroup banker and philanthropist David Brownstein, who is a board member of El Faro de los Animales. Brownstein, who adopted three Sato dogs in 2010, has invested his own time and money to this issue, frequently funding trips to Puerto Rico to rescue abandoned animals.

Rust made the call to Brownstein, who recognized her name immediately. He invited her and the crew to fly out with him and individuals from the rescue organization in December. Soon enough, Rust and her classmates found themselves jetting over the Atlantic, headed back to Dead Dog Beach.

Rust understands the problem has deep roots. “The reasons for overpopulation in this area are complex,” she says. “Many

people living there have difficulty feeding their own children, let alone an animal. It’s also an issue of education. The concept of spaying and neutering is very different in Spanish-speaking countries, and dogs are not as culturally embedded in families as they are in the States. When you add that to the fact that Puerto Rico is almost completely bankrupt, you can understand why it’s difficult for the people to take care of the dogs.”

One of the students of the second crew, **Marissa Perl '16**, vividly remembers the first day in Puerto Rico. As they drove in, she noticed several dead dogs on the side of the road. Most had been run over, and all were emaciated. “I couldn’t believe it,” she says. “It reminded me of deer carcasses I’d see during rutting season in New Jersey.”

As before, the students worked with a local shelter to get footage of the dogs. This time, though, they were involved in a transport mission, which meant that they were able to be part of the effort to physically capture the dogs to take them back to the United States. “We would go around, seek out the dogs and feed them,” Perl says. “These huge packs would come up to us and they would be in terrible condition, with burn marks on the side of their faces, obviously from people abusing them, but they were beyond friendly.”

On that trip, 50 dogs were saved and flown back in crates to be rehabilitated in shelters in New Jersey and New York. Perl adopted Bentley, a feisty black Sato dog. She has also fostered 15 others. Rust’s family has three dogs.

Rust and Perl completed the edits to the hour-long documentary, *Satos: A Journey Home*, in May. “It’s a more comprehensive look at the issue, and includes all aspects of the problem — why it happens, the solutions, what the plan should be and what the government should be doing,” says Rust.

Belmonte, who now works at Audible, the audio entertainment company owned by Amazon, as an audio content production coordinator, stays in touch with the shelters and rescue organizations she came in contact with during the initial class project. “I want to go back and help as much as I can,” she says. “It’s the most personally fulfilling thing I’ve done in my life so far.”

Rust landed a job as a multimedia journalist and reporter at KPLC, an NBC affiliate in Lake Charles, La., even before graduating. Almost everyone she interviewed with was interested in hearing about the documentary.

Perl is currently applying and interviewing for several television production jobs. She still finds herself in the studio, working with Kildea on color corrections and other edits. She is inspired by how she was able to make a difference. “Coming back on the jet with 50 dogs was extremely rewarding and fulfilling,” she says. “I was honored to have been a part of it.”

Though the film has technically wrapped, those involved share a common hope. “I wish more people knew that this problem existed,” Belmonte says. “There is a solution — if dogs and cats were spayed and neutered to control the massive overpopulation, we would be able to decrease the number of homeless animals.”

Rust says, “Please, adopt, don’t shop. There are plenty of dogs in shelters. If everyone who wanted to buy a dog adopted one, there would be no dogs in shelters.” ■



A video excerpt from *Satos: A Journey Home* is available at [www.rider.edu/ridermagazine](http://www.rider.edu/ridermagazine).



**COMMUNITY SERVICE** plays a major role in the mission of Rider Athletics to create well-rounded student-athletes who are studying and competing at the University. This year, Rider's student-athletes and coaches tallied 3,888 hours of community service.

Rider has participated in the 11-team MAAC Goodworks Challenge, which runs annually from Sept. 1 to April 30, ever since it began in the 2009–10 academic year. Until this year, when a rule change altered the point system, schools that took part in the Challenge earned points for every hour volunteered, with bonus points awarded for large groups. Rider won the inaugural Goodworks Challenge, donating the \$1,000 prize to Homefront, a nonprofit whose mission is to end homelessness in Central New Jersey. Since then, the University has finished in the top five each year.

# GOOD SPORTS

By  
*Adam Grybowski*

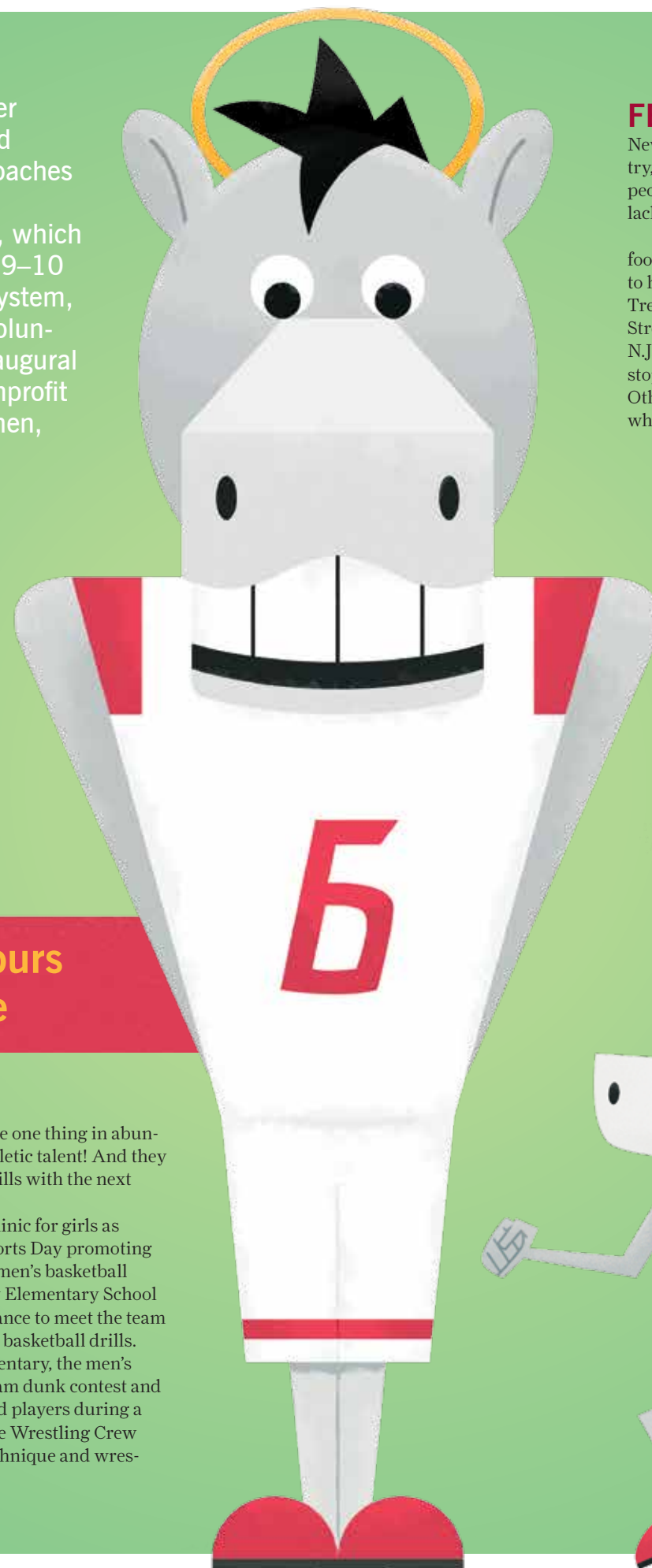
**Rider's student-athletes tally thousands of hours each year volunteering for community service**

## PUTTING ON A CLINIC

Rider's student-athletes undoubtedly have one thing in abundance to contribute to the world: their athletic talent! And they take many opportunities to share their skills with the next generation of up-and-coming athletes.

Rider's women's teams hosted a free clinic for girls as part of National Girls and Women's in Sports Day promoting female participation in all sports. The women's basketball team held a basketball clinic at a Parkway Elementary School in Ewing, N.J., where students had the chance to meet the team and ask questions, as well as run through basketball drills.

At a clinic of its own at Parkway Elementary, the men's basketball team wowed the kids with a slam dunk contest and later mixed it up with the elementary-aged players during a game. Rider's wrestling coaches joined the Wrestling Crew Wrecking Club to demonstrate proper technique and wrestling conditioning.



## FEEDING THE HUNGRY

New Jersey consistently ranks as one of the most affluent states in the country, but not every resident is sharing in the wealth. More than one million people living in the Garden State suffer from food insecurity, meaning they lack access to sufficient quantities of affordable, nutritious food.

Rider Athletics helps address the problem by collecting and delivering food baskets to local nonprofits and food banks dedicated to responding to hunger. This year, the baseball team served Thanksgiving lunch at the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK) and the wrestling team visited Mercer Street Friends, which is dedicated to addressing hunger in Mercer County, N.J., for Thanksgiving, delivering baskets of food for the underprivileged. Not stopping there, the team also helped organize and clean a local food bank. Other teams that got involved include field hockey and women's basketball, which were seen on and off campus volunteering their time.



## RAISING MONEY AND AWARENESS

The players and coaches at Rider do more than get involved; they truly make a difference by raising money and spreading awareness.

In April, members of the men's and women's soccer and field hockey teams participated in Rider's Relay for Life, the all-night event that raises awareness and funds for the battle against cancer. This year, Relay for Life raised more than \$60,000.

Rider Athletics partnered with the local blood council to raise awareness about platelet donations and its benefits. Players and coaches also took part in the annual Stomp out Stigma walk, which is dedicated to promoting awareness about mental health. The men's basketball team designed wall murals at Children's Specialized Hospital in Hamilton, N.J., to show support for children with illnesses.







# TRANSFORMING **SPACE**

Westminster College of the Arts will convert Trenton's Roebling Wire Works factory building into a performance space in April — the beginning of a new mission to transform communities through the arts

By Ilene Dube



**N**

ew musical productions need old landmarks.

Not only is the appropriation of old edifices a key component of sustainable building, but adaptive re-use has provided some of the most inspiring and dynamic spaces for live performances.

Architectural gems that were once at the center of thriving cities around the world are escaping the wrecking ball and finding new life as arts venues, at the same time revitalizing downtowns. Examples

abound, from the Brooklyn Navy Yard, which today houses a motion picture studio, to New York's Park Avenue Armory with its groundbreaking performance art pieces and Philadelphia Fringe Arts conversion of a turn-of-the-century pumping station into an "industrial chic" theater.

Rider University's Westminster College of the Arts (WCA) joins the movement with plans to perform the 2015 Pulitzer Prize-winning *Anthracite Fields* at the Roebling Wire Works factory building in Trenton April 21 and 22, 2017. The site was once the factory where John A. Roebling & Sons manufactured wire rope for the Brooklyn Bridge, the George Washington Bridge, Otis elevators and cable cars. Roebling wire rope helped make possible some of the most important technological achievements of the industrial age: telegraphs and telephones, electrification, deep mines and big ships, elevators and airplanes.

With its soaring space (50,000-square-feet worth!), the red brick building at 675 S. Clinton Ave. is an ideal venue for *Anthracite Fields*, which addresses issues of labor and industry in Northeastern Pennsylvania around the turn of the 20th century. An oratorio for choir and chamber ensemble by the American composer Julia Wolfe, *Anthracite Fields* was commissioned by the Mendelssohn Club, Philadelphia's oldest continuously performing community chorus, and premiered in Philadelphia in 2014. The composition has been praised as "an unforgettable haunting, harrowing evocation of the plight of Pennsylvania's coal miners, incorporating many musical styles and effectively shadowy visuals" by *Los Angeles Times* music critic Mark Swed.

"An experience where music, poetry and the arts are put inside a space outside a typical performance hall or church takes on completely new meaning," says **Joe Miller**, director of choral activities at Westminster Choir College, as well as conductor of the Westminster Choir and the Westminster Symphonic Choir. "It's unexpected, and then all of a sudden it's there, that change of perspective, and it hits you."

In addition to the two performances of *Anthracite Fields*, there will be a daytime workshop and educational component. Half of tickets to the performances will be offered free to Trenton residents. The workshop will include a performance for Trenton school children, followed by a Q&A with the choir.

Through "Any Given Child," a program supported by The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts that has received endorsement from Trenton Mayor Eric Jackson and Superintendent of Trenton Public Schools Lucy Feria, WCA is the higher education partner for the Trenton Public School

System to build its arts curriculum and programs, ensuring that every child in Trenton receives a quality arts education. Rider has just completed a strategic planning process with Trenton for the three-year project that affords Rider education students an opportunity to gain experience in arts education.

The cross-campus collaboration engages music education majors from WCA and the history department from Rider and brings Trenton teachers to the Rider campus for training. "Rider students will go to the Trenton schools and help art teachers transform a space in their schools, producing art exhibits or performances in unusual spaces to see how the community engages with the space, and to demonstrate the power of the arts," says WCA Dean **Matthew Shaftel**.

Shaftel, who is celebrating his one-year anniversary as dean of WCA, has put forth a large number of initiatives under eight goals, including new performance opportunities and community engagement. "We have a major initiative to build bridges



across campuses," says Shaftel, who has been conducting meetings, surveys and retreats among faculty, students and alumni to identify top priorities.

While the mission of the Choir College, founded in 1926, has been "Service through music," with a focus on building community through choral music, a new vision statement for the College of the Arts, established in 2006, is developing: "Inspiring and empowering future leaders and artists to transform their communities through the arts."

In addition to *Anthracite Fields* in Roebling Wireworks, two other projects are planned. A performance of Brahms' "Liebeslieder Waltzes" at the Trenton War Memorial Ballroom, in collaboration with American Repertory Ballet Company, will take place in the fall of 2017. Then, in spring of 2018, a new piece to be commissioned about immigrants who transformed America, will be held in collaboration with Juilliard School of Music at Liberty State Park Railroad Terminus. The first will explore

how dance and movement communicate, and an educational workshop for Trenton elementary school children will look at the role 18th-century dance played in the culture of the time, as well as how we communicate through dance and movement. The second, for New Jersey high school students, will engage students in issues of contemporary immigration and migration.

Funding for these projects will come from various sources. The Presser Foundation's cornerstone grant will support all three Transforming Space projects, as will grant funding from the Arts Project Support program of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. Additional funding for *Anthracite Fields* was received from the ArtsCONNECT program of Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation with assistance from the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional requests for contributions are still being sought. WCA also applied for and received a contract from the Kennedy Center's 2016-17 VSA International Young Soloist: Music for Every Student Program in support of the "Junior Vitamin D Drum Circle" that utilizes culturally relevant rhythms from the African, Brazilian and Latino traditions in a drum circle curriculum designed for students with autism in the Trenton Public Schools.

**W**

hen WCA performs *Anthracite Fields* at Roebling Wire Works, under the baton of Joe Miller, it will be in collaboration with Bang on a Can All Stars, a six-member amplified ensemble recognized worldwide for live performances and recordings of innovative music that cross boundaries between

classical, jazz, rock, world and experimental music. The performance involves a moving choir, staging, and projections of still and moving images as characters search for identity in a post-industrial city.

Through movement, the audience becomes part of the performance. "*Anthracite Fields* breaks down the fourth wall, bringing the choir to the audience through movement and perspective," Miller says. "Instead of standing in one place, they will be integrated through movement. It is one of the College's initiatives, to change the perception of the audience by being surrounded by music. Students will be reacting to the space with their voices and movement, and at times, it will be like living sculpture." Students are not only transforming spaces, he says, but they are the transformation.

Anthracite is a hard, compact variety of coal that has a sub-metallic luster. Composer Wolfe grew up outside of Philadelphia, just south of an anthracite mining operation that fascinated her

◀ Matthew Shaftel has put forth a large number of initiatives during his first year as WCA dean, including a new vision statement for the College.



when she discovered it. “These people persevered and worked hard and made a life,” Wolfe said in a video produced by the Mendelssohn Club. “What they did fueled the nation.” She wondered, who are these people whose health and safety are compromised by our dependence on coal for the conveniences of modern life? *Anthracite Fields* uses threads from their narratives as movements. For example, she narrowed down stories of accidents to those whose first name was John and last name was a single syllable, creating hypnotic lyrics.

**Daniel Simpson '76**, who performed *Anthracite Fields* with the Mendelssohn Club of Philadelphia, is excited that his alma mater will bring it to the Wire Works. “It’s important to have a large space for a large choir that also participates in the choreographed movement,” he says. “The industrial warehouse will be ideal for conveying the bleak, dark utilitarian feel of mines.”

Simpson, who has been blind since birth, says he learned so much about internalizing music through Westminster Choir Conductor Laureate Joseph Flummerfelt that he was able to rise to the challenges of performing with the Mendelssohn Club. Using Braille to read both music and text is nearly impossible unless it has been memorized, as Simpson learned to do at Westminster. For *Anthracite Fields*, adding movement meant it was even more important to internalize.

“We weren’t expected to do intricate choreography, but there are gestures that enrich the whole piece — like moving through a vine, or en masse, then coming together to show solidarity,” he says. “Sometimes we moved our hands in the spirit of the music, or bent over to show the backbreaking work. Or it was symbolic, like putting our hands over our hearts as we chanted names of those who died in mining accidents. The demands I had at Westminster were wonderful preparation.”



**T**ransforming Space and the Kennedy Center projects with the Trenton Public Schools are only part of WCA’s Community Engagement Initiative. Westminster has also developed a community music room at the HomeFront Family Preservation Center, where women with children who have temporarily lost housing seek shelter and social services. The music room offers instruments, classes and performances by Rider students and faculty, fostering early childhood exposure to music through

playing an instrument or participating in a group sing.

Another aspect of Community Engagement is the Neighborhood Choir for underprivileged youth at the Princeton Family YMCA. Westminster’s music education students work one day a week after school with youth recruited through the YMCA and local schools for low-pressure opportunities to share music making. “It gives the student something to be proud of,” says Shaftel.

Yet another event in the Community Engagement Initiative, Opera Then and Now, will take place at Thomas Edison National Historical Park in West Orange, N.J., where, through a prestigious NEA grant, middle and high school students from underserved districts will learn how original wax cylinder recordings were created. Students will tour Edison’s Music Room, listen to archival opera recordings made by Edison in the 1920s and 1930s and hear the same works performed live by CoOPERative Fellows, students enrolled in Westminster’s CoOPERative opera training program.

Shaftel is enthusiastic about the future of the Westminster College of the Arts and the Westminster Choir College, which estimates that each week more than one million people worldwide study or sing under the direction of a Westminster graduate. Additionally, more than three-quarters of Westminster’s alumni report they are employed in fields for which they have studied. In 2015, 96 percent of graduates of the College of the Arts went to graduate school or were employed six months out. “That’s a pretty stunning number for a college of the arts,” Shaftel says.

The Yale University alumnus — he earned bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees there in music, education and

◀ Joe Miller, director of choral activities at Westminster Choir College, believes students will be better prepared to change their communities through the arts through the new community engagement initiatives.



“An experience where music, poetry and the arts are put inside a space outside a typical performance hall or church takes on completely new meaning.”

—Joe Miller

▲ The Wire Works building has already seen some revival. Arts organization Artworks has produced Art All Night there for the past 10 years, an event that has drawn crowds upwards of 10,000.

theory — sees a future in which entrepreneurialism becomes an important part of the music college design, with many more graduates creating startups than getting orchestra jobs. “More money and more positions are in the nonprofit than the for-profit sector, and this represents an ideal opportunity for artists to change the community with their portfolio careers,” he says.

Through the new community engagement and transforming spaces initiatives, students will be better prepared to change their communities through the arts. “When students have experiences outside of the norm like performing in the Wire Works, they will take these ideas with them as they become performers and conductors and teachers,” says Conductor Miller. ■

More on WCA’s community outreach efforts can be found at [www.rider.edu/wcc/about/community-collaborations](http://www.rider.edu/wcc/about/community-collaborations).



# Class Notes

## '50s

**Morton "Moe" Tener '53** was honored by the Philadelphia Jewish Sports Hall of Fame as part of its 19th induction class. Tener was a standout Rider College basketball player from 1950 to 1953. The mission of the Philadelphia Jewish Sports Hall of Fame is to provide the community with tangible and lasting evidence of the past, present and future of Jewish sportsmen and sportswomen in the greater Philadelphia area and to instill community pride in Jewish accomplishments in the field of sports and the role sports has played in preserving Jewish culture.

## '70s

**King A. Kovacs '70** published his fifth expanded paperback of *Retirement Investments 101: Mutual Funds*. The book aims to help increase retirement prosperity both now and in the future.

**Blaine Greenfield '71** now lives in Asheville, N.C., with his wife, Cynthia. He still publishes his BLAINESWORLD blog. Recently, he was honored to have a short play written about him, and it was even performed. To view it, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/hgkylmz>.

**John Zehring '71** had his latest book, *Beyond Stewardship: A Church Guide to Generous Giving Campaigns* (Judson Press) published. It is co-authored by Kate Jagger, with a foreword by Nick Carter, retired President of Andover Newton Theological Seminary. Zehring is a retired United Church of Christ clergy having served as senior pastor of churches in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Maine. Previously, he served for two decades as a vice president for development at colleges and a seminary. Some of his happiest experiences were when he served as a director of career planning and placement at two colleges, a success he attributes to the education he received in his master's degree program at Rider. He is the author of more than two dozen books and e-books.

**Richard Alexander '73** had his first book, *My Other Life: A Combat Soldier In Vietnam*, published by Darwin Press, Princeton N.J. He earned his bachelor's in history from Rider and worked for the state of New Jersey for 33 years, retiring in 2008 from his job as head of risk management at Ann Klein Forensic Center. He and his wife have been married for 32 years and they have two daughters.

**Marc Palker '73** was named chair of the Institute of Management Accountants' Global Board of Directors for 2016-17. Palker's career spans more than three decades, where he has held senior financial management positions with small and midsize public and private companies.

**David Tilton '73** was named executive vice president and chief integration officer at Geisinger Health System. In this role, he leads performance excellence efforts as well as develops and assists with key external relationships as Geisinger continues to build



## Dear Alumni and Friends,

As an active volunteer and proud alumna of Rider University, I am honored to serve in my new role as the president of the Alumni Board of Directors. I look forward to collaborating with a dedicated Executive Committee with which I will work closely to further advance the alumni association: First Vice President **Stephen Brill '01**, Second Vice President **Eileen Wirth '88, '95**, Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer **Kenneth Bernabe '69** and Secretary **Walter Darr '78, '91**.

Through active participation at campus events, the Alumni Board will continue to serve as ambassadors to the University. By increasing the presence of Alumni Board members on campus, alumni engagement and alumni-to-student involvement can play an important role in connecting the past with the future. It is my vision to expand upon relationships with alumni and current students through mentoring relationships and student participation on the Alumni Board.

**Marci Gnantt '00, '03**  
President, Alumni Board of Directors and Alumni Association

its reputation as a national leader in healthcare innovation. Tilton currently serves on the Board of the Health Research & Educational Trust, an affiliate of the American Hospital Association (AHA). He is included in *Becker's Hospital Review's* 2013, 2014 and 2015 lists of Hospital & Health System CEOs to Know, and *N7 Biz* named Tilton one of the 50 Most Powerful People in Health Care in New Jersey in 2010 and again in 2015 "who will shape health care as federal legislation continues to reshape the industry."

**Dr. Charles Bell '75** was appointed chief medical officer by Parallon Technology Solutions. In his new role, Bell provides physician leadership in the development and implementation of information technology to support care

delivery and data capture with particular emphasis on clinical information systems and electronic health records in hospital and ambulatory care environments. Bell holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Rider University, a bachelor's degree in pharmacy from Temple University School of Pharmacy and a doctorate from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. He completed his residency in general internal medicine at Phoenix General Hospital in Phoenix, Ariz.

**Bruce Stouffer '77** joined Pharmaceutical Product Development as executive director of immunochemistry in the PPD Laboratories' bioanalytical lab. Stouffer, who has a bachelor's degree in biology, previously served as director of analytical and

bioanalytical development for Bristol-Myers Squibb, where he managed a group of scientists with responsibilities including contract operations, quality control, and small and large molecule bioanalytical project management.

## '80s

**Ruben Rivera '81** was named vice president of sales & marketing Nikkiso America UV-LED, a global technology leader. Rivera has more than 30 years of experience in the specialty lighting market, which includes both infrared and ultraviolet light sources. Ruben earned his bachelor's in management from Rider and an MBA in marketing from Monmouth University.

## Upcoming Alumni Events

September 17  
EOP BBQ

September 19  
Golf Gala

September 22  
Sea Breeze Social

October 1  
25th RUSDT Alumni Meet

October 1  
Men's Soccer Alumni Day

October 9  
Field Hockey Alumni Day

For more information and a complete listing of upcoming alumni events, please call the Office of Alumni Relations at 609-896-5340 or visit [alumni.rider.edu/upcomingevents](http://alumni.rider.edu/upcomingevents).



## Calling the Class of '67

In 1967, the members of Theta Chi, which is being recolonized at Rider this year, gathered to pose for this photo featured in *The Shadow*. That was also the year the Green Bay Packers won Super Bowl I, *Rolling Stone* premiered its first issue and The Beatles released *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*. A first-class stamp cost 5 cents and the federal minimum wage was increased to \$1.40 an hour.

What do you remember from 1967? Return to campus and reminisce during the Class of 1967's 50th reunion on June 9 and 10, 2017. Interested in helping to bring your class back to campus? Contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 609-896-5340.

Secure tickets to your favorite holiday performances before they go on sale. Proceeds benefit The Westminster Scholarship Fund and Westminster student-artists

[www.rider.edu/westminster-patron](http://www.rider.edu/westminster-patron)



**Mark Oberndorf '83** had his paintings on show at the Bergen PAC during June and will be featured at the Morris Museum in Morristown, N.J., in "History of NJ Diners" from Sept. 8 through Dec. 31, 2016. Oberndorf will also have his paintings on display in Ridgewood, N.J., at The Stable Gallery in April 2017, the West Side Presbyterian Church gallery in May 2017 and at Valley Hospital gallery in June/July 2017.

**Loretta Kreutzberg '84** was promoted to manager in the Program Management Office of NJM Insurance Group, New Jersey's largest property-casualty insurer, leading writer of workers' compensation insur-

ance, and among the leaders in personal and commercial auto and homeowners insurance. Kreutzberg joined NJM in 2001.

**Chris Gaffney '85** received the 2016 Hearthstone Humanitarian Award, presented annually by *BUILDER* magazine and Hearthstone, a leader in financing single family development. Gaffney is group president of Toll Brothers. In announcing the award, Frank Anton, vice chairman of Hanley Wood, said, "Chris Gaffney is an amazing role model for others in our industry because of his commitment to Covenant House and his direct involvement in improving life for many children in need is truly exem-

plary." Gaffney was selected by a panel of top industry leaders with experience in humanitarian outreach.

**Michael F. Housel '87** has written his second book, *The Persona* (Airship 27). *The Persona* follows a young businessman in the 1930s named Michael Mansford who obtains a mystical mask that grants him the power to see into the minds of criminals. *The Persona* stems from Housel's love of pulp characters like The Shadow and the Green Hornet. Housel, who blogs at <http://bizarrechats.blogspot.com>, has been employed by the New Jersey Department of Education as credentials examiner for 20 years. He currently resides in

Trenton, N.J., with his wife, Donna, and their cat, Cody.

**Thomas F. Splaine Jr. '87, MBA '89** was appointed first senior vice president and chief accounting officer of Lakeland Bank. A CPA, Splaine holds a bachelor's in accounting and an MBA from Rider.

**Michael Zola '87** was appointed vice president for government relations and policy analysis for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. Previously, he served as the associate executive director for federal advocacy and public policy at the National School Boards Association.

NEWSMAKER



## An obsession and a dream

*Nicola Bertoni '15 turned her lifelong passion for music into a teaching career*

Far from a casual interest, **Nicola Bertoni '15** calls music "a lifelong, totally encompassing obsession." As a child, she was able to compare her mother's rendition of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" to the beloved recording she listened to every night and notice when her mom sang in a different key.

Today, the 24-year-old directs two choirs and teaches music theory and voice as a full-time faculty member of Fullerton College in Fullerton, Calif. Her journey, from budding vocal performer to music professor, included a formative stop at Westminster Choir College, where she earned a master's degree in choral conducting in 2015.

Bertoni became aware of her musical gifts in fourth grade, the first time she sang in front of an audience during a school production of *Annie*. She eventually enrolled as an undergraduate at James Madison University in Virginia intent on studying vocal performance and pursuing a career in opera.

"That all changed when I stepped into first choir rehearsal," she says, pointing to the effect of two choral professors who were Westminster alumni, **Patrick Walders '01** and **Bryce Hayes '01**. Inspired by their examples, Bertoni enrolled in a summer program at Westminster in between her junior and senior years. "The quality of sound is so high there that it changes your ear for music from sitting in on one session," she says.

By this time, Bertoni knew that vocal performance was not the right career path for her. Her professors encouraged her to finish her degree and then pursue the study of choral music. Once she graduated, she decided to audition for Westminster, though she considered herself a longshot. "Joe Miller, who is truly one of the greatest people you can study choral conducting with in this country, saw something in me and gave me a chance and it changed my life," she says.

"I'm truly very lucky that I have a career that is solely driven toward classical and choral music," Bertoni says. "When I get home I put on the same things that I listen to at work. That's the kind of obsession you have to have; otherwise, you don't make it past your freshman year." — *Adam Grybowski*

## '90s

**Kevin Carroll '90, '96** began his tenure as superintendent of Green Brook Township Public Schools in September 2014. Since then, he has dedicated his 23 years of education experience to strengthening the district's already strong academic, athletic, technological and extracurricular foundation.



Some of the "Poyda girls" (with their families) got together on Jan. 30 for dinner and laughs. From left to right: **Christina Nalio '92, Laurie Mackie Levine '92, Phyllis Visco King '91, Cathy Visco Davis '91, Liz Bovoso DeNinno '91, Louise Visco Loehwing '93, Cheryle Saile Cauley '91** and **Tiffany Burch Regan '91**.

# ALUMNI TRAVEL



## Join us in Spain!

Mid/End July 2017

Join President Gregory G. Dell'Omo and Mrs. Polly Dell'Omo and an intimate group of alumni and friends during the summer of 2017 for an unforgettable tour of Spain.

You'll enjoy VIP experiences like before-hours access to Barcelona's Sagrada Família and tastings of wine "fermented in stone" by the monks of Catalonia. Dine on Gaudi's rooftop and dance the Flamenco, be amazed by the towering Castellanners and awed at the Abbey and art of Monserrat. Then top it all off on the Balearic Island of Mallorca for Moorish ruins, sailing, and seafood on this 10-12-day adventure.

For more details on the schedule and pricing, please contact Natalie Pollard, Director of Alumni Relations, at 609-896-5340 or [pollardn@rider.edu](mailto:pollardn@rider.edu) or visit:

[www.rider.edu/alumnitrip](http://www.rider.edu/alumnitrip)



**Robert Adams Jr. '93** was recently appointed the position of chief operating officer for Southern Ocean Medical Center in Manahawkin. Adams has been with Meridian Health since 1992, most recently serving as vice president of operations at Jersey Shore University Medical Center in Neptune for the past 10 years. He is certified as a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives. At Rider, Adams earned a bachelor's in business administration and then went on to Seton Hall for a master's degree in public administration.

**Marc Hanson '94** was named director of operations of Selah Freedom, a nonprofit that provides residential housing, outreach in the jails and on the streets, awareness and educa-

tion, and prevention for at-risk teen girls. Hanson has more than 20 years of experience in the finance industry working for large banks such as Morgan Stanley and Citigroup. Most recently he held the position of chief financial officer for Caldwell Trust Company.

**LeRoy Whitehead '95**, a principal in the West Chester Area School District, was named the new assistant superintendent of the Phoenixville Area School District in Pennsylvania. His contract was effective July 1, 2016.

**Theresa Richardson '96** was named chief talent officer of WithumSmith+Brown, PC (Withum), headquartered in Princeton, N.J. In this role, she is responsible for shaping the

vision and strategic leadership of Withum's talent management initiatives.

**Rimma Zaleznik MBA '97** was promoted to chief financial officer of Thornton Tomasetti, the international engineering firm. Zaleznik, who has more than 30 years of experience in financial management, planning and control, is based in the firm's New York Madison Avenue office. She is charged with the financial management of the firm. She works with the executive team to ensure that business and financial goals are met and all areas of the firm are running efficiently. In addition to her MBA, she holds a bachelor's in information science and industrial economics from Moldova State University in Chisinau, Moldova.

## '00s

**Edward C. Fronczkiewicz Jr. '00**, Esq., was promoted to general counsel of Urban Engineers. He previously served as assistant counsel. Fronczkiewicz earned his bachelor's from Rider and a Juris Doctor degree from the Widener University School of Law. With more than 15 years of experience, he is admitted to practice in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, as well as before the United States District Courts, District of New Jersey. He is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, the ACEC Legal Counsel Forum, ASFE Advocates Assembly, and the Claims and Litigation Management Alliance.

**Randell E. Prescott MBA '01** was named in July a senior manager of KCI's Florida office. KCI is an engineering, consulting and construction firm serving clients throughout the U.S. and beyond. A registered professional engineer in Florida, he has been charged with growing the construction engineering and inspection practice in the state while expanding the firm into new markets and services throughout the southeast. Prescott has more than 24 years of experience in transportation and public works engineering, construction management and maintenance operations. In addition to his MBA from Rider, Prescott earned his bachelor's in civil and environmental engineering from Clarkson University.

**Mario Cuniglio '02** was named the new head football coach at Belleville High School.

**Julie Kukenberger '02** was named the assistant superintendent for the Haverhill, Mass., school district. She previously served as director of curriculum and instruction in the North Hanover Township school district in New Jersey. An upstate New York native, she holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Rider University and a master's degree in educational administration from Rowan University. She is pursuing a doctorate in educational leadership at Boston College and expects to complete her degree in 2018.



**Nancy Capasso-Lee '03, '06** and her husband, Wayne Lee, welcomed their first child, Francesca Faith Lee, into the world on June 3, 2016, at 10:30 p.m. She weighed 7.5 lbs. and was 19.1 inches.

**Loriann Brooks Farrell '03, Christopher Farrell '02** and their older daughter, Alice Kathryn, welcomed the newest member of their family, Hazel Joyce, on April 2, 2016.

**Jessica Smedley '03** was appointed Hillsborough school district's new director of guidance by the township's Board of Education in June. She has worked since 2009 as the East Windsor Regional School District supervisor of counseling, where she supervised 17 counselors in six district schools, was the master scheduler for Hightstown High School, oversaw the district and



## World traveler

*Arthur Katalayi '09 has lived in five countries on three continents*

Over his lifetime, **Arthur Katalayi '09** has lived in five countries, two of them since completing his master's degree in organizational leadership at Rider. He was born in Lyon, France, and raised in Paris. He completed his high school education in the United Kingdom before moving to the United States in 2001. He enrolled in Salem International University in West Virginia on a soccer scholarship, graduating with a bachelor's in computer science in 2005. After Rider, he moved to Belgium and then the Democratic Republic of Congo, the birthplace of his grandparents.

Katalayi now works as the senior executive advisor to the chairman at the Congolese state-owned mining company Gecamines, as well as the global economic advisor to the president at the Federation des Entreprises du Congo. While a student at Rider, he helped raise awareness of the Democratic Republic of Congo by organizing Congo Day: Giving Back to Africa Fundraiser for his project seminar in organizational leadership. The event featured clips from a documentary about the Congo, a presentation about its history and culture, a question-and-answer session, and Congolese food. Katalayi has been a senior advisor and global ambassador for the nonprofit Giving Back to Africa since 2008. In that role, he helps promote education and socioeconomic solutions for young people in the DRC, as well as broker partnerships with similar organizations worldwide.

Katalayi recently talked to *Rider* magazine about his travels, education and the tranquil life inside the capital city of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Below are edited excerpts from that conversation.

### What made you want to move to Belgium after graduating from Rider?

The opportunity to spend 10 years in the United States, where I had the most wonderful time, was a great learning experience for me and a defining adventure, but I was ready to experience something else afterward. I decided to move to Belgium because it was a goal of mine to gain professional experience in Europe, and thankfully I managed to do just that.

Still, my heritage is from the Democratic Republic of Congo, but having never lived there, I felt something was missing in my journey and I wanted to rectify that by actually being based there to see for myself what it's really like. Moving to Congo was a dream for me. It was also important for me to contribute more to the economic landscape of the Congo and spend more time with my grandparents, from whom I have so much to learn.

### What is it like to live in the Democratic Republic of Congo?

Life in Congo is much sunnier than Belgium, which automatically brightens the mood. Plus, the people here are very resilient and joyful, despite the difficulties that life throws at them. Besides, we found nothing but marvelous hospitality among the locals. From a lifestyle point of view, I am enjoying the tranquil nature of life in Kinshasa, which is completely different from what I experienced before. More importantly, my spouse, Nathalie, moved here with me along with my daughter, Akeelah, and son, Akhenaten. Both of my children are doing great in school and have adjusted well to their new life in Congo. Nathalie will debut as the school nurse at The American School of Kinshasa this fall. Akeelah and Akhenaten will also be going to school there from then on, which will give them a flavor of the American educational experience that I so enjoyed.

### What have you learned since moving away from the U.S.?

The importance of the education received — not exclusively the on-campus education but everything that gravitates around that. Life experience is as paramount as in-classroom lessons. The aptitude to move to distant shores to reach your goals is important, because in an interconnected world, moving internationally can be indispensable to gain access to opportunities. And adapting and thriving in new environments by learning the local culture and language is quintessential to succeeding when you're living abroad. — *Michelle Wood '17*



**2017 REUNIONS**

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or alumni@rider.edu.





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**SIBLING GRANTS** • Available to any new full-time undergraduate student enrolling at Rider University who has a sibling currently enrolled as a full-time undergraduate at Rider.

- Awarded to each additional sibling as long as multiple siblings are enrolled.

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(Email: [admissions@rider.edu](mailto:admissions@rider.edu)) or visit

**[rider.edu/scholarships](http://rider.edu/scholarships)**



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\*\$1,000 a semester; annually renewable

school crisis teams and developed a senior transition program for graduating students. She received a master's in counseling services, school counseling specialization from Rider.

**David R. Errigo '04, '11**, vice president of sales for luminaire manufacturer LumenOptix, has been elected vice chair of the National Lighting Bureau (NLB) board of directors.

**Jamil Newsome '04** of Allentown, Pa., was one of a dozen new officers sworn into the Allentown Police Department in July.

**Michael V. Rocco '04** married Regina Rufrano at St. Catherine's R.C. Church in Glen Rock, N.J., in July 2015. Rocco is a teacher with the Clifton Board of Education.

**Craig Wigley '04** was named superintendent of Lacey's six schools this July. He holds a master's degree in educational leadership and administration from Rider University and a bachelor's degree in technology education from TCNJ. During his 27-year career, he has also worked as assistant principal at Rancocas Valley Regional High School and principal at Northern Burlington County Regional High School.

**Tom Miziak '05, '09**, an administrator from Clark, N.J., with both bachelor's and master's degrees from Rider University in the areas of chemistry and science and education, was appointed by the Bernards Township Board of Education as the district's new supervisor of science and technology, K-12. Miziak taught

chemistry and other sciences in the Hillsborough school district, where he advised the awards-winning robotics program.

**Warren E. Moore '05** was recently named president and chief executive officer of Children's Specialized Hospital (CSH). Moore joined CSH in 1998 and has served as executive vice president and chief operating officer for the past nine years. During his tenure, CSH has become a nationally recognized provider of health services for children with special healthcare needs and expanded both the breadth and depth of services offered to encompass 13 locations and more than 28,000 children served last year. Moore received his bachelor's in business management from the University of Maryland and his master's from Rider.



**Courtney Bertos '06** welcomed baby daughter Charlotte Grace Barnett, who was born April 28, 2016. Bertos joined the Rider Athletics Hall of Fame in 2015. She was a four-time First Team All-Conference selection who was named to three championship All-Tournament teams and led her team to four conference title games, winning two. She also won two regular season titles.

**Gwendolyn Hersh '06** was accepted to serve in the Peace Corps for a 27-month placement as a community services volunteer in Armenia. She holds a bachelor's in journal-

ism from Rider, a master's in public communication from Drexel University and a master's in event marketing and management from London Metropolitan University. Prior to joining the Peace Corps, Hersh worked as a development director for various NGOs in Philadelphia and London.

**Amy and Michael Cerulo '07**, who met at Rider and were married on campus in 2013, are

happy to announce the birth of their baby boy, Ryan Michael Cerulo, on Oct. 27, 2015.

**Judah Frank '08** starred in *Cyrano: A Love Letter to a Friendship*, a new play reimagined from the classic by Edmond Rostand. It was presented by Grind Arts Company as part of The New York International Fringe Festival in August.

**Aimee Infante '08** was named vice president of marketing of Muscle Maker Grill, where she will oversee national branding and media relations efforts, corporate and franchise store openings, partnerships, and the development and launch of a comprehensive loyalty program. She joined Muscle Maker Grill in 2014 as marketing manager, and through her dedication and expertise from her previous role of marketing manager at Qdoba Mexican Eats (formerly

### NEWSMAKER



## Struggle, grit and perseverance

*Julie Veloz '03 overcame personal strife to create a personal brand and career success*

In 2001, during the summer between her sophomore and junior years at Rider University, **Julie Veloz '03** suffered a tragedy. An electrical fire broke out in her family's home in Newark, burning it to the ground. Veloz, along with her mother, father, brother and sister, lost everything.

The first call she made was to 911. The second was to Rider.

The staff, in particular Dean of Students **Anthony Campbell**, immediately pitched in to help Veloz and her family. The University arranged for them to stay in a residence hall on the Lawrenceville campus, where they lived for about a month until they found a new home, and a fund drive was started to help pay for clothing, books and other essentials Veloz would need to resume her life.

"It didn't take a day," Veloz says. "There are thousands of students and the fact that Rider supported me, just one of many, I can't be more thankful. It was the human element of the University and the support that I received that allowed me to finish college. That's what makes Rider different — the empathy from the administration and faculty to the students."

Veloz entered Rider through the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), a state-sponsored program that helps low-income New Jersey residents attend college. She had always wanted a career in politics but decided to take advantage of her social gifts for expressing herself and connecting with people and double major in communication and political science. She threw herself into life at Rider, joining a sorority Zeta Tau Alpha, volunteering at events and applying herself to her studies.

After interning with the Princeton Healthcare System as an undergraduate, Veloz, who is now 36, held positions at Bristol-Myers Squibb, the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, LexisNexis and others, while also speaking at conferences, writing for newspapers and magazines, and growing her personal brand. Today she is vice president of learning development at IPG Mediabrands, a global marketing agency.

"When I look at myself climbing the executive ladder in my organization and not too far from a chief position, I realize that hard work, determination and a strong sense of grit to take risks will bring you to the level of success you are aiming for," she says.

Originally from the Dominican Republic, Veloz is aware that her story can be diminished if it's looked at through the framework of stereotypes, but she's determined to not let that happen. "I knew the only way for me to tear down the label of the underprivileged minority was to be exceptional and challenge the status quo," she says. "You need to live outside your label, and you have everything in your power to not be a label." — *Adam Grybowski*





**DONNA GRANATO '95** believes that getting ahead means hard work and not being afraid to take a chance on something new. She holds a bachelor's from Rider and an MBA from NYU's Stern Business School. After beginning her career at PricewaterhouseCoopers, she has worked primarily in the advertising and media industry. Recently, Granato launched R&D Venture Partners, which provides mergers and acquisitions advisory services to clients in marketing, consulting and technology.

# 5 Tips to succeed in your job search

ADVICE FOR ALUMNI, FROM ALUMNI

## 1 Look for opportunities, not jobs.

Sometimes, the right job opportunity is about finding the right company or people. Even if it isn't the perfect long-term fit, don't be afraid to go for it. During one of my best job experiences, I ran investor relations even though I knew little about it, but within a few years, I was tasked to run the corporate development group, my dream job. This opportunity came because I worked for people I knew would allow me to grow.

## 2 It's OK to be a generalist.

I've worked for CEOs and CFOs and created value for them — and myself — as a jack-of-all-trades. When you take on new challenges that are out of your comfort zone, you learn something new that can make you better at your job while also showing others that you are smart and nimble. Those attributes make you invaluable to an organization.

## 3 Life is what happens when you're making plans.

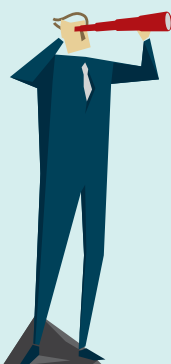
My first job was as an auditor at PricewaterhouseCoopers. One of the things I liked best about it was that I could map out my career path to retirement — a staff accountant all the way through to partner. Twenty-one years and several companies later, I've gone back to school and have even become an entrepreneur. I thought I had it all figured out when I graduated, but I realized you can't be scared of change. When you're open to new opportunities, the sky is the limit.

## 4 Never underestimate the power of networking.

I've worked for eight companies and all but one of my jobs came from networking or leveraging relationships to get introductions to the right individuals. I'm my own headhunter. I've targeted companies I'm interested in and found ways to meet the right people, even in my first job and before LinkedIn. Today, technology has made networking easier than ever and there is no reason not to do it.

## 5 Explore every opportunity, even if you're not looking.

No one is going to care about your career more than you. I have lived through three company mergers and lots of uncertainty. You never know where the next opportunity will lie. I always spoke to headhunters who called me, and I kept learning about the market even when I wasn't looking. This made me an educated consumer when the time came for a more formal job search.



known as Qdoba Mexican Grill), she was promoted to marketing director at Muscle Maker Grill. It was there that she developed and implemented marketing plans for corporate restaurants, drove loyalty program initiatives and coordinated grand openings and marketing efforts for local franchisees. Infante resides in League City, Texas, with her husband, **Andrew Infante '08**.

**Richard Lamont '08** was sworn into office as a new Lawrence Township, N.J., police officer on May 3. Officer Lamont graduated from Rider University with a bachelor's in sociology and a minor in law and justice.

## '10S

**Amanda Matticks '11, '15**, who graduated from the teacher education program and won the President's Award, was awarded Teacher of the Year at Sharon School in Robbinsville. She was also recently promoted to technology coordinator in her district.

**Joe Immordino '12, MBA '15** recently launched a new company called Scopo Company, which offers strategic planning consulting services to small businesses in Mercer County, N.J. For more on Scopo Company, please visit [www.scopocompany.com](http://www.scopocompany.com).

**Yuliya Labko '12** attended on May 25, 2016, a gathering at the White House organized by the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments, where she represented the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM). The meeting focused on how nursing organizations can address public health issues through educating their members, leading research,

incorporating climate change into their nursing practice and participating at the local, state, and federal levels on climate policies. Labko, who is an active member of ACNM, earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Rider and, later, a BSN and an MSN in midwifery at Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing.

**Dan Petrino '13** was named in July manager of hockey administration for ECHL, a coast-to-coast league with 27 teams in 21 states and one Canadian province. Petrino will be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the ECHL Hockey Operations Department including the organization and release of team rosters, salary cap, player background and immigration matters while also overseeing all transactions and ongoing relations with other leagues.

**Sade Calin '14** received the Schlesinger Award, a scholarship that honors the distinguished legacy of late Superior Court Judge Jan M. Schlesinger as a lawyer and jurist. The award was given by the Burlington County Bar Association.

**Caleb Funk '14** was booked for the national tour of *How The Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical*. He also signed representation with Baker Management.

**Andrew Haviland '14** was selected to play on a local professional Ultimate Frisbee team, the Philadelphia Phoenix.

**Emma Rose Brooks '15** is playing the role of Antonia in Milwaukee Rep's production of *Man of La Mancha* from Sept. 20-Oct. 30. Brooks also signed

representation with the Wolf Talent Group.

**Vinroy Brown '15** is the general and choral music teacher for the Washington School, the Horace Mann School and Bayonne High School. He also serves as the interim minister of music for Elmwood United Presbyterian Church in East Orange, N.J.

**Kiley Hinkle '16** was booked for the national tour of musical comedy *42nd Street*. She also signed representation with Luedtke Agency.

**Colby Zezelick '16** is performing in Goodspeed's production of *Chasing Rainbows* from Sept. 16-Nov. 27 in East Haddam, Conn. The musical is based on the life of Judy Garland prior to *The Wizard of Oz*. Zezelick also signed representation with Nicolosi and Co.

**Mark Swift '15** played Robert Lambert in *Boeing Boeing*, a 1960s' French farce adapted for the English-speaking stage, at Hedgerow Theatre in Rose Valley, Pa., from July 7 through Aug. 21.



# A HOLIDAY CELEBRATION!

Monday, December 5

Ring in the season with dinner and a rare private performance by the Westminster Choir in New York's elegant Racquet and Tennis Club. Learn more by calling 609-921-7100, ext. 8307.



Gilbert H. Kraus '39  
 Frances Vansyckle Newcamp '39  
 Mary Simonko Stoka '40  
 Madlyn Backensto Schwanda '43  
 Anita Saperstein Sharpe '44  
 Shirley Cain Peterson '45  
 Barbara Reed Bowles '47  
 Mary Van Eman Soffel '47  
 William P. Wheeler '47  
 Agnes Anderson Crisci '48  
 Betty Johnson Mauger '48  
 Stanley J. Gnacek '49  
 Michael F. Kozar '49  
 Hercules C. Diorio '50  
 Thaise Bedford Honaker '50  
 Jean Russo Winsman '50  
 Anthony J. Pompano '51  
 Betty McGinnis Walker '51  
 Robert X. Bruns '52  
 Louis D. Caputo '52  
 Inocencio B. Linhares '52, '53  
 Arthur V. Miller Jr. '52  
 Evelyn Nobis Sayer '52  
 George L. Yarick '52  
 William M. Asterino '54  
 Marilyn Merchel Harding '54  
 Herbert N. Rosenblum '54  
 Anita Y. Sumner '54  
 Brooks R. Edwards '56  
 June Rogers Gater '56  
 Jason Selikowitz '56  
 William K. Weingartner '56  
 Charles E. Stewart '57, '58  
 Elliott B. Aldrich Jr. '58  
 Charles E. Read '58, '61  
 John J. Theoharis '58  
 David L. Doyle '59  
 Joan Dally Sharp '59  
 Ronald F. Burke '60  
 A. Lee Hearn '60, '63  
 Stephen M. Stein '60  
 Newton S. Danford Jr. '61  
 John K. Lee Jr. '61  
 Natalie B. Allen '62  
 John B. Prior '62  
 Charles S. Farrauto '64  
 John A. Kucsma '64

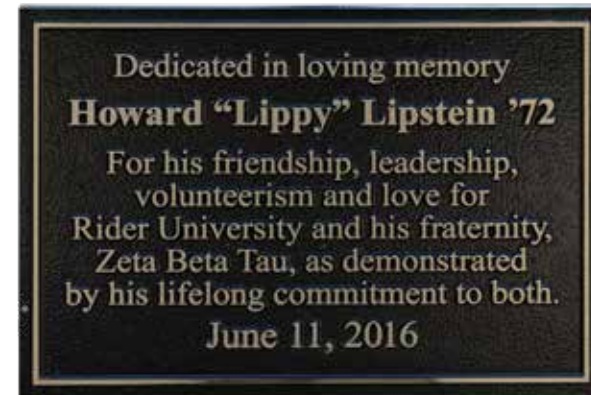
Neil J. Boyle '65  
 Isabella Nicoll Cerny '66  
 Catherine Groot Conlon '66  
 Maryann Liptak '66, '88  
 William C. Mutschler '66  
 David M. Reilly '66  
 Linda Pannabecker Flickinger '67  
 James V. Kane '68  
 William L. Nash III '68  
 Charles L. Norton '68  
 Vincent J. Serock '68  
 Arleen H. Urban '68, '71  
 Russell J. Chinni '69  
 Lorraine V. Zamorski '69  
 Edward S. Ancmon '70  
 Vincent Civale '70  
 Peggy Sica '70  
 Hanuman P. Didwania '71  
 Jay A. Aracco '72  
 Jill Moyer Trickel '74  
 Donata A. Dell'Olio '75  
 Charles L. Collins '77  
 Calvin K. Kaser '77  
 Francis G. Toth '77  
 Gerard J. DiFilippantonio '78  
 James W. Lieblang '78  
 Robert D. Mariano '78  
 David N. Brown '80  
 Ruth Jaques Aiello '84  
 Kenneth G. Podejko '84  
 Sonjya A. Ownbey '85  
 Patricia A. Tietbohl '85, '93  
 Carolyn A. Peoples '87  
 Thomas J. Sprague '87  
 Roberta J. Grimshaw '94  
 Mark A. Wolters '95  
 James W. Palsir '00  
 Sandra L. Hubert '02  
 Meghan O'Donnell Koczun '07

**Faculty and staff**

Charles E. Altmeyer  
 Betta Neish Elliott  
 Gerald J. Kent III  
 David J. Sochalski  
 Sanford Temkin

**Howard “Lippy” Lipstein '72**

At Rider Reunions on June 11, family, friends and the brothers of Zeta Beta Tau dedicated a tree in honor of **Howard “Lippy” Lipstein '72** at the Gazebo by Gill Chapel. Lipstein served on the Alumni Board of Directors twice, most recently from 2008–11.



**Betta Neish Elliott**

Betta Neish Elliott, the wife of Dr. Frank N. Elliott, Rider University's fourth president, passed away peacefully on July 3. She was 87.

She served her community well in her 21 years of dedicated service with Frank at Rider. The president's residence at Rider is known as Betta House, and a plaque in her honor hangs outside of the home for all visitors to see.

Betta was born June 7, 1929, and grew up in Aliquippa, Pa. She graduated from Grove City College in 1951 and was happily married to her husband for 63 years. They had three children, including daughters Susan Elliott-Crespin and Ann Neish Elliott, who survive their mother along with granddaughters Sonrisa Crespin, Heather Crespin and Bethany Pierce, sons-in-law David Crespin and Thomas Pierce, brother Don, sister-in-law Florence, and many dear friends. Betta's son, Bobby, is deceased. Frank passed away in September 2015.

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## Student Essay

By Haley Johnston '16  
Major: Global Studies

### Rise of the radical right

**I**n the summer of 2015, I interned at the Peace Bridge Newcomer Center, a refugee claimant center on the Canadian-American border, where I met migrants from more than 30 countries. Their incredible stories taught me about the Canadian immigration system from the people who were at its mercy.

Coincidentally, the end of that summer saw the beginning of a migrant crisis in Europe. I viewed the events that unfolded from the perspective of someone who had worked with refugees firsthand — an example of how I had the opportunity to synthesize my experiences abroad with my interests in cultural and globalization studies throughout my four years as a global studies major at Rider.

Before this crisis began in Europe, I had already arranged to study abroad in Granada, Spain, for the first semester of my senior year. The months I spent in Europe were formative on several levels. I saw Europe react to the crisis firsthand. I was there for some of the most pivotal moments — Angela Merkel's decision to open Germany's doors to all Syrian refugees, and later, the horrific backlash fueled by the attacks in Paris. I was witness to major changes taking place on the global stage, allowing me to study and experience it all firsthand.

I spent my final semester at Rider writing my thesis on the reaction of four European countries — France, Italy, Germany and Hungary — to the migrant

crisis. Each of these countries' unique reactions corresponded to their individual cultures, locations and political climates. As I came to discover in my research, each had to balance its identity as a member of the European Union with its identity as a sovereign state.

A plan formulated by the European Commission to combat the buildup of migrants along the EU border made this further complicate an already tense political climate. It requires EU member states to take on a certain number of refugees according to the nation's population size, GDP and other factors. The plan has been interpreted as an infringement of national sovereignty and security by some and a grossly insufficient reaction by others.

While in Spain, I saw the presence of radical right-wing parties increase throughout Europe. News coverage portrayed noticeable unrest in various countries as parties that had always been dismissed as fringe groups began to win seats in regional and even national parliaments. When I began my thesis, I chose to investigate the extent to which the migrant crisis had served as a catalyst for their increased popularity in order to exemplify the disparate desires of the EC and civilian populations. In each country I studied, I found evidence of a rise in popularity among the most radical far-right parties throughout 2015. Even in Germany, where migrants have been welcomed warmly by the majority of the population, a significant minority has banded together to oppose the acceptance of Muslim migrants.



Illustration by Ellen Weinstein

Such blatantly racist rhetoric might seem uncharacteristic of Europe, but in a way it represents the globalization of a misconception — that of migrants as free-loaders or, worse, terrorists. If there is one trend that I came to understand through the writing of my thesis, it is that humanity is still very much torn between a desire to act with empathy and a hesitation to open up due to a deep-seated fear of the unknown. Creating new policies could reverse this trend, but only if the policies are well-informed.

This summer, I started taking classes at Dartmouth College to earn my master's degree in globalization studies. I have been fortunate to stumble upon a passion at a time when it has become especially relevant, while surrounded by supportive friends, family and Rider faculty. My life goal is to contribute to my field through research and pave the way for human-centered policy creation.

In my future studies, I hope to analyze the ways in which transnational human rights policy is implemented, both successfully and unsuccessfully, in various cultural contexts. If I can understand why some policies work well in certain areas and not in others, perhaps I could help to customize the implementation processes in order to ensure that the policy is adopted successfully. ■





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