

RIDER

FALL 2022



Transforming Students - Transforming Lives

Rider is taking on its biggest philanthropic challenge yet. The goal: \$80 million.

BIG PICTURE





MODERN DANCE

Tanisha Anand '22 performs in the piece "Constellations" choreographed by Merli V. Guerra during Rider Dances 2022: Here We R. Directed by Dr. Kim Chandler Vaccaro, Rider Dances has been the annual spring showcase for Rider's dance students for 17 years.

PHOTO BY PETER G. BORG



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TRANSFORMING STUDENTS - TRANSFORMING LIVES

Rider unveils its most ambitious philanthropic campaign ever.

20

GAME MAKERS

Learn how game design became one of Rider's most popular majors and play a Rider-themed game.

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RIDER

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



Dear alumni and friends,

This fall, we are thrilled to publicly launch Rider's biggest, most ambitious philanthropic campaign ever. Our goal is to raise \$80 million to ensure a Rider education remains transformative and affordable for every student. While quietly working on the campaign over the past few years, we have made great progress thanks to many dedicated alumni and friends, but our work is not yet complete.

Through *Transforming Students - Transforming Lives: The Campaign for Rider University*, we will build Rider's endowment so that a Rider education will be within reach of more students; invest

in new construction, so that our campus can inspire creativity and collaboration; and strengthen our Annual Fund, so that the University can secure the flexibility to address our most urgent needs.

The University is fortunate to benefit from the dedication of three accomplished alumni who make up our campaign leadership team. Thomas Lynch '75, the former CEO of TE Connectivity, is serving as campaign chair. He and his co-chairs, Joan Mazzotti '72, the former executive director of Philadelphia Futures, and William Rue '69, the owner of Rue Insurance, have helped rally enthusiastic support of the campaign's vision — including, notably, 100% participation from Rider's Board of Trustees.

What does that vision look like? Picture a modern Division I athletics arena uniting the campus



and surrounding community. Endowed scholarships benefiting Rider students in perpetuity. A robust Annual Fund providing maximum flexibility in support of financial aid, technology and career preparation.

Investing in *Transforming Students - Transforming Lives* creates all of this and much, much more.

This is, by far, the most significant fundraising effort to take place at Rider in 157 years. I hope you will join me at Homecoming on Saturday, Oct. 29, at noon as we officially begin the campaign's public phase. You can also learn how to make a difference in the lives of our students by visiting rider.edu/transform. If there was ever a time for you to invest in your alma mater, that time is now.

Go Broncos!

Sincerely,

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



NEW COLLEGE

Rider's new College of Arts and Sciences, which merged the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences with Westminster College of the Arts, became official in July. The new, single College consists of four schools, three of them new: Westminster Choir College, the School of Media and Performing Arts, the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the School of Science, Technology and Mathematics.

Dr. Kelly Bidle (center) was appointed dean of the new College. Her leadership team includes two accomplished associate deans, Dr. Jason Vodicka '03, '09 (left) and Dr. Brooke Hunter.



ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT

Cait Hopkinson, a current freshman accounting major, won a full, four-year tuition scholarship to Rider University in the 2022 Norm Brodsky Business Concept Competition. On Jan. 29, she presented her business idea — an air-fried doughnut shop — in the annual competition, which challenges high school students to develop an innovative business idea and present it in front of a panel of judges.

The GRAMMY goes to...

Rider was named to the University Affiliates program of the GRAMMY Museum® in January, making it only the second university in New Jersey and one of 23 institutions worldwide to receive this designation. Through this new partnership, students and faculty have access to the historically rich archives of the GRAMMY Museum® for educational purposes. The partnership creates opportunities for guest lectures from music historians and other professionals, professional seminars and programming both virtually and at the GRAMMY Museum Experience™ at the Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey.



BUDDING CAREERS

This fall, Rider launched a cannabis studies certificate program that provides students with the credentials and expertise to enter the legal cannabis market. The capstone course is taught by an industry professional, allowing students to gain experience and learn about future internship and job opportunities. “We want as many people as possible to have access to this program to help build their careers in this expanding industry,” says Dr. Sarah Trocchio, assistant professor of sociology and criminology.



“ COMING OUT OF THIS INCREDIBLY DIFFICULT TIME OF THE PANDEMIC — A ONCE IN A LIFETIME CHALLENGE, REALLY — WE WANTED EVERYONE TO KNOW HOW MUCH WE **BELIEVE IN THE MISSION OF RIDER** AND IN ITS STUDENTS. ”

-Wayne Canastra '72 (right), who along with wife Jill Hammer Canastra '72 (center) stepped forward in April as the source of the largest gift in Rider Athletics history, which was originally made anonymously. The couple is pictured with Director of Athletics Don Harnum (left) outside the Canastra Health & Sports Center.



Star baker

Tom Smallwood '11 was a semi-finalist on the recent season of Food Network's *Spring Baking Championship*. Hosted by Food Network personality Molly Yeh, the show awards the top baker \$25,000 and the title of Spring Baking Champion. Smallwood is the head of culinary development and training at New York City's iconic Magnolia Bakery. He started his career at Johnson & Johnson, but after four years in the field, he wanted his work to incorporate his passion. He moved to Paris in 2015 to attend pastry school and has worked in the field ever since. At Rider, Smallwood earned his bachelor's in finance and was a diver. He credits his time as a student-athlete for instilling the focus and determination needed to make a career change and compete on the show.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FOOD NETWORK



Scientific research

Last spring, Rider announced the first recipients of The MacMillan Scientific Research Fellowship, an award that provides funding to undergraduates: (from left) Stessie Chounone, an environmental science major studying tree ring measurements to explore climate change in Southeast Asia; Eric Eaton, a computer science major researching traffic data using artificial intelligence; and Hailey Senior, a health science major exploring laboratory techniques to assess carotid blood flow. The MacMillan Scientific Research Fellowship was established with a generous gift by the MacMillan Family Foundation, Inc., which was set up by Nancy MacMillan '77 and husband Duncan MacMillan.



TOP TEACHER

A music teacher at Arts High School in Newark, New Jersey, Sarah Mae Lagasca '13 was surprised with a \$25,000 Milken Educator Award on April 1. Dubbed “the Oscars of teaching,” Milken Educator Awards celebrate standout early- to mid-career teachers who are furthering excellence in education. She was one of more than 60 teachers nationwide to receive the honor and just one of two in the state.

Friendly competition

A record 649 donors supported the Rider Athletics' 2021-22 Raise Your Game Challenge. The annual challenge encourages former student-athletes to participate in a fundraising effort that directly benefits their sport. This year's challenge raised \$195,761, second-most in challenge history behind last year's \$201,321. Nine of 13 programs exceeded their fundraising goals.

OUTSTANDING DELEGATION

Rider's Model United Nations (UN) team won the conference's highest award, an Outstanding Delegation Award, at the 2022 National Model UN conference in New York City, in addition to three Peer Delegate Awards. The University has been honored with the Outstanding Delegation Award more than a dozen times in the past two decades.

Leaving a legacy

In recognition of a planned gift from softball standout and Rider Athletics Hall of Famer Diane Fulham Blaszkia '89, Rider held a ceremony on April 2 to formally name the team's bullpen in her honor.





CROSSING THE DELAWARE

In 1947, a group of Rider fraternity brothers staged a reenactment of George Washington crossing the Delaware to initiate new pledges. The gag garnered a four-page spread in *Life* magazine. Seventy-five years later, a photo of Phi Sigma Nu's reenactment graces the cover of a new book written by Robert W. Sands Jr. and Patricia E. Millen. Part of Arcadia Publishing's Image of America series of books, *Washington Crossing* illustrates the many ways people have commemorated Washington's 1776 crossing. The authors secured the cover photo and others from Rider's archive.



Working overtime

Last spring, *The Overtime* on 107.7 The Bronc Retro, hosted by then senior Sean Harrington '22, was recognized in the spring as Best Sports Update by the Intercollegiate Broadcast System Media Awards. It was one of six programs on Rider's student-run radio stations, The Bronc and The Bronc Retro, that was nominated for the 2022 awards. The Intercollegiate Broadcast System Media Awards recognize outstanding programming from college and university radio stations throughout the U.S.

BUSINESS PLANS

Competing against 10 other institutions, a group of Rider students claimed top prize in the Johnson & Johnson National Business Case Competition in April. The team prepared a financial analysis and business strategy for expanding Johnson & Johnson's portfolio of prostate cancer treatments and presented both to a panel of the company's executives.



Dr. Yi-Ju Cheng

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, GRADUATE EDUCATION,
LEADERSHIP AND COUNSELING

“ I TEACH BECAUSE

I FEEL FULFILLED AND HUMBLLED

TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITIES TO

EXCHANGE KNOWLEDGE

AND EXPERIENCES WITH MY STUDENTS. ”

Play is very powerful, says Dr. Yi-Ju Cheng. She is an expert in play therapy, a concentration within the counseling profession that embraces children's natural inclination to express themselves through play.

“It really benefits children who have had adverse experiences and trauma,” she says. “They may have difficulty articulating what's going on for them due to their developmental stage or mental health struggles. Children tell us a lot about who they are through play.”

Cheng's role as a child-centered play therapist is to build relationships with the children so that they feel unconditionally accepted and strive to understand their underlying needs and emotions. “If they don't feel safe, they won't be able to freely express themselves,” she says.

Cheng earned her bachelor's degree in social work from Tunghai University in her home country of Taiwan. Her parents encouraged her to study abroad to gain a new perspective. “They said, ‘Even if you don't do well, do it to open your eyes to something new.’”

When she was researching opportunities, she found the University of North Texas. The institution had a specialization in play therapy in its counseling programs. She went on to earn her master's degree and doctorate from there.

Cheng recently co-authored *Multicultural Play Therapy*, a book written with the purpose of expanding therapists' cultural awareness, humility and competence. As someone with an international identity herself, Cheng hopes the book will help play therapists learn to work more therapeutically with children of different cultures, races and beliefs with deep and genuine understanding.

WHAT DOES A PLAY THERAPY SESSION LOOK LIKE?

We are selective about the toys and materials in the room. The child decides what they want to do. Child-centered play therapists refrain from providing any direction based on our own agenda or assumptions. We provide an environment where they can get in touch with their internal resources so they can move toward the healing process on their own.

HOW CAN PARENTS EMBRACE THE POWER OF PLAY?

You don't need to do much, just 30 minutes a week designated just for you and your child. Let your child take the lead on what they want to play and follow. Try to understand their world through their lens and validate their feelings. I know that sounds simple, but for little kids, that's what they need.

HOW DOES YOUR NEW BOOK ADD TO THE LITERATURE OF PLAY THERAPY?

The whole book centers on cultural humility. We give our readers strategies on how to work with children from different cultural backgrounds. We have different authors writing each chapter and sharing their cultural encounters in play therapy. I shared an example of when I was working with two 5-year-old Black children. One child said, “I'm from China. I know kung fu.” And they started doing kung fu moves. It's an opportunity to see the cultural components. I use that example to show how I responded and how I wish I could have responded that would have embraced cultural humility in a more effective, therapeutic way.

By Rachel Stengel '14, '20
Photo by Peter G. Borg

SPRING

2022



ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS



“

I HAVE BEEN GOING THROUGH A ROLLERCOASTER OF INJURIES THAT PREVENTED ME FROM RACING FOR A BIT, BUT IT NEVER DISCOURAGED ME. WITH A LOT OF TRUST IN MY COACHES, TRUSTING THE PROCESS AND **BECOMING MORE CONFIDENT IN MYSELF**, I WAS ABLE TO SEE MYSELF AS AN ENTIRELY NEW RUNNER.

”

Teagan Schein-Becker '22 was selected as Rider's 2022 NCAA Woman of the Year nominee. She had a banner season, earning the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Most Outstanding Track Performer at the 2022 MAAC Outdoor Championships and setting Rider records in both the 800- and the 1,500-meters. She advanced to the quarterfinals in the 1,500-meter at the NCAA East Preliminary Championships. Schein-Becker totaled three gold medals and three silver medals at the MAAC Championships. A five-time MAAC weekly honoree, she owns six Rider records — three individual and three as a member of a relay team.

A WHOLE NEW BALLGAME

A.J. MOORE ON SPORTS AND MEDIA

GOLF

Austin Devereux '21, '22 won his second-straight MAAC Individual Championship, leading men's golf to its first-ever team conference championship. The team went on to compete at the NCAA Norman (Okla.) Regional.

SOFTBALL

Junior **Jessie Niegocki** earned All-MAAC First Team and All-Northeast Region First Team honors as a two-way player, leading the Broncs in several hitting and pitching statistical categories.

BASEBALL

Senior **Brendan O'Donnell** earned All-MAAC Second Team honors after setting a new program single-season record with 20 home runs.

TRACK & FIELD

Junior **Zach Manorowitz** advanced to the NCAA East Preliminary Championships in the long jump for the second-straight year. Manorowitz won the event at both the MAAC Indoor and Outdoor Championships this year.

Streaming services

Today's fans may grumble, but changes to sports media distribution follow a familiar pattern

By A.J. Moore



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

Nothing in the media is ever really new. Sure, it may feel like today's media is vastly different than that of the past, but the changes are more about the speed at which content reaches consumers and innovative methods of distribution.

Think about how today's parents are worried about the amount of time kids spend on social media and its impact on their behavior. Well those same concerns have always been around. A hundred-plus-years ago however, it was directed toward comic strips in newspapers. I'm sure many remember parents' fears about the dumbing down of society because of all the time spent in a video arcade with a handful of quarters.

When the media changes and comes at society quicker, it tends to lead to concerns and criticisms that may feel unique when in reality those same issues have always been around.

Such is the case in the sports world where the shift of games and programming from cable television to streaming services is leading some fans to grumble about the growing pains as if they are something novel. What is happening now is nothing new in the evolution of the sports media industry.

For those consumers expecting games to be on cable TV like they have been for so long, it hasn't been an easy transition or one they necessarily wanted. Some within this group, let's say in the 40-year-old age ballpark, are none too pleased that watching sports today means determining what and where is Peacock or Paramount+? Do they have these services and how do they access them? And if they don't have them, does that mean they can't view the games without paying extra? For those who now bemoan the shift to streaming, it is something, ironically, they have already lived through.

Back in the late 1980s, there were similar objections when games that were once "free" on broadcast television were moving to cable networks that required a subscription. Fans were confused about how they would ever find these new sports networks on their sets.

Today Apple TV+ getting a Friday night MLB package isn't that much different from the Madison Square Garden Network in 1988 acquiring the TV rights for the Yankees game at the expense of their longtime broadcaster WPIX.

Fans had to learn how to find these games and, oh yeah, they now come with a cost.

Eventually, the new regional sports networks that formed were marketed as a new consumer friendly mode of distribution that no true sports fan could live without. The price was just a small cost of showing dedication to a team. Sure sounds a lot like those advertisements promoting new sports streaming services we see today.

Fans now come to expect that every major college or professional game should be available to them, and the media outlets are happy to indulge in these expectations. Sports, as the only true form of reality programming, have often been used by media companies to get consumers to adopt new media technologies. Adopt them with an extra cost. Just like when it went from radio to TV, from black and white to color, and from standard to high definition.

HEAD FIRST

THREE YEARS AFTER A LIFE-THREATENING BRAIN INJURY, SEAN BINNING IS RACKING UP AWARDS

By Rachel Stengel '14, '20

PHOTO BY PETER G. BORG

Three years ago, Sean Binning was in a coma for 18 days after recovering from emergency brain surgery. This year, he is a decorated Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Champion.

March 5, 2019, changed his life. Within a few hours of experiencing a blinding headache, Binning was unable to speak properly and had numbness and paralysis in his right arm. He was rushed into surgery where doctors removed a portion of the left side of his skull to relieve pressure from a ruptured arteriovenous malformation (AVM). The abnormal tangle of blood vessels was a condition Binning unknowingly had since birth. It was too risky to remove it that day.

At just 15 years old, Binning had a long, uncertain road ahead of him. He was connected to a feeding tube and a tracheostomy tube. He lost 40 pounds. Binning was transported to a rehabilitation facility three weeks after surgery to relearn basic life functions — walking, speaking, eating and even breathing. On April 26, 2019, he had a second brain surgery to remove the AVM and replace the missing portion of his skull.

Finally home, there was one thing on Binning's mind: diving. "It was going to be harder, but I didn't want to stop because I still had the muscle memory," he says.

Binning only began pursuing the sport at 12 years old at his local dive club. He became an accomplished high school diver, earning 10th place at the state level in 2019 and All-America honors.

Once he was cleared to train again, he spent

25 hours a week or more to get back into shape, still contending with numbness and paralysis in his right arm. Just six months after his AVM ruptured, Binning dove head first off the diving board again.

"I was nowhere near where I was before, but I didn't think I'd get as far as I am now," he says.

Soon, doctors discovered Binning developed an infection on his skull, causing part of it to decay. His next option was to have a third surgery to replace the damaged portion of his skull with a plastic one. The surgery was set for Nov. 30, 2020. Three days before, he had signed his letter of intent for Rider.

Binning was approached by Rider's Head Diving Coach Kristen Simms to join the University's Division I team earlier that year.

"I told her the whole story and that I was going to have another brain surgery," he says. "I said, 'I know it's risky to have me at Rider,' but she still wanted me there."

The risk paid off. Binning helped the men's swimming and diving team bring home its 10th straight MAAC Championship last year. During the meet, he won the 1-meter and earned MAAC Diver and MAAC Rookie Diver of the Year.

Now a sophomore behavioral neuroscience major, Binning hopes to attend medical school after Rider, a path he says he never would have considered before his injury.

"I'm proud of myself," he says. "I'm very surprised I got this far. I had my debates whether or not I wanted to stop, but I love the sport."





RIDER UNIVERSITY

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1865
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1865
RIDER UNIVERSITY

TRANSFORMING STUDENTS TRANSFORMING LIVES

THE CAMPAIGN FOR RIDER UNIVERSITY

BY DIANE CORNELL | PHOTOGRAPHY BY PETER G. BORG

On Homecoming weekend, as the University welcomes alumni back to campus to reminisce about the past, one event will focus decidedly on the future. Rider will publicly kick off the largest philanthropic campaign in its 157-year-history.

On Oct. 29, President Gregory G. Dell'Omo, Ph.D., will announce the public launch of *Transforming Students - Transforming Lives: The Campaign for Rider University*, a bold \$80 million comprehensive fundraising campaign to invest in Rider's future.

CHANGING STUDENTS' LIVES TOGETHER

"This campaign is the most ambitious in Rider's history and is a critical piece of its future," says Dell'Omo, emphasizing the campaign's importance to successfully fulfilling Rider's multi-year strategic plan, *Our Path Forward*. The campaign offers essential support to the strategic plan's students-first focus, a vision intended to propel Rider forward. He continues, "This campaign is also an opportunity to highlight our achievements, in which all alumni have played a part, and to let others know the many ways Rider empowers students to reach their full potential."

The campaign has been privately gaining momentum since its start in July 2018. More than 14,000 donors have already supported *Transforming Students – Transforming Lives*, including close to 5,500 first-time donors. During this quiet phase, the University recognized and celebrated its largest gifts to-date for scholarships, and in the areas of business, science, technology and athletics. Generous donors have contributed to significant campus improvements and provided growth in the University's endowment. Planned gifts to the University have also increased significantly, shaping Rider's future through arrangements that are made now but realized beyond a donor's lifetime.

"These milestones are important. The generosity of alumni, parents, friends, faculty and staff has built incredible momentum," says Campaign Chair Thomas Lynch '75. "While we are grateful to the generous donors who provided these philanthropic contributions to Rider, we know that our ambitions can only be realized with the help of everyone in our community."

\$80M

GOAL

PRIORITY I

BUILD RIDER'S ENDOWMENT

TO PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS AND FUNDS FOR SPECIAL INITIATIVES AND TO SUPPORT THE UNIVERSITY'S LONG-TERM FINANCES

Whether allocated for unrestricted purposes or for a scholarship or program, endowments have an enduring impact. They provide a permanent source of income as funds are invested and grow over time. Currently about 33% of students pursuing a degree at Rider are the first in their families to attend college. These students often have fewer financial resources to rely on for college funding. Endowed scholarships make a Rider education possible for more students. In addition to supporting scholarships, endowed funds may be created for other purposes as well, or they may be undesignated, allowing support to be available for emergent needs or new opportunities.

PRIORITY II

INVEST IN RIDER'S CAMPUS

TO CREATE A VIBRANT LIVING AND LEARNING COMMUNITY, ONE THAT FULLY ENGAGES STUDENTS BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Refreshing Rider's roughly 60-year-old campus requires lots of TLC. Creating an optimal campus environment requires modern and well-equipped facilities and continuous campus upgrades to residence halls, classrooms, labs and sports facilities. The campaign supports a vision of a living and learning environment that inspires creativity, builds camaraderie, enhances instruction and encourages collaboration through the funding of new construction and the modernization of existing buildings.

PRIORITY III

STRENGTHEN RIDER'S ANNUAL FUND

TO BUILD A RESOURCE THAT IS INTEGRAL TO PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES THAT BENEFIT THE ENTIRE CAMPUS

A strong Annual Fund provides flexibility, helping to address the University's most pressing needs. At Rider, the Annual Fund is a vital resource — one that directly benefits current students by sustaining every part of their campus experience. The fund supports scholarships and financial aid, athletics, the arts, academics, student life, diversity and inclusion programs, student emergency funds, counseling, and career planning. The fund provides maximum flexibility, allowing the University to apply resources as needed across campus. It is a key component in being able to provide students with a transformative Rider education.

HOW YOUR GIFT ADDS UP

Collective giving adds up to new opportunities, better resources and lives transformed. Any and all gifts to the Annual Fund have an impact. **Here's just a sampling of how your donation might affect the life of a Rider student:**

\$5

from three people can pay for a **student's tutoring appointment**.

\$20

from six people can pay for a **week's worth of supplemental instruction** to support students in a science or technology class.

\$50

from two people can contribute toward a **two-hour career planning workshop** for 10 students.

\$100

from five people can contribute toward a **visiting lecturer or guest speaker** coming to campus.

\$1K

from five people can provide **vital scholarship support** for a deserving student.



“

WITHOUT YOUR HELP, I
MAY NEVER HAVE BEEN
ABLE TO COMPLETE MY
STUDIES. YOUR GENEROSITY
HAS BEEN AN INSPIRATION
TO ME. THANK YOU AGAIN
FOR YOUR REMARKABLE
ENCOURAGEMENT AND
SCHOLARSHIP.

- **Lilly Banzragch,**

senior arts and entertainment industries
management major

*Recipient of one of five
Charlotte W. Newcombe Endowed Scholarships*



PHILANTHROPY'S IMPACT

ISAIAH JEAN-BAPTISTE '20

BY RACHEL STENGEL '14, '20

As an aspiring entrepreneur, Isaiah Jean-Baptiste's future was greatly enhanced by enriching Rider experiences made possible by philanthropy.

In 2018, he and five other students attended the Inc. 5000 Conference, a three-day networking event for the nation's fastest-growing companies.

"I got to look at my definition of success and develop firsthand relationships with the idols that I've spent my entire life looking up to," he says.

The following year, along with 24 other students and recent alumni, he spent two weeks at Rider's Innovation Intensive at Oxford University learning from 14 CEOs of U.S.-based companies.

Both life-changing experiences were sponsored by the namesake of Rider's Norm Brodsky College of Business, Norm Brodsky '64, and his wife, Elaine.

Jean-Baptiste also participated in the Small Business Institute's national Project of the Year Competition where his team created a consulting plan for a local business that was recognized among the top 10 best projects in the country. Over the years, the Small Business Institute has been supported by 36 individuals and companies.

"I built great relationships and learned creative ways to find quality information, develop a plan and communicate that with clients," he says.

Just eight months after graduating, Jean-Baptiste and fellow information studies major Brook Wilson '19, along with another investor, created Vora, an app that connects fans and social media influencers through video chats. Looking back on his Rider experience, Jean-Baptiste says that every opportunity he embraced — both in and outside the classroom — helped him along his entrepreneurial journey.

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YOU MAY FEEL THAT YOUR
INVESTMENT IS INSIGNIFICANT,
BUT YOUR IMPACT WILL BE
GREAT...WITH YOUR HELP,
RIDER WILL CONTINUE TO
TRANSFORM STUDENTS' LIVES.

- Thomas Lynch '75,
Campaign Chair



CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP

Campaign Chair Thomas Lynch '75 (right) is leading the campaign with co-chairs Joan Mazzotti '72 and William Rue '69 along with a team of volunteers who are helping to build relationships, make introductions, and help personal and professional contacts learn more about Rider.

"The participation of the University's alumni, friends and corporate partners is essential to future generations," Lynch says. "You may feel that your investment is insignificant, but your impact will be great. Join us in seizing this moment and building a permanent culture of philanthropy at Rider. With your help, Rider will continue to transform students' lives."



A VIBRANT CAMPUS

Rider must continue to upgrade its equipment and facilities in order to continue to provide modern collaborative spaces to live and learn.

Thanks to a generous gift from Mike '82 and Patti '82 Hennessy, the Science and Technology Center was recently expanded to include a 9,500-square-foot addition with new technology (shown above). This and other improvements are in progress with some projects partially complete and others yet to begin. Contributions of all sizes are welcome to update, expand and enhance numerous parts of campus and to purchase new equipment and technology.

Capital projects in need of support are:

- » Rider Arena Project
- » Mike and Patti Hennessy Science and Technology Center expansion
- » Center for Diversity and Inclusion offices
- » Fine Arts Building enhancements
- » Gill Memorial Chapel renovation
- » The new 107.7 The Bronc/WRRC-FM Broadcast Studios
- » Career Development and Success offices

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THE RENOVATIONS TO THE MIKE
AND PATTI HENNESSY SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER
HAVE MADE SUCH A DIFFERENCE
FOR ME AND MY CLASSMATES.
WE ARE USING STATE-OF-THE-
ART EQUIPMENT THAT NOT A
LOT OF SCHOOLS HAVE.

- **Riley Mozes,**
senior health sciences major

GET INVOLVED

For more information, visit rider.edu/transform or call 609-896-5167.

GAME MAKERS

GAME DESIGN BECOMES ONE OF RIDER'S MOST POPULAR MAJORS

By Rachel Stengel '14, '20 • Illustrations by Natalie Nguyen

Video games are big business, bigger than the movie and sports industries combined.

In recent years, the gaming industry has surpassed both in terms of revenue, according to International Data Corporation statistics. The U.S. video game industry generates \$90 billion in annual economic output and supports more than 400,000 jobs in all 50 states, the Electronic Software Association reports.

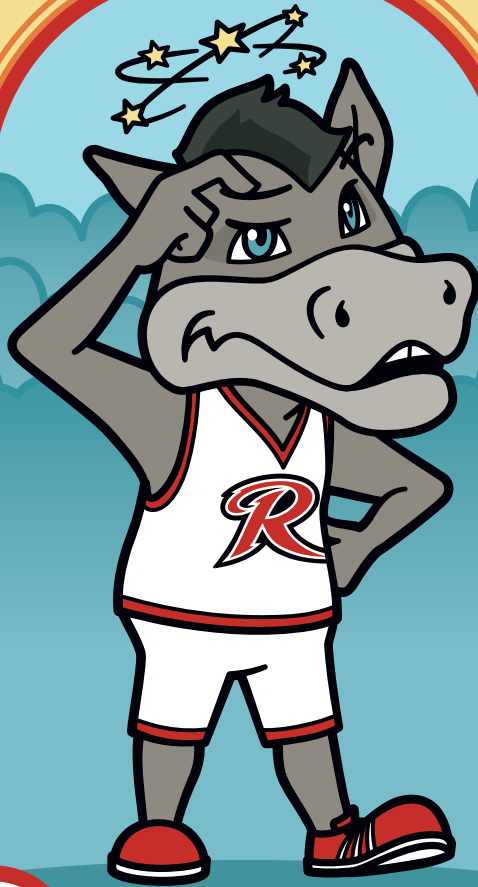
Rider is training the next generation of animators, designers, writers and audio engineers through its growing game and interactive media design program.

"The program really provides a comprehensive view of all the elements that go into creating a video game — design, storytelling, development, songwriting, composition, animation, filmmaking," says program director Wil Lindsay. "Students can find the area they want to specialize in and pursue for a career."

Developed in 2019, it's one of the top 15 majors at Rider. In just four years, nearly 100 students are pursuing the major. Beyond creating what students hope to be the next Call of Duty or Minecraft, understanding the concepts and theories of games in general is a foundational aspect of the program.

"Analog game development becomes an excellent primer for understanding the creative process and underlying systems at play," Lindsay says. "Card games, board games, role playing systems and dice games have become increasingly popular in recent years as we seek an engagement with friends and family that can't always be found online."

The following board game was developed by the staff of *Rider* magazine in collaboration with Will Lindsay and senior game and interactive media design majors Nicholas Ravaioli and Dorian Bialer.



THE BONKED BRONC

OH, NO! During the Homecoming basketball game, AJ the Bronc got bonked on the head by an errant pass. He can't remember where he is, let alone what makes life at Rider so great. Alumni like you have been asked to jog his memory before the big game resumes. Play by drawing some memories of life at Rider. Let's help AJ remember where he is so he can get back to doing what he does best — cheering on Rider!

**CHEERING ON
THE BRONCS AT
A BASKETBALL
GAME**

**THE RIDER
SHIELD**

**YOUR FAVORITE
PROFESSOR
LECTURING**

**THE BRONCS
BERM ON
THE CAMPUS
MALL**

**FIREWORKS
OVER
CENTENNIAL
LAKE**

AJ THE BRONC

**SITTING
AROUND THE
FIRE PIT WITH
FRIENDS**

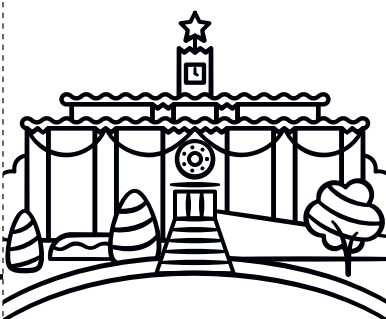
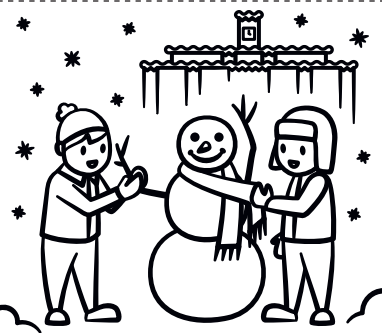
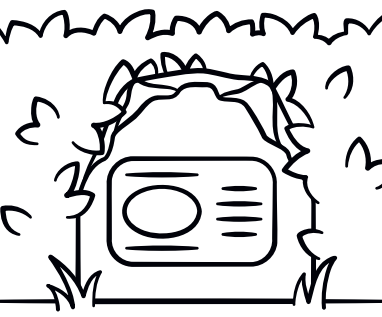
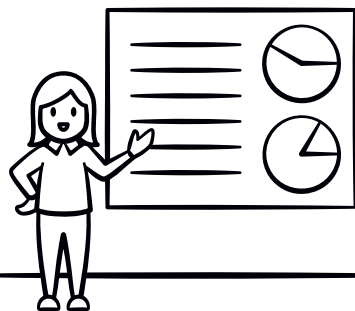
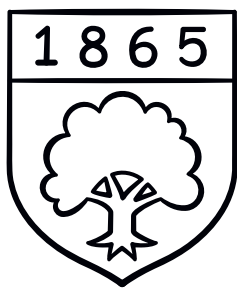
**GAZEBO NEAR
CENTENNIAL
LAKE**

**ANDREW J.
RIDER BENCH**

THE RIDER ROCK

**MOORE
LIBRARY
DECORATED
WITH HOLIDAY
LIGHTS**

**BUILDING A
SNOWMAN ON
THE CAMPUS
MALL**



GAME RULES

OBJECTIVE

Draw your version of the Rider-themed prompts to help AJ remember Rider.

SETTING UP THE GAME

- You will need:
 - 3+ players
 - A timer
 - Scissors
 - 12 Post-it notes or 12 pieces of scrap paper
 - Pen or pencil
- Cut out the 12 memory-prompt cards on this page.
- Shuffle and arrange the game cards into a single pile, so that the side with text is facing upward.

HOW TO PLAY

- Select one player to be the judge.
- Each player gathers six Post-it notes or six scrap pieces of paper for the round.
- The judge selects six random cards and places them text-side up on the game board.
- The judge sets the timer for two minutes and instructs the players to draw their best rendition of the memory prompts on their scrap paper or Post-its.
- When time is up, the judge asks players to present their drawings that correspond with each card on the game board.
- The judge selects the drawings that best represent each of the cards on the game board.
- To keep score, players keep the memory-prompt cards that they won.
- Repeat with the remaining six memory-prompt cards.
- The person with the most cards at the end of both rounds is the winner.

FINISHING THE GAME

- The winner is the player whose drawings helped AJ remember Rider the best.
- In the event of a tie, the judge selects his or her favorite Rider memory for everyone to draw. Players have 30 seconds.
- Want to play again? Make up your own Rider memory prompts.



Send your best drawings to magazine@rider.edu for a chance to win a Rider T-shirt!

PLACE
MEMORY-PROMPT
CARD HERE

PLACE
MEMORY-PROMPT
CARD HERE



PLACE
MEMORY-PROMPT
CARD HERE

PLACE
MEMORY-PROMPT
CARD HERE



THE B  NKED BRONG

PLACE
MEMORY-PROMPT
CARD HERE

PLACE
MEMORY-PROMPT
CARD HERE





3

Weddings, births, engagements and gatherings



6



9

1

Zekarias Ezra '07 and **Leisy Valentina Rodriguez '16** were married on May 27. Ezra earned his bachelor's in accounting and Rodriguez earned her master's in counseling services.

2

Sarina Capra '17 and **Daniel McBride '18** are engaged with plans for a fall or winter wedding in 2023. The couple began dating in 2017 and both studied criminal justice at Rider. Capra works with in the New Jersey court system and McBride works for the New Jersey State Police and Drug Enforcement Administration. The couple is grateful Rider brought them together, and they are excited for their next chapter.

3

Jonathan Chebra '09 and Hilary Chebra were thrilled to welcome their first child, Carolyn Jean, on July 21.

4

Samantha Giallanza '17 and **Vincenzo Aiello '16** are engaged to be married on Oct. 27, 2023, in New Hope, Pennsylvania. Aiello surprised Giallanza after work at the Tribeca Rooftop in Manhattan where her office is located.

5

Angie Vujicic (née Sinicki) '13 and Jim Vujicic welcomed Julia Lin-Noelle Vujicic on June 4.

6

Katie Zeck '14 and Kevin Lybacki became engaged at Hickory Run State Park on July 16.

7

Raymond Strazdas '13 and **Christine Bechtold '17** are engaged. The couple met as students at Rider and began dating in 2017. They became engaged in April during their trip to Yellowstone National Park. They will be married on Oct. 11, 2024, in Morristown, New Jersey.

8

Robert Pycior '15 and **Kelsey Pycior (née Valentino) '15** welcomed Holly Pycior on Jan. 25.

9

Joe Wisniewski '15 and **Hayley Morse '15** became engaged on Oct. 31, 2021. They were married on Sept. 18.

*Tell us about your professional and personal achievements.
Submit your class note to magazine@rider.edu.*



Dear alumni and friends,

I am honored to serve as the 2022-23 president of the Alumni Board of Directors and Alumni Association. The other dedicated members of the Alumni Board Executive Committee include Nicole Woodlan-DeVan '98, first vice president, Anthony Celentano '78, '80, second vice president, and Teresa Kane '93, '97, secretary/treasurer. We will be working to advance the Alumni Association, increase engagement and support the *Transforming Students - Transforming Lives* campaign.

Engagement can take place in many ways. Attend events like Homecoming scheduled for Oct. 28-30. Share personal and professional updates with alumni relations at alumni@rider.edu. See the world with fellow Broncs during an alumni travel trip.

Looking forward to seeing you soon!

Eileen Wirth '88, '95

President, Alumni Board of Directors and Alumni Association

'40s

Julia Perry '47, '48 received a posthumous 2022 Woman of the Year award from the Women's History Project of the Akron Area, a program of the Summit County Historical Society in Ohio. Perry was a composer and conductor who lived in Akron for most of her life, according to a news release about the announcement.

'70s

James G. Carlson '75, the co-founder of Guidon Partners, joined the board of directors of InnovAge Holding Corp. as chairman of the board and a member of the compensation, nominating and governance committee. He received a bachelor's degree in accounting from Rider.

Janet Kay '79 retired on May 31. She was able to work in 30 of the 41 Broadway houses by the time of her retirement from the theater world. "I have been lucky to have known and worked with some of my theater 'Gods.' I have no regrets. I got a wealth of experience." She earned a bachelor's in art from Rider and resides in South Carolina. "I was lucky to get a four-year scholarship to Rider. I loved being a member of the fine arts division. My favorite teacher is still Larry Capo! My classmates, all talented, Debbie, Ken, Carol, Bernadette and Bob, were wonderful to work with. And I had a fun home with Renee and the gals at Gee A."

'80s

Charlene Gerbig '83 was recently featured in the New Jersey Education Association's *Review* magazine in an article about how new teacher-leaders are using their



endorsements. When her school district started an initiative this year to include issues of diversity, equity and inclusion in classrooms, she initiated conversations with colleagues, created an online library of resources, and designed and facilitated a regional workshop on promoting cultural competence and multicultural understanding in K-4 classrooms. “I believe that as professional educators and teacher-leaders, we must examine our classrooms and pedagogy so that they reflect the students we teach, the communities in which our students live and the world beyond.”

RaJade M. Berry-James '87 was recently elected to the University of North Carolina Faculty Assembly. In this role, she will serve as an adviser on system-wide issues, particularly on equity, diversity and inclusion issues to advance strategic initiatives in communities that have been historically underserved and underrepresented across public institutions in North Carolina. She is a fellow of the congressionally chartered National Academy of Public Administration and vice-chair of the Standing Panel on Social Equity in Governance. She currently serves as the chair of the faculty at North Carolina State University where she teaches in the School of Public and International Affairs. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Rider University.

Eric Jacobs '89 was named in June the chief financial officer of Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers, a global asset management, disposition and services company. Previously, Jacobs served as the CFO of Wheels Up Experience Inc., an industry-leading marketplace for private aviation, and a senior vice president, corporate development of Cox Automotive, Inc., among other roles. Jacobs majored in accounting at Rider and later earned a J.D. with honors from

Trendsetter

Tarah-Lynn Saint-Elie '16 brings her passion for fashion to 'Cosmopolitan' magazine

By Adam Grybowski

It is one of the most enduring cultural changes in America over the past 50 years: the rise in casual dress. And yet, long after office workers first ditched suits and students embraced flip-flops in the classroom, Tarah-Lynn Saint-Elie '16 says she made it to adulthood before she owned her first pair of sweatpants.

Along with her journalism chops, that elevated sense of style helped her land a new role as fashion editor of *Cosmopolitan* magazine, where she writes for the long-standing women's magazine both in print and online about trends, deals and brands turning heads in the world of fashion.

“As soon as I saw the job listing, I knew it was mine,” says the 27-year-old author and former Miss Black New Jersey.

Since graduating from Rider in 2016 with a bachelor's degree in communication studies, she has landed a three-book deal with faith-based publisher Baker Publishing and earned a master's degree from Syracuse University's Newhouse School. Saint-Elie calls the book deal, which has so far produced two books of encouragement and inspiration rooted in her Christian faith, “one of my biggest blessings.”

But those achievements also came with a price. They redirected her away from another abiding passion: fashion. Saint-Elie grew up wanting to be a designer, filling sketchbooks while dreaming of her own fashion line. By the time she was in college, her ambitions changed to wanting to become a fashion editor. Her dreams were inspired by her parents, Chyler and Magalie Saint-Elie, who emigrated from Haiti to the United States. Establishing a life in the U.S., he wore tailored suits and she dressed in long, flowing skirts.

“They are literally amazing dressers,” Saint-Elie says. “They are regal in how they carry themselves. We were taught that how we dress matters, and I learned, as a shy kid, that I could allow my style to speak for me. And it was fun. Compliments would turn into conversations.”

Cosmo allows Saint-Elie to continue that conversation with a wide audience. The position is not the first time she has been associated with the magazine. When she was still a Rider student, the blog she created for a class, *Adorned in Armor*, was chosen as a finalist in the International Fashion Blog category for the magazine's U.K. version.

In a sense, launching *Adorned in Armor* marked the beginning of her career. “It's where I began to put my faith life and fashion life in one space and create a home for myself on the internet and a place where women can find inspiration and peace, as well as style tips,” she says.

The blog also helped Saint-Elie develop a bold, confident voice that serves her in the same way fashion always has. “I'm still rather quiet in nature,” she says, “but my personal style speaks for me before I even say a word. I love that fashion has the power to do that.”

“

We're dedicated to the students who could not complete their education and achieve their dreams without philanthropic support. Giving to them today and through a planned gift is more important than it's ever been, and that's why we're proud to support *Transforming Students - Transforming Lives*, the campaign for Rider University.

”

**-WARREN '73 AND
AIMEE HIRSCHHORN**

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rider.myplannedgift.org

Rutgers School of Law-Newark.

'90s

Dr. Martín Benvenuto '96 was named interim artistic director and head of staff for the 2022-23 season of Young Women's Choral Projects of San Francisco. He earned a doctorate in choral conducting from Boston University, a master's degree in choral conducting from Westminster Choir College and a bachelor's degree in music with honors from the Universidad Católica.

Brad Croushorn '97 won Duke University Chapel's 2021 Hymn Competition for his hymn *Open Wide the Doors*. Croushorn's hymn text was chosen from among 60 entries from three countries. The hymn debuted as part of the Duke Chapel's Sunday morning worship service with the Duke Chapel Choir and chapel organist Christopher Jacobson leading the congregation in singing it to the English tune RUSTINGTON. He received a Master of Music in Sacred Music from Westminster Choir College.

'00s

Ming Luke '00 was named the new director of the Las Cruces Symphony Orchestra in June. A member of the Westminster Choir College Music Education Alumni Hall of Fame, Luke earned a Master of Fine Arts in Conducting from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh and a Bachelor of Music in Music Education and Piano Pedagogy from Westminster Choir College.

Kurt J. Bitting '06 was appointed CEO and a director of Ecovyst, a global provider of specialty catalysts and services. He earned a bachelor's

degree from Villanova University and a master's degree from Rider, both in business administration.

Dr. Jennifer K. Diszler '06, '21 was named the new chief school administrator and principal of the Cranbury School. She began her new role on Sept. 1. Diszler previously served as assistant superintendent of curriculum, instruction and administration for the South Brunswick School District. She earned her master's in educational administration and her doctorate in educational leadership from Rider.

Jordan Markwood '07 was named the 2022 *The Washington Post* Teacher of the Year. Markwood is the chair and choral director of Rock Ridge High School's fine arts department. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from Houghton College and a Master of Arts in Choral Pedagogy and Performance from Westminster Choir College. The recognition came with a \$7,500 award, a half-page advertisement, a trophy and a profile in *The Washington Post*.

Jeff Zuendt '08 joined Reich & Tang Deposit Solutions, a leading liquidity and cash management solutions firm, as senior vice president, deposit officer, the company announced in May. Zuendt, who was awarded the New Jersey Bankers rising star award in 2019 and has been a volunteer firefighter for over 20 years, earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Rider.

'10s

Janine Jakubauskas '11 was appointed senior vice president, enterprise risk officer of BankProv. In the role, she will develop, implement, monitor and oversee all aspects of risk management activities for the bank. Jakubauskas

Lillian Artus Fairbank '37	Joan Zimmerman Shaub '56	Edward W. Ratz '67	Robert J. Bollaro '81
Elva Perry Pillsbury '37	Ann Zimmer Gilmore '57	Lucille P. Tymecki '67	Peter A. Naab '81
Marion Herdiech Golonka '44	Ann Komarek '57, '62	Deborah Bradshaw Carter '68	Charles R. Woodell '81
Patricia Palmer Applegate '45	Cherie E. Weiss '57	Gordon O. Danser '68	Robert R. Hart Sr. '82
Mary-Elma Allen Shotts '46	Joseph E. Campion '58	William Hoffman '68	William L. Porter Jr. '82
John V. E. Brinnier '48	Peter Dufault '59	Robert J. Jones '68	William E. Seas Jr. '82
Grace Hunt Chase '49	James M. Pierpont '59	Frank H. Kirby '68	Lois S. Henry '83
Marshall D. Gillard '49	John A. Tomlinson '59	Virginia Brancone Thompson '68	Caitlin W. Schuele '83
Doris Becroft Havran '49	Robert H. Jenkins Jr. '60	Lawrence J. Barden '69	Cleburne L. Webb '84
Paul R. Olson '49	Bruce A. Tushingham '60	Dale A. Dries '69	Katherine Szijarto Bucci '85
Annette McCarter Overton '49	Richard S. Balon '61	Donald N. McDowell '69	Elizabeth H. Welsh '86
Irene Nagy Piepszak '49	John B. Pilger III '61	Lance E. Allvord '70	Scott Babashak '89
C. Thomas Delcasale Jr. '50	Daniel J. Santagata '61	Gail E. Sempier '70	J. David Honore '89
Matthew J. Lacross '50	Albert A. Fisher '62	Richard D. Sheppard '70	Dorothy Slack Darrah '90
Ralph D. West '50	Elison R. Gordon Jr. '62	James R. Sparks '70	Mary Kubis Leighton '91
Robert C. Allen '51	Virginia Baxter Stone '62	Matthias L. Di Mattia '71	Robin S. Pierman '92
Helen Collins Carrell '51	Lois Rigby Earnest '63	Dennis D. Occhipinti '71	Joseph W. DiCosola '93
Dorothy Bauer Davis '51	Oliver C. Jemmott '63	Harry I. Watkins '71	Jennifer Demercurio Peperoni '95
Mary Freeman Degener '51	Harold J. Jones '63	Robert H. Yostembski '72, '79	Lillian I. Ramos '98
Phyllis Stevens Miller '51, '52	Jerry S. Popick '63	James M. Adams '73	Allison Lohr Polisenio '00
Frank H. Otway '51	Thomas J. Reilly '63	Douglas T. MacDaid '73	Alexandra T. Bergen '14
Francis X. Squittiere '51	Katherine Stratton Dritsas '64	Elliott Wahle '73	Christopher J. Masiello '15
Maurice F. Vail '51	August M. Frollani '64	Marvin I. Braverman '74	Courtney N. Norman '16
Marvin L. Walter '51	Eliza B. Hahn '64	Valerie A. Bullock '74	Kimberly A. Konczyk '20
Edward E. Wilgucki '51	Richard B. Shelton '64	Robert M. Kirchner '74	
Walter J. Wolfe '51	William Vandrueten '64	Joseph B. Mikulewicz '74	Faculty / Staff
L. Samuel Balsemo '52	Lewis I. Youmans '64	Frank Abate Jr. '75	Katharine Albe Shaftel '02
Margaret E. Lloyd '52	Eugene J. Elias '65	Richard L. Fair '75	Barbara H. Barstow
Leon K. Wallace '52	Dale H. Hooey '65	Robin Reid VanSickle '75	Franklin M. Brocious
Milane Bencivenga Young '52	James B. Maher Sr. '65	Mark W. Foreman '76	Robert J. Carwithen '60
June Reinson Hannah '54	James J. Nicoletti '65	Charles R. Harris '77	Diana J. Crane
John J. Madsen '54	Brooks E. Reynolds Jr. '65	Mark A. Hlatky '77	Benjamin H. Eichhorn
Martin J. Mazie '54	Richard C. Sickler '65	D. Scott Smith '77	Jamie L. Gairo
Walter J. Michels '54, '55	Joanne Whelan Trotter '65, '67	Jeffrey H. Weinblatt '77	Ralph Gallay
Doris Wott Howard '55	William T. Bings '66	Gerald M. Doyle '78	Grace Lanzoni
Vincent J. Maida '55	Thomas J. Gerber '66	Stephen J. Gilmartin '78	William H. McCarroll
Dominick N. Procaccino '55	David M. Kroehler '66	Andrea Dolin Heery '78	Marilyn McCarron
Louise Bossio Schreiber '55	Thomas J. Larkin '66	Ellen Madill '79	David A. Pierfy '67
Dorothy Miller Sterner '55	Constance Swoyer Giallella '67	Janet C. Gadeski-Fisher '80	John E. Sheats
James J. Hoellman '56	Karen Johnson Lichti '67	Paul F. Scavuzzo '80	Joseph V. Summers

This list represents individuals who passed away from Feb. 1-July 31, 2022.



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received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with majors in economics and international business from Rider and a Master of Business Administration in Management from Binghamton University.

Jacqueline Engelsman '12 joined RRBB Accountants and Advisors as the director of marketing and business development. Prior to RRBB, Engelsman worked at a multi-practice, mid-sized law firm for five years in marketing and business development and three years in client support for a large international company. She dedicates time to promoting diversity, equity and inclusion, wellness, and philanthropic initiatives. She recently launched a paid volunteer hour policy encouraging employees to get involved in community service. Engelsman earned her bachelor's in psychology from Rider.

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Salvatore Lavadera '12, '15 was promoted to partner of RRBB Accountants and Advisors' Somerset, New Jersey, office. He concentrates on public company audit and advisory services, mergers and acquisitions, and controller-type accounting and consulting services. Lavadera started his career at RRBB and has worked at the company for 10 years. He earned his bachelor's in accounting and master's in business administration from Rider. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. In 2019, he was featured in *NJBIZ*'s "Vanguard Series: Accounting" issue.

Marie Renee Thadal '13 was appointed vice president of sales and operations of Coptis, Inc. A former chair of the New York Society of Cosmetic Chemists (SCC) and the current SCC Area 1 director, Thadal received a bachelor's degree in biochemistry from Douglass College at Rutgers University, a master's degree in cosmetic science from Fairleigh Dickinson University

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and a master's degree in business administration from Rider.

Allyson Coryell '14 was recently named a divisional winner in Specialized Education Services, Inc. (SESI) Teacher of the Year Program. The program honors outstanding, innovative educators who lead by example with an unmatched level of dedication to supporting all students. The annual recognition celebrates teachers who exemplify high-quality, evidence-based instruction at SESI while recognizing the importance of equitable education for all SESI students. Coryell is a teacher at Rubino Academy in Ewing, New Jersey. She studied secondary education and English at Rider.

William J. Lewis '14 published his latest book, *Adventure with Piney Joe: Exploring the New Jersey Pine Barrens*, in February. The book is Lewis' third. His previous two, *New Jersey's Lost Piney Culture* and *Piney Everlastings Vol. 1*, also focus on preserving and celebrating the culture of the Pine Barrens. Lewis graduated from Rider at age 41 with a bachelor's in business.

Cameron Cook '16 received a prize for the Postgraduate Essay Competition from the Association for the Study of Modern and Contemporary France for his work "Caribbeanness and Political Engagement in French Rap Music." He earned his bachelor's in French from Rider. Cook is working on his doctorate in French studies at the University of Minnesota.

Sravya Gummaluri '16, '19 was awarded the 2022 National Board for Certified Counselors Doctoral Minority Fellowship for Mental Health Counselors. She is currently pursuing her doctorate in counseling at The George Washington University. She earned her bachelor's in psychology and master's in clinical mental health counseling from Rider.



On the beat

Lauren Minore '20 helps deliver the news you need to know

By Rachel Stengel '14, '20

There have been a lot of "pinch-me" moments for Lauren Minore '20 during the past year. Now an assignment editor for ABC News' Washington, D.C., bureau, Minore started her career with the company as a desk assistant.

She's had the opportunity to produce segments for *Good Morning America* and correspondents' live shots for *World News Tonight*. She also served as an associate producer on a Hulu special about the 20th anniversary of 9/11. Another such moment was covering the centennial of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The public had the rare opportunity to visit and lay flowers on the memorial.

"I remember thinking to myself, 'Who gets to do this at 22?'" she says. "To be there and watch the public lay flowers for the first time was so beautiful and moving."

One of just four assignment editors for ABC's D.C. bureau, Minore describes her job as "air-traffic control" for the newsroom. She and her colleagues field incoming tips, work with reporters and crews to coordinate logistics for live, on-air shots and ensure all aspects of the news are covered for the day. When a breaking news situation arises, the newsroom can look like what the movies depict at times — rows of phones ringing off the hook and editors working diligently to gather all the necessary details.

"We're really the engine," she says. "We pretty much have a hand in every facet of the newsroom."

A political science major, Minore wanted to work in politics in some capacity. Realizing she also had an interest in news, she started writing for the University's student-run newspaper, *The Rider News*, in her freshman year. Despite not having any previous writing experience, Minore quickly found her passion for journalism and took on as many opportunities as she could. She rose through the ranks to become managing editor her junior year.

"Everything I learned about journalism, I really learned in that newsroom," she says. "Without it, I wouldn't have been able to land my first internship, which led to a subsequent one at WABC in New York. I wouldn't be where I am without *The Rider News*."

Politics is certainly a facet of most of the news that comes out of her bureau. The Jan. 6 committee, the Supreme Court's ruling to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and the upcoming 2022 midterm elections have dominated her news cycle for weeks. She acknowledges that the omnipresence of the media can deter some people, but Minore says there's nothing more important than being informed.

"I know that there are people in this country who distrust the media. There are also people who feel overwhelmed by the news," she says, "but I've been behind the scenes to see and know that we are reporting on the facts and telling real stories. There's no fabrication. There's no fake news. It is more critical than ever to tune in."

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Teachable moments

College is a transformational experience. Each course, experience and interaction shapes the person you become. The best professors not only teach the material but impart valuable, life-long lessons, form lasting bonds with their students and guide them to find their fullest potential.

We asked alumni to tell us who their most influential professor was and why. Here's what they said.

"When I first met Dr. Rick Turner freshman year, I had an instant connection with him. He was not only a teacher; he became a mentor, guiding me into the campus radio station and an internship, bringing out the best in me, especially in my writing where he encouraged me to 'write from the heart about what I know.' Because of Professor Turner, I have enjoyed a career working for Disney/ABC, the NFL and now at one of the largest tourist destinations in California."

Anthony Licciardi '97, journalism major

"Dr. Diane Giannola and Dr. Michele Kamens — so influential in the educational field. Everlasting mentorship and support beyond my Rider years. Truly an amazing program for future special education teachers!"

Amy Cerulo '07, elementary education and psychology double major

"Dr. Joseph Gowaskie. He made me want to teach history, which I did for many years; now I am a principal. I owe him much."

Rick Selover '94, '06, bachelor's in communication, master's in educational administration

"Drs. Thomas Simonet and E. Graham McKinley are the reason I stuck with studying journalism and are also the reason I'm the leader I am today, along with two other *Rider News* editors, at MJH Life Sciences."

Kristie Kahl '10, journalism major

"I can hardly pick one! Dr. Jonathan Yavelow taught me about biology and life itself."

Wright Señeres '97, biology major

Want your answer to appear in the next Rider magazine?

We want to know what your favorite club or organization was and why? Send your response to magazine@rider.edu for consideration.

Illustrations by Megan Rosanova

ON AIR



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