Taking the **LEED™**

From green-certified buildings to campuswide Eco-Reps and a sustainability minor, Rider accelerates efforts to conserve and renew.
Started in 2011, Rider’s honeybee colonies represent a great student initiative that provides educational and environmental opportunities for our campus and beyond. Bees impact the environment in remarkable ways. By providing pollination services, bees support native plants and make our crops productive (especially at the nearby Green Acres garden plot). Although honeybees are not native, they have come to play important roles in our food production system — did you know that almost a third of all crops require bee pollination?

The Bee Club, made up of students, faculty and staff working in collaboration, maintains the bees, keeps the hives healthy and will harvest honey once the hives get large and strong enough.

Photo by Katelyn White ’14
The winter months have begun to fade, and as we now look forward to the warmth and changes that spring brings, I am struck by the numerous changes that have occurred at our University – not just this year, but in the years that I have had the honor to serve as president of this wonderful institution.

Most recently, we have initiated an online master’s degree in accounting, a major in criminal justice and a minor in homeland security. These academic endeavors, among others, focus not only on what our society needs, but on what our students require to remain competitive in a challenging job market. And our most recent survey of our graduates shows that the vast majority are employed or attending graduate school.

We have also seen significant facilities improvements on both campuses with new or renovated academic buildings, residences and dining and athletic facilities, all of which contribute to an improved environment for teaching, learning and living. In addition, we continue to fund raise for new projects on both campuses.

Change has also shaped this very publication, as we move from a print version of the Rider magazine to one that allows for greater adaptability as advances in technology make it easier to share our stories.

There is another aspect influencing this online version of the Rider magazine, and that is our commitment to sustainability. In fact, this issue celebrates that commitment. Our goals have included energy efficiency and environmental responsibility. To date, we have seen significant progress across both campuses – from the development of a robust academic program in sustainability to the construction of a tri-generation plant, to new HVAC systems in key buildings, to daily practices among our students, faculty and staff that demonstrate responsible conservation. In the stories that follow, you will discover additional examples of why Rider has been cited at least three times in the Princeton Review’s Guide to Green Colleges in the United States.

Finally, on a personal note, most of you likely know that I recently announced my plan to retire as president of Rider University at the end of July 2015. Serving as Rider’s sixth President has been the most fulfilling experience of my academic career, and I am very proud of the strategic initiatives we have undertaken and the achievements we have attained together. Through our shared efforts, we have made significant contributions to Rider’s institutional progress, both advancing the University’s strengths and confronting its challenges.

As I complete my service over the next 16 months, I am certain that we will continue to find ways to improve this institution with your help and I remain ever grateful to have been part of the important changes that have occurred here during my tenure.

Mordechai Rozanski
President
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Ecologist Dan Hewins ’07 wants to delay climate change by keeping carbon in the ground and out of the atmosphere.

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Bees, Bicycles and Bottles
At Rider, sustainability is more than just a buzzword.

20 Political Rise
Rebovich Institute for New Jersey Politics brings national recognition to Rider University.
Rider to Play Major Role in 2014 Special Olympics

For the first time in its history, the 2014 Special Olympics USA Games will be held in New Jersey, from June 14 to 21, at sites throughout Mercer County – including Rider University. Nearly 3,500 athletes will travel to the Garden State from all over the country to compete in 16 Olympic-style team and individual sports, with the support of 1,000 coaches, 10,000 volunteers and an anticipated 70,000 spectators.

Several of the sporting competitions for this year’s Special Olympics USA Games will take place at Rider, including men’s and women’s basketball and volleyball. Additionally, approximately half of all the athletes from across the country will also be housed at the University.

President Mordechai Rozanski said, “I know I speak on behalf of everyone at the University when I say we are so excited to welcome these extraordinary athletes to our campus in June. It will be a remarkable week of celebration, competition and triumph for these individuals who have worked so hard to accomplish their goals of becoming a Special Olympics athlete. Personally, I look forward to meeting the athletes and watching them compete.”

According to Special Olympics, the 2014 USA games will be the largest, most dynamic and most innovative Games in its history. In addition to the many showcased sports, athletes will participate in a spectacular opening ceremony at Prudential Center in Newark and a Closing Ceremony at Sun National Bank Center in Trenton.

For more information about the 2014 Special Olympics USA Games, how to attend or how to volunteer to assist with the competition, visit www.2014specialolympics.org. – Kristine Brown

Students Connect With Alumni at Career Networking Event

With a still competitive and ever-evolving job market, all of us could use assistance navigating a path to career success. To that end, on March 25, Alumni Relations invited students and the community to meet with successful alumni professionals at “Three Effective Tools for Success: A Career Building & Networking Event.” The alumni participants offered their expertise on various career topics ranging from branding to corporate culture to the power of social networking and much more.

Frank Kovacs ’84, host of the weekly radio show Your Career Is Calling, invited fellow members of The Breakfast Club of NJ (www.thebreakfastclubnj.com) to speak about their experiences. Other guest speakers included Paul Babicki, President at Tabula Rosa Systems and author of Netiquette IQ – A Guide to Improve, Enhance and Add Power to Your Email; George Pace, Systems Architect at Prudential Financial; and Frank Wander, former CIO and author of Transforming IT Culture.

Natalie Pollard ’93, ’98, director of Alumni Relations, emphasized how the event allowed students to hear firsthand how to achieve their professional goals. “It provided alumni, friends and students the opportunity to gain experience about self-marketing and branding and raising their netiquette IQ, which are valuable skills necessary in all professions. They also had the chance to introduce themselves and talk one-on-one with the participants.”

This event was a joint effort between the Office of Alumni Relations, 107.7 The Bronc and The Breakfast Club of NJ.
Student Cooking Competition Heats Up Daly’s Kitchen

Brian Schaurer ’13 was named the winner of “Rider Student Top Chef – The Savory Edition,” an event sponsored by 107.7 The Bronc. Schaurer’s dish, pollo con gnocchi, won over the students’ taste buds, as he was declared the winner of the competition, which was held in Daly’s Dining Hall on Nov. 14, 2013.

Beginning in October, students submitted original breakfast, lunch or dinner recipes as entries into the competition. Selecting the best recipes based on originality, creativity and cooking simplicity, the judges then invited the student chefs who had created the qualifying recipes to participate in the competition. The chefs cooked for Rider students under the supervision of the Dining Services staff and then students voted for their favorite.

Schaurer’s dish started with a panfried chicken cutlet, which was then topped with prosciutto, spinach and mozzarella and served atop a bed of fried gnocchi tossed with a roasted pepper and Sriracha sauce.

“The competition seems to get tougher every year as students continually try to outdo each other in the kitchen,” says John Mozes, the general manager of 107.7 The Bronc. “We’ve certainly moved from the most simplistic kitchen recipes to more elaborate culinary creations made with a unique blend of ingredients, as is the case with this year’s three finalists.”

The winning dish was featured at PJ’s Pancake House in Princeton during the month of January, with a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the dish benefiting the American Cancer Society. Schaurer also won an Apple iPad Mini, and all of the winners received various gift certificates and Bronc Bucks.

Justin Giachetti’s seared sesame ahi tuna with sushi rice and cucumber sunomono salad claimed second place, while Danielle Lackovic’s maple apple chicken mac and cheese finished in third.

“It's been a great way to unite the University through our shared passion for food and make Daly Dining Hall a social gathering place and not just another place to eat on campus,” Mozes says. – David Pavlak ’13, MA ’14

Rider Marks JFK Anniversary With Conversation and Academic Study

A slate of events and classes drew students into the national conversation surrounding the 50th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy’s assassination. The University brought Oliver Stone to campus to discuss his film on the subject, took students to Washington, D.C., ran a semester-long film series devoted to his work and offered two special classes this fall.

Dr. Thomas Simonet’s course, “The JFK Assassination in Film and Media,” analyzed representations of the event in different forms of media, and Dr. James Ottavio Castagnera’s course, “The Kennedy Assassination 50 Years Later: Who Dunit?” asked students to build a case for their theory on who killed Kennedy.

Eager to teach the class, Castagnera was also skeptical it would draw interest. Not only were most students not alive when Kennedy was shot, some of their parents had yet to be born. “For most students, this is ancient history,” he says.

As it turns out, the classes were packed. Extra seats had to be added for both courses.

In addition to the two classes, students and the Rider community were offered the opportunity to attend a daylong conference on Nov. 2, 2013, focused on the films of Oliver Stone, with an appearance by the filmmaker. Stone’s movies were also shown weekly on campus in the fall semester.

The conference, which was organized by Dr. Cynthia Lucia, director of the film and media studies program and English professor, gave the Rider community firsthand access to an artist who helped shape the JFK story decades after the fatal shot was fired. Stone answered questions from the audience, as did Lucia and Cineaste magazine’s editor-in-chief, Gary Crowdus. Reflecting on his research of the assassination, Stone said, “This is not me making up history. This is history.”

On Nov. 9, 2013, about 50 students traveled to the Newseum in Washington, D.C., which has on display two new exhibits on the 35th president, as well as an original documentary.

The focus on one subject explored in many different ways and made available to all students remains part of Rider’s commitment to push the educational experience beyond the classroom. – Adam Grybowski

Entries in Rider’s first-ever Emerging Choreographer’s Showcase. Six dances were selected to perform May 3 in front of legendary dancer and artistic director Edward Villella.

For tickets: www.rider.edu/wcc/events
Rider Roundup

ACADEMIC NEWS

College of Continuing Studies

Building Interest in the Community

Bill Lewis ’14 has spent most of his life seeking to serve. In his working life, he assists the federal government in its conservation efforts. In his personal life, he is a founder and president of NEST! (Nurture Environmental Stewardship Today).

The 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization devoted to sustainability initiatives. In addition, he is a past chairman of the Sustainable Jersey and Environmental Commission for Plumsted Township and serves on the board of directors for EarthShare New Jersey. Add to this his service on the board of trustees for Crosswicks Creek Watershed Association and one wonders how he is also now finishing his B.S. in business administration at Rider’s College of Continuing Studies.

As a nontraditional student, Lewis feels that waiting a few years before going off to college gave him time to develop his interests. “When I was 18, I wanted to go to Rider and major in accounting. At that age, I was interested in what would make me the most money.” Instead, Lewis spent four years as a noncommissioned officer in the Marine Corps and eventually started working for the federal government. In his mid-30s, he considered going back to school. By then, he had other ambitions and other passions. “At that stage, I knew myself better and had developed a more committed focus on academics.”

His interest in creating sustainable communities led him to focus on management and leadership. “The leadership courses gave me the tools I needed to pull people together to make good teams. My speech class honed my elevator speech so I could convince community leaders it was in their best interest to grow food locally,” he explains.

On May 3, NEST! will host the 2014 N.J. Bluebird Festival and Lewis has also been integral in planning the May 31 “EarthShare N.J. Celebrates” event at Grounds for Sculpture. He believes too in staying connected to the Rider community. “EarthShare is always looking for businesses to partner with and environmental groups that need help, so I encourage alumni to contact me.”

You can reach Lewis directly at williamjoelewis@gmail.com.

– Aimee LaBrie

Rider Partners With Bank of America to Offer On-Site MBA Courses

Building on the continued success and creativity of the College of Business Administration’s MBA program, Rider University began an innovative partnership with Bank of America to make a Rider MBA more accessible and attainable for Bank of America employees.

“The College of Business Administration is focused on working with the corporate community to meet organizational learning needs. The program with Bank of America supports that objective and at the same time allows us to partner with a very well-respected organization to further develop the knowledge and skills of their talented workforce,” said Dr. Steven Lorenzet, dean of the College of Business Administration.

The program, modeled after a similar partnership with Waste Management that was announced in December 2012, is a unique way to offer employees the benefits of a convenient, on-site Rider education, while affording the University access to new students working to reach their academic goals.

Judging by the initial information sessions held at Bank of America and the enrollment this fall, the program looks to be a success, according to John Farrell, assistant dean of the College of Business Administration.

“Bank of America employees have embraced this opportunity,” Farrell said. “We had 24 employees enrolled in the fall, and just as many registered for the spring semester.”
School of Education

Rider University’s School of Education Receives $50,000 From Carnegie Corporation for STEM Education

This past fall, the Carnegie Corporation awarded Rider University a prestigious $50,000 grant to support a unique new project aimed at bringing more science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) teachers to local classrooms.

School of Education Dean Sharon Sherman explained the project, saying strong teacher candidates who are eager to transform STEM education will be immersed in elementary classrooms, with the goal of becoming effective teachers by working directly with children. “During this nine-month residency program in a local K-5 school, these future teachers will learn instructional theory and practice from Rider professors and classroom teachers,” she says.

According to the Carnegie Corp., more and better trained STEM teachers are essential to preparing America’s students to fully participate in our democracy and to comprehend, and devise solutions to, complex national and global challenges.

Rider is a designated 100Kin10 institution, a multisector partnership aimed at training 100,000 STEM teachers over the next 10 years. Rider’s School of Education was named a partner for its innovative, measurable commitment to educating a new generation of STEM teachers.

Via mentoring and intellectual input from its science and math alumni as well as grant-funded projects, Rider exposes students to STEM in the “real world” while providing students with career preparation opportunities.

Sherman adds, “Students in all schools must have STEM education at the highest levels if they are going to eventually compete in a global marketplace, where most jobs – if not all – will be based on skills developed from a STEM curriculum.”

For more information, visit www.rider.edu/stem. – Kristine Brown

College of Liberal Arts, Education, and Sciences

Chemistry Professor Synthesizing Molecules in a Sustainable Way

Sparking a chemical reaction in the laboratory often requires heat, and one of the most common ways of heating chemicals is also the most wasteful. The technique is called reflux, and it requires energy to boil solvents and continually running water to cool and condense the resulting steam back into the flask. Chemists often use reflux over long periods of time, consuming large amounts of energy.

“The sciences have been notoriously huge offenders of the environment, but they’re also the first industries to get on the pathway to sustainability,” says Danielle Jacobs, assistant professor of chemistry, biochemistry and physics.

Jacobs’ lab work focuses on combining two molecules to form new compounds. She believes that the new compounds will have uses as antibiotics or agrochemicals. But synthesizing the new compounds requires heat. Like reflux, the conventional way Jacobs would heat the molecules – placing them in a vial and submerging that into hot silicon oil for anywhere between 24 and 72 hours – consumes a lot of energy.

An alternative is to heat the molecules in a microwave, which achieves the same reaction in as little as 45 minutes. “You get the same product, with the same purity, but things go a lot faster,” Jacobs says. A lot of energy gets saved along the way too.

In January, Jacobs and her co-workers applied for a grant to fund the purchase of a new, bigger, higher-functioning microwave to replace the University’s existing one. Microwaves used in labs aren’t so different from ones used in kitchens; they’re more powerful, precise and – for scientific purposes – safer. “These are very robust instruments,” Jacobs says.

A bigger microwave would allow Jacobs’ lab to investigate far more molecules in greater quantities. Though the current microwave can synthesize and process six or seven new compounds in one day, it can accommodate only one sample at a time. If Rider receives the grant and purchases the larger instrument, students would be able to run reactions in tandem, saving not just energy but time.

“The time is important,” Jacobs says. “Labs are only three hours long, and we go over that all the time. Chemistry is messy and doesn’t always work out the way you expect it to.”

Using microwaves as efficient sources of heat is part of a global trend toward green, or sustainable, chemistry. “No scientist wakes up in the morning saying, ‘Today I’d like to do my experiment in the most harmful, wasteful way possible,’” Jacobs says.

– Adam Grybowski
Westminster Choir College

Westminster Landscape Leads to Tree Campus USA Status

Westminster Choir College has a long tradition of successful student-led initiatives that have always reflected on the mission of the campus. Now, Westminster is gaining recognition in another area: campus landscape.

In May 2013, Westminster Choir College became a certified member of Tree Campus USA by the Arbor Day Foundation, a program that recognizes and honors higher educational institutions for successful campus landscape management and engaging students, faculty and staff in proper conservation habits and goals.

To qualify as a Tree Campus USA member, colleges and universities must meet five standards: have a campus tree advisory committee, have a tree care plan, have a program with annual expenditures, observe Arbor Day and have service learning projects.

“Two years ago, when we were seeking the Tree Campus USA certification, we started to do an Arbor Day observance,” says Melissa Greenberg, sustainability manager. “We began to plant trees each year and then dedicated them.”

In the three years Westminster has been preparing for the certification, a new tree was planted each Arbor Day. Two trees were planted on the Lawrenceville campus as well.

Over the past couple of years, Westminster Choir College has been expanding its campus to make room for more academic buildings and performance areas. Though the construction led to trees being removed from the area, the college has installed a plan to replace the fallen trees.

“There is a plan to replace trees that had to come down because of construction or anything else that might happen in the future,” Greenberg says.

During the construction, 26 trees were taken down to accommodate the blueprint of the new Marion Bucklew Cullen Center building. In their place, 69 new trees and 24 new shrubs are being planted to replenish the campus forestry. Some of the trees were replanted while other trees were spread throughout the campus, according to Greenberg.

With a budding campus landscape, a respected cast of performing students and now a Tree Campus USA certification, Westminster Choir College is hitting all the right notes.

— David Pavlak ’13, MA ’14

School of Fine and Performing Arts Opens the Curtain with Plays and Musicals

The School of Fine and Performing Arts took to the stage once already in late February and will be returning two more times to put on a variety of plays and musicals before the semester ends.

Feb. 27 through March 2, director Trent Blanton showcased the classic play Our Town, a three-act story about average citizens from Grover’s Corner in the early part of the 20th century. The play was first performed in McCarter Theater in Princeton, N.J., and just celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2013.

Reasons to Be Pretty, directed by Miriam Mills, is the next play to take center stage from April 10 to 13. The play, which was nominated for a Tony Award for best play, focuses on the modern-day obsession with physical appearance. The show will take place in the Bart Luedeke Center Theater.

“We want our students to grow and develop so that they will be able to perform in many varied characters and styles,” Mills said about the actors and actresses. “We have so many extraordinary students with amazing abilities that we are able to put on musicals, such as Seven Brides for Seven Brothers, that require serious dancing skills and plays like Reasons to Be Pretty, which require serious acting skills. What is so wonderful is that we have students who are able to do both. We have some of the finest talent you could find in any theatre program in the nation.”

The final production to reach the stage, Merrily We Roll Along, is a musical directed by Nathan Hurwitz, with choreography by Robin Lewis and musical direction by Louis Goldberg.

Running from April 24 to 27, the musical features Franklin Shepard, a once-talented Broadway musical composer who abandons his songwriting career to venture into producing Hollywood movies. The show will take place in The Yvonne Theater.

“As directors in university theatre, we choose to work on plays and musicals that speak to us, that have some substantial relevance to our lives,” Hurwitz says. “Along the way, through the process of bringing these plays and musicals to the stage, we investigate them with our actors, designers, stage hands and other collaborators — and in doing so, we become aware of the way in which these texts touch on all of their lives.”

Tickets for both shows are $20 for adults and $10 for seniors and students. For more information about dates, times or tickets, visit www.rider.edu/arts.

— David Pavlak ’13, MA ’14

Westminster College of the Arts

Westminster Choir College

With a budding campus landscape, a respected cast of performing students and now a Tree Campus USA certification, Westminster Choir College is hitting all the right notes.

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— David Pavlak ’13, MA ’14

Meanings of Audiences: Comparative Discourses

Edited by: Dr. Richard Butsch
Professor of Sociology, American Studies, and Film & Media Studies and Sonia Livingstone
Routledge, 2014

In today’s thoroughly mediated societies, people spend many hours in the role of audiences, while powerful organizations, including governments, corporations and schools, reach people via the media. Consequently, how people think about, and organizations treat, audiences has considerable significance. In a concerted effort to grasp the construction of meanings and power across diverse cultural contexts and to provincialize the West, this groundbreaking collection offers original, empirical studies of discourses about audiences by bringing together a genuinely international range of work. With essays on audiences in ancient Greece, early modern Germany, Soviet and post-Soviet Russia, Zimbabwe, contemporary Egypt, India, China, Taiwan and immigrant diaspora in Belgium, each chapter examines the ways in which audiences are embedded in discourses of power, representation and regulation in different yet overlapping ways according to specific sociohistorical contexts.

Suitable for both undergraduate and postgraduate students, this book is a valuable and original contribution to media and communication studies. It will be particularly useful to those studying audiences and international media.

I’m Sending a Shamrock to Remind You of Home: Roscommon Families and the Irish Diaspora 1875-1950

Author: Dr. Thomas Callahan Jr.
Professor of History
Glashnevin Publishing, 2013

Three decades ago, a chance meeting brought the author to the isolated Roscommon cottage where his grandmother, Kate McCormack and five of her siblings, over a century earlier, had bid tearful farewells to their family and sailed off into the west to new lives in America. This book follows their journey to a new land and the author’s quest to come to know two generations of a family divided by an ocean and nearly forgotten by time. Along the way, the dramatic history of late-19th and early-20th-century Ireland and America comes alive as the McCormack family and their neighbors struggle with the challenges and seize the opportunities presented by those turbulent times.

The book demonstrates how the “big picture” of history can be viewed through the individual portraits of those who make it and also addresses the difficult problems facing those who undertake such a project – to rescue the history of average people from obscurity by using the scattered remnants of their past. The McCormacks who made the long journey to America and the loved ones they left at home are long dead, but family photos, letters, oral histories, and public and parochial records reveal the lives that they lived.

Words Matter: Teacher Language and Student Learning

Author: Dr. Susan Glazer
Professor, Coordinator, Reading/Language Arts; Director, Center for Reading and Writing

Susan Mandel Glazer’s new text, Words Matter, is a refreshingly honest look at how teachers’ (and parents’) less-than-sensitive comments may discourage new learners’ motivation to read and write. Consistent with research and commentary about the importance of teachers’ word choices and discourse routines, Glazer’s theme is supported by reconstructions of classroom interactions and sometimes poignant recollections by past students reflecting their disappointments in some teachers or lauding their successes brought on by teachers who believed in them. (Francine Falk-Ross, Pace University)

Words Matter: Teacher Language and Student Learning offers a unique look at reflection as a means of enhancing teachers’ awareness of the influence their behavior has on student learning. Through a series of real-life scenarios, the author shares her personal growth and understanding of the roles teachers play in helping students have positive experiences in school. The book also serves as a resource to help teachers become more cognizant of their own professional actions and behaviors. (Carrice C. Cummins, Louisiana Tech University; former president, International Reading Association, 2012-2013)

For more faculty publications, visit www.rider.edu/ridermagazine.
Dr. Victor Thompson
Sociology Professor Explains New Criminal Justice Major

As a child, Dr. Victor Thompson (Ph.D., Stanford University) spent weekends visiting his stepfather in prison. As a result, Thompson acquired an interest in the criminal justice system. Now an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology, Thompson has channeled his energy and passion into the design and creation of the new criminal justice major at Rider.

Q: Your specialization is in criminal justice, race and sociology. What made you want to pursue this area of study?

A: Mostly, I would say that I am a sociologist who does work on racial attitudes and political and social policy attitudes as they relate to the criminal justice system. I grew up, if you will, “in the system,” as a child of someone who was incarcerated. When I was young, I thought the best route to doing something in the criminal justice system would be to pursue a law degree, not fully understanding what lawyers actually did. I lost interest in the law during high school and pursued other interests, though never really losing interest in criminal-justice related issues.

Q: Tell me about the new criminal justice major at Rider. What areas will students have the opportunity to explore?

A: It’s a growing major and I wouldn’t be surprised to see 300 to 400 students enrolled in the future. The United States incarcerates the largest percentage of its population of any country in the world. There will be a growing demand for students in this area, if for no other reason than the very fact that the institution itself is so huge. In terms of our major, it’s unique because we cross a lot of disciplines. For example, having classes in law, sociology, philosophy, psychology, political science and other disciplines allows students to pursue a variety of interests that intersect with whatever part of the criminal justice system they are most interested in professionally.

Q: How do you think Rider’s proximity to Trenton, the Capitol Complex and the courthouses will have an impact on this program?

A: We are already starting to see responses because of our proximity to these areas. The director of the law and justice program, Dr. Ava Baron, is fielding calls and emails from people who are in those places and are interested in drawing on some of our students for internships or asking about seniors who might be looking for jobs. In addition, Dr. Baron has developed over the years a number of relationships with local and state institutions where students have already been doing internships as part of the law and justice program. Being close to the center of power in New Jersey gives students a wide range of opportunities that include traditional police department-type internships and internships within the Department of Corrections and also opportunities to work with drug courts or with former inmates in post-release programs and in an infinite number of places that intersect in some way with the criminal justice system.

Q: Where would you like this program to be 10 years from now?

A: We will continue to nurture it to enhance these opportunities for incoming students. In terms of the impact outside of Rider, we’re striving to build relationships with organizations and institutions both in state and local government, and also community organizations working on issues that intersect with the criminal justice system. In the next five years, I’m confident you will see some of those relationships grow and, with a little bit of luck, hard work and great students, we will become a major contributor to thinking about criminal justice policy in the New Jersey area and beyond. – David Pavlak ’13, MA ’14

For more photos of Dr. Thompson in the classroom, visit www.rider.edu/ridermagazine.
Spotlight

FACULTY PROFILE

Dr. Donald Ambrose
Author, Speaker and Award-Winning Teacher Seeks Solutions to Longtime Challenges

Dogmatic beliefs can lead to serious consequences – disastrous wars, economic collapse, genocide and authoritarian rule, to name a few. Dr. Don Ambrose, Professor of Graduate Education in the College of Liberal Arts, Education, and Sciences, has published numerous books, including two on dogmatism – How Dogmatic Beliefs Harm Creativity and Higher Level Thinking (with Robert Sternberg) and Confronting Dogmatism in Gifted Education (with Robert Sternberg and Bharath Sriraman). They include chapters by leading thinkers from multiple academic disciplines. Some collaborators in these projects include psychologists Howard Gardner, Dean Keith Simonton, James Kaufman, Mark Runco and Bob Altemeyer; historian Andrew Bacevich; sociologist Daniel Chirot; legal scholar Meir Dan-Cohen; political philosopher Kristen Renwick Monroe; and educational researcher David C. Berliner.

These books and his other work will be highlighted on the Routledge Education Arena Expert Panel website throughout 2014. Each year, Routledge selects a few scholars to feature in this way. This work has led to invitations for Ambrose to speak at academic conferences around the world. Recently, he presented keynotes in Dubai; Istanbul; Jerusalem; Ulm, Germany; and Winnipeg, Canada; and he will be doing another in Kraków, Poland. His appearances at these conferences illustrate the recognition he has as a leader of interdisciplinary scholarly work and as the editor of the Roeper Review, a leading journal in gifted education.

This past fall, Ambrose also received Rider’s Frank N. Elliot Award for faculty in recognition of his outstanding work at the University. Ambrose views this scholarship as a way to generate positive change and dialogue among disciplines that otherwise operate in silos. “It’s hard to understand any of the big issues without looking at them from an interdisciplinary perspective. Dogmatism pervades everything: academia, the newsroom, politics, our personal lives. When we start to exchange ideas, we begin to create solutions.” – Aimee LaBrie

Visit www.rider.edu/ridermagazine to see a full listing of faculty achievements.
Ecologist Dan Hewins ’07 wants to delay climate change by keeping more carbon in the ground and out of the atmosphere

By Adam Grybowski

THE GRASSLANDS
The grasslands of Alberta, Canada, lock in carbon like a storage tank. Leave it untouched and the grasslands can sequester carbon in the soil for thousands of years. Disturb it, though, such as by a tractor’s plow, and the carbon escapes, increasing the element’s concentration in the atmosphere, which scientists say is a driver of climate change.

Worldwide, similar lands store anywhere from 10 to 30 percent of the world’s organic carbon. Limiting its release can be achieved simply through better agricultural practices, says Dan Hewins ’07, a University of Alberta postdoctoral fellow. Implementing that change, though, is anything but simple.

Livestock is central to Alberta’s farming heritage. Beef is the largest agricultural commodity that comes out of the Canadian province, and more than half of its farms raise cattle. Not that ranchers are making much money. Rising costs and increased regulations are making it harder for them to turn a profit. Many of Alberta’s farms – laid out among the oil and gas wells of the province’s grasslands – also grow crops like wheat or canola to support their beef production, and a viable solution for them is to plant more crops and raise fewer cattle.

Cultivating the land may be more profitable than maintaining grazing herds, but it also results in the release of more carbon.

“If you’re not willing to pay farmers to preserve the land, they want to maximize production, often at a cost to the land and environment,” Hewins says.

The dry southeast of this large tract of land – the province is slightly smaller than Texas – is marked with low grasses and cacti, almost like a desert. Moving north, the flat expanse becomes rolling hills and the grass becomes denser until clusters of large aspen trees come into view. The Rocky Mountains loom in the west, forming the province’s border.

Hewins roams this land to conduct his research, driving hundreds of miles at a time to visit the more than 100 reference sites set up by the Canadian government. He often finds evidence of the province’s diverse wildlife, including moose, elk, deer, bears, coyotes and wolves. He’s also encountered wild horses in the field, the relatives of the domesticated horses found on some nearby farms. Even the activity of these wild horses causes some carbon to be released, but nowhere near the scale of farmers’ activity.

“Upon conversion to cultivated land, 30 to 50 percent of the carbon in the soils is lost,” says Hewins during a frigid December day in Edmonton, where outside it was zero degrees – quite a change from the sweltering conditions he encountered while conducting research in the desert as a doctoral student at New Mexico University, which itself was a dramatic shift from the East Coast climate he grew up in.

“That’s one of the beauties of my work – to take my experiences and my knowledge and apply them to different ecosystems,” he says.

Mentoring his Canadian students, Hewins sees in them the same connection
to the grasslands that he had to one of his research focuses at Rider: garlic mustard, an invasive species thriving in the forests that helped foster Hewins' love of nature.

THE FOREST
First found in North America in 1868 in Long Island, N.Y., garlic mustard now grows throughout New Jersey and ranges to Canada in the north, Virginia in the south and as far west as Kansas and Nebraska. Adept at outcompeting other species, garlic mustard thrives in the understoreys of forests, where it forms dense thickets that choke out indigenous species, altering the landscape that sustains the animal population.

"I walked past this one plant all the time," Hewins says, "but I had no idea it was this invasive species that was changing the forest that I love. I wanted to better understand how it was doing so well and how to prevent it from altering the richness and diversity of the ecosystem."

Recognizing Hewins' curious mind and superior work ethic, Dr. Laura Hyatt, a biology professor who is now the associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, invited him to work in her lab and also conduct research in several local parks — Princeton Battlefield, Rosedale and Washington Crossing among them.

A sophomore and first-year transfer student, Hewins was not only changing schools but also switching majors, from engineering to science. "I have a genuine interest in the environment and spending time in nature and at Rider engaged that," Hewins says. "Going into the field for some of my classes is what galvanized my desire to become a scientist."

Hewins and Hyatt had observed that garlic mustard thrives in soils packed with high concentrations of nitrogen. The pair devised a research project to study the relationship between the element and the plant, and Hewins applied for and received a Merck/AAAS research grant scholarship to do just that. He dove into the work, dedicating himself to growing plants in the University's greenhouse, concocting fertilizers with different levels of nitrogen and measuring how they affected the plants' growth rate. The research encompassed two summers and about 18 months. "It was my 9-to-5 job in the most literal sense," Hewins says.

Nitrogen is an essential component of the growth cycle, and while most plants are able to use only one kind of nitrogen well, Hewins discovered that garlic mustard can use multiple kinds. This biological adaptation gives the woodland herb yet another competitive advantage over other species.

Hewins was first author on the paper that summarized his research, an unusual designation for an undergraduate. "It represented the amount of work he did and his depth of understanding," Hyatt says. Hewins traveled to Chicago to present the paper's finding at the Botanical Society of America's annual meeting and published it in the peer-reviewed journal Biological Invasions.

"Right from the start, Dan showed me he was an able to take direction and make adjustments on the fly," Hyatt says, "but he was also very glad to be outside and ask questions that moved the research beyond the norm."

Hewins' eagerness to conduct field research was tested when he began a program at New Mexico University, where he received his master's and doctorate degrees. The East Coast native was transplanted from New Jersey's relatively temperate conditions to the unrelenting heat of the Southwestern sun.

"I have a genuine interest in the environment and spending time in nature and Rider engaged that."

THE DESERT
Deserts cover about 40 percent of the biosphere, but scientists are unsure how much carbon is stored in those ecosystems. One way carbon gets into the land is through the decomposition of dead plants. As a Ph.D. student, Hewins spent six years studying the finer mechanisms of how dead plant material decomposes in the desert.

Mathematical models exist that can accurately predict the rate at which the material decomposes and recycles back into the ecosystem. Because precipitation drives the decomposition process, the models falter when examining the desert, Hewins says.

He first toured New Mexico as a prospective graduate student during the winter, leaving a cold, wet Garden State for the bright, warm Land of Enchantment. "I was sold the minute I stepped off the plane," Hewins says. He would discover that the state's inviting winter temperature could reach 110 degrees during the summer. "By eight in the morning, the sun was hot on your back," Hewins says, recalling the summer days of his field research.

Hewins, who earned his Ph.D. in biology with a concentration in ecology and evolutionary biology in 2013, eventually discovered that more moisture exists in the soil than the equation predicts. Windstorms bury plant debris, and when periodic rains saturate the soil, microbes adapted for these conditions become active and start breaking down the plant material. The carbon stored in that material is then recycled back into the earth.

Hewins has been able to integrate his sophisticated knowledge of decomposition into the bigger picture of climate change. For instance, his desert research has helped his work in Alberta. Out on the grasslands, he collects and studies dead plant material to measure its carbon.

"I like to have a target for my research that will have an impact and promote a positive environmental change," Hewins says. "I'm doing what I can through teaching, mentoring and doing research to provide information that is truthful, is valid and can be applied to making an improvement."

www.rider.edu/ridermagazine
Bees, bicycles and bottles:

At Rider, Sustainability Is More Than Just a Buzzword ~ By Aimee LaBrie
Sustainability is trendy. Most of us are accustomed to bringing our reusable mugs to the coffee shop for refills and recycling plastic in the appropriate bins. Some take it a step further and buy hybrid cars or bikes instead of driving. But these actions are more than just fads: they’re part of a growing understanding that our decisions – big and small – have the potential to directly impact the planet in significant ways. From companies that map out the most efficient trucking routes to turning the lights off when you leave the room, searching for smarter ways of living is essential as we look toward the future.

At Rider, this commitment to more sustainable practices goes far beyond a slight adjustment in lifestyle. Inspired by President Mordechai Rozanski’s signing of the American College and University President’s Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) in 2007, the University has made great strides on all fronts to integrate more efficient practices across the board. Along with recycling receptacles and bike racks in convenient corners of the campus, the President committed to delivering sustainability education to all Rider students and the community at large. Over the past several years, he and his colleagues have done just that.

A New Minor: In the Classroom

Recognizing that the focus on sustainability crosses multiple disciplines, Dr. Laura Hyatt, associate dean, CLAES and associate professor of biology, and several faculty members developed a minor in sustainability in 2009 available to all students, regardless of their core major.

“Numerous sustainability and science studies programs were cropping up in New Jersey and we wanted to offer something that is uniquely suited to Rider and our students,” Hyatt says. “We developed the program to show students the connections between the ways we do our business, the way we treat other people and the way we treat the planet – so, it’s also inherently about ethics and social responsibility.”

The number of students who pursue this minor has doubled every year for three years in a row, as have the class offerings. This spring, Dr. Brooke Hunter, associate professor

North Hall, the University’s newest academic building, was certified Gold by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System.

There are 40 water bottle fill units on Rider and Westminster campuses.
of history, is teaching the very first 400-level capstone class, The Sustainability Studies Seminar. In this course, students will focus on a very specific sustainability project on Rider’s campus: the new Trigen Energy Plant. This plant allows Rider to create some of its own energy to provide electricity, heating and cooling to the academic quad. In turn, the University saves money and uses a cleaner form of energy.

Dr. Hunter describes the students’ involvement: “Their overall goal is to raise awareness and understanding about trigeneration energy on campus; what it is, how it works and why it’s important to our environment and society. They will do this by designing and implementing a “before and after” survey and developing various activities for the campus.”

Dr. Patricia Mosto, dean of CLAES, and Dr. Daniel Druckenbrod, assistant professor, environmental sciences, who both have expertise in environmental science, are team teaching the introductory course in Sustainability Studies this spring. Druckenbrod also teaches the introduction to environmental science course for the minor. “This field is relatively new, but it’s growing rapidly,” he says. “We want to prepare students to be conversant in these subjects and to add to the discourse in meaningful ways.”

Rider faculty also help to facilitate internships that connect to the minor at companies, organizations and nonprofits whose commitment to sustainability lies at the heart of their mission. As Druckenbrod explains, “We’ve had students intern at Greener by Design, Climate Central and the Langhorne, Pa., Historic Preservation Board. These opportunities, combined with classroom research and discussion, set students up for greater professional success later.”

Students are not the only ones engaged in these efforts – Rider also has a green course certification project where faculty pledge to implement reduction practices in their classrooms such as assigning online readings rather than requiring students to buy textbooks. Dr. Hyatt sees this as an extension of their essential responsibilities as leaders. “Our campus is our unwritten curriculum, and we need to pay attention to how we’re teaching students about standard operating procedures.”
The Campus Landscape: In EveryDay Life

When you walk into Melissa Greenberg’s office, there’s no doubt where her passion lies. A Broncos Go Green mug sits on her desk and the office is decorated with a solar panel and a picture of the Lorax, with a quote from Dr. Seuss on it: “Unless someone like you cares a whole lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.” It is evident that Melissa cares – a whole lot.

Greenberg was hired in 2008 as one of the first sustainability managers in the country. Not long after she arrived, she started a student Eco-Rep program and now has 10 active Eco-Reps on campus. Since then, sustainability efforts have grown as quickly as enrollment in the minor. Her main initiatives focus on four “R’s”: reduce, reuse, refuse and recycle.

For starters, all new construction now requires a minimum LEED™ Silver certification, a standard that’s been achieved but surpassed; in 2012, a new academic building achieved a LEED™ Gold rating. Thirty-five percent of the University’s energy comes from renewable energy credits, and energy meters monitor use in almost all of the buildings. More than 8,000 pounds of food waste is converted to organic fertilizer each week, and the University supports three active honeybee hives and two community gardens. These efforts alongside regular events have gotten Rider nationally recognized for the last four years in a row in the Princeton Review’s Guide to Green Colleges in the United States.

Numerous bike racks, 40 water bottle refill stations on both campuses, a Broncos Go Green website, a community garden, three thriving honeybee hives, Green Campus Tours — these are some of the smaller but no less impactful efforts that are part of daily life at the University.

Stephen Schwartz ’15, geoscience major and sustainability minor, is also the official student beekeeper and an Eco-Rep. He has seen the interest in sustainability grow among his peers in just the short time he has studied at Rider. “There’s a lot more awareness of what’s actually going on and growing concern about the future of energy. Students are seeing that sustainability concerns will factor into their future employment — regardless if you’re a business or science major — most companies now are implementing programs that require a deeper understanding of energy issues.”

Ongoing Initiatives: In the Community

Students are not passive recipients of these efforts. Many spend part of their time educating their peers as green-T-shirted Eco-Reps. Currently, Greenberg has four senior Eco-Reps working with her who have been on the team since they came to Rider, as well as others who are committed to sharing what they know. The Eco-Reps’ main task is to raise awareness on campus among their peers, faculty and staff. They also teach a freshman seminar about sustainability and offer residence hall programs focused on campus living, water conservation, energy use and trash – day-to-day activities that conserve energy, save resources and reduce costs.

“These are simple, manageable tasks like shutting off your lights, not taking really long showers, recycling shampoo bottles — all things that you can do by just thinking about your choices a split second longer,” Greenberg says.

As campus ambassadors who work directly with their peers, Eco-Reps are able to share their messages and see immediate impacts in the behavior of other students. They have hundreds of active followers on Facebook and Twitter, and use those platforms to educate their followers about various environmental issues on a regular basis. They also publish a weekly column called “The Eco-Rep Green Corner” in The Rider News.

In addition, the student-run radio station, 107.7 The Bronc, airs “Sustainable You,” a weekly broadcast that offers ways to be more sustainable that are both thoughtful and manageable. The show brings in a variety of guests ranging from fellow students to professionals in the field and even some celebrities to discuss sustainability topics.

The Office of Sustainability has also hosted several noted celebrity environmentalists through its green speaker series. This fall, actor Adrian Grenier from HBO’s Entourage was a featured speaker, and actress Rosario Dawson and activist Erin Brockovich have visited campus to discuss their interest in green initiatives. Grenier’s message was simple: “If everyone just became a little more aware of his or her own personal impact on the earth, real change would ultimately result.”

Raising awareness has become a primary function for the Office of Sustainability, and the Green Film and Speaker Series has been very successful in bringing to light important environmental issues and how they affect us. Now in its fifth year and with audiences growing for every speaker and film, the Rider community’s engagement has clearly risen.

Finally, students and members of the community are regularly invited to take part in green events like Earth Day, the Recyclemania competition, Campus Sustainability Day, World Water Day and Don’t Trash It Recycle It, among others.

The Wider World: In the Future

If you listen to those tuned in to environmental issues related to the need for greater sustainability efforts, you can begin to feel a little hopeless. Watch movies in the film series such as Plastic Planet (plastic kills) or Chasing Ice (glaciers are vanishing) and it starts to seem that maybe we’ve come too far to turn back the clock. Greenberg, however, remains optimistic about how even small steps toward conserving resources can make a difference.

For her own part, Dr. Hyatt emphasizes that the need to integrate more sustainable solutions is growing, particularly as the population increases and natural resources dwindle. “Students are inheriting problems we never had to face, and they need tools that we’ve never had to give them,” she says. “One of the things I focus on in my class is the notion of systems — how, when you do something within one system, it will affect other parts, sometimes in anticipated ways, sometimes in unanticipated ways. And the positive changes we make today most definitely set us up for a better tomorrow.” She pauses. “I truly believe that.”

For the fourth year in a row, Rider and Westminster Choir College will wear caps and gowns at graduation made from 100 percent postconsumer recycled plastic bottles — with each gown representing about 23 bottles. As students process, they truly represent — in mind, spirit and body — hope for our future.

For more information about events or opportunities to support Rider’s sustainability efforts, visit the Broncos Go Green website at www.rider.edu/about-rider/sustainability-rider.
As New Jersey politics spill onto the national stage, Rider University’s Rebovich Institute for New Jersey Politics steps into the spotlight

By Kristine Brown
ON THE MAP

The headlines said it all: Gov. Chris Christie wins landslide re-election. Christie cruises to second term. With big win, Christie set to wield power on national stage. But before the polls closed on the 2013 gubernatorial election in New Jersey, pundits and pollsters, press and politicos were asking: Would New Jersey’s governor run for president in 2016? As speculation grew, reporters turned to experts for commentary and analysis. The national spotlight was shining bright on New Jersey, and Rider University’s Rebovich Institute for New Jersey Politics seized the opportunity to place itself on the map of political discourse. Since 2008, Ben Dworkin has led the Rebovich Institute. Already known as one of New Jersey’s most insightful political analysts, national reporters sought him out to discuss the potential Christie-for-President campaign. Dworkin’s quotes appeared in USA Today, Washington Post and Wall Street Journal. He sat for television interviews in New York. He talked to radio stations in New Orleans and Wisconsin. Even Canada’s Globe and Mail wanted his take on the future of New Jersey’s newly re-elected governor.

While the coast-to-coast attention Dworkin received was personally gratifying, what mattered most, he says, was the Institute and Rider earning national attention. Originally founded in 2001 by Dr. David Rebovich as the Rider Institute for New Jersey Politics, the Institute has always been dedicated to public service and the scholarly analysis of government, public policy and campaigns. Rebovich was a beloved member of the Rider community and one of the state’s best-known nonpartisan political commentators.

After Rebovich’s untimely death in 2007, Rider President Mordechai Rozanski said, “A loss of this magnitude cannot be expressed in words. David’s contributions to our community, his passion for his work and his love of teaching were unsurpassed.”

Committed to maintaining the program’s future, Rider appointed Dworkin and renamed the Institute in Rebovich’s honor. “My goal is to build on his tremendous legacy and passion – not just for politics, but for the students we teach and inspire every day to become the next generation of leaders,” Dworkin says.

To that end, Dworkin, who is also an adjunct assistant professor of political science, oversees all of the Institute’s operations, including programming and career guidance, such as résumé writing, for students.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

At the core of the Institute’s mission are internship opportunities, job placement and networking. “We strongly believe that internships are an essential element of an undergraduate career,” Dworkin says, pointing to how dramatically internships improve employment options for students.

To assist students who take on unpaid internships, Dworkin initiated the Rebovich Intern Fellowship program, which supports Rider students with a tuition scholarship the semester following their internship. Scholarships currently range from $500 to $1,000, and the Institute expects to award approximately $10,000 in fellowships for students interning this summer.

The Rebovich Intern Fellowship consists of two parts: an endowment that generates money annually for use as scholarships and targeted multiyear awards that link a donor with a Rider intern. Two such targeted awards are the Vainieri Hurtle Intern Fellowship for Women in Politics, supported by New Jersey Assemblywoman Valerie Vainieri Hurtle, who attended Rider, and the Rebovich Intern Fellowship for Science and Politics, funded by an anonymous donor.

“The number one reason students don’t take on internships in politics or government is that the vast majority of these opportunities are unpaid positions,” Dworkin says. “Our students understand how important internships are, but the financial burden can make it difficult.”

Janine Jakubauskas ‘11, an economics major who developed an interest in macroeconomic analysis during her time at Rider, worked with the Rebovich Institute to secure an internship with the chief economist of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

The following summer she landed an internship with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and her dream of working for the Fed turned into a reality when she was offered a full-time position before returning to school for her senior year.

“This is really a great example of how all that we do comes together to bring value to our students,” Dworkin says.

The Rebovich Institute was vital in helping her develop skills not only inside the classroom but beyond it. “I was able to gain a competitive edge that helped lead to full-time employment at a job that was once just a dream,” Jakubauskas says.

IN THE ARENA

When he’s not teaching or helping students secure internships, Dworkin is busy bringing top elected officials and other government leaders to campus to engage with students. In 2013, the Institute hosted, among others, then-Mayor, now-Sen. Cory Booker; state Sen. Barbara Buono, Democratic candidate for New Jersey Governor; U.S. Reps. Frank Pallone (D) and Leonard Lance (R); and Steve Schmidt, a senior advisor to U.S. Senator John McCain’s 2008 presidential campaign.

Other Rebovich programs include an annual campaign postmortem conference that examines the most intriguing New Jersey election from the previous year, brown-bag lunches that offer students a chance to participate in off-the-record conversations with key people in government, and a congressional debate held every two years between the candidates for New Jersey’s 12th district, which includes Rider.

Looking to the future, Dworkin anticipates that interest in New Jersey politics will grow. Gov. Christie’s national ambitions and the recent scandal involving lane closures on the George Washington Bridge have only caused the national spotlight to shine that much brighter on the Garden State.

“I’m a kid in a candy store,” Dworkin says, laughing at how interest in New Jersey politics has gone national.

“No matter what you do, politics will – at some point – intrude on your life,” he says. “Public service is a noble profession, and now more than ever, we need the Rebovich Institute to ensure that Rider makes a difference in how we govern ourselves in the future.”

To view multimedia from recent Rebovich events, visit www.rider.edu/ridermagazine.
Go Broncs!

ATHLETICS NEWS

Hangey’s Heart Rooted in Rider

John Hangey ’93, MA ’97 was a Rider student athlete, an All-American, and now is the associate head coach of a successful wrestling program that was ranked in the top 25 in the nation earlier this season.

It seems as if Hangey has done it all as far as his athletic career stands. As a student athlete at Rider, Hangey was the fifth wrestler to achieve All-American status. He finished with a career record of 108-24 on the mat and went 11-6 in four years at the NCAA tournament, the best record by a Rider athlete in the national competition.

“It was the environment and the coaching,” Hangey says about his wrestling years. “I was able to grow and develop as an athlete with Head Coach Gary Taylor, who really knew how to get me to the next level.”

Hangey graduated in 1993 with a degree in history and then continued his education at Rider, pursuing his master's degree in human services administration with a certification in advanced governmental administration. He became a graduate assistant for the program during that time until 1997.

The following year, Hangey was offered the opportunity to become the head coach at Bucknell University. The chance left him at a crossroads. Despite going to Bucknell and leading the program for three years, Hangey never forgot where everything started.

After his time at Bucknell, Hangey called Taylor to see if there was room on his staff, and consequently Taylor created a new position to bring back his former All-American wrestler. Now in his 13th season, Hangey has assisted in keeping Rider’s wrestling program as competitive as ever. The Broncos were ranked as high as 22nd in the nation during the 2013 season.

“When we recruit kids, we tell them, ‘You’re coming here to go to class, get a degree and be on a wrestling team that you’re responsible for making as good as possible,’” Hangey says. “That means you’re going to be in contention for All-American every year, or you’re going to possibly win a conference championship. Ever since I arrived here as a freshman, that has been the measuring stick. If you’re an All-American, you’re one of the best Rider’s ever had.”

Throughout his time on the staff, Hangey has enjoyed the opportunity to continue to learn and grow under Taylor. His goals are to mold young athletes and continue to make Taylor proud, and maybe someday, take over the wrestling program completely.

“Hopefully, I would be fortunate enough to become the next head coach at Rider. That would be a huge honor to me because it is my alma mater, and I met my wife here. You need to manage the program and take it to a level where Coach Taylor and Rider would be happy. That is why I do things right now. He is my mentor and he has done so many things in my life for me. There would still be a driving force. I love the fact that we put Rider on the map in the wrestling world.” – David Pavlak ’13, MA ’14
Olympic Dreams

Jazmine Fenlator ’07 competed in women’s bobsled in Sochi, Russia

Track and field star Jazmine Fenlator ’07 drove her way into Rider history Feb. 18 and 19, becoming the University’s first varsity athlete to compete in the Olympics.

Fenlator, paired with summer Olympian Lolo Jones, piloted the US-3, BMW-designed sled into 11th place in the 19-team two-man bobsled competition in Sochi, Russia. The U.S. Bobsled team also picked up silver and bronze medals in women’s bobsled.

“Jazmine was a tremendous athlete at Rider and she has taken her abilities to a whole new level in earning a berth on the US Olympic team,” says Bob Hamer, Rider cross-country/track and field head coach. “She has worked very hard for many years and she has made many sacrifices to make this dream come true. She is a true inspiration for all of us at Rider. She deserves all of this success and it could not have happened to a better person.”

Fenlator became involved in bobsledding in September 2007 and was originally a pusher or brakeman. For the last three years she has competed in the more important role as the driver.

As a senior at Rider, Fenlator was named the Most Outstanding Performer at both the Indoor and Outdoor Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Track & Field Championships, leading Rider to a pair of team titles.

Fenlator won five MAAC gold medals that year, earned All-East honors in four different events set new Rider records in five different events, and qualified for the NCAA Regional Championship in three events. She shared the Athlete of the Year award with NBA lottery pick Jason Thompson ’08, currently a member of the Sacramento Kings.

As a junior in 2006 she was named one of the top 25 performers in the 25-year history of the MAAC, covering all sports except basketball.

“I really enjoyed my time at Rider,” says Fenlator, who was named to CoSIDA’s ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District 2 women’s track and field/cross-country team and to the United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association 2007 All-Academic Team.

“I learned a lot of valuable lessons, both on the athletic and academic side. I am very appreciative of the opportunities that enabled me to prepare for my future successes.”

Two-time Olympian Caroline Lind ’10, M.B.A., competed in both the 2008 and 2012 summer games, bringing home gold with her teammates in the women’s eights rowing. Lind, who completed her undergraduate degree at Princeton University, became Rider’s first alum to compete in the Olympics. Fenlator is the first undergraduate and former student athlete from Rider to compete in the games.
April 4 to 6
ZBT Reunion – Classes 1975-1981
Revel Casino, Atlantic City, N.J.

April 8
Graduate Business Alumni and Student Networking Event
6:30 to 8 p.m., Nassau Inn, Princeton, N.J.

April 26
Delta Sigma Pi Reunion
Lawrenceville campus

May 4
Alumni Day at MAAC Track & Field Championship
11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Lawrenceville campus

May 15 to 17
Westminster Reunions
Details on page 30 and at alumni.rider.edu/2014wccreunions

May 29
Bank of America/Merrill Lynch Alumni Event
5 to 7 p.m.
Bank of America Hopewell Campus
Pennington, N.J.
This event is open to Bank of America/Merrill Lynch employees who are graduates of Rider and Westminster Choir College.

June 7
Rider Reunions
Details on back cover of this issue and at alumni.rider.edu/RiderReunions2014

June 23 to 27
American Guild of Organists
Marriott Copley Place, Boston, Mass.

July 5 to 9
National Association of Teachers of Singing
Marriott Copley Place, Boston, Mass.

July 10 to 18
Rider Alumni Arts Abroad Experience Trip to Moscow and St. Petersburg
alumni.rider.edu/RussiaTrip

To register or RSVP for alumni events, visit alumni.rider.edu/eventregistration unless otherwise noted.

For more information, or to join our mailing list, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@rider.edu or call 609-896-5340.

Be sure to join MyRider at alumni.rider.edu/MyRider to learn more about the rewards of being a member of the alumni family.

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Connect Your Business With Rider and Westminster Alumni

By participating in The Alumni Marketplace, you help Rider and Westminster alumni connect with each other for the exchange of professional services.

We can help you offer services and savings to your alumni family – while you attract more customers.

To learn more, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 609-896-5340 or alumni@rider.edu.
From the Alumni Association

I stay connected to Rider for some obvious reasons: I value the education I received, I learned a lot both in and out of the classroom, and I met many wonderful people. In working with the Alumni Board and the Alumni Relations Office, I have found other, perhaps less evident benefits to remaining connected as a Rider alumnus: the opportunity to network at events such as reunions and the chance to connect with local Rider businesses through the new Alumni Marketplace.

First, I urge you all to save Saturday, June 7 for Lawrenceville reunions. Reunions are a great occasion to get together with old friends and meet on campus for a full day of activities, networking events and great food. The Office of Alumni Relations and many alumni volunteers have been working hard to create what promises to be a memorable day for all who attend. Pick up the phone and make a call or send an email. I know many of your friends would love to attend, but they need someone to set the plan in motion! Rider has the venue; you have a group of friends; now all we need is to organize the troops.

And with reunions coming soon, I’m proud to announce a new program designed just for Rider alumni: The Alumni Marketplace! What is it? The Alumni Marketplace is a benefits program that will support alumni-owned businesses and offer alumni customer discounts on products and services. What a great partnership – alumni supporting alumni! As an alum who owns his own business, I would love an opportunity to showcase my services and increase my customer base, and at the same time know that I can help fellow alums. So if you have your own business or may be in need of products or services, contact Rider and check out The Alumni Marketplace.

You can contact Alumni Relations at 609-896-5340 or at alumni@rider.edu with any questions regarding reunions or The Alumni Marketplace.

Jim Rademacher ’88
President, Alumni Board of Directors and Alumni Association
Will Bogetti ’03
Searching for red-headed woodpecker habitats, gluing radio transmitters onto bog turtle shells, mapping infectious outbreaks of the West Nile virus – for Will Bogetti ’03, these were just some of the projects he took on as a student–both in high school and during his time as an environmental science major at Rider. His first internship at the University was working for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, where he collaborated with state biologists to determine areas where endangered species lived and thrived in New Jersey. “We used digital data and created models to find out if the habitat would support, let’s say, peregrine falcons. Then we would go out and look for endangered species there. The models gave us a way to delineate areas that might need to be protected from development.”

This internship led not only to his senior thesis, but also to an offer of employment from the NJDEP upon graduation. In addition, the experience helped him build the skills he uses in his current role as a geographic information system manager at ALK Technologies, a navigation company located in Princeton. “In college, I developed the organizational time management capabilities I use now. I was juggling multiple classes, the internship work and my home life, and learning how to create a balance. Those skills have stayed with me.”

Bogetti has been with ALK for the past seven years, and he manages a team of 20 people. Their mission is to help all of us get where we’re going more efficiently. Bogetti assists with creating navigation software that keeps track of roads and highways across North America. Their largest customer base is the trucking industry. “We’re looking for ways to map out the best routes for them – not just the quickest way, but also the most fuel-efficient way; that’s good for them because they will save time and money. And it’s good for the environment because it cuts back on the consumption of fossil fuels, reducing emissions.”

As Bogetti explains, “Since I was a little kid, obsessed with the show Mr. Wizard, I’ve been interested in how creativity and science can make the world a better place. Rider helped me to discover that road, so to speak.” – A.L.

1959
Lewis C. Di Stasi Jr. ’59 retired as the attorney of the Town of Lloyd in Ulster County, N.Y., after 40 years.

1960
Jim Louden ’60 and his wife, Lynda, have moved from Chester, N.J., to Tequesta, Fla. Jim received his bachelor’s degree in Commerce and was vice president of Komline-Sanderson in Peapack, N.J., before retiring in 2010.

1963
Bob and Marie Barrett ’63 celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Jan. 25. The couple, who have three children and seven grandchildren, met as freshmen on the Lawrenceville campus in the fall/winter of 1959 after a basketball game. Bob also received a Lifetime Achievement Award in November 2013 from the Hamilton Township Economic Development Advisory Commission.

1965
Steve Kupsov ’65 recently retired from officiating baseball after 40 years in the field. In June, he was honored to be part of the officiating crew who umpired the PIAA Class A state high school baseball final at Penn State. He also was a member of the crew who umpired the final for the Carpenter Cup at Citizens Bank Park.

1968
Stranded in Montana; Dumped in Arizona by Barbara R. Shackett ’68 was published in 2013.
**Spring 2014**

**Class Notes**

**ALUMNI NEWS**

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1969

Dennis Gehris ’69, ’72 was awarded faculty emeritus status at Bloomsburg University in Bloomsburg, Pa., where he taught and served as an administrator for 28 years.

1974

Hightstown High School Athletic Director Gary Bushelli ’74 was selected as the 2013 male honoree by the Trenton Select Committee and recognized at its annual dinner, on Nov. 10, 2013.

1975

Christine Crawley Bass ’75, ’05 is now the director of the women’s chorus at Temple University’s Boyer College of Music.

1983

Karen Schuessler Bognar ’83, ’89 and eight of her former floormates from Ziegler Hall assembled recently for a weekend getaway in the Poconos. Pictured below from left to right are Carol Duttweiler McHale ’81; Karen Schuessler Bognar ’83, ’89; Maryann McFadden Grow ’81 (top row); Lisa Colon Lyons; Debra Eaise Malony ’79; Carol Linneman Cirasa ’81; Judy Brenner Kaplan ’82 (middle row) and Rita C. Peters ’81, ’85; Debra Francis Matty ’82 (bottom row).

1986

James “Jamy” Gross ’86 graduated from Drexel University in 2012 with a master’s degree in library and information science. He holds a dual concentration in archival services and library information services. In 2013, he was admitted to the Beta Phi Mu Library Honor Society. He is currently working as a librarian in South Jersey.

Former Rider cross-country and track runner Charles Valan ’86 was one of five individuals inducted into the Hightstown High School Athletic Hall of Fame on Oct. 4, 2013, during its 20th annual ceremony. Valan became only the third cross-country runner ever inducted. Valan ran for Hall of Fame coach Mike Brady at Rider and was part of two East Coast Conference champion track teams.

1991


1998

Lisa Dekis ’98 published a novella, *Frankie’s Angel: A Child’s Tale of Loss and Recovery*, a story of loss and recovery seen through the eyes of a 7-year-old girl.

Robin McKenna ’98, ’05 will be launching her own business this month. A native of Lawrenceville, N.J., she is now also the owner of Window Genie of Central N.J. and Bucks County, Pa.

Denise Stanislawczyk ’98 received the “Women in Manufacturing STEP Award” for her work at ABB, the global power and automation technologies company. She is the operations manager at ABB’s Measurement Products factory in Warminster, Pa. On Feb. 6, The Manufacturing Institute recognized Stanislawczyk and 159 other recipients of the STEP Awards at a reception in Washington, D.C.

2000

Kyle Neeld ’00 was named as principal of The Mercadien Group. A managing director of The Mercadien Group, Neeld is experienced in the areas of audits, reviews and compilations; documenting systems of internal controls; performing work paper reviews; and preparing financial statements. Neeld is certified in the states of New Jersey and Pennsylvania. He is a member of both the American Institute and the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Neeld lives in Newtown, Pa., with his wife and their two children.

Ed Fronczkiewicz Jr. ’00 is assistant counsel for Urban Engineers in Philadelphia. He provides legal guidance to senior management and professional staff on numerous issues including transaction matters, risk management, litigation management, corporate compliance, general corporate governance, professional licensing and registration, and procurement. After earning his Juris Doctor from Widener University’s School of Law, he began his legal career in government and private practice before joining Urban in 2007.

2002

Jeff Stump ’02, MBA ’03 and Jen Stump welcomed a baby boy, Brian David Stump, on Aug. 8, 2013.

Mike Basford ’02 is the assistant director of athletics communications at Ohio State University. He serves as the primary media contact for the field hockey, swimming/diving and softball programs. He is also involved in game day statistical operations for the Buckeyes’ football and men’s basketball teams. He and his wife, Melissa, live in Columbus, Ohio.

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The Layperson’s Guide to Exercise, Diet & Supplements by Daniel J. Shamy ’98 was published in 2013.

The Boy Who Said No: An Escape to Freedom by Patti Sheehy ’68 was published by Oceanview Publishing in June 2013.
Russel Melville ’11

Like so many Americans, the events of Sept. 11, 2001, deeply affected Russel Melville ’11 and awakened a desire to give back to his country. Although he was employed at the time by the Associated Press, Melville says he felt a strong need to do something as a citizen. He enlisted in the Army and was deployed to Afghanistan.

That choice changed the course of Melville’s life, leading him to an eight-year military career in which he rose to the rank of staff sergeant. On his return to civilian life, Melville knew he wanted to finish his college degree.

“The College of Continuing Studies offered a very unique program,” he said. “I chose to complete my bachelor’s degree here because Rider greatly exceeded what was being offered to veterans at other institutions.”

Two years after his graduation in 2011, Melville’s path led him back to Rider once again, when he was hired as the University’s coordinator of Veterans Affairs, a role he approaches with the tenacity of a drill sergeant, combined with the compassion of a fellow soldier who knows what it means to be there for a comrade.

“The Army taught me to look out for the person next to me at all times,” Melville said. “As a soldier, when you have something that’s too heavy to carry, there’s always someone there to help you. I want to be that person at Rider for our veteran students.

Whether it be challenges with admission, financial aid, housing or other issues, I want to assist in resolving problems for veterans on campus.”

Another lesson learned from the military: For every problem there are two solutions. “These are important words I say to my students. They should never give up. If you think you’ve given enough and are ready to quit, dig deeper.”

Ultimately, Melville’s goal in his new role is to create a model veterans program for other universities and colleges to emulate. “I want to be an approachable liaison between the University and student veterans. I want to encourage more participation of veterans on campus,” he said.

One of the first steps to achieving that goal came this past Veterans’ Day when Melville and members of the Rider University Veterans Association created a moving, commanding tribute to fallen soldiers of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, by placing 6,759 American flags in meticulous rows along the campus mall – one for each soldier lost since Sept. 11. The tribute garnered positive attention from students, faculty, staff and the media for its visual and powerful reminder of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

“College can be challenging for veterans,” Melville said. “But if you’re willing to make the sacrifice, you’ll get the reward.” – K.B.

2003
Michael Schiumo ’03 and his wife, Melissa, welcomed triplets Sophia Rose, Christopher John and Vivian Grace on Aug. 16, 2013.

2005
Lara Lindner ’05 and Rudolph Daunno ’05 were recently married. Lindner was president of Zeta Tau Alpha and a Broncs cheerleader. Daunno was a member of Phi Kappa Tau.

2007
Lisa Li ’07 was promoted to manager at the accounting firm ParenteBeard and works out of the firm’s office in New York City.

2009

Jason Sullivan ’09 and Kathryn Hornig ’09 were married on June 22, 2013. Sullivan, a history major, is a group sales representative for the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum in New York City. Hornig, an elementary education major, is a teacher for the Pequannock Township School District. The couple also recently bought their first home.

2010
Marc Ashed ’10, who graduated with a bachelor’s degree in political science, is finalizing his thesis to obtain a Master of Arts in global security studies from Johns Hopkins University. He served as the finance director of Delegate Jon Cardin’s campaign for attorney general in Maryland.

2011
Kiera Smith ’11 will be graduating in May 2014 with a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing from Chatham University.
Shannon Ferguson ’11 and Travis Gast were married this year by the Rev. Aaron E. Gast, Ph.D., grandfather of the groom. The ceremony took place at Normandy Farm in Blue Bell, Pa. The newlyweds are residing and working in Colorado Springs. Rev. Gast received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Rider in 2012.

2012

Alyssa Gennello ’12 received a new job as a registration specialist at BUZZRegistration, a sister company to the corporate meeting planning company Global Planners, after working at the MIDJersey Chamber of Commerce for two years as an intern and one year as a full-time employee as special projects coordinator.

Stephen R. Reisig ’12 and Laura P. Timperman ’10 became engaged in December 2013. Reisig works for Bartell Morrison, a construction equipment supplier in Keyport, N.J. Timperman works at Enterprise Iron, a financial and business consulting firm in Matawan, N.J.

2013
Katlyn Andrews ’13 started at the accounting firm ParenteBeard as staff accountant in September 2013.

Kristen Pullen ’10
Before new plant hybrids appear in garden centers, they pass through the field trials of technicians like Kristen Pullen ’10. She ensures that the plants will fulfill the expectations of bright colors and hardy growth promised by plant breeders.

Working in a 3-acre greenhouse surrounded by fields large enough to handle hundreds of plant varieties, Pullen, a new product development technician for the horticultural company Conard-Pyle, monitors plants every day to evaluate their performance.

“We get the first look at plants before a consumer does and really tinker with them and figure out how they work or don’t,” she says.

Plant trials not only require patience, but reward it. Woody plants can be studied over two to three years. Roses can be monitored for as long as a decade. Based in West Grove, Pa., Conard-Pyle is one of the few companies to conduct plant trials over such a long period of time, Pullen says. The company also tests plants in multiple parts of the country to judge how they will be affected by different climates. “We take a step back to know we have a good product, and it’s rewarding to take the time and see the efforts of your work,” Pullen says.

Before landing at Conard-Pyle, she worked as a research intern at Longwood Gardens for a year. A biology major, she had intended to study business forensics before being lured into the lab. A Cherry Hill, N.J., native, Pullen attributes her postcollege success to the lab work she conducted at Rider. If it weren’t for that, “I don’t think I would’ve had enough skills to get this job right after college,” Pullen says.

Since starting her job nearly two years ago, Pullen’s observed two trends. The popularity of native plants continues to grow, as scientists tout the environmental benefits of growing them compared to alien species. Pullen’s also noticed the growing appeal for plants that can be reused. An example of a reusable plant is one that can appear as a centerpiece on the table one day and then be planted in the garden the next. “Specifically with the younger generation, that’s the big and upcoming thing,” Pullen says. – A.G.
Emily Magee WCC ’87

Tick off a list of the major opera houses around the world – London, Vienna, Milan – and soprano Emily Magee WCC ’87 has sung there. Residing in Boulder, Colo., Magee has appeared on this country’s most prestigious stages too, from San Francisco to Chicago to New York. She recently made her debut at the Met, in the role of Foreign Princess in Rusalka, Dvorák’s fairy-tale opera.

In addition to Dvorák, the Westminster Choir College graduate has appeared in the operas of Verdi and Puccini, Tchaikovsky and Strauss, Korngold and Janacek, among many others. She counts as colleagues the conductors Daniel Barenboim, Franz Welser-Möst, Riccardo Muti and Donald Runnicles.

Magee also studied at Indiana University before making her professional debut in 1995 at the Lyric Opera in Chicago. After that performance as Fiordiligi in Cosi fan tutte, she returned to Lyric to sing in Faust, Turandot and Peter Grimes.

The recent Met performance wasn’t her first encounter with Rusalka. In August 2008 she debuted at the Salzburg Festival also singing the role of Foreign Princess.

Her audio and video recordings have received critical acclaim. Two performances from the Zurich Opera House, as Ariadne in Ariadne auf Naxos and Ellen Orford in Peter Grimes, are available on DVD, as well as two from the Berliner Staatsoper, as Desdemona in Otello and the Countess in Le Nozze di Figaro. Magee can be heard on CDs that feature her as Else in Lohengrin at the Staatsoper Berlin and as Eva in Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg at the Bayreuth Festival. She received a Westminster Alumni Merit Award in 2010 in recognition of her musical excellence and achievements as a singer on opera stages around the world.

– D.P.

Tell us about it!

Send us your class notes to magazine@rider.edu and we’ll include your news and photographs in an upcoming issue of Rider magazine.
Harry T. Gamble ’52
Rider University mourns the loss of Dr. Harry T. Gamble ’52, a distinguished alumnus, dedicated member of the board of trustees and a Rider University Athletics Hall of Famer. Harry passed away on Jan. 27 at the age of 83.

Gamble earned his B.S. in business administration in 1952 and was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree by Rider in 1987. He also earned M.A. and Ed.D. degrees from Temple University. Inducted in 1996 to the Rider University Athletics Hall of Fame, Gamble led the Rider football team to a four-year record of 24-8-1 and two undefeated seasons.

Among many other affiliations at Rider and elsewhere, Gamble was a current member of the board of trustees and also served previously in that capacity from 1998 to 2007.
When I came to Rider, I knew two things for sure. I wanted to be a writer and I wanted to find a job near campus. My college friends convinced me to attend Rider’s Career Fair. Tables were scattered around the Cavalla Room and I came across the “Eco-Representatives’” layout. At first, I wasn’t sure what the term even meant, but Melissa Greenberg, sustainability manager, sold me on the valuable job of promoting sustainability on campus, I remembered how I thoroughly enjoyed my environmental science class in high school and signed up.

At the time, I was a vegetarian after watching *Food Inc.*, which revealed the very vivid and disturbing truth about the meat industry. I only knew sustainability for this idea of being “eco-friendly” or “green,” which were all options I started to mold into my lifestyle. Besides this idea of saving the Earth, I had no idea what sustainability entailed. To my surprise, I was hired as an Eco-Rep, which was a title I held for the last four years of my academic career.

The job of promoting sustainability was a lot harder than I thought. Putting it into perspective, a group of seven students with like-minded interests are trying to inform and influence thousands of college students that they should incorporate eco-living into their lifestyles – not exactly that simple. At the end of my freshman year, I knew the basics. I was intrigued by these new terms and issues I had never heard of. The hazardous extraction of natural gas through fracking, the swift melting of glaciers and sea level rise had never crossed my mind before.

For the first time, my eyes and ears were open to something meaningful. The pure impact of climate change and anthropogenic activities made me want to jump out of my seat, scream and share it with the world.

I decided I wanted to have a deeper understanding of the complex system of the environment and how it works. I wanted to take on the challenge to improve environmental reporting to inform the public on what is really happening behind the scenes. I picked up a second major, environmental science, at the end of my freshman year. I also took advantage of the sustainability minor and started taking classes that I knew would give me a greater understanding of the issues and how to address them for positive change.

In my junior year, my advisor, Dr. Daniel Druckenberg, set up an event for Heidi Cullen from Climate Central in Princeton to speak. Climate Central is a nonprofit organization that researches and reports on climate change and its impact on the American public. Not too long after, an internship opportunity arose and I applied for and got my first internship with Climate Central. After my internship ended, I was offered a job. I had finally started my professional career and have been working there since.

Looking back at my academic career, Rider’s sustainable initiatives went from unknown to Oprah Winfrey-famous. Now, students know who the Eco-Reps are, perhaps in part because of the “Broncs Go Green” T-shirts we wear during events. Don’t get me wrong, the struggle to influence and inform students about how minimal it is to make sustainable initiatives remains. However, the overall transformation in just my short time here has been incredible, and I really believe that my actions over these four years have contributed to this empire of sustainable initiatives that Rider has to offer. From freshman year until now, the Office of Sustainability went from a few small initiatives to many large projects that have impacted all areas of campus.

Sustainability touches every topic, idea or action you can think of: going to the grocery store, sitting at home or eating at a restaurant. We influence our generation to make these choices not for this obscure notion that we want to save the planet, but to ensure that resources and options are available for our future generations.

I know that sometimes it’s difficult to alter your lifestyle. A speaker from our National Campus Sustainability Day event, *Entourage* actor Adrian Grenier, noted that sustainability is like learning how to walk. We need to have the intent to move forward, picking up our feet and slowly stepping forward, trying to lean back and forth to see if our feet are firmly planted on the ground. Once we have obtained balance, we can take that next step and the next and the next. That is what I plan to do, and I took my first steps toward this lifelong goal here at Rider.
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