

RIDER

a magazine for alumni and friends

Spring 2016



Justice for all?

Rider's Shared Read Program explores issues of race, inequality and the justice system with Bryan Stevenson's *New York Times* best-selling memoir, *Just Mercy*.

Big Event

More than 2,000 students packed the Student Recreation Center on Oct. 16, 2015, for Rider's annual fall concert, which featured hip hop star Big Sean and Justine Skye, who opened the show. This year, the rapper released his third studio album, *Dark Sky Paradise*, which

debuted as the No. 1 album on the Billboard 200. His song "One Man Can Change the World," featuring Kanye West and John Legend, won for Best Video with a Social Message at the 2015 MTV Video Music Awards.

The concert, which was only open to undergraduate students and was sponsored by the Student Entertainment Council, was one of the most highly anticipated events on campus this semester. When tickets were released, the line overflowed into the campus mall.

View photos from the event at
www.rider.edu/big-sean



Dear Alumni, Parents and Friends,

FIRST, I WANT TO THANK YOU ALL FOR THE WARM WELCOME I received from the moment I arrived on campus. Over the past several months, I have had the privilege of meeting many of you at events in Lawrenceville, Princeton and around the country. Your stories and feedback have given me invaluable insight into the University. Now, with your help, we are beginning to take the next step in Rider's development, and I have every confidence that we are embarking on an exceptional future.

The University's five-year strategic plan is currently being developed under the guidance of alumni, staff, faculty and students. The plan will closely evaluate all aspects of the Rider experience to see where we are strong and where we need to improve. The central goal of this analysis is to ensure that our students have an experience at Rider that is life-changing. I do not use the phrase "life-changing" glibly. As an institution of higher learning, we must commit ourselves to providing students with opportunities for transformational personal growth.

I strongly believe that active participation in college — engaged learning in class and beyond — creates the bedrock

for a successful career and a fulfilling life. In real terms, this means that students will be encouraged not only to strive for academic distinction but to pursue competitive internships, seek research opportunities, travel and study abroad, display their talents on stage at Rider and beyond, and give back to the community through their time and talent. More than anything, Rider's future depends on making the student experience not simply excellent, but exceptional. A new website dedicated to these endeavors can be found at www.rider.edu/engagedlearning.

The three feature stories included in the following pages illustrate that we continue to challenge our students to ask and answer difficult questions

— whether they relate to the evolution of life on this planet (and possibly elsewhere), the challenges of succeeding on a nontraditional life path or finding a voice in the face of adversity. I hope you enjoy these stories and the rest of the magazine. I also look forward to seeing you at one of our signature alumni events in the coming months.

With Rider pride,

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

RIDER

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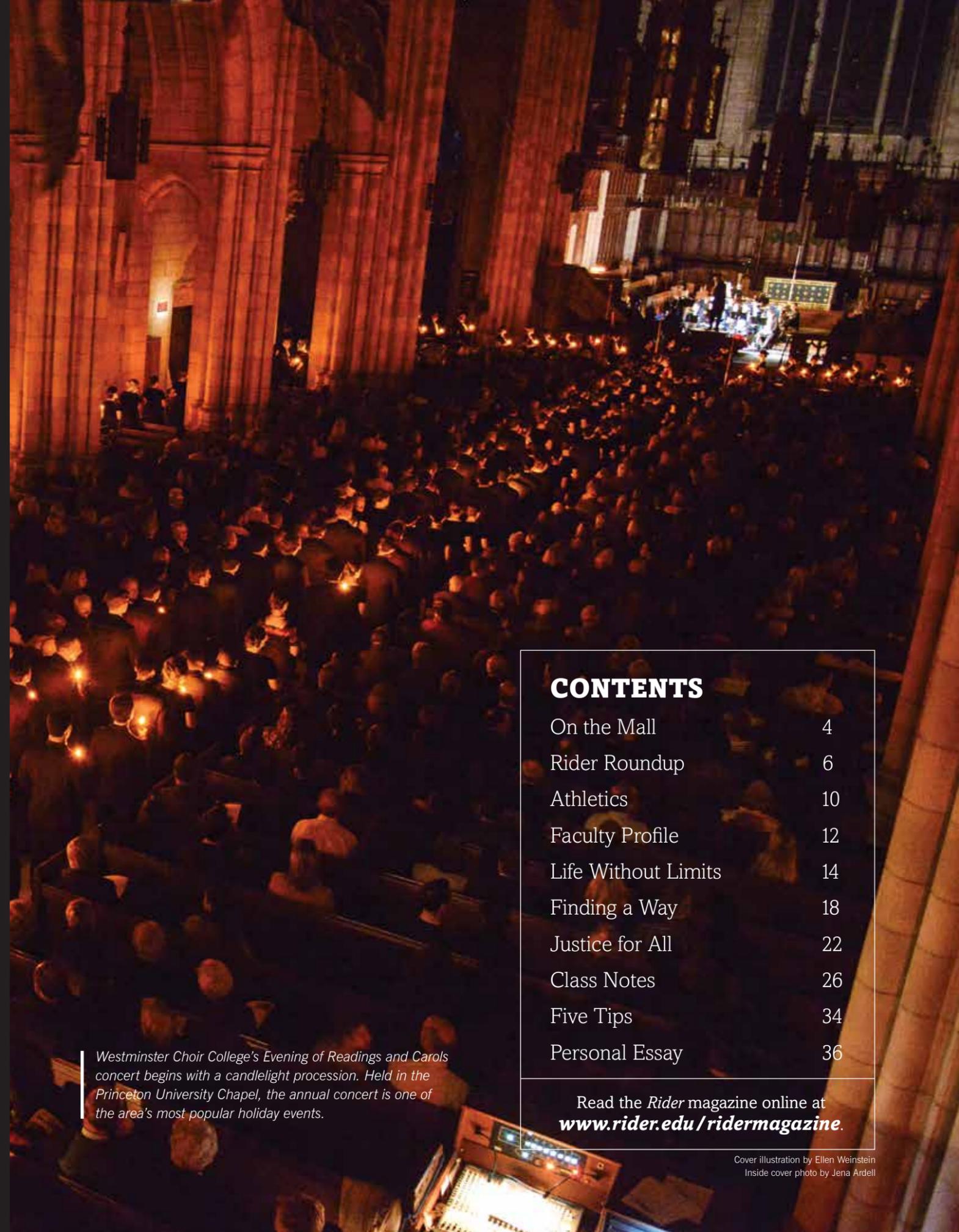
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Update your contact information:
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Westminster Choir College's Evening of Readings and Carols concert begins with a candlelight procession. Held in the Princeton University Chapel, the annual concert is one of the area's most popular holiday events.

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Read the *Rider* magazine online at
www.rider.edu/ridermagazine.

Briefs/Campus



Participants in the first-ever Rider University Greek Life 5K Color Run/Walk on Nov. 1, 2015, received several dousings of colored powder during the event.



An online match

This fall, Rider moved away from the 250-page print catalog to an online catalog that allows students access at any time, from any computer. This electronic resource offers several new features to make it easier for students to plan the course of their education, including a four-year plan, detailed course descriptions, core requirements and immediate email contact information for professors.

To view the new academic catalog, visit catalog.rider.edu.

A gift that goes a long way

Westminster Choir College has been awarded a \$1 million grant from the Henry L. Hillman Foundation of Pittsburgh, Pa., to establish the Elsie Hilliard Hillman Endowment Fund to support the Westminster Choir's touring performances. The gift was made in memory of his wife of 70 years who died on Aug. 4, 2015. "Elsie believed that traveling performances by the Westminster Choir were not only beneficial to its student members, but a wonderful way to bring further recognition to the Choir and to Rider University," said Mr. Hillman.

Young bronc

Eleven-year-old Savanna Galasso, who has a kidney disorder called FSGS, was "drafted" as the newest member of the women's basketball team on Dec. 9, 2015. Savanna was named a Bronc through Team IMPACT, a nonprofit chartered to improve the quality of life for children facing life-threatening illnesses.

Rider in the News

Read more at rider.edu/ridermagazine/spring-2016/campus/rider-news

The Daily Beast

Why the media can't tell the truth about Donald Trump's lies

November 24, 2015

Michelle Amazeen, assistant professor of communications, discusses why networks benefit from outrageous statements from the campaign trail.

The Washington Post

One of America's most popular children's books has a secret political message

December 21, 2015

Dr. Hope Corman, professor in the department of finance, is cited as a prominent source in research regarding welfare reform as it relates to messages in children's books.

Philly.com

In Lenfest's gift, much potential for media

January 15, 2016

Dr. Jackie Incollingo, assistant professor of communications, writes an op-ed about the impact of H.F. "Gerry" Lenfest's philanthropic efforts to explore a new model for struggling city papers.



The chain of command

On Friday, April 8, 2016, **President Gregory G. Dell'Omo, Ph.D.**, was inaugurated as Rider University's seventh president. As part of that ceremony, he was presented with the first-ever inauguration necklace. Designed by the associate director of creative services, Buddy Losavio, the antique silver chain includes the names of all of Rider's previous presidents, along with the names of the colleges, and it attaches to a medallion emblazoned with the Rider logo.

Briefs / Academics



Innovative new graduate-level literacy concentration

Last year, Associate Professor of Literacy Education **Heather Casey** led the development of an online literacy strand for Rider's Master of Arts in Teacher Leadership. The concentration is designed to meet the diverse needs of pre-K-12 teachers with a specific interest in literacy education.

Courses are either fully online or hybrid. Possibilities for graduate work are many:

- The opportunity to concentrate in literacy with the option of pursuing the New Jersey reading specialist endorsement.
- An endorsement-only program leading to certification as a New Jersey reading specialist for those with a master's degree in education.
- The opportunity for educators interested in literacy education to come to Rider (either in person or virtually) for a course to deepen their knowledge.

For more information about this or other literacy programs, contact **Heather Casey** at hc Casey@rider.edu.



Technologically gifted

Rider's EMBA program has launched three recent graduates into high-profile tech jobs

Nick Santora '08, '11
Santora is currently CEO of Curricula, a cybersecurity education company located in Atlanta, Ga. Prior to launching Curricula, Santora worked at the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), which was responsible for developing and regulating the cyber security standards protecting the nation's power grid.

Hometown: Bergenfield, N.J.

Essential gadget: iPhone

Favorite website: techcrunch.com

Most-used emoji: 😊

Most visionary tech guru: Elon Musk

Sean R. Piotrowski '07
Piotrowski currently works for IBM as a technical enablement specialist in the Watson Group. Watson produced the system that defeated the two best *Jeopardy!* champions of all time. Piotrowski has also been an adjunct faculty member in the Information Systems Department for the past seven years.

Hometown: Toms River, N.J.

Essential gadget: Mechanical watch

Favorite website: Kotaku.com

Most-used emoji: 😎

Most visionary tech guru: Edward Snowden

Ghulam Nabi Shah '14
Shah is the chief technology officer and a member of the executive leadership team at Macrosoft Inc. For 18 years, he has delivered innovative business solutions for large-scale and enterprise business environments. Shah's strong leadership qualifications complement his hands-on experience with developing enterprise-wide architecture, cloud, big data, IT transformation and global team management.

Hometown: Franklin Park, N.J.

Essential gadget: iPhone

Favorite website: news.google.com

Most-used emoji: 😎

Most visionary tech guru: Steve Jobs

Rider's EMBA at a glance



16-month program with classes only on Saturdays



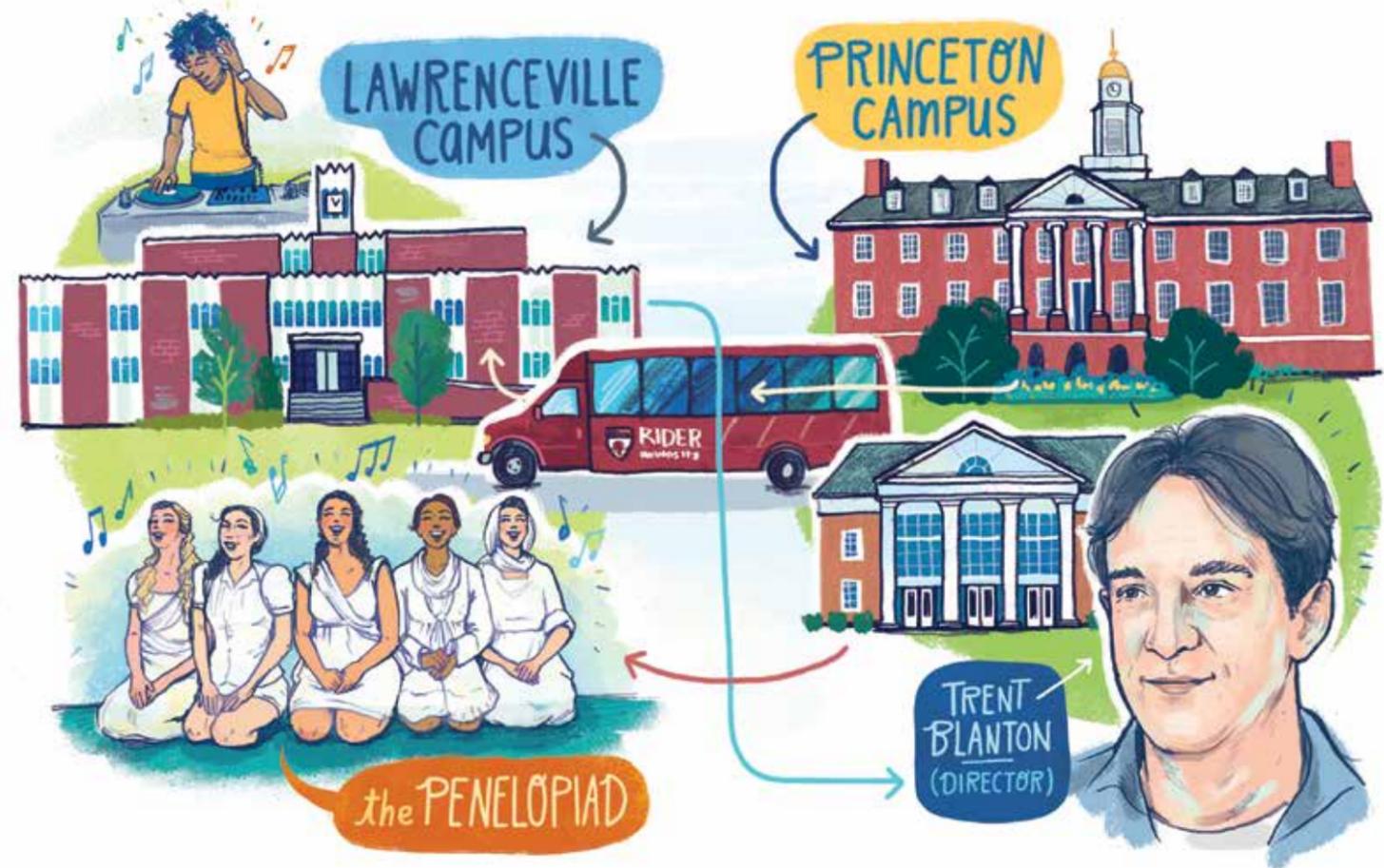
International Travel Seminar helps broaden business perspectives



Leadership Edge, a professional coaching program to promote student development

Come together

Faculty, staff and students on the Lawrenceville and Princeton campuses are working together now more than ever before



- Westminster Choir College students were bused to Lawrenceville for a performance of Rider's first play of the fall 2015 season, *The Penelopiad*.
- After a performance of the play, a DJ party was held in The Pub for students from both campuses.

- A Westminster Choir College opera was held in the Yvonne Theater on the Lawrenceville campus for the first time ever, and this spring, School of Fine and Performing Arts faculty member **Trent Blanton** (see page 12) will direct the spring opera at Westminster Choir College.

What else is happening to strengthen the bond between Rider's two campuses?

A new faculty-staff committee has been created with the specific aim of cultivating cross-campus relations.

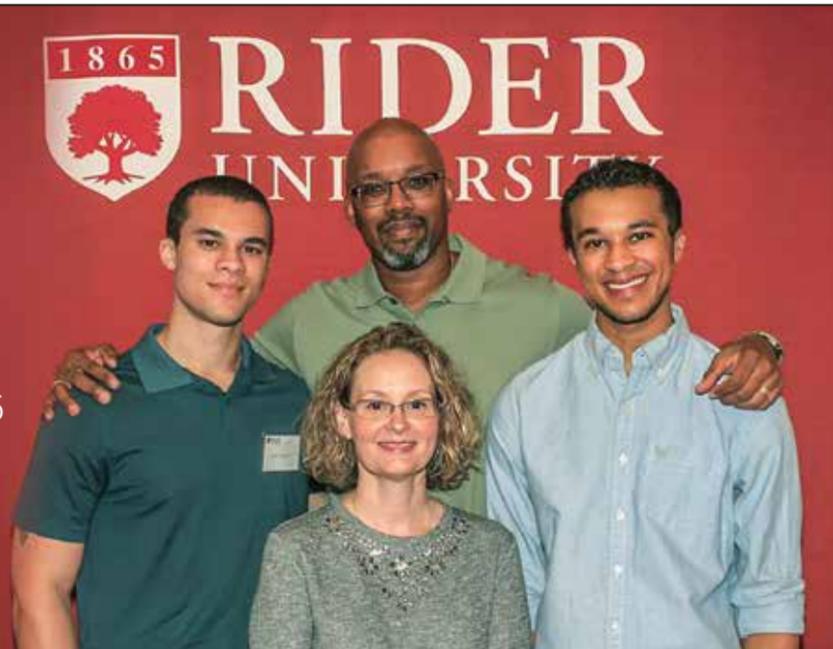
The Student Government Associations of Princeton and Lawrenceville co-produced a cross-campus talent showcase that was shown on both campuses in February.

A videoconference classroom is being built in Lawrenceville and in Princeton, which will allow classes and meetings to be held simultaneously on both campuses.

The Student Government Associations of Princeton and Lawrenceville have appointed members to each other's boards to foster greater collaboration.

Nursing her way back

Christina Jasinski-Lackey '16 will earn her diploma from Rider in May alongside her younger son, Andre



For over 20 years, **Christina Jasinski-Lackey '16**, RN, CHPN, has worked in the ICU at Somerset Medical Center (now part of Robert Wood Johnson Hospital), first as a secretary and then, after taking her nursing classes at Raritan Valley Community College, as a registered nurse. In that role, she saw much suffering, both for patients and their families. Lackey felt she wanted to find another way to care for her patients. Three years ago, she left the ICU to take on a role in palliative care that she herself developed. "Palliative care is not just about end of life but also about providing quality of life for however long a terminally ill patient has. You work with the family and the patient and meet them wherever they are in the process," she explains. "It's emotional and challenging, but that's part of what I love about it."

Lackey made another significant change in 2013: she decided to return to Rider University to earn her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. She had started her studies at Rider in 1988 and completed two full years of classes before meeting her husband, **Charles Lackey '90**, also a Rider student, a

track star and one of the first athletes to be named to the new Rider Hall of Fame. Though she was doing well in her career as an RN, she felt as though part of her life was unresolved. When she saw a financial aid letter from Rider addressed to her son Andreju (who was a Rider student at the time), she also noticed a new degree — Bachelor of Science in nursing — that was taught largely online. "I called immediately and said, 'Please tell me more.'" She applied and was accepted.

The online components are ideal for a full-time nurse like Lackey, allowing her to continue to work and study on her own time. Having already completed two years at Rider allowed her to skip her core classes, and she has found the staff to be very supportive. "Sean Levin in the College of Continuing Studies has been excellent," she says. "I went in to see him, and we mapped out how it was going to go. I like the online classes. I'm a very task-oriented person, and so I enjoy the structure they provide." She also credits Dr. Rosemary Fliszar for all of her help and support as the head of the nursing department at Rider. "Both of them have been tremendously helpful to me."

As she was beginning her online classes, her older son, Andreju, who double majored in biology and chemistry, graduated from Rider. The next year, he started his Ph.D. program in nutritional biochemistry at Rutgers. "It's hard work, but he's very smart," she says. "He's a science guy."

This May, she will earn her diploma alongside her younger son, Andre, who came to Rider to major in public relations. Andre has been on the dean's list several times as an undergraduate and plans to pursue law school when he graduates. While at the University, both of her sons earned Provost Scholarships for their stellar academic performance.

When asked how it is that Rider attracted her entire family, Lackey knew the answer right away. "We always had the boys at Rider, for Family Weekend or the Legacy Breakfast," she says. "They grew up with Rider, and so it was like a second home for them. I loved Rider when I was a student initially, and I always regretted that I didn't finish. Now it's come full circle. I'm proud of myself, and proud to soon be a Rider graduate...finally."

— By Aimee LaBrie

By the numbers: New academic programs at Rider

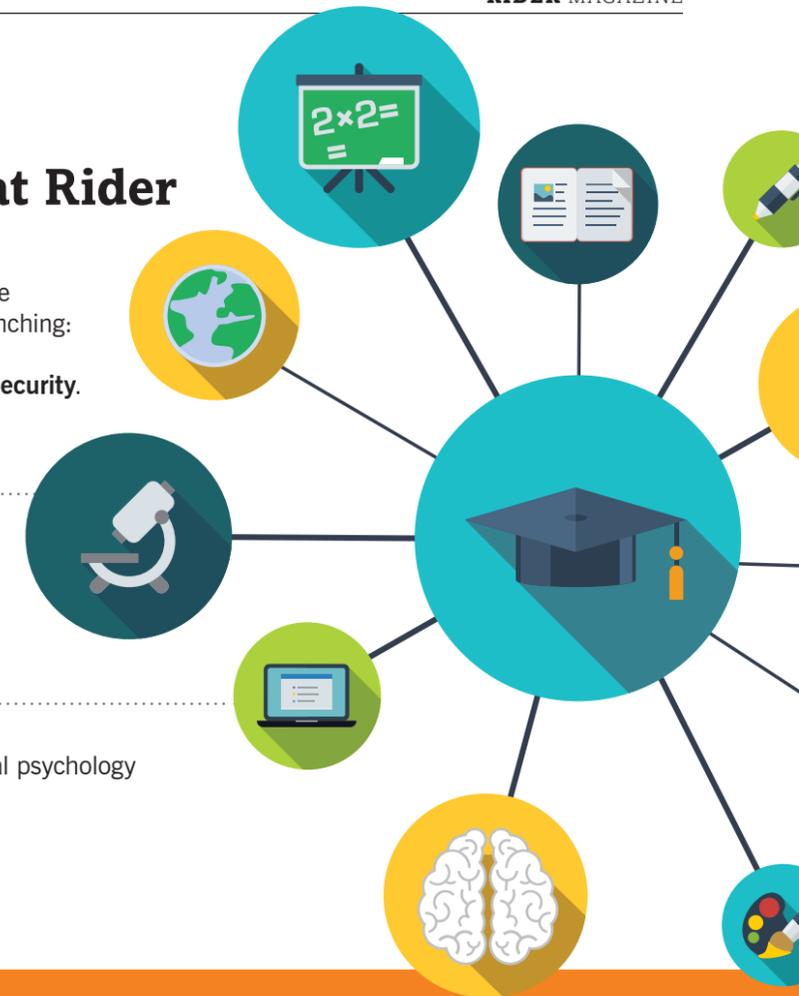
2 new undergraduate majors launching in College of Liberal Arts in fall 2016: a **B.A. in organizational psychology** and a **B.S. in health sciences**.

1 new graduate program launching: an **M.A. in Homeland Security**.

5.6 million new jobs in health care and social assistance expected through 2020. That demand is projected to be even greater in the New York/New Jersey area.*

53% the projected growth rate of organizational psychology jobs between now and 2022.*

*According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



Academic and faculty achievements

Dr. Michelle Amazeen and **Dr. Susan O'Sullivan Gavin** (marketing, advertising and legal studies) had their paper titled "The Advertising Industry in the Social Media Age: The Ethical and Legal Implications of Unsanctioned Rogue or 'Scam' Ads" accepted for publication in the *Journal of Law, Business and Ethics*. This work was funded by the Davis Fellowship Award.

Dr. John Baer's (teacher education) recently published book, *Teaching for Creativity in the Common Core Classroom* (coauthored with Ronald Beghetto and James Kaufman from the University of Connecticut), has been selected as an "Outstanding Academic Title" by *Choice* magazine.

Ingrid Clarfield (piano and voice) was given a lifetime achievement award from the National Conference on Keyboard

Pedagogy and was subsequently featured on the cover of *Clavier Companion* magazine.

Margaret Cusack (chair, piano and voice) was chosen to serve on the national Fulbright Committee.

Robert Lackie (chair, Moore Library) recently completed *Creative Library Marketing & Publicity: Best Practices*, in which a student, **Paris Hannon '16**, coauthored the chapter "Creating Campus Buzz with Promotional Videos" with **Ms. Heather Dalal**.

Dr. Anne Law, (special assistant to the provost for retention and student success) has been working with a task force to create a new graduation requirement for all students. The Integrated Learning requirement blends the strategic themes of

the University's learning objectives with high-impact practices to create a matrix of opportunity for students. Student participation will be equivalent to six academic credits, and Rider will ensure that every student is afforded the opportunity to deepen his or her learning outside the classroom. Participation will be documented on a co-curricular transcript that will verify the completion of the requirement and provide students with evidence for employers or graduate schools.

Deborah M. Rosenthal (fine arts) opened a major solo exhibition of her paintings in the Bowery Gallery in New York City to critical acclaim in *New York Art Magazine*.

Power forward

After a brilliant career at Rider, Ryan Thompson '10 finds a new life in basketball overseas



On a cold February day in 2010, the Rider Broncs traveled to Hempstead, N.Y., to take on the Pride of Hofstra University, a former East Coast Conference rival. Senior **Ryan Thompson '10**, already more than midway through an exceptional final season, stepped onto the hardwood eager to face a team the Broncs had not met in more than eight years.

Thompson remembers fighting from behind the entire game, and while the final score gave Hofstra the win — 92 to 89 in overtime — it was at this game that Thompson scored a college career high 38 points and moved into fourth place on the all-time Rider scoring list with 1,809 points. And his career hasn't slowed up since.

Thompson, now 27, grew up in Mt. Laurel, N.J. He played soccer most of his childhood but can remember playing basketball as early as 4. A standout at Lenape High School, Thompson earned numerous accolades and basketball honors, including Group IV MVP and Burlington County Player of the Year. At 6-foot-6, he towered over just about everyone at his midsize suburban high school, except maybe his 6-foot-11 older brother, Jason, who was already a sophomore blazing the court

at nearby Rider University.

Thompson decided to follow in his brother's footsteps and signed on to be a Bronc. Playing under head coach **Tommy Dempsey**, Thompson made his own mark on Rider basketball history, graduating third in scoring, eighth in rebounding and seventh in assists, making him the only Bronc in the top eight in all three categories.

After graduating from Rider with a degree in business management, he played with the Utah Flash of the NBA Development League before signing with the Basket Brescia Leonessa of the Italian Legadue Basket for the 2011-2012 season. He later won the Belgian League and Belgian Cup with Telenet Oostende during the 2013-2014 season, averaging 16.3 points, 2.2 assists and 2.8 rebounds.

The following year, he signed with Brose Baskets of Germany, one of 18 teams in the Basketball Bundesliga, the highest-level league of professional club basketball in that country. Thompson once again helped lead his team to the 2015 championship. Thompson moved on from there to a one-year deal with Crvena zvezda, a professional basketball club based in Belgrade, but in December 2015 he parted ways with the team and inked a deal with Trabzonspor in Turkey.

During one of his many visits back to Rider in the summer of 2015, Thompson said he likes playing basketball in Europe because the fans are so passionate. "They live for the game," he said. "The whole city supports the team. Fans take it very seriously. Living and playing overseas is a great way of life, though I do miss being at home. That is the hardest part."

Ryan and Jason, who plays in the NBA, return to campus often for alumni games, special events, youth camps and reunions. "I still feel very connected to this campus, and to my university," Thompson said. "I like working with the younger players. I was in their shoes once and looking for someone's footsteps to follow. They give me motivation and keep pushing me to play at the highest level." — *By Kristine Brown*

Bronc Bits

Cross Country

- Rider hosted the MAAC Cross Country Championships
- Seniors **Nicolette Mateescu** and **Emily Ritter** earned All-MAAC honors
- Ritter also earned All-Region honors at the NCAA Mid-Atlantic Regional, the first member of the women's team to accomplish that

Field Hockey

- The field hockey team qualified for the playoffs for the 16th straight season
- Junior **Carlota Alsina** and sophomore **Allison Baligian** earned both First Team All-MAAC and MAAC All-Academic team honors

Swimming and Diving

- The men's swimming and diving team clinched its fifth straight MAAC championship, and the women's team finished in second place in February

Women's Soccer

- The women's soccer team produced another Academic All-American in senior **Tara Ballay**
- The Broncs reached the MAAC semifinals for the third year in a row, winning 10 games
- Junior goalkeeper **Bethany-May Howard** earned All-Region honors and during the regular season had six shutouts in the six home games
- Junior **Hollie Kelsh** was named First Team All-MAAC

Wrestling

- The wrestling team won the Eastern Wrestling League Championship Tournament in March

Volleyball

- The volleyball team spent the first half of the season in first place for the first time ever in the MAAC, winning their first seven conference matches and nine of the first 10 matches overall
- The Broncs qualified for the MAAC playoffs for the first time since 2004
- Freshman **Hailey Riede** was named the MAAC Rookie of the Year

For more athletics news, visit www.gobroncs.com

CHAMPS

The men's soccer team won 14 games, the most since 1997, and the 14th win was in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Championship game, the team's first MAAC title since 1998. Rider advanced to the NCAA Tournament, losing 2-0 to the defending national champion Virginia. **Charlie Inverso** was named the NCAA Regional Coach of the Year. Sophomore **Jose Aguinaga** was a First Team All-MAAC (one of four Broncs), First Team All-Region (one of three Broncs) and an ECAC All-Star.



Trent Blanton

Associate Professor of Theatre
in Westminster College of the Arts

Westminster College of the Arts Associate Professor of Theatre Trent Blanton is an award-winning actor and director whose professional career has taken him to stages in virtually every major city in North America, including the Broadway National Tour of *Les Miserables* and the Chinese premiere of *Les Miz* with Colm Wilkinson at the Shanghai Grand Theatre. Other professional acting credits include *La Cage Aux Folles*, *Sweet Charity*, *A Christmas Carol, 1776*, *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Romeo and Juliet*. For the McCarter Theatre Company's education programs, he has directed *Urinetown* and codirected *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Winter's Tale*.

When you first meet Professor Blanton, you see immediately why he's been so successful in show business. Having grown up in Georgia, he has a slight Southern accent, and despite his great professional success, he is humble, charming and clearly passionate about making the student experience at Rider exceptional. For a brief time, we chatted about everything from his dog, Tony, whom he and his wife rescued in Taiwan, to his wife's talent and dedication, to the untimely and tragic deaths of Robin Williams and Philip Seymour Hoffman and how Matt Broderick won't look you in the eye on the streets of New York.

Most important, we talked about how he and his faculty colleagues strive to give their students an education that prepares them for success in their professional careers. — By Aimee LaBrie

Is there a particular acting method you use in the classroom?

To begin with, I try to establish an atmosphere of safety and inspiration. That is paramount in all of my studio classes. I want to create a learning space that is challenging and joyful, one that encourages professionalism and concentration. My work is based on the Michael Chekhov Technique. While a graduate student at Florida Atlantic University, I discovered the work of Michael Chekhov. It is a "psycho-physical approach" that encourages engagement of the body and imagination as a means of cultivating characters. It is a playful, powerful technique. The body comes first, and then the intellect follows. It is an articulated set of tools that can help build characters from scratch — characters that are truly alive, physically, vocally and emotionally. These tools are immediately usable in the real world.

Favorite plays and/or playwrights?

Hands down, Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* is my favorite play. It's all about what it means to be human. I also love the work of Sam Shepard and of course Anton Chekhov, whose plays always look at the

heartbreak of everyday life. Sarah Ruhl's retelling of the myth of Orpheus in *Eurydice* is also brilliant.

What advice do you have for students preparing for an audition?

The cardinal sin for an audition is not reading the whole play. If you're going to audition as Abigail from *The Crucible*, you should read the entire work, not just the scene that includes her monologue. I've had white students perform pieces from *A Raisin in the Sun* without realizing it's about a black family trying to make it in a middle-class neighborhood. To understand and interpret the character, you must understand the play.

What do you think is more challenging, musical theater or acting?

Your question sets up a false dichotomy. I believe they are one and the same. This is something I emphasize to students too; we have dancers who are afraid of acting, but truly, they are not different sets of skills. For example, dancers in particular are poised to be taught the classical skills of stage fighting. The important thing for

students to understand is that they should first and foremost know who they are and what they can do well, and appreciate and build on those talents.

Given the limited number of productions (and available roles) in a school year, how do you manage the competition among students?

It's actually not a problem. Our students are extremely supportive of each other. Their attitude from the first day of rehearsals to closing night is that we're all in this together to make the best production possible. I am continually moved by how overwhelmingly kind and generous they are.

Why should our alumni attend a production at Rider?

I am certain they would be blown away by the high level of talent we have at Rider. Many of our students have gone on to be very successful working actors and directors on national tours and on Broadway; others have been admitted to very competitive graduate schools in London. Now is their chance to see some of these students before they are catapulted into successful careers.

What's on your desk, professor?

Built by the prop shop at Rider, this piece was used in a production of Mary Zimmerman's *Metamorphoses*. The author spent an evening with the cast talking about the show.



A gift from students in the first movement class Blanton taught at Rider in 2009. One exercise involves throwing sticks across a circle to improve concentration.



Blanton directed the student production of *The Penelopiad* in fall 2015. The second program is from a show he acted in at the Passage Theatre Company, which garnered a positive review in *The New York Times*.



An early scenic rendering for Rider's 2011 production of *The Laramie Project* that Blanton directed. The drawing was created by set designer and faculty member German Cardenas.

Life WITHOUT LIMITS



Dr. Kelly Bidle's research has uncovered an evolutionary connection between humans and an ancient organism that can survive where life was once thought impossible.

By Adam Grybowski

Several lakes on earth contain 10 times or more the amount of salt found in seawater. Known as hypersaline lakes, they were long considered inhospitable to animal life, leading to names like the Dead Sea. But in the 1960s, scientists began discovering organisms that had evolved to live in extreme conditions like hypersaline lakes, revolutionizing our conception of life on this planet and possibly elsewhere.

These microscopic organisms — known generally as extremophiles — began to evolve billions of years ago to survive in inhospitable conditions. Today, they are the kings and queens of their environments, dominating where few other organisms have ever been found to live. In their genetic material, they hold the keys to understanding the origin of life. In their mind-bending adaptability, they promise to shed light on how life could exist elsewhere in the universe.

“Studying organisms found in places where life normally isn’t supported allows you to push the boundaries of traditional scientific views,” says **Dr. Kelly Bidle**, a Rider University biology professor and microbial geneticist who has studied extremophiles for more than two decades.

Salt-loving organisms called halophiles thrive in high concentrations of salt that would cause most life forms to desiccate and die. Heat-loving organisms called thermophiles exist in hot springs and geysers, withstanding temperatures well above that of boiling water. Other such organisms have found ways to live in ice, the deep sea and underground. Some grow in environments with little traces of oxygen, others in high levels of radiation. Each raises the question: What are the limits of life?

On a cold winter day in the middle of January, a few days before the start of the spring semester, three of Bidle's undergraduate students gathered in her lab on the second floor of Rider's Science and Technology Center. Tossing backpacks on the floor and draping jackets over chairs, the students — all young women, two of whom study art in addition to science at Rider — were there to continue an experiment they had begun the previous day.

In the lab, the students were culturing an organism called *Haloferax volcanii*. Being a halophile, which comes from the Greek word for "salt-loving," *Haloferax volcanii* evolved to live in environments marked by high salinity. In creating a medium of distilled water to culture the organism, the students had to add a lot of salt to it, making it about five times as salty as seawater. "If we lived in that kind of environment, that would be terrible, but they thrive in it," says **Shayna Holness**

'18, a Westminster Choir College junior from Irvine, Calif., who has the unlikely double major of voice performance and biochemistry.

Holness came to Rider already interested in extremophiles, having observed as a teenager the famous hot springs at

imaginings of scientists. Although many extremophiles are the most ancient on earth, some scientists speculate that they are also the most likely to be found elsewhere in the universe because of their ability to adapt and survive in extreme conditions.

"Studying organisms found in places where life normally isn't supported allows you to push the boundaries of traditional scientific views."

Dr. Kelly Bidle, Rider University biology professor and microbial geneticist

Yellowstone National Park, where some bacteria and viruses live in temperatures up to 237 degrees Fahrenheit. Like halophiles, the existence of such bizarre forms of life in Yellowstone and other hostile places continues to stretch the

"Microorganisms are so small, but there's so much to learn from them," says **Emily George '16**, a senior from Gladstone, N.J., who, along with Holness and another student, **Adriana Bellomo '17**, worked for three months as paid undergraduate research assistants in Bidle's lab at Rider the previous summer.

The lab work George, Bellomo and Holness were conducting under Bidle's supervision allowed them to visualize *H. volcanii* under the microscope, isolate DNA and RNA, and conduct experiments on the organism's genes. They could also measure the amount of enzymatic activity in the halophile's proteins, which gave them insight into one of Bidle's core areas of research: the mechanisms of programmed cell death.

Programmed cell death, or PCD, is a fear-inducing name for a process that is actually fundamental to multicellular organisms such as humans. Our entire nervous system, not to mention our fingers and toes, are all the result of PCD. While the process is present and important in many forms of life, for many years scientists had failed to find any trace of it in the microbial organisms that make up one of the three major domains of life, the Archaea.

In collaboration with her husband, Dr. Kay Bidle of Rutgers University, Bidle

discovered that proteins responsible for initiating and executing PCD are present in *Haloferax volcanii*, which, like most extremophiles, are categorized in the archaeal domain. "It seems like these proteins originally served a different purpose in Archaea and these proteins have been conserved and retooled by different, complex multicellular organisms through evolutionary time," Bidle says. The work promises to reveal the context, nature and function of a core biochemical activity that has been retained through billions of years of evolution, from the first bacteria to human beings.

"When you look at these ancient microbes, you find genes that are in multicellular organisms today," Bidle says. "I find it fascinating how long they've persisted on earth virtually unchanged from how they first arose."

As an undergraduate at Rutgers in the late 1980s, Bidle worked in a research lab that studied marine life. In graduate school at the University of Maryland, where she received her doctorate in 1996 in molecular and cell biology, she shifted focus to bacteria living in hydrothermal vents deep in the ocean — a subject that was still very new relative to other life forms.

"From the first day of graduate school, I didn't want anything to do with fish anymore," Bidle says. "When you have organisms that you know little about, it's an open book. From a creative perspective, there are so many questions you can ask."

Many of Bidle's students are drawn to her classes because of an interest in genetics, but they are also drawn into Bidle's orbit because of her strength as a mentor, skill as a researcher and active interest in the success of her students. At least 10 of her students have gone on to receive doctorates. Last year, two of them, **Brandon Enalls '15** and **Danielle Minichino '15**, were accepted into Ivy League doctoral programs — the first time in Rider's history that two students from the same class entered such programs directly from their undergraduate years. Last fall, Enalls began studying organismic and evolutionary biology

at Harvard University, and Minichino began studying cell and molecular biology at the University of Pennsylvania.

Despite the academic and professional achievements of her students, Bidle, who received Rider's Frank N. Elliot Award for Distinguished Service in 2014 for her many contributions to the University, finds satisfaction in her job simply when she sees lab work generating excitement and passion within her young researchers. "Without that, you might as well not do research," she says. "It often feels like a lonely, solo pursuit, and it definitely has its highs and lows, but when it works, it's so exciting."

In a student research lab, mistakes are plentiful, success less so. "And sometimes if you do everything right, it still doesn't work," says George, one of Bidle's students. "You can work for so long and it doesn't work — that's science. But Kelly has always reassured me through the process."

Holness adds, "Even when something is going wrong, there are still things to find out. The mystery of it always brings me back because I'm interested in what is going on and why."

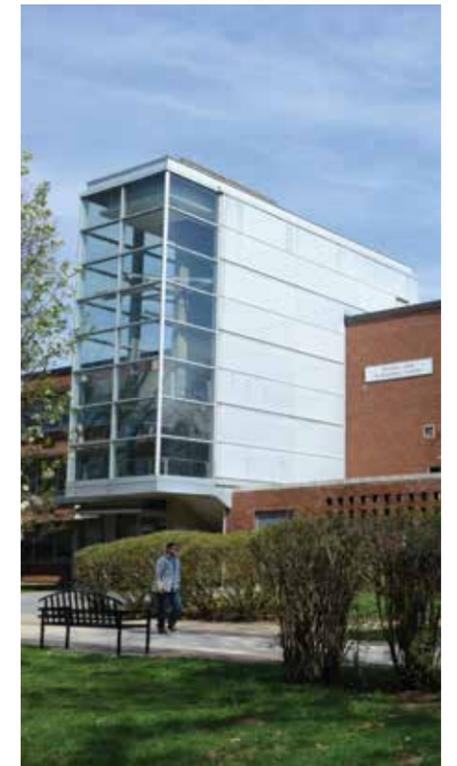
In addition to PCD, Bidle and her students continue to study another aspect of halophiles and their evolutionary connection to more complex life forms. Bidle's group recently identified that *Haloferax volcanii* appears to display a primitive form of biological signals generally known as circadian rhythms. Most forms of life, from bacteria to human beings, express such signals, but they have not been definitively detected in the Archaea.

During Bidle's research, conducted in collaboration with colleague **Dr. Phillip Lowrey**, associate professor of biology at Rider, the organisms appear to undertake certain activities based on whether it's day or night, suggesting that they may have a circadian rhythm — another link in the evolutionary chain.

"We still have so much to learn," Bidle says. "We've only scratched the surface." ■



Dr. Kelly Bidle and Emily George '16 in Bidle's lab.



The Science and Technology Center Building Renovation

Ambitious plans are underway to renovate the first floor of the original 30,000-square-foot science building constructed in 1961. This \$2.1 million renovation project will directly impact nearly 1,000 students per year by enhancing their educational experience and providing them with state-of-the-art equipment and space for their scientific pursuits.

To learn more about the project, including ways to give, please visit www.rider.edu/support-rider/science-building-renovation.



Finding a Way

*The Charlotte W. Newcombe Foundation
provides a path to success for nontraditional students*

— By Aimee LaBrie

Krishna Powell '05 was tired. At 25, she had a young daughter and a full-time job that required much of her focus. Her paycheck was little more than minimum wage, so she relied on government assistance to feed her child. She had taken a few classes at Mercer County Community College and also started at Rider University for a semester, but when it came down to paying rent or paying tuition, she had to be practical. She knew that it would be difficult (if not impossible) to get ahead, but there seemed to be nothing else to do.

All of that changed when she spoke with an advisor at Rider who mentioned the Charlotte W. Newcombe Foundation, which was created specifically to aid women over 25 with challenges similar to Powell's. Seeing her chance, Powell applied for and was granted Newcombe Scholarship funds from Rider to begin taking classes again. Powell could not believe it. "I was this little girl from Trenton whose mom struggled to make ends meet," she says. "The scholarship was life-changing for me and for my family."

Her three daughters, particularly her oldest, Brenaea Fairchild, watched her struggle, one class at a time. "She saw my drive to return to school and do what needed to be done," Powell says. "She

was at the foot of my bed when I was studying late into the night."

At one point, Powell again stopped taking classes. She was in the process of getting a divorce, raising two children alone and working full time. "I thought, 'I can't do this anymore.' I only had one more class to take, but it seemed out of reach."

She was away from Rider for three years when a woman from the College of Continuing Studies called and said, "Krishna, your folder has come across my desk, and you are one class shy of graduating. What's going on?"

"I explained my situation and said that I had too much going on," Powell says. "I started crying, and she kept talking to me. She called me again the next day, and she said, 'You can do this. You've got one class to go. Come on, Krishna, you can push through this.'"

And, with the support of her family, she did. "My mother watched my girls at night so I could take classes at Rider."

It may have taken Krishna a total of six years to graduate from the moment she first set foot in a Rider classroom to receiving her diploma, but she finally earned her bachelor's degree in liberal studies along with a certificate in public relations in 2005. Professionally, she began to move up the corporate ladder. Having started as a receptionist, she is now an executive at Molina

Healthcare and has also launched her own human resources consulting firm called HR 4 Your Small Biz.

“Knowing that someone else was willing to invest in me helped me see that I mattered,” Powell says. “When someone believes in you, there’s nothing you can’t do.”

Rider is one of only 42 institutions of higher education that currently receives contributions from the Newcombe Foundation, which provides a dollar for dollar match. For example, if Rider secures a gift of \$2,000 toward an endowed scholarship for female students over age 25, the Foundation, in turn, provides another \$2,000, doubling the amount and the impact of the gift. The relationship between Rider and the Newcombe Foundation has thrived for more than 30 years, with the Newcombe Foundation contributing \$1,423,500 to Rider for student scholarships. One of the five current trustees who guide the foundation is Rider President Emeritus **J. Barton Luedeke**.

“The Newcombe Foundation has helped literally thousands of women,” says **Denise Pinney**, Rider’s director of corporate and foundation relations. “It’s an amazing organization that shares our interest in seeing students succeed.”

Rider University students are not the only ones impacted by the Newcombe Foundation. **Thomas Wilfrid, Ph.D.**, executive director of the foundation, which is located in Princeton, manages the scholarship funds that are distributed to dozens of universities across the country. After working in various high-level positions at Mercer County Community College for 38 years (including acting president, vice president for academic affairs and professor of physics), he feels fortunate to have found this role at this stage of his career.

“Being able to find effective ways to help others in need is somewhat like solving a difficult physics problem,” he says. “You uncover the challenge, you analyze the situation and you find the best solution. In providing these funds for those who would not otherwise be able to go to college, we can see positive change right away, and, in many cases, multigenerational impact. I can’t think of a better way to spend my time.”

“The most important thing for people to know about Rider and the Charlotte Newcombe Foundation is that they don’t give up on people.”

—**Krishna Powell ’05**



Charlotte Rachel Wilson was born in Philadelphia on March 28, 1890 — a time when women weren’t expected to go to college. As the youngest daughter of a doctor who believed strongly in philanthropy, she also grew up understanding the importance of helping others. She sold war bonds during World War I, taught women to knit for soldiers and volunteered in the Red Cross. Though she valued education, she was unable to attend college because of serious vision problems that made reading for long periods of time difficult.

She fell in love when she was in her mid-20s. She had been traveling on a steamship with her elderly parents, serving as their companion. At 26, she was already considered by society to be approaching spinsterhood. While on the boat, she met the ship’s first mate, Fred C. Newcombe. Walking together on the deck, they talked and talked and fell in love. By the end of the cruise, Fred asked Charlotte’s father for permission to marry his daughter, but he said no — unequivocally. He could not see his daughter being married to someone who, because of his profession, would spend most of his life away from home. The two parted ways, and Charlotte was certain she would never see him again.

Thirty years passed. Fred married, but after his wife died, he searched for the woman he had met decades before on that steamship. He had never forgotten her, nor she him. Charlotte was 62 when she married Fred, and they traveled for the next decade all around the world, seeing the pyramids in Egypt and the savannas of Africa.

When Charlotte died in 1979, she directed that half of her assets be used to establish a charitable foundation in her name to help students complete degrees in higher education. She left it to the five trustees of that foundation to decide how best to accomplish this goal. The growth in value of the drug company stock she inherited from her father left her with an estate valued at more than \$34 million. After consulting with a number of higher education leaders, the trustees agreed to support scholarships for women who were older than the typical college student, many of whom had families and were struggling to make ends meet. In that way,

the largest program of the Charlotte W. Newcombe Foundation was born.

“The most important thing for people to know about Rider and the Charlotte Newcombe Foundation is that they don’t give up on people,” Powell says. “They take those of us who society would technically give up on and say, ‘You can do it; I’m here to support you, and I’m going to set you up for success.’ Even if you don’t think you can afford it or if you think you’re too old, they make it possible. As the first person to graduate college in my family, I am living proof.”

Wilfrid, whose wife, Diane, serves as program officer for the foundation, has seen firsthand the impact that scholarships like Powell’s have on hundreds of lives. “In 1981, Rider became one of the first Newcombe-funded institutions, and the very first to offer matching gifts. We have a strong partnership, in part because we both strongly believe funds need to be available to help nontraditional female students succeed, however long it takes them or whatever their life circumstances may be.” Because of his longtime dedication and support of Rider, Wilfrid received an honorary Doctor

of Laws degree from the university in 2010.

And the impact of giving goes beyond the individual. Powell has been able to help support her mother, and she now expects all of her children to go to college, which, at one time, she never would have thought possible.

Powell’s daughter, Brenaea Fairchild, is now a senior at Princeton University on a scholarship, studying history, French and Spanish. “At first, she didn’t think she would get into Princeton,” Powell says, recalling her daughter saying, “I need to be a genius to get in.”

Powell, now married to Tony, has two other daughters, Talitha, age 15, and Toni-Loren, age 7. “I tell my daughters, if I learned nothing else in my life, it’s that you have to at least try. See what happens. Don’t be afraid of the no’s; look for the opportunities.” ■

To learn more about the Charlotte W. Newcombe Foundation or other opportunities to help students, visit www.rider.edu/give or www.newcombefoundation.org.

Newcombe’s positive impact

5

Number of endowed funds valued at \$786,840

1,628

Number of Newcombe scholarships (averaging \$1,369) awarded to Rider students through December 2015

\$1,423,500

Amount Rider has received from the Charlotte W. Newcombe Foundation since 1981-82

\$1,040,354

Amount Rider has raised in matching gifts to the foundation



Justice for all?

Noted attorney, activist and author Bryan Stevenson's visit to campus was one of many key features of Rider's Shared Read Program – *By Aimee LaBrie*

Walter McMillian suffered on death row for 15 years, convicted of a murder he didn't commit. A boy named Charlie faced the death penalty after being tried as an adult for a crime he committed at 14. Ian Manuel spent 18 years in prison, many of them in solitary confinement, after being charged with attempted murder, though he didn't pull the trigger. These are just a handful of the cases investigated by Bryan Stevenson's nonprofit organization, the Equal Justice Initiative, and described in his *New York Times* best-selling book, *Just Mercy*.

This fall, Stevenson's book and a personal visit to Rider's Lawrenceville campus were part of Rider's Shared Read Program, an initiative launched in 2014 by the Office of Academic Affairs to create campus-wide conversations about important social issues. Free copies of *Just Mercy* were distributed to all first-year students during summer orientation, with additional copies available for all members of the Rider community.

"We want students to see that being part of a university also means participating in topics relevant to our society," says Professor **Anne Law**, special assistant to the provost, who leads this University-wide endeavor. "It's not just about reading a book and writing a paper. It's about using the text as a starting point for deeper discussions about difficult topics."

Stevenson was born into a poor, racially segregated community in Delaware. An African-American, two of whose great-grandparents were slaves, he was the first in his family to attend college. At Harvard University, where he received both a master's in public policy from the Kennedy School of Government and a J.D. from the School of Law, he was drawn to issues surrounding wrongful conviction.

Just Mercy focuses largely on his encounters with women and men who have been unjustly incarcerated or received extraordinarily harsh sentencing. Though many of his clients are African-American, Stevenson's book and his lecture looked more broadly at what can go wrong in the justice system for those who don't have the economic or social means to receive fair or skillful legal representation.

"We chose *Just Mercy* for the Shared Read Program on the heels of what was happening in Ferguson and Baltimore," Law says. "Rather than steering students away from topics such as racial tension and social inequality, we want them to engage with one another, see different points of view and recognize that they have the power to create change in the world."

The book, along with Stevenson's lecture, galvanized students to become active participants in creating change as their understanding of social justice deepened. English major **John Modica '17** was one of 21 students invited to President Dell'Omo's house in the fall to discuss *Just Mercy*. Topics touched on racism, the death penalty and the shooting death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo.

The book changed the way Modica viewed his responsibility as a member of society. In a passionate op-ed published in *The Rider News*, the University's student newspaper, Modica wrote: "We as a community must come to two understandings: that our conversations need to be oriented toward solutions, not complaints; and that when these important conversations are not present, our responsibility is to act until they form. I encourage everyone to listen to Stevenson's words."

Communications major **Leah Corcillo '17** presented the book during freshman orientation this summer. Having worked on the first Shared Read in 2014, she recalls students having positive responses to last year's book, *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls, which only increased with this

year's selection. She attributes Stevenson's power to his voice. "His writing came across as passionate but fair," she says. "This is the first time that a book has made me more than care about an issue. Now I want to make a difference."

Several students had the opportunity to dine with Stevenson in the Fireside Lounge prior to his lecture. Psychology major **Hayley Francobandiero '19** was truly moved by the experience. "It was amazing to meet such an inspirational person who was once just like me, unsure of what he wanted to focus on in college. I'm confident now that I want to stick with my goal of becoming a social worker or being a psychologist in the counseling field."

On Oct. 14, 2015, Stevenson faced a packed crowd of more than 650 students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members in the Cavalla Room. Dressed in a gray suit, matching shirt and black striped tie, he spoke for almost an hour, without notes, about the criminal justice system, race in America and the need to create change. He talked about how in 1972 there were 300,000 people on death row and today there are 2.3 million; how 31 percent of black men have lost the right to vote in Alabama due to having a criminal

record; how one in every three African-Americans born in this century is expected to be incarcerated.

Most importantly, he told the audience that it is up to each of them to get closer to problems, change the narrative, face uncomfortable truths and hold on to their hope. "All of my clients are broken," he said. "They have suffered neglect, poverty, discrimination. I work in a broken system. It will break you. But it is the broken among us who will change the world."

A week after Stevenson's lecture, more than 30 students, staff and faculty gathered for a teach-in to share their thoughts and continue the conversation, not just about Stevenson's visit and the book, but about the issues he addressed. Participants were black, Latino or white and ranged from first-year students to seniors.

Dr. Jonathan Millen, professor and associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, opened the conversation by asking students whether they had been doing what Stevenson suggested — having open discussions about issues that were uncomfortable.

Shemiah Dickens '17 offered her recent experience. "I'm taking African-American

history with **Dr. Roderick McDonald**, and, after Stevenson's lecture, he asked the white kids in the class if they felt like they were privileged. Everybody was silent. That showed me that these are issues we're still not sure how to discuss, even in a college classroom."

An African-American student responded, "I agree, but on the other hand, I don't want to have to educate all of my white friends about why it's not OK to use the 'N' word. At some point, they have to take responsibility for their own understanding of privilege and discrimination."

Another student announced her intention to become a judge. "I need to go to law school and find a way to make this right," she said.

Three weeks later, on Nov. 18, 2015, the Black Student Union organized a demonstration in support of the black students of the University of Missouri, where a series of racially charged incidents (including racial slurs directed at students of color and a swastika that appeared on a university residence hall) were perceived as being unaddressed by the administration. Posters about the Rider event called for students of all backgrounds to join together outside of North Hall, wearing black attire to peacefully assemble in a show of solidarity "because discrimination is still an issue, and it goes beyond black and white." The demonstration, which lasted eight hours, brought dozens of students together from all races and backgrounds, many of whom signed a shared board with their name and messages like, "I will stand for change in the face of adversity," "#BlackLivesMatter" and "racism has no place here or anywhere."

Corcillo believes that this public display of support would not have happened without the energy created by the Shared Read. "Many students realized that they needed to be active and to speak out," she says. "This was more than just a group assignment — it was a catalyst for change."

To keep these conversations active, the University is planning regular discussion groups around issues of race and inequality. "Complex issues are not solved solely by talking about them, but they are certainly also not dealt with by silence," Law says. "Our goal is to create ongoing discourse

"I work in a broken system. It will break you. But it is the broken among us who will change the world."

— Bryan Stevenson

To read Asia Marche's first-person essay as well as more about related student research on eyewitness testimony, visit www.rider.edu/ridermagazine.

open to all students, in part so that we can address Stevenson's call to 'get proximate' to the issues that matter today."

Prior to Stevenson's lecture, six students were active tutors in Rider's chapter of Petey Greene, an organization that assists the local youth prison population. Under supervision, students meet with inmates, helping them to study for their GED and to get ready for life after their sentences are served. After Stevenson's lecture, **Asia Marche**, Rider's Petey Greene chapter president, said that the numbers of those reaching out to her to participate had doubled. "We expect to have as many as 25 students trained and active this semester," she says.

For her own part, Marche found that the book and Stevenson's lecture deepened her dedication to service learning. "I already knew that what I was doing would make a difference in the lives of the people we tutor, but it also became clearer to me that as a society, we must take care of all of our members," she says, recalling Stevenson's core belief that each of us is more than the worst thing we've ever done.

"That idea stayed with me," Marche says. "Whatever someone has done, he or she should not be defined by that one moment. Every person deserves to be treated like a human and given the chance to make a better life. We can help do that."

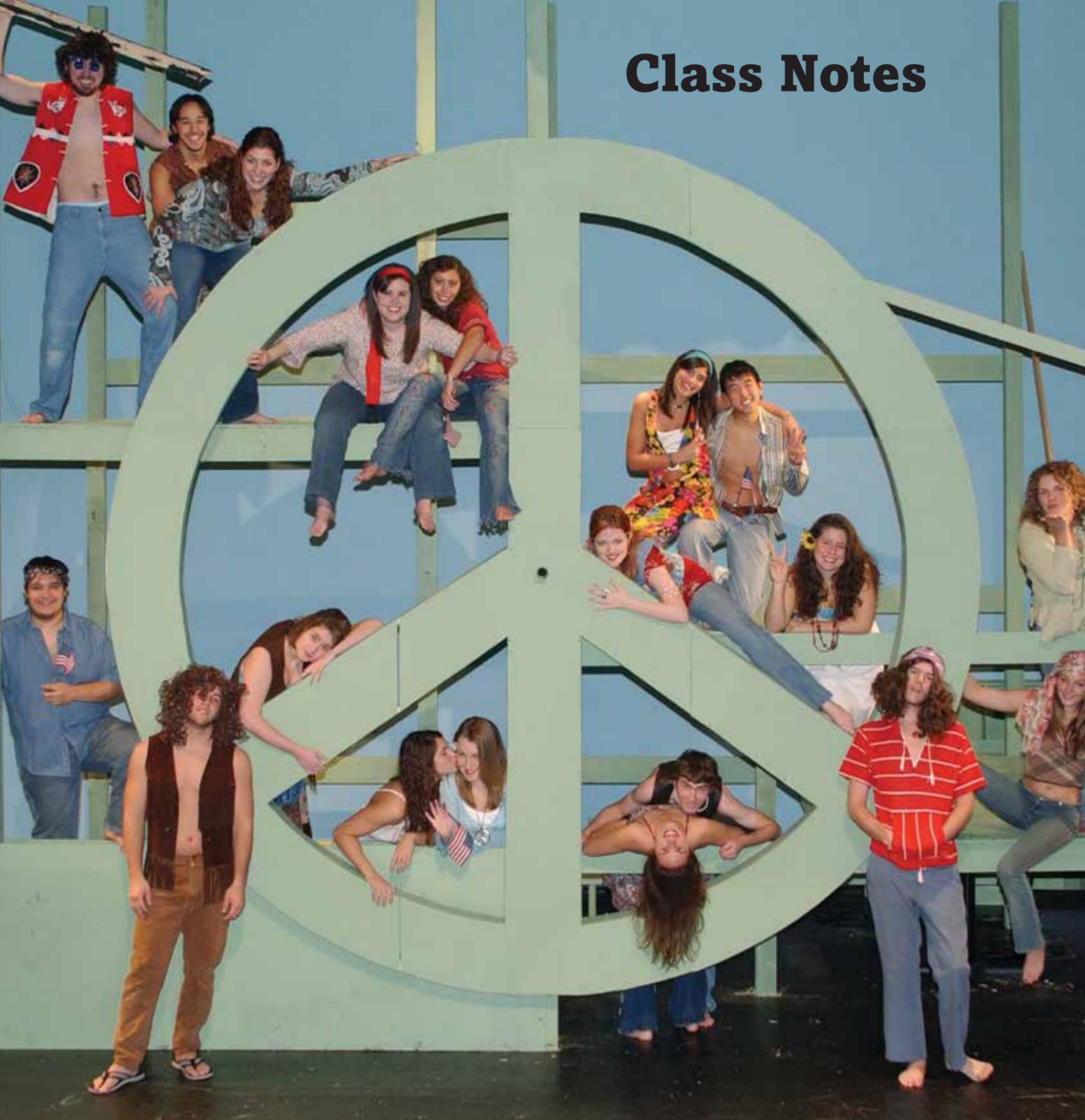
Stevenson concluded his talk with a clear call to action. "We are the kind of people who want to make a difference in the world, to create more justice. We can do that. Each of us can do something that changes the justice, peace and hope quotient in this country."

Modica, who wrote the op-ed, is one such ambassador of hope. He has made good on his own plea for more action. As one of the newest members of the Petey Greene program, he starts tutoring inmates this spring. "Stevenson's message of love — both in print and in person — proved to be exactly the advice I needed," he says. "That's why I reached out to Asia Marche and set myself on the path to start tutoring people in prison this semester. Stevenson taught me that we all deserve a chance, and none of us should be denied that if we have the willingness to learn." ■

After his lecture, Stevenson stayed to sign copies of his memoir for dozens of students, faculty and staff.



Class Notes



Flashback 2006: “Let the Sunshine In”

The cast of Rider’s 2006 production of *Hair*, a musical that celebrates the hippie counterculture and sexual revolution of the 1960s with songs promising that “peace will guide the planets/And love will steer the stars...”

Let your own hair down at Rider Reunions on Saturday, June 11, 2016. All are welcome, though classes ending in “1” or “6” will be in the spotlight as alumni return for their 5th, 10th and 50th reunions. For more information, call 609-896-5340 or visit alumni.rider.edu/riderreunions2016.

Dear fellow alumni and friends,

2016 promises to be an exciting year, both for Rider and the wider world as we begin to anticipate the changes that will come from the presidential election. Likewise, we are in the planning stages of looking toward the future of Rider under the guidance of our new president, Dr. Gregory G. Dell’Omo.

I hope that by now, many of you have had the chance to meet Greg in person. This fall and spring, he traveled to New York and Florida to introduce himself to alumni. His “road show” will continue throughout the coming months, including several events at Rider that I urge you to attend if you can. I believe you will find him to be an engaging person, whose energy and enthusiasm are already creating positive changes at our University.

He has organized several key committees comprising a diverse range of alumni, faculty, staff and students to help create a five-year strategic plan for Rider’s continued success. As a member of one of those committees, I can tell you that all involved are dedicated to using our collective experience and intelligence to improve every aspect of the Rider experience, from campus life to athletics to facilities to classroom initiatives, to give students the resources to lead successful and fulfilling lives and have a positive impact on their communities and beyond.

I’d also like to thank those of you who have stayed in touch with Rider this past year. You’ll notice that our class notes section is more robust than ever, and that’s because more of you have shared your life moments with us. Your accomplishments, whether they are professional, like a job promotion, or personal, like a new baby, demonstrate the strength and depth of our diverse alumni network, and we take pride in sharing your good news. Please continue to send your class notes directly to magazine@rider.edu to be included in the fall issue.

Let’s make 2016 a year to remember by continuing to build on the foundation of our great University. Every step forward is contingent on your interest, participation and willingness to take part in a community that thrives because of our collective Rider pride.

Sincerely,

Jim Rademacher '88
President, Alumni Board of Directors
and Alumni Association



Send us your class notes

and we’ll include your news and photographs in an upcoming issue.

Send to magazine@rider.edu.

1940s

Howard Albrecht '48 and **Bernice Freedland Albrecht '47** have been married for 67 years this year, and as Howard writes, “We’re still the same wide-eyed Rider College students who met in the hallways of the old State Street building. Only now at 90 and 88, we have to keep our eyes open even wider or we wouldn’t see anything at all...” During his career, Howard wrote for the likes of Bob Hope, Dean Martin, Milton Berle, Allen King and Jonathan Winters and is the author of several satirical books. He continues to write his joke blog, *Funny Stuff* from the Gags Gang.

1960s



Several alumnae from the Zeta Mu Epsilon sorority met for an informal reunion on July 18, 2015, in Chadwick Beach Island in New Jersey. Pictured standing left to right are **Rosemarie Falcone Albanese '62**, **Joan Bula Travis '62**, **Mary Ann Panek-Koutsis '64**, **Judy Wright Troia '63**, **Cathy Alibrandi Zupko** (host), **Judy James Kelly '64** and **Carol Kunz D'Iorio '64**. Seated from left to right are **Carol McMaster Wenzel '62**, **Fay Lyons**, **Judy Holmes '63** and **Marie Polinsky Barrett '63**.

1970s



Twenty-two Rider Phi Sigma Epsilon brothers from the classes of 1970 through 1974 got together in Wanaque, N.J., on Oct. 3, 2015, to honor Nick Gretina, the son of **Jim '72** and Georgette Gretina, who passed away 10 years ago of congenital heart disease. The Gretinas have helped raise money for the Hope With Heart camp for children with heart problems, where Nick had become a counselor. Originally scheduled as a Wiffle Ball tournament, the event was disrupted by Hurricane Joachin, but the frat brothers still managed to make it to Wanaque from as far away as Montana, California, Florida and South Carolina to surprise Jim and Georgette. During the reunion, more than \$4,000 was raised for the camp. The photo shows the brothers in their replica 1970’s Phi Sig Bearcat football jerseys. Rider alumni who wish to donate to the camp can send donations in Nick’s honor to: Hope With Heart, c/o Alissa Gretina, 22 Wolfe Drive, Wanaque, NJ 07465.

John Bushby '70 has published his sixth novel, *The White Raven*, which is the third in the Harry Braham series of espionage novels set in the period just before World War II. He is now at work on his seventh novel, *Revenge of the Dragon Lady*, which is due out in fall 2016. All his books are available through amazon.com.



Marine for life

Lt. Col. Joseph Shusko '78 is entering his fourth decade serving the United States Marine Corps

Normally crisp, sharp and punctual in attitude and action, Lt. Col. **Joseph Shusko '78** of the U.S. Marines dragged his feet when it came time to file the paperwork for his mandatory retirement. It took a commanding officer to finally tell him he could delay no longer. The prompting came with a caveat, though. Upon retiring from active duty, Shusko could take command of the Martial Arts Center of Excellence (MACE) at the Basic School, which teaches the fundamentals of being a martial artist to all Marines. As the director of MACE, he assumed the responsibility of training all Marines, both active-duty and reserves, in the art of becoming what Shusko calls "ethical warriors."

The post has allowed him to feel like he has never left the military, and, if the man known as "Joe Marine" has his way, that feeling will never end. "For my entire career, I've thought that I don't have a job because I love coming to work," Shusko says. "I have had the chance to work with some of the greatest patriots in the world."

The military is in Shusko's blood. His father was a career soldier. All six of his brothers were Marines. Since he was a child, Shusko looked forward to joining an organization that was bigger than him. His entrance into the Marines came in 1975 while he was still an undergraduate at Rider College, where he majored in marketing and minored in art. His skills as a helicopter pilot were so pronounced that after his second deployment (to Beirut in 1982–83), he was selected for duty as a pilot for the White House Liaison Office, Marine Helicopter Squadron One (HMX-1), flying Marine One under the Reagan administration. "I was tickled pink and so honored that they picked me," he says.

Values and good character are essential to Shusko. He says his family and faith provide a bedrock on which to build his — and the Marines' — core values of honor, courage and commitment. "I have those values tattooed on my soul," he says.

Looking forward to entering his fifth decade serving the United States Marine Corps, Shusko has kept his focus clear and unambiguous: "I want to make a difference in people's lives and make them better than me so that they can take care of our great country."

For more about Joseph Shusko '78, visit www.rider.edu/ridermagazine. — Adam Grybowski

Marc P. Palker '73 became the IMA new chair-elect July 1, 2015. IMA is the worldwide association of accountants and financial professionals working in business. As chair-elect, he will be a member of the Governance Committee and will chair IMA's Planning and Development Committee.

1980s



Several alumni who graduated in the 1980s recently reunited in Italy. All of the men lived in Switlik during their time at Rider. The alumni pictured from left to right are **Rico Scardelletti '82**, **Victor Hrudowski III '81**, **Bruce Brodowski '81, '88**, **James Palmere '81, '87**, **Dan Musicko '81** and **Ruben Rivera '81**. The alumnae are **Marybeth Rossi Brodowski '82** (in the pink shirt) and **Donna Robbins Scardelletti '83** to her right.

Tony Rodio '80 received the Scouting Distinguished Citizen Award at the 21st Annual Distinguished Citizen Award Reception in Atlantic City. The Distinguished Citizen Award is presented annually to individuals who share Scouting's belief in leadership, determination and values, and have contributed significantly to the growth and vitality in their local communities. Funds raised by the event support the delivery of youth leadership training and character development programs to more than 3,000 youth across Atlantic County.



Karen Schuessler Bogner '83, '89 sent this photo of a group of friends who met for lunch at Daly's on Sept. 20, 2015, to reminisce and tour the campus. They also gathered at the tree planted in memory of **Judy Rotholz Remington '80**, who passed away in September 2011, to share memories of Judy and her roommate **Debra Crimi Fellows '80**, who passed away in 2012. Standing, from left to right, are **MaryAnn McFadden Grow '81**, **Judy Brenner Kaplan '82**, **Carol Linneman Cirasa '81**, **Lisa Colon Lyons '79**, **Debra Francis Matty '82**, and **Karen Schuessler Bogner '83, '89**. Kneeling, from left to right, are **Carol Duttweiler McHale '81** and **Debra Eaise Malony '79**.

Lori (Spector) Krein '83 recently accepted a contract position with Google. Krein graduated from Rider with a degree in decision science and received her Master of Science degree in organization development from Johns Hopkins University. After 15 years with AT&T, Krein worked for numerous companies as an independent contractor in corporate training. Her main responsibility at Google is teaching new manager training classes in Mountain View, Calif.

Mark Oberndorf '83 presented several of his oil-on-linen canvases in a yearlong exhibit at the Middlesex County Museum's Cornelius Low House. The exhibit pays

homage to New Jersey's classic diners, which have long been an inspiration to Oberndorf. For more information, visit www.bendixdiner.blogspot.com.

Charlene Vogt-Gerbig '83 ran a 5K in Closter, N.J., over Labor Day weekend as a memorial to a fellow Rider alumnus who was lost on 9/11, **Dominic Mircovich '83**.

Clare Hart '86, CEO of SterlingBackcheck, one of the largest background check companies in the world, was recently included at the top of the list for Inc. 5000's fastest growing woman-led companies. Hart oversees more than 2,800 employees across 10 cities in five countries.

Annette Opalczynski '88 is the author of a new chapbook of poems titled *Friends and Family* (Evening Street Press). Opalczynski received her bachelor's in English from Rider College. More information about Opalczynski and her book can be found at eveningstreetpress.com/annette-opalczynski.html.

Eric Jacobs '89 has been named senior vice president of Corporate Development at Cox Automotive. In this position, Jacobs will lead strategic business development across Cox Automotive, including mergers and acquisitions. He will also continue to create partnerships that will further the success of Cox Automotive's client portfolio.

Sherry L. Smith (Schell) '89 launched Design Elements TV on her local NBC affiliate WGAL TV 8 last April. Smith is the founder of an interior design business called Design Elements. For more information, visit www.designelementstv.com.

1990s

Robert C. Maguire '94 and **Julia C. (Oliva) Maguire '95** and big sister Kiersten welcomed a baby girl, Emily Rose Maguire, on Oct. 18, 2014.

Samantha Iraca '95, '97 was elected president of The Lambertville Area Education Foundation in May 2015.

Colleen M. Rand '96, '99 and her husband, Ellsworth W. Rand III (Randy), recently retired to Surprise, Ariz., arriving in the Valley of the Sun in July 2015. They are loving the sun, warm weather and caring for Randy's mom, Anne D. Rand.

Lori LoPresti-Bruhns '97 is the owner of www.LoriBruhns.com, a North Carolina-based productivity consulting company. She works with individuals, companies and organizations in North Carolina and around the U.S., such as Duke University Medical, SAS and the N.C. Association of Realtors, training them on how to achieve personal and professional rewards through productivity. She is also a past president of the Alpha Xi Delta Alumnae Association in the N.C. Triangle.

Missy Balmir '98, a former SGA president, was honored at an event in September 2015 that recognized her as a trailblazer for Pam's List, a New Jersey-based organization that supports Democratic, pro-choice women to the New Jersey State Legislature.

2000s

Jennifer A. Kavlick '01 married Richard T. White on Sept. 25, 2015, at Washington Crossing Inn in Washington Crossing, Pa.

Glenn G. Robbins '02, principal at Northfield Community Middle School in Northfield, N.J., was one of three principals to receive the Digital Principal Award, a national award given annually by the 2016 NASSP Digital Principals. This award honors those who exhibit bold, creative leadership in their drive to harness the potential of new technologies to further learning goals. At Northfield, Robbins has ensured that technology is a ubiquitous element of a larger culture of innovative student-centered learning focused on the mantra "Becoming Life Ready." Students also control their own learning pace on Northfield's gamified learning management system. Read his blog at connectedleadlearner.blogspot.com.



Erica (Bolinski) Sapio '03 and husband **AJ Sapio '03** welcomed Emma Jane Sapio into the world on Aug. 4, 2015. She is their third child and has been welcomed by her two older brothers, Benjamin and Ryan.

Alexandra Alazio '04 is an associate director of client solutions at about.com, creating campaigns for a diverse list of clients including Intel, Walgreens and Clorox.



A sumptuous story

Becky Diamond '90 combines her passion for food and writing in 'The Thousand Dollar Dinner'

Studying journalism while at Rider, **Becky Diamond '90** had a true love for writing. She also had a serious interest in the culinary arts and found a way to combine her two passions into a successful career. She has just released her second book.

The Thousand Dollar Dinner tells the story of a 19th-century culinary challenge between Philadelphia restaurateur James Parkinson and the Delmonico family of New York. Diamond takes readers through the luxurious 17-course feast that helped launch fine restaurant dining in America as we know it today. Her book introduces the culinary norms of the 1850s and describes how America's eating habits have changed and developed over time.

While studying at Rider, Diamond had many classes, professors, advisors and internships that nurtured her interest in journalism. A Writing for the Media class first inspired her, and Dr. Frederick Turner (emeriti faculty), Dr. Tom Simonet and Dr. Pamela Brown, professor and chair of communication and journalism, encouraged her along the way.

"My time in journalism classes has stayed with me throughout my career," says Diamond. "The people I met and the opportunities I was offered really shaped my professional life in significant ways."

Diamond's first book, *Mrs. Goodfellow: The Story of America's First Cooking School*, was published in 2012. This book tells the deep history of how one woman, Mrs. Goodfellow, began a delicious tradition and paved the way for future chefs of America. Both of Diamond's books have been favorably reviewed, her most recent by *The Wall Street Journal* and *Entertainment Weekly*. The WSJ wrote, "Ms. Diamond [is] a prudent and careful chronicler of one of the most deliciously over-the-top dinners ever served in America."

When not focusing on her book writing, Diamond occasionally does some freelance writing and editing. She enjoys hanging out with her husband and two children and enjoys hiking, cooking and swimming laps in Rider's pool.

"I am thankful for my time at Rider, as well as for the experiences, influences and encouragement the university has provided," Diamond says.

She is currently at work on the idea for her next book. She hopes to write about Frenchman Pierre Blot, often billed as America's first celebrity chef. — *Michelle Wood '17*



Heather "Cali" (Beintema) Farley '06 and wife **Jamie Farley '06** named their first son after their alma mater. Rider John Farley was born in July 2015. Heather, who was honored last year by being inducted into the Athletics Hall of Fame, and Jamie both played on the softball team at Rider. They can't wait for Rider to learn about the university he is named after.

Michael L. Caputo '07, Nicole Southern Caputo '07 and their son, Brandon Michael Caputo, are thrilled to announce the birth of Kayla Melanie Caputo, who was born in June 2015.

Leaslie Carr '08, MBA, assumed the role of marketing manager for AAK, one of the world's leading manufacturers of high-value-added specialty vegetable fats, in May 2015.

Dylan T. Hastings '09 graduated from Rutgers University School of Law - Camden in May 2015.

2010s

Kenneth L. Jacobs '10, is founder and executive director of the Urban Leadership Education and Development Institute, which he started in 2014. While at Rider, Jacobs became interested in leadership and the theories of leadership, and he graduated with an exemplary academic record as well as a B.A. in journalism with a minor in law & justice, and a certificate of leadership. Currently, he is pursuing his master's degree in legislative

affairs and a certificate in political action committees and political management at George Washington University. To learn more about his organization, visit www.uleadinstitute.org.

Cristina DiMuro '11 married Michael Trnik on June 27, 2015, in Trumbull, Conn. The couple met while performing together in *La Bobeme* shortly after Cristina graduated. In attendance were the following friends and Westminster alumni (from left to right): **Frank Pisaturo '12, Andrew Brothers '11, Bobby Stubbs '12** and **Jodi Zhao '11** (maid of honor). Jodi and Andrew played musical roles in the nuptial mass.



Angela Cleveland '11 published two therapeutic children's books, *Peter's Special Concoction: How a Little Boy Learned to Manage Type 1 Diabetes* and *I'm No Scaredy Cat...But I'm Afraid to Go to School!* The latter addresses the challenges children and

families face when a child is diagnosed with generalized anxiety disorder or school refusal. Angela incorporates multiple creative strategies to help children, their families and school counselors.

G.N. Shah '13 recently gave a keynote presentation about offshore development at the ASI CTO Summit.

Eugene Marsh '14 attended a reunion on Oct. 17, 2015, with veterans that he served with in Vietnam between 1968 and 1970. The reunion was held in Exton, Pa., at the Wyndham Garden Exton Valley Forge Hotel.

Jeremy Chaudet '15 owns five rental properties with the goal of expanding. He studied finance and international business and believes his studies at Rider helped him succeed. After graduation, he obtained an MBA in finance from Saint Joseph's University while working in the mortgage industry and building his business.

Correction: The email for **Bill White '63** was incorrectly listed in the fall issue. He can be reached at wm.white@comcast.net.

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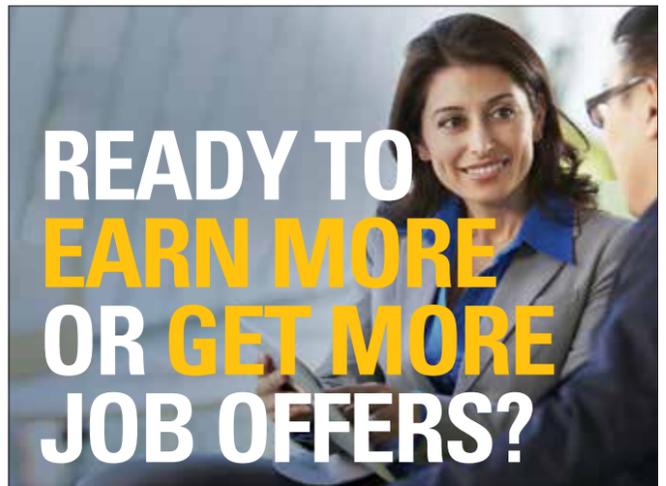
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Life after loss

Actress Rachel Handler '09 finds her voice following a life-altering car accident

Performing the role of Lady Anne in a recent production of Shakespeare's *Richard III*, **Rachel Handler '09** had to find a way to connect with the character's state of mourning. In the play, Lady Anne has lost her husband and father-in-law. Handler had never experienced either tragedy, but she had another significant source of grief to relate to. In 2012, Handler's left leg was amputated from the knee down after a car spun out of control and collided with her vehicle on the New Jersey Turnpike.

"The experience of losing my leg gave me a wealth of knowledge for tapping into different emotions," she says. And not just for drama. "It's definitely helped me relish and cherish the happy moments. I can find the funny in awful situations. Comedy is a lot easier for me now."

After the accident, Handler, now 28, wrestled with her future while coming to grips with a new, altered life. Aside from the trepidation of meeting the physical demands of acting, she worried about how she would be received at auditions. Would casting directors laugh her out of the room? Having experienced the challenges inherent in the field of acting, Handler had become accustomed to plans changing, but she couldn't swallow the idea of a wholesale career change. "I couldn't imagine another kind of life," she says.

She decided to keep her eyes trained on the theater and her ultimate dream of performing on Broadway while becoming more open to work on TV and film, where, she says, more (though still limited) opportunities exist for disabled actors. In an essay in *Backstage* magazine, Handler wrote that fewer than 2 percent of roles on TV portray any kind of disability. What's worse, disabled actors are rarely cast in those roles.

Bucking that established norm, the production of *Richard III* that Handler performed in last fall at the Secret Theatre in Long Island City employed 11 disabled actors in a cast of 15. Unlike in typical performances, *Richard III* was the only character portrayed without a disability. The role allowed Handler to fulfill a desire to expose her disability through performance, not just hide it.

Handler is aware of the pitfalls and clichés of becoming "an inspiration" to people because of her disability — she wrote a solo show about the very topic — but she has found her voice on speaking and writing about the challenges of being a disabled actor. Meanwhile, her entire conception of what it means to be an entertainer has expanded. "Before the accident, I was your typical musical theater actress, going after roles and performing the ones I got, and now performances and art have a higher purpose," she says. "I want to do shows and create art that is more impactful on humanity and contributes to the community."

For more on Handler's story, visit www.rider.edu/ridermagazine. — Adam Grybowski



Travel with President Dell'Omo to Castles and Ceilidhs of the U.K. July 2-12, 2016

Join President Gregory Dell'Omo, Mrs. Polly Dell'Omo and an intimate group of alumni and friends this summer for an unforgettable private tour of England and Scotland.

You'll be whisked through lush countrysides, visit towering castles, roam the shopping districts for treasures, enjoy culturally authentic meals and stay in exclusive luxury hotels on this 10-day adventure through the United Kingdom.

Details of this extraordinary opportunity are available at rider.edu/alumni/2016-alumni-trip.

Contact Natalie Pollard, Director of Alumni Relations, at 609-896-5340 or email pollardn@rider.edu with questions or to book your seat on this exciting trip.



Alumni Events

April 24

Women's Soccer Alumni Day
3 p.m. Alumni/current team game
Ben Cohen Field
BBQ immediately following
No cost.

April 27

Rider Women's Leadership Council Reception with Financial Women's Association and Mercadien
6 to 8 p.m.
Cavalla Room, BLC
Join us for a session with guest speaker Carla Harris of Morgan Stanley, author of *Strategize to Win*.

May 8

Alumni Day at MAAC Track & Field Championship
11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Rider Track
MAAC charges an entrance fee of \$15 for adults. The fee will be collected at the gate the day of the event.

May 10

Accounting Hall of Fame
6 p.m.
Pines Manor Restaurant
2085 NJ-27
Edison, NJ 08817
Visit alumni.rider.edu/AccountingHOFceremony for more information on sponsorship levels and to register.

May 12-14

Westminster Reunions
Classes ending in a "1" or "6" will celebrate reunions during this time of gatherings and friendship.
Details at alumni.rider.edu/WCCReunions2016.

May 19

New York City Alumni Happy Hour
6 to 9 p.m.
game.
248 W. 14th St.
New York, NY 10011
More details to come.

June 11

Rider Reunions
Bronc Nation-themed day of red, white and cranberry reunions with special celebrations for milestone anniversaries.
Details on back cover and at alumni.rider.edu/RiderReunions2016.

July 2-12

Rider Alumni Travel with the President: Castles and Ceilidhs of the UK
Get a taste of European life as you travel the picturesque countrysides of England and Scotland. Trip includes stays in four-star hotels and a castle, theaters, eateries and more. Please contact the Office of Alumni Relations for details at 609-896-5340 or alumni@rider.edu.

 facebook.com/andrew.j.rider

To register or RSVP, go to alumni.rider.edu/eventregistration unless otherwise noted. For more information or to join our mailing list, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@rider.edu or call 609-896-5340. Be sure to join the alumni MyRider at alumni.rider.edu to reap the rewards of alumni benefits.

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5 TIPS

ADVICE FOR ALUMNI—
FROM ALUMNI

The Power of Positive Thinking



Patricia A. Hartpence '78, '86

Director of Corporate Giving at Manufacturers Insurance Company Enterprises, Inc.

Start leading today.

Join the Rider Women's Leadership Council (RWLC), a community of alumnae and friends committed to taking an active role for a positive impact on students, the University and the council's members. Contact Pam Mingle at pamingle@rider.edu for more information or visit www.rider.edu/support-rider/womens-leadership-council.

Before graduating from Rider College (now Rider University) in 1978 with a Bachelor of Science in commerce, Patricia A. Hartpence '78, '86 visited the Career Development Office (now Career Services) for guidance on business pursuits after college. The advice she received proved invaluable.

The Career Development staff encouraged Hartpence to explore employment at New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance Company (NJM). After graduating, she began working at NJM as a management trainee. Thirty-seven years later, Hartpence is still working with the company, now as director of corporate giving, where she oversees NJM's charitable giving, employee matching and volunteer programs, and community outreach.

She returned to Rider in the 1980s and received her MBA in 1986. She continues to be involved with the University in several capacities, including as a member of the Rider Women's Leadership Council. In her personal and professional life, Hartpence has been guided by her faith in the power of positive thinking.

Positivity can...

...enable you to view the world through a lens of gratitude.

As you approach each day, a positive outlook can enable you to be grateful for all the good fortune that has entered your life, be it large or small.

...generate energy to move your priorities forward in both life and work.

Positivity often means productivity. Using this energy can propel you toward your personal and professional goals.

...lead to achievements that you might never have imagined.

Maintaining a positive belief in yourself as you work to achieve your dreams can translate into some unimaginable results.

...help you to find the goodness in every person.

As you move through your career and your life, you will no doubt encounter a variety of personalities. If you approach each with a cheerful demeanor, you are apt to receive the same in return.

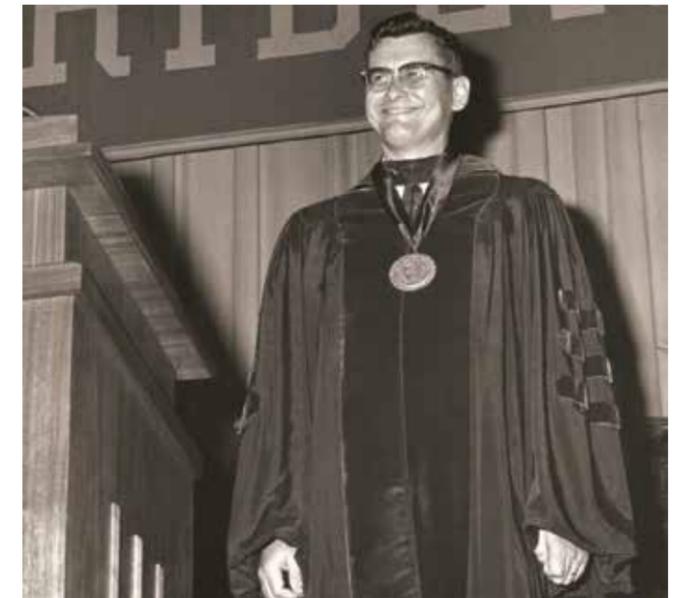
...be infectious. Pass it on.

Paying positivity forward can have the power of creating a more content and considerate world. Try it today.

In Memoriam

Margaret Higgins Grace '38
Evelyn Gruber Klayton '38
Margaret Kozel Mervine '38
Margaret Wylie Sydnor '38
Michael J. Matecki '39
Stanley C. Millner '39
Arlene Frederick Eldred '41
Chester S. Miller '41
Melva Wood King '42
Helen Hejna Beebe '42
Doris Virginia Hoagland '42
Grace Nodes Maurer '42
Gertrude Bauer Schmoyer '42
Dorothy Moses Watson '42
Helen Ross Gutkowski '43
Betty McIntire Hogencamp '43
Miriam A. Bruno '44
Phyllis Abbott Allis '45
Marjorie A. Arkus '45
Eleanor Fiori O'Reilly '45
Mildred Jackson Rhodes '45
Emily Wiech Turner '45
Doris Besserman Weiss '45
Mary Cheyney Gould '46
Irene Brouillette Cornett '46
Jane Jamieson Hoffman '46
Louise Bailey Rapp '47
Joseph T. Bartolomei '48
Anna Rendeiro Bencivengo '48
Richard G. Heierling '48
William J. Barr '49
Shirley Paul Bourne '49
Jeanne Rapp Burwell '49
George F. Compton '49
Martin Derodeff '49
Susan Romberger Edwards '49
Michael Gelembiuk Jr. '49
Bruno J. Kotarski '49
Charles J. Kurzweil '49
Clyde E. Leib '49
William J. Lynn Jr. '49
Robert C. Pearse '49
Albert E. Reese '49
Grace Wyckoff Kraft '49
Frank Lynn '49
Norman K. Allen '50
Samuel W. Bomberger '50
Edward F. Hertkorn '50
William T. Oldenburg Sr. '50
Albert A. Straka '50
Sidney Ytkin '50
Karl W. Gerstl '50
Marie Garofalo Armstrong '51
William C. Becker '51
Eugene M. Cozzolino '51
Lawrence J. Faschan Sr. '51
Robert W. Kendall '51
Paul C. Knauff '51
Chester H. Petersen '51
Betsy Ziegler Scott '51
Katherine Watt Bisking '51
George P. Taragowski '51
Anthony E. Trasatti '51
Edward J. Almstedt '52

Joseph H. Anthony '52
Lee Belknap '52, '53
William P. Erwin '52
Stanley J. Gurdak '52
Lenore Kittredge Rutter '52
Harry D. Wagner Jr. '52
R.J. Whitehead '52, '56
Paul J. Farinella '53
Henry M. Kamrass '53
William F. Kantra '53
F. James Short '53
Jill Caldwell Traegler '53
Richard H. Willever '53
Chester P. Appelget '54
Richard E. Clinton '54
Allen M. Goldberg '54
Rosalie Muschal-Reinhardt '54*
Priscilla Quimby Wilson '54
Louis N. Chiadis '55
William H. Kraemer '55
Pasquale H. Cassetta '57
Jarrett R. Hunt '57
Richard A. Janusz '57
Leah VanNote Champion '58
Anthony P. Ferrazza '58
John T. Larkin '58
Emerson C. Frey '59
Robert E. Harmon Sr. '59
Robert M. Sapnar '59
W. Roger Zimmerman '60
William G. Kovacs '61
Kenneth A. Nelson '61
Francis Ragazzo '63
Marvin Loewy '65
Donald M. Sepanski '65
Stephen K. Whitney '65
Francis A. Baran '67
Lewis E. Welsh '67
John R. Zborezny '67
Harley F. Atwood Jr. '68
Robert D. Gohn '68
Lewis J. Mikics '68
Peter S. Ogden '68
Charles H. Wicken '68
Clinton D. Hayes Jr. '70
Edward M. Schaller '70
Edward F. Paszkowski '71
Jay G. Helt '72
Raymond D. Letellier '72
Howard B. Lipstein '72
Elizabeth H. Moore '72
Bethel Le Baron Pendleton '72
Alan W. Hackney '73
Paul D. Kerschner '73
Kathleen Rette Kisko '73
John W. Saunders Sr. '73
William M. Ginty Jr. '74
Bonnie Woodworth Laub '74
Patricia Rogers Maimone '74
William A. Mann Jr. '76
William J. Brennan Jr. '77
Scott L. Strohm '77
Paula Mueller-Farris '79
Susan Holsneck '80, '86
Kerry Fitz Drennan '82



Dr. Frank N. Elliott

Dr. Frank N. Elliott, Rider University's fourth president, passed away Sept. 24, 2015, after a lengthy illness. He was 89.

Dr. Elliott was appointed president of Rider in 1969. During his presidency, Rider's School of Education received national accreditation from the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) in 1974, and the number of faculty holding doctoral degrees increased from 32 percent to more than 90 percent.

Today, the Frank N. Elliott Award, named in his honor, is bestowed annually upon a member of the faculty, administration and support staff in recognition of their extraordinary service to Rider.

Born in Dunkirk, N.Y., Dr. Elliott earned his doctorate from the University of Wisconsin. Prior to coming to Rider, he served as curator of history and an assistant professor of history at Michigan State University; associate dean of the School of General Studies at Columbia University; director of the Division of Arts and Sciences at SUNY-Cortland; and a vice president at Hofstra University.

Dr. Elliott is survived by his wife, Mary Elizabeth (Betta), and his daughters, Susan Marie and Ann Neish. He was predeceased by his son, Robert Frank.

Robin Mandell Hulse '84, '91
Barbara L. Sorgento '84
Rose M. Mullen '85
Sandra Hillpot Gilmartin '86
Thomas E. Toft '86
Sheila B. Engelbach '87
Frances Kelly '87
Jeffrey J. Friedman '88
La-tisha H. Alston '97
Perry Cohen Weston '99
Tracy L. Newhart '03
Anne Woodrick '03
Adria C. Love '05
Judith Baranowski '11

Faculty, Staff and Former Trustees

Frank N. Elliott
Mervin Kontrovitz
Derrill I. McGuigan
Edward M. Miller
Mark J. Nicolich
Leroy Oddis
Geoffrey A. Petersen
Ray E. Robinson
Robert J. Winter

(*Ms. Reinhardt passed away on Oct. 6, 2013. We apologize for not listing her name sooner).

Homesickness, Cinderella and finding the perfect fit

– By Karly Munoz '17

When I left my home in San Diego, Calif., in August 2013, I felt a mixture of emotions. On the one hand, I was leaving my family and 70 degree winters and replacing them with a school in New Jersey and a heck of a lot of snow. On the other hand, I was starting a new chapter in my life, as we all do when we decide to leave home and go to college, and I couldn't have been more excited.

As a freshman, I wasn't quite sure what to expect. I didn't know if the English major I had chosen was right for me. I didn't know what I wanted to do when I graduated. I didn't know how I was going to make it through a semester, let alone an entire year, without my friends and family back home. In short, I was homesick and unsure of whether or not I could stay. But then something changed. I found a close group of friends who became my second family while I was at school, a group of friends I am still close with now, in my junior year.

Not only did I find a group of friends, but I also found a job in the Office of Admissions as a telecounselor my freshman year. That position turned into a tour guide position during my sophomore year, and it is a job I could not be more excited about. I have the opportunity to share with students why I love Rider and all of the great things the school has to offer. Rider is not just a place where you get a degree. It's a place where students can grow and learn and find a wealth of opportunities.

Since coming to Rider, I've taken trips to see Broadway shows in New York, met with staff members who have recommended my papers for colloquiums, become a part of the Baccalaureate Honors program, held a part-time job in admissions, become a part of the international English society Sigma Tau Delta, held an internship in University Communications, had my articles published on the Rider News website, and written a 15-page paper



on the story of Cinderella. That's right, Cinderella, the girl who finds her Prince Charming because of a glass slipper.

While I was writing the paper for a children's literature course, I thought about all the connections people have to fairy tales, even as they enter adulthood, and I realized that I am, in some ways, a lot like Cinderella. No, I was never treated like a servant, and I am lucky enough to have two parents with whom I am very close. But I did have to overcome some obstacles in order to find my perfect fit. Rider is certainly not my Prince Charming, but it is my perfect fit as far as college goes. I've found my niche and have been able to become successful because of it. I have advisors who help me along the way, friends who keep me sane during the craziness of finals, and classes in which I'm learning more than I could have hoped for.

One of the biggest questions I get

asked while I'm on tour with prospective students and their families is "Why did you leave California? Why did you come here?" I could give them the standard answer of how I was drawn to the small class sizes and the personal attention from my professors. I could tell them I loved the small campus and that I can wake up 10 minutes before class and still get there on time. I could even tell them that I chose Rider because it was closer to jobs and internships in publishing in New York City than any school in California. And all of these reasons are true. But the real reason I chose Rider was because I visited campus and participated in the Student for a Day program. I sat in on a course called Advanced Creative Writing with a professor who was working on writing her own novel. I sat in that class for an hour and a half and realized that this school was my perfect fit. I knew that I wanted to be here and listen to other people talk about English and books and writing. When I left Rider that day, I knew this school was where I was going to be spending my next four years, because I had a moment where everything just fit perfectly together for me. So why did I come here? I came here because I knew that Rider had everything I wanted in a school and would let me explore my major in any context I desired.

Fast-forward to now, the second semester of my junior year, I still believe Rider is the right choice for me. To use a corny English-major analogy, Rider is as perfect a fit for me as the glass slipper was for Cinderella. Rider has helped me discover who I am: I am an English major with a concentration in literature, pursuing a double minor in film and media studies and American studies. I am an intern in University Communications. I am a mentor for the film department and the GLASS program. I am a tour guide for the Admissions Office. But most important, I am a student who was lucky enough to find my second home at Rider.



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Pauline Taumalolo '18, voice performance major, scholarship recipient, resident advisor, native Tongan, faith keeps her grounded, Mom is her No. 1 fan, proud member of SAI, and grateful for her mentor and uncle Ta'u Pupu'a. "Music is my calling, and Westminster helped to make it my life. We sing not to impress but to inspire."

Christina Diecidue '16, marketing and advertising major, scholarship recipient, senior class president, social media guru, student leader, advocate for Rider. "Rider has provided me with the knowledge and skill set I need to excel in my future career. I am confident that I will be able to compete in the advertising industry."

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REUNIONS

'16

WE'RE A BRONC NATION! JOIN US FOR THE:

- ★ Rose Garden Party where emeritus and current faculty, staff and alumni will gather to schmooze
- ★ Reunion celebrations for the classes of '66, '06 and '11; Alpha Psi Omega '03-'09; DAARSTOC-40th; Rebovich Institute for NJ Politics-15th; Communications and Journalism Department; Organizational Leadership; Olde Guard; Sigma Phi Epsilon; Minding Our Business; Alumni of Color and more
- ★ 10th 5K Walk/Run for Women's Athletics and the 5th Broncs Tennis Classic
- ★ Ceremonies for the Rider Alumni Awards, Science Stairway of Fame and Athletics Hall of Fame

alumni.rider.edu/RiderReunions2016

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Interested in volunteering or have questions? Contact the Office of Alumni Relations
at 609-896-5340 or alumni@rider.edu.