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RIDER

a magazine for alumni and friends

Fall 2017



**OUR PATH
FORWARD**
Inside the making of
Rider's new strategic plan



LEGENDS

A page in the 1988 *Shadow*, Rider's yearbook, notes that the Pub has given birth to many "great legends" at the University. The names of many of those legends, and scores of other Rider students and alumni, have been etched into the walls of the Pub going on decades and decades.

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Dear Alumni, Parents and Friends,

RIDER UNIVERSITY'S 152-YEAR LEGACY certainly didn't happen by accident. Our development over the course of history has always been the story of individuals coming together to transform new generations of students into engaged and educated citizens.

That promise was made long ago by our namesake, Andrew J. Rider, and it is one we recommit to today with the launch of our new strategic plan, called Our Path Forward.

The plan outlines the intentional way we will approach our work in the coming years. It establishes a shared mission and vision that moves our University forward together and serves as a roadmap to achieve the visionary growth that's required of Rider at this seminal moment in its history.

This is an exciting time for Rider. While we face many challenges, we are setting a course to enhance our living and learning environment so that every Rider student has an educational experience that transforms them for life.

A cornerstone of that transformational experience is our

new Engaged Learning Program. Beginning this fall, all students will be required to complete at least two engaged learning experiences, which range from internships to research projects to co-curricular activities such as study abroad and service learning. Each of these experiences will be documented on new engaged learning transcripts that will supplement academic transcripts. Our Path Forward shows us the way toward implementing and realizing the goals of this program, and many more.

The strategic plan represents the work of more than 100 people — faculty, staff, administrators, students, alumni, Trustees and community members — over more than a year. You can learn about the dynamic effort it took to create Our Path Forward in this issue's cover

story. I also encourage you to read the entire plan and learn more at www.rider.edu/strategicplan.

As we settle into another academic year, I also want to personally invite you and your families to return to Rider and join us for our Homecoming celebration on Saturday, Oct. 28. We have an exciting day of activities planned to reconnect you to your alma mater. Please come back and enjoy the day with us. I hope to see you there.

Go Broncs!

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



GREEK EXPANSION

Three Greek re-colonization efforts have been taking place this year. With the addition of Theta Chi (pictured, left, during Reunions in June), Phi Beta Sigma and the Alpha Beta colony of Chi Upsilon Sigma, a total of 14 Greek organizations are now represented at Rider. A Theta Chi Endowed Scholarship was recently created to establish a strong foundation of support for new members. Learn more at www.rider.edu/ThetaChiScholarship.

Mr. Speaker

More than 1,100 people turned out on March 23 to see former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich appear at Rider to discuss "The Virtues of Free Markets." The event, presented by the Rebovich Institute for New Jersey Politics, was part of the University's Hennessy Family Lecture on Capitalism series, which was inaugurated last year with an appearance by author, speaker and filmmaker Dinesh D'Souza.



Tassels turned in Trenton

Rider awarded degrees to the Class of 2017 during two Commencement ceremonies on May 12 at the Sun National Bank Center in Trenton, N.J. The events marked the first year in recent history that Rider's Lawrenceville Commencement was held off-campus. Joseph J. Plumeri and Rochelle R. Hendricks each received honorary doctorates of laws.



Big numbers

The 2017 fiscal year was one of the best for the Annual Fund. \$1.7 million was raised — the most in more than two decades. The Annual Fund supports student scholarships, study abroad programs, student-faculty research projects, multicultural programming, career services initiatives, campus improvements and much more.



TOP OF THE CLASS

Alexis Esposito '17 was honored as Business Education Student Teacher of the Year by the New Jersey Business/Technology Education Association (NJBTEA) at a state Department of Education ceremony on May 17. The NJBTEA Student Awards recognize students for their outstanding contributions to business/technology education and business teacher education programs in New Jersey.

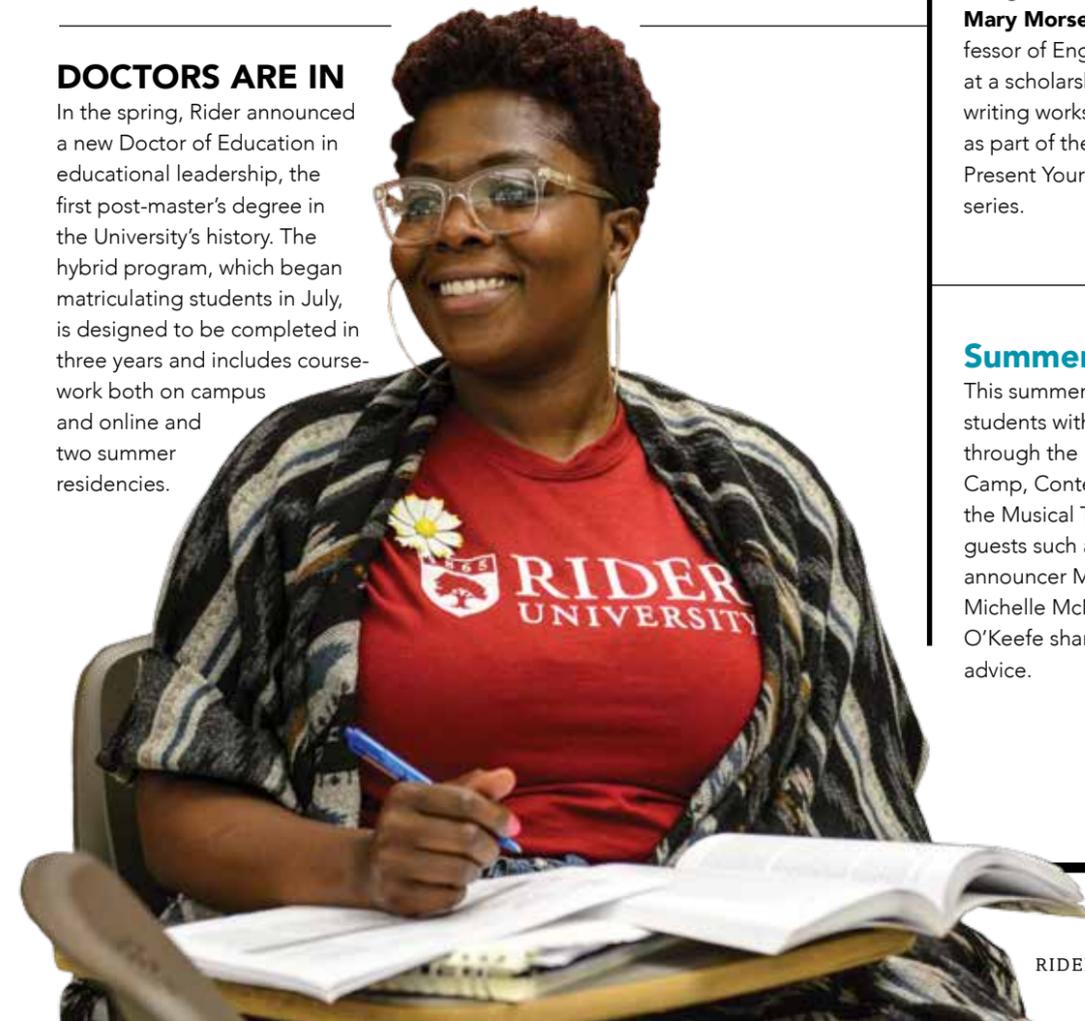


New name, new era

In March, the School of Education was renamed the College of Education and Human Resources. The name change recognizes the strength and reputation of all of the programs in the School of Education, including the success of programs in human services, and the addition of Rider's first doctorate in its 152-year history.

DOCTORS ARE IN

In the spring, Rider announced a new Doctor of Education in educational leadership, the first post-master's degree in the University's history. The hybrid program, which began matriculating students in July, is designed to be completed in three years and includes coursework both on campus and online and two summer residencies.



Empowering women

College of Continuing Studies students and alumni shared passionate and empowering words at the eighth annual Charlotte W. Newcombe Scholarship Reception on Feb. 8. The Newcombe Foundation offers scholarship aid to women over 25 who have completed at least half of a bachelor's degree. At the event, the new \$100,000 Dr. Katherine E. Mortimer-Charlotte W. Newcombe Endowed Scholarship was announced.

CHANGING DIRECTION

Asia Panzino, a psychology major who will graduate in December, dropped out of high school in 1998. Nearly 20 years later, the single mother has secured 10 scholarships to support her college career. On April 6, she spoke alongside Dr. Mary Morse, professor of English, at a scholarship writing workshop as part of the Present Yourself series.



Summer school

This summer, Rider welcomed high school students with a pre-college experience through the BRONCast Sports Media Camp, Contemporary Vocal Institute and the Musical Theatre Institute. Special guests such as Philadelphia Eagles radio announcer Merrill Reese, casting director Michelle McNulty and composer Larry O'Keefe shared their experiences and advice.

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences



A MODEL WIN

This year's Model United Nations team exceeded high expectations by becoming the most successful in Rider history. Advised by **Dr. Barbara Franz** of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS), the team won the Outstanding Delegation Award (the highest award conferred) as well as four position papers and two Outstanding Delegate Awards. This year marked half a century of Model UN competitions for Rider, and the team was made up of a majority of students who had never participated in the competition.

Summer studies

In the spring, a record number of CLAS students were selected for competitive Research Experiences for Undergraduate opportunities, funded by the National Science Foundation. This summer, students studied volcanism at the University of Hawaii, neuroscience at Vanderbilt University and astrobiology at the California Institute of Technology/Jet Propulsion Laboratories, among many others.

Health care revolution

Three distinguished CLAS alumni discussed the revolutionary changes happening in health care during "The Future is Now," a speaker series event presented by Rider's new Health Studies Institute in April. **Charles Bell '75** is the chief medical officer of Parallon Technology Solutions; **Eli Mordechai '90** is the chief executive officer of Genesis Biotechnology Group; and **Christy Stephenson '87** is the former president and CEO of Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital.

College of Business Administration

SIX SIGMA

Adopters of the business philosophy Six Sigma, such as General Electric, Motorola and Honeywell, have cited it as the reason for saving billions of dollars. In the spring 2017 semester, representatives from Robert Wood Johnson Hospital conducted Rider's first-ever seminar on Six Sigma, resulting in yellow-belt certification for 18 Rider students.



Health care evolution

By the time students enter the workforce, they will likely work in hospitals far different from those of today. That was one of the messages delivered to students by Princeton HealthCare System President and CEO Barry Rabner, who taught a special topics course at Rider during the spring semester.

New dean

After serving as interim dean since 2016, **Cynthia M. Newman, Ph.D.**, began her appointment as the dean of the College of Business Administration (CBA) on June 1. She joined Rider in 1992 as an adjunct professor. As interim dean, she successfully led CBA's comprehensive reaffirmation of accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) in the areas of both business and accounting and helped design three accelerated degree programs and launch the online MBA program.



Class Act

The School of Fine and Performing Arts (SFPA) enrolled its largest ever freshman class for this academic year, exceeding last year's class by 20 percent.

UNDER AFRICAN SKIES

Deceived by Silence, the latest play by **Dr. Ivan Fuller**, SFPA associate dean, was presented by Rwandan actors at the annual Ubumuntu Arts Festival in Kigali, Rwanda, in July. The one-act play follows a young American teacher who travels to Rwanda 15 years after the country's genocide in an attempt to chase away her demons.

School of Fine and Performing Arts



HOLIDAY KICKS

Recent musical theatre alumna **Kelliann DeCarlo '13** will make her Radio City Music Hall debut as one of four featured singers in the world renowned Radio City Christmas Spectacular featuring The Rockettes. The show opens on Nov. 10 and runs through Jan. 1, 2018.

Westminster Choir College



Choral ambassadors

In July, the Westminster Choir and conductor **Joe Miller** represented the U.S. at the World Symposium on Choral Music in Barcelona. The Choir also presented concerts in Madrid. Its final concert, presented at the historic Abbey of Montserrat, was webcast worldwide.

Familiar face in new role



Dr. Marshall Onofrio was named dean of Westminster College of the Arts (WCA) in June. Onofrio had served as the associate dean for administration at WCA since 2009 and associate dean of Westminster Choir College since 2006. Having worked in higher education for 35 years, Onofrio brings with him experience as a professional musician, teacher and administrator.

MET WINNER

Kyle Van Schoonhoven '13 was a Grand Prize Winner of the Metropolitan Opera Council's National Auditions, the nation's most prestigious opera competition. He's a first-year Adler Fellow with the San Francisco Opera, and he will make his San Francisco debut in the fall in Strauss' *Elektra* as Young Servant.

Associate Professor of Accounting Evelyn McDowell says she was made to be an accountant.

McDowell grew up in Cleveland, the second oldest of eight kids. From a young age, she was drawn to counting money, and unlike many young girls, she preferred to play with cash registers and ledger books over dolls. No one in her family ever talked about accounting, but when McDowell took an accounting class in high school, she knew she had found her passion and her future profession.

Despite her drive, McDowell believes she would never have been able to become an accountant if not for Inroads, a nonprofit she joined in high school that aims to increase ethnic diversity in corporations through training and paid internships. The program helped her earn a bachelor's in business administration from Baldwin-Wallace College. McDowell later added a master's in accounting and a doctorate in philosophy from Case Western Reserve University.

As she continued her education, McDowell worked for the Federal Reserve, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the City of Cleveland, and other governmental and nonprofit organizations. Meanwhile, she operated a private accounting practice on the side. Eventually, she operated her practice full-time for over 10 years.

In 2005, as she was finishing her doctorate, McDowell moved from Cleveland to New Jersey to begin teaching at Rider. Her classes include accounting theory, governmental accounting, principles of accounting and managerial accounting. In 2011, McDowell, along with Executive Advisory Committee member and retired Ernst & Young partner Allen Boston, created the Aspiring Accounting Professional Program at Rider University, which combines tutoring and practical experience through an informal professional mentorship specifically to help underrepresented groups in the accounting field. The program is sustained through a reoccurring grant from the Nellie Mae Education Foundation.

Recently, McDowell became president of National Society Sons & Daughters of the United States Middle Passage, a lineage society dedicated to preserving the memory and history of the artifacts and landmarks of slavery. The group held its first-ever conference and awards banquet, at Rider, on May 20.

—Adam Grybowski



“I TEACH because I love to see students blossom right in front of me and become driven to succeed.”

Is there a moral dimension to accounting?

Accountants have a lot of power. Often the only way to get funds is to demonstrate that you can return capital, and you do that with accounting information. Accountants stand between companies who need capital and entities and individuals who have capital. We are often pressured to bend the rules to make the numbers appear better than they are. Even though the rules are becoming more subjective, many remain pretty black and white. Jokingly, I tell my students, if you don't follow them, you go to jail. It is my way of reminding them that accounting matters.

What do you like most about teaching at Rider?

The students who are here are often first- or second-generation students. They come in needing a little bit of fine-tuning, and then they blossom right in front of you. I love to see that. They come eager to learn, and when they start to figure out that there's more to life than what they've known, I've seen many of them become very driven.

Does the field of accounting have a diversity problem?

Diversity in accounting is horrible. Only one percent of partners are African

American, and it's been that way for years and years, and it doesn't grow. It's not about accounting; it's simply a disadvantaged situation that brown people find themselves in. It's an accident of birth. Who your parents are and where you're born makes a huge difference in our country. To solve the problem, we must resolve inequality, poverty and racism.

How does Rider's Aspiring Accounting Professional Program help address diversity in accounting?

This organization is designed to identify those groups who need a boost and create a community of mentors and students. Many of the mentors come from Rider's Accounting Advisory Board or are alumni. Students go out to firms and work with their mentors, which helps them link what they're learning in class to real-world experience. We have had about 80 students come through the programs. What we're doing isn't even a drop in the bucket, but it is helping a few people get into the pipeline.

What's a popular misconception about accounting?

You don't need a math aptitude to become an accountant. In terms of math, 8th-grade algebra is all you need. I get students all the time who were told to

be accountants because they're good at math, even though it's not something they necessarily would have chosen for themselves. The students who really do the best are the ones who fall in love with accounting, especially in high school. That's what happened to me.

You're currently embarking on a new research project that examines how governments accounted for slavery through the recording of taxes. What made you choose this topic?

To begin with, we know very little about it. The more we know about what happened to enslaved people, the more we can move on. Our country has to have a truth and reconciliation. My great-grandmother was born into slavery. We're often embarrassed to tell these kinds of stories, as if we're ashamed our family members allowed themselves to become enslaved. But, through my research, I found it took great violence and intimidation to maintain slavery. At one point, the entire country conspired to keep them in bondage. But when you see what they went through, and focus on the individuals, you realize how incredibly strong and resilient they were. You see how much the entire country owes its economic success to the institution of slavery.

What's in your office, professor?



◀ PLAQUE FROM STUDENTS

The second class of students in the Aspiring Accounting Professionals Program gave McDowell this plaque in the middle of an awards program, catching her off guard. These students stay in constant contact with her and have become like extended family members.

▶ SANKOFA BIRD

This is a mythical bird from the Ghanaian tradition that means "reaching back to get what you need." It is special to McDowell because a student from Ghana gave it to her. She says it symbolizes her desire to connect to her enslaved ancestors to understand the way forward for African-Americans.





A RIDER FIRST

Robin Perkins became the first Bronc to be selected MAAC Women's Basketball Player of the Year. She also earned Metropolitan Basketball Writers Association First Team recognition.

Six-peat

Zack Molloy earned his second-straight MAAC Championship Swimmer of the Meet while leading men's swimming & diving to its sixth-straight MAAC title.

3

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS



6 consecutive conference Championships

Back-to-back MAAC Champions & NCAA Appearances



3 All-Americans

4

Conference player of the year awards

5

Conference rookie of the year awards

6

Coach of the year awards

Dynamic duo

Chad Walsh and **Ryan Wolfe** each earned All-American honors by finishing seventh at the NCAA Championships. Walsh was also the Eastern Wrestling League Wrestler of the Year.

HALL CALL



Greg Calhoun '92
TRACK & FIELD
Two-time conference champion in the 1600m and conference title winner in the 100m and 800m



Bud Focht
SPORTS INFORMATION DIRECTOR
Gained national, regional and local coverage for Rider Athletics over 35-year career



Kelly Kajunski '09
TRACK & FIELD
Rider's first-ever female NCAA regional qualifier



Greg Meehan '01
SWIMMING & DIVING
2016 U.S. assistant coach for Olympic swimming and diving team



Doug Umbehauer '09
WRESTLING
2009 NCAA All-American after finishing third at the national championships

2006-07 Women's Track & Field Team
CLAIR BEE OUTSTANDING TEAM ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Won both the indoor and outdoor MAAC Championships

The Science of SPORTS

the SOCCER SAVE

Making the perfect save on a penalty kick comes down to a variety of situational factors — expertise, stress and luck all play a role. **Amy Kozlowski**, a junior marketing and sports management major and Rider's NCCA Division I women's soccer goalkeeper, finds the position particularly stressful, with the possibility of one mistake costing the Broncos the game. Although goalkeeping may be intense and saving a penalty is usually unexpected, Kozlowski stays attentive and motivated.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Most competitive goalkeepers can jump to defend any specific area of the goal, which is roughly the size of a shipping container. The challenge is reacting fast enough and choosing the correct side to jump to before the ball is kicked. The ball is placed 36 feet from the goalkeeper, and with kicks sending the ball upwards of 70 mph, goalkeepers have about half of a second to react.

Before the ball is kicked, Kozlowski decides which direction she is going to jump by how the kicker lines up to the ball, her hip placement and where she is looking. If Kozlowski is lucky and jumps to the correct side, there is still a chance the kicker can score, but if she jumps in the wrong direction, the ball faces no opposition in finding the net.



WHY DOES IT WORK?

The scientific explanation behind how goalkeepers react to penalty kicks resides within the different functions of the neurological system, specifically how different areas of the brain actively work together.

Before the kick, the goalkeeper's eyes scan the situation, sending sensory information through the thalamus to the primary visual cortex, allowing them to sense the position of the kicker. That information spreads to visual association areas so the goalkeeper can perceive it, and the frontal cortex is where the plan to jump is made. Once the ball is kicked, the basal ganglia coordinates the jumping effort to block the ball while the cerebellum helps the goalkeeper stay balanced during the process. All of this neurological activity takes place in under a second, resulting in a brief moment that is the difference between victory or defeat.

A Whole New Ballgame

A.J. MOORE ON SPORTS AND MEDIA

Out of the basement

Competitive video games are on the threshold of becoming a billion dollar sports operation

If you are old enough to remember who Willie Mays is, you might need to Google the topic of this column. Heck, if you remember LeBron James' high school playing days, you might also need to consult your favorite internet search engine to understand the subject of this column: eSports, which are the next big thing in the sports media marketplace.

Yes, eSports, which is short for electronic sports — a euphemism for competitive/professional video game competitions. Yes, opposing teams facing off against each other on a virtual playing field in front of thousands of paying fans should be on your radar.

Dominant teams, star players, packed arenas, endorsement deals, all of which are familiar in the major sports leagues, are now taking root in the eSports community.

The hobby you once did in your basement, the activity you tell your kids not to do for too long, is on the threshold of becoming a billion dollar sports operation.

Before you complain that video games are not a sport, look at this trend through the eyes of digital natives raised on modern technology. Once you do, you can see the migration to eSports was bound to happen.

In the eyes of many millennials, baseball is boring, hockey is unfamiliar, football is past its prime and basketball has too many timeouts.

The ultra-realistic graphics and continual action of eSports make it an attractive commodity for the 12-25 year old market from both the participatory and spectator standpoints. This demographic base is ocean-front property for advertisers, so like it or not, please welcome eSports from the fringes into the mainstream sports conversation.

Goldman Sachs valued eSports at \$500 million in 2016 and predicts the market will thrive with 22% annual growth over the next few years and soon surpass the \$1 billion mark.

It doesn't matter what an eSports star runs the 40-yard dash in; players in this realm excel with their joysticks, not their feet.

As an indication of how sports has gone from E as in Elvin Hayes and Esposito to eSports is the amount of cov-

erage ESPN and Turner Broadcasting devote to the games. YouTube, the place younger people now watch "TV" has numerous eSports channels with hundreds of thousands of viewers.

The Pac-12 and Big 10, both synonymous as major college sports factories, have started fielding teams to compete against their conference rivals.

At Rider, eSports are becoming popular on the club level and will continue to do so with the school's new Bachelor of Science in computer science.

Those sold out audiences at Madison Square Garden aren't just for the Rangers and Knicks. The eSports equivalents of Mark Messier and Patrick Ewing are helping to pack the World's Most Famous Arena.

One of the reasons behind Downtown Las Vegas' rebirth is the city's foresight to embrace eSports. Are you listening, Atlantic City?

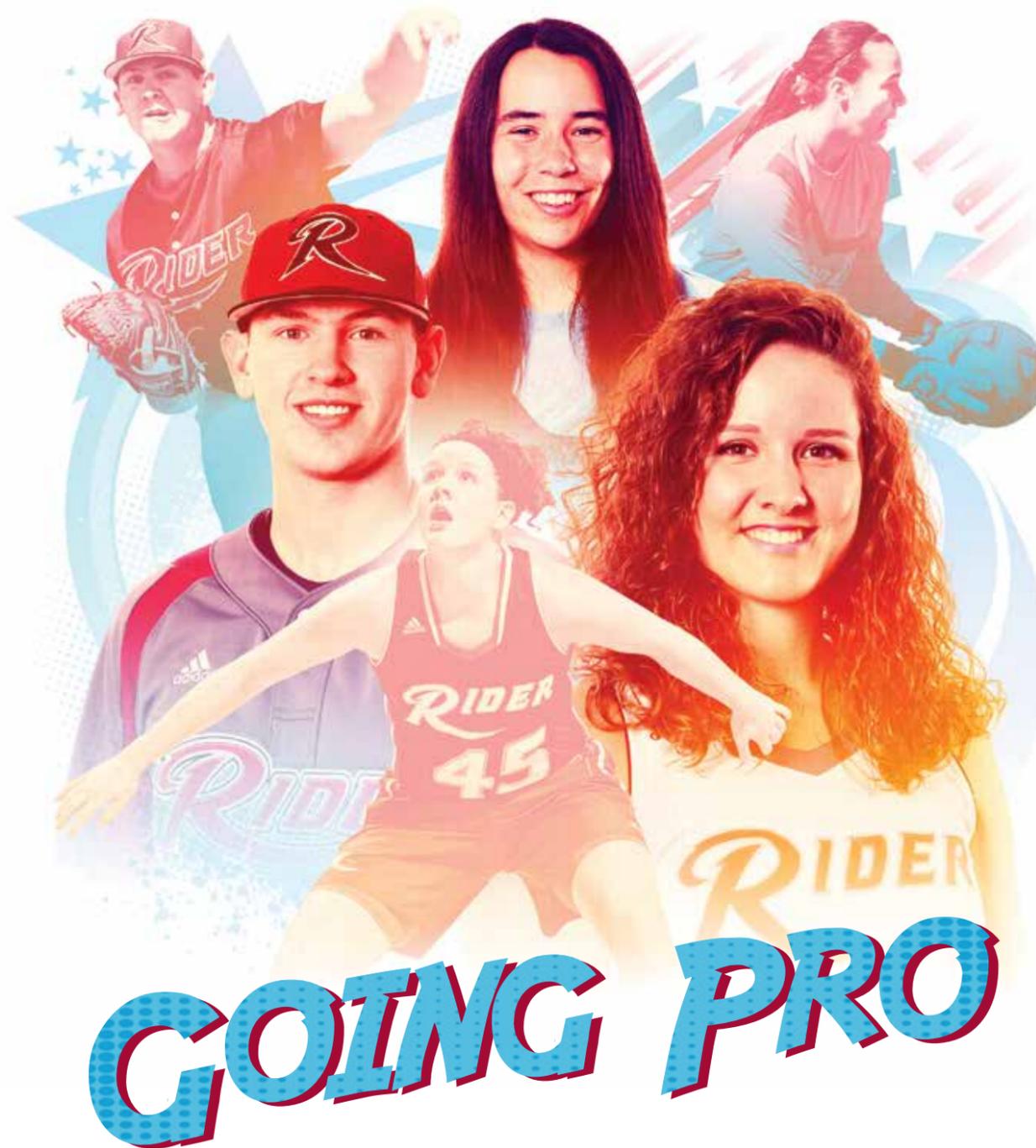
Sorry moms and dads, telling your kids to lay off the video games because there is no future in it is no longer valid. There are now jobs in eSports, as well, as all the other marketing and media professions associated with major college and professional sports.

It's really not a surprise that children born in an era where parents can live tweet their births see MLB The Show or Madden NFL not as eSports but as sports. You grew up playing pick-up basketball. They grew up playing Call of Duty and League of Legends.

The sports media landscape continues to change at a rapid pace, but it's easy to predict the success of a league with fast moving graphics on a computer screen geared toward a younger demographic. Most likely that growth will come at the expense of sports that feature fast moving men and women on ice, grass or the hardwood.



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



NICK MARGEVICIUS

Major: Finance

Drafted by: San Diego Padres

Key stats: Accomplished a 3.5:1 strikeout-to-walk ratio, finished with team-best 2.89 ERA with 79 strikeouts in 87.1 innings in 2017

JULIA DUGGAN '17

Major: Public relations

Drafted by: Turngemeinde (TG)

Neuss in Germany
Key stats: Ranks fifth in program history with 834 rebounds and first in games played with 124

BETHANY-MAY HOWARD '17

Major: History

Drafted by: Yeovil Town Ladies FC in the Fa Women's Super League in England

Key stats: Finished career as all-time leader in wins (34) and shutouts (20)



For more Rider athletes who have recently signed professional contracts, visit www.rider.edu/ridermagazine.

ILLUSTRATION BY SEAN MCCABE



BOOM

Americans are split on the benefits and costs of the natural gas boom. A Rider professor set out to discover how people form those perceptions of risk, and what that means for policymakers.

BY
ADAM GRYBOWSKI

UNDERNEATH HUGE SWATHS OF LAND in Texas, Pennsylvania and elsewhere in the United States, in between the cracks and pores of rocks, natural gas waits to be extracted.

For millions of years, the energy source sat untouched, its potential untapped. Around 2005, increases in the price of oil and advancements in technology, especially the advent of a hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, made natural gas more accessible and viable.

Now Americans are extracting, and using, more natural gas than ever. The withdrawal of the fuel from the ground in the U.S. steadily rose each year from 2005 to 2015, and though it declined slightly in 2016, natural gas helped generate more electricity in the U.S. that year than any other source of energy — more than coal, more than oil and more than double all renewable sources of energy combined.

The increase in production has stressed the ability of existing infrastructure to deliver the product to market, placing pressure on energy producers and the government to increase pipeline capacity. Billions of dollars are being poured into expanding existing pipelines and building new ones. In 2016 alone, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which regulates the interstate transmission of natural gas, approved close to 40 new pipeline projects.

“The expansion of natural gas has made it one of the nation’s most important sources of power, but it also comes with costs,” says **Dr. Michael Brogan**, an associate professor in Rider University’s Department of Political Science.

Natural gas heats homes and offices, provides light in the dark and powers fleets of vehicles. It is also generating the dream of long-term low-energy costs and an energy-independent nation, though many ques-

tion if the environmental effects caused by the methods of extraction and building of infrastructure are worth the benefits.

“People never really think about the details when they talk about energy independence,” Brogan says. “You often hear platitudes, but once you get down into it, the main issue is really about trust. There is a lack of trust that the process is fair and in the public interest.”

From 2014 to 2016, Brogan and a group of students attended public meetings in New Jersey on the expansion of the PennEast Pipeline to interview attendees and gather research. The proposed 120-mile pipeline in New Jersey and Pennsylvania has generated a fierce backlash locally, even as the project continues to progress. Proponents say the pipeline will reduce energy costs and create jobs. Opponents fear the environmental damage and loss of property rights. Brogan says at first he was eyed with skepticism

PHOTOS BY PETER BORG / GETTY IMAGES

by both groups but was able to develop a productive relationship with opposition groups.

"It took a while to gain the trust of those individuals and groups directly impacted by the pipeline," he says. "While at the same time it's eye opening to see the pushback we received from both PennEast and their supporters, neither wanted anything to do with our project."

Polling tells a story of ambivalence when it comes to how citizens judge the benefits and costs of the current natural gas boom, and if one outweighs the other. The consensus seems to be that people want the benefits without the risks. Aware of these competing views, Brogan set out to conduct research about how Americans perceive the benefits and risks of natural gas, and how those perceptions shape their views of an energy source that will likely play a central role in powering our way of life for decades to come.

Brogan has been teaching at Rider since 2007. He earned a bachelor's in political

science from the University of Delaware, a master's in public administration from Rutgers and a doctorate from the City University of New York. For much of his academic career, he focused his research on voting behavior, public budgeting and campaign finance. About four years ago, those topics began to shift.

"I wanted to do something that was more relevant to people's lives," Brogan says. "The pipeline study is useful to policymakers because it helps show what people are fearful of and how to mitigate that fear and open up a discussion of risk, which is often downplayed."

He's incorporated fieldwork into his classes, teaching students how to conduct interviews and gather research about natural gas pipelines from impacted landowners, officials from labor unions and regulatory agencies, activists and others.

Brogan also designed a national online study to help him understand how individuals perceive the likelihood and severity of

pipeline accidents. Though rare, pipeline accidents can be catastrophic. "Pipeline accidents are usually out of sight, out of mind," Brogan says. "National stories on pipeline explosions tend to be regional or local. It's not like terrorism, which tends to receive national or international coverage."

As a result, risks associated with natural gas pipelines are often abstract, making it difficult to evaluate their overall threat. Examples of threats more vivid in nature are much more likely to affect behavior. Think of terrorism. Most people accept the inconveniences of airline travel, such as security screenings and the removal of shoes, because it is very easy to recall the horrible

“ I WANTED TO DO SOMETHING THAT WAS MORE RELEVANT TO PEOPLE'S LIVES. ”

outcomes of a terrorist attack.

"I don't think there is any direct intention of obscuring the safety aspect when it comes to natural gas pipelines," Brogan says, "but they don't normally receive widespread, urgent attention because accidents 'only' happen to a family or a community."

Brogan found that as soon as individuals were presented with more vivid examples of pipeline risk, they became much more

sensitive to safety issues. "Individuals seek out choices that ensure the maintenance of a perceived state of safety," he says. In other words, any disruption to the status quo is viewed negatively, even when factoring in the chance of economic benefit. As such, individuals made aware of vivid examples of pipeline accidents are more likely to choose safety over money.

Is that choice irrational? Brogan says no.

"In fact, when individuals become aware of risks of a particular project, there is a connection between emotion and rationality."

"The use of vivid examples of pipeline risk help individuals conceptualize the problem in broader terms," he continues. "That doesn't mean vivid examples should necessarily drive public policy, but they can inform policymakers regarding the public's perceptions of risk. The research suggests the public both wants and needs more information about the dangers of natural gas pipelines. If risks of pipeline expansion are deemed unnecessary by the public, then it should come as no surprise as to why organized opposition flourishes."

“ THE EXPANSION OF NATURAL GAS HAS MADE IT ONE OF THE NATION'S MOST IMPORTANT SOURCES OF POWER, BUT IT ALSO COMES WITH COSTS. ”





CHARTING OUR
**PATH
FORWARD**

Rider's new strategic plan will guide
the University into the future

By Adam Grybowski | Illustration by Dan Williams

On a cold February day in 2016, about 120 people bundled up to venture outside their offices, homes and residence halls to gather at Rider University. Some were longtime colleagues, others were meeting for the first time. All were connected to Rider, though those connections varied. As they sat down together for dinner, the voices of faculty, staff, administrators, students, alumni, Trustees and members of the surrounding community intermingled inside the Bart Luedeke Center's Cavalla Room.

The occasion was the official start of Rider's strategic planning process. Over the course of the following year, participants gave their time, contributed their expertise and shared their perspectives as they assessed the serious challenges facing the University to chart a new and exciting path forward for Rider.

"It was very important to be as inclusive as possible," says **President Gregory G. Dell'Omo, Ph.D.** "We needed an honest, reflective and candid process that would help us move forward as an institution. In the end, I think we were very successful in achieving in that."

Rider's last comprehensive strategic plan was established in 2005, early into **President Mordechai Rozanski's** tenure as Rider's sixth president. While that plan proved successful in steering

the University's course through much of Rozanski's tenure, it was now time to inform and formalize the vision that Dell'Omo had begun building when he officially became Rider's seventh president on Aug. 1, 2015.

"We want to transform lives, as well as the University itself, by creating a vibrant and engaged living and learning experience for our students," Dell'Omo says. "I want every Rider graduate to feel that their life is better because of the interactions and experiences they had here as a student. Establishing a strategic plan allows us to align our priorities, resources and expertise in a very focused and deliberate manner to achieve that."

Among the first steps was the establishment of a steering committee to guide the process, as well as the creation of six working groups — all of which conducted SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analyses that spring following a similar exercise conducted by the Board of Trustees the previous October. Major themes emerged from this work.

"The SWOT analyses confirmed many of Rider's strengths and challenges," says Senior Associate Vice President for Planning **Debbie Stasolla**, who helped to steward the plan from first steps to final document. "While there were both synergies and contradictions, most important were the commonalities that provided the ground-



Rider's: VISION

Rider University will be a premier, forward-looking university known for its Engaged Learning Program that, together with dynamic academic programs, enriching co-curricular experiences and a vibrant living and learning community, challenges students, excites their imaginations and instills in them excellence in thought and action, preparing them for highly engaged and fulfilling professional and personal lives.

Strategic Theme: FOCUSING ON STUDENTS FIRST

Our unwavering focus on student growth and development inspires students to expand their learning beyond the classroom, building an engaged and vibrant community of learners and readying students for real-world success.

Strategic Theme:

RAISING RIDER'S PROFILE

Promoting our image and value to the outside world through branding and marketing is vital to attracting students and building a more enduring sense of "Rider Pride."



work to develop goals and action plans."

Those commonalities, together with Dell'Omo's developing vision for the University, led to the articulation of five themes that serve as the plan's cornerstones: our unwavering focus on student growth and development; the branding, marketing and promotion of our University; the importance of our people; the strategic cultivation, management and investment of our resources; and our commitment to planning, implementation and continuous improvement.

The plan's title, "Our Path Forward," and each of its five strategic themes include the word "our." "That was intentional," Stasolla says. "It conveys a sense of ownership and community as we work together to implement the plan over the next several years."

Working groups were organized around major areas of operational focus — academics and engaged learning, student enrollment and experience, reputation and branding, facilities and infrastructure, resources, and employee engagement and enrichment. The inclusive nature of the work meant larger working groups, compared

to the previous process. While sometimes challenging to manage, the larger groups meant greater engagement and feedback and a greater variety of perspectives, all of which informed the groups' work.

As part of the employee engagement working group, **Mark Scher '87** traveled to the Lawrenceville campus every Thursday morning to meet in the Student Recreation Center. "I've been on a lot of committees as a volunteer, but few have been this professionally structured with such amazing committee chairs," says Scher, the president of Brandy Agency, a Bucks-county based manufacturer sales agency of ceramic tiles from overseas. "I was so impressed and, at the end, so enamored with the people with whom I worked. Each of them accepted me into the group and invited all of my comments."

Working groups took an eyes-wide-open approach to their work. Rather than deflect clashing perspectives or unpopular opinions, groups welcomed them with the goal of an honest reckoning.

"You were expected to say what was on your mind even if it was controversial," says Associate Professor of Theatre **Trent**

Rider's: MISSION

Rider University welcomes students from throughout the region, across the nation, and around the world who seek to be challenged and supported as active members of our inclusive and vibrant living and learning community. Committed to student growth, transformation and leadership, we connect rigorous academic, artistic and professional programs of study with a rich array of learning experiences that engage students inside and outside the classroom. We prepare graduates to thrive professionally and to be lifelong independent learners and responsible citizens who embrace diversity, support the common good, and contribute meaningfully to the changing world in which they live and work.

Blanton, who served as an at-large member of the steering committee and a member of its mission subcommittee. "I felt very comfortable asking questions and sharing my perspective. I became very hopeful engaging with stakeholders at the table who were passionately involved in the process and whose input came from an honest place. There is a lot of deep love for this institution, from administrators to faculty to staff and beyond, and they all had a stake in creating a vision that unifies us."

The groups worked methodically — often scrutinizing statements word by word — to reach compromises and come to satisfactory

“WE WANT TO TRANSFORM LIVES, AS WELL AS THE UNIVERSITY ITSELF.”

—GREGORY G. DELL’OMO, Ph.D.

conclusions. “Each member contributed with a goal in mind of the overall welfare of Rider without any sort of personal agenda,” Scher says. “That was extremely refreshing.”

The Board of Trustees approved the plan on June 21. Because of the broad nature of a strategic plan and its focus on major institution-wide initiatives, not every department or office is specifically cited. “That’s the beauty of the five themes,” says Stasolla. “They help us speak a common language in support of a shared new vision for Rider and our students. They also provide a framework by which each of us can determine how best to contribute to Rider’s success going forward.”

That success is dependent on annual divisional and department planning and implementation over the next several years within each of the themes. According to Stasolla, Rider is off to a great start with the

divisional plans established for the 2017-18 academic year.

Rider’s new Engaged Learning Program is high on this year’s list of priorities. A new graduation requirement beginning with new students this fall, the Program reflects the University’s student learning outcomes of leadership, connected learning, ethics and social responsibility, and global and multicultural perspectives. Students are required to complete at least two high impact engaged learning experiences, which will be documented on an Engaged Learning Transcript to supplement their academic transcript. Qualified experiences include credit-bearing courses such as internships, research projects and senior capstones as well as co-curricular activities such as study abroad, service learning and leadership positions in student clubs and organizations.

“Our Engaged Learning Program is a key component of our new vision and strategic plan,” Dell’Omo says. “We are excited about the opportunities it will afford students to engage more fully in their own education and connect their learning both inside and outside the classroom.”

Other priorities this year include additional new academic programs, living and learning communities, and several important academic and residential facilities projects. The strategic plan also serves as the starting point for the facilities master planning currently under way as well as the establishment of a comprehensive fundraising campaign.

With a sense of ownership comes accountability. The implementation of the action plans within each of the themes and the degree to which progress is being achieved, in such areas as retention, graduation rates, student outcomes, higher

enrollment and lower cost of instruction, are all being monitored. “Key performance indicators track our progress and are important components of any successful plan,” says Dell’Omo.

Along with a new plan, the University established a new vision and mission as well as the Rider PROMISE, an acronym that visually represents the mission in response to student feedback during the planning process. The idea refers to a declaration by the University’s namesake and first president, **Andrew J. Rider**, that the institution’s future was full of promise.

“The concept of the Promise builds on our heritage and gives meaning to the key components of who we are as an institution,” Dell’Omo says.

Essentially, the strategic plan is a promise in and of itself. It outlines the decisive action Rider will take to achieve

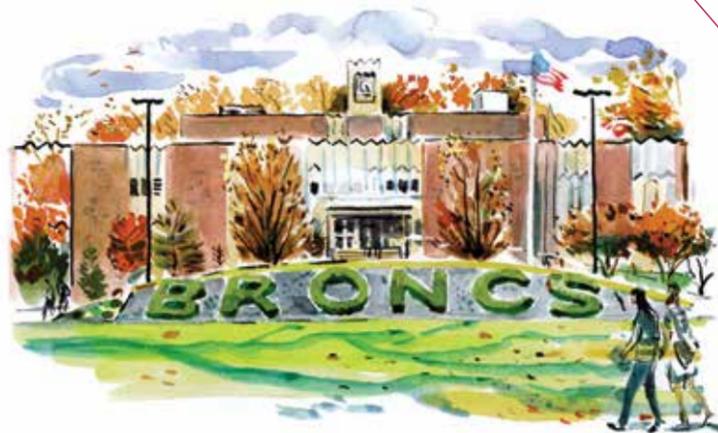
the visionary growth that is necessary to ensure the University’s sustainability into the future and provide successive generations of Rider students a transformative and affordable college experience. “That will require the efforts of all of us within our university community — faculty, staff, administrators, students, alumni, Trustees and friends,” says Dell’Omo.

As Blanton attests, “The work wasn’t just idle talk. There are concrete items highlighted throughout the plan. Now that it has been approved, I’m quite hopeful about Rider’s future.”

 www.rider.edu/StrategicPlan

Strategic Theme: BEING AN EMPLOYER OF CHOICE

Our people are important. By building a more diverse workforce that is valued and supported, we can better attract, retain and inspire world-class faculty, administrators and staff.



Strategic Theme: INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

Cultivating, managing and investing our resources and aligning them with our priorities will have lasting, positive impacts on our competitiveness and legacy.

THE RIDER

P	R	O	M	I	S	E
Prepared to contribute meaningfully to the changing world in which they live and work	Respectful of all people, rights, freedoms and individual differences	Open to a life of independent learning	Motivated to be responsible citizens who support the common good	Innovative, creative and resourceful	Skilled and thriving professionals, educators, artists and performers	Engaged in their communities as leaders and role models

Strategic Theme: ALWAYS IMPROVING

Our commitment to planning, implementation and continuous improvement will ensure our vision for the future and our students’ success.





A **STAR** is BORN

By
Ilene Dube

As an undergraduate at Muhlenberg College, **Garrett Gallinot** studied English and political science, but his true love was theater.

As a student, he performed as Peter in *Peter and the Wolf*, Mowgli in *The Jungle Book*, and the Beast in *Beauty and the Beast*. He also wrote a play — part comedy, part Victorian murder mystery — that was performed at Manhattan Rep.

After college, Gallinot was fortunate to find a steady acting gig. He toured with a national juggling company, FoodPlay Productions, performing more than 100 shows in elementary schools in 12 states. The show was designed to encourage healthy eating and physical fitness in low-income communities, with a goal of de-stigmatizing free and reduced-price school breakfasts and lunches through fun and exciting performances.

When that gig ended, Gallinot worked as a writer and performer for Saving Teens at Risk (S.T.A.R.), a program that educates K-12 students and at-risk youths about drugs, domestic violence, sexuality, HIV/AIDs, bullying and family life issues. Performances were followed by facilitated conversations, both in and out of character.

“After a couple of years in educational theater, I discovered I liked the educational aspect more than purely performing,” says Gallinot. “I thought I could be more effective having students in the classroom every day, rather than just in educational assemblies.”

He turned to Rider University where his father, Gustave Gallinot '76, a certified public accountant, had studied business. Gallinot's father was pleased with the decision. “He was excited about my going into a noble profession,” Gallinot says.

At first, Gallinot thought he'd need to go through a two-year program, but then he spoke to **Dr. Kathleen Pierce**, a professor in the Department of Graduate Education, Leadership, and Counseling in Rider's College of Education and Human Services. She told him about the TEACH first class residency program, the University's 21-graduate credit, post-baccalaureate immersion program designed for college graduates of all academic backgrounds and experiences who are interested in earning teaching certification.

The phone call launched Gallinot into his most recent role as a star in the TEACH first program. In recognition of his outstanding performance during the program, Gallinot was named one of the state's top student teachers.

The TEACH first class residency eliminates the gap between theory and practice. Participants immediately begin classroom experiences with children, mentored by Rider's College of Education faculty. The accelerated nine-month residency program allows prospective teachers to gain credentials and hands-on classroom experiences while establishing professional relationships and a support network essential to success.

"I thrive in immersive programs like this," says Gallinot, who is now a certified K-6 teacher. "Rider was the only place offer-

"I thrive in immersive programs like this. Rider was the only place offering anything like that."

Below: Garrett Gallinot transformed his performing career into a new role as a teacher through Rider's post baccalaureate immersion program



ing anything like that."

"Our students who go through TEACH first class are sought after and have a high job placement rate," says **Dr. Sharon Sherman**, dean of the College of Education. "Rarely a day goes by when we don't get a call from a student who says they got a job offer. Our students get called for multiple interviews. One student who did eight demo lessons was called back to all eight districts."

Participants in TEACH first class come from professional backgrounds — from business and industry to science, accounting and homemaking. An opera singer, a Broadway actor and a Marine have all participated.

"Our high-quality program offers small classes, mediated field placement and professional supervision. Students work one-on-one in small groups, and the program is nationally accredited with a very focused curriculum and highly developed assessment system with feedback loops," says Sherman. "We use the data we gather to make programmatic changes to continue to improve."

TEACH first class was conceived by Associate Professor of Mathematics Education **Dr. Judith Fraivillig**, who was inspired to establish a residential model in response to deficiencies she found in programs "that take great teaching candidates, put them in a classroom and expect them to pull up their bootstraps without having studied any theory." Too many conventional approaches to residency models, Fraivillig believes, emphasize classroom management at the expense of truly immersive pre-service education. "Putting candidates in K-8 classrooms alongside Rider professors like myself combines immersive residency with foundational theory that is connected immediately to their experiences with children," she says.

Fraivillig shared her dream with Sherman. The next step was making a connection with 100Kin10, the organization that formed in response to President Obama's 2011 State of the Union address that issued a call for adding 100,000 STEM teachers to the nation's schools over the coming decade. 100Kin10 emerged as a network to unite the nation's top academic institutions, nonprofits, foundations, companies and government agencies to address the nation's STEM teacher shortage.

"100Kin10 affirmed our program was a great idea," Fraivillig says. "It gave us ac-



From left: Dr. Kathleen Pierce, Dr. Sharon Sherman, dean, and Dr. Judith Fraivillig of Rider's College of Education and Human Services

cess to 100Kin10 partners. Once you get in you can apply for grants from donors, who are funding educational reform around the country and all pooling money working toward the same goal. We became one of the earliest university partners with 100Kin10 and are now joined by prestigious universities like Harvard and the University of Michigan — it was a huge deal! We got broad exposure and were invited to the White House, along with a group of teachers, to meet with the top people in the Department of Education."

Being a 100Kin10 partner allowed Fraivillig to submit a proposal to the Carnegie Corporation of New York, which funded the program: "They really valued our concept of developing a residency program that placed professors in an elementary school and working with change-of-career teacher candidates." Time spent on university campuses, Fraivillig notes, isolates future teachers from children. "Rethinking teacher education to release enthusiastic future teachers from the confines of a university campus can immerse talented teacher candidates with children in schools, to the collective benefit of teacher candidates, current practitioners and children," she explains.

Through the Carnegie Corp., Fraivillig secured funding to bring in science and math specialists and professional development opportunities for elementary teachers.

Pierce — Gallinot's professor and director of one of the TEACH first class cohorts — has been teaching in Rider's graduate level teacher certification program since 2001. Last

"They learn to teach as inquiry-based activity, where students do more than take notes."

year, she says, there were twice the number of applicants to TEACH first class and the program has expanded. "Our candidates are career changers with bachelor's degrees who want to work with mentors in schools to become certified teachers.

"The program also benefits the districts it serves," Pierce continues. "These candidates bring real-world experience. They know themselves well, understand life and come to the classroom with empathy for all kinds of learners with varying advantages and disadvantages. They appreciate how learning can be integrated with life."

But there's much more to teaching than being on stage, she points out. The TEACH first class residency program shows these professionals how to plan curriculum and activities to engage students with learning."

Gallinot took an English methods class with Pierce. "He is a talented person. He was good on paper when he started and grew to develop his own craft of teaching. I have seen him mentoring kids on writing, offering feedback and editing. He has become a masterful teacher."

Commuting from his home in Providence, N.J., Gallinot was placed in a fourth-grade class in Freehold Borough. Mondays through Wednesdays were spent in schools with mentor teachers and Rider faculty, and the rest of the week was spent learning mathematics, literacy and educational fundamentals back on Rider's Lawrenceville campus. "Everything we learned we had a chance to apply in the classroom," says Gallinot. By the time his student teaching began, in the spring semester, Gallinot felt fully prepared. "I was already part of the classroom culture."

It's OK to make a mistake, he teaches his students, but you have to learn to make the correction. "It's about them improving as learners. As a teacher, you have the ability to reach students who may be dealing with difficult home lives and push them to where they can go. You have to approach each learner as an individual."

Gallinot's theater experience has helped. "It enables me to be more charismatic and more of a presence in creating a culture of education. Students love when I incorporate elements of the theater. We write plays together about the material we're covering, brainstorm characters and setting and embrace a collaborative atmosphere."

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Megan Moyer '12, '14 and **Kevin Rafferty '13** were married in April. Many Rider alumni were in the wedding party and attended as guests, including best man **Peter Fielding '12**, groomsmen **Alexander Lief '13**, **Matthew Molle '13**, **Mark Naugle '15**, **Douglas Cimino '13** and **Zachary Benevento '15**, and bridesmaids **Alyssa Fielding '13**, **Erica Tkanceko '14** and **Rebecca Habina '15**. The father of the bride is Alumni Board member **Richard Moyer '74**.

Heidi Wasserman '73

reunited with her "Riderettes" at a 1973-74 reunion in La Quinta, Calif., with **Jamie November '73**, **Gail Klein '73** and **Debbie La Prino**.



Bill Fleming '79, **Lar Pernini '79** and **Ken Sheppard '79, '87**, who had not seen each other for decades, celebrated their 1981 AT&T Central New Jersey Men's Softball League championship together in April.



Husband **James Nobile '11** and wife **Dana (Nissen) Nobile '11, '16** welcomed their son, Nicholas Nobile, in November 2016. The Nobiles met during their first year at Rider and have been together ever since.

'50s

João Faustini '55 was named a fellow of The Hymn Society at the organization's annual conference in Waterloo, Ontario, on July 18. This award, the highest honor given by the organization, was conferred because of Faustini's work as a composer, publisher, translator, educator and practitioner of church music, particularly the music of his home country of Brazil.

Doug Smith '56 was inducted into the Western New York Baseball Hall of Fame in Buffalo, N.Y., for his dedication to reporting, announcing and statistic collecting over a career spanning nearly 70 years. Smith and his wife, Polly, recently moved to Cortland, where he announces basketball for the State College and baseball for the local wooden-bat collegiate-league team and recently performed in *Miracle on 34th St.*, adding to several stage credits from his Rider days.

'60s

Sanford Barth '64 recently went to China to help further develop its system of health-care delivery and financing. A retiring adjunct professor and the former head of the Health Policy Department at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, Barth started down his path

after transferring to Rider and receiving a degree in economics. Subsequently, he earned a master's in health policy, served as captain for several years with the U.S. Army Medical Service Corps and then earned a doctorate in health policy.

'70s

Michael Ivankovich '72 hosts the radio show "What's It Worth? Ask Mike the Appraiser" on WBCB 1490 AM, which was recently picked up by KEZW Cruisin 1420 AM in Denver, Colo. The show focuses on antiques, collectibles and general household contents.

Thomas Pergola '73 joined Sterling National Banks' commercial banking team as senior vice president and managing director. Pergola graduated from Rider with a bachelor's in business administration. He will aid in managing team sales and service efforts to grow and retain Sterling's valued client relationships.

Joanne Kerekes '74

announced her retirement from the South Brunswick School District as assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, after a career that spanned more than 40 years in public education. Kerekes has held positions as a staff developer, teacher, unit leader, project specialist and principal. She earned a bachelor's from

Rider and a master's from Rutgers University.

Mark V. Dennis '77 was honored by the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley at its annual Professional Advisors Breakfast. Dennis received his bachelor's in accounting from Rider and, shortly after, his CPA certification. Dennis partnered with Raymond Duncan at Duncan and Dennis until Duncan's retirement. Since then, Dennis serves clients independently and is an active member of the American Institute of CPAs.

Scott Krieger '78 began his three-year term as president of Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ on July 1. A certified public accountant, he earned a bachelor's in commerce from Rider. Krieger is also the immediate past president of the Jewish Community Foundation and a former United Jewish Appeal Campaign Chair. He is a 1996 recipient of the Julius and Bessie Cohn Young Leadership Award. Krieger lives in Livingston, N.J., with his wife, Robyn.



Sue Healy Lipay '79, **Phyllis Gordon Rifkin '79**, **Donna Civitella Doran '79**, **Sherri Strager Morris '78**, **Mary Fielding Csontos '79**, **Joyce Tobin Biggins '79**, **Debbie Gaier Sprung '81**, **Christine**

Decker Henry '80 and **Joanne Fitzgerald Naylor '79** have been friends for over forty years after meeting at Rider College in the late 1970s. All of them, with the exception of Healy Lipay, lived in Poyda for part or all of their time at Rider. Between them, there are 20 children and three grandchildren. They get together for brunch, weekend trips to New York, Washington, D.C., and Long Beach Island, and house parties. Last June, they all met on Bald Head Island off the coast of North Carolina for the start of their 60th birthday celebrations. The endless support they give and receive has helped them along the way and has made for exceptionally close friendships. They look forward to the next 40 years and have Rider to thank for introducing them!

'80s

Janice Vashon '81 was named Certified Peer Recovery Specialist of the Year by Parents Support Network of Rhode Island and the state Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Disabilities and Hospital. She holds a bachelor's in music education from Rider.

Alice (Buckley) De Lancey '81, **Patty (Lucasiewicz) Hodge '81**, **Donna Kaiser '81** and **Sue (Elliott) Crespin** recently gathered on Long Beach Island for a mini-reunion to catch up and reminisce. Each of them spent

— Valued at \$8,000 over four years —

RIDER ALUMNI LEGACY AWARDS



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When you pass on your Bronc spirit to your son or daughter, grandson or granddaughter, brother or sister, be sure to let us know!

We'll recognize your newest Rider-bound family member with a \$2,000 annual Legacy Award, renewable for up to four years of study.

Rider's Legacy Awards are open to full-time new undergraduates who are the children, grandchildren or siblings of Rider graduates.

For more about this award — and our Sibling Grant for families with two or more undergraduates attending Rider — contact the Office of Admission.



PHONE: 609-896-5042

EMAIL: admissions@rider.edu

WEBSITE: rider.edu/scholarships

their junior year abroad together in Madrid at the Universidad Complutense. De Lancey, Hodge and Kaiser recently returned together to Madrid and spent 10 days traveling throughout central and southern Spain as they did while Rider students. Fellow Rider alumna **Ellen Deboeser '81** also joined the mini-reunion.

Robert Murdock '81 was named the 2017 Alumni of the Year of Middlesex County College during the college's Celebration Day for contributions to the college, its Alumni Association or its foundation. After graduating from Middlesex County College, Murdock went on to earn his bachelor's from Rider. He is the founder and business manager of the band The British Invasion Years, formerly The British Invasion Tribute Band.

Stanley J. Koreyva Jr. '81 was named president of Amboy Bank in May. He joined Amboy in 1990 and was promoted to executive vice president and chief operating officer in 2008. Amboy Bank, a full service commercial bank with assets of \$2.4 billion and 22 offices in central New Jersey, has been voted Best Bank in Central Jersey for 19 years in a row. Koreyva earned a bachelor's in accounting from Rider and is a certified public accountant.

Tim O'Brien '81 was named vice president of the Chain Link Fence Manufacturers Institute, a leading organiza-

tion of chain link fence manufactures in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. He is currently district manager for Master Halco, Inc. He was previously vice president of sales for Specified Technologies Incorporated and product manager for Thomas and Betts, a global leader in wire and cable management.

Lt. Col. Joni Pentifallo '82 retired from the United States Air Force after 25 years of service. Pentifallo was the Mission Support Group Deputy Commander, 158th Mission Support Group, 158th Fighter Wing, Vermont Air National Guard. She currently works as a professional healthcare representative for Pfizer Pharmaceuticals and resides in Annapolis, Md.

Just Hartz '85 was the guest organist at Friends of Music at Guilford's ninth annual spring recital in the Organ Barn at Tree Frog Farm in Guilford, Vt. Hartz was educated at Westminster Choir College and The Julliard School. He has been an E. Power Biggs Fellow of The Organ Historical Society, and, since 1989, Hartz has been playing popular Christmas carol sing-alongs and recitals at Longwood Gardens in Kennet Square, Pa.

Dan Lowden '87 was appointed as chief marketing officer of Digital Shadows, a leader in the digital risk management industry. Lowden graduated from Rider with a bachelor's degree in finance. In his

new position, he will lead the company's strategic marketing efforts to expand its presence in the global market, develop new partnerships and continue to focus on customer needs.

John Golubieski '87, '95 was named chief financial officer of Axsome Therapeutics, Inc., a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company developing novel therapies for the management of central nervous system disorders. He earned his bachelor's in commerce and his MBA from Rider.

Michael F. Housel '87 authored *The Hyde Seed*, which was published by Airship 27. The Trenton native's novella is set in the world of professional prize fighting, in which an insightful cautionary tale about the duality of life and the struggles everyone faces is delivered.

Kevin Nerwinski '88 was appointed as Lawrence Township municipal manager, the top administrative post. Nerwinski, a Lawrence Township native who graduated from Rider and went on to law school, was chosen out of 28 applicants and looks forward to fulfilling the role of municipal manager.

'90s

Robert Maguire '94 and **Julia (Oliva) Maguire '95, '99** welcomed a baby boy,

Newsmaker



Secret agent

James Mount '95 had a recurring role in season six of 'Homeland'

By Adam Grybowski

Over six seasons, the cast of *Homeland*, which includes Claire Danes, Mandy Patinkin and F. Murray Abraham, has faced terrorism, espionage and mental illness. The unpredictable plots and intense conflicts helped make the Showtime series a popular and critical success and caused many white-knuckle moments for both the audiences and the actors.

Offscreen, however, the tension melts away. "The actors and the crew are the nicest, most pleasant people," says James Mount '95, who played Agent Thoms in *Homeland's* most recent season.

Mount, an actor who studied theater at Rider in the early 1990s, landed the role after securing a new agent, Danny Prather, the son of his mentor, Rider Associate Professor of Theatre Miriam Mills. After Prather climbed up the ranks in the New York agency scene, he opened his own agency and brought Mount on board while looking for talent to groom.

The partnership paid off, with Mount appearing this year on *Gotham* on Fox in addition to *Homeland* . He's now committed to a new drama about first responders that is currently in development. Such opportunities, he says, are humbling. "To be there was an honor, period," he says of working on *Homeland* . "It was a masterclass every day."

Even before his most recent accomplishments, Mount had built a successful, if eclectic, career — the fulfillment of a long-standing desire to act that was first ignited at Hightstown High School in New Jersey and then at Rider, where he entered as a freshman on a drama scholarship. A self-described "theater geek," he immersed himself in his program, acting in a wide range of productions at the University and cultivating relationships with faculty and students that continue to this day. In addition to Mills, Mount cites Professor of Theater Patrick Chmel as an especially influential mentor. "My teachers laid an amazing foundation for me," he says, "and I wouldn't be where I am without them."

After graduating, the reality of auditioning set in quickly, but over time, he steadily built a career. He had a recurring role on *All My Children* , performed supporting roles in television and film, and performed on stages across the country, maintaining an often grueling six-day schedule. That kind of success came with its own downside. "I wanted a family and a normal life, and when you decide that, life on the road becomes a serious challenge," says Mount, who now lives in West Orange, N.J., with his wife and their 2-year-old daughter.

He took a corporate job but didn't walk away from acting completely. He kept one foot in the business through voiceover work. Most notably, Mount helped create a character for *Red Dead Redemption* , a 2010 video game that is often cited as one of the best ever. This set in motion opportunities for additional voice and motion capture work with Rockstar Games properties like *L.A. Noire* , *Max Payne 3* and *Grand Theft Auto V* . The work provided him a lifeline to his resurgent career. Mount's *Homeland* character, who is the head of the secret service detail for the president-elect — a female — probably benefited from current events. "When Trump won the presidency, it shook up the writer's room," Mount says. "They pivoted and wrote amazing stuff, with the throughline of the season being the president at war with the intelligence community. Every year, the show seems to be ahead of the curve."

EVERY GIFT MAKES A

BIG

DIFFERENCE

WWW.RIDER.EDU/GIVE



Christian Thomas Maguire, on May 8. He joins big sisters Kiersten and Emily.

Laura Anderson Tracey '95 was recognized as George L. Catrambone Teacher of the Year by Long Branch Public Schools for her outstanding contributions and achievements as an educator. Tracey received her bachelor's from Rider and her master's from Monmouth University. She has been teaching language arts to Long Branch elementary students for 17 years and lives in Ocean Township, N.J., with her husband, Paul, and four sons.

Dr. Scott Schulze '95 joined Orthopaedic Associates of Southern Delaware, an 11-physician, multispecialty practice. Schulze is a board certified, fellowship-trained hand and upper extremity surgeon. Specializing in diseases and injury from the fingertip to the elbow, Schulze is the only fellowship hand and upper extremity surgeon offering wrist replacement surgery on the Eastern Shore. Schulze graduated from Rider with a biology degree and psychology minor.

Thomas Robbins '95, '99 was named to Northfield Savings Bank's Board of Trustees. He is corporator of NSB and a director of the Northfield Savings Bank Foundation. He earned undergraduate and graduate degrees from Rider. NSB was founded in Northfield, Vt., in 1867. It is the largest independent bank headquartered in Vermont.

NewsMaker



Wise counselor

Angela Cleveland '11 has earned state and national recognition for her work as a school counselor

By Adam Grybowski

Angela Cleveland '11 is going to need more wall space. A school counselor at the Auten Road Intermediate School in Hillsborough, N.J., since 2007, she holds a bachelor's degree, three master's degrees, including one from Rider, and many educational certifications. This year, Cleveland was named the New Jersey School Counselor of the Year. The award recognizes those who devote themselves to advocating for students and their lifelong success. That award will hang next to the 2016 Somerset County Counselor of the Year award and several others from places like Mercer County Community College and the Carrier Clinic.

In her free time, Cleveland writes and publishes therapeutic books for children and helps run ReigningIt, a publishing platform she co-founded that supports and inspires women who work in, or aspire to work in, STEM-related fields. More than 450 women have shared their stories on the organization's blog, creating a community of support.

The idea for ReigningIt sparked in 2015 while Cleveland was attending an event for a Clinton Foundation initiative called No Ceilings. She recalls a young African American woman sharing her experience of trying to forge ahead in a STEM field. "I realized how big of a problem this huge gender gap in technology is and that we as school counselors have the ability to change that in a K-12 setting," Cleveland says.

Without her experiences in Rider's organizational leadership graduate program, Cleveland says she may have lacked the confidence and courage to start ReigningIt. "It laid the foundation for so many things that I accomplished outside of education."

Cleveland has gained a reputation as being a proponent for student use of technology. A book lover who earned a bachelor's in English, she originally wanted to become a librarian. But as her career shifted and took shape, she opened her eyes to technology's irreversible march into the classroom. "I decided to embrace technology because I wanted to connect with students and make my job easier and more effective," she says.

Cleveland spreads awareness of the benefits of computer science to school counselors across the nation as a facilitator with Counselors for Computing, a division of the National Center for Women in Information Technology. Overall, her focus on technology stems from an observation that counselors help prepare students to live and work in a technology-rich world. However, she believes the core of a counselor's work centers on meeting the needs of students to help them achieve personal and professional success and, more broadly, to recognize, study and address the systemic issues that help and hinder them on the way.

Cleveland says she follows an iceberg model when working with students, meaning that what appears on the surface doesn't truly represent what's underneath. She avoids jumping to conclusions, always assuming a student's positive intention. It's a role she relishes, and she presents nationally and locally on behalf of her profession. Cleveland serves on the executive board of the New Jersey School Counselor Association and is also the organization's webmaster.

"I'm proud to be able to advocate for school counselors," she says. "We tend to be very humble and not get spotlighted, but we are responsible for reaching each and every student in the building and affect each one of them."

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Jon Kapell '98 received his Educational Doctorate in Leadership in Higher Education from the University of North Carolina Wilmington. Kapell received a master's from Rider, where he studied human services administration.

Stephen Evans '98 was hired as a private client investment advisor of Advisory Research Inc., a diversified investment firm with \$8.7 billion in assets. Prior to Advisory Research Inc., Evans held notable positions with U.S. Trust, Bank of America Private Wealth Management, Merrill Lynch, Paine Webber and Arlington Capital Mortgage. Evans earned a Master of Business Administration with distinction from Rider.

Barbara Brower '99 announced her intention to retire as principal of Fisher Middle School in Ewing Township, N.J. Prior to becoming principal in 2006, she was a teacher at the school for 31 years. Brower earned a bachelor's from West Chester University and a master's from Rider.

'00s

Amy C. McGarrity '00 was chosen out of a nationwide search as chief investment officer of the Colorado Public Employees' Retirement Association (PERA). PERA provides retirement and other benefits to public employees distributing \$3.7

billion in 2015. McGarrity has held investment positions in both private and public sectors. She earned a bachelor's degree in finance from the University of Wyoming and a Master of Business Administration from Rider.

Edward C. Fronczkiewicz '00 was admitted to the Bar of the U.S. Supreme Court as a member of the American Council of Engineering Companies' Legal Counsel Forum representing the state of Pennsylvania.

Pete Pfreundschuh '00 joined Sucampo, a global biopharmaceutical company, as chief financial officer. Pfreundschuh has over 25 years of progressive financial and business experience, including roles in commercial leadership and business development and licensing. He earned a bachelor's in accounting from Rutgers and a Master of Business Administration from Rider.

Lee Nittel '02 received a five-year contract to continue as superintendent of the preK-6 school district in Mine Hill, N.J. Nittel, who was hired in April 2015, earned a master's in educational administration from Rider.

Vincent Civitillo '05 and wife **Tara Civitillo (Maerling) '07** welcomed their daughter on July 21.

Susan Mograbi Mastroianni '07 and her husband welcomed a baby boy, Leonardo Piero Mastroianni, on March 27.

Arthur Katalayi '09 was included in the 2017 Most Influential People of African Descent global list. The list identifies 200 outstanding individuals that are under 40 years old in hopes of building a progressive network of civil society actors to join together and support the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent, 2015-2024, as proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution.

'10s

Joe Feola '10, '12 accepted a school counselor position at Stuyvesant High School in the New York City Department of Education. Feola presented a study at the second ALGBTIC Conference in San Antonio, Texas. He also spoke at the Columbia University Winter Roundtable about "Culturally Responsive Crisis Intervention and Social Justice Advocacy for Queer People of Color."

Angela Cleveland '11 was named the 2017 New Jersey School Counselor of the Year by the New Jersey School Counselors Association. Cleveland received her master's in organizational leadership from Rider.

Newsmaker



Keeping the 'us' in chorus

Alex Glover '12 has grown the choral program at a Florida high school from 10 to more than 300 students

By Anne Sears

Visitors to Alex Glover's classroom in Edgewater High School near Orlando, Fla., can't help but notice a large sign that says "There is no 'I' in chorus, but there is an 'us.'" It's a slogan that epitomizes Westminster Choir College's commitment to the role choral music plays in building community and Glover's approach to teaching.

"I try really hard to connect with students on their level," he says when asked about his approach to teaching. "By investing in them personally and individually, it makes them feel like someone cares."

Born in the Midwest, Glover first visited Florida as a member of the Westminster Choir during a winter tour, and he petitioned to do his student teaching there. After graduating with a degree in music education in 2012, he was offered a position teaching music and leading the choral program at Edgewater. Despite learning that only 10 students were singing in the chorus when he arrived, he accepted the challenge.

This fall, more than 300 students will sing in seven choirs under his direction: beginning men, beginning women, intermediate women, advanced women, mixed choir and jazz/a cappella group, as well as a new select Chamber choir this year. In addition to presenting concerts at the school, he's taken them on tours to New York (with a stop at Westminster), Charleston, Savannah, Atlanta and Chicago.

Earlier this year, Glover was recognized by Orlando's News 6 television station with its Getting Results Award. He was nominated by Kelly Lafferman, whose daughter, Ava, is his student. Lafferman says he is a positive influence who inspires his students and encourages self-confidence.

"Mr. Glover is just inspiring. He's funny, he's outgoing, the kids absolutely love him and they respond to him," she says. "I just really think he deserves this. Sometimes teachers don't get the recognition they deserve and they work really hard."

Mark Shanoff, Edgewater principal, says it's Glover's personality that sets him apart.

"I think he's real and I think the kids, especially high school kids, really know that and they relate to someone who's authentic and original," Shanoff says, and adds that the students naturally connect with him because of his passion.

That passion was on display the day News 6 anchor Matt Austin surprised him with a custom plaque and announced to the class he had won the award.

"This is what I love to do," Glover says. "If they (the students) weren't here, I couldn't do my job. They mean so much more to me than they'll ever understand."

Glover acknowledges the huge role Westminster played in his success as a teacher. "In the music education department, I was always pushed to consider every student who enters my room and how their unique self would influence my class that day," he says. "This mindset has allowed me to be open to every person, their mood, their abilities, and to focus on unifying these individuals to create a musically transformative experience."



Rider Women

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Kickoff event for the Rider Women's Giving Challenge. All new or increased gifts made by women or in honor of women will be matched — dollar for dollar — up to \$255,000.

October 28

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Holidays at Westminster

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Jillian Carucci '12 was one of 11 stage directors selected as a 2017 Directing Fellows of The Drama League Directors Project. Carucci will spend the next year as part of the award-winning program. Co-founder of Tunnel Theatre and member of the League of Independent Theater, she is currently developing a new play in residency at The Tank.

Patrick Crowthers '12 works for Virtua Hospital's Pediatric Early Intervention Program as a special education teacher and behaviorist. He earned a master's from Rider's College of Education and Human Services. Crowthers and his wife, Kelly, welcomed their newborn son, Hudson Thomas Crowthers, on Feb. 22.

Jennifer Sorensen '12 received a master's from Rutgers University and currently works for the Somerset County Department of Human Services coordinating a grant from the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, which includes community organizing, advocacy, education and program facilitation. She graduated from Rider with a bachelor's in history.

David Spadora '12 performed in the off-Broadway performance of *Marry Harry*. Spadora graduated with a bachelor's in fine arts and theatre and has appeared in more than 20 different productions since graduating.

Jason Kanterman '13 joined the law firm of Stone & Magnanini LLP in its Berkeley Heights, N.J., office as an associate. Kanterman received his bachelor's from Rider and his law degree from Rutgers Law School in Camden. His practice will focus on complex litigation including qui tam, whistleblower, white collar crime and various complex fraud work.

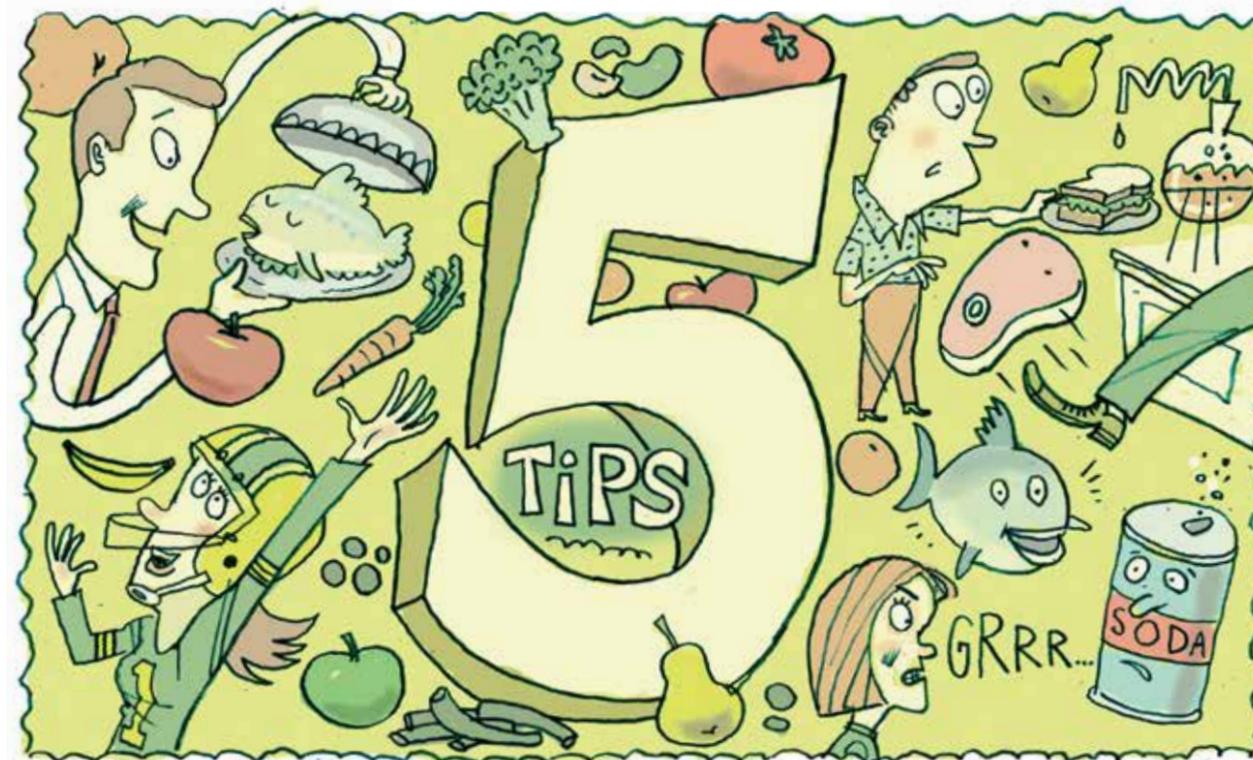
Lindsey Jarzyk '13, '16 was hired as a middle school counselor in the Delanco Township School District. Jarzyk volunteered in the spring of 2016 with New Jersey Association for College Admission Counseling to assist students and teachers in navigating the colleges and universities that attend the National College Fair of New Jersey. The experience allowed her to network with other counselors in New Jersey.

Allyson Coryell '14 became the new JV head coach for the Hightstown High School baseball team this spring. She is the first woman in Mercer County to ever head a scholastic baseball team.

Barbara Zukas '14 was hired as an elementary school counselor in Hamilton Township Public School District.

Eugene Marsh '14 received \$8,000 and training from the National Board for Certified Counselors to support his education and facilitate his service to underserved populations. Marsh is

Advice for alumni, from alumni



on eating healthy while dining out

Eat more fruits and vegetables

The trend of local, sustainable and organic ingredients in restaurants means the quality of vegetables is often dramatically better than it once was. Take advantage of this wonderful trend!

Eat less red and processed meat

Eat more chicken! Red meat is often thought of as a treat, but so many great chicken dishes are out there. At PJ's Pancake House, we make a Mediterranean Shakshuka (with onions, peppers, plum tomato sauce, spinach, poached eggs and

grilled chicken topped with Feta) that is so satisfying you won't miss passing on red meat.

Skip soft drinks and sugary foods

A soft drink is virtually a whole day's worth of added sugar. A great alternative to soft drinks, if you don't want to drink water, is iced tea with fresh lemon.

Eat healthy and sustainable seafood

The omega 3 fatty acids found in seafood lowers blood cholesterol and reduces the risk of heart disease. I lost close to 11 pounds

by focusing my diet on healthy fish like our rosemary marinated Branzino, which we serve with Mediterranean herbs, sea salt and sautéed escarole and beans.

Beware of processed foods with harmful chemicals

Our restaurants are sensitive to preparing food free of artificial preservatives, colors, sweeteners and flavors, and it's not impossible for others to be as well. With dietary needs on the rise, don't be ashamed to ask your server to customize a healthy simple dish. No restaurant should have an issue with this.



JOHN PROCACCINI '00 has operated the Gretalia Hospitality Group with brother **Tito '01** since 2012. Gretalia operates Dolceria, a gelateria and pastry shop; Porta Via, an Italian takeout and catering company; Osteria Procaccini and Trattoria Procaccini, both full-service restaurants; and the beloved Princeton, N.J., mainstay PJ's Pancake House, which has recently expanded to four new locations throughout the state. Each of Greta's restaurants aims to provide great food and great service, but Procaccini knows that doesn't have to come at the expense of one's health.

pursuing a master's at Rider in the clinical mental health counseling program.

Jenna Lorusso '14 was selected in a national search to be a vocal apprentice in the 2017 Nahant Music Festival. The apprenticeship included performing the role of Josephine in Gilbert and Sullivan's *H.M.S. Pinafore*. Lorusso received a bachelor's in voice performance from Westminster Choir College and a master's in voice performance from the University of Miami.

Mark Laseter '14 will be a choral scholar at the cathedral in Great Britain next season. Laseter, who sings with the professional chorus seraphic Fire, was a featured soloist at a May 21 performance with the Chattanooga Bach Choir at Christ Church Episcopal in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Nichole Hitchner '14 accepted a position as Career Advisor in Career Development Services at Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers, Fla.

Emma Rose Brooks '15 was cast as Sarah Brown in Milwaukee Repertory Theater's production of the Tony Award-winning musical *Guys and Dolls*. She was

previously in last season's *Man of La Mancha*, playing the role of Antonia. A Vermont native, she graduated with a bachelor's from Rider.

Rebecca Smith '15, '16 was hired by R&J Strategic Communications as an assistant account executive. Smith received her bachelor's and master's from Rider. She will be responsible for building and maintaining media relationships and industry research, among other tasks.

Sarah Palermo '15 received an Excellence in Diversity Award at Michigan State University, where she is a master's degree student in the College of Music. The award specifically recognizes a vocal solo from the original full-length musical *Crazy People Like Us*, words and music by Palermo in collaboration with Mary Bliden.

Cameron Cook '16 was accepted to four prestigious graduate schools to pursue his doctorate in French. Cook finished a year in France as a teaching assistant in June. He ultimately chose the University of Minnesota.

Laura Karns '16 accepted a school counselor position at Bradley Gardens Elementary School in the Bridgewater-Raritan school district in New Jersey.

UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS

Oct. 8
Field Hockey
Alumni Day

Oct. 28
Homecoming 2017

Nov. 4
Family Weekend/
Ultimate Frisbee
Alumni Game

Nov. 9-10
NJEA Convention

Nov. 20
Washington, D.C.,
regional event/men's
basketball vs. George
Washington University
Get-together and game

Dec. 2
Philadelphia regional
event/men's basketball
vs. Drexel University
Get-together and game

Jan. 20, 2018
Rider Baseball's
First Pitch Dinner

To register:
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From brewery tours to panel discussions, the BOLD program offers interesting activities for alumni who've graduated in the last decade.



RIDER.EDU/BOLD

For a letter from **Marci Gnant '00, '03**, president, Alumni Board of Directors and Alumni Association, visit www.rider.edu/ridermagazine.

In Memoriam

ALUMNI

Ruth Eddy Isler '36
Agnes Shipman Terleski '36
Carl E. Kurlander '39
George M. Brinsmaid '41
Magdalena Curcio Robotti '41
Lena Dantuono Tague '44
Catherine R. Verhaegen '45
Rachel Amato Scaccetti '46
Delphine Adamski Skiba '46
Margaret Good Loughrain '47
Alden H. Olsson '47
Sylvia Wool Saltzman '48
Julius B. Cohen '49
Angelo D. Giancarlo '49
David S. Hillsberg '49
William E. Kenney '49
Robert V. Rekemeyer '49
William H. Sopp '49
Francis J. Tomaino '49
Lewis E. Young '49
Lucille Stambaugh Zepp '49
Jean Bailey Akers '50
Raymond E. Goin '50
Julia Brechbill Wallsten '50
Anthony A. Zvirblys '50
William L. Burdsall '51
John A. Chirip '51

James N. Mellor '51
Violet Lysy Raczkowski '51
Mary E. Burns Reilly '51, '63
Cresenzo A. Signore '51
Phyllis Keller Wampler '51
Pamela Keeler Allen '53
LeRoi M. Banks '53
Virginia Maione Flick '53
Janice Jingoli Heyner '53
Robert W. Johnson '53
Mary Earl Borgerson '54
G. Robert Downer '54, '55
John V. D. Ellis Jr. '57
Anne Frehafer Wheatley '57
Robert L. Paradiso '58
Joel E. Perlmutter '58
Carlos H. VanOrden '58
James E. Higham '59
Roberta L. Hoagland '60
Joseph Kovacs '61
Frank A. Papera '61
Martin Schwartz '61
Rosemarie Falcone
Albanese '62
Joseph K. Aversano '62
Louis C. Kocsis Jr. '62
Thomas C. Mills Sr. '62
Rudolph J. Wenzel Jr. '62

Lucas J. Filippini '63
Raymond B. Spatola '63
Eileen P. Thornton '65
Vera F. Yunus '65
Gary L. Adams '66
Rodney G. Jurist '66
Leo R. Brown '67
Hugh M. Osborne '68
James R. Metzler '69
David E. Sautters '69
Mary P. Depuglio '70
Carol Shumny Hmieleski '72
Natale R. Conductor '73
Sandra L. Novick '73
Kurt R. Kalb '75
Mary R. Hobler '76
Thomas W. Martine '76
Raymond T. Gephart Jr. '77
Karen Strausberg Castor '79
Paul J. Honeiser '79
Meredith M. Martin '82
Robert J. Miranda '83
James M. Masingill '87
Kevin B. Summers '87
John T. Langeveld '89
Donald Cameron '92, '07
Cyrus M. Ellis '92, '95
Thomas J. Haggerty '93

Edward J. Yuncza '94
Elizabeth DeLucia
Pawelczak '95, '03
James C. Fine '06
James F. Wisniewski '09

FACULTY AND STAFF

John B. Carpenter
Diane C. Carter
Lindsey P. Christiansen
Evelyn M. Conover
Carolyn Muka
Joan Szabo

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS AND FRIENDS

Edward J. Bambach
Carletta E. Carothers
Henry L. Hillman
Jane Grosz Keller
Christine M. Wilson



HENRY L. HILLMAN

Henry Lea Hillman, a generous friend of Westminster Choir College and Rider University, died on April 14. He was 98. Hillman was the husband of the late Westminster Choir College alumna Elsie Hilliard Hillman '48. He contributed significant financial resources that enabled talented students to receive a Westminster education and serve the world through music. His legacy will endure through the lives of Westminster and Rider students.



JOEL PERLMUTTER '58

Joel Ellis Perlmutter '58, who owned and operated seven ShopRite stores in New Jersey, died on March 3 at age 80. His generous support of the University contributed to scholarships and other strategic priorities, including the creation of Kaplan Plaza outside of North Hall. He is survived by his wife, Lynn, their seven children and many grandchildren, and his brother, Michael '65.



ROSEMARIE A. ALBANESE '62

Rosemarie A. Albanese '62, a past president of the Rider Alumni Board of Directors, died on March 31. She received the 2014 Gordon E. Prichard Award of Volunteer Service from Rider for her dedication to the University. She coordinated many reunions and gatherings that brought together her Zeta Mu Epsilon Sorority sisters. She is survived by her husband, Donald, son Daren and his wife, and three grandchildren.

The problem with Atticus Finch

By John Modica '18 | Major: English literature

The heroes of our high-school reading lists help shape our national consciousness. For decades we have read and re-read *The Great Gatsby* to examine Jay Gatsby's enterprise and devotion; *Catcher in the Rye* for Holden's individuality and need for authenticity; *Huckleberry Finn* for Huck's scrappiness and innocence. These characters strike something in us, and speak to who we are and want to be.

So what happens when we find out one of our most widely adored heroes is not who we think he is? What is lost, or gained? How does our response measure our own willingness to grow?

I set out to explore these questions in my independent research on Harper Lee's *Go Set a Watchman*. The highly anticipated sequel to *To Kill a Mockingbird* repositioned lawyer-hero Atticus Finch as a neurotic white supremacist. Atticus's obstruction of federal integration efforts skews far from the famous image of Gregory Peck (who played Finch in the 1962 film), fatherly and noble, defending a disabled black man from allegations of raping a white woman.

Mockingbird fans (like myself) bought *Watchman* in droves, making it 2015's best-selling book and one of the biggest releases in literary history. But its quick sales were matched by widespread rejection and outrage. *Watchman* was wiped clean from public discourse, academic interest and potential spots on curriculums

and syllabi before the end of the year. I found it hard to believe that the novel's understated literary quality or the controversy surrounding its publication (whether Lee was in sound mind when it was decided *Watchman* would be published) contributed to this massive fallout. I believe the reason is much more personal: a threat to Atticus Finch is a



threat to an entire readership's sense of doing right.

Way before *Watchman*, in 1992, Hofstra law professor Monroe Freedman declared that Atticus was a poor role model for aspiring lawyers. Freedman drew attention to Finch's passivity towards injustice in his day-to-day life: after all, in *Mockingbird*, Finch hopes that black citizens do not

demand equality during his children's lifetimes; remains idle on segregation despite being an influential lawyer and member of the state legislature; and admits to avoiding cases like Tom's (he only accepts Robinson's case, many forget, because Judge Taylor makes him). This attack on Finch's moral eminence prompted a wave of backlash.

Such an example demonstrates how admiration for Atticus's better qualities replaced questions of any possible flaw. When the problematics of Atticus Finch were laid bare by none other than his creator, this behavior repeated itself. *Watchman* was rejected while *Mockingbird* continued to be taught across America. If Atticus is preserved as a perfect exam-

ple of righteousness, it protects readers from having to face the possibility that maybe they, too, abet rather than combat racism.

We must accept that the Atticus Finch Lee gives us in *Mockingbird* is the same Atticus she gives us in *Watchman*. Finch does nothing in *Mockingbird* to make us believe he is not the same man who reviles the NAACP and the prospect of integrated schools. A privileged white attorney, he gives Tom Robinson a fair representation in court, but that sense of fairness — that all should be equal in the eyes of the law — never translates into justice. The maintenance of the law is far from challenging Maycomb's racial hierarchy. In fact, he declares the courts are a "great leveler" while all the black spectators at Tom Robinson's trial watch from a segregated balcony.

In reading *Watchman* as a restoration of Lee's original Atticus — fair but flawed — I hope to make the case for its consideration alongside *Mockingbird*. We should not abandon Atticus Finch, but instead use him as an example (between both novels) to illustrate the difference between fairness and justice, the subtleties of racism and ultimately how to handle the flaws of the ones we love. Accepting this unified version forces us, as well, to acknowledge our flaws in the pursuit of justice, and that we, alongside Atticus, are still coming into our own.

Illustration by James Yang

HOMECOMING 1865 '17

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