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# RIDER

a magazine for alumni and friends

Spring 2018

## OUR DIGITAL LIVES

Dr. John Suler's  
unparalleled insight  
into how we behave online



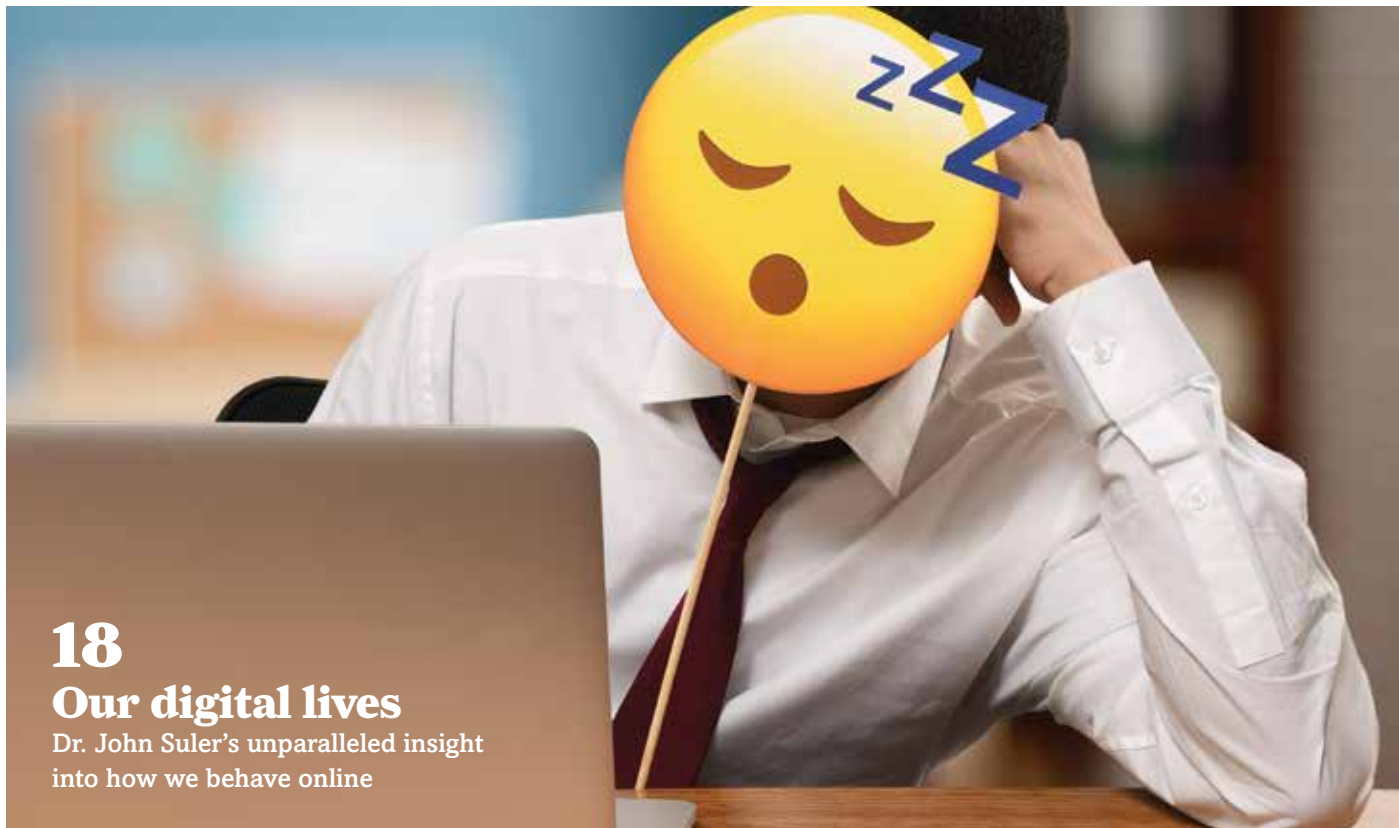




## In rainbows

A 5K color run/walk that took place in the fall required only one thing of participants: to finish covered in a rainbow of color. The fun event helped kick off the University's first Homecoming event in 13 years.

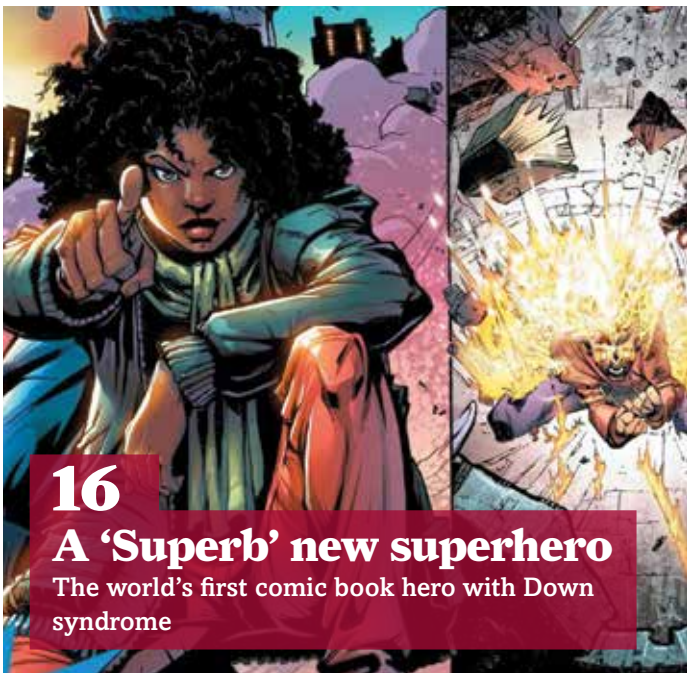
# Spring 2018



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Dr. John Suler's unparalleled insight into how we behave online



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# RIDER

Volume 19 / Issue 2

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## Dear alumni and friends,

2018 HAS SIGNIFIED A TIME OF CHANGE AT RIDER, HIGHLIGHTED BY THE LAUNCH OF A VARIETY OF INITIATIVES OUTLINED IN OUR NEW STRATEGIC PLAN AND CAMPUS FACILITIES MASTER PLAN.

One of the most visibly dramatic changes coming to our campus will begin this summer when we revamp the Bart Luedeke Center. The original concrete steps will be removed entirely and replaced with a modern plaza, new lobby and entrance on the ground floor. At the same time, we'll start renovations to several residence halls, which will be revitalized with modernized bathrooms, air conditioning and power upgrades.

Academic buildings will also receive significant upgrades this year. Due to the growth in science-related majors, more than 8,000-square-feet of the Science and Technology Center will be remodeled into eight new science-focused instructional spaces, including new equipment and facilities. Anne Brossman Sweigart Hall will receive an upgrade to its classrooms, offices and common areas.

The campus renovations represent mere stepping stones on our path to strengthening Rider's commitment to students. We know that by improving their living and learning environment, students' academic and personal growth will continue to flourish, preparing them to contribute meaningfully to the changing world in which they live and work.

I also want to share some sad news with you. Dean Emeritus

Walter A. Brower '48, a chronicler of Rider history who made an indelible mark on the institution he cherished as a student, professor and dean, passed away on Feb. 3. He was 91.

Brower's association with Rider lasted more than 60 years. He earned a reputation as a historian of the University, the result of two books that told the story of Rider from its founding through 1994.

You can help honor Walt's memory by making a gift to the Walter A. Brower '48 Memorial Scholarship Fund. Donations may be sent to University Advancement, Library-137, Rider University, 2083 Lawrenceville Road, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648-3099.

Walt was one of the University's closest friends, and his compassion, wisdom and dedication to his alma mater benefited Rider for decades. It has often been said that Walt was the epitome of Rider. That legacy will live on through his work and in the fond memories of all who knew him.

Sincerely,

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



## Homecoming revival

Hundreds of alumni, students, faculty and staff celebrated their cranberry connection on Oct. 28, 2017, at the University's first Homecoming since 2004. The revival of this Rider tradition gave alumni another fun reason to return to Lawrenceville and reconnect with their alma mater.

## Newly engaged

Students in the Class of 2021 are the first to experience the new fully implemented Engaged Learning Program. As part of the program, all new students are required to complete at least two high-impact engaged learning experiences to satisfy their graduation requirements, which will be documented on an Engaged Learning Transcript, a companion to the traditional academic transcript. This fall, the program's implementation coincided with a spike in student participation around campus.

## Sisterhood

Rider's 150-year legacy of advancing women's education entered a new phase in the fall with the start of the Rider Women's Giving Challenge. **Joan Mazzotti**

'72, a former chair of Rider's Board of Trustees, is leading a giving team that pledged to match — dollar for dollar — up to \$255,000 of all new or increased gifts made by or in honor of women, potentially resulting in an additional \$510,000 in support of current and future students.



## Historic diversity

In the fall, Rider welcomed more than 1,000 new freshmen to campus. The Class of 2021 is not only one of the largest in recent history, it is also the most diverse.

# 45%

Underrepresented racial minorities

**28**  
States

**16**  
Countries

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**College of Education and Human Services**


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## Raising the Barr

In the spring, **Dr. Jason Barr** joined the College of Education and Human Services as its new associate dean. Barr will help support and expand education programs, manage grant opportunities and maintain accreditation requirements. He will also oversee existing grants and work with faculty to find federal, state, corporate and foundation funding to support their research interests and engage more students in collaborative research.

## State approved

All teacher education programs were reappraised as part of the new New Jersey State Program Approval Process. The core of this in-depth compliance audit included an examination of each and every course offered in the College of Education and Human Services' teacher preparation programs — undergraduate and post-baccalaureate. Field placements were monitored to be sure they contain the number of hours mandated by regulation, and quality of procedures associated with teacher preparation was rated.



## Playtime

**Dr. Yi-Ju Cheng**, an assistant professor in the Department of Graduate Education, Leadership, and Counseling, joined Rider in the fall. A registered play therapist, Cheng has enabled Rider to add play therapy as an area of specialization for counseling students. She is already working with neighboring districts to bring play therapy opportunities to families.

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**College of Continuing Studies**


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## Into the fray

An arts group called Frontline Arts visited Rider in November 2017 and helped the University community transform military uniforms into handcrafted paper as part of a series of Veterans Day events at Rider. The project helps veterans deconstruct their uniforms and turn their associations into something new and inspirational.

## 1 in 5,000

**Antonia James**, a senior majoring in leadership and management originally from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, was chosen from a pool of 5,000 applicants from 49 countries to attend the X-Culture Symposium 2017 in Miami. James, a recipient of the Charlotte W. Newcombe Scholarship for second career women, who owns an event decorating business startup, plans to continue at Rider for a master's once she earns a bachelor's this spring.

## Capital city innovator

Recognized for the impact he and his firm have made in and around Trenton, N.J., Hibbert Group CEO **Tim Moonan '95** was named Innovator of the Year by the Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce at its annual Business Leadership Awards Gala. Moonan attended Rider as an adult with a full-time job and a family.

## College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

## Fake news

Author and *Newsweek* columnist Kevin Maney delivered a talk on the topic of fake news on Nov. 14, 2017. His appearance came on the heels of a dynamic conversation led by graduate students studying business communication. These events were part of the Business of Media initiative sponsored by **Rob Hagedorn '81** to educate the community about media as a business.



## On safari

Last spring, several students studied the behavior of seals, buffalo and tigers at the 350-acre animal preserve at Six Flags Great Adventure & Safari — part of a new pilot program between the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the amusement park. The independent research projects provided invaluable learning experiences for the students, including **Tiffany Girado**, a senior marine sciences major, as they prepare for careers after college.

## Growing new programs

In the last two years alone, undergraduate programs offered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences were established in computer science, organizational psychology, health sciences and sports media. More than 200 students enrolled in these programs by fall 2017, and the College is currently recruiting four tenure-track faculty members to begin in the fall to support the growth of these programs.

## College of Business Administration

## Teen entrepreneur

A group of 10 high school entrepreneurs showcased their business ideas in front of a panel of three executive-level judges in the *Shark Tank*-esque Norm Brodsky Idea/Business Concept Competition at Rider University on Jan. 17.

**Aniruddha Srinivasan**, a senior from Metuchen High School, was awarded a full four-year scholarship to Rider for his business idea — a tourism app designed to knock down cultural barriers by connecting tourists and local residents.



## Fame and fortune

Four alumni were selected as the inaugural class of the College of Business Administration's new Hall of Fame. **James P. Bush '80** of American Express; **Howard Cohen '71** of Wells Fargo's New Jersey Middle Market Banking Group; **Patricia A. Hartpence '78, '86** of NJM Insurance Group; and **Vincent J. Milano '85** of Idera will be honored during an induction ceremony on May 3.

# TOP 5

## Best colleges for marketing majors in New Jersey

Based on career results, marketing emphasis and school performance, the College of Business Administration was recently ranked as one of the top five best colleges for marketing majors in New Jersey by Zippia, a career search website. The recognition came on the heels of a recently revised marketing curriculum to keep students at the forefront of current marketing practices.



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**School of Fine and Performing Arts**


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## Top honors

Three Rider musical theatre students took home top honors at the recent Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. Junior **Abeba Isaac** and senior **Nick Ziobro** took first place in the Musical Theatre Initiative competition while junior **Gabrielle Bazinet** won the stage management competition.

## Beyond boundaries

**Justin Burton**, an assistant professor who teaches in the popular music studies program, published his first book, *Posthuman Rap* (Oxford University Press), in October 2017. The book examines how some contemporary rap artists — from Nicki Minaj to Future to Rae Sremmurd — are exploding the traditional boundaries of what it means to be human.



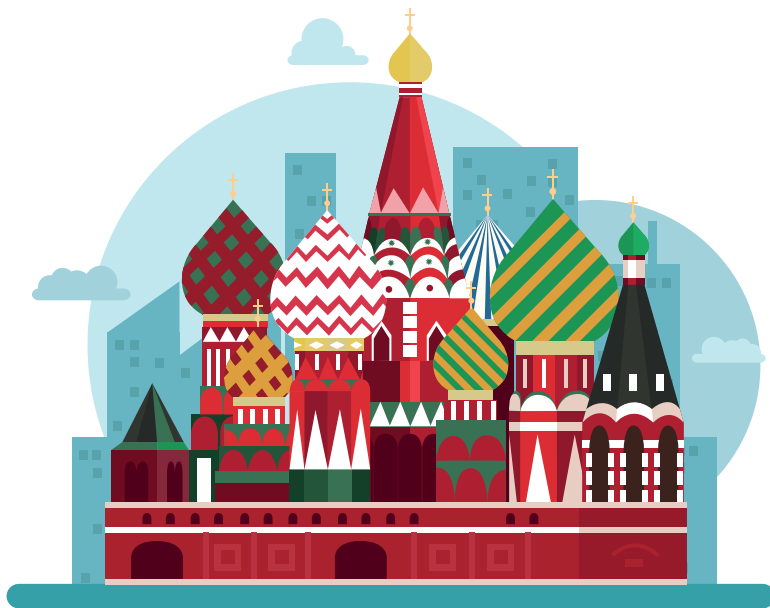
## Dance, dance, dance

A new dance studio opened in the Bart Luedeke Center in the fall, benefiting more than 20 dance majors and 140 musical theater majors. The 2,200 square foot studio features an open dance room that accommodates around 20 people, an office for faculty, a lobby with lockers, two individual rehearsal spaces for voice students and more.

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**Westminster Choir College**


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## Russia premiere

Senior **John Franek**'s work *Mitbridates* was a winner of a composition competition held by the Siberian State Symphony Orchestra. It was premiered by the Orchestra in Krasnoyarsk Philharmonic Hall in Russia in November 2017.

## 'Adventures' in India

Piano Professor **Phyllis Alpert Lehrer** participated in MusiQuest, a national piano festival in Pune, India, in November 2017. During the five-day event, she was an adjudicator for pianists participating in auditions/competitions, presented a lecture-recital titled "Adventures in Contemporary Music and Classics Too!" and performed in a recital featuring a work of Westminster student-composer **John Franek**.

## New online master's

All courses for a new master's degree in sacred music that emphasizes practical pedagogy will be offered online, except for one three-week summer experience either on the Westminster campus in Princeton or at Westminster's summer Choral Institute at Oxford in Oxford, England.



## Dr. Tim Brent

### VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF POPULAR MUSIC STUDIES

Music has always been a focal point of Tim Brent's life. His childhood home in Lakewood, Ohio, was filled with the sounds of his father playing the piano and the songs of The Beatles and The Jackson 5 on the record player. He recalls taking piano lessons at 4 years old, singing in a barbershop quartet and giving vocal lessons to young musicians in his early days. Teaching music was a natural fit for the visiting assistant professor of popular music studies at Rider.

Brent has shaped his career to become a vocal jazz educator, pianist and arranger, and he has performed with artists such as Bobby McFerrin, Mel Tormé, Ingrid Jensen, Dick Oatts and Latin Grammy award-winner Obie Bermudez. Music ensembles under his direction have won three *Downbeat Magazine* Student Music Awards. In early 2017, he also released his debut album, *On the Sunny Side*. Brent, who considers himself a jazz singer and pianist, brought a Latin influence to the album, which reinterprets the styles of some of jazz's top artists, such as Nat King Cole and Mel Tormé.

As a visiting professor in his second year, he's been challenged to bring his extensive experience in jazz and popular music to help elevate certain aspects of Rider's popular music studies program. With the help of his colleagues in the popular music program, two new tracks within the program were established in January — popular music performance and songwriting. Brent also created two new jazz/pop vocal performing ensembles for Rider students — Vox Blue and Vox Blue Too. Their repertoires range from Stevie Wonder to the Beatles to classic jazz artists.

### How did you first get into music?

I was exposed to music very early on. My dad is musical, not professionally, but he played the piano for many years. My mom loves to sing. She has a twin brother and he'd play the guitar while they'd sing folk rock songs in the '60s. As a kid, I just fell in love with the sound of the piano and singing. In middle school, I got involved in my choir and the jazz band. I was very lucky in high school that we had a pretty robust music program. I was able to get such a diverse vocal experience in high school.

### When did you decide to pursue music as a career?

During my sophomore year of high school, I started thinking about what I might want to do with my career and college. Music was an obvious choice, but I had other interests too. I was really interested in marine science. I mentioned it to one of my music mentors in high school and he said, "No, you wouldn't do that, you'll obviously do music. I'm sure you're passionate about other things, but what consumes you? What do you eat, sleep and breathe? How can you see your life going in any other direction?"

I said, "Well, it's kind of scary being a musician. Isn't it?" And he said, "Yeah, but not when you're as passionate as you are. You're going to pursue it with everything that you have and you have talent. Why would you not do something that seems so akin to who you are?"

### What do you love most about jazz music?

I love how it allows so much opportunity for improvisation and for the artist to express and interpret music in unique ways.

### Who are some of your biggest musical influences?

Some include Gene Puerling, Wynton Kelly, Oscar Peterson, Jon Hendricks, James Taylor, Billy Joel and Count Basie.

### How do you incorporate jazz into your teaching within the popular music program?

Jazz music is the nucleus from which all of our American popular music comes. The musical elements of harmony, melody, improvisation and theory are incorporated in all of the popular music classes I teach. When we first begin to study jazz music,

**"I TEACH because there is no greater joy than to help students realize their true potential and encourage them to contribute to society in positive ways with their gifts."**

By Rachel Stengel '14  
Photos by Peter G. Borg

students typically respond positively because they can appreciate the artistry demonstrated by the iconic performers to which they are exposed.

### What would you say to those who believe you cannot make a viable career out of music?

There are a multitude of careers in the music industry. Some may be performance-centered, but many career opportunities exist as producers, writers and music directors for film, television, etc. I encourage my students to be as diversified as possible so they will have as many opportunities as possible once they graduate.

### Free online music streaming is typically cast in a negative way for artists, but are there positives about it for musicians?

Streaming services have been a challenge for performing artists trying to profit from the sale of their music. The royalties earned are a fraction of what the artist can earn when they sell their music either in physical form or in digital form. The benefit of streaming services is that it can allow artists to get exposure to a large audience that they may not reach otherwise.

### What's in your office, professor?



#### 1993 Downbeat Magazine Student Music Award

It was for a group I was a part of in high school. I display this proudly on the wall of my office because it reminds and inspires me every day about where I come from and why I do what I do.



#### Mementos from my travels with my wife

These icons are a constant reminder of the love of my life and some of the memories we share.



#### Framed picture of me being carried above an adoring crowd

It is a constant reminder to me to bring fun, joy and excitement into my teaching on a daily basis, and to never just go through the motions.

# Model Athlete

BALANCING LIFE AS A TRACK AND FIELD STAR AND A HIGH-FASHION MODEL

By Rachel Stengel '14

Sara Gardner's closet is packed with leggings, sweatshirts and sneakers, the staples of any student-athlete's wardrobe. However, a variety of finely tailored dresses and artfully sculpted ballgowns peek out among the collection of compression tights. These high-end designer pieces are just a perk of the job for Gardner, a model represented by one of New York City's top modeling agencies, Red Model Management.

"I do get to take some things home, but they're unrealistic pieces to wear every day," she says with a sly smile creeping across her face. "I have this huge black tulle Alexander McQueen gown. It's beautiful, but I don't know when I'll ever wear it."

When she's not breaking Rider records in hurdling — she owns the program's best 60-meter and 100-meter times — the 5-foot-11 lithe blonde can be seen strutting the catwalks of New York Fashion Week or posing in sky-high heels for editorial ads. Her favorite professional experience so far

has been modeling on TV's *Project Runway*. Each week, models are paired with up-and-coming designers who are challenged to create a new outfit, at times made out of unconventional materials.

"There was a challenge where the designers had to make an outfit out of medical supplies," Gardner says. "My designer used a breathing tube to make a skirt, but it started falling apart a bit backstage before I had to walk. I will never forget [the show's host] Tim Gunn running toward me with Gorilla Glue trying to help me fix my skirt."

**"I was reading *Seventeen* magazine and I wanted to be in that world."**

Gardner has worked in the fashion industry for nearly a decade, first signing with an agency at 14 years old. Aside from the perceived allure of the industry, Gardner's interest in modeling was propelled by a more ordinary desire — to pay for college.

"I was reading *Seventeen* magazine and I wanted to be in that world," she says. "I finally nagged my mom enough times that she took me to an open call audition."

Frequently, the senior communications major's inbox contains a smattering of emails about modeling gigs throughout the world. Choosing the right ones can be challenging while being a full-time student and athlete.

"If I focus on track, then modeling kind of goes downhill. If I focus on modeling, then I don't have time for track," she says. "Occasionally, I'll do a job during the school year, but when I'm at school, it has to be about school and track. My parents have instilled that in me."

For now, track and schoolwork will remain Gardner's priority. Next year, she will begin pursuing her master's in business communication at Rider and will continue to compete with the track and field team. As for what comes after Rider, that's another hurdle she'll have to face.

"My coach would love to see me go pro in track. Part of me wants to graduate and go into public relations or human resources, but the other half of me thinks I'll go model full time," she says. "I don't really know yet. With time, my path will lay itself out."

Photo by Peter G. Borg



# KINGS OF THE COURT



# THIS SEASON THE BRONCS EARNED THE TOP SEED IN THE MAAC TOURNAMENT AND AN AUTOMATIC BERTH IN THE NIT

By Adam Grybowski

The men's basketball team returned for the 2017-18 season with just five players who saw action in a game in the previous season. With so few experienced players on the court, the coaches of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) projected the Broncos to finish seventh.

Come February, redshirt freshman **Dimencio Vaughn** was one of several Broncos taking his turn cutting down the net in Alumni Gym. Surpassing all expectations, the team finished with a share of the MAAC title and the right to enter the MAAC Tournament as the top seed.

Redshirt freshman forward **Frederick Scott** was named

MAAC 6th Player of the Year, Head Coach **Kevin Baggett** earned his second MAAC Coach of the Year and the team overall had a league-high four players selected to the All-MAAC Teams, including Vaughn (1st Team), **Stevie Jordan** (2nd Team), Scott (3rd Team) and **Jordan Allen** (3rd Team, All-Rookie Team).

Rider's 22 wins were one away from the program record of 23, established in 2007-08 and matched in 2010-11 (both 23-11 campaigns). After falling in the MAAC quarterfinals, Rider made its second appearance in the NIT and its first in 20 years.

## DEC. 22

Redshirt freshman Frederick Scott's buzzer-beating, game-winning three-pointer stuns Penn State, giving the Broncos a 71-70 over Nittany Lions.

## FEB. 10

The Broncos go on a tear in the final six minutes to erase a 21-point deficit by outscoring Marist 28-4. The come-from-behind victory against Marist extends the Broncos' winning streak to eight.

## FEB. 18

The Broncos edge Canisius 83-82 in their 10th-straight win, giving them sole possession of first place in the MAAC. The following day, redshirt freshman Dimencio Vaughn is named MAAC Player of the Week for the second week in a row.

## FEB. 25

A win over Iona clinches a share of the MAAC Regular Season Championship and the top seed in the MAAC Tournament. The MAAC Regular Season Championship is the Broncos' fourth in 21 years in the league and just the second time Rider has taken the No. 1 seed in the MAAC Tournament.



# *A Whole New Ballgame*

A.J. MOORE ON SPORTS AND MEDIA

## A big bet

MAINSTREAM SPORTS MAY FINALLY ACKNOWLEDGE ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH GAMBLING

By A.J. Moore

What comes next?

This is a popular question among those who analyze the sports media.

Increases in livestreaming, viewer control of camera angles and 4D viewing are common answers. When any of this becomes widely available is unknown. Sorry for not providing more definitive information, but when it comes to new media innovations, they all tend to be “in about five years.”

However, I can provide certainty about something big on the sports media horizon. As a matter of fact, it's happening now. The mainstream sports media will finally acknowledge its relationship with gambling instead of perpetuating the mystery behind its shadowy, seductive mistress.

Look for the leagues and networks in 2018 to go Facebook Official with gambling.

The U.S. Supreme Court is currently addressing the issue, and ahead of the decision, Congress and many state governments are prepping for widespread legalized sports gambling. The widespread release of gambling-centric programming could help boost interest in a number of media outlets and sports franchises that are losing eyeballs in an increasingly fragmented marketplace.

Like it or not traditionalists, gambling has always been the wizard behind the scenes driving a lot of interest, ratings and advertising dollars. Soon, the curtain will be pulled back and gambling will no longer be a taboo subject.

**The fact that mainstream sports outlets (and the leagues) hid their symbiotic relationship with gambling was a major hypocrisy.**



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

For a long time, you needed to understand the codewords once used by Al Michaels and Brent Musburger during their telecasts. Sportscasters will no longer need to make opaque references to the significance of a late-game field goal that changes the score differential from 20 to 23.

ESPN's Scott Van Pelt is already at the forefront of mixing gambling talk into his normal analysis. Now he is unique, but soon there will be many. Former players and coaches who have slowly turned into fantasy sports (a form of gambling) experts next will provide insight into parlays, teasers and over/unders. Such detailed talk about gambling from reputable sports media figures was unfathomable not that long ago.

The fact that mainstream sports outlets (and the leagues) hid their symbiotic relationship with gambling was a major hypocrisy. The NCAA, which has bankrolled the court cases about legalized gambling because it feels it will hurt the integrity of the game, regularly turns a massive profit from March Madness and a litany of bowl games played before sparse crowds on Tuesday nights.

Who do you think is most interested in watching Marshall play Colorado State in the New Mexico Bowl?

The leagues benefit from providing inventory for the networks that then satisfy those with gambling on their minds. Nonetheless, those leagues then publicly denounce gambling and the networks such as ESPN tread lightly on the subject not to anger their partners. Likely this summer the charade will end and the leagues and networks will embrace gambling.

Coming soon to an arena near you — a handheld device at the seat that allows fans to wager on the game without leaving their seats. Fans are happy and teams have a new source of revenue.

All of this could have come sooner, but the major sports leagues were unsure of how they could monetize legalized gambling so they put resistance for New Jersey's longstanding crusade to bringing gambling to the state.

Those hurdles are being addressed and the answer to what comes next will soon be here.

If you don't think there will be major changes in the sports media because of legalized gambling, then I have one question for you: Wanna bet?





# Bronc Bits



**Lena Vandam** of field hockey earned MAAC Co-Goalkeeper of the Year and MAAC All-Tournament Team as a freshman.



**Veronica Koval** earned All-ECAC and All-MAAC Second Team and set the volleyball program career assists record.



**Chad Walsh** of wrestling, a two-time All-American, finished his career as Rider's all-time leader in pins (39).



**Kamila Hoskova** scored her 1,000th career point, becoming the 22nd player in Rider women's basketball history to achieve the feat.



**Jose Aguinaga** became Rider's sixth men's soccer All-American and was selected in the MLS SuperDraft by the New York Red Bulls.



## Dynasty

The Rider University men's swimming and diving team captured its seventh straight Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Championship on Feb. 17. On top of extending their dynasty, the Broncos set eight new MAAC Championship records during the four-day event, Feb. 14-17, at the Burt Flickinger Athletic Center at Erie Community College.

**Steve Fletcher** was named MAAC Men's Swimming Coach of the Year and senior **Zack Molloy** capped a stellar career at the MAAC Championships by being named the MAAC Men's Most Outstanding Swimmer of the Meet for the third straight year. Molloy wasn't the only Bronc to bring home a major award as freshman **Dillon Walles** was honored as the Men's Rookie Diver of the Meet.

# A SUPERB

## NEW SUPERHERO

Introduction by Adam Grybowski | Annotations by Dr. Sheena Howard

Last July, Dr. Sheena Howard, an assistant professor in Rider's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, received credit as the co-writer of *Superb*, the first comic book series ever to feature a superhero with Down syndrome.

*Superb*, co-written with David F. Walker, tells the story of a group of teenagers emerging with superpowers following a meteor shower. Childhood friends Kayla Tate and Jonah Watkins are at the center of the story, which opens on a school bus and a confrontation that immediately drops the reader into the world of the comic.

For *Rider* magazine, Howard agreed to annotate the first page of *Superb*, showing what motivated her and Walker to make the decisions they made while introducing these unique characters to the comic book world.

This panel sets the stage for the entire story by letting the reader know we are in a world that has been significantly changed by The Event — the story catalyst that changes everything about Jonah and Kayla's life.

We wanted to immediately establish the role that technology would play in the story and also show that Cosmosis (Jonah) had an online presence, even though his real identity is not yet known. This panel connects to the young adult audience the story is geared toward and it also plays on the element of trusting online content. It establishes the dynamic of questioning whether something online is real or fake, which is pivotal to our online usage today.

It was critical to create a story dynamic where people have differing opinions about these super-enhanced teenagers. This panel also shows the reader that one of the main superheroes is modeling a comic book character, which is pivotal to the story.



Youngstown, Ohio, a Level-5 Impact Zone.

One year after The Event.



DON'T WORRY...

WHAT DO YOU SAY,

YOU'VE ALWAYS GOT YOUR NOSE BURIED IN THOSE COMICS.

...I CAN SAVE YOU!

DUDE, THERE'S NO WAY THIS IS REAL. IT'S A... WHATTAYA-CALLIT...

...A HOAX. THAT'S WHAT IT IS-- A HOAX.

NO, DUDE, MY UNCLE IS A COP, HE SAYS THIS FREAK IS REAL.

HE'S BEEN RUNNING AROUND FOR MONTHS-- SAVING CATS FROM TREES, BEATING UP MUGGERS.

WHAT KIND OF MORON DRESSES UP LIKE A COMIC BOOK HERO?

DU ANNA? DON'T IT ON BUS...

I DON'T KNOW...

HE'S ENHANCED, LIKE ALL THE OTHERS. JUST DECIDED TO TAKE IT ONE STEP FURTHER.

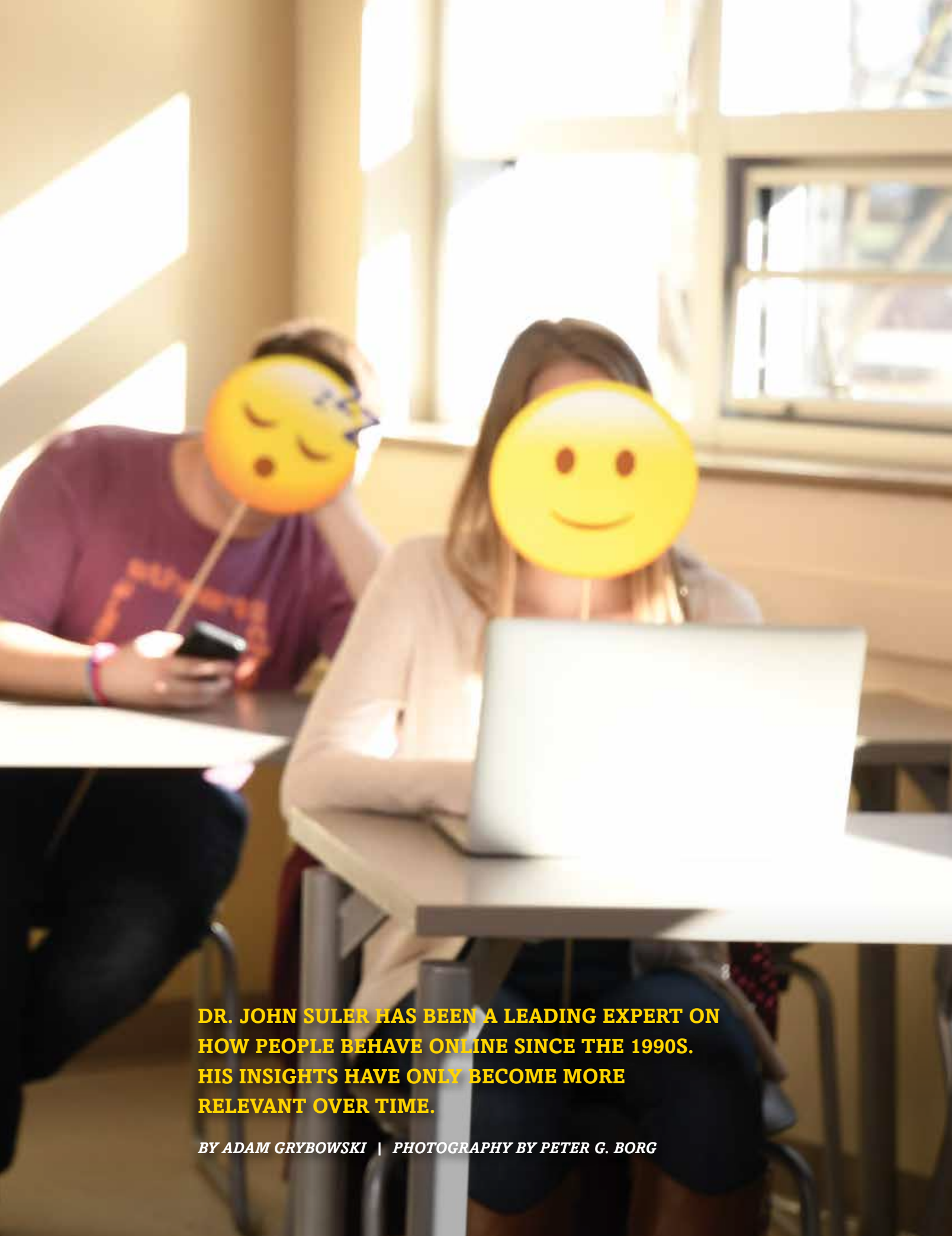
MAYBE. I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I THINK...



# OUR DIGITAL LIVES



**RIDER**  
University



**DR. JOHN SULER HAS BEEN A LEADING EXPERT ON HOW PEOPLE BEHAVE ONLINE SINCE THE 1990S. HIS INSIGHTS HAVE ONLY BECOME MORE RELEVANT OVER TIME.**

*BY ADAM GRYBOWSKI | PHOTOGRAPHY BY PETER G. BORG*

**I**n the mid-1990s, a new game called “The Palace” was released on the internet. A forerunner to virtual worlds like “The Sims” and “Second Life,” it invited users to create avatars and navigate an imaginary mansion and interact with each other through on-screen, cartoon-like speech bubbles. Crude by today’s standards, the interface and graphical imagery of “The Palace” were novel and even sophisticated for those accustomed to text-only chat rooms.

Upon its release, a psychology professor with a strong interest in imagery and visual design named Dr. John Suler downloaded the program and began tinkering with it. “I was fascinated,” he recalls. “It was pitched as a game but the players spent their time socializing. And because people had to create an identity for the game, it was a social world with imaginary representations of themselves. Over time, the community got bigger and bigger. People were misbehaving. They needed rules and they needed people to enforce the rules.”

In other words, the new digital world looked a lot like its non-digital counterpart. But this unique form of mass media differed in a fundamental way from what came before it. Unlike radio and television, the internet provided a platform for immersive social interaction — with no geographical constraints. It was a virtual environment that allowed people to form new relationships and create new identities. It was social and it was psychological.

“I saw ‘The Palace’ environment like a dream world, and people were so into it that they became addicted to it,” Suler says. “I started writing about it in a serious way. A lot of the issues have since blown up to 10 times their original size.”

Suler, who has been a member of Rider University’s Department of Psychology since 1982, recognized “The Palace” as a fertile research subject. He immersed himself in study, and even while he felt his work was yielding new insights, he knew of no one else studying cyberspace (though a bit dusty, “cyberspace” remains Suler’s preferred term for the digital world). However, clinicians and others with a serious interest in the phenomenon gradually awoke to their growing network. Some

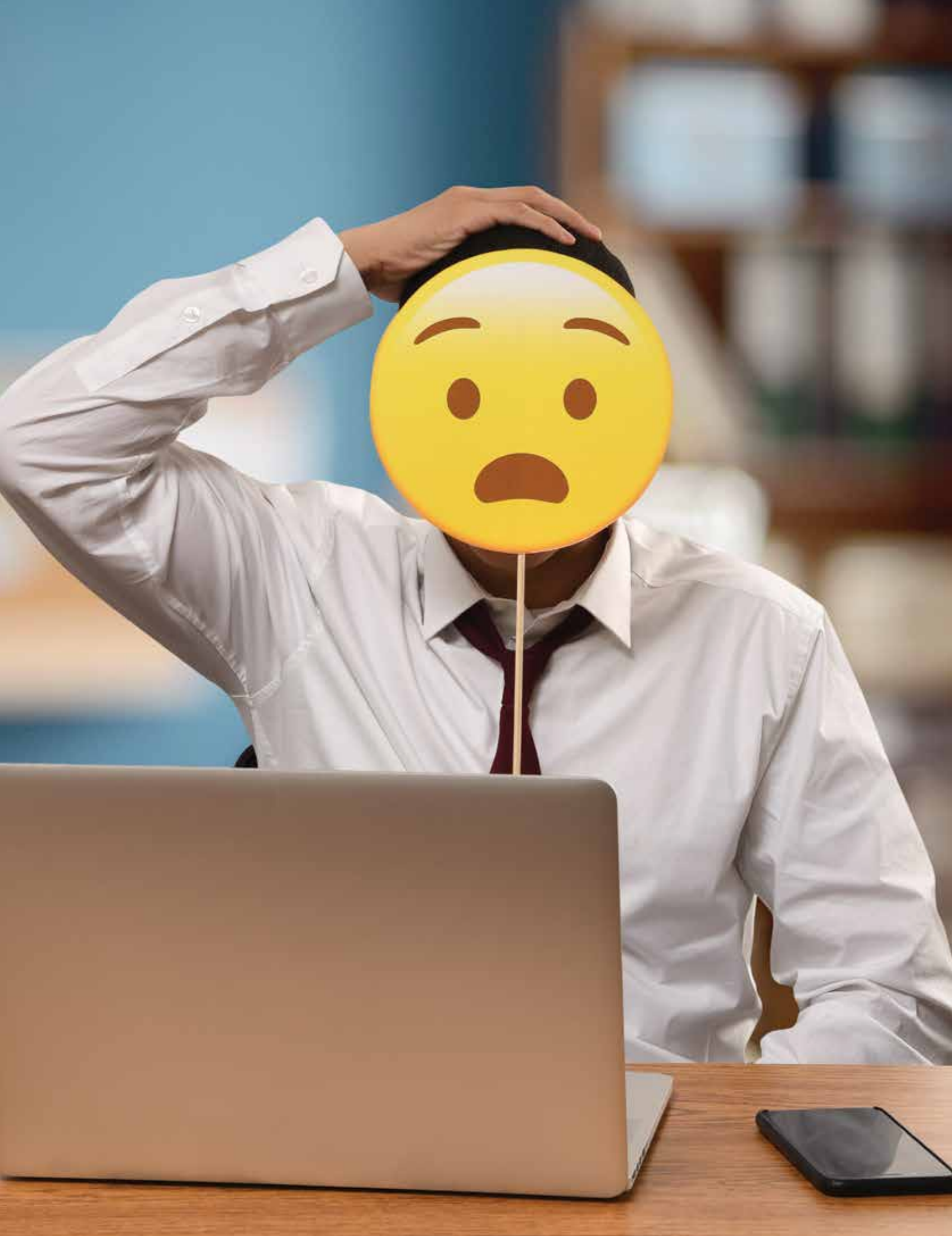
found each other after Suler published, in 1996, the first version of his online book, *The Psychology of Cyberspace*. The book — the first ever written about cyberpsychology — examined how people behave online and addressed topics like personal identity and interpersonal relationships in the context of the internet.

**T**he *Psychology of Cyberspace* helped establish Suler as one of the world’s leading experts in the new field, the “father of cyberpsychology.” Suler was also among the first to perceive the possibility that the internet, and related technologies like email and chat, could be used to address mental health issues through education, intervention and therapy. It was also evident that, even at its nascent stage, the internet could actually accelerate some mental health issues, as well as create new categories of psychological disorders, such as internet addiction and mobile phone separation anxiety.

Suler’s major contribution has been to translate conventional psychological terms into describing how people behave online. He is most well-known for his insight into what’s called the “online disinhibition effect.” Anyone who has spent time in the comments section of almost any website knows that people tend to behave in ways online that they would not normally, or ever, behave offline. Such disinhibited acts can take several forms, from sharing very personal information to making outsized threats. According to Suler, several forces combine to cause disinhibition — anonymity and the false perception of privacy among them.

Some online behavior, like disinhibition, overlaps with the way people act in the real world. Other types of online behavior diverge in illuminating ways. For decades, psychologists have used a concept called introjection to describe the process of incorporating the characteristics of another person into one’s own psyche. Online, this process plays out absent face-to-face interaction. In his 2016 book, *The Psychology of the Digital Age*, Suler writes, “The online companion now becomes a constructed character within our intrapsychic world, a character that is shaped partly by how the person actually presents him or herself via text, but also by our expectations, wishes and needs.”

**“In this age we live in, we have a symbiotic relationship with technology. I have to remind students there was a time when we didn’t have cellphones.”**



Once confined to our imaginations, these internal conversations now play out on millions of computers connected around the world. Because of that, Suler compares the internet to a “giant projection of the human psyche.” He notes that these projections can be either benign or toxic, and that while altruism is not uncommon on the web, rudeness, harsh criticism and boiling hatred are often more salient.

“I think we live in a time when people are angry and frustrated and disappointed, and because of that inner turmoil, they have to do something with it,” Suler says. “The internet becomes an easy place to express those feelings, but using technology like that can damage a person’s growth if it never leads to a greater understanding of themselves. Temper tantrums don’t help children grow.”

Suler grew up in mid-century Long Island among the potato fields that preceded widespread suburban development. His father, John, flew in the Air Force during World War II and was transferred to the Army during the Battle of the Bulge. After returning home, he met a woman named Doris in New York City. The two married, moved to Long Island and had four children. Suler recalls ample time as a child to indulge his interests in toy soldiers, science fiction and photography. Oriented toward science and math in school, he believed he would pursue a career in engineering.

At the urging of his parents, he also hoped to enroll in the Air Force Academy, but while still in high school, Suler switched gears. He had become fascinated by Freudian theory in a psychology class. “Here was a model of how people think,” he says, “a whole discipline focused on what’s happening inside people’s mind.” When the time came to tell his parents about his newfound interest, and his desire to pursue psychology instead of engineering, he says “their eyes started spinning in their heads. They had no idea what psychology was.”

After high school, he matriculated as an undergraduate at Stony Brook University in New York. Put off by the program’s emphasis on the behavioral psychology of Pavlov and Skinner, he supplemented his studies with courses in religion and philosophy. “I’ve always

been introspective and intuitive and curious about what’s going on in people’s heads, and I wanted to learn about the interior world,” he says.

He graduated summa cum laude in 1977 and then continued his education as a graduate student at State University of New York at Buffalo. Mirroring his experience as an undergraduate, Suler found that the aim of his graduate program didn’t exactly match his aspirations. “They were training you to be a scientist, but I still wanted to know more about psychotherapy,” he says. He pursued his interests — persisting as “a bit of an oddball” and setting a career-long pattern of applying himself to topics outside the lines of conventional psychology. Suler received a doctorate in clinical psychology in 1982 and, the same year, joined the faculty of Rider University, where he has spent his entire career.



Dr. John Suler is regarded as “the father of cyberpsychology.”

More than 20 years after the publication of *The Psychology of Cyberspace*, Suler’s landmark book, the distinction between lives lived online and off continues to collapse, with real consequences. Smartphone use has been attributed to skyrocketing teen depression and suicide rates. Social media has proven to divide as much as connect, with tribes of all stripes hunkering down into hand-curated echo chambers that reinforce existing beliefs at the expense of new ideas.

Surveying our current relationship to technology, Suler says, “I used to think it would all turn out fine. Now I’m not so sure.”

In the classroom, Suler’s primary goal is to help his students better

understand themselves. He teaches several courses. For many years he has used his unconventional first book, a novel called *Madman: Strange Adventures of a Psychology Intern*, as a textbook to teach abnormal psychology. (The story is loosely based on Suler’s real experiences as an intern in the psychiatric unit of a modern teaching hospital.) An accomplished photographer who has exhibited his photographs in Rider’s art gallery, Suler will use his latest book, *Perception and Imaging: Photography as a Way of Seeing* (written with Richard D. Zakia), for a class on psychology and photography in the fall.

Last spring, while teaching a class on cyberpsychology, he asked his students to put down their phones, step outside and take a short walk around campus. Separated from their phones, some students reported feelings of anxiety, others a sense of relief. Some described feeling a sense of vulnerability, like they were naked in the world. “In this age we live in, we have a symbiotic relationship with technology,” Suler says. “I had to remind the students that there was a time when we didn’t have cellphones.”

Once students leave the classroom, Suler notes that they have a lot working against them, in terms of freeing themselves from digital distraction. “Tech companies have teams of really smart people working to make their products addictive,” Suler says. “A lot of horrible stuff happens because of that, but only if we choose to keep coming back to it.”

He recognizes a deep need to educate people about how to use their devices in ways that benefit their health, or at least in ways that don’t detract from it. In his own life, Suler continues to log on for personal and professional reasons, but more and more he feels the growing weight of our digital lives — the compounding abundance of information, the facts and alternative facts, the memes and tweets. He also senses the dangers beyond personal well-being. While ticking off some of technology’s threats, including the invasions of privacy, the absence of security and the outright manipulation of reality, Suler grimaces.

“It’s too much,” he says.

The professor who has described online behavior with unparalleled insight adds: “It’s all getting a little scary.”







# Making Scents

ALUMNI OF RIDER'S CHEMISTRY PROGRAM  
ARE USING THEIR SCIENCE EDUCATION TO HELP  
CREATE THE FRAGRANCES FOUND IN FINE  
PERFUMES & EVERYDAY PRODUCTS

By ADAM GRybowski

One day during a job interview in November 2014, Kathleen Eliya '14 named Estee Lauder Pleasures as her favorite perfume. Eliya had earned a degree in chemistry from Rider University and was working as a lab technician at Firmenich, the global giant that has created iconic fragrances and flavors for more than 100 years. The job she was interviewing for — a master perfumer's assistant — would be a promotion.

She was asked to describe the perfume, a landmark bestseller that was originally released in 1995.

The creation of a fragrance is part art, part science. Perfumers, the people who create fragrances, design them to unfold over time, like pieces of music. And like in a piece of music, the individual parts that make up a fragrance are called "notes."

The top notes come first, light and quick to fade. Citrus scents make popular top notes, providing a bright introduction to a fragrance. As they begin to evaporate, the middle notes — often floral, fruity or redolent of herbs — move in. Finally, they combine with the base notes. Vanilla, musk and sandalwood are

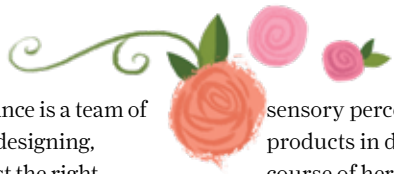
common base notes. Lingering longest and leaving a lasting impression, they are often what you remember when you think of the fragrance.

Tasked with describing the creations of perfumers, marketers gravitate toward the idea of a journey. On the website of Estee Lauder, Evelyn Lauder describes Pleasures as "a fragrance that unfolds like a flower in the warmth of the sun, surrendering its scent little by little."

Pleasures is indeed a concoction of lilies, peonies and jasmine and several other flowers, and in her interview, Eliya took the time to describe the qualities of its various notes, summarizing that the perfume had an overall calming effect on her mood.

She recalls the interviewer — a woman, Annie Buzantian, who had reached the pinnacle of her profession and was officially a fine fragrance master perfumer — taking in her answer and then, astonishingly, revealing that she was the creator of Estee Lauder Pleasures.

"My mind was blown," says Eliya, who got the job and would eventually become the master perfumer's assistant.



Behind every fragrance is a team of individuals rigorously designing, selecting and testing just the right combination of ingredients to create a particular scent and accomplish a desired effect. Their work plays a ubiquitous role in our lives, whether we care to realize it or not. Not everyone has a bottle of fine perfume or cologne in their bedroom, but other products — cosmetics, candles, soaps, shampoos, lotions, laundry products — are inescapable.

Several of the world's major flavor and fragrance companies have a presence in New Jersey. In addition to Swiss companies like Firmenich and Givaudan, International Flavors & Fragrances from the United States, Robertet from France, Symrise from Germany and Takasago from Japan all operate in the state. Eliya's story represents how alumni of Rider's chemistry program have taken advantage of that fact to leverage their science education into a career that supports the creation of fragrances. As a master perfumer's assistant, she helps realize the vision of a new product by moving it from formula to fragrance. Each day, she works in a lab, manipulating a vast array of natural and synthetic chemicals drawn from the company's impressive library.

The process can be extraordinarily complex. When selecting an ingredient for citrus, for example, it could take the form of lemon, lime, grapefruit or a dozen other citrus fruits. Eliya estimates that perfumers easily have more than 100 options when it comes to selecting a citrus scent. Overall, perfumers have access to more than a thousand ingredients at their disposal.

When all is said and done, "There can be 50 components in a bath and body product, and fine fragrance can have a hundred or more components," says Caryl Yeager '67, another alumna of the University's chemistry program who spent the majority of her career at Givaudan, the world's largest company in the flavor and fragrance industries, and also operated her own fragrance consulting firm until her retirement in 2015.

Yeager became an expert on designing experiments that evaluated people's

sensory perceptions of fragrance products in development. Over the course of her career, she came into contact with many sides of fragrance creation. The work is not all perfume and cologne. The technical function of fragrances in some products is to neutralize bad odors and replace them with something more pleasing. Think of cat litter, candles or air fresheners. "When you create deodorant," Yeager says, "the fragrances that go into it are designed to counteract body odor. A lot of basic research goes into that."

Marketing fads also play a major role in the in the creation of fragrances. French fragrance houses have long dominated the industry, and though they continue to set industry trends, many other variations are prevalent. "Preferences vary from country to country, and they change over time and with the season," Eliya says.

As a consultant, Yeager worked directly with companies making consumer products as well as fragrance houses. She witnessed over her long career the ups and downs of several trends. The effect retailer Bath & Body Works had on the industry in the 1990s stands out in her mind. "They capitalized on making all things fruity," she says. "Everyone else wanted to jump in."

Yeager's work was a far cry from the career trajectory set forth for her in the 1960s when she was in high school. Training to be a secretary, she learned in high school she couldn't type well. Then, in her junior year, she was placed in advanced chemistry class and realized she loved the logic of the science, the way molecules fit together, the way it all made sense.

When Yeager graduated from Rider, she was interested in pharmaceutical research. She pursued that kind of work for several years but ultimately learned that laboratory work was never going to satisfy her. A job at Avon got her out of the lab and launched her into the fragrance industry.

Science, on the other hand, interested Eliya from the time she was a little girl dreaming of becoming an astronomer. By the time she enrolled at Rider as an undergraduate, that passion for stars and

planets cooled and she had a new dream: graduating with a degree in biology, going to medical school and eventually working as a pediatric doctor. Despite her intentions, she found herself drawn to chemistry more than biology. She was fascinated by the intriguing ways chemicals could combine to form something familiar, such as the way sodium and chlorine could form table salt.

"My brain was so intrigued," she says. "It was the most incredible thing in the world, and I became very passionate about chemistry."

One day, Eliya turned over a bottle of lotion and read the ingredients. "I thought, 'Whoa.' This was science, this was chemistry, and it was creative as well," she says. "From that point on I wanted to be a cosmetic chemist."

Inside the lab or out, one attribute required for a successful career in fragrance is a sophisticated sense of smell. Not everyone is born with one. With training though, most people can vastly improve their ability to detect and identify the features of fragrance. At the pinnacle of her career, Yeager's sense of smell was second to none. A few years into retirement, however, she says, "Without continued practice, my sense of smell isn't as sharp as it used to be."

Eliya, only a few years into her career, says her sense of smell has never been so refined, that eating and drinking wine has become more pleasurable as a result, and that she can hardly go to the store without stopping and smelling each individual candle and all the rest of the products that are defined in large part by the work she does.

She recalls one afternoon when she was out shopping and suddenly became aware of a familiar fragrance when a woman walked passed her. It was Decadence, a perfume released by Marc Jacobs in 2015, which Eliya had worked on. On impulse, she stopped the woman to confirm if her assessment was correct.

"I'm sorry to bother you, but are you wearing Marc Jacobs Decadence?" Eliya asked.

Impressed, the stranger nodded and then replied with a question of her own, "How did you know?"

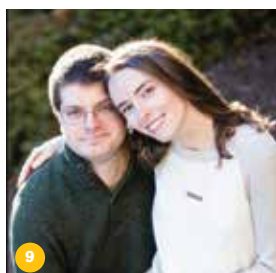
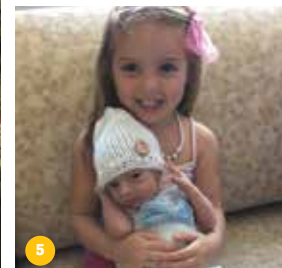
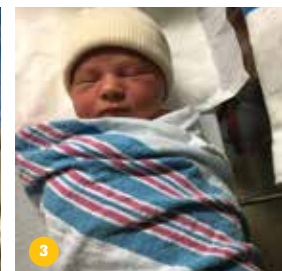
Eliya smiled and said, "I made that." ■



BEHIND EVERY FRAGRANCE  
ARE INDIVIDUALS RIGOROUSLY  
DESIGNING, SELECTING & TESTING  
JUST THE  
RIGHT COMBINATION  
OF INGREDIENTS



# Weddings and births



- 1** **Sophie Mikulik '08** and husband **Marco** welcomed **Cameron Mikulik** on June 2, 2017.

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- 2** **Peter Lieggi '97** with his grandnephew **Darryl George**.

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- 3** **Larissa Ubriaco '06** welcomed **Alexa Kathryn Ubriaco** on Jan. 19, 2017.

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- 4** **Arlene Austin '12** married **Nazim** on July 29, 2017.

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- 5** **Steve Bandklayder '73** welcomed his third grandchild, **Eli**.

- 6** **Michelle Tocco '05** and husband **James '05** welcomed **Zachary James Tocco** on Dec. 10, 2016.

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- 7** **Allie (Eick) Craft '10** and husband **Karl '10** welcomed identical twin girls on June 9, 2017.

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- 8** **Nikki Scalia '14, '16** married **Mike Savard '11** on Sept. 1, 2017.

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- 9** **Rob Pycior '15** and **Kelsey Valentino '15** are engaged and plan to get married in October 2019.

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- 10** **Lindsay Walter Alvarado '06, '09** and husband **Roger '03** welcomed **Annabel Leigh Alvarado** on June 23, 2017.



## Dear alumni and friends,

For several months, the Alumni Board has been working hard to develop a new strategic planning process for the Alumni Association.

Our new plan will be designed to reflect the priorities outlined in the University's strategic plan, Our Path Forward, which was approved last June and is already paying dividends on campus, especially around the launch of Rider's new Engaged Learning Program.

I encourage all alumni who care about this institution to get involved with the process. There are, in addition, many other ways to show your support for Rider. We are seeking nominations for new Alumni Board members, who would begin their term on July 1. Please contact the Office of Alumni Relations for more details on the nominating process.

We are also, of course, excited about returning to Lawrenceville for Reunions on June 9 and looking forward to this year's theme, Camp Rider.

I'll see you there!

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

**Send us your class notes!**

**Submit your notes and photos to [magazine@rider.edu](mailto:magazine@rider.edu)**

## Gatherings



- 1 Participants in the 1980 junior year abroad program to Madrid recently gathered on Long Beach Island, N.J., for a mini-reunion. Four of the five who spent their year at the Universidad Complutense — Sue (Elliott) Crespin, **Alice (Buckley) DeLancey '81**, **Patty (Lucasiewicz) Hodge '81** and **Donna Kaiser '81** — enjoyed an afternoon of catching up and reminiscing with fellow Rider alumna **Ellen Deboeser '81**. DeLancey, Hodge and Kaiser recently returned to Madrid and spent 10 days traveling throughout central and southern Spain as they did while Rider students.
- 2 A group of past and present members of the Rider University Alumni Board of Directors, representing six decades, met for lunch to reconnect at Rossi's Bar and Grill in Hamilton, N.J. Pictured in the back row from left to right, **Marie R. Power-Barnes '80, '91**, **Nina Malone '84, '96**, **John Muccioli '65**, **Frank Ferdetta '79**, **Tony Scarola '72**, **James Manahan '80**, **Walter Darr '78, '91**, **Don Albanese '60**, **Gene Blicharz '76**, Director of Athletics **Don Harnum** and **Chip Rossi '74, '79**; those who are seated from left to right, **Jessi Franko Oliano '03, '06**, **Marie Barrett '63**, **Jeff Pierfy '65**, **Joe Casarella '55**, **Joan Young '50** and **Herb Young '50**. Also attending but not pictured were **Fay Josephson '99** and Jean Pierfy.
- 3 **Jon Kowal '75**, **Bill Kehoe '74**, **Barry Bluestein '74** and **Scott Asay '74** reunited at the Crestmont Country Club in West Orange, N.J., for a round of golf. They all have fond memories of Rider that were created well over 40 years ago.
- 4 Several Rider alumni friends gathered on Oct. 30, 2017, for a bench dedication at Lake Shawnee, N.J., to honor Al Gebhardt, who passed away on June 15, 2017. The husband of **Carol (Mulrenan) Gebhardt '72**, he was a very active member of the Lake Shawnee Association. To honor him, a group of Rider friends purchased a bench to be placed on the edge of Lake Shawnee. Present for the dedication (sitting, left to right) were **Carmela (Casal) Brady '72**, **Carol**, **Mary (Traynor) Maragni '72**, **Jane (Sanislo) Sassaman '72** and (standing, left to right) **Bob Maragni '71** and **Jack Sassaman '71**. Not present was **Kathy (White) Potter '72**, who lives in Georgia.

# ALUMNI TRAVEL



Croatia (May 2018)

Sicily (September 2018)

Switzerland/Austria (May 2019)

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

# W Rider Women

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## '60s

**Richard W. Arndt '60** received a Doctor of Humane Letters honorary degree from Thomas Edison State University, where he has served with distinction on its Board of Trustees since 1993. During his tenure on the board, Arndt was executive vice president and CEO of the American Cancer Society's (ACS) New Jersey Division from 1990 to 2000. Prior to that, he held a number of executive-level positions with ACS during his 37-year career before he retired. Arndt resides in Hillsborough, N.J., with wife Elsa; the couple enjoys spending time with their son James, daughter-in-law Denise and grandson Gabriel.

**Daya Devi-Doolin '62** authored *Grow Thin While You Sleep*, which shares her experiences in treating and overcoming life's challenges by recognizing the connection between faith and health.

**Bob Meinzer '66** is fronting a rock band in his spare time. Meinzer is a former president of Phi Kappa Psi and has returned to Rider for a number of reunions over the years. He continues to work as a medical education consultant for the New Jersey Academy of Family Physicians while living in Minnesota.

**David Silverman '68** has retired after 47 years of editing trade magazines and books. He spent the last 17 years as editor of *Sound & Communications* magazine, which is published by Testa Communications. At his retirement celebration during InfoComm International, the audiovisual industry's biggest convention in June, he was honored for his many years of support to the industry. Prior to *Sound & Communications* magazine,



he edited professional photographic magazines for more than 30 years, and was publisher of the flexographic printing industry's official journal.

**Richard Young '68** co-authored *Railway Security*, a book that discusses and assesses the security risks facing railways. Several years in the making, the book originated from a research grant that Young and his co-author received from the Citizens for Rail Safety. The book was published by Routledge this past August.

## '70s

**Arthur Draznin '73** recently joined Cushman & Wakefield, a global commercial real estate firm, as executive managing director. His activities include advising corporate tenants and landlords on their real estate requirements, specifically in the areas of leasing, purchasing and consulting. Draznin has been a resident of Short Hills, N.J., for 30 years and previously worked for Newmark Knight Frank.

**Barbara Lettiere '79** became in October 2017 the 10th president, and the first lay president, to lead Immaculata University. She earned a bachelor's in mathematics from Immaculata in 1972, a master's in economics and statistics from the University of Notre Dame and a master's in business administration in decision sciences and finance from Rider. She is also a member of the National Association of College and University Business Officers.

## '80s

**Charles K. Miller '82** was appointed chief financial officer of NCWC Inc., one of the most prominent administrators of

## Newsmaker



# Top prosecutor

**Craig Carpenito '96 was appointed U.S. Attorney for New Jersey**

By Rachel Stengel '14

Ten words still give Craig Carpenito '96 chills: "Your honor, Craig Carpenito on behalf of the United States."

"There is no greater honor than standing up and saying that in the courtroom," says Carpenito, who was appointed in January by U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions to serve as U.S. attorney for New Jersey via interim appointment, making him the state's highest-ranking federal prosecutor.

As U.S. attorney, Carpenito leads a staff of more than 130 lawyers and 100 staff members in the U.S. Attorney's Offices in New Jersey. He oversees all federal criminal prosecutions and civil matters involving the federal government in New Jersey. His case docket encompasses a slew of unsavory issues such as child pornography, drugs, fraud and homicide, but Carpenito describes his job simply — trying to keep New Jersey citizens safe.

"It's a great honor to think I'm helping to keep drugs and guns off the street and helping to address the opioid epidemic," he says. "There's a level of gratification with this kind of work that you can't find in any role you would have in the private practice of law."

Carpenito is no stranger to the U.S. Attorney's Office. He was hired by Chris Christie, New Jersey's U.S. attorney at the time, to join the office in 2003 and served until 2008. Outside of working for the Department of Justice, Carpenito's legal career comprises policing Wall Street as an enforcement attorney for the Securities and Exchange Commission and practicing in the private sector for the firm Alston & Bird, where he rose to become its co-head of litigation and trial practice.

Carpenito always knew he wanted to work in some aspect of law enforcement, at first mulling over the idea of applying to become a police officer. As a political science major at Rider, he credits a series of pre-law classes with Associate Professor Dr. Harvey Kornberg as the change in his trajectory toward becoming an attorney.

"He ran a series of classes on constitutional law and criminal law, one where he focused on the individual Supreme Court justices. We did these exercises where we'd write mock opinions as if we were a particular Supreme Court Justice. It really made me fall in love with the law," he says. "I grew up in a family where education was not exactly at a premium. My dad didn't even graduate from high school. Neither my parents nor my siblings graduated college. So Rider is really where I developed the passion for the study of law and I just followed it."

The ability to return to the office that served as his foray into prosecution is the ultimate full-circle journey, Carpenito says.

"I think it's the dream of any prosecutor in [the U.S. Attorney's Office] to one day be able to lead that office. There's no bigger compliment you could have than being asked to sit in the seat from which you once took direction and be trusted to be the custodian of the office for the foreseeable future," he says.



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automotive service agreements in the world. Previously, Miller was the CFO of Tekmark Global from 1997 to 2017 and served on the boards of several notable organizations, including Tekmark Global Solutions, InterCloud Systems and Notis Global Inc. Miller graduated from Rider with a bachelor's in accounting and a master's in business administration. He is a certified public accountant and boasts more than three decades of experience.

**Gary J. Pruden '83** was appointed to the board of directors of Motus GI Holdings, a medical technology company with subsidiaries in the U.S. and Israel. Pruden most recently served as executive vice president and worldwide chairman of the Johnson & Johnson Medical Devices group. Pruden earned his bachelor's in finance from Rider and served on the University's Board of Trustees from 2011-15.

**Maria Grandinetti '89** was granted tenure and promoted to associate professor of nursing at Wilkes University. Grandinetti earned her bachelor's in business administration in finance from Rider. After receiving a second bachelor's, in nursing, from Seton Hall University, she earned a master's in nursing education from Wilkes University and a doctorate in nursing education from Widener University. Grandinetti began teaching at Wilkes in 2008. She teaches at both the undergraduate and graduate level and is the coordinator of the accelerated baccalaureate-nursing program.

## '90s

**Melissa Wenczel Gurick '91** has joined the faculty of The Pennington School, a coeducational school with college preparatory curriculum for students in grades

six-12. She joined the school's Cervone Center for Learning, an academic support program for intellectually capable students with diagnosed learning difficulties. Gurick earned her bachelor's in special education from Trenton State College and her master's degree as a reading specialist from Rider. Prior, she was a special education teacher in the Hopewell Valley Regional School District for over 25 years, where she was awarded Teacher of the Year honors in 2013.

**Tracey Destribats '93** is the new owner of Eet Gud Bakery in Hamilton, N.J.

**Joseph McDougall '93** was named global refinish senior vice president and president at Axalta Coating Systems. In this new role, McDougall is responsible for Axalta's global refinish business, which provides coatings, application technologies and service and support resources to customers in the collision repair and vehicle aftermarket sectors in more than 130 countries. McDougall graduated with a bachelor's from Rider and a master's in business administration from The Pennsylvania State University.

**Dr. Patrice L. High '94** joined Lexington Medical Center's network of care at Palmetto Family Medicine in August to provide comprehensive care to patients in Northeast Columbia, S.C. Dr. High earned her osteopathic medical degree from Michigan State University in East Lansing, Mich. She then completed a family medicine internship and residency at Community Hospital of Lancaster in Lancaster, Pa., where she also served as chief resident.

**Colleen (Lanigan) Rand '96** and Ellsworth W. Rand III are living the retirement dream in New River, Ariz.

## Newsmaker



# Harmonizing science and music

**Composition by Gregory Brown '01 featured in Dan Brown's latest novel**

By Rachel Stengel '14

Brothers Gregory Brown '01 and Dan Brown frequently bounce ideas off one another, looking for feedback on creative projects. But when Dan, the bestselling author of *The DaVinci Code*, sent Gregory a chapter of his latest novel, *Origin*, Gregory was shocked to see his own musical composition featured in the story.

"It was the sort of thing where he said, 'I need to show you something. What do you think?'" Gregory Brown says. "Of course I was excited and honored. The chapter was initially out of context for me because I hadn't seen the beginning of the book yet. When I finally did read the full manuscript, it was exciting to try and guess when it was coming and how it fit into the story."

The composition, "Missa Charles Darwin," appears at a key moment in *Origin*, about two-thirds of the way through the book. The composer, whose vocal and chamber music has been performed throughout the U.S. and Europe, describes the piece as a combination of his great passions in life — sacred music and science — two things that seem to be more juxtaposition than harmony to most.

"What you hear is a love of the music I sing, conduct and listen to all the time," he says. "There is also this reverence for scientific thoughts, Darwin's in particular, and how they come together in my life as a musician, as a human and as an amateur naturalist you might even say."

The intersection of science and music is natural for the Westminster Choir College alumnus. As a child, he spent many hours sitting beside his mother on the organ bench as she practiced for Sunday services. He remembers his father, a math teacher, preparing lectures on the artwork of M.C. Escher, an early 20th-century graphic artist who fused mathematics and art. He even planned to become a computer scientist and then a geologist during his undergraduate years before studying music.

When Brown was approached by Craig Phillips, a founding member of the acclaimed male classical vocal quartet New York Polyphony, who had an idea to merge music and Darwin, the concept resonated with him immediately.

The collaboration resulted in a work based on the standard five-movement structure that replaced sacred texts with excerpts from *On The Origin of Species*, *The Descent of Man* and other Darwin writings. Dan Brown writes in *Origin's* acknowledgements section that the fusion of ancient and modern "helped spark the earliest notions for this novel." In honor of the book's release, a special remastered edition of the recording was issued.

Gregory Brown says his music and career would look very different if he had not developed an early passion for science.

"I'm very glad to have geology in my background," he says. "That interest in nature and science has never really left. I'm grateful that I'm able to hone in on my love of music without giving up my background in science. That's a really big part of who I am."

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**Monica McClintock '99** completed her first volunteer abroad experience in August 2017 in an orphanage in Ghana, West Africa. The trip was an extension of her master's thesis, which addresses the question of whether volunteering abroad is a way to develop leaders. McClintock earned her master's from Fielding Graduate University in 2016.

## '00s

**Michael Amoroso '00** was appointed senior vice president, Americas Commercial, Oncology Business Group. Amoroso will lead Eisai's Americas Oncology Commercial team in creating and driving commercial strategies for the company's approved products, pipeline assets and late-stage compounds approaching the commercialization stage. He received a bachelor's in biological sciences from Rider and a master's in business administration from the New York University's Stern School of Business.

**James K. Wilson '00** was appointed as director of chorale at Berks Youth Chorus (BYC), a premier choral ensemble for youth in grades three through 12. Wilson previously served as interim director of chorale since May 2017 and started his work with BYC as a staff assistant in 1992. This past summer, Wilson retired from his teaching position at Schuylkill Elementary School, where he taught for 36 years. He received a bachelor's and a master's in music education from West Chester University and a master's from Westminster Choir College.

**Mark Kadetsky '02** was appointed by the Egg Harbor Board of Education as district supervisor of fine and performing arts in August 2017. Kadetsky has directed bands and orchestras



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## Advice for alumni, from alumni



## on starting a vegetable garden

By Jess Canose '13

### Plan in advance

Farmers use the winter to plan out their growing seasons. Gardeners can also learn their frost-free dates and other milestones in the growing season to understand what to plant and when. Get your soil tested and start plants indoors in early spring to get a jump on your first planting.

### Experiment

When choosing what to plant, experiment with new varieties, not just what's available at Home Depot. I buy seeds from Johnny's Selected Seeds, which sends out a beautiful printed catalog each winter. Fedco, Southern Exposure, Seed Saver's Exchange and

Territorial are also great seed providers. Overwhelmed by the choices? Start with America's Choice and heirloom varieties.

### Leave more space than you think you will need

Plants look small when you first put them in the ground, but be wary: They will expand and take up much more space (zucchini plants especially)! Follow the spacing guidelines on the back of the seed packet and use a measuring tape.

### Do not use chemical fertilizers like Miracle-Gro

Don't add more chemicals to our soil, waters

and bodies! Your plants will grow beautifully without them. Look for local compost and safe fertilizers like Neptune's Harvest fish emulsion. There will be imperfections — but embrace that bug-bitten chard! Studies show that plants under stress release antioxidants...which you'll then consume!

### Share the work, share the bounty

Weeding and other gardening tasks can easily become overwhelming if you don't stay on top of them. Weed regularly and divide tasks among family members, friends and community members and reward them by sharing your extra produce.

**Jess Canose '13** is a graduate fellow in the food studies program at Chatham University. She works for 412 Food Rescue, a food-waste nonprofit in Pittsburgh, Pa., and recently hosted a conference about food and climate change. At Rider, Canose earned a bachelor's in Spanish with dual minors in Latin American and Caribbean areas studies and sustainability studies.

in the Egg Harbor Township School District in New Jersey for more than 20 years. He holds a bachelor's in music education/string bass from The College of New Jersey, a master's in educational leadership from Rider and a doctorate in music education from the Shenandoah Conservatory.

**John Anker Bow '03** was cast as George in the national fall 2017 tour of the musical *Kinky Boots*.

**Dr. Daria J. Newfeld '03** is an assistant professor at Albright College, where she was reminded about her Terrorism Revolt and Political Violence class taught by Dr. Jonathan Mendilow. Newfeld graduated from Rider with a bachelor's in finance.

**Julie Veloz '03** was recently included as one of "15 Top Women in Leadership Roles" at leading companies by FindSpark, a certified women-owned business and leading job placement organization.

**Michael Kneller '07** became principal of North Brunswick Township High School on Nov. 1, 2017. Kneller has been at the school since 2002. His previous role, from 2014-17, was the high school's assistant principal and social studies supervisor. Kneller graduated from Rutgers University in 1998 with a bachelor's in history. He received his teaching certificate from Kean University and a master's in educational administration from Rider.

**Yoo-jin Muhn '08** was introduced as the artistic director of Tucson Masterworks Chorale in November 2017. Muhn studied composition at SookMyung Women's University in Seoul and earned her master's with distinction in sacred music from Westminster Choir College. She also earned a master's degree

## Newsmaker



# Wearing the crown

**Tarah-Lynn Saint-Elie '16 is the new Miss Black New Jersey**

By Robert Leitner '17

Once drawn to pageantry for the glamor, Tarah-Lynn Saint-Elie '16 now uses pageantry to represent young women of color in a positive light. She was crowned Miss Black New Jersey in March 2017 and now has the chance to compete in the national competition in Washington, D.C., in August. The winner will receive a \$20,000 prize package that includes a \$5,000 academic scholarship and the chance to travel the world as an ambassador for women of color.

Saint-Elie bested 37 pageant queens while competing for New Jersey's title and will face even more in D.C., though she feels nothing but warmth for them.

"Many pageants pose as if they're founded on the basis of sisterhood but the Miss Black USA pageant represents sisterhood from the very core," Saint-Elie says. "My 'sister queens' from other states are warm and very inviting. We can't wait to all meet at nationals!"

Saint-Elie, who graduated from Rider summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in communication studies, competed in her first pageant during her freshman year. In this pageant, she was crowned Miss Violet by Miss New Jersey and Miss Teen New Jersey.

She became aware of the Miss Black USA competition while searching for pageants that support educational scholarships. Besides the scholarship incentive, Saint-Elie and the Miss Black USA organization share similar focuses.

"I knew this one was for me because the organization prioritizes scholarships and advancing women of color in all aspects, but especially career and education," Saint-Elie says. "Uplifting women should be an ongoing action. I plan to continue to do so through Adorned in Armor, as well as Miss Black New Jersey."

Adorned in Armor is Saint-Elie's fashion blog that is meant to empower young women to conquer their life obstacles with faith and style. She has worked with top brands such as Maybelline and Banana Republic, and has been hired to speak at events in New Jersey and New York. She is also a fashion writer for TeenVogue.com, an editorial assistant for the Independent Fashion Bloggers Network and a communication manager for a local interior design company.

A common theme in most of Saint-Elie's work is building a platform to inspire and empower women — her career goal is to host red carpet events and inspire women all around the world through speaking conferences and, someday, a book.

A source of Saint-Elie's motivation is her mother, who despite troubled health and suffering from a stroke, has been a positive influence and her daughter's cheerleader throughout life.

"It will be a tough journey to nationals," Saint-Elie says, "but I strongly believe that with my drive and support system, it will all be worthwhile."

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in choral conducting from the University of Cincinnati and a doctorate of musical arts in choral music from the University of Southern California.

## '10s

### **William M. Gruccio '10, '11**

was sworn in as a member of the Board of Trustees of Cumberland County College in New Jersey at the board's annual reorganization meeting on Nov. 16, 2017. Gruccio graduated from Rider with a master's in business administration and has been a realtor associate with A.R. Fanucci Real Estate since 2010.

### **Jaishree "Joy" Saxena '12**

of Educational Testing Service (ETS) was elected president of the Child Care Connection's Board of Trustees. Child Care Connection is a nonprofit that seeks to ensure the quality, availability and affordability of child care in the Mercer County, N.J., community. Saxena joined ETS in 2012. Saxena was previously a senior analyst with Citigroup Investment Bank (now Citi, Inc.). She earned a bachelor's in physics from Ohio Wesleyan University and a master's in educational administration from Rider. She is currently studying management at Harvard University's Extension School.

### **Kyle van Schoonhoven '13**

was one of 11 recipients of a 2018 San Francisco Adler Fellowship. The Adler Fellows join a multi-year, performance-oriented residency that offers intensive training, coaching, professional seminars and a wide range of performance opportunities to advanced young artists. Van Schoonhoven is a second-year San Francisco Opera fellow who participated in the Morela Opera Program in 2016, where he was selected for the fellowship.



## In Memoriam

### Alumni

Blanche Embler Starnes '36  
Genevieve Stier Roscoe '38  
Mary Gilkeson McCleary '41  
Priscilla Sweeney Smith-Matthews '41  
Ezio E. Casagrande '42  
Rea Bovit Jablons '42  
Josephine Kusiak Kazarow '42  
Walter P. Kramarz '42  
Virginia Chace Wyeth '43  
Lois Newkirk De Conca '44  
Vilma Varga Haring '44  
Virginia Clark Ismay '45  
Alice Bill Kominick '45  
Hattie Plante Copeland '46  
Pearl Schnoke Emery '47  
Maurice E. Fletcher '47  
Winifred Sherman Hoffnagle '47  
Helen Mooney Holcombe '47  
Iris Fogelson Scull '47  
Rosemary Reilly Wilson '47  
George B. Arnold Jr. '48  
Walter A. Brower '48  
Ralph D'Ambrosio '48  
August M. Dietrich Jr. '48  
Albert A. Dominick '49  
Edward A. Gill '49  
Marion P. Gray '49  
Charles P. Kovar '49  
Anne Hajducky Rossetti '49  
Vivian Cann Smith '49  
Louise Palmer Wigley '49  
Richard E. Berrien '50  
John P. Blaine '50  
Lydie Toney Dews '50  
Nicholas Dorozinsky '50  
Sanford Galinkin '50  
William P. Henkel '50  
Dayton Randell '50  
Joseph A. Rubino '50  
John C. Shreve '50  
Albert M. Conti '51  
Bruce W. Denman Jr. '51  
George I. Fanos '51  
Gordon J. Grant '51  
George F. Guldner '51  
Anthony J. Orosz Jr. '51  
Raymond T. Swidersky '51  
Donald F. Virkler '51  
Zigmund J. Gabruk '52  
George Lionikis '52  
Robert J. MacMillan '52  
Marjorie Mc Guire Messler '52  
Warren E. Adams '53

Robert J. Burke '53  
Ramon Kyser '53, '56  
Josephine Ranalli Massei '53  
James A. Stefane '53  
Seymour M. Bloom '54  
Carmen A. Fiore '54  
Ralph L. Haglin '54  
Kenneth I. Phelps '54  
Stanley Richardson Jr. '54  
Joseph M. Tabak '54  
Harold E. Williams '54  
Lois Totten Hawkins '55  
Martha Blackburn Lowder '55  
Anthony F. Quatrone '55  
Selma Cryer Booz '56  
Russell R. Palermo '56  
Albert J. Rimmer '56  
Herbert R. Soerensen '57  
Rochelle Erb Dietz '58  
Raymond E. Harris '58  
Albert W. Lambert '58  
Margaret Waters Moore '58  
Joseph A. Merk '59  
Georgia Leary Nichols '59  
Patricia J. Beck '60  
J. Marvin Edelstein '60  
Robert M. McMenamin '60  
Lewis A. Sanders '60  
Margaret E. Sullivan '60, '78  
Alice Thomson Moore '61  
Carl F. West '61  
Ronald M. Klar '62  
Albert J. Zabel '62  
Bob Barrett '63  
Joshua J. Gedrich '63  
James J. Immordino '65  
Michael E. Spring '65  
Ellen Philio Bresnahan '66  
Henry C. Conroy '66  
Rae Clauser Roeder '66  
Barbara Silverstein '66  
Richard R. Dorow '67, '70  
Howard J. Rood '67  
Laura Roach Badawi '68  
Holly Allison Gusset '68  
Barry J. Kaye '68  
Robert J. Chervy '69  
Edward P. Minar '69  
James W. Ries '69  
Constance M. Coffin '70  
Gary J. Hilton '70  
JoAnn Cummins Hoiles '70, '88  
James D. Conlon Sr. '72  
Stephen W. Jefferson '72

Eugene J. Brunner '73  
Thomas J. Krisak '73  
Betsy H. Sgrenci '73  
Robert N. Dunham '74  
William B. Falvo '74  
Helen L. Long '74  
Donald R. Greenwood Sr. '75  
Jack Kuhn '75  
Gerald E. Novak '75  
Michael P. Brady '76  
Gary D. Gray Sr. '76  
Jean McClure Janik '76  
Ronald J. Palumbo '76  
Mary Cramer Wennemer '76  
Ernest J. Hilton '77  
George E. Abel '78  
Charlene Musumeci Stacy '78  
Joseph B. Guerra '79  
Eugene H. Dickerson Jr. '80  
Celeste F. Kalina '80  
Edward S. Kestenbaum '80  
Carolyn McCullough McShan '80  
Thomas E. Forsaith '81  
Mary K. Heffern '82  
Geraldine P. Kamienski '83  
Lawrence J. Frantz '86  
Deanna Bottone Rose '86  
Douglass S. Davidson Jr. '92  
Debra Gray Matthews '92  
Edwin A. Kleissler Jr. '95  
Karen Steiner '96  
Francis J. Carella '99  
Steven Olszewski '04  
Michael T. Fratticcioli '05  
Steven L. Kalinich '08  
Milangee Herrera '13  
Jeanette M. Luna '14

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James A. Crescenzi  
Violet K. Devlin  
Naomi Elkins  
Ralph Hepner  
Sophie H. Hibbs  
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# Playing with fire

MY JOURNEY TO HAWAII TO STUDY ACTIVE VOLCANOES

By Imani Guest '18 | Major: Geosciences



Last summer I spent two months in the middle of the Pacific Ocean while participating in the Earth Science on Volcanic Islands Summer Research Program at the University of Hawaii. Conducting research with one of the world’s top volcanologist, Dr. Michael O. Garcia, and exploring the island by land and sea changed my life.

When I arrived in Hawaii in July, I met students from all over the country who had also been chosen for the program. Before we began our research, we traveled to the Big Island and walked on the active flows of Kilauea with state volcanologist Bruce Houghton. Now, everyone knows that lava is hot, but you will never know how hot until you are near it. It felt as though my eyebrows were being singed off my face, and I was standing 15 feet from the flows!

Returning from the Big Island to the island of Oahu, I began my research project, which consisted of procuring and studying samples of mantle xenoliths (foreign rocks brought up from the Earth’s mantle via volcanos) from Salt Lake Crater. I used

these analyses to contribute to a larger interdisciplinary project that is aiming to determine the thermal history of the upper mantle in Honolulu. Through my work on the project, I learned how to operate a JEOL Electron Probe Microanalyzer (which is just as complicated and tedious as the name suggests).

Most days after work, I took the bus down to Waikiki with my fellow cohort to lounge on the beach or enjoy the nightlife. Other days, we went on hikes or traveled to different parts of the island that we had never seen before. No matter how much I worked each day, I always made time to unwind and enjoy the Hawaiian sun.

On the weekends, the program directors organized special trips for us. We took a three-day re-

**“Bringing up these rocks — millions of years old but never seen by humans — was simply amazing.”**

search cruise aboard the R/V Kilo Moana to better understand the formation of a submarine volcanic ridge called Pa’uwela Ridge. Although the cruise was brief, it opened my eyes to marine geology. During four-hour shifts, we collected bathymetry data (depth of the water) and then dredged rocks from the volcanic ridge at the bottom of the seafloor. Bringing up these rocks — millions of years old but never seen by humans — was simply amazing.

We also visited the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center, where we witnessed an earthquake light up the monitors and observed the protocols workers go through in case of a subsequent tsunami.

As the research program came to an end, I wrote my report and constructed my poster for a presentation held at the University of Hawaii. Although I’m back in Lawrenceville for my senior year, my time in The Aloha State continues to impact me. The experience I gained in those two short months has proven to be very valuable as a prospective graduate student, and now I must make the decision of where I want to continue my studies as a future geologist.

Illustration by James Yang

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## Then and now

In this photo from Rider's archives, an unidentified student takes a load off outside Switlik Hall during freshman orientation, 1964. One of Rider's original residence halls, Switlik houses about 200 students today, including a science learning community for science majors.