Fulfilling the promise — a 12-year commitment and a lifelong initiative of promoting high standards in higher education — has prompted a bittersweet moment for President Mordechai Rozanski, Rider’s sixth president.

The son of Holocaust survivors, Rozanski was the first in his family to complete grade school, let alone get into academics. He feels this background influenced his career path.

“We lost a lot of people on both sides of my family,” Rozanski said. “We left Poland in 1951, lived in Israel for two years, lived for a year in Paris and eventually ended up in Montreal, Canada. Without a doubt, given those experiences, the notion of being able to get an education was tremendously important not only for me, but to fulfill the promise that my parents had for me. I’ve always believed that education is a transforming experience. Being the first in my family to get an elementary education, never mind getting my Ph.D. and going on to various positions in higher education, I think would make my parents very proud.”

One of the accomplishments under Rozanski has been the construction of five new buildings across both campuses, along with three new athletic fields and numerous renovations. On the Lawrenceville campus, these include Ziegler Hall, the Student Recreation Center and West Village. Meanwhile, at Westminster, the Cullen Center has been established, and the Robert Annis Playhouse is undergoing major refurbishment.

“We can never do enough,” said Rozanski. “We’ve spent $130 million on new facilities on both campuses, including new residences. We’ve been trying to do a new residence hall each year — air conditioning for Olson this past summer. The reality is, some of those older residence halls continue to need upgrading. That’s going to need to be a priority. It was not only my priority, but I’m sure it’s going to be a priority for President [Gregory] Dell’Omo as well to continue that effort.”

While he feels he has done a lot already to help bring together both the Lawrenceville and Westminster campuses, Rozanski feels there is still more to be done.

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SECURITY BRIEFS
PROVIDED BY DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY VICKIE WEAVER

Cooked well-done

Don’t start fires, kids. On April 19 at 7:17 p.m., Public Safety was dispatched to Moore Hall to investigate a fire alarm. Officers entered the building and found the alarm was not going off for the whole building, but just one room. The room in question had its door propped open, and Public Safety was able to identify a female resident who stated a towel had caught fire. A male student in the kitchen area was using the oven to remove a pizza, which was on tin foil, heating in the oven. He took the pizza from the oven and placed it on an island countertop, and placed the towel on the counter door. The towel caught on fire, and the female student, who was an area resident, alerted the male student. The male disposed of the flaming towel with water and used a second towel soaked with water to put off the cabinet to make sure there were no more flames. Public Safety investigated and concluded there was no further damage. There is no need for further concern.

Fun for 15

Smoky the Bear will not approve. On April 18 at 2:14 a.m., Public Safety was dispatched to P and U parking lots by the tennis courts, when they noticed the presence of Lawrence Township Police Supplemental Patoll. One of the Supplemental Patrol officers came across three females, who were walking toward the baseball field from the parking lot but went to the ground as the officer pulled up. When questioned, the females stated they were going for a walk on campus and noted they were not causing any problems. While police and Public Safety were talking to the three, they heard voices and saw lights moving around in the tree line beyond the field. Public Safety checked the area and found 10 students chasing the wooded area. When questioned, some said they were coming from a friend’s apartment and taking a shortcut, while others said they had been pulled off by friends and headed home. While searching the woods, Public Safety and police discovered a backpack on the ground containing alcohol and a law enforcement courtesy card issued to one of the youth.

Upon further investigation, Public Safety and police noticed a reflection of a vehicle’s tail light and license plate. As they approached, they noticed a second vehicle, a smoldering fire, an empty black keg, two green Rider trash cans, a bottle of lighter fluid, a lighter and empty beer boxes, bottles and cans. Back in the parking lot, Public Safety and police came across another backpack that contained alcohol. All of the alcohol was disposed of. At 2:51 a.m., Lawrence Township Fire Department was contacted to respond to the area to extinguish the fire. They arrived, extinguished the fire and left the area.

The fire was a particular concern because of warnings issued for wildfire danger. The owners of the two vehicles were identified, and Public Safety was placed on the lookout to return them to their vehicles. When the two arrived, they informed their vehicles would be seized by LTPD and they would be under investigation for arson. A tow company arrived and transported vehicles to LTPD HQ.

The two vehicle owners are still under investigation at this time. The three females were charged with disorderly conduct. The 10 students found in the woods have been charged with disorderly conduct, possession of property, fire safety violations/fire hazards and alcohol policy violations. The two whose vehicles were confiscated were charged with disorderly conduct, misappropriation of property, setting a fire, fire safety violations and alcohol policy violations. The matter has been referred to the Office of Community Standards. Public Safety would like to remind students that creating bonfires is not permitted anywhere on campus and that these matters are taken seriously.

Clean shaven

Must have been the longest beard in the world. On April 13 at 3:30 p.m., Public Safety was dispatched to Ziegler Hall to one of the men’s bathrooms. When officers arrived five minutes later, they met with a male staff member, who said he had already gone into the area and cleaned up shaving cream that had been sprayed on the sink and mirror in the bathroom by unknown persons. The cost of the cleanup is unknown at this time. If anybody has any further information, please contact Public Safety at 609-896-5029.

SNA votes are in

By Adam Rivera and Evan Cornell

The end of campaigning and a day of voting, the 2015-16 Student Government Association (SGA) was announced on April 20. The next Student Government Association (SGA) will be headed by 2015-16 President Ryan Hopely, sophomore public relations major, and 2015-16 Vice President John Modica, freshman finance major.

Hopely said he was humbled to be elected as president.

“This has been a high point of my career here at Rider University. I was incredibly nervous, but I’m really happy with the results,” Hopely said. “This year’s executive board is going to put a lot of work to continue the success of SGA, and this is the start of it all.”

Modica said he was honored and excited for the opportunity to improve the campus.

“Today is incredibly important to me,” Modica said. “I feel like the people who I get to work with now will continue to produce success as previous staffs had. I’m very excited to be a part of that.”

“I could never have guessed that American standards would benefit our students,” Reca said.

Several campus departments collaborated with King’s College to form this agreement, including Rider’s Residence Life, Auxiliary Services, the Office of Information Technology and Student Finance Services.

Rider staff is enthusiastic about welcoming the newcomers from around the world and is confident that American students will also gain a knowledge of a different culture from the exchange students.

Help wanted

The Rider community is wanted to help be a part of a giant 150 photo on the Campus Mall on April 28 during open period in honor of Rider’s sesquicentennial celebration. Participants, who all wear Rider gear, will be used to outline and fill a one, five and zero on the lawn. The photo will be an aerial shot looking down on everyone. The shoot is expected to last a half hour. Any questions can be directed to university communications.

The rain date for the event is during open period on April 30.

CORRECTIONS

Because of an editing error, a story on April 15 about sustainability manager Melissa Greenberg made it sound as if her previous employment included two different Philadelphia institutions. In fact, Philadelphia University is the new name of the place she worked, Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science.

J ust months after finalizing transfer agreements with Mercer County, Bucks County and Roadside community colleges, Rider looks forward to enhancing bonds with universities overseas and international students interested in continuing their education in the United States.

The university is now collaborating with King’s College in London. The two schools will work together to provide students from many countries the opportunity to improve their English and to experience American college life in Lawrenceville.

Foreign students apply and are accepted to the language instruction program operated at Rider by King’s College. Meanwhile, Rider’s Auxiliary Services’ Public Safety Department acts as their “campus liaison” to help them navigate various campus policies, including resident life, dining services and extracurricular activities, Reca said.

“King’s and Rider are both well-regarded programs in the international community,” Reca said.

It was an easy decision to make after King’s College initially approached Rider about such an agreement.

Wednesday, April 23

Earth Day Festival

11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m., Campus Mall

Students can join the Energy and Sustainability Steering Committee and the eco-regs in celebrating Earth Day. The Rider community can learn to reduce its impact on the environment and participate in other activities such as a tie-tie-toe toss, a tin can topple, a Bill Nye photo booth, wildflower planting and more.

Thursday, April 24

Dessert Wars: Candyland Finale

4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., Daly’s Dining Hall

Rider students can come to the finale of Dessert Wars to sample and vote for the best dessert. The three dessert options are Reese’s Wrap, Coconut Almond Joy Butter Crunch Cake, and Sweet Sushi.

Bill Nye – The Science Guy

7 p.m. – 9 p.m., Campus Mall

Bill Nye will speak to students about encouraging a scientifically literate society. He will help attendees understand and appreciate the science that makes the world function. Students must have a valid ticket for entry. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

Right now, in Lawrenceville, a lot of people are designing and engineering new products that benefit from King’s increased abilities to recruit students to a program ideally located between Philadelphia and New York,” Reca added, as the two schools’ vice presidents, "International students enrich our campus culture.

Although no additional transfer agreements are on the horizon, “Enrollment Management, the International Office and the Academic Colleges are open to additional international agreements that benefit our students,” Reca said.
The gala highlighted Rider’s 150th celebration following University Day festivities that included the burying of a time capsule, fireworks, inflatable games and Rozanski’s student meet-and-greet. Jonathan Meer, vice president for university advancement, explained that a scholarship in Rozanski’s honor has exceeded its goal. “The scholarship fund honoring our sixth president is nearing its goal thanks to our many generous donors — many of whom are in this room tonight,” he said. “The total amount of scholarship gifts made just this year in Mort’s honor, in cash and pledges, now totals $4,915,000. With only a few more months in our fiscal year, I am confident we will hit that $5 million mark and give our students a substantial benefit on behalf of our president.”

Sesquicentennial medal recipients were also honored at the gala, with two medals given out at the event. Rozanski awarded one of the medals to Michael Kennedy, director of the board of trustees. “He said to me, ‘How can we make one and one equal three?’” said Rozanski. “That was a particularly curious addition, but in the end he did make Rider greater than its equal parts. Mike, your dedication to Rider University far exceeds the ordinary, and you have made Rider a better place. I consider you a close friend and trusted adviser whose guidance I have valued since the day I came here.”

Westminster was also a prominent component at the gala, as nine years ago a committee of trustees was “wrestling with the difficult task of deciding the future of Westminster Choir College,” according to Mickey Gast, ’68, vice chair of the board and co-chair of Rider’s Sesquicentennial Executive Committee. The college was in financial distress, and through close cooperation with Dean Robert Annis, Rozanski worked out the creation of Westminster College of the Arts.

“Mort, thanks to you, Westminster has never been stronger. So, a couple friends and I would like to thank you in the only way musicians can — in song,” said Gast. “Mort, you have built upon a great foundation and have been a true champion at Westminster. With you at our side, the Westminster family and I have never felt alone.”

Rozanski was then awarded a sesquicentennial medal. He concluded with speaking of his coming retirement on July 31. He will be 69. “As I reflect on my impending retirement, I am persuaded that saying goodbye to a career to which I have devoted long years, and conducted with a passion for its joys, good works and people, was like the end of a great love affair,” he said. “While for some it may create a heartbreak void, because of the loss of close relationships and focused purposes, it has not done so for me. The reason is that I know that my friendships will continue uninterrupted.

“I am comforted by the fact that I will continue to find great satisfaction in knowing that I have done my best on behalf of a noble endeavor. And I can sincerely state tonight that this sentiment applies to my 12 years as Rider University president, because they have been some of the best years of my academic career. As I said before, I’d rather be here than anywhere else.”

Gala
CONT’D FROM P. 1

Faculty members, distinguished guests and recipients of sesquicentennial medals gathered to commemorate past years and Rozanski’s legacy through dinner and special entertainment by the Westminster Choir. The gala highlighted Rider’s 150th celebration following University Day festivities that included the burying of a time capsule, fireworks, inflatable games and Rozanski’s student meet-and-greet.

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Encapsulating Rider’s time stamp on history

By Marie McVeigh

DESPITE the stormy weather for the University Day celebration, a ceremony was held before the burying of a time capsule that will be opened in 50 years at the bicentennial celebration.

The ceremony on April 17 featured speakers including Nick Lim, a senior history major and member of the sesquicentennial committee. Students, faculty and alumni all worked together to compile the time capsule, which contained many items collected from past and present years. Examples include Dr. Walt Brower’s Rider history publications, a certificate from an American flag that was flown over an American base in the Middle East, Rider athletics memorabilia, coursework, and a recent issue of The Rider News.

“Today we anchor our sesquicentennial celebration of Rider University by placing our mark on Rider’s campus,” said Lim. “A mark that will last for the next 50 years.”

Many students, faculty and staff members attended the ceremony to honor Rider’s history. A committee has been working tirelessly for three years on the yearlong 150th celebration.

The series of events that has recently taken place is a culmination of all the work the committee has been doing. The 150th celebration has created opportunities for students, faculty, staff and alumni to come together and put a mark on history, organizers said.

The historical perspective of the time capsule was such an opportunity.

“I am happy to be able to share this time with everyone,” said Natalie Pollard, director of alumni relations and a graduate of ’93 and ’98. “This includes students who are here to celebrate, students of the future and certainly students of the past.”

Current Rider students were able to play a part in their school’s history by either coming to the time capsule ceremony or even putting an item in.

Paige Lynne Morgans, a freshman arts administration major, has a friend who is president of Psi Beta Lambda. He put his final speech in the capsule.

“I did not know what the time capsule was going to look like, so I came to see it before it went into the ground,” said Morgans. “The ceremony was very special.”

In addition to celebrating the time capsule, this ceremony also honored Anna Robbins, who was presented with a Sesquicentennial Medal of Excellence for her work at Rider.

Robbins is not only an alumna but also Rider’s longest-tenured employee, having worked many different jobs since her start in 1959. These wide-ranging roles include clerical assistant, payroll supervisor, manager of student accounts, and, since 1987, the bursar. Robbins often said she never worried about her job title as long as she was working with students.

“I feel honored and privileged to have worked at Rider so long,” said Robbins. “There are so many professionals at Rider that contribute so much to this institution. On behalf of them, I am accepting this beautiful medal.”

Lebanon gives UN students a ‘unique perspective’

By Gianluca D’Elia

FOR Rider’s Model United Nations team, the most rewarding part of taking the challenging hands-on course, POL 295, was the success experienced outside the classroom at this year’s National Model United Nations Conference (NMUN) in New York City March 29 – April 2.

Model UN took home an Outstanding Delegation award for the seventh year in a row, ranking among the top 10 percent of over 250 schools that attended the conference. The team also received four Outstanding Position Paper awards.

This year’s team was assigned to represent Lebanon. In the past, Rider has represented Venezuela, Nigeria, Peru and Syria.

“Lebanon was important when it came to global issues, especially because of the Syrian refugee crisis, which gave us a unique perspective,” said the team’s head delegate, senior political science major Maggie Mackintosh. Lebanon and other surrounding nations have experienced a large influx of Syrian refugees because of the Syrian Civil War.

In an effort to encourage students to apply for the team next year, team members shared their experiences at a teach-in on April 16.

Team members also offered insight into the process of joining Model UN. After a rigorous audition and interview process, students enroll for POL 295: Model United Nations. Students spend doing extensive research during winter break on their specific committee topics. During the semester, they write and revise position papers while working on necessary skills for the conference held later in that spring.

At the NMUN Conference, pairs of delegates worked on various councils that discussed resolutions and feedback from students from around the world was another rewarding part of the NMUN experience.

“When you’re in class, you’re thinking, ‘This is so hard,’” Mackintosh said. “But the best part of Model UN is learning skills, putting them in work, and meeting students from all over the world.”

Although some of the skills needed for Model UN seemed like a challenge, POL 295 provided numerous opportunities for improvement.

“I consider myself a good writer, but I didn’t think I had the capacity to speak eloquently,” said senior global studies major Petra Gaskins. “I couldn’t give a speech at all, it was pathetic. But the good thing about Model UN is that you gain a lot of personal development and improve skills that might not have been as strong before.”

Team members hope that students from all majors will consider applying for Model UN.

“Something we’ve really been trying to emphasize is that politics is more than just politics,” Gaskins said. “No matter what you’re interested in, it will intersect with politics. Maybe you don’t like the day-to-day administrative work, but maybe you have some knowledge about other aspects that you can bring. We want people to know that so they can get more interested in politics.”
Students rally to raise awareness for mental health

By Julia Corrigan

ABOUT 200 students participated in a walk/run on the Campus Mall to raise awareness and inform the public about the seriousness of mental illness and sexual violence against women.

Several community organizations that deal with mental health treatments were present at Stomp Out Stigma on April 16. The event, hosted by Rider University’s Counseling Center, has the goal to diminish the stigma that still exists around mental illness, according to the creator.

“We’re just hoping to make people feel more comfortable that a mental illness is the same thing as a medical illness,” said Dr. Lisa Spatafore, coordinator of outreach programming and psychologist for Rider’s counseling center.

The outreach program strives to improve the emotional and social well-being of Rider students through providing mental health and wellness training for stress, grief and loss, body image, anxiety, relationship health and suicide prevention.

Local organizations such as Womanspace, New Horizons, Carrier Clinic, Robert Wood Johnson Health and Wellness, and Rider Health Center set up tables so students could have interactive opportunities to learn more about stress and mental health management.

“We invited community organizations so people can really break down the barriers to accessing treatment and show support for friends, peers and family members who might be suffering from mental illness,” said Spatafore.

The winner of the run, senior accounting major Zachary Benevento, was excited to support the cause and test out his recent motivation to get in shape.

“Being a member of Greek life, I enjoy coming out and supporting another organization’s cause and philanthropy,” said Benevento. “I’ve been trying to get in shape this semester and I thought [the race] was the ultimate test to see how I could do in a run. I guess it paid off.”

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) was also one of the organizations present at Stomp Out Stigma, offering resources and information to all the participants. A longtime volunteer for the Mercer branch of NAMI, Robert Hedden first joined the organization as a college student after experiencing a mental health issue himself.

“I got involved when I was in college because I suffer from a mood disorder and depression,” said Hedden. “I was missing classes and I didn’t know what was wrong with me, so I went to a doctor and I was finally diagnosed. I found this great organization, NAMI, that advocated awareness about mental illness and I have been involved ever since.”

Other volunteers at Stomp Out Stigma, such as Rider senior American studies major Carrie Lettiere, were eager to help eliminate the shame that still exists around mental illnesses, in addition to acquiring experience for her future career goals.

“Since I want to work in nonprofit, volunteering for these events is a great start to my career,” said Lettiere.

Stomp Out Stigma not only raised awareness for mental health, but also encouraged students to accept that having a mental illness is not something to be ashamed of.

“People who are depressed and anxious in the spring tend to feel worst about it because they think, ‘Oh, everyone must feel this way in the winter, why am I still feeling this way?’” said Spatafore.

The counseling center wants the Rider community to know that it is always open to helping those suffering from abuse, stress or mental illness.

“We really want students to access treatment and know that the counseling center exists,” said Spatafore. “I hope this event catches a lot of people and educates them.”

NOTICE FROM P. 2

2014-15 student senate.

Following the first announcement of the elected senators, the 2014-15 finance board, Greek Council, Residence Hall Association board and Association of Community Student’s board were all introduced. It proved impossible to keep the audience completely calm, as cheers, whistles and table thumping erupted after each announcement.

Once the excitement ebbed, the rising sophomore class president and rising senior class president were unveiled. Freshman biology major Johanna Estevez and junior marketing major Christina Diclecine will serve as sophomore and senior class president, respectively.

Perhaps the most anticipated results of the evening were the 2015-16 SGA executive board. First, sophomore digital media major Jake Troy proudly unveiled. Freshman biology major Johanna Estevez and junior marketing major Christina Diclecine were elected as sophomore and senior class president, respectively.

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Art gallery showcases seniors’ superior art

By Emily Klingman

BRIGHT colors and non-representational work will fill Rider’s Art Gallery through April 26, thanks to two senior art majors, Olivia Immordino and Louis Esposito.

Immordino described her work as abstract, while including some pieces involving landscapes and the human form. “I do abstract art, so there’s a combination of a few different things,” said Immordino, “including line and printing, block-faced paintings—I did three of those that are just a concept of understanding the entire rectangle with limited shape and small movements.” Immordino didn’t set out to incorporate a connecting theme in her works, but acknowledges that one can be found. “It’s not important for me to do that because of what [else] I was doing,” said Immordino. “I was looking at other artists, including Sonia Delaunay, Hans Hofmann, and Wassily Kandinsky, and so I guess the theme could be me looking at their work and taking thoughts and ideas from their work and applying them to my paintings.”

The works in Esposito’s collection began last year, after he won an award from Rider. “It kind of starts off with last spring,” said Esposito. “I had an URSA award, and it was all about the figure, and right after I finished, I kind of abandoned the figure and went straight to still life.”

Esposito described exactly what kind of work is in his thesis and the theme found within it. “I have a lot of flower paintings that I did,” said Esposito. “I think some of the flowers, with the way they’re shaped, and the way they kind of dance, they’re almost figurative. So even though they’re not figure paintings, I’m thinking of the figure through still life.”

For Esposito, art was never something he focused on until he came to Rider. “I’ve always kind of drew, and I was always interested in art, but I never really pursued it until I came here as a business major,” he said. “Then after a whole bunch of events, I almost left, but then I took a chance and decided to study art.”

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“Louis Esposito, senior art major at becoming an art major.”

Immordino also wasn’t always in the art program. “I was enrolled in the political science program for her first semester. I had realized I was not happy and decided to take a drawing class, and that was it, then I got into the art program,” she said.

Professor of Fine Arts Deborah Rosenthal recalled both Esposito and Immordino at the start of their paths in Rider’s art program, saying, “Both of them started off with some evident talent.”

Joining Rider’s art program led Immordino to Rosenthal, who she says was a huge influence. “For me, I feel that she’s not just my adviser; she’s my mentor, and she really pushes me,” said Immordino. “Part of the great thing about Rider is that the program is so small. There are only five graduating art seniors this semester—the program is very intimate.”

Both Esposito and Immordino, have seen their artwork affected by their time at Rider. “I’ve learned that there’s a lot more to art than people think there is,” said Esposito. “Because of Rider, I’ve learned really think about the past, and artists that have come before.”

Looking towards the future, Immordino is not sure what’s ahead. She plans to work in the art field and enjoy the life ahead of her. “I think that for me, painting and all the art and craft that I do are really something that I do for joy and for pleasure,” said Immordino. “So I plan to continue painting and doing gallery shows and that kind of stuff. I just want to be happy and live life in a mellow way.”

This fall, Esposito plans on continuing his education at the New York Studio School to work on an MFA. “I can’t really say what I want to do after I’m done,” he said. “My goal is to continue doing what I’m doing and painting and working seriously, but maybe someday, way into the future, I’ll become a professor.”

Studying autism abroad

By Rena Carman

Not many people can change the world, but many strive to, and one such person is Jennifer Lopez, a graduate student in the Applied Psychology Program, conducted an independent research project: “Autism Awareness, Perceptions, Services and Interventions, in the Dominican Republic,” to uncover the truth about autism in the small Caribbean country.

Lopez developed her interest in developmental disabilities while living in the Dominican Republic. While attending college, she discovered a new field: autism and applied behavior analysis.

“ ‘My interest in autism in particular grew when I began my graduate studies in the Applied Behavior Analysis Program here at Rider, Lopez said. “I traveled regularly to my home country [the Dominican Republic], and after speaking to some families and friends about what I do, I realized that not many people knew about autism, and that autism awareness is not something common.”

“ ‘So I decided to combine two things that I am passionate about, autism and the Dominican Republic, and make them the topic for my research and independent study’”

Lopez visited the Dominican Republic twice, once during the fall semester and once in the spring. In the fall, she interviewed professionals in the field of autism to gain knowledge in the types of services and interventions that are available to individuals with autism and their families. The spring trip involved surveying the community to “learn about the level of autonomy awareness” in the Dominican Republic.

“ ‘With the guidance of my faculty mentor, Dr. Cristhina Dolyunik, I was able to prepare my research and complete the necessary steps and procedures to embark on this journey,” Lopez said. “Both studies are a part of an ongoing investigation, which I plan on continuing in the near future.”

Lopez reached out to Dolyunik after attending a faculty lecture Dolyunik gave in April of 2014 about autism in the Ukraine. Dolyunik also has an interest in autism and did her own traveling and research. “I have been interested in that topic for a while now, and was selected to travel to Ukraine twice on two separate Fulbright Specialists Grants, to address the needs of parents and professionals,” Dolyunik said. “While there, I conducted culturally sensitive community-based research.”

Not everyone has a full understanding of what autism is or how to treat it and cope with it.

“ ‘According to Dolyunik, “Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a developmental disorder that involves qualitative differences in socio-communicative functioning and overt or ritualistic behaviors. Individuals with ASD may have a range of abilities and their difficulties are apparent from a young age.”’

Researching a Dominican Republic community gave Lopez the chance to gather information on her own experience firsthand. From this, she was able to “better understand the needs of the community in terms of their knowledge” on autism.

ASD is a global issue that people are finally beginning to understand. According to Lopez, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that one in every 68 children in the United States has been identified with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

“ ‘However, the prevalence of autism in developing countries such as the Dominican Republic has not been reported due to the lack of research done in this area,” she said. Her work focuses on the needs of the people in the Dominican Republic, which is why the study is community-based.

“ ‘There is a need to raise global awareness of ASD and to provide training and support to parents and professionals,’ Dolyunik said. “But that training should be specific to the needs of culture and community.”

Lopez concurred with Dolyunik. “One important thing that I took away from this research is that there is a need for autism awareness and resources in the Dominican Republic,” Lopez said. “I was also able to spread the word about autism awareness, which was very rewarding.”

Lopez’s research has been selected for the American Psychological Association (APA) 2015 Convention, and she will be presenting her study this summer in Toronto.

“ ‘I can’t really say what I want to do after I’m done,” she said. “My goal is to continue doing what I’m doing and painting and working seriously, but maybe someday, way into the future, I’ll become a professor.”

Graduate student Jennifer Lopez holds her baby cousin in the Dominican Republic this past year. 

Louis Esposito and Olivia Immordino present their senior theses in the Art Gallery.
All Shook Up features a large cast that Lewis enjoyed working with, especially as they faced the show’s challenging material.

“[The cast] is very high-energy,” Lewis said. “The kids are dancing at a really high caliber. I think people will be surprised not only by the singing and acting in the show, but the dancing too. The kids have been rising to meet all the challenges. We’re stretching them — we’re doing lift, stretching their vocal singing. The kids have been rising to it; I haven’t really been challenged. The kids have been challenged with the music and the dancing, but for me, as a director, it’s been a joy to watch our kids rise to the challenging material and accomplish it.”

Milika Griffiths, junior, who plays Lorraine, enjoyed overcoming the obstacles the show presented for her.

“One of the biggest challenges is getting a new sound in my voice,” she said. “I don’t sing rock ‘n’ roll, so this is a new field for me. But the music is awesome, so I just make sure to have a party and enjoy myself.”

Gabrielle Beckford, sophomore, who plays the role of Sylvia, was ecstatic about her part in the play and about the effort each of the actors has put in.

“I am so thrilled to be playing the part of Sylvia,” Beckford said. “I’ve wanted to get this role since I found out that this show was going to be one of the main stage productions here at Rider. I’m most excited for the audience to finally see all the hard work that was put into this show.”

From dancing to singing to acting, audiences will be amazed with all the show has to offer.

“All Shook Up is so much comedy, beautiful, colorful costumes and just great music,” Griffiths said. “We all have been working really hard, and it will just be one big party on stage.”

Lewis is looking forward to the audiences’ reactions, as well as the satisfaction his cast will get from putting on such a dynamic musical.

“[The show is so magical],” Lewis said. “I just can’t wait for the students to feel the appreciation for their work and how the audience will respond. I’m looking forward to seeing [the show] every night — I’m not going to miss one show. The students’ work is just so phenomenal. I think it’s all-around a top-notch, professional production, our students are presenting. Everyone’s going to be ‘all shook up’.”
Rozanski

CONT’D FROM P . 1

lished in his honor.

ated, so that what happened would not occur again, whether that involved tragedy, so that the community would be smooth and I’m doing everything I can to help him move without too much interruption to continue the effort.

“I will expect that I think he’s going to take Rider to the next level of excellence,” said Rozanski. “He’s going to do a fabulous job and he’s going to be terrific with students, with faculty, with staff, with the alumni. I’m just delighted that he is succeeding me, and I’m going to be rooting for him.

Through the ups and downs of his presidency, Rozanski has always thought of Rider as one of the best experiences of his life. He feels that he’s accomplished a lot of the goals not only that he wanted to achieve, but also that the community wanted to achieve. Departing after the success of Rider’s 200th anniversary celebration, Rozanski says when the 200th anniversary celebration comes around, he wants to be remembered for his passion and dedication to academics. He also says he will really miss the students who help to build Rider’s reputation.

“RIders are founded at least on the idea that the great ones are constantly going through renewal and improvement,” he said. “That’s what is so important to Rider. We built on the success of my predecessors, and President Dell’Omo will build on what we achieved here as a community.”

“To me, the greatest pride is the success of our students. To me, it’s always been about the students. To be able to attend graduation — I was there when they came as freshmen, I welcomed them and I promised them that I would see them at graduation. I have personally shaken the hands of more than 13,000 Rider students who have graduated. That, I think, is the greatest accomplishment that I have great pride in. That’s my legacy.”

New Construction

1) West Village Residential Complex, 2) Hank and Bonnie Moore Residence Hall, 3) Student Recreation Center and Atrium, 4) Ben Cohen Turf Field, 5) Sonny Pittaro Field, 6) Herb and Joan Young Field, 7) North Hall, 8) The Marion Buckelew Cullen Center, 9) Bart Luedeke Center

In Development

Playhouse renovation, Basketball practice facility

Campus Renovations

125 classrooms, labs, and other academic spaces, 3 new residences; 14 renovated, 312 beds added, Dining facilities on both campuses, General Services Building, West House, Yvonne and “The Spitz” Blackbox Theaters, Alumni Gym, Van Cleve Alumni House

Not every memory about Rider was good for Rozanski, however. He had to guide the university through a time when it was seen in a negative light following the death of freshman Gary DeVercely in an alcohol-related incident.

“Without a doubt, it was the saddest moment at Rider for me,” Rozanski said. “Obviously, for his parents and for his friends, it was a tragedy. But also, the community was touched and truly sorrowful about that event. We tried to make both policies and actions in response to that tragedy, so that what happened would not occur again, whether that involved fraternity policies, alcohol policies or how we took care of each other — the Good Samaritan Policy. Elevating freshmen as they came in, talking to parents about it, and also the scholarship that we established in his honor.

“It was a very, very difficult event, a tragic event, and we’re tried to learn from it to make sure that it doesn’t happen again. I’m really so proud of the community and how they responded to that and recognized that we have to take care of each other and protect each other as a community. We’re a family.”

Now Rozanski is preparing to leave Rider, and Dell’Omo does not need any suggestions on how to lead the Rider community; he’s confident that his successor will do a fine job on his own.

“He doesn’t need advice from me. He’s an experienced, very successful president, having helped Robert Morris move into areas of great success in 10 years of presidency. I’ve shared with him as much information as I can, so that he will be successful; the transition will be smooth and I’m doing everything I can to help him move without too much interruption to continue the effort.

“I will expect that I think he’s going to take Rider to the next level of excellence,” said Rozanski. “He’s going to do a fabulous job and he’s going to be terrific with students, with faculty, with staff, with the alumni. I’m just delighted that he is succeeding me, and I’m going to be rooting for him.

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A s we say goodbye to Rider’s sixth president, we have heard many words of praise for President Mordechai Rozanski. While we at The Rider News have only been at Rider for a handful of Rozanski’s 12 years, we have learned about his legacy through the eyes of those who have worked with him from the start. Despite not witnessing the entirety of his success first-hand, we feel that we are just as thankful for Rozanski and all that he has done for the university and its students.

Students may complain that Rider’s tuition is astronomical, but there is another side to that argument. Thanks to Rozanski’s determination, Rider made it through tough financial times with strength, ensuring that students were provided with increasingly generous scholarships. Many on The Rider News staff know first-hand that without the substantial scholarships we were offered, we might not be on this campus today. Oh behalf of all who benefited financially, thank you, Dr. Rozanski, for your hard work in cash-strapped times.

Arguably the biggest imprint of Rozanski’s legacy on both campuses will be the new state-of-the-art buildings and renovations completed during his tenure. From the cozy residence halls such as Moore Hall and new academic spaces such as North Hall and the Cullen Center to athletic facilities such as Ben Cohen South Hall and the Cullen Center to academic buildings that surround the academic quad, the Rider campus are much better places, both functionally and aesthetically.

Many of these new constructions are not just beneficial to the Rider community, but also to the environment. Under Rozanski’s administration, Rider has committed to making every new building on campus LEED-certified (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). These LEED buildings include North Hall, West Village and the Cullen Center.

Another eco-friendly addition to the Lawrenceville campus is the Trigent plant, which utilizes natural gas to heat and cool the four academic buildings that surround the academic quad. Not only do these eco-friendly additions help reduce Rider’s carbon footprint, but they are also saving the university — and therefore the students — hundreds of thousands of dollars a year in utility costs.

Rozanski’s sustainability efforts went beyond infrastructure. Because of him, sustainability has become a core component of our university. Because of him, Rider was lucky enough to establish a sustainability manager position. And because of him, dozens of eco-reps have discovered their passion for protecting our planet, and have taken it into their own hands to educate the rest of the Rider family on the importance of sustainability.

Despite the enormity of climate-change issues at hand, such as terrifying droughts and intensifying natural disasters, we are the generation who must face them. By making sustainability a focus at Rider, Rozanski has played a key role in preparing us for the future.

Let us not forget that Rozanski also has helped make Rider a more diverse university. During his tenure, international enrollment has increased 141 percent, with students coming from all over the world to study at Rider. Agreements with international schools such as Sanda University in Shanghai, China, Centre d’Etudes Franco Américain de Management (CEFAM) in Lyon, France, have helped bring new cultures and worldviews to our community.

Ultimately, Rider has thrived over the last 12 years under Rozanski. We students wish we could have gotten to know him better in these past few years. His biography, we’re just learning now, is amazing. His contact with everyday students the last two years was minimal.

The environment on campus was tense in recent semesters, with financial difficulties and a strike looming. However, the Rider family stuck together — and we made it through the storm. With just a few weeks left of the semester, a legendary chapter of Rider’s history is coming to a close as Rozanski says farewell. But this ending is not sad — it is a promising new beginning.

GREEN CORNER

Fight climate change

B ACK in January, a controversial issue known as Deflategate arose in the sports industry in regards to the deflation of footballs. The coach of the team in question explained this as a result of atmospheric conditions and temperature changes. Bill Nye, bring “The Science Guy,” decided to demonstrate the science behind this speculated phenomenon and weigh in on the issue by vocalizing his opinion. But his opinion dealt very little with the footballs. Instead, he took this time to vocalize the real scientific issue we should all be concerned about.

“Climate change is real. While we’re all obsessed with Deflategate, let’s keep in mind that there’s something about which you should give a damn.” Nye said, “Yes, like Tom Brady, the world is getting hotter and hotter, and you know why? Because we humans are pumping carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.”

This concept of climate...
Bill Nye

CONT’D FROM P. 11

change has become mainstream over the last few years as scientists assess our future standing on this planet we all call home. But what is climate change? It’s the term used to describe the altering of the weather on a long-term scale because of the greenhouse gas effect.

The greenhouse gas effect is a process that heats up the Earth as gases such as carbon dioxide, methane and water vapor trap heat in the atmosphere. In simple terms, heat energy from the sun travels through the atmosphere which contains these greenhouse gases, gets trapped by these gases, and then is reradiated back to the Earth’s surface, in a process called the greenhouse effect. This is what allows plants to grow. It is the reason we have seasons. If it were not for the greenhouse gases, we would not have a temperate climate.

May 27, 2021

The Rider News

Bill Nye has been a popular figure in the field of science and is widely recognized for his positive approach to teaching science. As B"ill Nye, “The Science Guy,” he has explored numerous topics. He has educated and raised the awareness of many individuals, including many of us here at Rider, with his simple and quirky hands-on approach. On April 23, Bill Nye will be appearing at Rider University as this year’s Earth Day keynote speaker. Only ticket holders will be able to gain entrance to this exciting event.

On April 22nd, the whole world joins in on celebrating Earth Day’s 45th anniversary. This year the environmental movement is centered around the theme of plastic waste and plastic pollution. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, Americans throw away about 1 million plastic water bottles every minute. This is a problem because plastic takes hundreds of years to break down. The plastic that is not broken down ends up in oceans and oceans, killing marine life and污染ing the environment.

To eliminate the rising of sea levels, greater and more frequent natural disasters, the loss of habitat and threats to human health among many other things, we must take action now. We must address climate change in the context of the football coach’s blame on temperature change.

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A

s seniors, we’re getting ready to end our time at Rider and start our lives as young adults. Things are exciting. There’s a newly found freedom from lectures and exams. All of our hard work over the past four years has finally boiled down to the exact moment of shaking President Rozanski’s hand and receiving our diploma.

Because of this, some of us are ready to completely spread our wings and fly—find the job of our dreams, ready to completely spread our wings and move out of our parents’ house to the exact moment of shaking President Rozanski’s hand and receiving our diploma.

Sure, that dream job might be nailed down; however, moving out isn’t an option just yet—and that’s OK. It’s perfectly all right to not be ready to leave the nest (and most of the time, your mom probably won’t mind keeping her “baby” around longer, either). Having a job after college while still living at home with your parents isn’t the end of the world. In fact, at the end of the day, it could actually be a pretty smart decision to stay.

Obviously, living at home allows you to save money that might be more expenses than other jobs. Some people might have to worry about a train or bus to work, and depending on where you’re located, there’s the option of the subway as well. There are gas costs, which is a given. All of these add up monthly. Having no expenses on top of paying rent and utilities and whatever else you might need could become overwhelming for a recent graduate. Living at home eliminates a number of extra fees that you would otherwise have to worry about.

And sometimes, we’re just not ready. It’s no secret that some college students aren’t the best cooks—this is proven when the fire alarm goes off at 1 a.m. because of burning instant mac & cheese. Taking the time to ease into being a complete adult is a great thing to do before heading out into the real world. Some people adjust faster than others, and there’s no reason to feel bad about yourself because you want to take that time to adjust.

There’s a whole long life ahead of you. Take your time to appreciate just starting out and worry about bigger things later. Take things one day at a time, and soon enough you’ll be out there on your own making a great living.

—Danielle Gittelman
Senior journalism major

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Senior journalism major

The Rider News  9 April 22, 2015

Opinion

FACE-OFF

Home is where the heart is

W

hile graduation right around the corner, seniors have started their scramble to figure out the question of “What comes next?” In addition, many are also starting their search for where they are going to live. After four years of living on your own—learning how to take care of yourself and establishing a routine—the benefits of keeping that independence outweigh moving back home.

This generation has been nicknamed the “boomerang generation” because of our reputation to return home after graduation. According to Time magazine, 83 percent of recent graduates move back home. Doing so, though, limits the recent grad, whereas moving out and finding an apartment to call your own is a whole new adventure. With college behind you and a new career on the horizon, finding a new home follows the idea of independence that college had.

While it seems the biggest drawback to not staying at home is affordability, finding a new place also helps to teach life skills, such as developing a healthy diet, creating routines, maintaining a monthly budget that encompasses rent, groceries, etc. Moving out becomes much more financially realistic with a roommate, of course.

Another advantage to moving out is there is no loss of privacy, and there is the freedom to figure out where life can go. In an article on huffingtonpost.com, entitled “Recent Graduates Not only Move Back Home, But Stay There,” Ashley Moore, a Pace University graduate, explains the struggle of staying home, saying parents might “regress” and treat you like you’re in high school.

The opportunities are endless with a fresh start and a new address. There is an added drive to work harder, to push for a promotion and strive towards a dream or goal. There is strong motivation to move forward in a career and in the growing-up process.

Author Grant Cordone, in an article on sheknows.com, emphasizes that moving back home is negative, saying “Everybody thinks this is the ‘solution’ but it really only brings problems.”

So, while home does come without rent and with home-cooked meals, it does not enforce the real-life skills necessary to advance further in a career. It can be nice to live with Mom and Dad for a little while longer, but no matter the age, when you make the break, they’ll always be your parents, and they will always be there for you, regardless of whether the address is home or elsewhere. There’s so much else to experience in the world; all it takes is a different viewpoint—a new address.

—Tara Delorenzo
Senior English writing major

ART BEAST

What To Do

12:00-3:00 Strolling Circus Acts

1:00 & 5:00 Performances

7:00 A Capella Performances

3:00 Art Administration Ensembles

4-10 Cultural Dance Performances

5:00 Premiere Performances

5:30 Circus Performances

Free Tie Dye Food

Midway Games

Graffiti Workshop

5:20 W.C. Lindsay

7:00 Ricer Dance Ensemble

7:10 Midnight Sorority

8:05 R-Factor Winner Showcase

8-10 Coffee House

9:30 Ri-Diculous

MAY 1, 2015

OUTSIDE OF FINE ARTS
By Shariq Marshall

The track and field team competed in three meets in three different states, as 13 personal bests were achieved among 11 athletes.

The first meet of the weekend was the Larry Ellis Invitational at Princeton. For the men’s team, senior Dylan Hallahan ran a time of 9:23.92, placing him 25th out of 46 in the 3,000-meter steeplechase.

In this event, sophomore Bradley Kauffmann ran a personal best of 9:17.37. Junior Tom McLaughin ran a 4:03.57 in the men’s 1,500-meter. Senior Anthony Dentino ran the 5,000-meter in 15:39.03.

Senior Emily Ritter managed to break her own personal best record in the women’s 3,000 with an impressive ECAC-qualifying time of 10:08.11, good for fourth overall in that event.

Head Coach Bob Hamer mentioned that although accomplishing a personal best is a great feat, Ritter still has some areas to improve in. “She ran a patient and then aggressive race over the last 1000 meters,” he said. “But she needs to improve her water barrier a bit prior to the 5,000.”

Sophomore Connor Szwetkowski ran a personal record of 1:56.57 in the men’s 800-meter race. “He rebounded from a few rough weeks and has become a good vaulter,” Hamer said.

Senior David Prouder won the triple jump with a jump of 12.46, and junior Charles Wilks threw the disc for an IC4A qualifying distance and personal record of 48.33.

Junior Miranda Roberts won the pole vault with a height of 10’6”. Freshman Karoline Sandvig threw the javelin for a personal record of 37.66.

Junior Stephanie Welte also ran a personal best in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:16.50.

Sophomore Jamie Harris was close behind at 24.13. She also threw the javelin for a personal record of 12.46, and junior Charles Wilks threw the disc for an IC4A qualifying distance and personal record of 48.33.

Junior Miranda Roberts won the pole vault with a height of 10’6”. Freshman Karoline Sandvig threw the javelin for a personal record of 37.66. She also threw the javelin for a personal record of 26.58.

Hamer stated that the team is looking forward to competing in the Penn Relays on April 23 and 24 and having the remainder compete in the Lions Invitational at TCNJ.

Three meets, 13 personal records

Senior Emily Ritter broke a personal record and qualified for the ECAC, in the 3,000-meter. She ran a personal best time of 15:32.64 which placed her third overall in the 5,000.

Freshman Alexandra Rae Santora placed second overall in the 3,000 with a personal best time of 11:54.75. Rider also traveled to Elon on April 18 for the Phoenix Invitational. On day one, senior Anthony DeFranco (11.26), freshman Shabazz Shuler (11.35) and freshman Jamie Harris (11.72) all ran the 100-meter dash. Freshman Andrew Horberg ran a 23.46 in the 200-meter and freshman Jamie Harris was close behind at 24.13. In the 800, sophomore Scott Wood ran a personal record of 1:56.57.

Sophomore Devon Jefferson placed first overall, running a personal record and IC4A-qualifying time of 14.59, freshman Christin Patrick Jr. placed fourth overall with a time of 15.16, and freshman Juan Baxter ran a 15.37.

Devon Jefferson placed third in the 400-meter hurdles with another personal record time of 54.68, junior Daren Edwards ran a 57.03, junior Julian Thomas ran a 57.85, sophomore Garrett Camp ran a 1:00.42, and sophomore Willfried Assamoa ran a 1:02.13.

Christin Patrick Jr. won the high jump with a distance of 1.85. Sophomore Erik Adamneck placed first in men’s pole vault with a 4.56.

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PUSHING BOUNDARIES
Young Broncs earn first MAAC win

By Brandon Scalza

FOLLOWING a 12-match losing streak, the men’s tennis team picked up its first MAAC win of the season on April 19, defeating rival Siena by a score of 4-3 in the first match of a doubleheader.

Against Siena, the men were led by freshman Chris Popso, who picked up victories at first singles and first doubles. His wins were by scores of 6-2 and 7-5, and 6-4. In the first doubles match, Popso teamed up with sophomore Ahmed al-Shawafi for the win, 8-6.

“Both Ahmed and I played well in doubles, and we both showed up during major points,” Popso said. “We had come so close on multiple occasions, so it felt great to get that first win. We didn’t necessarily play up to our potential, but we played smart tennis.”

Also for the Broncs, a pair of freshmen contributed, as Jeremy Van Herwarde picked up his fourth win of the season at fifth singles, winning 6-1, 6-4. In the first singles match, Van Herwarde put up the best fight for Rider, winning two games. However, he ultimately lost the match by a final score of 6-0, 6-2.

Though Popso shined in the first outing of the afternoon, he was beaten by Monmouth’s freshman Ale Gomez Estrada in first singles, 6-0 and 6-1. In third singles, Berhane had a similar outcome, falling to sophomore Luke Adamus 6-0, 6-8.

It was ultimately a rough season for the men, as they finished 2-18 and 1-6 in MAAC play. Popso believes that only progress can be made in the coming years — as the Broncs will return all seven letter-winners for the fall 2015 season. “This summer is going to be very important in securing a stronger foundation for next year,” Popso said. “Collectively as a team, we all have more ambitious goals for next season.

With this in mind, we all have to train harder and be ready to compete with some of the top teams in the MAAC.”

Berhane feels that Rider’s experience next fall will be enough to move them to the top half of the conference. “Our experience is key because we know what to expect from every Metro Atlantic team next season,” he said. “We might not win the conference, but we all expect to improve our position in the table. This team will only get better; we are hungry for more wins. We just have to stay motivated.”
BY SHANNA O’MARA

T he softball team was swept in a doubleheader by Fairfield on April 18, 4-3 and 6-4, respectively. The Broncs (10-28, 4-8 MAAC) kept Fairfield off the scoreboard for the first two innings with sophomore pitcher DeLaney DeMello continuously striking out batters. “You never know what to expect in this conference,” said DeMello. “But I know we can compete with anyone. I just have to do the best I can and trust that my defense is working behind me.”

The Stags made a move in the bottom of the third inning with two runs on four hits. The Broncs looked for a comeback in the top of the fourth with an RBI single by junior third baseman Emily Cottrell. Freshman outfielder Monica Clark smashed a two-run homer over the wall. Berg had two of Rider’s seven hits. Carroll insists that the Broncs, but the Peacocks scored two runs on two hits including a two-run homer over the wall.

During the second game, McDonough recorded a career-high eight strikeouts while allowing only four additional runs, but it was not enough to defeat the Peacocks.

Although the Peacocks tried to gain the lead with a run in the first, the Broncs fired back with four runs on three hits and a Saint Peter’s error in the first inning. McClung stepped to the plate with bases loaded and singled up the middle, allowing two runs in. Cottrell scored on McDonough’s RBI, and Berg later singled to right field, allowing McClung to score.

The score remained the same until the top of the sixth inning when Rider scored one run on one hit, sophomore catcher Morgan Benedetti ultimately rounding the plate. The Peacocks scored just once in the bottom of the sixth, but the Broncs took it mercy, scoring four more runs during the seventh, leaving the final score at 9-2.

McCool had three of Rider’s 11 hits, and Berg and Breeden each had two. Cottrell had the hottest day, scoring two of the Broncs’ nine runs. Rider hosted a doubleheader against Columbia on April 21, coming back from a 3-2 loss in the first game to dominate during the second, defeating the Lions 9-3.

Despite two RBIs by Sensi and Breeden, the Broncs couldn’t overcome Columbia’s three runs on 10 hits. However, game two was a better performance by the Broncs with five RBIs by Sensi, three by Breeden and one by junior infielder Kim Valdes. Freshman pitcher Jayne Zeiman allowed 12 hits but only three Columbus runs when she had nine outs, nine hits.

The baseball team won the Liberty Bell Classic on April 15 at Citizens Bank Park in Philadelphia.

The strong hitting streak continued during the second inning with three Rider runs on five hits, with freshman utility player Morgan DiVello, Berg and Irving reaching home plate.

Saint Peter’s scored once more in the second inning, three times in the fourth, four in the fifth and twice in sixth, leaving Rider in a tough spot for game one. DeMello homered to left field in the fifth inning, and Cottrell did the same in the sixth, along with two additional runs, but it was not enough to defeat the Peacocks.

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Though the Broncs were not as successful in the second game, several players shined on that day. Thomas had five hits on the afternoon, including another pair of doubles and two RBIs on the twin bill. Thomas feels that his hard work off the field is starting to pay off at the plate. “I’m confident with everything I’ve put in up until this point,” he said. “Giving 100 percent at practice is important, and some back never hurts. It feels good to get the hits when they matter most.”

Parsons recorded four hits, including a pair of RBI doubles. Senior third baseman Nick Richter also had two RBIs.

The next day, the Broncs lost their first MAAC series of the season, dropping the third game in another one-run game. It was the second straight game where the Broncs blew an early 4-0 lead. Marist took a 7-6 lead in the seventh inning, all with two outs. It overcame a two-run deficit with a single, two walks and a bases-clearing double.

The Marist rally came after the Broncs broke a seventh inning tie on a clutch hit from sophomore catcher Lee Arana and pins for a 6-4 lead.

Freshman pitcher Nick Margievicz went five and two-thirds innings in the no decision. He allowed two runs and kept Rider in the ballgame.

The Broncs only had eight hits on the afternoon, but Richter had two of them. He has been hot at the plate, with 10 hits in the last seven games. Junior outfielder James Locklear also shined in the loss, with a two-RBI performance.

On April 21, the Broncs hosted Lehigh (15-24, 9-7 Patriot League) in a game that went the distance. In the bottom of the 10th inning, senior Eric Strano came through with one of the biggest hits of the season for the Broncs, an RBI single that scored Parsons for the win. Not only did he score the winning run, but Parsons started his 155th consecutive game, breaking a 19-year-old school record.

The Broncs had to stage a late comeback to send the game into extra innings. Trailing 6-3 in the ninth with two runners on base, last year’s NCAA leader in stolen bases took matters into his hands, stealing on a pitch which Locklear drew for a base hit. Richter scored from first on the play.

Despite allowing 10 walks and committing two errors, Rider’s offense kept them in the game. Locklear had three hits and two RBIs and Richter reached base three times.

Senior closer Eric Thomas pitched a scoreless ninth inning for the win. He has not allowed an earned run this season.

The Broncs travel to Princeton on April 22 for a meeting with their Ivy League rival.
Pitch perfect: Walk-up music sets tone

By Thomas Alban

No matter the level of play, the motion remain the same — batters for the home team make their way from the on-deck circle to the plate. As the public address announcer introduces them to the crowd, the batters settle into the batter’s box and get into their stance. And throughout that whole process, there’s a tune playing.

Music has its role in all sports, and baseball and softball are no exceptions. Each player has a song that signals his or her entrance into the game. The music aims to do a variety of things: give the player motivation, pump up the crowd and strike fear into the hearts of the opponents.

Baseball’s senior outfielder Greg Fazio believes that having music can make or break the moment.

“I think it’s important for players to have walk-up songs because baseball is just as mental as it is physical, and walk-up songs can get players in the right state of mind,” Fazio said.

The kinds of songs used can vary — from pop tracks to rock hits, to themes of nostalgia, reminding him of his younger playing days and his favorite movie, *The Sandlot*. The Kanye West song, however, was chosen for more than the music. The opening lyrics describe Chicago, a city Richter grew up approximately an hour away from in Fox River Grove, Illinois.

“I like to have a good mix of old songs and new ones in my walk-up songs,” he said. “The songs just ease my mind and that’s something that helps me focus on my routine as a hitter.”

Sometimes the music gets comical. It can be anything from a newbie on the team getting “special” treatment from veteran players, or a player trying something unexpected. According to Richter and Fazio, the seniors choose the music for freshmen on the baseball team.

While Richter did not receive this treatment because of his transfer status, he’s been the victim of embarrassing entrance music elsewhere.

“A team in summer ball once played songs for us as walk-ups,” he said. “I think I got ‘I Want It That Way’ by the Backstreet Boys. I love that song so I didn’t have a problem with it.”

But when Richter sees the freshmen up at bat, it just helps me relax and not overthink when I’m up at bat.”

Some songs are chosen because they hit home and have emotional significance to the athletes. This is the case for senior third baseman Nick Richter’s two pieces — “Poppin’ Time” by Hank Ballard and the Midnighters, and “Dark Fantasy” by Kanye West.

Richter said he chose “Poppin’ Time” because it gives him a sense of nostalgia, reminding him of his younger playing days and his favorite movie, *The Sandlot*. The Kanye West song, however, was chosen for more than the music. The opening lyrics describe Chicago, a city Richter grew up approximately an hour away from in Fox River Grove, Illinois.

“I think everyone had a little more adrenaline going,” he said. “It was definitely a cool experience playing at the home of the Phillies.”

The Broncos jumped on top in the fourth inning after a pair of singles by senior infielder Mike Parsons and senior Mike Parsons.

Last year, when our Italian freshman outfielder Giovannii Grassen came up, we played ‘Dominick the Donkey.’ That one was definitely the weirdest I’ve ever heard.”

While that tradition does not exist for the softball team, Spencer feels there can still be some pretty funny choices.

“The funniest walk-up I’ve heard is my teammate’s, [freshman pitcher] Jayme Zeliman. Her walk-up is the *Zoot* 101 theme song,” Spencer said. “I love it because it makes everyone sing along and gets everyone in a good mood.”

In the end, Richter feels that walk-up music helps attach a personality to each athlete and adds just a little more fun to the game known as America’s pastime.

“I think that walk-ups are important because it gives the hitter a way to express themselves with their favorite songs while being able to calm any nerves they might have,” Richter said.

“I think it’s cool to have because it’s a fun way to personalize the game and get players into a routine.”

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**BASEBALL**

**Broncos beat ‘Nova to win trophy in the Bank**

By Brandon Scalea

The baseball team won the 24th annual Liberty Bell Classic, following an impressive 6-2 win over Villanova at Citizens Bank Park in Philadelphia.

The Wildcats (14-19, 2-3 Big East), five-time winners of this tournament, took a 2-0 lead in the second inning, sending Head Coach Barry Davis to the bullpen early.

Senior pitcher David Hafer pitched lights out in relief, going four and two-thirds while striking out a season-high seven batters for the win. Hafer, who is now 5-1 on the season, said he was fired up by the atmosphere of a major league ballpark.

“The mound itself was great,” he said. “The atmosphere was amazing, and it was just a great experience overall. We all wanted to play well in that ballpark, and I think it definitely inspired us.”

Senior All-MAAC first baseman Justin Thomas was a force at the plate, hitting a pair of doubles to spark the Broncos (16-17, 6-3 MAAC) to a come-from-behind victory. His biggest hit of the evening came with two outs in the top of the ninth, with Rider clinging to a 4-2 lead. He cracked a double in the gap and drove in two runs, giving the Broncos the separation they needed going into the bottom half of the ninth.

Thomas also believes his game was elevated by the atmosphere of the evening.

“I think everyone had a little more adrenaline going,” he said. “It was definitely a cool experience playing at the home of the Phillies.”

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