

# RIDER

a magazine for alumni and friends

Fall 2019



## MEDICINE'S FUTURE

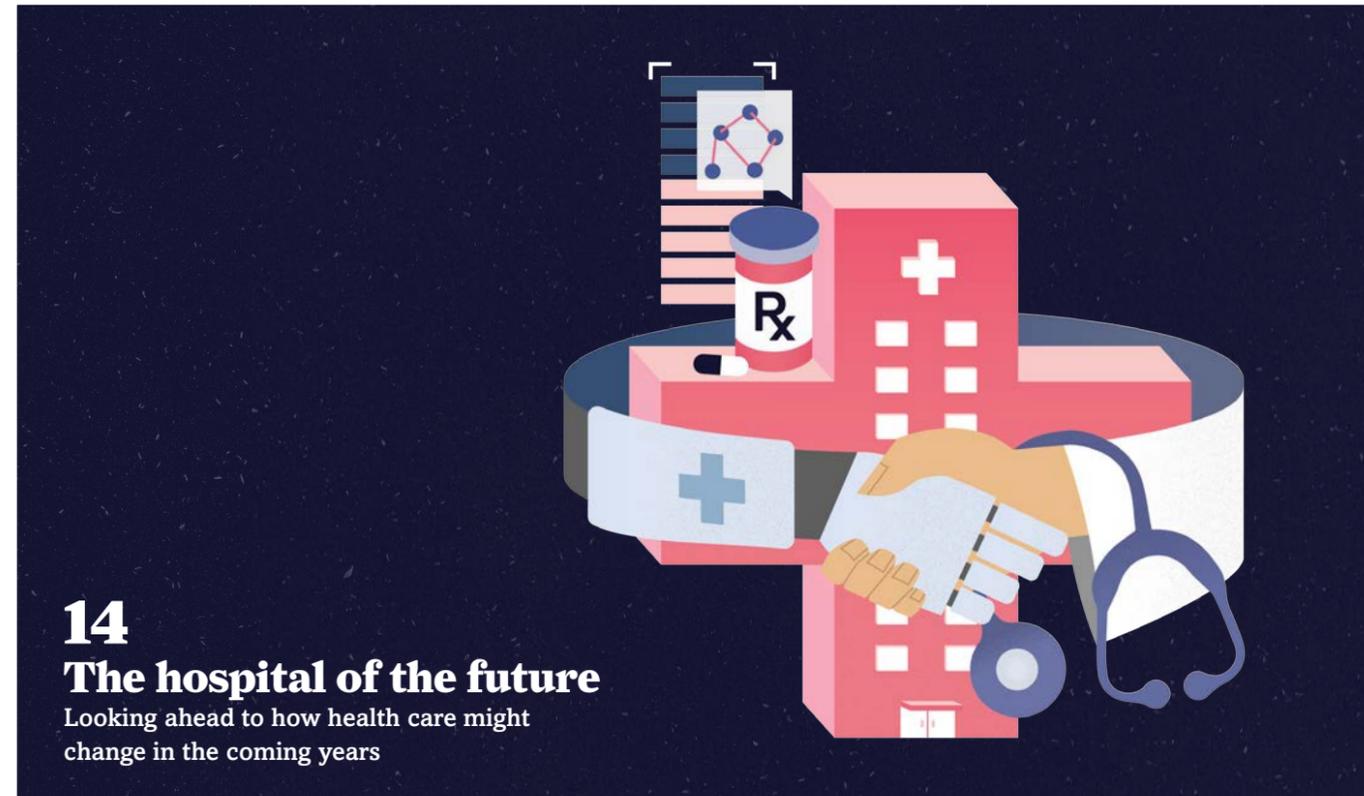
Rider alumni and faculty  
predict how health care  
delivery will change



## FRESH EATS

This summer, two central dining locations received complete renovations — Cranberry's and the Pub. Besides an array of food options (pizza, tacos, sushi, grain bowls, pasta and more), students can place mobile orders at Cranberry's now, which will be stored in secured food lockers until pick-up. Other renovations this summer included projects devoted to residence halls, athletic facilities and academic buildings.

# Fall 2019



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# RIDER

Volume 21 / Issue 1

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## Dear alumni and friends,

IMAGINE STANDING IN THE BULLPEN OF A MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL STADIUM. YOU'RE 22 YEARS OLD AND ABOUT TO MAKE YOUR PROFESSIONAL PITCHING DEBUT. MORE THAN 40,000 SCREAMING SAN DIEGO PADRES FANS ARE CHEERING YOU ON.

This past spring, that's exactly the scenario that Nick Margevicius of the Class of 2017 faced when he became the seventh Bronc ever to pitch in the majors.

As we've watched Nick on his journey from Lawrenceville to San Diego, we're of course incredibly proud of him. But we're proud of him not simply for what he accomplished; we're proud of him because of how he accomplished it. At Rider, he formed a network of support from his friends, his coaches and his professors, and imposed a sense of discipline on himself as he methodically went about achieving his goal of being selected in the draft.

Nick's efforts may have landed him on one of the biggest stages in the world — one very few people of any stripe ever get to experience — but in many ways, his story is the same one shared by so many Rider students and alumni. Our University is where students can be seen for who they are, where they can dream about who they want to



become and where they can always feel secure knowing they can find their path with the help of those around them.

The details change, but I hear a version of this story over and over again: that Rider allowed me to

discover the potential I didn't even know I had, and then it gave me the tools and support to realize that potential.

As we continue with the important institutional work that is propelling Rider forward, I'm grateful for everyone who makes these stories, and the Rider story, possible. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

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

# UNIVERSITY *News*

## Quotable



**“Covering politics in New Jersey was so much fun. I can’t think of a better education in politics than being involved in the Garden State.”**

- Steve Kornacki, NBC News' political correspondent, speaking at the 4th annual Rebovich Statewide Intern Conference at Rider on July 17



## Rising star

Alexis Bailey, a senior political science major, received a Rising Star award from the New Jersey Business & Industry Association. As an undergraduate, Bailey has interned with the Republican National Committee, in the U.S. House of Representatives and with the state gubernatorial campaign of Jack Ciattarelli. She was recently elected co-chair of the New Jersey College Republicans and, in the fall, began as the president of the organization's Rider chapter.

## No. 1

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recognized Rider last spring as an Individual Conference Champion in the 2018-19 College and University Green Power Challenge. Rider currently uses more green power than any of the 11 schools in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.



## Take a seat

Andrew Jackson Rider, the University's namesake, now has a permanent presence on the Lawrenceville campus in the form of a bronze statue that bears his likeness. Installed in front of the Bart Luedeke Center, the statue shows Rider sitting on a bench, with his arm draped atop it, welcoming visitors to take a seat next to him and, perhaps, take a selfie. The statue was designed and manufactured by All Classics and funded by the Student Government Association.



## New deans



Dr. Kelly Bidle began her appointment as dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences on July 1. She joined Rider's faculty in 2001 and continues to teach in the Department of Biology, Behavioral Neuroscience, and Health Sciences. Her students have received significant research fellowships and have gone on to attend prestigious graduate programs, including Harvard. In 2016, Bidle served as special assistant to the dean before being appointed associate dean of the College in 2017.



Dr. Eugene Kutcher's appointment as the interim dean of the College of Business Administration began Sept. 1. Kutcher joined Rider in 2007 as an assistant professor in the Department of Management. He was promoted to associate professor and tenured in 2013 and assumed the role of department chairperson in 2015. In 2013, he received Rider's Distinguished Teaching Award, an annual award that recognizes faculty teaching excellence.



## Sporting new look

Wayne '72 and Jill '72 Canastra's gift of more than \$2 million, announced in June, will benefit multiple projects, including the renovation of Alumni Gym, the facade of the Canastra Health and Sports Center (formerly the Maurer Center) and Richard A. Coppola Pool. Although Wayne and Jill were not student-athletes during their time at Rider, they have been consistently strong supporters of the Athletics program, as well as of other areas of the institution.

## Mic check

107.7 The Bronc was nominated for a 2019 National Association of Broadcasters Marconi Radio Award. The non-commercial radio station run exclusively by Rider students was one of five stations competing to be named the best college radio station of the year. 107.7 The Bronc is regularly recognized as one of the highest-ranking college radio stations in the state and the nation. In 2015, the Princeton Review ranked The Bronc as the 15th best college radio station in the U.S. In 2015, 2016 and 2017, The Bronc was awarded "Best College Radio Station" by the New Jersey Broadcasters Association.



## Quotable

**“Listening to the show will increase people’s knowledge and perspective. We consciously look for different approaches to health care, and I think most people will find it interesting.”**



-Dr. Jonathan Karp, a professor of biology, behavioral neuroscience and health sciences who hosts "Health 411," a radio show on 107.7 The Bronc presented by Rider's Health Studies Institute

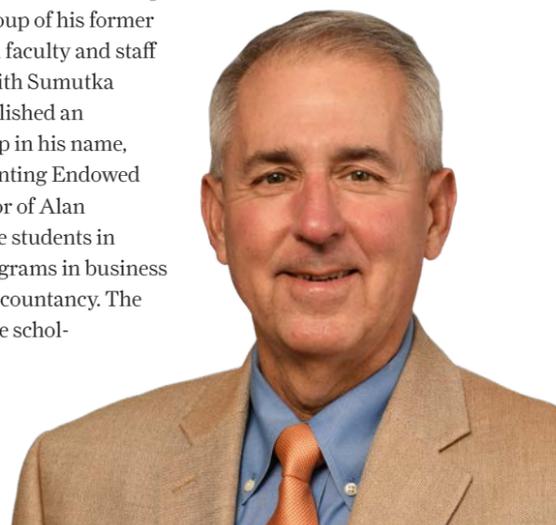
## Professional connections

Last spring, the College of Education and Human Services hosted two new events at Rider for specialists. On March 30, about 50 creative arts therapists gathered at Rider for the first-ever Rhythm in Community conference. The event, which was presented by the New Jersey chapter of the American Dance Therapy Association and the New Jersey Association for Music Therapy, brought together practitioners from the fields of dance/movement therapy, music therapy and drama therapy. On May 15, about 60 educators from New Jersey met for the first-ever Literacy Specialist Symposium at Rider. The event brought together specialists to connect with each other, grow professionally and learn about key issues in literacy education.

# UNIVERSITY *News*

## A tribute to the taxman

After more than four decades as a Rider professor, Al Sumutka '72 retired from teaching in May. In tribute, a group of his former students, along with faculty and staff who have worked with Sumutka over the years, established an endowed scholarship in his name, the Graduate Accounting Endowed Scholarship in Honor of Alan Sumutka, for eligible students in Rider's master's programs in business administration or accountancy. The announcement of the scholarship came during a celebration to honor Sumutka's legacy at Rider.



## New class

This fall, Rider officially welcomed the Class of 2023 when nearly 900 first-year students began the next phase of their academic journey on Sept. 1.

Forty-nine percent of the new class is comprised of students of color, making it the most diverse class in Rider history. The diversification of the University's student body has been growing over the past several years. In October, the University formally unveiled its Inclusive Excellence Plan, an outgrowth of work completed by the President's Council on Inclusion, which was charged with recommending how to promote the University's values around equity and inclusion. While the majority of students from the new class come from New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York, in total 27 U.S. states and territories are represented, including California, Puerto Rico and Kentucky. Internationally, 26 countries are represented, including Australia, Nigeria and Sri Lanka.



## Over the rainbow

*Chasing Rainbows: The Road to Oz*, a full-length musical by Adjunct Theatre Professor Tina Marie Casamento, premiered at the Paper Mill Playhouse in September. Casamento worked closely with *Wizard of Oz* and Judy Garland historian John Fricke to ensure the musical — the first show to be endorsed by the Garland family — accurately represented Garland's life. Paper Mill is a breeding ground for new musicals headed to Broadway, which is where Casamento is hopeful the show will find a home.



## Closing the gap

Last semester, Rider announced a new need-based scholarship for African American, black and Latino students who are the first generation in their families to attend college. The Joan C. Mazzotti and Michael C. Kelly Endowed Scholarship was made possible through a \$1 million gift to the University by Joan Mazzotti '72 and husband Michael Kelly. Their hope for the scholarship is to relieve some of the financial pressures of college for its recipients, thereby helping to close the gap in access to higher education. "We deeply appreciate that a diverse student body enriches the entire college community," Mazzotti says.

## Quotable

**"As a first-generation college student, you might be like me; you want things to happen overnight. In life, you have to wait for things to unfold in order to attain what you want."**

-Barbie Gomez '17, a Newcombe Scholarship recipient, speaking at the Charlotte W. Newcombe Foundation Scholarship Reception last semester



## Sunrise

*Sunrise Mass*, a new recording by the Westminster Williamson Voices conducted by Professor of Choral Conducting James Jordan, was released by GIA Choral Works in June. One of Westminster Choir College's select ensembles, Westminster Williamson Voices has been lauded by reviewers and audiences on both sides of the Atlantic, and Jordan has been praised throughout the musical world as one of America's pre-eminent conductors, music psychologists, writers and pedagogical innovators in choral music.

## The human voice

Mark Moliterno, an adjunct associate professor of voice, received the Duke Voice Care Center's 2019 Patrick D. Kenan Award for Vocal Health and Wellness. The award is presented annually to individuals whose lives and careers increase awareness of the importance of the human voice.



## Generous support

During a ceremony in May, Rider announced a major gift from Barry '76 and Gail Bierenbaum to the University and the naming of Bierenbaum Fisher Hall (formerly Memorial Hall) in honor of the couple's deceased parents, Helen and Samuel Bierenbaum and Alfreda and Roy Fisher. The Bierenbaums designated that most of their gift will be unrestricted, giving the University flexibility to apply the funds to endowment, scholarships and capital projects. In addition, funds will be used to endow scholarships and programming for the University's Women's Leadership Council, which was renamed the Gail Bierenbaum Women's Leadership Council. The Council is dedicated to developing the next generation of Rider women leaders.

## Dr. Mayank Jaiswal

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR I  
DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT

As a child growing up in India, Mayank Jaiswal saw three conventional routes to career success: medicine, government or engineering. The medical field was out (he doesn't like blood) and the government didn't interest him. That left engineering.

Jaiswal studied civil engineering at the Delhi College of Engineering, and after earning a bachelor's, he landed a highly sought-after position at IndianOil, a state-owned oil company headquartered in New Delhi. In many ways, he was happy and his future was secure, but after a few years, his attention began to shift toward business, especially business strategy and entrepreneurs who built social missions into or alongside their organizations.

Jaiswal enrolled at the University of Chicago and moved to the United States only to return to India after receiving a Master of Business Administration and notching a few years of experience at Archer Daniels Midland and Exelon Corporation. Back home, he joined a venture capital firm focused on funding startups created to solve social problems. Around the same time, he met the woman who would become his wife, Smita.

For the second time in his life, Jaiswal had settled into a secure, predictable career path only to upend it once again. Through discussions with his wife, he began to understand his skills, interests and personality could be put to most satisfying use as an educator. Moving back to the U.S., he enrolled in a doctoral program at the Georgia Institute of Technology with a focus on entrepreneurship. He finished the program in 2017 and, that same year, joined Rider's College of Business Administration, where as an assistant professor he now teaches entrepreneurship and business strategy and conducts research related to emerging technologies and factors affecting new venture performance.

**“I TEACH because I want to help develop students into adults who create value for society, their organization and themselves.”**

### Why do you think social causes have attracted the support of successful entrepreneurs throughout history?

I believe it's about sustainability. If you look back at the lives of people like Rockefeller and Carnegie, they were the richest people in the world. The institutions they set up for social good have been going for decades. Today, the same thing is happening with Bill Gates. These giants of business brought/bring their business acumen to doing good, which is a big reason why the institutions and programs they set up are usually sustainable and hence benefit society for a very long duration.

### You've identified an educational niche in thinking about startups — the first joiners. Who are they?

If you look at the first 100 people who join a successful startup, they

can become very wealthy and successful in their own right. There is a role in the ecosystem for these kinds of employees and we can create a curriculum at Rider that's slightly different for students who want to join these entrepreneurial companies rather than start them. If the company fails, the start-up experience that employees get is still highly valued by the corporate world. They can become hot property. They will know how to push for their ideas and get things done with fewer resources. This will also come in handy if they would like to start their own ventures down the road.

### In teaching business today, is it adequate anymore to simply teach from a textbook?

Right now, the world is so complicated. It's my job as an educator to bring the latest knowledge, the latest academic papers and real-world examples and translate them for my students. It all needs to be made digestible to

the student. Why do students not use what they're taught? Maybe they didn't grasp the material or maybe they grasped it but it's too theoretical. So you have to translate for the layman, and that bridge is hard to make, but it brings so much power to the table. I want to unlock that power for students.

### Tell us about your approach to learning tennis, which speaks volumes about your approach to systematic improvement in business and elsewhere.

I believe that if I learn the right technique, I can execute. First, I got the right equipment, the right shoes, the right training. Then I videotaped myself, and I kept logs of how I was performing. How many serves were going in? I wanted to make a cookie-cutter system out of it. You have to put a lot of thought into it, and then you have to execute on the plan patiently day in and day out.

By Adam Grybowski  
Photos by Peter G. Borg

## What's in your office, professor?



### Teddy bear

A gift from my daughter. It continuously motivates me to give my best to the students and makes me think how would I teach and help students if my daughter was one of them.



### 'Seeing What's Next'

A great book by Clayton M. Christensen, Scott D. Anthony and Erik A. Roth about how the business world is dynamic and how to predict the general direction in which a particular industry is headed in terms of change. It also reminds me of the bigger idea in life that change is the only constant.

# ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS



PICTURED: SARA GARDNER '18, '19, AUSTIN DEVEREUX, JUNIOR BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION MAJOR

Former wrestling Head Coach **Gary Taylor**, **Tami Coyle '05** of women's soccer, **Ryan Thompson '10** of men's basketball, **Amanda Burke '10** of swimming & diving and **Jamie Hayes '09** of baseball (pictured below, left to right) were inducted into the Rider Athletics Hall of Fame on June 8, 2019. Taylor built the Rider wrestling program into a national contender, finishing third all-time among NCAA Division I coaches with 442 dual wins. Coyle was the Rider Female Athlete of the Year for 2003-04 following her selection as MAAC Women's Soccer Offensive Player of the Year and ranks second in program history with 40 goals and 94 points. Thompson ranks in the top 10 in program history in six categories and the top 20 in 11. He has had a nine-year professional playing career in the NBA G League, as well as overseas in Germany, Belgium, Serbia and Turkey. Burke was a three-time MAAC and ECAC Diver of the Year and competed as a member of the Olympic Performance Squad as a synchronized diver. Hayes set the Broncs' high marks in career hits (265), runs scored (180), stolen bases (96) and saves (33) and was drafted by the Atlanta Braves in 2009.



SOFTBALL

**KELSEY MARIGLIANO** was selected to the All-MAAC Second Team after collecting 53 hits, the second-most in the last 12 years of Rider.

BASEBALL

**RILEY MIHALAK** was named to the All-MAAC Second Team after hitting .313 with 12 home runs and 41 RBI's.

TRACK & FIELD

**SARA GARDNER** advanced to the NCAA East Preliminary Championships for the second-straight year in the 100-meter hurdles after earning gold at both the MAAC and ECAC Championships.

**MICHAEL HORN** earned a berth to the NCAA East Preliminary Championships in the triple-jump after posting a qualifying mark of 15.39 meters at the Duke Invitational.

GOLF

**ANTHONY RAGUSA** was an NCAA East Preliminary Championships qualifier after his program-record javelin toss of 64.74 meters at the Rider 5-Way Meet.

**AUSTIN DEVEREUX** earned All-MAAC for the second-straight year, finishing fourth at MAAC Championships.

## A Whole New Ballgame

A.J. MOORE ON SPORTS AND MEDIA



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

### Be here now

INSTANT REPLAY IS HINDERING SPORTS OF ALL KINDS

By A.J. Moore

A name keeps popping into my head every time I watch a game. Nope, it's not Mickey Mantle, Tom Brady or Wayne Gretzky. The name is Alvin Toffler, an odd one for sports fans. Although "Alvin Toffler" sounds like he should be a middle infielder for the Phillies, that's not the case. He was a renowned author who wrote an influential book in 1970 called *Future Shock*. What he wrote about nearly 50 years ago relates to your sports experiences these days.

Toffler's forward-thinking work helped coin the phrase "information overload." He argued that too much technology and information jumble our minds and make problem-solving difficult. Yes, information is king but an overabundance becomes problematic. And in the digital age, there is an overabundance of information and technology that is interfering with games of all kinds.

The days of "what you see on the field is what you get" are over. Currently, what you think you saw on the field is likely going to be changed or altered because it will go through an endless loop of instant replay reviews. Cameras positioned all over the field take precedence over the people officiating the games, so freeze-frame technology now holds more power than human eyes.

Sure, fixing mistakes sounds like a good idea but not when the constant and abrupt stoppages of play hinder key ingredients of sports, namely spontaneity and ephemerality.

Your favorite team just scored a touchdown? Hold your celebration because it will need to be reviewed, with a final decision still to come. Same with that diving catch in the outfield or possible steal near the baseline. Please press your emotional pause button until all the super slow-motion camera angles have been accounted for.

Too much time is now spent analyzing what happened rather than what is happening.

Human error by officials has always been part of the game. Of course, fans of the Los Angeles Rams and Vegas Golden Knights might recoil in pain from that idea, but that is a foundational element that has made sports such compelling content.

Even during the Little League World Series, 12-year-old players immediately react to bang-bang plays by making hand gestures to their heads for replay review. Pavlovian conditioning based on technology and sports is upon us.

Ironically, all these instant replay review stoppages are happening while professional and college organizations are trying to find ways to speed up the games to keep modern audiences captivated.

The leagues should think about action and drama trumping technology and adopt a rule that limits the amount of time for instant replay reviews. Keep it simple, if a call can't be changed either way in a 90-second review session, then the ruling on the field stands. Move on to the next play.

Any more time spent with officials staring at screens as real-time ticks away just proves that Toffler was correct: Technology tends to cloud judgments.

# Kickstarter

MEN'S SOCCER HEAD COACH  
CHARLIE INVERSO HONORS  
LOST FRIEND BY FOSTERING  
TRENTON'S TALENT

By Adam Grybowski

**G**lenn Myernick thrived at every level of the game. He was a standout soccer star at Lawrence High School and Hartwick College. In 1978, he was the captain of the U.S. National Team.

As a coach, he helped bring the Colorado Rapids to the Major League Soccer Cup title in 1997 and the U.S. men's team to the World Cup quarterfinals in 2002.

Until his unexpected death in 2006 at 51, Myernick was known simply as "Mooch."

His effect on the game was so profound that he was elected posthumously to the National Soccer Hall of Fame in 2015. More than a decade after his death, Myernick's legacy also continues to live on in and around his hometown of Trenton, N.J.

Myernick's friends, as well as former players and coaches who worked and played with him, began a program in his honor called Mooch Soccer. Charlie Inverso, the head coach of Rider's men's soccer team, was one of the program's co-founders along with Mike Van Wagner, a long-time youth soccer advocate.

The program helps provide opportunities for underserved children and teenagers in Trenton

who might not be able to play soccer without the financial support and structure of an outside organization. Since it began in 2007, Mooch Soccer has benefited hundreds of players ages 6 to 17.

"My greatest hope is that the players who come through this program will develop a pathway to get into college and use this experience as a vehicle for a better life and to be a success," Inverso says. "There aren't too many programs like this."

One player who participated in the program, Matthew Olosunde, represented the United States in the under 17 World Cup and played in the Premier League for Manchester United. Last summer, he signed a contract with Rotherham United.

For Olosunde and the rest of the players, Mooch Soccer has provided an alternative to Trenton's traditional recreation program, which has teetered time and again on the brink of collapse. Mooch Soccer's supporters have supplied

**"My greatest hope is that the players who come through this program will use this experience as a vehicle for a better life."**

top-level instruction, in addition to equipment, facilities and the means to travel to practices and games.

Inverso speaks passionately about soccer's heritage in Mercer County, and from his perspective, Myernick was second to none in talent and character. He sees the program as an appropriate way to honor the legacy of one of the region's most well-known players. "Mooch was a legendary player and a legendary person," Inverso says. "He was a big strong guy, but he was affable and had a big heart. Everyone loved him."

Although they both grew up in Mercer County and played soccer at the high school level two years apart from each other, Inverso and Mooch didn't become friends until they coached at a soccer camp together after college. Inverso came to consider him a mentor.

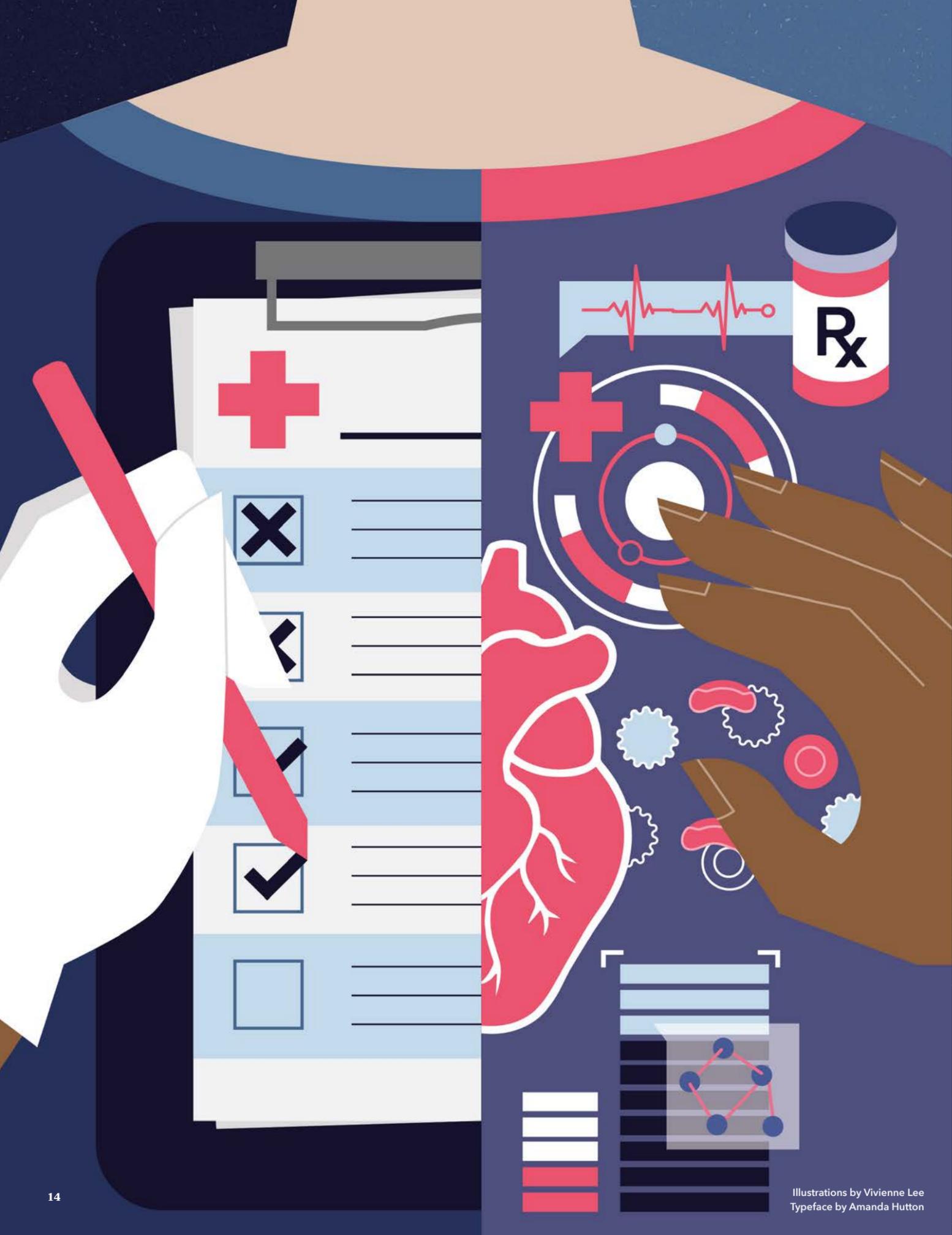
"I learned a lot from him," Inverso says. "In sports, there can be too many takers because there's a lot of money to be made. Mooch was always a giver."

Earlier this year, Inverso received an inaugural Advocacy Award of Excellence for his work with Mooch Soccer. The award was presented by the United Soccer Coaches, the world's largest soccer coaches' organization. It came on top of the phenomenal success Inverso has had at Rider. He has led the Broncos to four-straight Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Championship games, winning three of them and advancing to the NCAA Championships in 2015, 2016 and 2018.

Despite that success, Mooch Soccer still plays a special role in his life. "We still have a long way to go with Mooch Soccer, but when it reaches the goals we have set, it will be the biggest highlight of my soccer life," Inverso says.

Photo by Peter G. Borg





# The Hospital of the Future

SOARING COSTS. GENETIC-BASED TREATMENTS. AN AGING POPULATION. WITH THE EVER-EVOLVING NATURE OF HEALTH CARE IN THE U.S., RIDER ALUMNI AND FACULTY ARE WORKING TOWARD ITS FUTURE AND STUDYING WHAT IT MIGHT LOOK LIKE IN THE COMING YEARS.

By Rachel Stengel '14

In the future, a machine might read your doctor's notes and diagnose your condition. It might also be able to predict when you may suffer a specific medical concern like a heart attack using artificial intelligence. Your care will likely be personalized and based on your DNA. While this may sound like Jetson-era hyperbole, health care has changed dramatically in the past 10 years, and there's no sign of things slowing down.

Barry S. Rabner, a Rider Trustee and the president and CEO of Penn Medicine Princeton Health, cannot predict the future. But in his class "Envisioning and Leading the Hospital of the Future," he tries to predict what's most likely to come true by examining what impacts how care is delivered, how those elements are likely to change and then in turn what the health care system will look like. Using the drivers of change he identified, we asked Rider professors and alumni: What does the hospital of the future look like?



## Health care costs too much and the industry is trying to change that

The latest numbers show that annually U.S. health care spending equals \$10,739 per person or \$3.5 trillion. That equates to nearly 18% of the nation's gross domestic product or as Rabner says, "too much for what we are getting."

"On average, other wealthy countries spend about half as much per person on health than the U.S. spends," he says. "We rank No. 1 in health care spending compared to the wealthiest 10 countries in the world and last for affordability, equity and health care outcomes. We ranked next to last for administrative efficiency."

### **“It's become very clear in the past 10 to 15 years that your zip code matters more than your genetic code.”**

"Estimates predict that the cost of medical care in the U.S. by 2027 could go up to \$6 trillion," he says. "There is tremendous economic pressure to deliver care differently. Because it's so expensive, it's gotten the attention of every health care-related company."

Trying to create new models for health care delivery in order to alleviate costs is exactly what Allen J. Karp '81 does. As the executive vice president of health care management and transformation at Horizon Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Jersey (BCBSNJ), Karp works to move New Jersey from a fee-for-service system toward a value-based system — or in his words, better care for lower costs.

"Essentially, we are changing the way we pay physicians," he says. "In the past, they were reimbursed based on the amount of care given, but that model isn't the best because it doesn't take outcomes into consideration. Now, we pay based on quality of care and whether or not doctors meet certain performance measures. There's an incentive to give patients the best quality care to ensure they have better outcomes, which lowers costs."

For insurance companies, the goal is to set health insurance premiums for subscribers with the intention of paying out less in health insurance claims. With better treatments and more holistic patient care, the insurer can keep rates affordable for patients.



## One of the biggest determinants of your health is...your zip code?

With a value-based reimbursement system, health care providers are encouraged to provide care that addresses a person's entire well-being. The ability to have a safe place to call home, access to nutritional food and treatment for mental health concerns are all common social determinants of health that can affect a person's overall well-being.

"It's become very clear in the past 10 to 15 years that your zip code matters more than your genetic code," says Dr. Kristin McCarthy, an assistant professor in Rider's health care management and health administration programs. "When you live in an area where you don't have access to certain things like a local grocery store with fresh produce or you live in an unsafe neighborhood, it all can affect your health negatively."

In one of her classes, the students partnered with a local non-profit, Trenton Health Team, to map out the food scene in Trenton, N.J., in order to better understand the impoverished city's access to healthy food. Trenton Health Team is a collaborative effort from local hospitals and health care agencies to create a healthier Trenton by addressing many social determinants of health.

"Population health care is not a new concept, but it has certainly gained traction in the past 10 to 15 years with the shift toward value-based health care," McCarthy says. "If you can address some of these social determinants of health, you keep the person out of the hospital. Hospitals save money by not having returning patients, especially when their concerns can be treated so patients have better outcomes."

McCarthy says the true buy-in for a value-based health care system began with the passage of the Affordable Care Act in 2010. The Act included measures that shifted the focus toward population and preventative health care in an effort to reduce costs. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the single largest payer for health care in the United States, is also leading the charge for a value-based system.

"You cannot address the cost of health care without focusing on population health needs," McCarthy says. "Data gives us the opportunity to do a better job within a value-based system. Patients are more than the absence of a disease. We need to address these social and economic issues in order to provide better care at lower costs."



## Big data creates big impact

Karp is using a similar model to ensure notoriously unhealthy areas receive the services they need. Horizon BCBSNJ ran a pilot program with Robert Wood Johnson Barnabas Health to identify members who were receiving an excess of care.

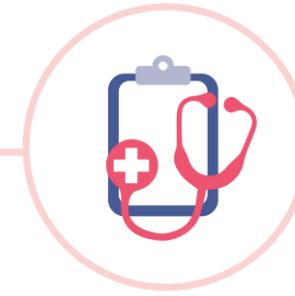
Upon analyzing claims data, Karp saw certain zip codes were using an upwards of \$15 million, which is three to four times what is normally spent on health care. The other, more shocking discovery was that the patients weren't elderly but rather anywhere from 25-40 years old. Using a model developed by the University of Pennsylvania, the team started with analytics to see which areas needed the most attention, then drilled down and identified which blocks to start with.

"The best example is a single mom of three who was suffering from a number of concerns: obesity, depression and diabetes, and she was in the emergency room about two to three times a week complaining of chest pains," Karp says. "She kept being released because they couldn't determine if it was physical or mental. We were able to set her up with a primary care doctor and a clinical social worker. When we tracked her after six months, she hadn't used the ER once and was much healthier."

These types of individual interventions are only possible now because of the ability to harness the power of data. Electronic medical records, as well as insurance claims data, help paint a picture of what health looks like in a certain person or population. Hospitals are taking a similar population health care approach to manage their community's health. Some hospitals are even taking things a step further using predictive analytics to determine when health problems may arise.

"We have access to millions of patient records," says Rabner, who's membership in Penn Medicine's expansive reach includes six hospitals and hundreds of outpatient centers. His hospital, Penn Medicine Princeton Health, even has its own medical informatics department dedicated to collecting and analyzing health care data. "We're using the data in those records to improve clinical care and operational performance, but we can also use predictive analytics. We want to be able to anticipate when a patient will have a problem."

The true potential of data can be actualized through its shared use. That's why patients will notice large hospital systems, like Penn Medicine, dominating the health care scene. With these mammoth health care systems forming, all practitioners within that system have the ability to share patients' health records electronically leading to more efficient and effective care.



## The doctor will see you now

With Baby Boomers, the largest generation, aging and requiring more care, the United States will see a shortage of nearly 122,000 physicians by 2032, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges. To address this shortage, health care facilities are relying on physician assistants and nurse practitioners. These providers can offer certain levels of care in collaboration with physicians.

"You can really see this shift first start when people were able to ask their pharmacist a question," says Dr. Daniel Graham '10. "Now with this huge physician shortage, care still needs to be given, but medicine is altering its delivery model. A lot more care is going to be delivered by the mid-level providers like nurse practitioners and physician assistants."

Physician assistants and nurse practitioners are not only populating primary care practices but also urgent care centers like the one Graham works at in Port Monmouth, N.J. Right now, his clinic has about a 50/50 split between doctors and physician assistants or nurse practitioners.

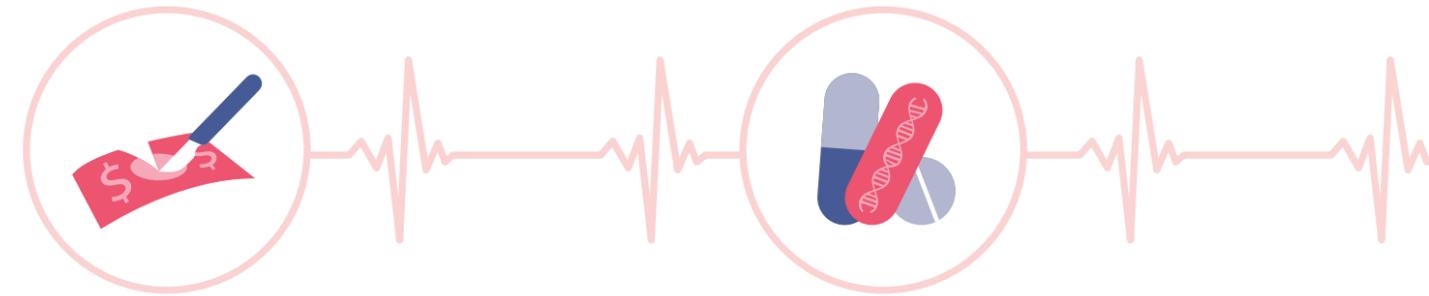
Urgent care centers and minute clinics similarly help address the physician shortage by lessening the burden on hospitals for minor injuries and conditions.

"We can really treat most things that don't require constant vital sign monitoring," Graham says. "Allergies, bone bruises, sprains and minor infections are all really common in our practice. The

### **“There's an incentive to give patients the best quality care to ensure they have better outcomes, which lowers costs.”**

convenience factor is the main thing for patients. They know for common issues they can come here and get a same-day appointment rather than wait to see their primary care doctor. It allows health care to be much more accessible in communities."

The convenience of urgent care facilities is certainly translating into more usage. *The Journal of the American Medical Association* says visits to urgent care clinics for insured patients have increased 119% from 2008 to 2015. During the same time, emergency room visits for minor conditions decreased by 36%.



## Operating rooms exit the hospital

A joint replacement surgery would have meant at least a three-day stay in the hospital for patients a few years ago. Today, patients don't even need to go to a hospital and can go home the same day. Nearly two-thirds of all operations are performed in outpatient facilities, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Why?

"It's more cost-effective, and technology has expanded so that outpatient or ambulatory care centers have the same capabilities that were once reserved only for hospitals," says Dr. Robert Mignone '07, an otolaryngologist, head and neck surgeon with Penn Medicine. "This is where all surgical specialties are heading."

Mignone performs hundreds of surgeries per year. Most of which are outpatient and some performed in his office. Today, surgeons have helped develop a navigation system based on a scan of the patient's sinuses. They can navigate through the nose during surgery confidently and perform the procedure quicker and safer.

In the past, "You really just relied on anatomy and your experience," he says. "Today, every field has new technology that is helping things get done safer and faster."

**“On average, other wealthy countries spend about half as much per person on health than the U.S. spends.”**

## Medicine made just for your genetic code

Our genetics tell a unique story. They determine how we look, how our body functions and whether or not we are susceptible to certain health concerns. The international research effort called the Human Genome Project sought to map out the sequence of the human genome and identify the genes that it contains. Or in layman's terms, it allowed scientists to essentially create a blueprint for how to construct a human being.

Upon its successful completion in 2003, medicine has used this blueprint to develop targeted treatments for specific conditions. In certain areas of medicine, like oncology, genetic-based treatments are becoming the norm.

"We're beginning to personalize care by looking at an individual's disease and develop a treatment that is specific to their disease process," says Dr. Ryan D. Reber '05, clinical assistant professor of medicine at Sidney Kimmel Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University. "With this approach, we are seeing dramatic improvement in patient outcomes."

The previous approach to treating cancer was to first diagnose the type of cancer, then differentiate it based on the cellular makeup of the cancer to determine what course of treatment to take. Now, doctors can take a look at an even deeper, molecular level of a person's genetics and look for specific proteins on individual cells.

"With lung cancer, for example, treatment was traditionally chemotherapy," says Reber, who is also a pulmonary critical care medicine attending physician and medical director of the intensive care unit at Paoli Hospital in Pennsylvania. "Now, science allows us to take a look at the specific characteristics of each patient's tumor, a deep dive that works to identify the very specific driver mutation that led to that patient's cancer. With this knowledge, we can attack their mutation and work to inhibit cancer progression. This newer approach began to evolve in the last decade, but in recent years has exploded." ■

# In the Zone



NICK MARGEVICIUS '17 MAKES HIS  
MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL DEBUT  
WITH THE SAN DIEGO PADRES

By Adam Grybowski

For the first time in as long as he could remember, Nick Margevicius '17 looked to the stands and couldn't find his parents.

Stepping off the mound in the sixth inning at Petco Park, he had just completed his major league debut as the starting pitcher for the San Diego Padres. It was March 30. Over five complete innings against the San Francisco Giants, he allowed three hits and one run and struck out five. Margevicius' parents, Mark and Marigene, are fixtures at their son's games, but even though they were in attendance, they were masked by almost 42,000 cheering fans.

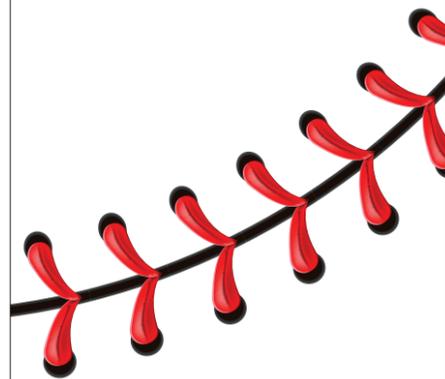
Thinking about that day, Margevicius says his favorite memory is standing in the bullpen before the game, listening to the national anthem. He was only 22 years old and almost in shock that he was about to compete at the highest level in a game that he loved even as a small child.

"It's the same game you've played your whole life, but the level of play is higher and the margin of error is much smaller," he says. "If you make a mistake in the minors, you can get away with it more. The major league hitters aren't perfect, but they're going to hit good pitches more often. It's obviously challenging, but it's really fun to play against the best in the world."

Margevicius grew up in a suburb of Cleveland. Photos of him as a toddler show him wearing Indians jerseys. He started pitching at 6. By the time he started playing at St. Ignatius High School in Cleveland, he was working closely with his coaches at developing his skills on the mound. He pitched a perfect game as a sophomore and earned pitcher of the year honors in his junior and senior seasons.

Like many young athletes, he nursed dreams of becoming a professional athlete but admits that even in high school it was probably more aspirational than realistic. He was committed, however, to continue playing in college, and his goal was to join a program at the highest level. With the help of his father, Margevicius began a deliberate search to find a Division I school where he could play regularly and continue developing as a pitcher.

Growing up almost 500 miles away from Rider, Margevicius had never heard



of the University when he began his search, but it made his list. It was one of three schools he planned to visit on a trip to the East Coast after his junior year. Rider had produced, before him, six baseball players who appeared in the major leagues. Margevicius arrived at the University in August. "The weather was good, the campus looked great and from my perspective, it wasn't that much different than home," he recalls. He gelled with Barry Davis, the head coach, and his staff, and Rider was prepared to offer him a scholarship.

**"It's the same game you've played your whole life, but the level of play is higher and the margin of error is much smaller."**

"A big mix of things all went right at the same time," Margevicius says.

He decided to commit to becoming a Bronc before the start of his senior year of high school.

Looking back on this decision, Margevicius believes the biggest risk he took was social: He simply didn't know anyone at Rider other than the coaches. But after he started, he quickly fell in with his teammates and classmates. He also met his fiancée at Rider. Shannon Kelly '17 was a psychology major and a midfielder on the women's soccer team. They have a fall wedding planned, after the baseball season wraps.

"I have a great group of friends I wouldn't have had if I never went to Rider," Margevicius says. "Nowhere else offered me the opportunities that Rider did, and even now, I wouldn't change the

experience I had at all."

As a Bronc, Margevicius pitched 65 innings in his first year and posted a record of five wins and four losses. After his freshman year, he played summer ball and fared well against competition from players who, at first glance, may have appeared out of his league. He played so well, in fact, that Margevicius wondered to himself why it wouldn't be possible for him to continue moving ahead as a professional player.

Then a scout contacted him, and from that moment on, Margevicius was focused on the major league draft. He set ambitious goals for himself, in addition to the work he was already putting in on the field. Margevicius, who is 6'5" and now weighs 220 pounds, began scheduling the majority of his classes at night so he could work on strength training and conditioning during the day.

"Discipline allows you to do what you want to do when you want to do it because you hold yourself to a standard," he says. "The other part of the equation is sacrifice — you have to be willing to sacrifice."

Margevicius was selected in the seventh round as the 198th overall pick of the 2017 Major League Baseball draft. He was the 64th Rider baseball player to be selected in the MLB draft.

Up until he became focused on achieving this goal, Margevicius had been planning for a career in finance after he graduated. The draft has potentially

upended those plans permanently, but Margevicius was always steadfast in the pursuit of his degree, and he speaks with genuine enthusiasm about his academic experience. In the spring semester of his junior year, he took six classes — half of them in finance, his major. He had to return to Rider after being drafted to finish his degree by completing an independent study with his adviser, Dr. Mitchell Ratner, a professor and the chair of Rider's Department of Finance and Economics.

Through August, Margevicius played in a total of 16 games with the Padres. He has been sent down to the minors, and then brought back up again — an emotional rollercoaster that he has handled with equanimity. "It's difficult not always knowing what's going on, but that's part of being a young guy," he says. "The established veteran guys will tell you that, for the first couple of years, this is how it is. You go through it and you deal with it."

Margevicius is aware that his meteoric rise is not common. At the time of his debut, only one other selection from the 2017 draft, Kyle Wright of the Atlanta Braves, had made his big league debut.

"There's plenty of time," Margevicius says. "I've gotten an experience that most people have not. I'm not dwelling on the ups and downs. I'm focusing on the experience and what has made me successful and what I need to work on to be successful more consistently." 🍀



Photo by Peter G. Borg

## Rider career stats

<b>W</b>	15
<b>L</b>	14
<b>ERA</b>	3.18
<b>R</b>	100
<b>ER</b>	110
<b>SO</b>	196
<b>BB</b>	62
<b>HR</b>	8
<b>IP</b>	229.1

**Second Team All-MAAC and MAAC All-Academic honors in 2017**



Photo by Getty Images

Following his first major league start, pitcher Nick Margevicius '17 poses for a photo with his family after the San Diego Padres faced the San Francisco Giants at Petco Park in San Diego, Calif., on March 30.



Ellen LaCorte '73, whose debut novel, *The Perfect Fraud*, was published in June, sits in the writing room of her New Jersey home.

Photo by Peter G. Borg

# IN THE CARDS

A LIFELONG INTEREST IN PSYCHICS INFORMS THE DEBUT NOVEL OF ELLEN LACORTE '73

By Adam Grybowski

**O**n a recent summer afternoon, Amber Reeves placed a tarot card in front of a new client named Ellen LaCorte '73. The card depicted a priest-like figure wearing a red robe and gold crown. He appeared to be giving a blessing. "There's very good energy for you here," Reeves said. "This is a lovely omen."

The pair had arranged to meet for a tarot card reading at an independent bookstore in Philadelphia called A Novel Idea. LaCorte had appeared at the store a week earlier to promote her debut novel, *The Perfect Fraud*, published by HarperCollins. The book, which was hailed as a top summer read by *Publisher's Weekly*, tells side-by-side narratives of Rena, a desperate mother seeking a cure for her daughter's mysterious ailment, and Claire, a young psychic undergoing a crisis of faith. Although Claire comes from a family of psychics, she believes she never had "the gift" that has sustained the family business.

Since the book's publication in June, LaCorte had been actively fretting about its performance — not that she had any reliable data on book sales. She had not sought any numbers from her publisher. Her feelings were the central topic of the reading, around which all of Reeves' interpretations revolved.

On the table between LaCorte and Reeves, an overhead lamp cast a warm light, illuminating the upturned tarot cards. Next to them sat the deck, with a quartz stone placed on top like a cherry on a cupcake. Reeves, who was wearing a black sleeveless dress that revealed a menagerie of tattoos on her arms, legs and knuckles, picked up the deck and flipped over another card: the Star.

“This card is mystical, surreal,” she said. “It encourages you to be meditative, to allow a more imaginative space to open up within you.”

“That makes perfect sense to me,” LaCorte said. “I’m in a place where I should be enjoying myself. But instead, I’m worrying.”

Over an hour, Reeves’ interpretations of the cards prompted many similar exchanges, with LaCorte reflecting on her experiences as a new author. The reading resembled therapy as much as metaphysics. At times, LaCorte seemed to come to genuine insight through the process.

While on a book tour to promote the novel, LaCorte was surprised to learn how eager people were to learn not just about her book, but about her as a person. “It has made me more vulnerable than I maybe would have liked,” she told Reeves.

Reeves, who is known professionally as “Amber Astronauta,” says she aims to provide clarity to her clients as much as anything. Reading tarot is her full-time job, and she appears at A Novel Idea once a month for its regular tarot salon. She was one of a dozen or more psychics and tarot card readers LaCorte has met and interacted with in relation to the novel. She visited many as part of her research, but she has, in fact, been visiting them all her life.

Years ago, one left her in tears after saying LaCorte wasn’t contributing enough to her marriage. (Her husband assured her she was.) Another made a prescient remark about her health. Through all of those experiences, LaCorte has always hesitated to state a definitive opinion on the validity of psychic ability.

“There’s certainly enough there to consider validity as a possibility,” she said.

It might not come as a surprise that LaCorte remains open to the supernatural. Over her life, she has demonstrated a capacity to follow her intuition in ways that are, if not otherworldly, at least fanciful. At 68, she is still taking ballet lessons, in-



cluding pointe. And LaCorte has been fearless in the face of the unknown, switching careers and embracing new opportunities in ways that would make conventional, play-it-safe types tremble.

LaCorte (née Segal) was born in Pennsylvania and moved to New Jersey in 1968 as she was beginning to consider colleges to enroll in after high school. She chose nearby Rider College, as it was known then, and like many Rider students, she was drawn to its small size and the intimate nature of its campus community. She became a cheerleader and joined the staff of Rider’s yearbook, *The Shadow*, where she attracted the notice of a student photographer named Michael LaCorte ’71. She selected education as her major, with an emphasis in English.

“I got to do things at Rider that I wouldn’t have been able to do at a bigger school,” LaCorte said. “I had an English professor who prompted me to speak up and set me on a path to excel scholastically. For a person like me who had a lackluster high school experience, it was so encouraging.”

Although her academic experience was proving positive, LaCorte had a setback when she participated in a practicum in her senior year and realized teaching wasn’t for her. Too late to make a change, she graduated without a definite plan. She decided to move to Arizona to be with her boyfriend, Mike, the photographer she met as an undergraduate and had started dating after her freshman year. Mike had received a bachelor’s in accounting and would eventually become a business analyst. But in Arizona, he was establishing a construction company with his brother, building custom homes at a time when the state still seemed to be dominated more by orange trees than people. Before the move, LaCorte recalls she had exactly \$21 in her bank account.

Ellen and Mike married in 1977 and spent the next 20 years of their lives in Arizona. Ellen began a career in human resources, a field in which she would thrive for decades. She enrolled as a graduate student at Arizona State University, receiving a master’s in English and then a doctorate in higher and adult education administration. She and Mike also began raising a family. They now have two sons. Their oldest, Chris ’04, followed in his parents’ footsteps and attended Rider, where he graduated with a bachelor’s in business administration with majors in marketing and economics and also met his wife, Roxanna Netta-LaCorte ’04.

In Arizona, which is one of the settings of *The Perfect Fraud*, LaCorte was living a full, busy life — one that contained only a small seed of her future writing life. “I always had stories in me,” she said. “When I look back at my files, I was already collecting notes for stories in the 1990s. But even if I had a book in me at the time, it wouldn’t have found a way out.”

Eventually, LaCorte and her family moved back to New Jersey. In 1998, she starting working at her alma mater as Rider’s director of human resources and affirmative action officer. After a decade, she moved on to Villanova University as its associate vice president for human resources. “It was a great job, with great people, but there was something missing in my life,” she said.

Before she could leave human resources behind for good, LaCorte began pursuing

outlets for her artistic side in her spare time. She took ballet lessons and started acting and singing in community theater. She enrolled in painting classes.

“I realized this was where my heart was,” she said. “At that point, I also felt like I had a book in me.”

She and Mike made a plan for her to transition into a new life. LaCorte officially left the human resources field in 2012 to pursue her dream of writing a novel. She discovered it would be the most difficult objective she ever set for herself.

**T**he *Perfect Fraud* is advertised as LaCorte’s debut novel, but in total, she has written three books. The first two were never published.

In pursuing a new career, she really had to learn two new fields at once: writing and publishing. As an avid, lifelong reader with an advanced degree in literature, she was more prepared for the former than the latter. For years she had been collecting story ideas, teasing out the storytelling possibilities from life experiences and articles she read in the newspaper. It was after a visit to the psychic who told her she wasn’t giving enough to her marriage (but offered to help her for \$450) that the character of Claire first entered her imagination.

“Characters come fully formed in my head, and they become alive to me,” LaCorte said. So much so that once she begins getting them down on paper, she cannot bring herself to change their names any more than she could bear changing the names



Upon its publication in June, *The Perfect Fraud* was hailed as a top summer read by *Publishers Weekly*.

Photo by Peter G. Borg

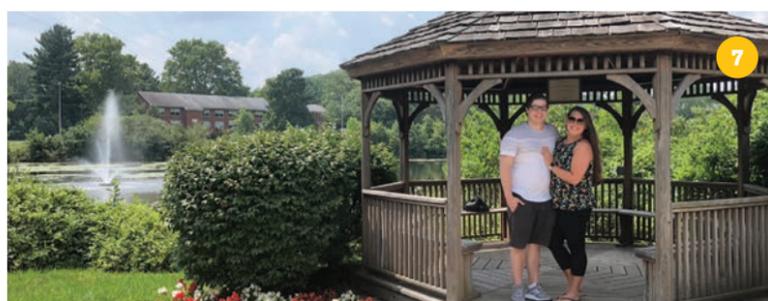
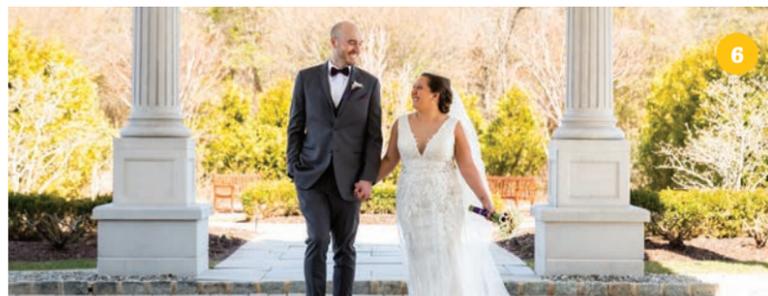
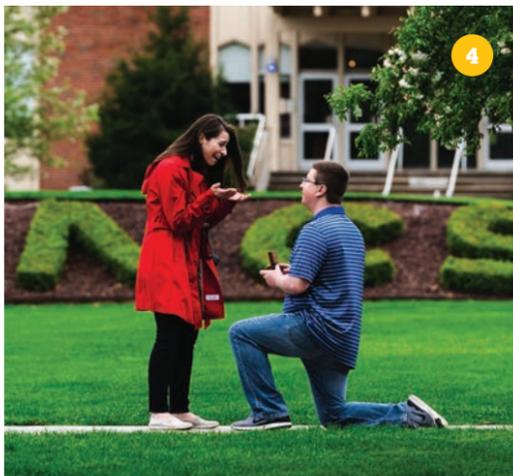
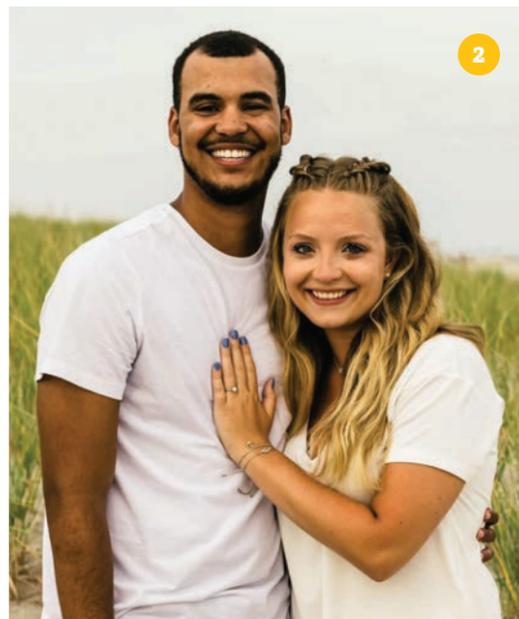
of her own children.

The business of publishing a book presented a different kind of challenge. “I was a rube. It required a whole education, and I was learning something new and making mistakes,” LaCorte said.

Despite those limitations, after completing her first novel, she received genuine interest from publishers. LaCorte recalls that her initial reaction was, “This is a cinch!” While providing encouraging feedback, one agent ultimately advised LaCorte to shelve the book. Although the work was promising, the agent’s perspective was that it was not ready for a wide readership. LaCorte heeded the advice, but after receiving a similar message with her second book, she was ready to give up.

Her family encouraged her to persevere, and six years after leaving her comfortable career, LaCorte secured a book contract for *The Perfect Fraud*. It was a moment that no psychic had predicted, but it was the future that LaCorte had envisioned for herself and worked tirelessly to make true.

“There’s an advantage to being a grown-up when something like this happens,” LaCorte said. “You take it with some equanimity. I’m both thrilled and overwhelmed, and I’m committed to being on this path and making it a full second career. I remember looking ahead and thinking that I didn’t want to slog toward the inevitable retirement. It’s encouraging to know that you can change and continue to grow. There’s a certain wonderful freedom in that.”



# Weddings, births and gatherings

**1** **Racquel Butler '13** and **Harry Hairston '13** met at Rider in 2008 and were engaged on Oct. 13, 2018. They were married on Aug. 30.

**2** **Khalil Witt '18** and **Lori Tatum '16** were engaged on Aug. 2 in Ocean City, N.J. They met in 2015 during tour guide training.

**3** Staff sergeant **Timothy R. Coombs '09** and **Mallory Coombs '13** welcomed Jameson Coombs on May 10.

**4** **Rachel Stengel '14** and **Dave Pavlak '13, '14** were engaged on Rider's campus on April 20. They will be married on March 14, 2020.

**5** A group of alumni from the 1990s met up for brunch in Princeton and are planning a weekend away. The group reminisced about living in Poyda Hall. Bottom row, from left to right: **Louise Visco Loehwing '93**, **Judi Greenberg Potoczak '91**, **Laurie Mackie Levine '92** and **Cathy Visco Davis '91**. Top row, from left to right: **Megan Salisbury Elia '90**, **Liz Bovoso Deninno '90**, **Tiffany Burch Regan '91** and **Christina Nalio '92**.

**6** **Christina LoBrutto '13, '15** and Greg Miles were married on March 24. Christina studied abroad in Australia for the fall of 2011 through Rider's Center for International Education. It was down under that she met Greg. Their shared love for travel has taken them all over the world to places such as Ireland, Greece, and, most recently, Thailand, where they celebrated their honeymoon.

**7** **Kristi Pampinto '14** and **Lawrence Rothweiler '15** were engaged at Rider on Aug. 7, 2018.

**8** **Kevin Noon '12** and **Jaclyn Noon (née Giameo) '13** were married on May 25.

**9** **Daniel Scanlon '16** and **Erin Smythe '16** tied the knot on July 13. Many Rider alumni were in attendance. The group met while living in Conover as freshmen.

**10** **Joseph Laviano '07** and **Lisa Laviano '10** are excited to share the birth of their first child, Giovanni Joseph Laviano. He was born on June 21.



## Dear alumni and friends,

This year, a combined Homecoming/Family Weekend is scheduled for Nov. 1-3. It is the inaugural year for this combined event — a collaboration between Alumni Relations and Student Affairs that is designed to engage all members of the campus community and strengthen relationships between students, parents, alumni, faculty, staff, donors and friends.

The anchor event of the weekend is a campus tailgate party, which will include live music, activities and complimentary food from local food trucks. The tailgate party will lead into a men's basketball exhibition game in Alumni Gym, which will also be projected on a big screen during the tailgate party. A full schedule of events is available at [rider.edu/homecoming](http://rider.edu/homecoming). I hope many of you will attend.

Best wishes for an exciting fall!

**Marci Gandt '00, '03**

President, Alumni Board of Directors and Alumni Association

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT ELIZABETH CARRION  
AT 609-896-5051 OR [ECARRION@RIDER.EDU](mailto:ECARRION@RIDER.EDU).

## '70s

**Dan '74 and Ann (née Schuster) '74 Hartmann** are living in Fairfax, Va.

At the end of March, Dan retired after almost 41 years of federal service, including 22 years active duty in the Army and just short of 19 years as an Army civilian. Over the last 19 years, he was the deputy director of foreign liaison on the Army staff in the Pentagon. At the retirement ceremony, Dan received the Superior Civilian Service Award and Ann received the Meritorious Public Service Medal. Ann is the office administrator at the George and Carol Olmsted Foundation, a non-profit that selects junior officers from all of the military services for a fellowship to learn a foreign language and pursue graduate studies in that language at a foreign university.

**Brian Delate '75** was the speaker at Bucks County Community College's 53rd annual commencement in May. Delate, who is an actor, director and playwright, delivered the keynote speech at Rider's annual Veterans Day ceremony in 2016. He served as a combat veteran in the Vietnam War in 1969 and is a decorated non-commissioned officer.

**Samuel J. Plumeri Jr. '77** was approved as chairman of the New Jersey State Parole Board in May by vote of The New Jersey State Senate. The position comes by appointment of Gov. Phil Murphy. A Hamilton, N.J., resident, Plumeri had most recently been serving as acting chairman of the State Parole Board, which he joined in 2009. He is also chairman of the board of directors of Capital Health.

## '80s

**Anthony Rodio '81** was named chief executive officer of Caesars Entertainment Corporation. He'll bring nearly four decades of experience in the gaming industry to the role, including

serving as the CEO of Affinity Gaming and CEO and president of Tropicana Entertainment. At Caesars, Rodio will join the company's board of directors and be based in Las Vegas. He received a Bachelor of Science from Rider, as well as a Master of Business Administration from Monmouth University.

**Eileen Scott '81** was recognized at Weichert's annual regional sales award event for leading all associates in both the entire company and her sales region, which consists of offices throughout Essex, Mercer, Morris, Sussex and Union counties in New Jersey. Scott received a bachelor's in marketing from Rider and worked in financial marketing for 15 years before beginning a new career in real estate sales.

**David M. Kelley '82, '92** was named chief executive officer of Income Store in August. He has previously served as the chief operating officer of Investview, Inc. (formerly Global Investor Services, Inc.) and TD Ameritrade Holding Corp. Kelley received his bachelor's in commerce and his master's in business administration from Rider.

**Tina Woodruff '82** received the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine Alumni Association's Certificate of Honor — the highest award given by the association. Woodruff has served the college for more than 15 years, the majority of those as chief student affairs officer. In 2018, she transitioned to her role as senior adviser to the provost. Woodruff received a doctorate in higher education administration and organizational leadership from Widener University, a master's in counseling services from Rider, and a bachelor's in English and communication from Temple University.

## '90s

**Robert Colavita '91, '05** was named first vice president of the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials for the 2019-20 school year. The busi-

## Newsmaker



# Embracing his inner grouch

**Cody Cooley '16 stars in first national tour of 'The SpongeBob Musical'**

By Rachel Stengel '14

Cody Cooley '16 is a grump — a self-proclaimed grump. And his friends agree.

So much so that when they saw the Broadway production of *The SpongeBob Musical*, they all thought Cooley would be a perfect fit for SpongeBob's notoriously crabby neighbor, Squidward Q. Tentacles. Little did he know that a year later he would be preparing to tour the U.S. as Mr. Tentacles himself.

Based on the animated Nickelodeon TV show *SpongeBob SquarePants*, the musical translates the beloved main characters into relatable versions for the stage. Cooley's character, Squidward, is — as his name would suggest — a squid with tentacles. Cooley's costume incorporates two extra legs that function seamlessly as if they are attached naturally.

"The legs are just part of me," he says. "All the costumes are based in reality, so the legs work like normal legs. They look real so they're not too out there."

In the show, a volcano is erupting and threatening the town of Bikini Bottom. The townspeople band together and host a benefit concert to raise money for a vehicle that will transport everyone to safety. Cooley's character takes charge of organizing the concert, though his true desire is to perform in it. The result is an elaborate, classic Broadway tap number, with all four legs.

"The number couldn't be more Broadway if you tried. It's the most spectacular tap number you've ever seen — very '30s and '40s style, classic Broadway," he says.

While Cooley's extra limbs look like natural extensions to the audience, shuffling across the stage with them took some getting used to.

"I've been tapping since I was 3, but learning to tap with four legs was certainly interesting," he says. "I've never done anything like that before. You're essentially adding 25 extra pounds to yourself."

The show hosts an impressive score with original songs by an array of pop, rock and rap artists, including Steven Tyler and Joe Perry of Aerosmith, Sara Bareilles, John Legend, Panic! At the Disco and many more.

"There are so many different styles that there's literally something for everyone," Cooley says. "We go from singing an upbeat pop song to a soulful ballad to rapping."

The ability to use some of his own personality traits to tap into his character's makes the role a fun one for Cooley.

"I almost don't even have to think," he says. "It's just learning the script and choreography. I can really tap into the grouchy side of things naturally."

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## Newsmaker



### Top shot

**Chenel Harris-Smith '19 is the new women's basketball head coach at Colby College**

By Adam Grybowski

This summer, Chenel Harris-Smith '19 was named the new head coach of women's basketball at Colby College in Maine. The appointment came seven years after she first became a professional coach, at Robert Morris University in Pennsylvania. What she learned in that role shocked her.

"The basketball element is only about 5% of your job," she says — meaning the overwhelming amount of her time and energy was taken up by other duties, mainly administrative.

Coaches are teachers and counselors. They manage budgets and ensure compliance with NCAA rules and regulations and institutional policies. They use Synergy technology to review film and understand scouting reports. They are recruiters and marketers.

"A lot of people who aren't as knowledgeable about collegiate athletics don't understand the time commitment that goes into coaching," Harris-Smith says. "It's not just showing up to practice and games."

While serving as an assistant coach to the women's basketball team at Binghamton University in New York, Harris-Smith enrolled in Rider's athletic leadership online graduate program. Although she had held similar positions at five institutions, her ultimate ambition was to become a head coach. Harris-Smith knew a master's would make her a more attractive candidate in the job market.

"Coaches have to be educated," she says. "Especially at the levels of many Division II and III schools, coaches aren't just coaches. They have to serve in whatever capacity is necessary, in addition to being a coach. I had to be prepared."

For someone who has made a career in the sport, Harris-Smith came to the game late. She only began playing organized basketball in eighth grade after she shot up to 5'8" — too tall to continue as a member of the gymnastics team. By the end of her growth spurt, she was 5'11" and playing forward for her high school team in her hometown of Mississauga, Ontario. She was recruited to continue playing on the college level at Kent State University in Ohio.

At Kent, Harris-Smith earned all-conference accolades and was team captain during her senior year. She majored in business management and was planning on becoming an entrepreneur.

"There was some indecision about what I should do professionally," she says. "I initially didn't want to coach, but reflecting on my experience as a student-athlete, I decided I wanted to have the same impact on others as my coaches had on me."

Now, she's embracing her first shot to be a head coach. She recently moved to Maine with her husband, Sean Smith, who was an assistant women's basketball coach at Rider, and their newborn twins, Elijah and Emmanuel, and the family is settling into their new existence.

"It's a special place and a perfect fit," Harris-Smith says. "I love the culture within the athletic department and it's different than anywhere I've been. The degree I received from Rider was helpful in getting me here and is directly applicable to what I'm doing."

ness administrator and board secretary for the Hopewell Valley Regional School District in New Jersey, he received a bachelor's in business administration and a master's in educational administration from Rider, as well as an additional master's, in teaching, from The College of New Jersey.

**Michael Kelly '91**, the former president of U.S. operations for Adapt Pharma, was named to the board of directors for ARS Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a pharmaceutical company that empowers at-risk patients and caregivers to better protect themselves from severe allergic reactions potentially leading to anaphylaxis. Kelly received a bachelor's in business administration from The College of New Jersey and a master's in business administration from Rider.

**Bryan J. McNamara '91** joined WSFS Wealth Investments Group, a subsidiary of WSFS Bank, the oldest and largest locally managed bank and trust company headquartered in Delaware and the Delaware Valley. In this role, McNamara will assist customers with developing financial strategies. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Finance from Rider.

**Santos Torres '91, '95** was promoted to senior director of marketing at Bausch + Lomb. He received the 2018 Platinum Award by Bausch + Lomb Pharmaceutical Division for marketing.

**Gregory M. Smith '93** was hired as executive vice president, head of commercial banking of Peapack-Gladstone Bank. Previous to joining Peapack-Gladstone Bank, he served as the group sales executive for the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions of Capital One Bank, where he was responsible for the \$2 million to \$25 million business banking segment from Virginia to Massachusetts. A resident of Medford, N.J., Smith received a Master of Business Administration from Rider and a Bachelor of Science in Finance from Fairleigh Dickinson University, where he also graduated with distinction.



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**Michael Carpino '95** joined Univest Bank and Trust Co. as a vice president and relationship manager. He has 15 years of experience in the financial services industry most recently served as vice president and relationship manager at Berkshire Bank. His concentration is lending in the medical and dental industries. He earned his bachelor's in accounting and finance from Rider.

**Tiffani Lennon '97** was named the executive director of the Colorado Center on Law and Policy. She most recently served as the president and CEO of Ray of Hope Cancer Foundation in Denver. Lennon received a Latin Legum Magister in International Finance and Economic Law from the University of London Birkbeck College of Law; a Juris Doctor from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law; and a Bachelor of Arts in Education and Psychology from Rider.

**Charles Ott '99**, joined the accounting firm Levine, Jacobs & Company, based in Livingston, N.J., in July. A certified public accountant, Ott is a lifelong New Jersey resident and a tax professional who has spent his entire career providing tax and accounting services to clients around the tri-state area. He has served as a treasurer for Rider's Sigma Phi Epsilon Alumni Association and the director and president of the Sigma Phi Epsilon Alumni Board of Rider University. He received a bachelor's from Rider in accounting and a master's in business administration from the University of Phoenix.

## '00s

**Dr. David Aderhold '02**, the chief school administrator of West Windsor-Plainsboro School District in New Jersey, was named the 2019 Mercer County Superintendent of the Year in June by the Mercer County Association of School Administrators. Aderhold received a master's in educational administration from Rider,

where he is now an adjunct professor in the University's doctoral program in educational leadership. He also holds a bachelor's in history education from The College of New Jersey and a doctorate in educational leadership from Nova Southeastern University.

**Mark Barnabei '04** was named director of operations of Storti Quality, which specializes in auditing, management system development, utility inspection, asset integrity management and drone inspection services. Before joining the Storti team, Barnabei worked for more than 35 years at Public Service Electric & Gas. Barnabei received a bachelor's in management information systems from Widener University, a master's in organizational dynamics from the University of Pennsylvania and a master's in business administration from Rider.

**Rashone Johnson '04**, a Princeton High School physical education teacher, was named a new assistant principal at Princeton High School in June. He received a bachelor's in corporate fitness from The College of New Jersey and a master's in educational administration from Rider.

**Danielle Guinter '05**, a certified public accountant, joined the leadership team of McKonly & Asbury as a principal. Guinter is a leader in the firm's assurance and advisory practice, which provides regional accounting and business advisory services and is based in Camp Hill, Pa. Guinter received a bachelor's from James Madison University and a master's from Rider.

**Ryan D. Reber '05** was one of seven new inductees into the Pope John Paul II High School Legacy of Impact Hall of Fame. Reber graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's in biology from Rider. He later attended medical school at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, where he graduated as valedictorian of his class in 2009.

**Heather Horowitz '06, '08** successfully defended her doctoral dissertation,



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## Advice for alumni, from alumni



## On conflict resolution

By Cheryl Herzfeld Salmon '19

### 1

#### IDENTIFY AREAS OF AGREEMENT

Taking the time to identify and appreciate areas of agreement helps not only to reduce the number of issues to be resolved, but also generates feelings of goodwill between parties. When folks realize that they do actually agree on certain things, finding common ground on the matters currently at issue seems much more likely and achievable.

### 2

#### CONSIDER OTHER PERSPECTIVES

When we are so stuck on our own "rightness," it is nearly impossible to find any value in a contrary standpoint. Be able to rise above your own biases and listen objectively to your adversaries and genuinely consider their perspective. This process will help to uncover the potential limitations of your position as well as the strengths of your adversary's viewpoint, sparking mutual respect and fostering resolution.

### 3

#### PAUSE

There are those pesky emotions. In the heat of the moment, they can cause us to make knee-jerk reactions and say things we don't mean and can't take back. This can absolutely derail conflict resolution. The remedy? Take a simple pause before responding. Take a breath. Take a walk. The comma or pause is the most important part of speech; it's the difference between "Let's eat Grandma" and "Let's eat, Grandma."

### 4

#### AVOID A WIN-LOSE MENTALITY

It is often said that the best resolutions are the ones in which no one walks away happy. In other words, there are very few situations in which one side is going to get everything that it wants. Bottom line: When resolving a conflict, be willing (and expect) to compromise.

### 5

#### FOCUS ON SOLUTIONS

Remember that there are multiple ways to solve a problem and that conflict resolution is bounded only by your creativity, so get original! Brainstorm, collaborate, choose to focus on solutions rather than problems and consider all of the alternatives.

**Cheryl Herzfeld Salmon '19** is a graduate of Rider's clinical mental health counseling program and works for Jewish Family and Children's Services of Southern New Jersey. Prior to her career in counseling, she worked as an attorney since 1999, specializing in civil and commercial litigation and family law.

"Developing Female First-Year College Student Resilience: An Emotional Intelligence Education Intervention," in July. She received a doctorate in August from Wilmington University. Horowitz has been the director of engagement and new student programs at Arcadia University, where she leads a department of five professional and two paraprofessional staff members, since February 2016. She received a bachelor's in history and political science and a master's in organizational leadership (with a concentration in higher education), both from Rider.

**Tirusha Dave '07** hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony and grand opening event in June for Ellie's Academy, a new early childcare education school in Somerville, N.J. Dave is the academy's founder and director.

**Theresa Dunn '08** was hired to lead the JK Design's digital marketing department. She has more than a decade of experience, including digital innovation roles with Covance, Bristol-Myers Squibb and 1Worldsync. She received a bachelor's in business administration from Rider.

**Aimee Infante '08** was named chief marketing officer of Muscle Maker Grill. In the role, she will lead the marketing vision and strategic planning for both company-owned and franchised restaurants. Prior to joining Muscle Maker Grill in 2014, Infante served as marketing manager for Qdoba Mexican Eats. She received a bachelor's in business administration from Rider.

**Dylan T. Hastings '09** joined Fox Rothschild LLP in Philadelphia as an associate in the litigation department. He represents clients, particularly in the health care sector, in a full range of litigation matters.

## '10s

**Michele Renaud '10**, an associate brand manager at T. Rowe Price, a



## She the people

**Alice Cohan '74** received a lifetime achievement award from the National Organization for Women

By Adam Grybowski

On April 25, 2004, more than one million people converged on Washington, D.C. Their purpose was to attend the March for Women's Lives, a rally to protect abortion rights, reproductive justice, access to birth control and women's health.

At one point, Alice Cohan '74, who successfully organized the massive event, stood on stage and announced the official attendance count: 1.15 million people. It was one of the most thrilling moments of a decades-long career advocating for women's rights.

In July, Cohan received a lifetime achievement award from the National Organization for Women (NOW). "When people organize, they make their voices heard," Cohan says. "There's power in coming together."

It's a lesson she's cultivated throughout her life.

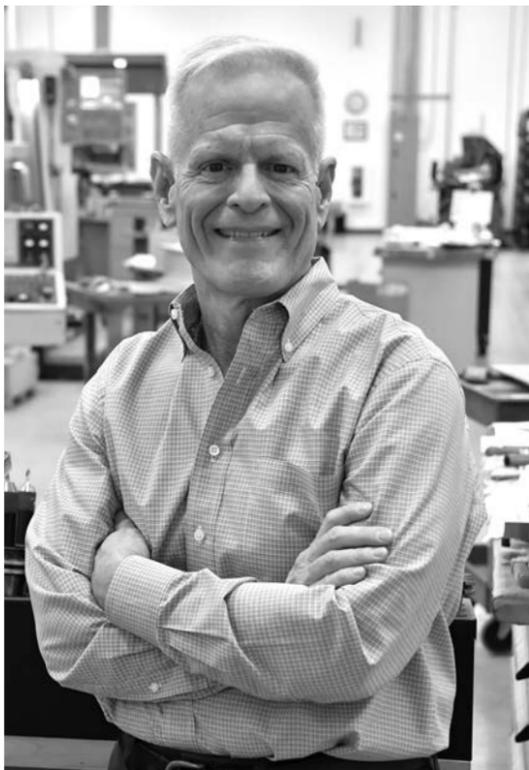
Originally from Ewing, N.J., Cohan enrolled in night classes at Rider while working at Princeton University. She chose to study political science, a subject that had interested her ever since she attended the Democratic National Convention at 12 years old in Atlantic City in 1964. She wasn't sure where her education would take her. The future organizer says simply: "I wasn't a planner. Political science was just what I was interested in."

As an undergraduate, Cohan traveled to Europe with Rider faculty and completed a study on women in European politics that gave direction to her career. After graduating, she worked for the advocacy group NJPIRG and then with NOW. "I ended up traveling all over the country organizing with local activists," she says. As part of the work, she would be on the road for six months at a time, with only one week back at home in Washington, D.C., in between — a grueling routine.

Cohan was still at Rider when she was first exposed to the work being done on behalf of the Equal Rights Amendment, a proposed amendment to the U.S. Constitution that was first introduced in 1923. It would guarantee equal rights for all Americans regardless of sex. She has been working on it for most of her life, up to the present day.

An important moment for her, and the amendment, may be approaching in the upcoming election. The Virginia Senate recently passed a resolution to ratify the amendment, sending it to the House of Delegates for the fifth time in the past eight years. The House has never passed the resolution, but if it were to, Virginia would become the 38th state to ratify the amendment, setting up a probable fight with Congress and the U.S. Supreme Court for it to be added to the U.S. Constitution. Its fate will become more clear if Democrats manage to take control of the chamber in November. As the political director for Feminist Majority Foundation, Cohan has her nose to the grindstone to ensure that happens.

"I remain enthusiastic about the work because I'm passionate about the issues and the people who come together to work on them," she says. "There is opposition everywhere we look, and its root is money. People profit from discrimination. Only if we are strong and united can we move closer to equality."



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- **Hugh T. Regan Jr. '82**

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global asset management firm headquartered in Baltimore, was named to the board of directors of The Baltimore Station, an organization that supports individuals dealing with homelessness and substance use disorder by providing residential and community-based therapy programs.

**Angela Cleveland '11** and Pennsylvania Middle School Counselor of the Year Stephen Sharp co-authored a new book, *50+ Tech Tools for School Counselors: How to Be More Engaging, Efficient, and Effective*. The book, published by Corwin Press, provides insightful descriptions of tools that can be used to not only enrich intervention and instruction but also guide decision making, streamline work, enhance communication and promote happier students. Cleveland received a master's in organizational leadership from Rider.

**Matt Perrella '13** joined the coaching staff of the Drexel University women's soccer team as the goalkeeper coach. A member of the Harrisburg Heat of the Major Arena Soccer League, Perrella has previously made appearances for a number of clubs, including the Pittsburgh Riverhounds and Bethlehem Steel, both of the United Soccer League. In addition to graduating from Rider, Perrella earned a Master of Business Administration from Durham University.

**Natalie Tapykoff '16** was promoted to assistant vice president at Penn Community Bank, which offers banking, lending, insurance and investments in Bucks and Montgomery counties in Pennsylvania.

**Gabrielle Beckford '17** performed as part of the ensemble in *Gloria: A Life* at the McCarter Theatre in Princeton, NJ. She received a bachelor's in musical theatre from Rider. Her regional theatre credits include

a lead role in *Crowns* co-produced by the McCarter Theatre Center and the Longwharf Theatre and *All Shook Up* at the Laguna Beach Playhouse.

**Sophia Introna '17** was cast as Wendla, a lead role in Theatre Under The Stars's production of *Spring Awakening*. Introna, who received a bachelor's in musical theatre from Rider, has recently appeared in several local and regional productions, including *In the Heights* at Playhouse on Park in West Hartford, Conn. Her appearance at Theatre Under The Stars marks her debut at the Houston-based theater.

**Nick Ziobro '17** was cast as Rolf Gruber in the Gateway Playhouse's August production of *The Sound of Music*. He received a bachelor's in musical theatre from Rider.

**Gianluca D'Elia '18** joined *The Burlington County Times*, *The Bucks County Courier Times* and *The Intelligencer* as a general assignment reporter. His new job follows a year-long internship with NJ.com.

**David Chapman '19**, who received a bachelor's from Rider in health sciences, was selected as a teaching fellow by the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. He is one of 24 recruits of the inaugural class of the foundation's Pennsylvania Teaching Fellows.

**Ashley Minter '19** was one of three student speakers invited to share their academic experiences in Washington, D.C., at the release of the 2019 Indicators of Higher Education Equity Report, which tracks college entrance and completion by family income, socioeconomic status, and race and ethnicity.

**Sheldon Steele '19**, who received his bachelor's in musical theatre from Rider, made his New York City debut as part of the ensemble for *Saturday Night Fever* at the John W. Engeman Theatre.

## In Memoriam

### Alumni

Bernice Simonton Cook '38  
Margaret Yuhus Goodwine '39  
Alice Rollings Hellyer '40  
Ruth Dunne Pierson '40  
Mildred Williams Balunas '41  
Barbara Kinkade McKennan '43  
Grace Baldanza Murphy '43  
Jean McClenahan Johnson '45  
Dorothy Cheyne Kuhfahl '46  
Marian Maurer Reading '47  
Catherine Vella Rossi '47  
Paul Huffman '48  
Phyllis Schoenly Jackson '48  
Lorena Bates Moore '48  
Mary E. Sprague '48  
Lois Munson Downer '49  
John B. Kemak '49  
Mary Lou Green McKinley '49  
Joseph Novick '50, '86  
George Paterson Jr. '50  
Margaret Dunk Placeway '50  
Joseph J. Snyder '50  
William D. Vath '50  
Herbert R. Young '50  
Richard W. Kolke '51  
Donald W. Pocher '51  
Leigh S. Polhemus '51  
Suzanne Power Smith '51  
Madeline Schreiber Berman '52  
James E. George '52  
Earl E. Dix '53  
George J. Malmos '53  
William J. Mika '53  
William W. Schubert '54  
R. D. Brakebill '55  
Richard N. Kweit '55  
Charles T. Reice '55  
Joseph A. Vanacore '55  
Fred-Munro Ferguson '56  
Barbara Shapiro Greenberg '56  
Robert M. Kersting '56  
Joanne Golamis Sneider '56  
Earl C. Edwards '58  
Martin R. Brenner '59

Richard J. Ednock '59  
Robert J. Bruce '60  
Marianna Ciraulo '60, 61  
Hylah Grant Malek '60  
Daniel B. Priestley '60  
Joseph W. Sullivan Jr. '60  
Frank D. Reinson '61  
Raymond W. Swoboda '61  
J. Robert Lynn '63  
Clifford G. Watson '63  
Walter R. Brandt '64  
Richard S. Hartung '64  
Charles S. Romano '64  
Eugene Shalayda '64  
Calvin W. Wright '64  
Deborah Schuler Bainbridge '65  
Edwin G. Novak '65  
Arthur S. Nurko '65  
John A. Palmer '65  
Anthony J. Persichilli '65, '77  
Donald L. Rodger '65  
Frederick D. Rosencrantz '65  
Lawrence J. Sawyer '65  
Linda Pierce Fraser '66  
Donald P. Atkins Jr. '67  
Samuel J. Dillahey '67  
J. Donald Eppley Jr. '67  
J. Edwin Morrison Jr. '68  
Nicholas H. Stevens '68  
James M. Brautigam '69  
Diane Homewood Horton '69  
Paul L. Most '69  
Susan Groch Power '69  
Fred J. Topel '69  
David A. Williamson '69  
George D. Manukas '70  
Joseph Napoleon '70  
William F. Breitwieser '71  
Ronald L. Flaim '71  
Claudia Bovie Guenther '71  
James R. Lenahan '71  
Robert R. Arcadipane '73  
Robert C. Pritchard '73  
Nelson E. Sprague '73, '76  
William L. Burns '75

James L. Drake '75  
George M. Knowles III '75  
Craig R. Lyons '75  
Barry J. Wilcox '75  
Gordon B. Grimm '76  
William R. Lazorki '76, '85  
Stephen J. Lucas Jr. '76  
David A. Monfardini '76  
Albert O. Poe '76  
Steven J. Sgourakis '76  
Dorothy Goldman '77  
Alexander Stepaniuk '77  
Joyce Abrahamson '78  
Jeffrey S. Schulz '78  
Edward J. Barry '80  
Curtis F. Jahn '80  
Joan Hicks Mitchell '80  
Artelia Levrett Watson '81  
Julie Keefe Camastra '82  
Cynthia Donnelly '83  
Eileen J. Evans '83  
Daniel J. McDermott Jr. '83  
Scott M. Portner '84  
Patricia L. Philips '87  
Joseph F. Aiello '88  
Anne C. Klein '90  
Andrea A. McKenna '90  
Kenneth M. Hartman '92  
Joseph B. Kochberg '92  
Joelle Severini Vega '92  
Joan Flynn McCoy '93  
Harold L. Liggins '94  
Anthony J. DeStephen '95  
Susan Harlukowicz '00  
Richard J. Schaible '01  
JoAnn Schulz Joseph '07

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Louise Grafton  
Michael J. Heitzman  
Ann D. Kettles  
Richard P. Kubitsky  
Thomas W. Sumners

# Befriending giants

MY CRASH COURSE IN  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP AT OXFORD

By **Isaiah Jean-Baptiste '20**  
Major: Information systems

In August, I was one of 24 Rider students who traveled to England to take part in the Innovation Intensive at Oxford, where participants explored business growth strategies used by leading entrepreneurs.

Over four days, I was able to learn from and live amongst 14 extraordinary entrepreneurs, in addition to two of Rider's executives in residence, entrepreneur Norm Brodsky '64 and Barry Rabner, a Trustee and the president and CEO of Penn Medicine Princeton Health. Students were selected based on an essay contest, and our costs for academic instruction, room and board were included in the trip.

On our first day, James Whitbourn, the senior research fellow at St. Stephen's House, explained to us some of Oxford's social traditions that we would take part in throughout our stay. One tradition, sequential seating, asks students to sit amongst people they may not be familiar with instead of simply choosing seats next to their friends. Such customs allowed us to learn in a manner much different than standard lectures or workshops.

Throughout the program, I was able to communicate authentically

with the brilliant minds in attendance. One day, I sat amongst three successful entrepreneurs in Oxford's St. Stephen's House. They were members of the Birthing of Giants program, which coaches ambitious and successful business owners (whose companies have annual revenues of \$3 million to \$100 million) to grow their companies to the next level. Eventually, the group directed their attention toward me. From that conversation — and many more I would have throughout the week — I learned an incredible amount about how the real world operates.

I felt as if every conversation was valuable. Some pushed me to take action in solving problems in my day-to-day life. A conversation with Toni Jacaruso, the owner of a hotel sales contracting company, completely changed my perspective on entrepreneurship. She listened to the problems I was having with product development in my business venture, the Wealth Mastery Initiative, an educational services company that provides experience-based financial literacy workshops to grade school students. After listening to her, it became clear that I needed to focus much more



**“I learned an incredible amount about how the real world operates.”**

Illustration by James Yang

on solving consumer problems. We exchanged emails so she could stay up-to-date with my progress, leaving room for a mentor-mentee relationship to develop in the future.

Connections like this were made throughout the week during tea times, dining sessions, Q&A circles, Oxford site visits, brainstorming workshops and also while we were having simple fun hanging out in our spare time.

To top it all off, I was able to capitalize on my first trip outside of the country and do some exploring. I took an impromptu trip to London and packed a whole weekend's worth of tourism into a few hours. We navigated through London subways, rode the London Eye, and visited London's main tourist destinations such as the Houses of Parliament, the prime minister's office and Buckingham Palace.

The trip was — hands down — the greatest experience I've had at Rider (so far). I'm grateful to the professors, entrepreneurs, coordinators, and especially Norm and Elaine Brodsky for making this all happen. I've wasted no time in already using my newfound knowledge and networks to get started on my business.

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## Looking back

The Beach Boys performed at Rider in May 1966 — the same month the band released *Pet Sounds*, widely considered one of the greatest albums ever recorded. Earlier that year, Rider hosted Simon and Garfunkel for a performance. Other legends that performed at Rider in the '60s include Smokey Robinson, Janis Joplin, and Peter, Paul and Mary.