# Spring 2017 a magazine for alumni and friends Studies Rider's progressive commitment to female education and leadership dates back to its founding Wrestling coach wraps up legendary career | 10 Alumna pens new biography on Louis Bamberger | 31



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## **ONLINE ONLY**

Gary Taylor tribute video; expanded interviews with Dr. Juleen Buser and Linda Forgosh '65; photo gallery of Rider's new photo pit, and more



# Dear Alumni, Parents and Friends,

T'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN, WHEN SUMMER GIVES WAY to the crisp, colorful days of autumn, bringing about a time of change and transformation. Much like the transition from summer to fall. Rider University is also embarking on a season of change as we start this academic year with a renewed commitment to student growth and development.

Last year we introduced the concept of engaged learning at Rider, a holistic approach to education based on the premise that when learning engages the mind and heart, it empowers growth and forges enduring relationships that last a lifetime. Our goal is to build a vibrant learning community that brings together diverse groups of people to explore subjects, tackle problems, share ideas and create solutions.

With a focus on internships, leadership development, faculty collaboration, global experiences, the arts and service learning, our students will have much more than a transactional experience at Rider. Instead, they will be immersed in a transformational journey that prepares them to succeed both

professionally and personally as paving project, given Moore fulfilled, engaged citizens in our ever-changing world.

Much of what you will read in this issue of Rider magazine exemplifies our engaged learning approach. Take the experience of several students who turned a class assignment into a mission to support abandoned dogs in Puerto Rico, This allowed them to collaborate with our extraordinary faculty while expanding beyond Rider's four walls to make a difference in the world. This is engaged learning at its very core, an example of the "Rider experience" that truly

sets us apart. As we transform the lives of students, our campuses are also undergoing a physical transformation. In Lawrenceville, we've just completed a major road

Library an exterior makeover and upgraded the bookstore. Near the new basketball practice facility, work continues on new

More improvements are on the way. Our Science and Technology Center is being renovated. Gee Hall is set to receive a major upgrade this year, and a new state-of-the-art dance studio is just about finished. We plan to announce even more campus projects soon.

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**Rider Roundup Rider Roundup** 

PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS

# Meet AJ

Rider's mascot was officially named AI in honor of Rider's namesake, Andrew J. Rider, in the fall of 2016. Students, faculty, staff and alumni were asked to submit suggestions and then vote on the top five names to determine the winner.

SHARED READ

# On the fence

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Sonia Nazario stopped at Rider on Oct. 19, 2016. She used her book *Enrique's Journey*, which Rider selected as the 2016-17 Shared Read, as a launching point to discuss immigration and possible solutions to one of America's thorniest issues.

Perils of polling
MSNBC host and political correspondent Steve Kornacki visited Rider on Dec. 1, 2016, to discuss the 2016 presidential election. Kornacki frequently appeared on MSNBC's prime-time election coverage, providing real-time analysis of voting patterns, exit polls and electoral data. Like many analysts, Kornacki didn't see a Trump victory in the data. The event was presented by The Rebovich Institute for New Jersey Politics.



BUSINESS OF MEDIA

# **Inside Comcast**

Comcast Senior Executive Vice President David Cohen discussed the interplay of politics, business and media at Rider on Nov. 14, 2016. Cohen addressed fierce competition in the industry and the media's role in covering the presidential election. Cohen's appearance was made possible by a generous gift from Rob Hagedorn '81.

107.7 The Bronc hosted Scream Screen on Nov. 28, 2016, the first-ever event of its kind at Rider. Supernatural horror film *The* Conjuring was shown on the largest movie screen on the East Coast, with students and others from the Rider community watching in the style of a drive-in movie.



# **Productivity on the rise**

A journal article in Research and Practice in the Schools named Rider's school psychology program the fifth most productive program in the nation in terms of scholarly production. Programs were ranked according to the average number of journal articles published by faculty members. In addition to the recognition for Rider's program as a whole, **Dr.** Stefan Dombrowski of the school psychology program was ranked as the 12th-most productive school psychology researcher in the country.

# **Stepping up in STEM**Rider's School of Education recently re-

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

ceived a \$300k grant from the Martinson Family Foundation to equip teachers with the appropriate tools to challenge learners and prepare them for a technology-rich future. The grant will help the School of Education build on its existing online STEM education and develop a new STEM curriculum and instruction for gifted students.

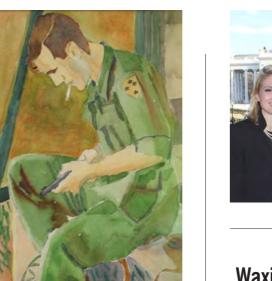
# **Tomorrow's teachers**



Rider embarked on a partnership with The Center for Future Educators at the College of New Jersey

and Tomorrow's Teachers in 2012 that provides high school juniors and seniors the opportunity to take a course and earn three college credits at Rider. Course enrollment has grown from 52 students in the first year to 110 students for the 2016-17 school year.

COLLEGE OF CONTINUING STUDIES



# **Homecoming**

Brian Delate '75 returned to Rider to deliver the keynote speech at the University's annual Veterans Day ceremony on Nov. 3, 2016. Delate served as a combat veteran in the Vietnam War in 1969 and is a decorated noncommissioned officer. A special limited engagement of Delate's play, Memorial Day, was also performed as part of a series of related events.



# **Rider goes to Washington**

Senior Evan Giguere, junior Kelsey Johnson and Dean **Boris Vilic** traveled to the White House to meet Michelle Obama on Jan. 13, after the University was among those selected out of the 350 colleges that participated in the Healthy Campus Challenge. The initiative called for colleges across the country to use their talents to make their campus and local communities aware of healthcare's importance to young adults and the economy.

# **Waxing nostalgic** Westminster Choir College's

CoOPERAtive Program and the National Park Service partnered to create a special program at the Thomas Edison National Historical Park in West Orange, N.J., for middle school students, many from underserved school districts. In the fall of 2016, participating students toured Edison's Music Room, listened to archival opera recordings made by Edison, heard the same works performed live by CoOPERAtive Fellows and conclude the visit with a recording of a Fellow on an archival wax cylinder.



Rider Roundup

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

# **Keeping the nation safe**

An Oct. 27, 2016, seminar on Current Issues in Homeland Security and Criminal Justice showcased leading scholarship in the field, as well as an in-depth look at security issues facing individuals who work in the field. Expert guest speakers from around New Jersey and beyond explored the many methods used to help keep the nation safe.



# Sustainable community

Associate Professor of History **Brooke Hunter** led a group of students minoring in sustainability studies in Lawrence
Township's effort to earn Silver certification from Sustainable Jersey. Lawrence has been certified Bronze four times since 2009. Thanks to the Rider students, the Township now joins an elite group of municipalities certified at the higher designation of Silver.





COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



# **Key conduit**

A team of students from Rider's Global Supply Chain Management program completed a semester-long consulting project under the guidance of Robert Murphy for global medical technology company Becton Dickinson. The team investigated the impact of the expansion of the Panama Canal on the company.

# Living and learning

Students participating in the Business in Action program raised more than \$7,000 for charities in the Fall 2016 semester. The program is part of CBA's Living & Learning Communities, a new initiative for incoming freshmen. Students worked in teams to develop and execute a business plan with startup funds donated by alumni and friends.

# Top five

Two teams made up of Rider University students placed in the top five in this year's national Small Business Institute Consulting Project of the Year competition, which recognizes the best student consulting projects from schools around the country. The graduate-level team finished in fourth place and the undergraduate team placed fifth, with both receiving honorable mention.

WESTMINSTER COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

# Top brass

A new partnership with the Princeton Brass Band resulted in the new Princeton-Rider Brass Band under the direction of **Dr. Steve Allen**. The international award-winning Princeton Brass Band now includes members of the Rider student population as the School of Fine and Performing Arts strives to provide more instrumental training for its growing number of student musicians.

# Tight harmonies

A new contemporary vocal ensemble has been inaugurated under the direction of new visiting faculty member **Timothy Brent**. The ensemble learns and performs works that feature tight harmonies and contemporary styles in the mode of Manhattan Transfer, Pentatonix and others.

#### SCHOOL OF FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS



# **Record numbers**

A record number of musical theatre and theatre graduates received professional representation upon graduating from Rider in May 2016. Not only are more agents signing on Rider graduates, but alumni are getting more performance jobs than ever before, on Broadway and with national tours, cruise lines, Disney and others

WESTMINSTER COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

WESTMINSTER CHOIR COLLEGE

# Musical literacy

Four high school choral directors — all alumni of the Westminster music education department (**Brian Williams '12**, Robbinsville High School; **David Westawski '11**, West Windsor Plainsboro South High School; **Thomas Bateman '83**, New Hope Solebury High School; and **Grant Mech '05**, Rancocas Valley Regional High School) — are working with Center Director and Professor of Music Education **Frank Abrahams** and Ryan John of the Léman Manhattan Preparatory School to investigate new ways to teach high school choral students to read musical notation. Titled "Collaborative Solfeggio," it uses critical pedagogy and popular music pedagogy as the theoretical framework for the study.

# **Music and STEM**

Associate Professor of Music Education **Janet Cape** is developing research that studies the application and uses of micro-controllers to facilitate children's abilities to compose music and produce music creatively. In addition, she joins Frank Abrahams and other colleagues to develop a music curriculum that connects music to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) subjects for the Trenton Public Schools.

# **DRUM CIRCLE**

During JTerm, six music education majors (Grace Amadeo, Rebecca Carroll, Alex Delbar, Lauren Goldman, Julia Henry and Kelly Ruggieri) joined Joel Michalchuk '15 to provide instruction in drumming to elementary school children with autism in the Trenton Public Schools. Christopher Tatro '98, a music teacher at one of the elementary schools, helped organize the program, which was provided under a contract with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.



# Faculty Spotlight

# Dr. Juleen Buser

Associate Professor in the Counseling Services Program in the School of Education

fter graduating from Franklin and Marshall College, where she earned a bachelor's in English, Julie Buser enrolled in Princeton Theological Seminary. During seminary, she completed training as a chaplain at Somerset Medical Center, where she worked in an inpatient program for individuals with eating disorders.

These individuals opened up to Buser. She felt honored that they would trust her with their painful stories. The one-on-one connections fulfilled her, and the experience set her on a new path. After she graduated with a master's in divinity, she sought a second master's, in counseling, from Wake Forest University. She later earned a doctorate in counselor education at Syracuse University, where she also worked as a college counselor and once again faced young people struggling with disordered eating and body image concerns. Buser wrote her dissertation on the ways in which spirituality helps or hinders those suffering from such problems.

Compassion is practically a prerequisite to becoming a counselor, and Buser — now an associate professor in the Department of Graduate Education, Leadership, and Counseling at Rider, where she's worked since 2010 — plunges students into the hard work of self-reflection even before they enter the University's master's program in school or clinical mental health counseling. She asks prospective students to reflect on their lives during the interview process, making some of them squirm.

The work continues in Buser's classroom. Teaching students the skills to be present and empathic and attuned to the needs of others while silencing their own is not easy. But it is rewarding. Buser gets to know the students very well, and witnessing their growth is one of the great joys of her career.

In addition to being a professor, Buser holds several clinical certifications and has experience in clinical work. She was a college counselor at Hobart and Williams Smith Colleges and at Le Moyne College. She also worked in private practice at Ivyland Counseling Center and currently as a wellness coach at Cardiff Health. – Adam Grybowski



"I TEACH because it is an honor to train students to become counselors and coaches; I feel very lucky to work with students who are here at Rider because they want to help others."

Q&A

# What are the most important characteristics of a good counselor?

Above all, as I often talk about in my classes, a good counselor has the ability to build a strong therapeutic relationship with a client To do this, counselors need to communicate empathy to a client — to try, as best they can, to convey that they are working to understand the client's reality. There is convincing research that the specific theory or techniques that a counselor uses are less important — overall — than issues such as empathy in counseling. Change occurs within the context of an empathic counseling relationship. To build this relationship well, counselors also have to be very self-aware. We all have unfinished business in our own lives that can unintentionally get in the way of good counseling. Counselors do not have to be perfect — no one is 100 percent without struggles and problems-but good counselors know what those issues are and are able to keep them from hindering counseling work. That is the key reason why our program at Rider — from the admission interview on — focuses on self-reflection.

# Who has had the greatest influence on your approach to counseling?

Carl Rogers. Any student of counseling will (or should!) immediately recognize

that name. He is credited with founding the person-centered counseling approach — a humanistic approach wherein the counselor is attuned to developing an accepting, nonjudgmental, empathic counseling atmosphere for the client. In this approach, the counselor believes very strongly in the innate resources and capabilities of the client; the counselor's role is to help clients access these strengths and encourage clients' natural tendency toward growth and health. I remember being immediately drawn to this notion of inherent client strengths and the inordinate importance of creating an accepting, compassionate therapeutic space. Life can be difficult, filled with external evaluations and rife with judgment. As Rogers suggested, counseling can be this unique space where the client feels accepted, understood and cared for.

# In what ways can a life coach help someone in their daily life?

Life coaching, or wellness coaching, is a relatively new mental health profession. It focuses on personal struggles that are, in a sense, normative struggles. Coaches do not deal with diagnosable mental health disorders. Clients guide the goal-setting and the session foci. This is not an expert model where the coach 'tells' the client what to do

and how to 'fix' life concerns. It is a very collaborative model, with the coach and client working together to set goals, unpack life difficulties and brainstorm solutions. This process, ideally, is empowering to clients and helps them deal with issues such as life-work balance, body image concerns, career confusion, parenting struggles and relationship difficulties.

# Do you think counseling will become more or less important in the future?

Well, I am clearly biased, as counseling is what I teach for a living, but I do believe that counseling will be increasingly valuable in the future. I think some of the stigma of counseling is diminishing; I believe there should be no shame in seeking out counseling for help with life's problems. We do not feel shame in going to the doctor when we are physically sick, but there is still a sense that mental health struggles are viewed differently. I think that will continue to shift in the future.



This interview has been edited and condensed. For a longer version, please visit www.rider.edu/ridermagazine.

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



#### ■ Rock

My son and I found this rock recently on a hike in the woods near our home. It is shaped like a heart, which we both liked. I have it in my office because I want to remember that little hike in the woods with my son. I am acutely aware that these moments will not be here forever, that he will not always want to hike in the woods with his mom and will not always get such joy in throwing rocks into the stream and climbing up on logs.



# **◄** Undercurrents by Martha Manning

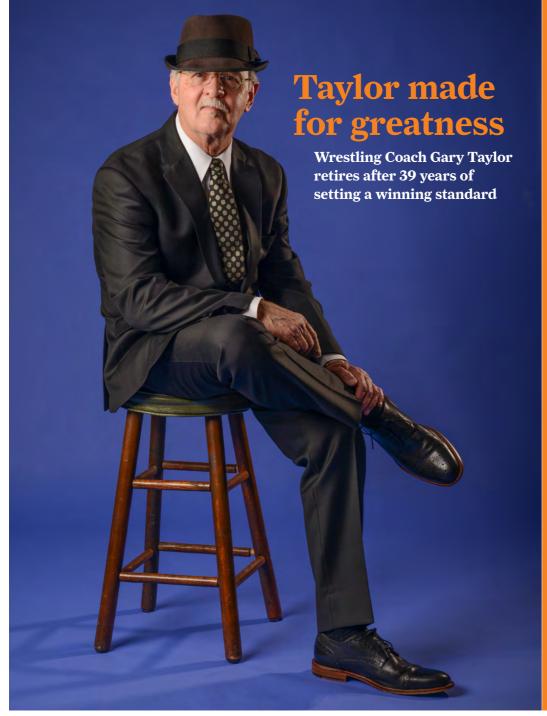
This is one of the most powerful accounts of therapy and mental illness I have read. I read a passage from this book every semester in the introductory counseling class that I teach. It is a passage where Manning talks about how, as a mental health professional, she could say little to help this client who is struggling with cancer. Instead, Manning talks about how sitting with the client in her pain and anguish was what was needed — and how that act of sitting with was hard and personally painful for her as a therapist. I read this passage because I think it captures the foundation of the counseling profession.



#### ■ Gratitude box

This box was given to me by one of my former students who is now pursing her doctorate at my alma mater of Syracuse University. I have it in my office because it is reminder of what I like most about my job. I was able to mentor this student in research; we worked on a research project together, published an article in a peer-reviewed journal and presented at a national conference. Mentoring and working with students on research have been among the most enjoyable and rewarding aspects of my work at Rider.

# **Go Broncs!**



442 All-time wins, third all-time in Division I wrestling history

14 Conference **Championships** 

7th Led team to be ranked 7th in nation in 1997

8-time Conference Coach of the Year

173 **NCAA** qualifiers

**15** All-Americans, including four in last 10 years



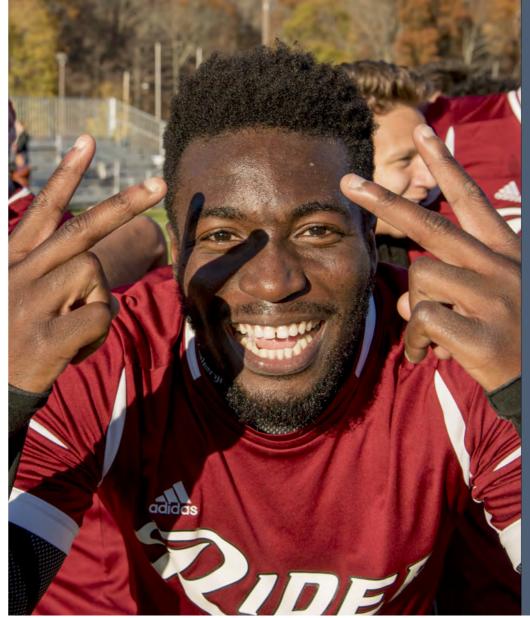
head wrestling coach, retired with the third most wins in Prior to Taylor accepting the position of head tablished in honor of the University's 150th wrestler, a nationally ranked team or an All- family for their exemplary achievements that wrestling at the Division I collegiate level."

ary Taylor, Rider's legendary American. Today, those are expectations he will pass on to his successor, long-time associate after the 2016-17 season head coach John Hangey '93, '97.

In addition to his coaching achievements, dedicated service to Rider University. Division I wrestling history. Taylor was presented with the prestigious He got his start at Rider in Rider University Sesquicentennial Medal of

have brought honor to the University. In the fall of 2010, Taylor was presented with the Frank N. Elliott Award for

"It has been my distinct privilege and honor to be the head wrestling coach at Rider 1978 by succeeding the program's founder. Excellence in 2014, a medal that was es- University for 39 years," Taylor says. "I consider myself truly blessed to have been able coach, Rider never had a nationally ranked anniversary to recognize members of the Rider to have a career doing what I love, coaching



# Repeat

The Rider University men's soccer team earned its second straight MAAC Championship and NCAA Tournament berth with a 3-1 win over top-seeded Quinnipiac in November 2016. It was the fourth MAAC Championship in program history (1997, 1998, 2015, 2016).

Christian Flath, who helped lead the Broncs during a 55-game turnaround in the program's record over four vears, was named an NSCAA All-American. The selection made Flath the fifth Broncs men's soccer player to earn All-America honors and the first since 1972. Flath joins Ed Adams (1956), Frank Nerwinski (1959), John Wagner (1967) and Bob Smith (1972) as Rider men's soccer All-Americans.



BRONC BITS



Veronica Koval was named 2016 MAAC Setter of the Year after leading the Broncs to a tie for third in the regular season and the No. 4 seed in the MAAC Championships. The junior led the MAAC in service aces per set (0.45) while finishing fourth in assists per set (9.01).



The 2016 MAAC Rookie of the Year, Daane Koch was also named to the All-MAAC First Team. She started all 19 games as a Rider rookie, registering team-highs in goals (11) and points (30) and was second in assists (8).



Junior Ryan Baird led the Broncs to their second-straight MAAC Championship and NCAA Tournament appearance. He earned All-Region Second Team, MAAC Co-Goalkeeper of the Year, MAAC Championship MVP and All-MAAC First Team.



Megan McGarrity finished second, the highest finish ever by any Bronc runner, and ran a 21:27.6 at the 2016 MAAC Cross Country Championships. She ran a PR 21:10.2 in the 6K at the NCAA Division I Mid-Atlantic Region Cross Country Championships and finished 21st.



Senior Bethany-May Howard finished her career as the Broncs' all-time leader in wins (34) and shutouts (20), second in saves (378) and third in goalkeeper minutes (6,129). She earned 2016 MAAC Goalkeeper of the Year and All-MAAC First

**Go Broncs! Go Broncs!** 

# A Whole New Ballgame

A.J. MOORE ON SPORTS AND MEDIA

# The NFL featured a number of intriguing storylines this past season.

In just the NFC East alone, a pair of rookies in the Dallas backfield made the franchise America's Team once again, and for a short period, Philadelphia was renamed Wentzelvania. Then, during the playoffs, Odell Beckham Jr. found more trouble on a beach in Miami than he did in the bright lights, big city of Manhattan.

Still, the most noteworthy aspect of the NFL year was a noticeable decline in its Nielsen ratings as fewer people decided the games were appointment television.

The *Denver Post* called the league's drop in viewership "the NFL's TV ratings crash of 2016" and stated that "for the first time since the 1990s the NFL's supreme dominance of televised sports has faded."

Losing so many eyeballs was a shock to the system of the league long considered the Golden Goose of sports properties. Reasons why people were leaving the NFL television caravan morphed into a popular topic to discuss throughout traditional and social media outlets.

Common speculation about the drop in interest centered on the protest fans were showing after hearing about so many players involved with domestic abuse cases. Others felt fans were having misgivings of enjoying games during the concussion enlightenment era. And plenty of other pundits pointed towards Colin Kaepernick's signs of disrespect toward the American flag and the lasting hangover from Deflategate.

Throw in poor quarterback play, too many penalties and drawn out broadcasts as other logical hypotheses.

Sure, those aforementioned factors dented the league's popularity, however they are not the main reason fewer people are tuning into the NFL. Ironically, the media environment that once ushered the league into behemoth status is now the root of its demise.

The media marketplace is not only more crowded, it's full of new inhabitants.

There are a growing number of cord cutters who no longer see the need for the monthly extortion notice that comes from the cable company. In an age of on-demand viewing, sports remains cable television's staple programming but say hello to the wave of Millennial "cord nevers" who have lived life without a cable connection and have found their entertainment via a computer/tablet/phone screen.

Of course the league is losing ratings; fewer people in general are watching that antiquated piece of furniture in the middle of the living room.

The expansion of fantasy sports is another unintended negative consequence. Once a supplement to the NFL experience, now many fans choose to follow their players instead of the game itself. The thrill of constant and changing updates of a fantasy matchup can be more appealing than investing time watching the same two teams knocking heads for three plus hours.

Gone are the days of Sunday afternoons when the 1 and 4 o'clock game windows were a prized wintertime sanctuary for a scarcely available product.

Games on Sundays, Saturdays, Mondays and Thursdays make the NFL precariously overexposed. A weekly cavalcade of Jaguars-Titans matchups on an almost nightly basis isn't must-see-TV.

The NFL is also streaming some of those games on Twitter, but Nielsen has yet to determine how to quantify those viewers into its overall ratings numbers.

Ardent NFL fans have come to a point where they need a pigskin respite and they are finding it while binge watching Narcos at the expense of the modern day American pastime.

I'll devour a two-inch porterhouse steak once in a while, but I can't eat it four times a week. Sometimes a salad is needed. This season a growing population of NFL fans are searching for and have found alternatives for their viewing diets.



Misjudging

marketplace

Are changing viewing habits to blame

for this year's flagging NFL ratings?

the media



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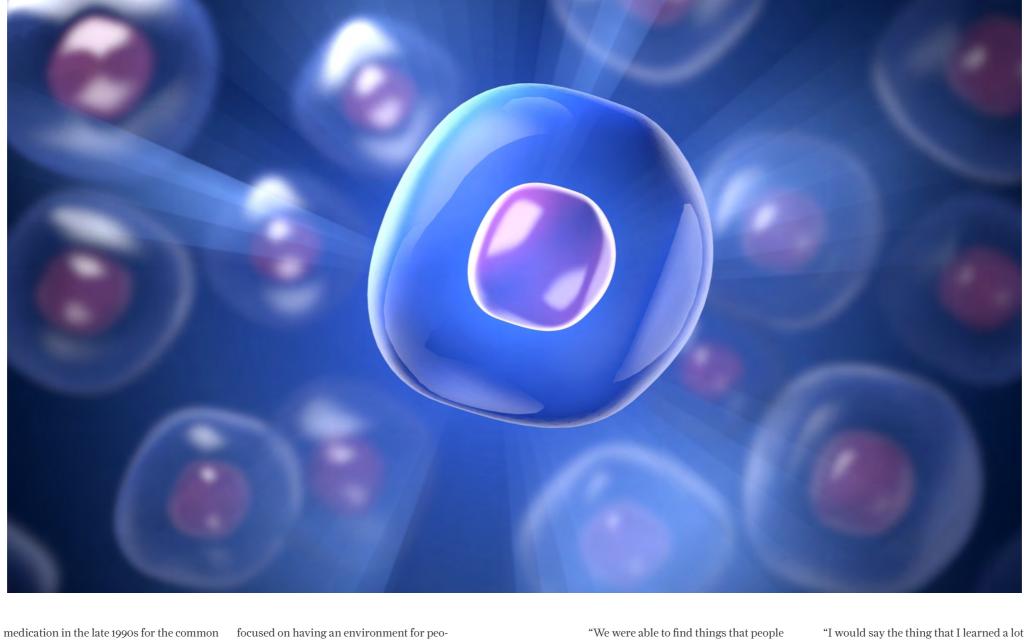
Spring 2017 13



hree years
ago, Idera
Pharmaceuticals
named Vincent
Milano '85 as its chief
executive officer. The
Cambridge, Mass.,
firm, which is listed on
the NASDAQ exchange,
is now on its way to
introducing its first
FDA-approved
drugs for the
treatment of cancer
and rare diseases.

Milano's position sounds impressive — and, of course, it is — but it's an encore performance for him. He was previously chairman, president and chief executive officer of ViroPharma, an Exton, Pa., company he started with in 1996 as the firm's 21st employee. He climbed the ranks and, as its leader in 2014, sold the firm to Irish pharmaceutical giant Shire for \$4.2 billion.

But that journey had setbacks along the way. ViroPharma had been working on a



Idera Pharmaceuticals is on its way to introducing its first FDA-approved drugs for the treatment of cancer and rare diseases. Vincent Milano '85, left, is leading the Cambridge, Mass., firm as its chief executive officer.

medication in the late 1990s for the common cold. The firm grew from 21 people to several hundred as it climbed toward unveiling its first approved medication, a milestone for any medical R&D firm.

Success seemed to beckon.

But the drug was never approved. Staff was let go in droves.

By the time Milano was named chief executive in 2008, the company had whittled down to fewer than 40 people.

"What I took from those incredible 18 years is that you have to have that positive attitude that you started this goal with because this is one hard business to live through," Milano says. "We had created through all those challenges what I think was an incredibly unique culture. Very much focused on our patients. Very much

focused on having an environment for people to be able to be innovative, listened to, held accountable (and) focused on working together as a team."

 $\label{eq:ViroPharma-first} ViroPharma-first with Milano as chief operating officer, then as CEO-made two significant acquisitions that positioned the company for growth and built it back up from its nadir of just a few dozen workers.$ 

First, it purchased a drug that treats one of the main causes of hospital-acquired infections, a nasty bacteria known as *Clostridium difficile*. Second, it acquired a medication that treats the rare and debilitating blood disorder dubbed hereditary angioedema.

The two purchases primed the company — again back up to hundreds of employees — for acquisition by the proverbial bigger fish.

"We were able to find things that people didn't really understand well or weren't paying attention to," Milano says. "We did our homework. As I like to say, we took our shovel and dug deeper than others would have, and it turned out that were able to execute our ideas and turn them into very successful products for the patients and ultimately for shareholders."

And, just like that, ViroPharma sold itself.

Milano was 50, with two adult children and a third attending high school in his adopted hometown of Phoenixville, Pa. Milano's wife, Christie Hotaling Milano '84, didn't want him skulking around the house. And his accounting professors at Rider didn't teach the now 53-year-old to quit when he was ahead.

"I would say the thing that I learned a lot about, which fit more into my scrappy style, is that I went to this small, private school, but I got a tremendous education," he says. "And it's easy to underestimate people when you focus on pedigree as opposed to personal traits. So my application in the real world is that I very, very much do not focus on pedigree and very much focus on personal traits.

"Rider really taught me to ask more questions and think deeply about what you're trying to do as opposed to relying on superficial things like the headline of where you went to college or what your GPA was or any of that."

So shortly after selling his company, Milano started looking to build a new one. He had developed a passion for the bio-pharmaceutical sector, particularly the hunt for drugs that battle rare diseases.

This is the same passion he felt often in his youth about baseball — the only team sport without a clock, which requires playing not just until a whistle or a buzzer, but until the task at hand is done.

Milano was a pretty good second baseman for the Fighting Clan when he graduated from South Jersey's Vineland High School in 1981. He was a Baltimore Orioles fan in the heart of Philadelphia Phillies territory, so he knew how to stand for what he believed in and he had faith in his work ethic and competitive streak. (The Orioles fan named his oldest Cal in a nod to Baltimore baseball legend Cal Ripken Jr.)

There was no sports scholarship when he enrolled at Rider College. He had to



"I am not saying I'm trying to create another ViroPharma, but I would like to create another company that can make a difference in patients' lives and also be a company that people really want to work for."

- Vincent Milano '85

rely on grit, which led him to try out for legendary Rider manager Sonny Pittaro, who would go on to lend his name to Sonny Pittaro Field, where the Broncs now play baseball each season.

"He asked me where I was from. I told him I was from Vineland and he very politely told me he didn't like players from South Jersey because he didn't think they were dedicated," Milano says. "And I politely smiled at him and said, 'I used to always make it back from the beach in time to go to practice, Coach."

In the classroom, Milano levied that sense of determination and drive to excel in Rider's accounting program. The business acumen he accrued back then has served him well. At first, it was 11 years at KPMG, straight out of college, before he was

poached into the bio-pharmaceutical sector.

"We're all a product of our experiences," he says. "What I've learned is that I tend to spend all my energy thinking about what we have control over and none of my energy over what we don't. That is one of my guiding principles to keeping my blood pressure in check... get the right people, build the right culture and be thoughtful in the way we choose the things we choose to do, and if it doesn't work, it doesn't work. I'm not a win at all costs kind of guy."

While looking to build his own platform, he was approached by several backers of his old firm, ViroPharma. They were looking for a chief executive for another pharmaceutical firm in which they were among the biggest investors.

They were looking for someone with the

drive to build from within - again.

So Milano became chief executive of an existing company — again.

One that was in development of its first drug - again.

"I am not saying I'm trying to create another ViroPharma, but I would like to create another company that can make a difference in patients' lives and also be a company that people really want to work for," he says. "We had a great environment with great people and a great company. And we happened to do some incredibly important things for patients suffering from these really tremendously life debilitating diseases, and their families. So that's what I am trying to do again.

"It's a different world but may be I can get lightning to strike twice."  $\blacksquare$ 



"I was at Rider at one of the most exciting times to be in college.

Social change was happening at a rapid pace and the impact on women was significant."

– Joan Mazzotti '72

oan Mazzotti '72 can recall sitting in the classrooms of Rider College in the early '70s and seeing few if any female students. She was a political science major - a program historically dominated by men preparing to apply to law school. She always knew she wanted to be a lawyer, and though it was not unheard of for women to go to law school in that era, it was still uncommon.

"I recognized the challenges facing women, but I wasn't going to let them

stop me," says Mazzotti, who would go on to become the first woman to chair Rider's Board of Trustees. "Thankfully, I benefited from an institution that supported and encouraged me, even though I was in a male-dominated program."

She was coming of age at a time when women's issues were playing out on the national stage, including college campuses across the country. Rider was no exception. In 1968, the Student Government Association demanded changes in dress codes and a relaxation of dormitory visiting rights between the sexes. In 1969, a group of women demanding the right to wear pants staged a sit-in in Alumni Gym and a rally in front of Moore Library that lasted so long it violated the midnight curfew.

"I was at Rider at one of the most exciting times to be in college," Mazzotti says. "Social change was happening at a rapid pace and the impact on women was significant. Doors were opening that previously had been closed."

Over 151 years, Rider's student body has demanded, and the administration has dedicated itself to, a strong and progressive commitment to advancing women's education and leadership. It has provided female access to education since the mid-19th century. The Trenton Business College, which was the University's first incarnation in New Jersey's capital city, enrolled its first female student in 1866. The following year, it graduated its first female student, Marian Ashton. At the time, women did not have the right to vote and many married women did not have rights to their own property and wages. They were, however, using the education they acquired at places like Trenton Business College to join the ranks of the growing clerical workforce taking shape after the Civil War.

College administrators were happy to accommodate women who wished to enroll. They required a dedicated Ladies Department and, in their catalogues, spoke plainly about women "being on an equal footing with men," declaring that discrimination against women in business "has largely, if not entirely, disappeared." Female graduates benefitted from the opportunities, earning good-paying jobs as bookkeepers, stenographers and accountants. By 1885, women were teaching in the college as well. Georgie T. Freas and Myra Marsh were Rider's first female instructors. By 1929, a quarter of the institution's faculty were women. That year, two of them, Mary Hooper and Emily Gibbons, were the first females at Rider to attain the title of professor.

"In my research, I have seen an abiding commitment to women's education and to women's opportunities at Rider — even when such a commitment was not widespread," says Dr. Erica Ryan, an assistant professor of history who has studied Rider's role in educating women over time.

The University's commitment continued in the modern era. Its gender and

Denise Petitta '86, '91, Michele Powers '84, Joan Mazzotti '72 and Meghan Holohan '99, '01 (from left to right) are leading the way to help the next generation of Rider women take their place in the world.



"I have seen an abiding commitment to women's education and to women's opportunities at Rider – even when such a commitment was not widespread."

- Dr. Erica Ryan, assistant professor of history

sexuality studies program (which began as women's studies) launched in 1979. It began dispensing the annual Sadie Ziegler-Bernice Gee Woman of the Year Award in 1986 to high-level female administrators who make valuable contributions to the University. In 2006, Mazzotti and her husband, Michael Kelly, collaborated with Rider to establish The Mazzotti Awards in Women's Leadership, which provides grants to distinguished women faculty members and administrators to support leadership training and professional development to enhance the women's leadership culture at Rider.

Most recently, the Rider Women's Leadership Council (RWLC) was formed to advance and celebrate women's leadership and connect distinguished alumnae and friends who take an active role in mentoring female students and recent graduates. RWLC member Michele Powers '84 finds it rewarding to help young women get started in their careers. She graduated with a bachelor's in management and organizational behavior in 1984. Today, she has more than 30 years' worth of experience in the

healthcare industry. Throughout her life, she has acquired mentors who have been primarily men, from the coaches she had as a youngster to the people surrounding her in the business world.

"Not that male mentors are a bad thing," she says, "but they don't always approach things the same way female mentors do, so I'm happy I'm able to give back and share some wisdom from my experience growing up in the workforce to where I am now. I didn't have a female role model from a business sense, and I always think back and wish I had something like that myself."

Franziska Schmitt '17 joined the RWLC in 2015, the same year she enrolled in Rider's Master of Business Communication program as an international student from Stuttgart, Germany. She enlisted JP Morgan Marketing Executive Director and Rider Trustee Denise Pettita '86, '91 as a mentor to help her adjust to life at Rider.

"Denise is so supportive and has done so much to encourage and motivate me," Schmitt says. "It has been a great opportunity to develop myself personally and career-wise and to learn from other women



who have achieved so much in their lives. It's also wonderful to be surrounded by other women who are as ambitious as I am and who have all struggled with the same issues."

Fifty-seven percent of women participated in the U.S. workforce in 2015, down from a peak in 1999 of 60 percent. Women, who significantly lag their male counterparts in occupying senior level management positions, are most commonly occupied as administrative assistants, teachers and nurses. According to statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau, women who worked fulltime in 2014 earned 79 cents for every dollar on average of men's median annual earnings. This represents a significant gain from 1972, when Mazzotti graduated. At that time, women only earned 58 cents to every dollar.

Against that backdrop of wage inequality and discrimination, women have made significant gains in higher education. The number of adults (both men and women) earning bachelor's degrees or higher has steadily climbed since the Census Bureau began tracking such statistics in 1940. Then, only about five percent of adults in the U.S. had a bachelor's or higher. Today, a full third of the population, or 33 percent, do. Despite those gains, men have historically held an advantage over the number of women holding college degrees.

That fact was finally upended in 2015 when the Census Bureau reported for the first time since it began collecting data on higher education attainment that women were more likely to have a bachelor's degree than men. Overall, the difference is statistically insignificant (30.2 percent of women with degrees compared to 29.9 percent of men), but young women are creating a gulf between them and their male peers. For those between the ages of 25 and 34, 37.5 percent of women have a bachelor's or higher compared to only 29.5 percent of men. More women than men are also completing at least some college (60 percent to 58 percent).

In New Jersey, more men still obtain degrees than women, according to the Census Bureau, but Rider has been graduating more women than men since at least the mid-1990s, when the University began using electronic enrollment records. Most recently, females made up 63 percent (522 of 828 students) of the Class of 2016 — a five percent increase over the Class of 2015.

"Certainly things are on the right path, but they have not moved fast enough 1207(1967)

Percentage of U.S. female population aged 25 to 29 with a bachelor's or higher degree

63%

# Percentage of female students in Rider's Class of 2016

for me," Mazzotti says, who recently stepped down from her role as the head of Philadelphia Futures after more than 16 years at the helm of the nonprofit. "We are still talking about the same issues we were faced with when I began practicing law in 1975. That is not acceptable."

To ensure Rider's legacy of a strong and progressive commitment to advancing women's education and leadership advances, Mazzotti and others have come together to launch a \$150,000 Giving Challenge. The goal is for alumnae who have not contributed in the past to become donors and for past contributors to increase their support. The group will match \$150,000 in new or

increased gifts, for a total of \$300,000 in additional support for current students.

"Rider alumnae are a diverse group, but we are bound by a common intellectual foundation and a shared life experience," Mazzotti says. "I would love to see alumnae re-engage with the University in significant numbers. I am hopeful the increased giving by alumnae over the next 18 months far exceeds the amount of the Challenge. With our success, we have an obligation to help the next generation of Rider women take their place in the world. The way to do that is to ensure the University has the resources to make it possible."

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\*The University has yet to identify the student because

spring 2017 25



Producers Garrett Vogel '06 (GV), far left, and Jake Tuff '15 (JT) and student intern Bella Azar (BA) of the class of 2018, far right, take readers through their daily routines at the show.

There is no such thing as a typical day at The Elvis Duran Show. It is the most-listened-to Top 40 syndicated radio morning show in the U.S., drawing in listeners who want to hear celebrity interviews and exclusive live performances and see other fun original content on elvisduran.com. Host Elvis Duran and his on-air crew broadcast live every weekday from New York's Z100. For years, they have welcomed Rider students into the process of creating the show, providing rich, hands-on experiences that allow undergraduates to apply the knowledge they're acquiring in the classroom to real-world situations. Student interns, as well as two full-time Rider alumni employees, help the show deliver its signature head-lines, phone taps and video segments — and much more.



#### 4:45 a.m.

**37:** Wake up and question why I do this everyday. It takes a few minutes for me to remember I love my job, so it's worth it. **GV:** Arrive at the studio

#### 5 a.m.

 $\emph{GV:}\ \mbox{Start}$  on air with Greg T for a pre warm up show

#### 5:30 a.m. (Hosts arrive)

*BA:* Arrive at work and set up the phones, print out horoscopes and stories to be read on the air and find the first caller of the day for Elvis to speak to. The first caller of the day is found at 5:50, and ready to speak with Elvis after the first song of the day is played.

#### 6 a.m. (Show intro begins)

3T: Arrive at work. I am one of the last to arrive.My first task is usually to finish editing video from the day before. BA: Work the phones7:15 a.m.

 $\ensuremath{\mathcal{T}}$ : Set up cameras, lighting and microphones for celebrity interview

#### 7:20 a.m.

**GV:** Introduce phone tap (daily prank call segment)

#### 8 a.r

**37:** Record celebrity interview. Once the interview is over, it takes me about 90 minutes to finish editing the video. **BA:** My task for the next two hours is to keep a log of the show, including every single segment, conversation, topic or sponsor covered during the show. This is one of the most important parts of the job because the executive producers receive copies of these logs for their records.

#### 10 a.m. (Show ends)

3T: Record different members of the show in the green screen studio for original content videos. BA: After the show ends for the day, I go into the open studios and record the top of the charts, which is an on-air segment, to be played on Thursday's show. The top of the charts includes all of the hottest songs in the U.S., Europe and elsewhere across the globe. My final duty of the day would often be to send T-shirts to the loyal listeners who call in and win prizes.

#### 11 a.m.

3T: Post all interviews on ElvisDuran.com(shameless plug) for the world to see. GV:Record new "Phone Taps" for future segments2 p.m.

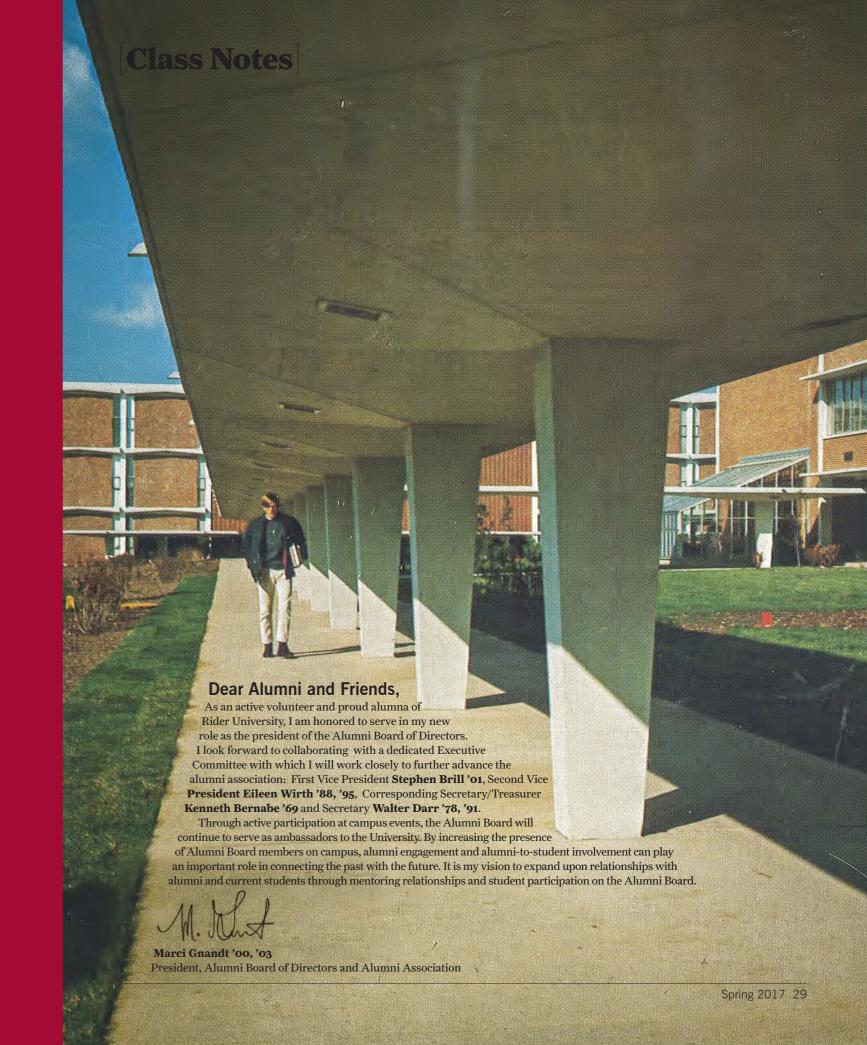
**3T:** Go home!



# ARE YOU READY TO RISE TO THE \$500,000 TRUSTEE CHALLENGE?

The Board of Trustees is challenging you and other alumni, parents, faculty, staff, students, and friends to raise \$500,000 before June 30, 2017. The Board will match all new or increased gifts to The Annual Fund — dollar for dollar — up to \$250,000, resulting in an additional \$500,000 in support of current students. The Trustees have stepped up and are challenging you to do the same!

www.rider.edu/ trusteechallenge



Class Notes

# '60s



Frances Fynn Liburt '63 (seated, left) submitted this photo of an annual get together from the classes of '63 and '64 that has been taking place annually for more than 40 years. Pictured in the back row:

Dorothy Shafer Ryzewski '62, Lorraine Razatkie Tomasini '62, Linda Mantel Weeks '62. Seated: Anne Reichman '63. Missing from this photo is Joan Bula Travis '62.

John T. Spitznagel '63 was recognized as a 2016 Professional of the Year by Strathmore's Who's Who for his outstanding contributions and achievements in the field of healthcare sales and marketing. Spitznagel, who received his bachelor's in English from Rider and an MBA in marketing from Fairleigh Dickinson, is the chief executive officer of NovaSom Inc., a leader in obstructive sleep apnea home testing located in Glen Burnie. Md. He is a former member of Rider's Board of Trustees and Science Advisory Board.

Linda B. Forgosh '65, an independent scholar and executive director of the Jewish Historical Society of New Jersey, had her book Louis Bamberger: Department Store Innovator and Philanthropist published by Brandeis

University Press in September 2016. Bamberger founded the L. Bamberger & Co. department store in Newark, N.J., and made it into the sixth-largest department store in the country. In a starred review, *Library Journal* wrote, "Forgosh's captivating biography of Louis Bamberger... explores Bamberger's business successes and visionary genius in enriching the lives of his Newark employees and many others."

1970s

**Joan Mazzotti '72** announced in September 2016 that she would step down from her role as the head of Philadelphia Futures after more than 16 years at the helm of the nonprofit. Mazzotti, who has a bachelor's from Rider and a law degree from Villanova University, is a former member of the University's Board of Trustees, the sponsor of The Mazzotti Awards in Women's Leadership, which enables Rider to continue supporting women faculty and staff in their professional development, and a dedicated alumna whose contributions to Rider have made a meaningful difference.

Shelley A. Brown '73 was hired by PKF O'Connor Davies, one of the nation's fastest growing accounting and advisory firms, as principal in the firm's Forensic, Litigation and Valuation group. Brown brings over 20 years of experience in business valuation and forensic accounting to the firm and is the latest in a series of high-profile hires as the firm has added more than 160 professionals over the past two years. Prior to PKF OD, Brown served as the partner-in-charge of the Forensic and Valuation Services Department for a midsized accounting and advisory firm in the New York tri-state area. She has also served as an expert witness and has been court appointed in both state and federal courts.

# 1980s

Alice (Buckley) De Lancey '81

joined Day Pitney as chief talent officer responsible for all human resources functions for both attorneys and staff for this regional mid-size law firm with 11 offices and 600 employees. De Lancey was previously chief human resources officer at Lowenstein Sandler for nine years after spending eight years at EY and over a decade on Wall Street. She resides in Caldwell, N.J., and enjoys travel and the New Jersey Shore in her spare time.



'81, Betsey Scheper Bradley '82 and Alice Buckley De Lancey '81 gathered for a girls' weekend at the Grand Old Oprey in Nashville. The group (listed from front to back) consists of Rider alumni who studied abroad in Madrid, Spain, during their undergraduate years. Those who reside in Texas and New Jersey get together several times a year.

# Story of a store

Linda Forgosh '65 has written the only biography of department store magnate Louis Bamberger

Linda Forgosh '65 has written several books, but none have received the level of attention as *Louis Bamberger: Department Store Innovator and Philanthropist*, apply of the master merchant who built his department store in Newark, N.L. into

her new biography of the master merchant who built his department store in Newark, N.J., into one of the largest in the country.

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Accolades have poured in since the book's release in September 2016, including from no one less than Philip Roth, who grew up in Newark and portrayed the city's history in several of his novels. The letter he wrote to Forgosh in praise of her achievement quickly became one of her most important treasures.

Forgosh, who has been the executive director and curator of the Jewish Historical Society of New Jersey since 1999, realized that while Bamberger was a leading figure in the Garden State and beyond, he remained underappreciated, with no large-scale historical work on his life and legacy. She spent eight years researching and writing the book exclusively on her own time, including vacations. The task was made harder because Bamberger left no business records, personal diaries or other correspondence to document his accomplishments. She traveled as far as Oakland, Calif., to interview people connected to his life.

"Wherever I could find a lead to a Bamberger, I tracked it down," she says. "I am happy doing research like nobody's business. I like to know how it ticks, how it came about and how one thing leads to another."

The alacrity with which she approached the Bamberger project would be familiar to her Rider professors. As a student, her favorite place in Lawrenceville was Moore Library. "The best years of my life were spent at Rider," Forgosh says. "I had a sense of independence. I loved studying and wanted to be the best student I could be. I always thought it's better to be a big fish in a little pond, and Rider was a small school and had everything I could ever want."

Forgosh graduated with two bachelor's and followed that up with a master's from Seton Hall. She says her biography of Bamberger was written in lieu of a doctoral dissertation she never pursued as a result of work and family. While successful, her three previous books, which focused on Jewish history in New Jersey, lack the scope of her Bamberger study. The sheer amount of information Forgosh gathered, and the time she spent making sense of it, brought her closer to Bamberger than many people she knows in day-to-day life.

"If you're ever going to tackle something like a biography, you'd better be darn well prepared to spend time with that person," she says. "After eight years I felt like I was married to Bamberger and, when the hoopla dies down, I'm finally going to get an amicable divorce."

#### O&A

## What is Louis Bamberger's legacy?

Newark historian Charles Cummings aptly describes him as "the personification of the liberal American businessman, who by his strength of character and idealism secured the faith of the American people in private enterprise." His department store was one of the great success stories in American business, but it wasn't the memories of shopping or working at his store that stand out; it is rather his legacy of philanthropy (Beth Israel Hospital, Newark Museum, the YM-YWHA in Newark, Community Chest, Jewish Children's Home and Institute for Advanced Study, to name a few) and great acts of kindness that made him the giant that he was.

## Do you have any personal memories of visiting Bamberger's?

I have family members who worked and shopped at Bamberger's. I only recall that my mother took me to Bamberger's to purchase the dress I wore for my Bat Mitzvah, but that was the one and only time as their prices didn't fit her pocketbook.

—Adam Grybowski



 $This interview\ has\ been\ edited\ and\ condensed.\ For\ a\ longer\ version\ of\ this\ profile,\ please\ visit\ www.rider.edu/ridermagazine/spring-2017.$ 

# ALUMNI TRAVEL



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oin President Gregory G. Dell'Omo and Mrs. Polly Dell'Omo and an ntimate group of alumni and friends during the summer of 2017 for an unforgettable tour of Spain.

You'll enjoy VIP experiences like before-hours access to Barcelona's Sagrada Familia and tastings of wine "fermented in stone" by the monks of Catalonia. Dine on Gaudi's rooftop and dance the Flamenco, be amazed by the towering Castellaners and awed at the Abbey and art of Monserrat. Then top it all off on the Balearic Island of Mallorca for Moorish ruins, sailing and seafood on this 10-12-day adventure.

For more details on the schedule and pricing, please contact Natalie Pollard, director of Alumni Relations, at 609-896-5340 or pollardn@rider.edu.

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**Class Notes Class Notes** 



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# What have you been up to?

Recently married or employed? Had a baby?

Reunited with old college friends?

Send us your announcements and highresolution photos and we'll include your news and photographs as space permits in Class Notes in an upcoming issue. Send information to magazine@rider.edu.

Andy Skibitsky '82 became, in June 2016, the longestserving mayor in the history of Westfield, N.J. Skibitsky works as the marketing director at Merck Animal Health.

Stephen M. Fogler '83 is a shareholder in the Haddonfield. N.J., law firm of Archer, P.C. Fogler concentrates his practice on real estate-related litigation representing a wide variety of real estate developers, builders and commercial landlords.

Jim Grech '84 was named chief information officer of Fisery. a leading global provider of financial servicers technology solutions, after nearly five years in key leadership roles with the company. He will be overseeing information technology infrastructure and operations, cooperate systems, enterprise architecture, and technology governance, all while leading the company's strategic focus on next-generation technology platforms. Grech was previously the executive vice president of BNY Mellon's Technology Services Group where he was responsible for all technology infrastructure platforms.



#### Tina Libertella-Morrison '86 and Mark Morrison '84

married in 1988 and after more than 15 years of Tina teaching group exercise classes at area gyms, she decided to open a gym of her own in the couple's hometown of Sicklerville, N.J. (with help and support from Mark). October 2016 marked the second anniversary of Fuel Fitness. Tina compares Fuel to

the television show Cheers... where everybody knows your name. She never expected to form such a strong bond with her members and employees and loves going to work every single day because of it.

Pamela K. Shipp '87 will publish her first book, a memoir called The Furnace of Affliction: Surviving Bipolar Disorder, on July 14, 2017. Shipp graduated from Rider with a bachelor's in marketing. The book, which provides personal and spiritual insight into the dark and painful world of bipolar disorder, will be available through Amazon. Barnes & Noble, and other booksellers.

Robert Shumosky '87 was nominated for the SmartCEO Circle of Excellence Award, A College of Continuing Studies alumnus who studied accounting, Shumosky is president of Infiana USA, Inc., a company that produces engineered and innovative films for consumer and industrial markets. SmartCEO magazine's 2016 Circle of Awards program recognizes the region's most accomplished CEOs for business excellence in distinct categories.

Patrick McGuiness '88 was named executive vice president and chief financial officer of U.S. LBM Holdings, which is one of the largest specialty building material distributors in the U.S. with a network of distributors in 27 states. Previously, he was an executive vice president and chief financial officer with Houston-based Landmark Aviation. Prior to Landmark, McGuiness spent 23 years with Tiffany & Co., holding multiple leadership roles.



photo of the 2016 Bearcats/

Paleologos Memorial "Charity" Golf Outing. Tournament Trophy Champions were **Jorge** De La Bandera '86. Matt Howarth '88. Dominick Callandriello '92 and Joe Kochberg '92. Reisart thanked the outing's hole sponsors: A1 Daniel '84. Frank Batula '84. Mark Cartier '84, Canada Dry Delaware Valley Bottling Co. (Tony Angeli '86), Dominick Callandriello '92, J.C. Endahl '87, Gary Frey '84, Paul Fucci '88, Lenny Garrity '83, Howard Green '85, Jim Hollasch '86, Robert "Woody" Johnson '88, Craig Kanouse '83, Rockin' Road Grill (John Killion '78), Joe Kochberg '92, Bob Kramer '88, Reggie Leach '80, Keith Lentini '84, Joe Massucci '81, Jim Murray '77, Bob Paolini '86, Rich Reisert '88 and Dr. Jeff Uhl '88.

# 1990s

Gregory Englesbe '90 was recognized by the Politz Day School of Cherry Hill, N.J., a 48-year old Orthodox Jewish day school for children from preschool through eighth grade, for providing tuition assistance to the children and families of the community facing financial difficulty. Englesbe is the founder and CEO of E Mortgage Management LLC in Cherry Hill. He supports many worthy causes and has been cited for his other philanthropic contributions.

# **Upcoming Alumni Events**

**April 21-22** 

Anthracite Fields Westminster Choir

April 28 ArtBEAST Festival

April 30 Softball Alumni Day

May 6

Women's Soccer Alumni Day

May 7

Track & Field and Cross Country Alumni Day

May 11-13 Westminster Reunions

May 14-27

Westminster Concert Bell **Choir Tour** New England and the Great Lakes region

**May 26-June 11** 

Spoleto Festival USA. Charleston, S.C. Westminster Choir

> **June 9-10** Rider Reunions

For more information and a complete listing of upcoming alumni events, please call the Office of Alumni Relations at 609-896-5340 or visit alumni.rider.edu/upcomingevents.

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# State of the art

Brad Currie '01, '07 has emerged as a leading advocate for technology in education

The first time Brad Currie '01, '07 introduced streaming video to his students — in 2006 — it wasn't clear the middle school had enough bandwidth to support the technology. He carted into his classroom an LCD projector attached to a computer. To keep the connection strong, Currie pressed play on the video and held the ethernet wire in place with his fingers.

"At the time, most teachers didn't want to have anything to do with the internet," Currie recalls. Streaming video for students "was a pretty big deal, even though now we don't think twice about it."

Since that moment, the pace of technological change, and its effect on the learning experience, has only hastened. Today, all students in the Chester, N.J., school district, where Currie is dean of students as well as supervisor of instruction, use Google Chromebooks and have access to Google Apps for Education, a free suite of online productivity tools.

Meanwhile, Currie has emerged as a leading advocate for the power of educational technology. He's written three books on the topic, most recently, with co-authors Billy Krakower and Scott Rocco, *140 Twitter Tips for Educators*. He regularly provides professional development to teachers through his organization Evolving Educators.

Surprisingly, Currie wasn't always interested in technology. He decided to be a social studies teacher as a high school senior, his ambition modeled on the behavior of his coaches. An athlete who played basketball, baseball and football at South Hunterdon Regional High School in Lambertville, N.J., Currie was impressed by his coaches. "They had a passion for helping student-athletes improve their abilities and motivating them to be better," he says. "I realized I could have the same impact on others as they had on me."

While working part-time for the family business, Niece Lumber in Lambertville, he began his secondary education at Raritan Valley Community College and eventually transferred to nearby Rider, enrolling in the University's School of Education. "I knew Rider had a great reputation in preparing teachers," he says. He earned a bachelor's in secondary education in 2001 and a master's in educational administration in 2007.

It wasn't until Currie was hired to teach computer applications by the Hanover Township School District in 2001 that he started honing his craft as a technology teacher. He attended conferences and began earning a string of certifications. During that time, the power of social media and technology only became more relevant and powerful.

"We are in one of the most exciting times in education right now," he says. "Technology is the not the be-all and end-all in education, but coupled with an ability to connect with students, it creates a formidable approach to make learning fun for kids."

—Adam Grybowski

**Tim Ungerleider '90** was promoted as Dominion Due Diligence Group's chief operating officer. Ungerleider worked for D<sub>3</sub>G for more than three years as senior leader/program manager.

V. Joseph Trost '91 received the the 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award in October 2016 from the Information Science School at the University of Pittsburgh, where he earned a master's in telecommunications in 1993.

Kevin Davis '92, who has 24 years of experience leading adult, handbell and children's choir programs, joined the staff of Calvary Episcopal Church in Summit, N.J., as organist-choirmaster in August. Davis holds a bachelor's from Louisiana Tech and a Master in Music from Westminster Choir College. Since earning his master's in 1992, he has held organist/ music director positions in three churches in Vermont and Alabama. He is a member of the American Guild of Organists, the Association of Anglican Musicians and the Royal School of Church Music.

Sheila Newquist '92, a water-color painter who works in the healthcare industry, had her work featured in "Monday's Palette" at The Hale House in Matunuck, R.I., and the juried artist member show at the Wickford Art Association in Rhode Island in September 2016.

Louis Picone '92 published his second book, *The President Is Dead! The Extraordinary Stories of the Presidential Deaths, Final Days, Burials, and Beyond* (Skyhorse Publishing, 2016), in August. This is a follow-up to his first book, *Where the Presidents Were Born: The History & Preservation of the Presidential Birthplaces* (Schiffer Publishing, 2012).

In June 2016, he was invited to speak at the international conference "U.S. Presidents and Russian Rulers" at the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow where he presented a paper, "The Evolution of Presidential Birthplace Commemoration: From Washington to Obama." In addition, in October 2016 he was awarded a scholarship grant to attend the prestigious "Region and Nation in American Histories of Race and Slavery" conference at George Washington's Mount Vernon. He currently lives in Roxbury, N.J., with his wife, Francesca, and two boys, Vincent and Leonardo.

Chris Catalano '93 was named chief financial officer of Catapult Learning, Inc. in January. In this role, Catalano oversees corporate finance, general accounting, legal and procurement for the largest provider of K-12 contracted instructional services in the United States. Prior to joining Catapult Learning, Catalano served in many operational, financial and investment leadership roles in private equity-backed organizations. Most notably, from 2009 to 2014, he served as chairman and CEO of the School of Rock, which he built into the country's largest after-school provider in the music education industry. Catalano also spent five years as CFO and chief investment officer of McDonald's Ventures, where his financial expertise led to a multibillion-dollar return on investment to McDonald's shareholders. As chairman of the board of Redbox, he oversaw the growth of that company from its first location to over 12,000 installations. Catalano holds an MBA with a concentration in finance from Rider and a bachelor's in mechanical engineering from Villanova University.

Charles Holloran Jr. '93 is engaged to be married to Theresa Behul. He earned an MBA from Rider University and works in the financial services industry. The two met while working together and got engaged while on vacation in Newport, R.I.

Kevin R. Sorge '93 of Norfolk, Mass., has been named the executive director of the New England Affordable Housing Management Association, a nonprofit trade association for the affordable housing industry representing members in all six New England states. The Edison, N.J., native earned his bachelor's from Springfield College and a master's from Rider.

Jennifer Downing '94 was promoted to deputy first assistant prosecutor of the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office. Previously, she had been an assistant prosecutor with the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office working in various units such as Megan's Law, Juvenile, Domestic Violence, Grand Jury and Trial. For the past eight years, she worked as the chief assistant prosecutor of the Special Victims Unit. The lifelong Mercer County resident went on to earn her law degree from Widener University School of Law in Wilmington, Del. in

Stacey Peeples '95 was the featured historian on an episode of PBS' "A Taste of History." Peeples is the curator-lead archivist for Pennsylvania Hospital, historic collections.

Kristine Hodge Quinby '95 was named the executive director of Potential, Inc. The company's goal is to provide high-quality interventions for

Elizabeth F. Monahan '96 was

individuals with autism and

other developmental disabilities

named chief human resources officer of Walter Investment Management Corp. Over her more than 27-year career, Monahan has led the human resources functions for diverse businesses, complex global organizations and start-up companies including Quintiq, Homeward Residential and, most recently, Assero Services. She holds a master's from Rider University and a bachelor's from Penn State University.

Veronica Yankowski '96 was named the No. 12 best wedding photographer in the world by the wedding photography website www.wedaward.com. Yankowski, who earned her bachelor's cum laude in journalism, is the owner of VeroLuce Photography ("veroluce" is Italian for "truth and light"). Learn more at www.verolucephotography.com.

Dawn LeMasney '97 joined the faculty of Valley Music Academy, the largest private music school in the Shenandoah Valley. Lemasney, a soprano, received a master's from Westminster Choir College. She also holds a bachelor's in music education (magna cum laude) from Messiah College in Grantham, Pa. Lemasnev is a member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing and the recipient of the Keith Lance Kuhlmann Scholarship for musical performance.

co-founder of Homestead Beer Company, which received the Outstanding American Small Business award sponsored by Sam's Club and given by the SCORE Foundation. Founded in 2011 and opened to the public in 2013, the large–scale microbrewery was the first in Licking County, Ohio, to be dedicated to craft beer. Atkinson is the business side of the company, finding himself on the road pitching the beer to supermar-

**Kevin Atkinson '98** is the

**Jonathan Parker '99** and his wife, Robin, and son Bryce welcomed a new baby boy on June 28, 2016.

kets, bottle shops, bars and

restaurants.



Suzanne Viscomi '99 married

Courtney Wuss at the Thomas
Pain House in Atlantic
Highlands, N.J., on Sept. 24, 2016.
She shared her day with Melissa
Nielsen Corso '99 and Cara
Jeiven '98. Viscomi has been the
chief financial officer of National
Parts Supply for six years and
was elected to her third term on
the Red Bank School Board on
Nov. 8, 2016. She was also elected
to be the president of the Red
Bank Republican Club in 2016.

**'00s** 

William Incollingo Jr. '00 was appointed to become Bensalem Township School district's director of instructional technology, district-wide telecommunications/security. He previously served as principal at Robert K. Shafer Middle School in Bensalem and assistant principal at Cecelia Snyder Middle School and Bensalem High School.

Abigail Wright '00 headlined composer Milton Granger's modern opera The Proposal at St. Malachy's/The Actors' Chapel in New York City in November 2016. Moving to New York after finishing her master's in opera performance, Wright has performed in several of the Metropolitan Opera's Live in HD broadcasts and Live from Lincoln Center's Carousel, and she made her solo Carnegie Hall debut in The Song of Norway. No stranger to highlighting women in all stages of the struggle for equality, she portrayed Meg in the Israeli premiere of Mark Adamo's treatment of Little Women, working directly with the composer himself.

Greg Meehan '01 was selected to lead the American women's team at the 2017 FINA World Championships. A women's assistant coach for Team USA in Rio, Meehan made quite an impact on the 2016 U.S. Olympic swimming team with Mava DiRado, Simone Manuel and Lia Neal combining to earn nine medals. He is also the women's coach at Stanford University, where he guided them to a runner-up finish at the 2016 NCAA Championships. He currently coaches five-time Olympic gold medalist Katie Ledecky at Stanford.

John Blake '02, '04 was promoted to partner of Klatzin & Company LLP. He also serves as chair of the firm's tax committee and co-chair of the marketing committee. Blake graduated cum laude from Rider University with a master's

Class Notes

Advice for alumni, from alumni

NEWSMAKER

# This way to Broadway

Colby Dezelick '16 lands a role in 'Miss Saigon'

After graduating from Rider last year, Colby Dezelick '16 worked at regional

theaters in St. Louis and Connecticut. Soon after, he landed his biggest role yet and has been appearing in one of the most beloved musicals of all time, *Miss Saigon*, since previews opened on Broadway in March.

Based on the opera *Madame Butterfly, Miss Saigon* is a love story set during the Vietnam War. Though he had never seen a production before he auditioned for it, Dezelick was very familiar with a key song sung by the lead role of Chris, "Why, God, Why?" which he worked on at Rider with Mariann Cook, a professor of music theater voice.

"It's one of those songs I started working on probably my sophomore or junior year, and it was a big challenge at first," he says. "We worked on it all the time, and then I ended up singing it for a couple of auditions and now here I am covering the role on Broadway."

Dezelick is in the ensemble and also serves as the understudy for the lead role of Chris. "It's a little unreal," he says. "It's one of those things I'm sure anyone in the theater community dreams of."

Dezelick, who grew up in northern Virginia, outside of Washington, D.C., made it to Broadway thanks in part to his work at Rider. He found out about Rider's theater program through a voice teacher and fell in love with the University when he visited.

"I met the faculty, who were great and very personable and very excited about the prospects of the theater program," he says. "I met the students and they were great. I had a fantastic time there. I spent four years loving all of the classes and the faculty and making some great friends. And it definitely prepared me for an actual career in the real world."

At Rider, he performed in the acclaimed shows the theater department stages. He appeared in musicals such as *All Shook Up* and *Spring Awakening*.

"Certainly the type of material that we got to work on in college was amazing," he says. "There were always one or two shows a year that were incredibly ambitious for a college, so it's great for a student to even be able to work on that kind of material."

He even presented three workshop performances of his own musical, *Between the Lines*, about a young artist seeking to find her way in the world. He started writing it in his freshman year, then presented performances of it on campus in his sophomore, junior and senior years.

As if acting, singing, dancing and writing a musical isn't enough, Dezelick is also a musician. "I was always interested in music," he says. "That was another main reason I really wanted to go to Rider, because there I was able to explore my parallel passion for music that coincided with musical theater."

—Anthony Stoeckert

in management and a bachelor's in accounting. He is a certified public accountant in New Jersey and a member of the American Institute of CPAs and the New Jersey Society of CPAs.

Glenn Robbins '02 was named the new superintendent of the Tabernacle Township School District. Robbins had served as principal of the Northfield Community Middle School in Atlantic County since 2012. He has also been an assistant principal, social studies teacher and soccer coach at Egg Harbor Township High School. Winner of the 2016 National Digital Principal of the Year by the National Association of Secondary School Principals, he earned his bachelor's in secondary education and social studies from Rider University and his master's in educational leadership and administration from Jones International University.



Alexandra Alazio '04, who majored in communication at Rider, is the new sales marketing director at Thrillist Media Group where she and her team develop campaigns built to deliver multi-platform, multi-screen branded content. She is also newly married to Bob Bilodeau as of April 2016.

Matt Cook '06 was cast in CBS's primetime television show *Man With a Plan*. Cook studied theater and communication at Rider. Born and raised on the East Coast, he now resides in Los Angeles.

Tirusha Dave '07 and
Prashanth Gorantala were
wed on Aug. 21, 2016, at
Princeton Marriott at Forrestal
Village in New Jersey. Jessica
Andrulewich '12 was a
bridesmaid and Dr. Roberta
Clipper of Rider's Department
of English was a guest at the
couple's wedding events.
Dave is an editor at Bravura
Magazine and Gorantala is an IT
professional.

Reginald Meadows '07, an assistant principal at the Pennsbury High School West campus, is to become co-principal of Pennsbury High School East Campus in August. He had served as an assistant principal for the past nine years in different capacities on the high school's east and west campuses.

#### Marco Antonio Melendez

'07 performed in the sixth annual Music for Christmastide program at Holy Angels Catholic Church in Texas in December 2016. Melendez is currently in his fifth season as artistic director of Milwaukee Children's Choir and has performed throughout the nation as a choral conductor, clinician, soloist and church musician. He is a graduate of Westminster Choir College and Holy Names University.

Nicole Nicholson '09, MA '11 and Todd Malkiewicz '09, MA '11 married in September 2016 in Hamilton, N.J. Other '09 Rider alumni who helped them celebrate were Holly Shavell, Kristen Pesce, Rachael (Nitti) Chazan and Matthew McAuliffe.



# Start your day before your boss/or team

Each morning, I started my day between 45 minutes to an hour before my director or team members would arrive. This extra time gave me the opportunity to prepare for all my meetings for the day and to discuss any issues with my director supervisor.

# Find a time management system that works for you

If you don't have a system to manage your time, get one. Having a system helps keep you on track and focused on what needs to be done. I use the Stephen Covey Time Management Matrix, which helps you organize your priorities into four quadrants. As the director of scheduling for the president, everything that got to

my desk needed attention, whether it was something happening the next day or the next week or even month. I had to work on it and provide guidance to others to keep things moving. The Covey grid is a fantastic tool to keep you organized and manage your task efficiently.

# Leave time between events and meetings

In my line of work, we call this padtime. Scheduling yourself or someone else wall-to-wall can be problematic when last-minute stuff gets added on or emergencies come up. I try to space out all of my meetings or calls by at least 15-20 minutes. This pad-time gives me the ability to relax a bit, eat a snack, make a phone call or take a walk to get my Fitbit steps in.

# Learn to say NO

This could easily be number one on this list. There is no way you can please everyone or do everything. If you know you do not have the time to commit, start with no and outline the things you have on your plate. Folks will understand and see that at this moment you, unfortunately, can't help them. (Only break this rule when it's for your spouse!)

# Know the difference between Work Time and Chill Time

When you are in the office, get the job done. Don't be the person who brings work to happy hour or an event where everybody is trying to NOT think about work.



For eight years, **Gregory Lorjuste '04** helped maintain one of the most hectic schedules in the world. In his role as senior scheduler at the White House, Lorjuste was one of three professionals who planned the day-to-day details and logistics for President Obama's domestic and international events. In managing the leader of the free world's most important asset — time — Lorjuste learned quickly that every minute counts, and once the clock starts, it's impossible to get time back.

ustration by Regan



Robert E. Gildea II '10, '16 married Christina A. Rech '11 at St. Charles Borromeo in Skillman, N.J., in June 2016.

John J. Lanza '11 is approaching graduation in December with a Master of Professional Studies Degree in Homeland Security from George Washington University. He is currently in an internship with an agency of the federal intelligence community.

**Wendy Feaver '12** provided musical direction for The Vicky

Boofont Show!, which ran weekly off-Broadway in February and March.

Elizabeth Wojtowicz '12 sang the lead role of Hansel in a family friendly version of Engelbert Humperdinck's Hansel and Gretel produced by Buffalo Opera Unlimited. Wojtowicz has been featured in other major works including Handel's Messiah and Mendelssohn's Elijah. She is on the voice faculty at Buffalo State and has a private studio in Lancaster.

James N. Kirchner Jr. '12 of Whitehouse Station, N.J., was sworn in as a sheriff's officer in Somerset County, N.J., in January. Kirchner graduated from Somerville High School, where he was a New Jersey state wrestling champion, in 2008 and from Rider in 2012. He is active in the Somerville Fire Department and was a two-time

top responder to fire calls. He

is currently a lieutenant with Somerville Hook & Ladder.

Jaime Giannakis '13 was hired in August 2016 as a guidance counselor at her alma mater South Plainfield High School. Giannakis earned a bachelor's in psychology from Rider and a master's in mental health from Monmouth University. She completed an internship at SPHS in 2015-16.

Rachel Stengel '14 has been hired as a marketing specialist for clinical operations at Salus University, Elkins Park, Pa. She had been marketing communications coordinator for Pond Lehocky Stern Giordano.

**Teresa Bonilla '14** appeared in *Bravo Puccini: An Evening of Operatic Solos, Arias and Duets* on Sept. 10, 2016, as part of the Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association's Great Family

Entertainment series. In 2014, Bonilla appeared as a guest artist with the OperaFest International in Hachenburg, Germany, and recently sang with The Savoy Opera Company of Philadelphia. She is currently teaching voice through her studio, Bonilla Vocal Arts.

Andrès Féliz '15 appeared as Nakawa in Festival of the Lion King at Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Fla. At Rider, he was cast in productions of Seven Brides for Seven Brothers, Merrily We Roll Along and Metamorphosis. After graduation, he performed as a cabaret artist at Uncle Charlie's, a piano bar in New York City.

Blair Godfrey '15 has started teaching English in Rouen, Normandy, through the French Ministry of Education's Assistants D'anglais program. Godfrey plans to take the oral proficiency interview in French

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upon her return in hopes of finding a high school teaching position.

J'na Jefferson '15 has been serving as a contributing writer for VIBE. Iefferson, who graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's in journalism and digital media, has written articles and features for entertainment figures such as JoJo, Iazmine Sullivan, LMFAO's Red Foo, Keke Palmer, producer Hit-Boy and more. She also covered the 2016 MTV Video Music Awards at Madison Square Garden, interviewing Chance The Rapper, A\$AP Ferg, Justine Skye and Kent Jones.

Jennifer Smolyn '15 is currently teaching ninth-grade biology at Princeton High School and working towards a master's in cell and developmental biology at Rutgers University.

Cameron Cook '16 has begun teaching English in eastern France through the French Ministry of Education's Assistants D'anglais program. Cook plans to begin graduate school when he returns next fall.

Brooke Vernon '16 is running the fashion closet for *Marie Claire* magazine, where she previously interned. Since graduating, she has been searching for jobs and writes, "I greatly miss Rider and all of the wonderful staff!"

**Correction**: The fall 2016 issue of *Rider* magazine incorrectly spelled the name of an alumnus in Class Notes due to an editing error. The correct spelling is Colby Dezelick '16, not Colby Zezelick '16.

## Dr. Susan Mandel Glazer '78

Dr. Susan Mandel Glazer, of Lawrenceville, N.J., passed away Feb. 13, 2017.

During her 45 years at Rider University, Glazer made tremendous contributions to literacy education worldwide. She spoke at professional meetings in all 50 states and in 29 countries. She served as president of the prestigious International Reading Association and earned many awards, including more than 200 literacy awards from reading councils across the world.

Born in Jersey City, Glazer was a graduate of Syracuse University (B.A.), New York University (M.A.) and University of Pennsylvania (Ed.D).

Glazer, who wrote 18 books and more than 200 articles on literacy education, loved teaching children to read and college students how to teach reading. She founded and chaired Rider's graduate program that prepared teachers to be reading specialists and established the Center for Reading and Writing.

She is survived by her companion, Ernst Heilbrunn; two sisters, Lesley Morrow and Lynn Cohen; nephew Darren J. Cohen and niece Stephanie M. Bushell, along with two great-nieces, two great-nephews and many friends.

Vera Tombleson Carlson '33 Norma Mathis Peebles '36 Elizabeth Kuntz '37 Helen Reed Gillis '38 Jean Wright Hallowell '38 Marian Tomasule Giovacchini '41 Emma W. Roper '41 Jane Husted Lazur '44 Phyllis Thompson Lightner '45, '47 Catherine VanSchoick Van Sant '45 Marian Dills Fee '46 Dorothy Hay Kamm '46 Shirley Weil Sollinger '46 Ann Dean Mills '47 Mary Putera Thoresz'47 Jeanne Bartolett Daniels '48 Virginia Cook Bachalis '49 Thomas C. Bavaria '49 Jean Hapanowicz Betz '49 Anna A. Fenton '49 Mary Frenz '49, '53 Barbara Marshall Guy '49 Robert G. Hugel Sr. '49 Charles W. Hunt '49 Joseph A. Palaia '49 Ira J. Schackman '49 Gustav F. Bruns '50 Charles T. Card '50 Nicholas P. Constandy '50 Frances Burruss Eakin '50 Richard R. Freshlev '50 Herbert G. Treweek '50 James Vanderpol'50 James D. Covert '51 Cynthia Schoble Crate '51 Doris Shotton Gossard '51 Michael G. Toole '51 Joseph A. Barry '52 Betty McDaniel Cable '52 Robert E. Feldbaum '52

RoseMarie Onka Petrovich '52 Herbert J. Roes '52 Claire Lee Toft '52 Mary L. Furry '53 Verthelia V. Albany '54 Nicholas A. Gallopo '54 Mary E. Hettich '54 Lester J. Konyhas '54 Richard Nitzberg '54 William W. Sapp '54 Anthony P. Zazzara '54 Angelo S. Carnevale Jr. '55 Edna E. Morales '55 Edward S. Panek '55 Roy A. Rapp '55 Alfred Reinhardt Jr. '55 Alfred R. Schoenly Jr. '56 Raymond J. DiFrancesco '57, '73 Joel Permutter '58 Marianne Singer Shinn '58 Douglas C. Widenor '58 Diane Curry '60, '61 Walter M. Boyler '61 Robert C. Stadtler '61 Barry J. Wollman '61 Allan M. Fink '62 Anthony E. Marant '62 Ronald W. Bush '65 Suzanne Holland Mahoney '65 Catherine Groot Conlon '66 Irene Lindsay Dishon '66 George R. Hyman '66 Maryann Liptak '66, '88 John Moon '66 Joan M. Solan '66 Robert M. Cortelyou '67 Leonard A. Sandok '67 Clifford R. Brautigan '69 Carol Dansbury Guralski '69 Dale A. Lindenmoyer '69

Iames N. Arace '71 Ruth Walker Castaldo '71 Sue Ellen Page Johnson '71, '82 Ronald E. Wasik '71 Leonard A. Frederick '72 Donna Legrow Holtz '72 David H. Smith '74 Harold J. Volpe '74, '80 Linda R. Young '74 Henry J. Dellane '75 John M. Lally Jr. '75 James J. McGonnell '75 Darvl M. Dishong '76 Walter J. Waters '76 Steven M. Karr '77 Richard L. McClellan '77 Jonelle Wheatley Racusin '77 Leo P. Roberts '77 Lennart G. Olson '78 Bonnie Rhodes Cascio '88 Delbert A. Zelenak '88 Kevin W. Quigley '89 Steven G. Rushford '95 Mark A. Wolters '95 Bradley A. Satz'99 Irene M. Liebeck '05

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# Tuning in

By Mallory Murphy '17 | Major: Music Education

third-grade girl asked me as I stood in the hallway to greet my first group of students.

It was the summer of 2016. I had signed up to teach music at HomeFront's Family Campus, a homeless shelter and resource center in Trenton.

"I am Miss Murphy, and I will be your music teacher all summer," I explained.

"Really?" the child replied. She seemed quite concerned.

"Of course!" I exclaimed with an outward confidence that was at odds with my inner self-doubt.

Who was I, I wondered, to try and teach some of my community's most underserved children? I was only a college student, with little real-world teaching experience. My selfdoubt doubled as I realized how desperately I wanted my new students to like me. I did not talk like them. I did not look like them. For the first time in my life, I was the ethnic minority in a classroom.

This was how my journey as a culturally responsive music teacher began. The experience was the most challenging

and riveting of my undergraduate career. I had received a \$5,000 grant to conduct research under the supervision of Dr. Donna Gallo and Dr. Sharon Morrow thanks to an Undergraduate Research Scholarship Award from Rider University.

My project, "Finding A Home

"Wait... where's the teacher?" a Teaching for Homeless Youth," was an attempt to learn how the principles of culturally relevant teaching apply to homeless students. Gloria Ladson-Billings, who coined the term "culturally responsive or relevant teaching," defined it as a pedagogy "that recognizes the importance of including students' cultural references in all aspects of learning." It requires that educators un-

by the children's jubilance and for the class. However, some endless interests.

future students were thrilled with the prospect of learning to play instruments. Many of them believed their music classes at

things must be learned through Like most children, my experience. Jumping headfirst into teaching children whose backgrounds differed from mine was the most impactful part of my project. Each week, my school were "too hard." After instruction became more meanchatting, we discovered together ingful. Students learned to play that these music classes were the ukulele, shared their musinot too hard, but were actually cal tastes by creating personal under-stimulating. Students did "musical worlds," discovered

legends of Puerto Rico's El Yunque Rainforest and composed using percussion instruments. instruction was based upon what students already knew and liked, which made learning fun.

I gained as much from my students as they gained from the class. Exposing myself to experiences beyond my comfort zone changed my perspective as an educator and a musician. I believe it is vital to learn how to teach all students - not just the ones within easy reach.

I am in the process of reviewing additional literature and drawing conclusions about how the ideals of culturally responsive teaching have the power to education transform for homeless children.

not tell me that reading music Although I still have a lot to learn, my service project leads me to believe that while what we teach is important, how we teach is invaluable. When success. Investing the time to Reading literature and con- understand the cultures and ducting interviews formed my backgrounds of students made

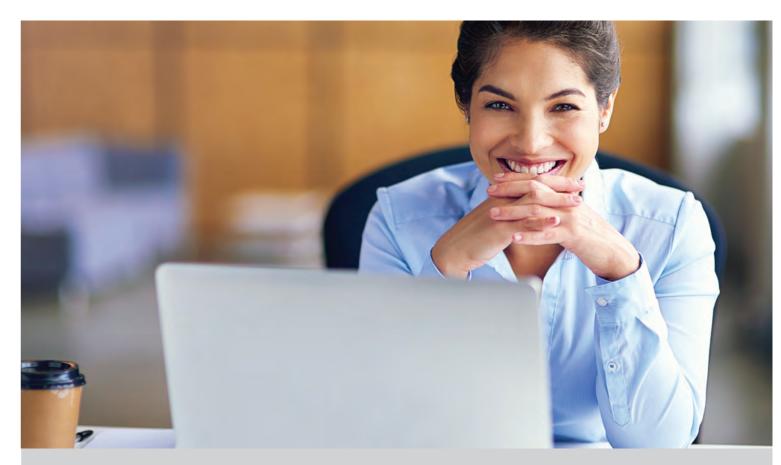


derstand their students' cultures and backgrounds.

To become culturally competent, I conducted formal interviews and field observations of the music education faculty at the shelter and then planned at Westminster Choir College, a music curriculum to teach and staff members about their backgrounds, favorite music, interests and families. During the in Music: Culturally Responsive field observations, I was amazed

was too challenging for them; instead, they explained that it is difficult to sit still and focus on the board for the duration of music class. These conversations, students feel that they have an paired with literature reviews, impact on their learning, they there. I asked children, parents helped me plan a culturally reare empowered to work toward sponsive music curriculum.

initial lessons and expectations all the difference.



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