Dance gets down and steps up

By Nicole Southern
Staff Writer

The dance program at Rider serves as a stepping-stone for future success in the world of fine arts. All dance studio courses are held at the Princeton Ballet School (PBS) in Princeton, one of the most respected schools in the country.

"Rider students have the advantage of a small liberal arts setting with the professionalism of a major conservatory," said Kim Chandler Vaccaro, the head of Rider’s dance program and a professor of Dance. "Students can study ballet and can choose from the variety of dance styles, forms and training techniques offered at PBS."

Vaccaro is also a part of the faculty at PBS, as well as an educational consultant for American Repertory Ballet. She has taught at colleges and universities all across the nation and danced on a professional level. According to Vacarro, the dance program has grown from seven to 45 majors and minors since it was first initiated by Dr. Patrick Chemel, chairperson of the Fine Arts Department.

"Students in the program have internship opportunities with studios and schools in the area, working in arts administration, teaching, choreographing and performing," said Vaccaro.

The dance program not only benefits undergraduate students, but also provides graduate students with valuable experience and opportunities, she said. "Graduates go on to teaching positions in private studios and public education, work with entertainment companies, graduate programs and professional dance companies," Vaccaro said.

The program also helps students develop their own individual affinities for dance, according to Vaccaro. Freshman Danielle Nolen said she is very happy with her decision to participate in the program.

"[The PBS] is very high caliber," said Nolen. "I like the fact that I have access to such a prestigious school."

PBS gives students the opportunity to work with many professional dancers. She has gotten the chance to learn from important representatives from New York, as well as many prominent American Repertory Ballet Company members, according to Nolen.

"I think the program is fantastic," said Nolen. "It offers a lot of mobility and has a lot of range."

The program offers a wide range of classes, accommodating for both its experienced and inexperienced members, said Nolen. It extends from beginner to advanced, teaching at an appropriate pace for each level.

Nolen also said she likes the fact that she has the chance to attend classes on both the Rider and PBS campuses.

"It gives you more opportunities to meet people," said Nolen.

As an advanced ballet student, Nolen finds that the program is "pretty hardcore for the student division."

The program keeps all levels of dance students in shape without having to worry about a performance the next day. Nolen said it will really prepare her for her future career.

"I plan on teaching choreography someday," she said. "Rider’s dance program was 90 percent of the reason I chose to come to Rider."

The growth of the dance scene on-campus can also be seen through the increased interest in Rider's Dance Team. Dance team captain Reema Eloghossain said that she was excited about the overwhelming amount of people that tried out for the team this year.

"Over 50 people came to try out," said Eloghossain. "Last year we had around 30."

According to Eloghossain, the amount of people that try out for the team increases with each passing year. The dance team is expecting an even larger turnout next semester.

"Both boys and girls try out," said Eloghossain. "Only about half the team has experience in dancing and techniques. Our other members just love to dance."

The dance team has performed at numerous basketball games and other specialized events, aside from Midnight MAACness and the other events they participate in every year, said Eloghossain.

Romantic Valentine’s Day moments remembered

By Lauren Varga
Staff Writer

Rider students always find special ways to show the ones they love they care.

Valentine’s Day is a very special time to spread love and joy to others. But for some people it is very hard for them to show their feelings. Sometimes people just don’t know how to be creative without looking ridiculous. Maybe some past experiences can help lovers around campus show their real feelings.

Not all gifts need to be bought; some of the best gifts come straight from the heart. Most college students are broke and money is hard to come by; however, freshman Adam Reidenbach seems to have gotten past emptying his pockets at Valentine’s Day.

"I lit her room up with candles and put rose pedals on her bed and gave her a massage," said Reidenbach.

Ladies, if this Valentine’s Day isn’t looking out to be an eventful one sit back and relax; prince charming may be right here at Rider. Sophomore, Robert Krzykowski, and senior, Brenda Moore, seem to find ways to impress the ladies.

"Last Valentine’s day we went to Westminster Choir College (WCC)," said Krzykowski. "[We] spread joy to all the lonely WCC girls."

Bearing gifts, these gentlemen seemed to have just the right touch. Two special girls even got to spend the rest of the evening with the boys.

"We found a couple girls who were extra lonely and took them out for a nice meal at Denny’s," said Krzykowski.

‘Last Valentine’s day we went to Westminster Choir College and spread joy to all the lonely WCC girls.’

—Sophomore Robert Krzykowski

For freshman Jill Newman, this is her first Valentine’s Day with a significant other and they plan on making this occasion one to remember.

"I haven’t had a special memory yet but my boyfriend is going to take me out to dinner," she said.

Newman was extremely excited about her plans for this weekend but she was even more excited about what she is giving her boyfriend for Valentine’s Day.

"I bought him the Indiana Jones DVD set," said Newman. "That’s what he really wants."