**Features**

New professor seeks to clean up Rider campus

By Vincent Civitillo

Features Editor

Many people don't stop to think about it, but between all the flyers, calendars, posters and printouts found around campus, Rider produces a great deal of wasted paper.

Dr. Brooke Hunter, a first-year history professor who has also taken the position as faculty-in-residence at Zeigler, has devised a plan, as a project with her American Environmental History class to reduce the garbage Rider generates.

“We're going to be doing what I refer to as Rider's Garbage Project, to kind of work what the class is learning into perspective,” she said.

“They're reading a book called Rubbish: The Archaeology of Garbage, based on research done at the University of Arizona in the archeology department over the last 30 years where they investigated trash.”

Environmental issues examined by the department, such as recycling and landfill overloads, turned over the result that in the United States and across the world, paper waste is the leading problem, Hunter said.

“Ultimately other universities that I've been on don't use paper the way we use it, and I really liked it, so we'll try to do it.”

As she is aware of the massive undertaking altering a university's paper usage can be, Hunter said that the goal of the project is just to get the students to be more conscious of their immediate environment.

“The students should be able to be more aware of the world around them and see the repercussions their actions have on the environment's future,” she said. “It will also allow them to work together where a lot of people are usually less inclined to do so. It is important for them to work in a group, because when they get out into the real world, that's exactly what they're going to be doing.

In the meantime, Hunter, who is set to teach two all new classes next semester on Native American history and the American Revolution, and a BHP class the year after, said she is enjoying her first year at Rider and is trying to take in as much of the campus experience as possible.

“It's a real exciting time to be here with the naming of the new president and all. I'm just trying to do as much as possible,” she said. “My goal is to do at least two things on campus every week; last week I went to go see The Vagina Monologues play because I had a student in it, and I really liked it, so we'll see what's next.”

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