After his audition in Washington, D.C., Anwar Robinson left a message on Evelyn Thomas’ machine saying, “I tried out for American Idol and I’m going to Hollywood!”

Now, Robinson, a 2001 Rider graduate who completed his studies at Westminster Choir College (WCC), is one of 20 rising stars who are finalists on the Fox TV show American Idol, playing for a chance to win a recording contract.

As director of WCC’s Equal Opportunity Program (EOP), Thomas said she got to know Robinson well during his undergraduate years.

“I’ve known Anwar since he was a senior in high school,” she said. “We recruited him as an EOP student. He was a standout from the very beginning. Not only was he very talented, he has always had this wisdom and insight that is beyond his years and that struck me from our first discussion.

According to Thomas, Robinson returned to WCC to work as a professional tutor for the EOP program for the past two summers. During the academic year, Robinson teaches music at West Orange Middle School as a music teacher.

“He has continued his service to the school and to the students,” she said.

As she watches Robinson sing on national television, Thomas said, she can imagine what might be going through his head.

“If I know Anwar, he’s feeling very excited but also very blessed,” she said. “He’s an extremely humble young man. He just feels very honored to be in this position.

Winning is a conceivable feat for Robinson, according to Thomas, who said she could “absolutely” picture him as the next American Idol.

“I can envision that. I would be really excited,” she said. “I think he would be a tremendous role model because he has tremendous integrity. He would want to portray dignity through his music to young people.

It is important to support his effort,” Thomas said. “He has asked me to tell everyone that he is very grateful for the support,” she said. “He encourages everyone to watch the show and vote.”

WCC graduate is one of 20 finalists

By Lacey Korevec

Rider’s Idol

Anwar Robinson, a 2001 Rider graduate, performs Moon River on Fox’s American Idol on Monday night. He has made it as one of the 20 finalists on the show, and will be appearing again next week on Monday, February 28, at 8 p.m. on Fox.

Two campuses coming together

By Charlie Olsen

Since Westminster Choir College (WCC) was formally annexed as a part of Rider College in July of 1992, integration between programs and student bodies has been plodding.

When Rider President Mordechai Rozanski took office in 2004, one of the points he made in his inaugural speech was the idea of “connected learning.”

“From one link between departments, another between disciplines and yet another between faculty, exponential fruits emerge: new programs, new student interests, new niches and new jobs,” Rozanski said.

The connection between programs reflects this, with administrators and professors in many departments coordinating. One of the most noticeable is the combination of the schools’ yearbook staffs.

According to assistant professor and faculty adviser of the WCC yearbook staff Edward Carmien, the staff went over budget in 2003 and hadn’t done sufficient fundraising to get the debt handled. They didn’t manage to complete the yearbook, because of time constraints between fundraising and production, he said.

“When 2004-2005 rolled around, we found students were again interested in doing the yearbook, but the [Westminster] SGA wasn’t interested in funding it,” Carmien said. “[The SGA] shouldn’t be required to create paid editorial positions,

Strengthening the Sanda connection

Rider President Mordechai Rozanski, center, welcomes Sanda University President Ji Yuan, left, and Vice President Xianhong Jin at a celebratory lunch on the Lawrenceville campus yesterday. Sanda, located in Shanghai, currently has a joint degree program with the College of Business Administration. Today, Friday, the two institutions will sign an agreement establishing a joint degree in Communication, with students slated to arrive at Rider in January of 2008.

Photo by Al Viciedo

Visit the Rider News Online at www.rider.edu/rivernews/
Newman named as new dean of CBA
By Cara Latham

The path of the College of Business Administration (CBA) during the next few years will be directed toward ensuring that the college is recognized as a leader in the world of business education under the leadership of the CBA’s new dean, Dr. Larry Newman.

The search for a new dean of the CBA came to a close with the announcement that Newman, the current interim dean of the CBA, will take the reigns as the official dean, effective on Tuesday, March 1. Newman sees this as an opportunity to expand what he has already initiated during his time as acting dean.

“One of the main things that have been accomplished since July has been a team effort—The Center for Development of Leadership Skills is on its way now,” said Newman. “I’d like to see that go even further in the right direction. It really is exciting.”

He said he also hopes to develop three new centers throughout the course of the next 10 years, which will most likely focus on business forescics, entrepreneurial studies and healthcare, although no definite plans have been confirmed.

“The purpose is so we can better serve our students,” he said. “The basis of any good organization is satisfying the needs of the customers—it is very critical. Student centeredness is very important.”

Newman hopes to use this to build stronger ties with businesses and enterprises to bring more job and internship opportunities.

“We have an excellent college of business,” he said. “I want to make sure we are recognized,” he said, adding that he wants to work “to realign the quality of education the CBA offers, since its accreditation places Rider in the top 20 percent of business schools. The CBA has accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).”

“The accounting department is in the top nine percent of the world,” said Newman. “We need to make sure that people are aware of that.”

Newman said that he is excited to embark on new tasks, but will miss teaching students, although he will still interact with students and faculty.

“I certainly enjoy being around students,” he said. “You need to understand the students.”

Newman has been a member of the faculty at Rider for more than 20 years, beginning as acting dean.

Prior to his career at Rider, he served as a member of the administrative staff.

Panel addresses gender inequality controversy
By Madeleine Johnson

In a response to controversial comments made by Harvard President Lawrence Summers regarding the presence of women in both the mathematical and scientific fields, the Baccalaureate Honors Program (BHP) and the Gender Studies Program jointly sponsored a discussion panel that featured three Rider professors.

Dr. Carol Nicholson gave a brief overview of what she explained the students and faculty members in attendance could expect to hear in regards to this “very controversial topic.” The three professors who gave presentations during the “Genes, Gender, and Success in Math and Science” continuing discussion—Dr. Todd Webber, biology; Dr. Anne Law, psychology; and Dr. Ryan Netzley, English—all used their respective fields to offer insight regarding the cultural and biological differences between men and women.

“Personally, I think the benefit of this discussion is that it brings awareness to the issue and looks at the differences in the ways our brains work,” Weber said. “We enlighten ourselves to the understanding of what those differences are in order to improve the ways we teach to, ultimately, improve the learning experience.”

Webber opened the discussion by addressing known biological differences in the male and female brain. His presentation explored these differences from a raucously scientific viewpoint while Law’s psychological perspective combined her field of study with case studies and real-life examples.

“One of my classes was with the Lawrence Summers controver- sial topic,” Law said. “I used it to show that gender discrepancy is very much alive today.”

Law spoke of the psychological manifestations of gender inequality in the math and science worlds, such as how the head of a high school’s math department never called on any of the female students in her AP calculus class or how women statistically do worse in studies where gender is either acknowledged or stereotyped.

While the first two presentations of the panel discussed concrete facts, Netzley took a different approach. He posed questions to those in attendance, forcing his audience to think critically for themselves.

See ‘Math’ page 4

Campus Climate to improve quality of life for students
By Valerie Cedeno

Rider Security reaches out to students beyond the “parking ticket” through the Campus Climate program, which is conducted by members of Security welcoming students to both ask questions and address issues they have at Rider.

Director of Safety and Security Vickie Weaver, Officers Cliff Harris and Fred Joiner and Sergeant John Archer, the Campus Climate advisors said the purpose is to focus on the quality of life and different populations in order to have a direct connection with students.

“If there is a problem, we want to help solve it,” said Weaver. “Campus Climate is a team of students, faculty and staff.”

Due to recent schedule and room changes at the beginning of the semester within the members of student leader groups that usually attend the Campus Climate, the group’s first meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 23 was postponed and a new date will announced after all the information is gathered and a date can be set.

Security will address several areas on campus at Campus Climate including lighting, safety patrol and parking. This will give students a chance to address issues that may concern security in these areas as well as others.

Some matters that arise in these meetings concern under- age drinking and ways it can be curbed, security at the welcome gate, parking and tickets and vehicles to the students.

In reference to parking and tickets, Joiner, the “outreach officer,” and Archer addressed the importance of following parking rules. According to them, students often park in fire-restricted areas that may not only get the student a ticket, but also endanger a person’s life or property.

“We are not here to make lives difficult, we are here to help students,” said Joiner.

Harris follows up on the biggest concern: the parking. It is not always about punishing students by giving them tickets, authority tries to help as well, he said.

He said a situation where he stopped a student for speeding and instead of giving the individual a ticket, a simple paper stating the consequences of speeding taught the student a real lesson.

“We try to talk to students and teach them a lesson, we are not strictly book,” Harris stated.

Registration has also become an issue for Rider students, according to Security. It is more than a system that identifies the “ticket owner.” Registering your vehicle can save it in an emergency concerning weather or damage.

The Campus Climate group has conducted classes and visited dorms during safety week and is willing to give tours of the security workforce.

The advisors encourage students to participate in these meetings and state their concern:

“It’s important to let our students know that we are approachable,” Harris stated.

While it is definitely not, the next meeting is scheduled for March 23.

Mama’s Boy

A male resident and three others unknown suspects physically attacked a male visitor at a party on Friday, Feb. 18. The visitor’s mother called Security on Feb. 19, to report the incident and specifically identified the suspect as one of the attackers. The visitor suffered various facial injuries that required medical treatment. A female resident witnessed the event and the investigation is continuing. Anyone with information is asked to call Security at x. 5029.

Brotherhood

Several members of a fraternity on campus harassed a female resident as she was walking on the sidewalk outside of Memorial parking lot and had passed them. One of the members approached her, yelling at her, before the other and then the others joined him. A female resident witnessed the harassment and concurred with the victim’s story. It is believed they were in on her because she knew a friend of the brothers with whom there was a prior problem. The investigation is continuing. Anyone with information is asked to call x. 5029.

Cake...lighting

A male resident student in Swiftwick called Security because he found a female visitor sitting on his roommate’s bed with a kitchen knife in her hand and was concerned for his safety. Security arrived and spoke with the male resident and his visitor on Monday, Feb. 21, who said they had planned to cut a cake with the knife. They found that the female was not a registered guest with Residence Life and she was escorted to her room. The residents loaded a letter of Persona Non Grata (PNG). The male student was charged with possession of a weapon.

E-harassment

On Thursday, Feb. 17, a female staff member in the Bart Luedeke Center (BLC) received a derogatory E-mail from a female commuter that used profanity. She called Security the next day and Lawrence Police Department (LPD) served the e-mail and declined. The motive for the harassment is unknown and the female commuter has been charged with verbal harassment.

Photos by Pete Borg
Dr. Larry Newman has been named the Dean of the CBA, effective March 1, 2005.

Bucks County Community College Board of Trustees for more than 14 years, two of which he was chair. He has also been a member of the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges Council of Board Chairs and an active consultant on strategic planning and marketing to higher education institutions and businesses.
Students push the envelope

By Randy Townsend

Rider students fed up with the negative images of African Americans portrayed by the media recently flexed the might of their pens as part of a 50-school letter-writing campaign targeting media companies.

The Black Student Union (BSU) met on Tuesday in the Multicultural Center and stuffed envelopes with letters that outlined a series of complaints. The letters were sent to 40 of the largest media conglomerates. BSU President Reggie Walker said that many people fail to make a distinction between the seriousness of an artist and their entertainment value.

“It’s time for us as a younger generation to step up and do something,” said Walker. “For someone who doesn’t grow up around black people, the images could prejudice them to think that this is how all black people act.”

The Neo-Underground Railroad Conductors (NURC) introduced the campaign at January’s Black Leadership Conference in Crystal City, Va. The media outlets were targeted because they choose what they want to air. Tia Teabout, BSU social chair, has gone to the past three leadership conferences resulting in little action addressing the issues.

“This was finally something that was done by my peers and were at the conference with me,” said Teabout. “I definitely wanted to support them and I do believe it’s time to combat these images.”

Black Entertainment Television (BET) was cited by BSU members as a vehicle for negative images. BSU vice president Tyneisha Jones said the whole excuse is that these stereotypes make money, “so we’ve got to stop buying into it.”

“I feel that the images are desensitizing a human race to sex, drugs, violence and the exploitation of women, which affects the institution of marriage and family structures,” said Jones.

Walker said BET has done its job on both going against stereotypes and, at the same time, airing shows that are directly in line with the stereotypes.

“BET has done its part in creating positive images of African Americans in that it was the first black television channel that we had and gave us an outlet to see ourselves when we could not see ourselves in the mainstream media,” said Walker. “But BET has also contributed to the very same stereotypes that we’ve been fighting.”

The campaign was fueled by an incident at Atlanta’s Spelman College, which drew an invitation to rapper Nelly in response to the release of his controversial song and video, “Tip Drill,” which offended many students by depicting women as strippers.

In support of Spelman’s protest, Essence Magazine launched the “Take Back the Music” campaign. BSU member Mallory McCarthy said she’s offended by the way that black women are portrayed in music videos.

“That’s how other people look at black females, like they are sluts and this is what they wear and this is how they dance,” said McCarthy. “That hurts me because I know I am not like that at all.

One way for the stereotypes to improve in the media is by having more minorities controlling the images.

“We know our struggles,” said sophomore Tyneisha Jones. “It would give us an opportunity to put us in a light that we want to be seen in as opposed to someone who doesn’t know our struggles trying to portray what they want to see us.”

Walker said that we’re looking at the past’s recycled stereotypes.

“The ‘coon’ from the 1920’s is the same thing as the ‘thug’ that we have now,” said Walker. “Now the African Americans portraying these stereotypes are getting paid, successful and famous, we may not view these stereotypes as being so negative.”

A concern with the images affects Rider in terms of the international student population and how they view the African-American students. According to Walker, this issue is his main problem with media stereotypes, “not so much how we as black people view that image.”

“I’m concerned with how other ethnic groups or other races view the image, especially if they don’t have a lot of interaction with us,” said Walker. “They look to view how they can relate to us through mainstream society, and if these are the only images that they have of black students, then that is how they are going to view black people.”

DAARSTOC
Rider’s executive skill-building organization, is now accepting applications. The deadline to submit applications is Friday, March 11, 2005.

If you are interested in building a successful career and are dedicated to mastering the essential skills that you will need, such as:

- Interviewing
- Conflict Resolution
- Interpersonal
- Stand-Up Speaking
- Stress Management

DAARSTOC provides comprehensive training in all of these areas, plus a powerful network of successful alumni, to help you reach your professional goals quickly. Our Graduates excel in the corporate world. If that is your goal, apply to DAARSTOC, and put your career on the fast track.

To apply to DAARSTOC, contact Andrew Alexy (x2607), Khaleeqa Rouse (x2603), or Brad Updegraff (x2433), VPs of Recruiting, or obtain an application at the front desk of the Dean’s Office- College of Business Administration. Return applications to the front desk- dean’s office.

DAARSTOC
Building Blocks for Success

VP key to expanding money flow

By Jeff Frankel

A new Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations at Rider University has been named. Jonathan D. Meer will bring new ideas, vision and leadership when he begins his duties on July 1.

“I am confident that working with our development and alumni relations staff, Jonathan will bring strategic vision, new ideas and energetic leadership to our fundraising duties with school alumni and donors,” said Jon Jones.

“Meer thinks Rider is already a good university, but improvements could be made.”

“Rider is a great university already,” said Meer. “Rider does need to expand the flow of resources to it. It needs to reach out to the alumni.”

That is Meer’s job, to gain support and gain contributions from past students, who, according to him, are excited but do not know how to give money.

“There are very excited alumni out there,” said Meer. “People don’t give the money and then connect with the school.”

Meer suggests that he will go anywhere to gain past student support.

“We need to visit alumni where they want to be visited,” he said. “Sometimes alumni have resources from corporations. According to Meer, sports is another way in which Rider can gain more contributions. The better the sports teams do, the more money the school could make.

“Athletes is often the window into making money,” said Meer. “It’s easy to pick up the paper and see the Broncos beat Manhattan.”

Currently, at the University of the Pacific, in Stockton, Calif., Meer heads a 42 person division where he has achieved a great level of fundraising success.

He achieved a 24 percent increase in the number of undergraduate alumni making contributions over the last four years.

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Wristband drive aims to support troops

The College Republicans are sponsoring a wristband drive to support American troops and the children in Iraq.

The wristbands, which read “Support Our Troops,” can be obtained with a $5 donation. All of the proceeds will support both Operation Iraqi Children and anysoldier.com.

Items that are sent to the troops include cold gear from the company Under Armor, as well as magazines, hygiene items, sweets, batteries, portable CD players and DVD players.

“We must support our troops because they are fighting so we don’t have to,” said Sean DiSomma, chairman of the College Republicans.

For more information, contact Sean DiSomma at disomma@rider.edu or go to www.operationiraqichildren.com or www.ansoldier.com.
INTEGRATE

Continued from page 1

so the editors don’t have to work other campus jobs just to make ends meet,” Carmien said. Both are coordinating to create a unified yearbook, the 81st volume since 1923, with seniors and clubs from both campuses appearing in the same sections.

Faculty adviser of the Rider Yearbook staff Pete Borg said that after the WCC staff approached them, they figured out how much it would cost to increase both the size and run of the book. They split in half the cost of expanding the book.

“The way I look at it, it’s one university, different budgets,” Borg said. “But it all comes from the University.”

The only remaining separation is “some of the sections here which have no existing corollary on the other campus,” he said.

“The Rider drama department does a couple of shows a year; our ensembles do a couple of shows a semester,” Carmien said. “It might overwhelm the Rider department.”

However, other print media, such as The Rider News and the newsletter of WCC, The Westminster Journal, remain separate. The editor of the journal, sophomore Carly Rapaport-Stein, believes that they both serve similar yet distinct audiences.

“First and foremost, it is a forum for student opinion,” said Rapaport-Stein. “They can read about music, cultural events, reviews and art.”

She likens the journal’s monthly coverage of music events to The Rider News sports section, and said it features students who do “exceptional or unusual things.”

Rapaport-Stein said she’d like to see The Rider News cover more Westminster events and possibly list the events on the Princeton campus in the “Campus Corner” section.

Rozanski said the “smart thing” to do to promote integration between the two would be to feature more stories from the other campus, citing last week’s issue of The Rider News as the first time he’s seen a WCC story on the cover page. However, he is quick to warn that he doesn’t think the administration should have a hand in the integration of free press.

“The last thing I want to do, and I think students would want to do, is to dictate to students who should be done about their newspaper, an independently run newspaper,” he said.

Faculty adviser of the Journal Diana Crane said the newsletter plans to create a cross-campus focus. Rapaport-Stein said she would be receptive to a meeting.

The director of campus life, David Keenan, has other plans. This fall he plans to unveil a service, “Down the road, we might have a Monday through Sunday service,” Keenan said. “We have to see how this works first.”

According to Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Phyllis Frakt, a number of items have already been integrated as recently as October 2004, including print materials for WCC students interested in taking a Rider minor, synchronization of calendars for the coming summer session and Thanksgiving recess, and a number of cross campus performances, such as The Homecoming. The creation of the Arts Management minor, a synthesis of music and business programs, has been approved, she said.

Despite making strides towards integration, WCC and Rider still have separate course catalogs, and several duplicate administrative offices, such as External Affairs, Admissions and a separate number for the WCC registrar.

MATH

Continued from page 2

critically approach the topic at hand and try to find the answers themselves.

"Why is it that women are under-represented in math and science?" Netzley asked before offering the three-most commonly accepted answers: they make their own choice of pursuing careers in other areas, there are innate biological differences that could factor into a discrepancy in ability or they are socially, culturally or institutionally discouraged from finding their niche in those specific fields.

Following the panelists’ presentations, the students and faculty members of the audience were encouraged to participate in a question and answer session, wherein the presenting professors elaborated on their perspectives in addition to responding to different scenarios posed by the audience.

The informally intellectual atmosphere allowed for both the casual volley of banter and a few jokes while still stressing the importance of the scrutinized issues.

“There have been 55,000 studies done that look at gender questions: it's the essential question,” Law said. “Lawrence Summers fundamentally misunderstands his audience, but he’s provided fodder for discussion.”

Free HIV tests

On March 3, free HIV testing will be done in the Student Health Center by appointment only. Students interested should call x. 5060 to schedule an appointment.

Want to win an iPod?

The hottest trend in music could be yours, compliments of Enterprise Rent-a-Car

Participate in the MonsterTrak Blitz for a chance to win!

Come to any MonsterTrak testing session in Carer Services (BLC 237), by April 15th.

Spots are limited, so please call Carer Services, at x. 118, as soon as possible to reserve a computer!

Sessions are held every Monday and Wednesday from 3PM - 8PM and Tuesday and Thursday from 11:30AM - 12:30PM.