New Biology professor Hyatt seeks to improve campus greenhouse during first year at Rider

By Lacey Korevec
Features Editor

It is not everyday that a new faculty member takes it upon him or herself to make positive renovations to the campus community.

Dr. Laura Hyatt joined the Rider faculty in the fall and has since devoted much of her time towards improving the greenhouse in the science building, which she said she has already begun working on with the help of several students who have also committed themselves to the difficult task.

"Right now the greenhouse hasn't been used very actively and I have a couple of students who are working with me in sprucing it up," Hyatt explained. "They have really done an incredible job of cleaning out our collection and seeing what we've got there."

"I've invested some money into getting new benches and having students use [the greenhouse]," she said. "I'm teaching this botany class right now and all of the students in that class are working with me in order to sort of tell them a little bit about it."

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After getting her doctorate at the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Laura Hyatt came to Rider to teach Introduction to Biology and Botany. However, beyond her teaching schedule, Hyatt has plans to renovate the greenhouse in the science building with the help of participating students.

Hyatt said that she has enjoyed the experience she has had with students so far, especially getting to know them and working with them one on one to help them master the class material better.

"I'm teaching an introductory biology course and it's a challenge for a lot of people who have never really taken a college science course before," she said. "So I'm really glad to have the opportunity to sort of tell them a little bit about it and to help them find their way through why plants are so sexy and exciting."