Revamp of summer programs focuses on students
By Cara Latham

Summer programs offered at Rider University have been re-evaluated and refurbished for this upcoming summer to focus on student-centeredness and renewal plans as part of President Mordechai Rozanski’s vision.

Starting this summer, special three-week summer courses valid for the normal three credits each will begin on May 16. Strategic Management (BUS 400), Marketing Principles (MKT 200) and Communication and Society: Sitcoms and American Culture (COM 390) are among the three-week courses that are part of the list of other renovations and additions to the summer programs that will be offered, according to Assistant Dean of the College of Continuing Studies (CCS) Angela Gonzalez Walker.

“A close re-evaluation of all of Rider’s summer sessions was completed by Academic Affairs, all the University’s deans, program directors, Enrollment Management and UAPC,” said Gonzalez Walker. “It was concluded that the University—both campuses—needed a standardized calendar to meet student and faculty needs as well as to create a true University summer experience.”

Other special programs and courses for the summer include the Master of Accountancy (MACc) and Master of Business Administration (MBA) second summer session beginning on June 30, which was added following student request, and the liberal arts courses American Art (ART 214) and American Theater History (THE 306) at the Princeton campus. Graduate education courses will again be offered at the Raritan Valley Community College and a special travel program in American Studies to the Spoleto Festival in New Orleans has been added.

A marine science program will be offered for educators and Westminster Continuing Studies and Conservatory will hold music camps, seminars and workshops that attract both middle school and high school students, as well as adults seeking to learn more about music. A reading and writing program for children is also being held.

In order to get an idea as to what courses students were interested in taking, Enrollment Management launched an interest web survey to both campuses, which, according to Gonzalez Walker, yielded both a strong response and good results. The deans of both the College of Business Administration (CBA) and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences added courses based on the students’ responses.

“Students for the most part want to be able to meet basic degree requirements or are looking to concentrate on hard courses in the summer,” she said.

The courses will be offered to resident, commuting and visiting students and will allow support services such as library, housing and food services to be available. Students will be able to reside on campus and have the same meal plan as they do during both the fall and spring semesters.

“As long as you register for a summer course, you can get housing,” said Gonzalez Walker.

Enrollment Management is going to pay close attention to the places the visiting students come from and who they are, according to Gonzalez Walker. Starting today, a preview page, www.rider.edu/summer, will be available for students so they can view which courses are available for the summer. It will also include schedules, calendars, information on how to apply and register, special programs and a link to Westminster Choir College (WCC).

“This is the first time the summer sessions will convey a University-wide message,” said Gonzalez Walker. “Both campuses will be prominent on Rider’s summer website.”

Additionally, students on both the Lawrenceville and Westminster campuses will be able to register for the courses online through WebAdvisor starting March 25 at 4:30 p.m.

“We wanted to make it easier for students to register,” she said. “The Office of the Registrar worked very hard.”

The CCS is administering the undergraduate programs for the Lawrenceville campus, but it is also coordinating all aspects of the scheduling and advertisement (web and publication) with the other Colleges.

The summer undergraduate tuition rate for both campuses will be the part-time CCS rate, which is $370 per credit, a competitive rate when compared with summer programs at other colleges, according to Gonzalez Walker.

“Students who need to take a summer course will see that it is affordable,” she said.

The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) divides its undergraduate summer tuition rates into categories, including separate prices for TCNJ’s students, visiting students and in and out-of-staters. For an in-state visiting student the fee is $371.95 per credit. In-staters who are already TCNJ students have a discounted price of $306.95 per credit. Out-of-staters, however, must pay $547.30 per credit if they are visiting and $482.30 per credit even if they are already a TCNJ student.

As of right now, no extra-curricular activities are planned, but Walker says that in the future, they are working toward it. Eventually the recreation center will be open, which will be very useful for the summer programs, she said.

The theme for the summer sessions this year is “Double Your Summer with Rider University’s Summer Session.”

“We want to convey the message that summer is a great time to get ahead on your studies or start a new major or for the non-traditional or graduate student, a good time to start fulfilling a goal and still have time to enjoy the leisure of summer,” said Gonzalez Walker.