Points Road, Colts Neck, NJ 07722. Email casting@njmusicman.com
Deadline is 3/29/2003. Send to: The Music Man c/o Casting 121 Five Beach. Paid position. Please submit picture, performing resume and (guys and gals) sing, dance and improv with the audience. Located on able to work from May 17 through September 1, 2003. The Music Man Entertainment Group

The events included a movie night featuring the movie Barber Shop, a Latin Fiesta with food and music, a lunch forum with a meet and greet, a chili night with pizza, games, and music, a bowling trip and a Latin invasion with prizes. Although these festivities were to celebrate LASO at Rider, the organization does much more than hold events on campus.

Students and staff may not be aware of all the commitments the organization holds in the greater Rider community. LASO has a very deep-seated involve- ment in community service. This year the organization has started a mentoring program with 60 children from Dunn Middle School from the East Side of Trenton.

"These kids need to have strong role models to help them see that there is a lot out there for them and that nothing should hold them back," said senior and member of LASO for four years, Nereida Montijo.

"They need to know that it does not matter what their circumstances are, they need to be able to have the confidence to open their eyes and see that there is more out there for them. College is an option."

For those involved in LASO, it is more then just a cultural club. It is unique because it celebrates all the individuals of the organization. "It is a truly diverse organization that strives to receive the campus," said treasurer, Jason Carmona.

There are many different ethnicities within LASO; members come from North, South and Central America. The organization does not stop honoring cultures within the Latino community; they go further outside the bounds of the club and seek to explore the diversity at Rider.

"I think that they are an excellent group of students that I am excited to work with," said advisor Erin McGrath. "I think that they have an understanding of the big picture, valuing, honoring, and being inclusive of others cultural traditions."

Recently, the students from Dunn Middle School were partnered with a LASO tutor-mentor for a fun and inspiring day. The students had a goal -setting activity, a mini career fair, a cultural explosion flag making activity, a tour of the campus and lunch at Daly’s. For many of these young middle school students, this day at Rider was their first opportunity to spend time at a college campus.

"It is important for the kids to realize that they can do it," said Montijo. "They need to know that it does not matter what their circumstances are, they need to be able to have the con- fidence to open their eyes and see that there is more out there for them. College is an option."

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Someone might be hard pressed to find a more culturally aware group on campus. LASO is committed to explor- ing their heritage while sharing its diver- sity with others.

"It is important for people to learn new things, gain knowledge about differ- ent things," said Montijo. "It is good to learn about new cultures because you are going to have to go out in to the world and work in a diverse atmosphere."

This year the organization held workshops and discussion groups to explore the issues they as students are facing. It is making strides towards enriching its members as well as the rest of the Rider community.

The Latin American students will be making a trip to Albany to attend the National Latino Collegiate Conference, which will help them to gain a greater global perspective as well as be united with many other college students who have similar organizations on their cam- pus, says McGrath.

"The workshops that we will be able to go to are very specialized," said Gomez. "The conference will help us to be better prepared for the things we want to do at Rider."

The next major event that it will be holding is the anniversary gala, which will be on Friday, March 28, to celebrate 13 years of LASO on campus.

"Everyone is welcome at the anni- versary party. I hope that everyone will come out to celebrate LASO’s history and presence on campus," said Gomez. "It means a lot to us to have this event."

"The event is being funded by the finance board and is free for students and alumni. The party is semi-formal and will include dinner as well as danc- ing.

"We want everyone to see the his- tory LASO has and how we have pro- gressed to become a highly respected organization," said Carmona.

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**The Music Man Entertainment Group** is now accepting audition tapes for the upcoming summer season. Applicants must be able to work from May 17 through September 1, 2003. The Music Man is a unique family-style ice cream Shoppe where the cast/waiters (guys and gals) sing, dance and improve with the audience. Located on the Jersey Shore in Lavallette. Housing is available one block from the boardwalk. Paid position. Please submit picture, performing resume and audocassette of 2 up-tempo Broadway style pieces (no ballads please). Deadline is 3/29/2003. Send to: The Music Man c/o Casting 121 Five Points Road, Colts Neck, NJ 07722. Email casting@opemusicman.com with questions.