In new minors, you get your kicks learning tricks of clicks and flicks

By Charlie Olsen

Rider students can enroll in two new interdisciplinary minors starting in the Fall 2005 semester—a minor in Computer Information Systems (CIS) and an interdisciplinary minor in Film and Media Studies.

The film minor, like most minors, requires 21 semester hours to complete and is designed to focus on the historic, artistic and cultural aspects of film. However, the CIS minor only requires that students take four courses, one of which is a prerequisite, for a total of 12 semester hours.

“It’s 12 credits so it’s not overwhelming to pick up tech skills while you’re here at Rider,” said Lauren Eder, chair of the CIS Department. “It was a decision that we wanted to provide technology courses because there are no computer courses outside of the college of business.”

The film minor requires students to pick their seven courses from four different categories: “Foundation Courses,” the basics of film study; “Theory, History and Aesthetics;” “Film and Culture” and “Technical Aspects.”

According to the most recent copy of the minor curriculum, it will feature classes such as “The Films of Stanley Kubrick,” foreign-language film and film-analysis.

Even though students are not allowed to pick more than two of the four technical classes available, Dr. Jerry Rife says that the minor will help prepare students for film-related positions.

“The classes required are all from different departments and courses,” Rife said. “This is a curriculum that you can really add on for placement in a film job.”

Similarly, Eder says the CIS minor can be tailored to specific disciplines or areas of interest.

“Your connection is going to be as it applies to your work and business,” Eder said. “Someone who is a bio-chem major might learn more about managing research or a business major might learn more about the IT side of the company support and operations.”

The CIS minor, which started advising students on Monday, is attractive to business students because they are required to take the prerequisite Introduction to Computing, one-quarter of the requirements.

Further specialization is available for CIS minors through six different models, including Business Intelligence, Multimedia, E-Business and Developer/Analyst.

“Someone who is interested in learning a little more about application development can take programming. Someone who is interested in networks and security can take network management,” Eder said. “For the sciences, having a knowledge of database systems can be very valuable.”

Students interested in signing up for either minor should talk to their advisers. Those interested in the CIS minor can find some general information on the courses available through the College of Business Administration website. For information about the film minor, contact the Fine Arts Department.

HomeFront kids hop into the Easter spirit

The Protestant Campus Ministry (PCM) hosted HomeFront children at an Easter Egg Hunt party this week at Gill Chapel. Twenty-two boys and girls from Trenton gathered to hunt for eggs, color seasonal pictures and share refreshments. HomeFront is one of the organizations Rider supports as part of its community outreach.