Residence hall, SRC construction breaks ground

By David Maccar
News Editor

An official ground-breaking ceremony was held on Thursday, April 1, between Zugler and Hill residence halls to mark the beginning of a $16 million program of campus renovation and construction projects.

President Mordechai Rozanski and members of the Board of Trustees gathered around a backhoe, complete with shiny shovels and Rider hard-hats, to begin the large series of projects including the first new residence hall on campus in 35 years and the expansive Student Recreation Center (SRC).

“We’ve been involved in a process of reshaping the campus and developing the facilities master plan that will help make our institution that much better,” said Rozanski. “We are creating a living environment that will be key to the success of our students and for our community or faculty and staff. It will make our alumni proud and make our community one that enjoys first-class facilities.”

Rozanski reiterated his goal of August 2005 as a date for construction completion and President Mordechai Rozanski (fourth from the right) and members of the board of trustees as well as the Bronc gathered around the future site of a new residence hall for a groundbreaking ceremony.

On an otherwise dreary morning, the sun broke through the clouds as Rozanski began his speech. “Look at this, the sun is coming out,” he joked. “I’d like to take credit for that.”

The actual first shovel full was taken from the ground by the back hoe, operated by Rozanski’s son Daniel who runs an excavation business in Canada. Members of the Board of Trustees, Dean Anthony Campbell, President of the Student Government Association Ryan Kimball and others posed with shovels in the earth along with the Bronc, who also wore a hard-hat.

Paul Lang, the chairman of the Board of Trustees, gave a brief speech in which he said how he saw the ground breaking as a step toward the future. “This is the beginning of a new energy for Rider University,” said Lang. “This is a great day and a great change for us. When you give [Rozanski] a task he turns it into an opportunity. That’s the message that is available for all of us.”

Security cameras installed

By David Maccar
News Editor

Security cameras have been installed in various locations on the Lawrenceville campus to watch over most of the parking lots, said Director of Safety and Security Vickie Weaver.

The cameras are part of several security measures that are designed to dissuade vandals and cut down on crimes in general.

“The cameras will be operational next week,” said Weaver. “The monitors will be at the console in the security office.”

The Pelco brand cameras are being installed by North American Video. There are some fixed post cameras as well as Pan-Tilt-Zoom cameras, said Weaver. The Pan-Tilt-Zoom cameras offer a range of motion for the camera as well as the ability to zoom in on a particular area. The cameras are also specifically designed to work well in low light conditions. “I think the cameras will be a valuable tool for security,” said Anthony Campbell, Dean of Students. “The cameras are excellent; we can zoom in on a license plate in the back of the O lot.”

Even though there will be monitors in place in the security office, staff will not always be watching them. “We will be practicing passive monitoring,” said Weaver. “Which is to say that there will not be someone watching the monitors at all times. But if something happens we can go back and review the recordings.”

The recordings may also serve as a valuable tool for the Lawrence Police Department (LPD) as well. “If something happens we can review the recordings ourselves or turn them over to the LPD,” said Campbell. “If something happens then the recordings can be used as evidence.”

The cameras do not record to magnetic tape but are digitally stored on computer hard-drives.

“The cameras are integrated into our computer network which makes it easy for us to record right to a hard-drive,” said Campbell.

The digital storage method will allow for many hours of footage to be stored for a longer amount of time than conventional storage methods.

“We are very pleased with the quality of the cameras and we are looking forward to utilizing them to make the campus safer,” said Weaver.

Weaver said that the campus should...