A large crowd enjoys the diverse food and music of University Day yesterday in the Cavalla Room. University Day is the celebration of Rider’s transition to University status in 1994.

Many cultures, one University

By Jeff Frankel

Rider University celebrated its 11th anniversary since obtaining major university status in 1994 and a plaque for community service was awarded in the Cavalla Room.

The Nancy Gray Award was given to Frank Abrahams, Chairperson for the Westminster Choir College Music Education Department.

“It’s a great honor given to truly inspirational people,” said Tom Kelly, associate dean of the College of Business Administration. “He has led sweeping changes to the Department of Financial Services with any organization, Office of Campus Life, Rider’s Organization of Latino and Hispanic Students, and Emerging Leaders.

“One poster for each continent was displayed,” said Weikel. “Each is shows different facts about the continent. This celebrates the universal Rider theme.”

Also tying into theInternational theme was the types of food they served from Moroccan and Cantone to Mediterranean.

“The food was good,” said freshman Al Layne, “especially the stir-fry.”

One aspect everyone enjoyed was the live entertainment by the Rider Dance Team and a live band.

“The music is very entertaining,” said Layne. “I must say I’ve never heard Jamaican-Country music. This band is very original. I also found it funny that a bunch of white guys were singing Bob Marley.”

Students that they would not pay extraordinary fees for the construction of the new recreation center or residence halls,” said Rozanski.

Since incoming students have not attended Rider in the past, O’Hara believes the tuition increase will not impact recruitment.

“During the recruitment season, the Office of Admissions provides the current tuition rate and explains that rates increase, on average, 5 percent a year,” said O’Hara. “New students don’t view the new rate as a tuition increase, but rather as the price for their education.”

Neither Rozanski nor O’Hara anticipates that the minimal tuition increase will negatively impact student retention.

“We continue to place a focus on student needs,” said O’Hara. “We appreciate the substantial and valuable investment that is being made by every Rider student and will continue to deliver a high quality education.”

Sensors save phones

By Charlie Olsen

One of the heat sensors monitoring the phone switching system in the Ithaca residence hall on the Westminster campus detected a drastic change in the temperature, narrowly averting a lapse in the phone service on Friday, April 8.

The basement switching centers, known as “closers” within the Office of Information and Technology (OIT), are supposed to be kept at a temperature below 82 degrees Fahrenheit. At 2 p.m. on Friday, manager of voice communications Susan Pierce received a barrage of phone calls from the sensor, which automatically dials out to her office when the temperature rises too high.

“For a change, we beat one out,” Pierce said. “I got back to my office and saw I had eight messages—they were all from the sensor.”

Soon she received another call with the automated message recorded by Verizon Technician Chris Madden: “There’s a heater alarm in the basement of Ithaca.”

Coordinating with Westminster Facilities Manager Steve Hirtel, Captain Tom Tucker and Officer John Avanzato, who worked over-time on their safety and security duties to shift to the crisis, large fans were brought in to vent out the excess heat from “Arpeggio,” the Westminster switching system.

“Students are totally unaware that all of this is happening,” Pierce said. “They don’t know that the phone system has been in jeopardy for a week and a half.”

However, the new heat sensors should help OIT stay ahead of any failures, like the overheating failure they had a year ago when the core processors went down. According to Madden, a fan unit bearing had to be rebuilt and repacked to complete the repair.

“We brought in a big fan to air it out,” Madden said. “You could actually see the system coming back up as the temperature was coming down.”

Meanwhile, on the Lawrenceville campus, a closet dubbed “Emeralda,” has begun to show signs that its 10-year-old air-conditioning unit might have failed a week and a half ago.

When “Emeralda” went down last year, facilities purchased the parts to repair the units. They also purchased the heat sensors to monitor them, which automatically calls both Pierce and Security and when one of the closets begins to overheat. Switching stations are located in the basement of Moore Library on the Lawrenceville campus and in two dorms, Ithaca and Princeton Residence Halls on the Westminster campus.

Over the weekend, construction workers accidentally cut a cable while digging up the dugout at the old baseball field at the South Entrance.

When they accidentally hit the dugout phone line, service was interrupted for some areas of campus, which included the Security kiosk, Pierce said.

“They took down the cable there, she said. “They didn’t ask about digging up the lines.”

Pierce joked that Rider shouldn’t experience any more problems, because the planet Mercury was no longer in retrograde—a cause for the previous event that, according to astrology.com causes a “general startup” for phones and computers.

“It was wonderful to see the different departments working together,” Pierce said. “People don’t see the things that go on behind the scenes.”

Gorbachev comes to SBA

By Charlie Olsen

Former president of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev, is coming to the Sovereign Bank Arena in Trenton on Monday, April 18, to speak about the “sister city” relationship between Trenton and Moscow.

Accordng to Frank Rusciano, a professor of political science at Rider who is encouraging his students to attend, Gorbachev is a “major, major actor on the world stage.”

“A lot of people think that Gorbachev was just one of the reasons why the Cold War ended,” Rusciano said. “But the fact is that Gorbachev, no matter what the credit to Reagan, Gorbachev was just as important.”

A bus for the first 45 people to sign up will be leaving at 11:30 a.m. from the Bart Lubcke Center. Tickets can be purchased at a deeply discounted rate from the ticket booth, which is open from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., up until the bus departs on Monday.

“He was the one who put through certain reforms: glastnost [political openness] and perestroika [government restructuring],” Rusciano said.

“It’s a chance to hear from someone who is really a big part of Soviet history and such a part of our own history.”