Editorial: Drainage needs work

The last three days here at Rider’s Lawrenceville campus have been nothing short of miserable. The skies were dark, rain fell in buckets and students were left to fend for themselves as they trudged from class to class. Needless to say, spirits were low.

This scenario is a typical one. It rains quite a bit in this area and it’s something that can’t be avoided. However, it seems like the Lawrenceville campus could be flooded by little more than a light shower these days. Huge puddles are everywhere, cars can’t drive on some roads because of water overflows and students, once more, are told to deal with it.

While this may seem more like a minor inconvenience than a problem, the large amounts of rainwater on campus do affect students in many negative ways. Many residents do not own boots and end up walking from class to class with water-logged shoes. It is often the smallest things that can create a pessimistic attitude towards the University. It is for this reason that the rainwater problem needs to be addressed.

Walking around the University when it rains requires quick reflexes and superior smarts. To remain dry and comfortable, students must long jump over, dodge between, and, sometimes, barrel through the abundant puddles of water that lie around the Lawrenceville campus. What happened to the days of a stress-free walk? It’s just not right that our brains get more of a workout walking to class rather than actually participating in it.

This may not seem like such a big problem. After all, puddles are bound to form after a large rainstorm. However, the sheer size of some of them is simply ridiculous. For example, on Wednesday night, one puddle in front of Daly’s Dining Hall could have passed for a pond. There were even two ducks swimming around inside.

Furthermore, several particular areas flood constantly. The road between the Swiftlik and Olson Residence Halls is often undrivable after a rainstorm. At one point, the water level actually rose above the curb, overflowing onto the sidewalk. In addition, small waves can sometimes be seen breaking in the waters. It’s a surfer’s paradise that many people have to drive through.

Several things can be done to help drain rain water more efficiently. First, more storm grates need to be installed. Currently, only one grate is responsible for draining the entirety of Lake Swiftlik-Olson. Clearly, it’s not getting the job done. The addition of one or more additional grates in this area would help to relieve some of the strain and help turn the lake back into a road.

The number of puddles can be reduced by resurfacing the University’s sidewalks. Currently, the sidewalks are so worn down that they have developed thousands of small crevices and holes. When it rains, they fill with water and form deep puddles all around campus. Since President Mordechai Rozanski has already allotted a large sum of money for campus landscaping and renovations, it stands to reason that he could include this in his plan.

Rider’s water drainage capabilities are currently subpar at best. Puddles abound all over the Lawrenceville campus and their size is just plain unacceptable. However, by installing additional storm grates and resurfacing the campus’ walkways, the problem can be solved. Until these changes are made, however, expect to be swimming to class.

This weekly editorial expresses the majority opinion of The Rider News editorial board and is written by the Opinion editor.

Quote of the Week:

“The circumstances of the world are so variable that an irrevocable purpose or opinion is almost synonymous with a foolish one.”

— William H. Seward