

Disbursements answers back

By Lacey Korevec

In response to an article that ran in the December 10, 2004 issue of *The Rider News* called, "Show me the money," in which students expressed problems receiving on-campus paychecks, the student pay process will be undergoing changes.

Now, instead of bringing their working contracts from their supervisors to Student Financial Services, who would then process them and send them to the Office of Disbursements, the students will be able to bring their contracts straight from their supervisors to disbursements, according to director of disbursements Debbie Farris.

"We've taken Student Financial Services out of that middle part," she said. "The I-9 forms will all be filled out and handed in to us and then we will issue the timesheets."

In order to take on these extra responsibilities, the Office of Disbursements has transformed two of its part-time employees into full-time. The department will receive \$20,000 more per year to pay those who

will fill the new positions.

"They were part-time before and now they're full-time," she said. "That will add the support that we need so that there will always be somebody in the office that can help out."

Finding a simpler way for students to receive pay has been an issue the University has been looking at over the past year, according to Vice President of Enrollment Management James O'Hara.

"It seemed that it was a little confusing as well as disorganized as far as how students were getting paid and the process that students needed to go through in order to get their pay," he said. "We started to have more serious conversations after seeing that article. We asked, 'Have we created a situation that makes it sort of a run around for students?'"

O'Hara is confident that the new system will make the process smoother and less complicated, but there is still a lot of work ahead, he said.

"I think this definitely is going to help," said O'Hara. "We still have the challenge of educating the supervisors in the offices because that pro-

cess is something that is a critical component of this."

There are roughly 1,000 students that are employed by the university, which means that there are 400 to 500 supervisors that will need to be informed of the changes, according to O'Hara.

"Our offices are going to be working together to put out a communication plan," he said. "The plan will be heavily web-based so that students, as well as faculty or staff advisors, can go to the webpage and get all of their questions answered in one location."

The plan is to begin building the webpage over the summer so that it can be up and running in time for the fall, he said.

"It's a new day," said O'Hara. "We're looking at this and we're trying to be proactive when students are raising issues."

It was at the start of this semester that Student Financial Services began playing less of a role in the pay process and according to Farris, this should make the role of students "much clearer."

"It was a little disconnected

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Packages bring smiles to Rider soldiers overseas

By Mike Caputo

In February, Rider shipped care packages to soldiers overseas in Iraq, and many have responded with appreciation.

These 31 soldiers who received packages from Rider are either students of the University or local residents of New Jersey. The lead organizers of the effort were director of the Office of Community Standards Keith Kemo, manager of Residence Life Greg Hanf and director of Safety and Security Vickie Weaver.

Hanf said that sending a response from overseas is difficult for soldiers and receiving them here at Rider has made it extra special.

"People have to understand that we normally wouldn't get responses back," said Hanf. "There are still many kids over there and that touch of home means a lot."

In an e-mail response from Spc. Joshua Hammill, a student, he expressed his thanks to Weaver for the efforts of the organizers.

"Thank you for the care package you and the indi-

viduals in student affairs put together and sent to me," said Hammill, who responded from Iraq. "It feels good to know that Rider supports us. All of us here really appreciate everything people send us."

Hanf paraphrased the concept of Hammill and the other soldiers receiving the care packages as "hey you're right, there is a Rider family."

SFC Stephanie Pope said that the care packages from Rider were real "morale builders." Hanf said that she claimed that the bottles were great for mixing Gatorade, much better than canteens.

Some of the items sent included bottles, hats and numerous condiments donated by Aramark. Other local soldiers that responded with gratitude were major Rich Schau, WO2 Jason Swingle, SFC Christopher Sharpe and SFC Everitt Sloan.

"There are a lot of people that have friends and family in Iraq," said Hanf. "But a lot of the [people on] campus don't know that because it does not affect [them] directly. We just want people to know that [the packages] were received."

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