Bio and chem get $60G grant

By Cara Latham
News Editor
Rider University was listed as one of the 15 institutions that will receive a three-year $60,000 grant from The Merck/AAS Undergraduate Science Research Program (USRP).
The USRP is a national competitive awards program available in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. The program, which annually awards the grants to 15 institutions, is run by Merck and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Each award is paid over three years at $20,000 per year to the 15 institutions for conducting undergraduate research.

Security forum yields exchange of ideas

By Dave Maccar
Executive Editor
A meeting of the College and University Public Safety Association (CUPSA) was facilitated by Director of Safety and Security, Vickie Weaver on April 13 in the Fireside Lounge of the Bart Leuedeke Center.
The purpose of the meeting was to bring New Jersey colleges and universities together to discuss and exchange policies and to formulate a collective best practice policy on conducting student special events.

“It was a great exchange of ideas and information,” said Weaver.
The issues of the meeting were numerous and spanned nearly all of the problems and circumstances that safety and security personnel may encounter when dealing with student gatherings on campus. Among the issues discussed were party policy and procedures, use of metal detectors, use of off-duty police, special events security personnel, party bans and how to most effectively deal with intoxicated party-goers.

“We work together to address these issues and to be supportive of one another,” said Weaver. “We have learned from each others problems and shared in each others successes.”

The gathering was part of two meetings held this year, the other on Tuesday, April 17. Weaver said that she believes the meetings were very useful and that they greatly aid in helping Safety and Security work toward a better overall relationship with other departments on campus.

“We’ll be looking to continue this into the summer and fall and to keep it going,” said Weaver. “It is an ongoing process to have students working toward having safe and successful events.”

New ID cards to be distributed for new school year

By Cara Latham
News Editor
New ID cards will be issued to the entire Rider community in time for the new school year.
The new cards are going to be distributed mainly for security reasons, to replace the use of social security numbers as part of identification. This is part of a process to prevent such things as identity theft at Rider.

Stephanie Polak, associate director of residence life, said that the new cards will consist of a number given to each student, faculty and staff member that will be called the “Bronc ID number.”

“Over the summer, the database is being changed to not include social security numbers,” said Polak. “[The Bronc ID number] is what we will use on everything, anywhere that they ask for a social security number.”

The design for the new card is still being “brainstormed.” University Publications gave a number of different options for the ID’s, which the Rider students voted on during elections. The options were also shown to the Cranberry Council, who decided they wanted to see more options.

Over the summer, the new cards will be printed for every student, faculty and staff member at Westminster. The new Bronc ID numbers will be distributed at orientation for new students over the summer, and it will be emphasized that it will be used for everything. “Staring with orientation, we are going to tell the students to memorize the number and say ‘here it is’,” said Polak.

According to her, it is most likely that new ID numbers have already been generated for all current students and faculty. Also, the current photos for each student will remain the same, and will not be taken from the database. Everything else will look different.

However, the process is still in the decision phase and there are still some complications.

“We’ve been brainstorming for the new card,” said Polak.

The timing issue is what we’re very concerned about.”

The new ID cards will have to be distributed to faculty members during the summer because they will be teaching summer classes. Also, there will have to be a cut-off date established for the old cards to become obsolete and the new cards to function as the only ID source.

“We are trying to ensure that there is no disruption do well on the projects will also conduct projects, including one entitled, “Immune Responses to Chemotherapy,” during the summer in Rider’s laboratories. The students who will participate in other projects must be trained to be able to manage the new laboratory. The research will also allow them to benefit from previous research experiences.

“It gives students an opportunity to bridge different disciplines,” she said, “and support those already existing.”

The money granted by the award will provide funding, including stipends, to four undergraduate students at $3,500 each for the summer and $500 a piece for each semester. The students will be chosen by a committee and conducting students and doing research has always been a part of Rider’s science department, according to Weaver.

H2Oh No!

An unknown suspect broke a water fountain in the Alumni Gym by, what appeared to be, punching it into the wall. This created a large hole and resulted in the complete inability to repair the fountain. The security officer who recognized the damage during a building check on Sunday, April 18, conducted a search of the area for suspects, but the security search yielded no results.

The estimated cost of repairing the fountain is $500. Anyone with information is asked to contact security at x5029.

Reversal of Fortune

Three male resident students were verbally harassed by a female student in their rooms in the University House on Saturday, April 17. Two of the male students, who are roommates, were awakened in their room by the female student who was pounding on the door. After they advised her to leave them alone, she began to verbally harass them. The third male student said she had also pounded on his door and served as a witness for the other two students who had been harassed. The female suspect then left the area. The three male students were unable to identify the female suspect aside from the fact that she was a student, and an investigation is continuing. Lawrence Police Department (LPD) services were offered and declined.

Objects Closer Than They Appear

The rear window of a car belonging to a female resident student in the Dirkin Lot was shattered on Thursday, April 15. A scheduled baseball game had been played prior to the time of the damage and it was determined that the probability of a baseball hitting the window of the car was high. The car was checked by the student who found nothing untoward. The estimated cost of repairs is $300 and LPD services were offered and declined.