By Jennifer Kuhn
Photography Editor

In the fourth spamming incident in 18 months, the Rider University Alumni website was once again the target. On Monday, April 21, an individual or organization posing as a Rider student sent an illegitimate e-mail to an unknown number of Rider Alumni.

Rosa Rusciano, the director of Alumni Relations, was quick to send out another email informing alumni about the spamming incident and enlist the help of the Office of Information Technologies (OIT) in tracking down the culprit.

“We wanted you to know that Rider is treating this incident as a violation of your privacy as well as an attack on the University’s web resources,” Rusciano said in his e-mail to alumni. “Rider is vigorously pursuing this matter in an effort to identify the spammer(s), and will take appropriate action against any organizations or individuals who perpetuate similar acts.”

The e-mail in question was sent to about 1,000 alumni and was composed by an alleged future graduate of the Class of 2003, according to Rusciano. The message states that the author will be graduating this June and for a class assignment needs to be graded on a website they put together for class. The website address was linked in the message. The e-mail goes on to add that the author’s professor supplied the email addresses of alumni that could be willing to review and comment on the student’s work.

The website address provided was investigated by OIT and they determined the student is neither a current student nor an alumnus of Rider. Additionally, they were able to conclude that the original email was routed through three internet-related companies in Canada. All three companies are legitimate and deny any accusations of being a part of the spamming incident, and have voluntarily joined forces with Rider to investigate the situation.

Rusciano had the chance to talk with the CEO of one of the companies and says that they are “absolutely not involved,” and are currently trying to see what legal action they can take against the spammer or spammers.

In accordance with taking privacy issues seriously, Rider is, and will continue to, “proactively take action to protect its alumni from similar incidents,” Rusciano said.

Furthermore, a new and enhanced alumni website will be unveiled by the end of the year. It will include a more secure on-line directory, thus making it more difficult for unauthorized, mass e-mails to be sent by spammers.

Despite the Internet being easily accessible and provides many opportunities for spammers, Rusciano feels the improved site will make it harder for even a skilled spammer to hack into.

“The Internet is like the Wild West,” Rusciano said. “However, just like people protect their homes with security systems to deter criminals, we will be protecting our website from hackers and spammers with superior security.”

Many alumni were pleased with Rider’s prompt response and explanation for the spamming incident.

“Thank you for your immediate, professional, and thorough response to this incident,” said Dana G. Rainer, Class of ’96. “It is because of the quick response that I am always proud to tell people that I am a Rider alumna.”

Security Briefs
All information provided by Vickie Weaver, director of Safety and Security

Random

GTA?

Security observed an automobile on fraternity row overwing and going onto a curb in the early hours of Saturday, April 19.

The officers stopped the vehicle and found the driver to be a victim of a hit and run. The passenger of the vehicle was asked to drive to the security parking lot where the auto could later be retrieved.

The intoxicated visitor was driven off campus by a friend and was issued a letter of Persona Non Grata.

Bong Blunder

While issuing a motor vehicle summons, security detected the odor of marijuana on Wednesday, April 23, in Conover Residence Hall.

Security located the room from which the smell originated and observed a marijuana cigarette and residue in plain view upon entering.

The room’s occupants turned over additional paraphernalia, including multiple smoking implements.

Two students and a visitor were arrested and charged with unauthorized possession of a controlled substance, use an illegal substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Scrambled or Over-Easy?

Security was flagged down by a student in the early hours of Thursday, April 24, near the residence hall of Student Affairs.

The male student said that persons in a blue Pontiac Grand Am were throwing eggs at the window of his room. Additional eggs were thrown at one of the security vehicles and a female student’s car.

With witness testimony, security was able to identify the suspects.

Four male students were charged with disorderly conduct and failure to provide identification after fleeing the vehicle upon security’s arrival.

Updates on this year's big news stories and their developments

By David Maccar
News Editor

LPD frequency on campus still up

In the Oct. 25 issue of The Rider News a story was printed regarding the presence of the Lawrenceville Police Department (LPD) on campus. It was reported that from Sept. 2 through Oct. 16 of last year the LPD performed 26 operations on campus. This is present on 68 other occasions for unofficial reports. In 2002 the LPD came on campus 303 times.

July 16, 2002, LPD had been called to Rider’s campus 319 times. These calls include traffic stops in front of Rider on Lawrenceville Rd. (R206), according to Lt. Charles B. Edgert.

Since all calls are logged by address, some calls that do not necessarily pertain to Rider are still recorded as calls to Rider University, said Edgert.

There have been six on-campus arrests since Oct. 16. All on drug charges. There were multiple individuals arrested on each of the six occasions.

The most recent arrest occurred on April 23 on the second floor of Conover Residence Hall. Three suspects were arrested on marijuana charges. They were all released on summons pending a court date.

Terrence Wiggins pleads guilty

A Rider alumnus, Terrence Wiggins, was arrested for the alleged Sept. 22, 2002 robbery of $4,640 worth of items from a residence hall on campus. Wiggins declined to comment on the charges for The Rider News story in the Oct. 25 issue.

According to the LPD officer in charge of the case, Joseph Leck, Wiggins has since pleaded guilty to charges and was sentenced to Pre-Trial Intervention (PTI).

Rape allegations still under investigation

In the Nov. 22 issue of The Rider News an investigative report examined the apparent lack of blue light emergency phone stations on campus. Currently there are still only two stations on campus, one inside the Student Center and one outside of Memorial Hall.

To date, there haven’t been any blue light stations added, but options are being considered that could alleviate the considerable financial burden attached to adding more stations, while still allowing Rider to avoid the accusations according to Associate Dean of Student Affairs Anthony Campbell.

“We are investigating different options,” said Campbell. “Wireless stations is one option.”

The excessive cost of adding more stations lies in the running of power and phone to the new emergency locations. The wireless stations would be solar powered and illuminate the need for hard-wiring them, according to Campbell.

The cost effectiveness of this and other options are currently being examined by the administration.

Program

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to Rider and in its first semester, the conference and invited Rider to join.

“Amassadors and UN officials want to know what college students think,” said Roberta Finke-Ruscinio, professor in the Political Science and Global Multi-National Studies Departments. “They want immediate feedback on their campus and in its first semester, they can make more informed decisions.”

There are countless benefits to students by offering this type of opportunity. They have the opportunity to become involved as a responsible citizen is a huge part of a college student’s education,” said Ruscinio. "Questioning how to make students a valuable member of a civil society. They are also learning to be leaders.”

Alumni e-mail gets spammed

By Jennifer Kuhn
Photography Editor

Friday, April 25, 2003

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