**Features**

Friday, April 25, 2003

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**Through the years...**

**President J. Barton Luedeke**

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**Luedeke will be missed by many**

By Dana Lynn Flatsevski

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**Administration and staff express their respect**

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**Success**

To laugh often and much;
To win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children;
To earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends;
To appreciate beauty,
To find the best in others,
To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition;
To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived.
This is to have succeeded.

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

The Rider News will miss you. Good luck in all of your future endeavors.

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**Prior to 1990**

- Dr. J. Barton Luedeke as Rider's last president.
- The College of Business Administration was established.
- The Multicultural Center was established as well as "Experiences for Rider College Community".

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**1990**

- The Multicultural Center was renamed the Alice and Dorothy Koppelman Holocaust and Genocide Resource Center in honor of the couple's support.
- The College of Continuing Studies was established as a Weekend College.
- The School of Music at Rider College.

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**1991**

- Rider announced the $4.3 million Information Technology Project designed to provide state-of-the-art telecommunications network.
- Rider College's name was officially changed to Rider University.

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**1992**

- Reflecting the growing demand for Musikfest, the College of Business Administration began a new Master of Accountancy Program.
- Rider announced the integration of the University's first consolidated the College of Education and Human Services with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

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**1993**

- The Multicultural Center was endowed with a $1 million and the average student paid the lowest tuition.

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**1994**

- The University expanded and access given to students and faculty, allowing them to communicate electronically.
- “He has encouraged us to value community, to embrace our differences and to be true to ourselves and each other through integrity, thoughtfulness, and creativity.”

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“Bart’s love for Rider takes no greater form than his love of students.”

— Phyllis Frakt, Vice president for academic affairs and provost

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“Bart was very instrumental in the development of the Multicultural Center.”

— Don Brown, Director of the Multicultural Center

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“[Bart] has been the right person at the right time.”

— Paul Lang, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

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By Dana Lynn Flatsevski

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As the semester nears its end, so does the term of Dr. J. Barton Luedeke as Rider's fifth president in the University's 125 years of existence.

As Luedeke said when he first began his career at Rider, "These are exciting times and Rider College has the opportunity to grow and develop with them."

During his 15 years as president, Luedeke has achieved many things for the University, but more than that he has touched many hearts and made many lasting impressions.

According to Full of Promise, The Story of Rider College, while he was president, Rider reached University recognition, merged with Westminster Choir College and gained millions of dollars in technology endowments.

Everyone who has worked with [Luedeke] knows his integrity, patience, modesty, and love of this community,” said Phyllis Frakt, vice president for academic affairs and provost. “Those of us who have worked with him for a long time think that he will miss us, but I know that he will miss Rider students most of all.

According to Chairman of the Board of Trustees Paul Lang, Luedeke was the perfect person for this position.

"He is a president who dedicated all efforts to make sure that the students have been treated right," said Lang. "The Board had to see him go, but we knew it was the right time for him.

During Luedeke's time at Rider, the Multicultural Center was established. Before that Rider had not held diversified programs for people of various races.

According to Don Brown, director of the Multicultural Center, the whole climate of the campus changed under Luedeke's leadership.

"It used to be a place that was not welcoming to African-American and non-Christian people. That has really changed," said Brown.

"Under his leadership, the significance of affirmative action in hiring increased and a lot more staff and faculty of color were hired," said Brown. “The first Hispanic student government president was elected during Bart’s term, as was the first female African-American one.”

Luedeke is also known for making Rider a strong community and a place for students to grow.

"He has encouraged us to value community, to embrace our differences and to be true to ourselves and each other through integrity, thoughtfulness and creativity," said Assistant to the President Debora Stasolla. “On a very personal note, I will miss Bart's collaborative and caring style and his terrific sense of humor.

"He has challenged and supported me in so many different ways these past four and a half years, and for that I am most appreciative.

However, Luedeke is not the only one that will be missed, according to Joan Mazzotti, chairperson of the Board of Trustees between the years of 1998 and 2002.

"Bart and Linda have welcomed thousands of students, parents, faculty members, alumni, and university trustees into their home,” said Mazzotti. “They have made all of us feel proud to be part of the Rider community. We will miss them both very much.”

According to Jan Friedman-Kropnick, senior vice president for Student Affairs, Luedeke is an extraordinary leader.

"He has been tireless in promoting change to ensure that the Rider experience is an outstanding one for students, staff and faculty," said Friedman-Kropnick. "His integrity, devotion, insights and ability to make everyone feel special are qualities that will be sorely missed.”

Phyllis Frakt said it the best, “Bart’s love for Rider takes no greater form than his love for Rider students.”