Tom Papa (above), Len Goldstein and Terahshea McCray have both met great success in television.

Comedian, starring Jerry Seinfeld, and Analyze That, starring Robert De Niro and Billy Crystal. He has also made television appearances on Comedy Central numerous times, including Tough Crowd with Colin Quinn on June 3, 2003, and on Comic Remix three times. Other TV appearances include The View on Feb 15, 2002, the Late Show with David Letterman in 2002, the Late Night with Conan O’Brien on May 14, 2003, and The Caroline Rhea Show. He is scheduled to appear on NBC’s Last Call with Carson Daly, on Oct. 3rd. Terahshea “T” McCray also has his own show, Back in Shape With T, which airs in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, including such places as Vieques, St. Thomas and St. John. McCray writes, produces and airs the show himself. His audience reaches over 300,000 people. McCray, who was also a communications major at Rider, said that he decided to do his own show after he left a successful career as a personal trainer in New York and New Jersey because he felt he wasn’t utilizing the things he had exceptional talent in. He has been training for eight years, along with being a single parent. McCray said that the leading inspiration for embarking on his television career was to teach his son a lesson. His hope is to show his son that having a goal and a plan can allow you to do whatever you want to do. In his videos, he was looking to improve his personal life while staying in shape with his fitness program. According to McCray, his programs are fairly simple in order to attract the average person. Without using exercise equipment, he utilizes household products such as two-gallon water bottles. Becoming a local celebrity, according to McCray, has been exciting for both him and his son. He also said that he appreciates all the help he received from such professors as Harriett Schwartz, Dr. Howard Schwartz, Dr. Barry Janes and Dr. Thomas Simonet, along with others.

“1 connected with professors at the television/communications department at Rider...and they reassured me that I wanted to do this with my life. They provided guidance,” he said. From his time at Rider, McCray has made his way to the top. Aside from his television program, he has recently trained Tony Award winning Broadway actress, Lillias White. Through hard work and support from his family, McCray has managed to live his dream.

Talented Alumni prove success after Rider

By Cara Latham and Nicole Southern

Staff/ Writers

Rider University graduates Tom Papa and Terahshea McCray have successfully landed careers in the television business, both here and overseas.

NBC has picked up Tom Papa’s sitcom, Come to Papa, which is about a writer who dreams of making it in the big city but has come to settle for life in the small New Jersey town that he grew up in.

The show is expected to air mid-season, sometime in the winter. Papa, who is the executive producer and creator of the show, graduated from Rider as a communications major with a focus on theater.

The co-writer of the show, Len Goldstein, is the son of Rider psychology professor, Dr. Marvin Goldstein. Len is also the vice-president for development at the WB, and he worked with Papa to get NBC to air his show.

Marvin said that the two had not previously known each other, but met in Los Angeles and had talked about having grown up in New Jersey, when Papa mentioned that he attended Rider.

He also said that they hope to release the show in early winter, and that usually, if another show fails, then Papa’s show will act as a replacement. There’s no guarantee, but the show should be on by the spring, according to Goldstein.

Dr. Chmel, Chair of Fine Arts at Rider, knew Papa when he attended college.

“We [Rider’s staff] are delighted that Tom is making his mark in the television industry,” he said. “I’ve been watching him consistently on Comedy Central and he’s hilarious. He deserves the shot he’s getting with NBC.”

According to Chmel, Papa was multi-talented, which was evident by the roles he held in the plays given at Rider, including his leads as Dracula in Dracula, the psychiatrist in Equus, his role as the plant in The Little Shop of Horrors, and his part in the Man Who Came To Dinner.

Papa has acted in the movies Man Who Came To Dinner, starring Robert De Niro and Billy Crystal. He has also made television appearances on Comedy Central numerous times, including Tough Crowd with Colin Quinn on June 3, 2003, and on Comic Remix three times. Other TV appearances include The View on Feb 15, 2002, the Late Show with David Letterman in 2002, the Late Night with Conan O’Brien on May 14, 2003, and The Caroline Rhea Show. He is scheduled to appear on NBC’s Last Call with Carson Daly, on Oct. 3rd. Terahshea “T” McCray also has his own show, Back in Shape With T, which airs in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, including such places as Vieques, St. Thomas and St. John. McCray writes, produces and airs the show himself. His audience reaches over 300,000 people. McCray, who was also a communications major at Rider, said that he decided to do his own show after he left a successful career as a personal trainer in New York and New Jersey because he felt he wasn’t utilizing the things he had exceptional talent in. He has been training for eight years, along with being a single parent.

McCray said that the leading inspiration for embarking on his television career was to teach his son a lesson. His hope is to show his son that having a goal and a plan can allow you to do whatever you want to do. In his videos, he was looking to improve his personal life while staying in shape with his fitness program. According to McCray, his programs are fairly simple in order to attract the average person. Without using exercise equipment, he utilizes household products such as two-gallon water bottles. Becoming a local celebrity, according to McCray, has been exciting for both him and his son. He also said that he appreciates all the help he received from such professors as Harriett Schwartz, Dr. Howard Schwartz, Dr. Barry Janes and Dr. Thomas Simonet, along with others.

“I connected with professors at the television/communications department at Rider...and they reassured me that I wanted to do this with my life. They provided guidance,” he said. From his time at Rider, McCray has made his way to the top. Aside from his television program, he has recently trained Tony Award winning Broadway actress, Lillias White. Through hard work and support from his family, McCray has managed to live his dream.

Features
Rozanski reaches out

Students’ opinions matter

By Lacey Korevec

Features Editor

The new school year has only just begun and already Rider’s new president, Dr. Mordechai Rozanski, is hard at work.

On Aug. 28, after bonding with students over a game of Monopoly, Rozanski prepared for bed. That night he slept in Hill Hall to get a personal look at resident living conditions.

“Residence halls are a key feature of what a university is all about,” he said. “I wanted to get a feel for what it is like to be there, the good and the bad. Some students have been saying to me that there are challenges in some of the residence halls and I wanted to experience them.”

He got settled in the building after dinner and then spent some time getting to know the resident advisors, along with the resident directors before helping paint the windows for welcoming freshmen, Rozanski said.

“I spoke to a lot of people and got a good sense of the strong pride, family value and sense of community that was there,” he explained. “The real purpose was to connect with students and let them connect with me. I want students to know who I am, but I also want to know who they are. It is all about students at a university and I want to know what they’re thinking.”

Rozanski said that he calls the time he spends interacting with students in residence buildings Pres-in-Res. As part of that, he wore a t-shirt and sweatpants on Sept. 1, and helped the freshmen move in.

“I carried stuff up and met many folks. It’s a very important time and it was a chance to help meet students’ families,” he said. “I would like to help in any way, not just in the physical act, but to reassure parents that it’s okay to let go and to show students that there is somebody there who cares and that even the president can help.”

Understanding students’ feelings about residence halls is important for another reason as well.

According to Rozanski, the university is in the process of either developing a new residence hall or making renovations to the already existing ones, and he wants Rider to remain an institution where the majority of students live on-campus because of the wonderful social climate it creates.

“By being here you can really get involved. I think you gain more from your education that way. I want to see us being able to accommodate students,” he said. “We have some challenges right now. That’s why we’re hoping that we can make advances in the future.”

Contrary to rumor that there are plans to move the Greek houses off campus, Rozanski said that he has heard nothing about it.

“Nobody has recommended it to me. There are no plans at this time that I am aware of,” he said.

The sororities and fraternities, the Student Government Association and Hillel are a few of many on-campus organizations that have already invited him to attend meetings and spend some time talking with them, according to Rozanski.

“I’m not going to promise that I’ll know all your names but I can always wave. I’m open to all kinds of opportunities,” he said. “I want to stay connected to students and hear what they have to say.”

In order to help prevent students from wanting to go home on the weekends, Rozanski said that he is going to be working to recruit recreational activities to campus and that he is looking forward to new ideas.

“I think it is a marvelous place and I’m going to be working with the community to bring it even greater prominence and stature,” he said. “I’m really delighted, honored, and humbled to serve Rider University and help lead it to the next age of its success.”

“I want more people to see what I see; that Rider is a first class institution.”

Rider’s new president, Dr. Mordechai Rozanski, spent time kicking back and playing a game of Monopoly with students on the evening of Aug. 28. He slept that night in Hill Hall to get a feel for what it was like to be a student living in a residence hall.