Editorial: An honor code for Rider

Studies show schools that have honor codes have many fewer instances of cheating as well as many fewer instances of violence on campus. This, among other things, is one of the reasons Rider is considering establishing its own honor code. Having an honor code is a great idea in theory, but getting the students to take it seriously is a huge task.

An honor code is not about signing something before an exam saying you will not cheat. That has no meaning to most students. In high school, that was the basic message that was sent. It didn’t mean anything because no one took it seriously. Students simply signed their names and then went about what they would normally do anyway.

An honor code at Rider would mean not only that honesty is expected regarding exams, but also among interaction with teachers and other students. The honor code would be a set of standards for both inside and outside the classroom. It could be based on academics, behavior or both.

Would students benefit from being taught the basic values of integrity? And if so, how would these things be taught? Should freshmen have to sit through a mandatory course that would teach such things or would it somehow be included in orientation? There are many ways to approach this, but the hardest part could be making it take effect. Just because students are lectured on something does not mean they are listening.

Most students would not care about learning about integrity. They’ve gone this far in their life doing things one way and to try to get them to change would be incredibly difficult. This is not to say that all Rider students are dishonest, but unfortunately the reality is that there are always a few people who refuse to cooperate.

To get back to the point, how would things change at Rider? It is certain that it would take years to really see the effect of any change, but would it be worth it? Would professors and administrators be wasting their time?

The honor code would somehow have to be worked into daily life. People cannot be forced to care. Even if you make the punishments harsher there are still going to be people who think they can get away with anything. The honor code would have to make an impact on nearly everything on campus to become a part of what Rider stands for. It has to extend beyond the classrooms and halls and into real life.

If the honor code works the way it should, it would definitely be worthwhile. The benefits are numerous and it would add to Rider’s prestige. But thinking about something is different than actually taking action.

Students have to want their school to be known for its honest and honorable student body. The power is in your hands to become a brighter community.

This weekly editorial expresses the majority opinion of The Rider News editorial board and is written by the Opinion Editor.

Letters to the Editor: The Rider News welcomes letters on all subjects of interest to the campus community. Letters must be typed and include the name, address, phone number and signature of the author for verification. Send to The Rider News via e-mail (ridernews@rider.edu), campus mail or hand deliver to Centennial House. All letters must be received by midnight the Monday preceding publication. The Rider News reserves the right to edit all letters for space and clarity.

Quote of the Week:

“Insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.”

— Albert Einstein

Lending A Hand: Unnoticed heroes

In the fast paced world of honking horns, the humming of computers, rings of cell phones, Palm Pilots, dates and waits, the thank you still survive. It may seem like it is hard to find them and some may even say that they don’t exist, but they are wrong. They are there under a hidden layer; you just may not notice them with all the activity that a day holds.

The reality is that the unnoticed heroes of everyday life are still there making your day better without you realizing it. It may not take much to change the way that your day is going. It may be just a smile from a perfect stranger that may make you smile back. The smile is a powerful thing and when used properly you will find yourself smiling in spite of your bad day.

Yes, the door holders, the step aside, fall catchers and the ‘are you alright’ inquirers are still hard at work in the world.

It is not always easy to spot them, however, once you start the practice of noticing the kinder, the friend and the stranger who becomes more, you will start to spot others.

It is like a whole secret society that is not hard to break into. All it takes is for you to think about how often you say thank you, and really mean it, and how often you smile at someone and say hi.

The key to being a member of the secret society of kindness is to practice smiling and compassion every day. Then you will begin to notice others’ sincerity more and more.

The saying “misery loves company” may be true, but what is even more certain is that consideration is even more contagious. It is a widespread movement that if you are not careful you will find yourself addicted to.

The reality is that the door holders and smile backers in this world enjoy receiving the smiles just as much as they give them. It only sparks them on. These people might not be whom you expect them to be. You might be imagining Susie do-good who is nice and gentle about whatever situation she faces in life. Yes, there are people who are able to smile no matter what is going on, however, they are not the people I am talking about.

I am commenting on these individuals who are the everyday people that you run into throughout your day on the campus or anywhere else. Miss Ann in the cafeteria says hi to almost every person who walks in the door, and that includes multiple meals. Some may say, well that is part of her job, however, that is false. Not everyone who may have her job says hi at all.

The UNICO workers in your buildings who clean up God knows what on a regular basis, and who might have no reason to smile after that, seem to always say hi when eye contact is made with them. This makes me want to smile back even broader. It is unrealistic to think that Rider