

HOMECOMING BRINGS BACK ALUMNI

A quick glance at what life was like at Rider 50 years ago

By Tim Green
Enterprise Reporter

An estimated 2000 alumni returned to Rider this past weekend to “reconnect” with the university and partake in the Homecoming festivities, according to Chip Rossi, director of Alumni Relations.

Kicking off the weekend was a look back at Rider’s Greek era from the years of 1946-1963.

“The Friday night of Homecoming weekend is always devoted to those students who were at the Trenton campus,” said Rossi. “This year we highlighted the Greeks because they were such a big part of the campus community at the time.”

The Greek influence on Rider is apparent in old issues of *The Rider News*, which gave a lot of attention to the Greek community. Each issue gave Greeks a page of the newspaper to spotlight events for that week.

Homecoming was also the time when the class of 1953 returned for its 50th reunion. The 125 classmates that came to the reunion were treated to a slideshow displaying images of their time at Rider College.

The class of ‘53 attended most of its classes in Rider’s main building, located on East State Street in Trenton. There were six same-sex houses where the students lived, most of which were located on Greenwood Street. Greeks, at the time, also lived in actual houses.

Rossi said that the most notable event at the time was when Vice President of the United States Elben W. Barkley came to Rider College to speak.

“This was probably one of the biggest things to happen during their era,” said Rossi. “At the time you had the sitting vice president of the United States at Rider. He actually came in 1951, but those who graduated in ‘53 were here for it.”

Homecoming also saw the debut of the Bronc Band, a modern-day pep band which is reminiscent of 50 years



Half-page cigarette and Air Force advertisements often appeared throughout the pages of *The Rider News*.

ago when the pep band was an intricate part of most events at Rider College.

The Alumni Association itself celebrated its 75th anniversary at last week’s Homecoming. But what made the anniversary more special was that it was the first time that the Alumni Association was able to formally welcome President Mordechai Rozanski and his family to Rider. Alumni Association President Joe Casarella, ‘55, gave Rozanski a box of cigars as a welcoming gift, according to Rossi.

Rossi was pleased with the turnout this past weekend.

“Homecoming weekend was a huge success,” he said. “We had great weather and huge crowds.”

One member of the class of ‘53 also enjoyed her class reunion.

“We had a great time and can’t wait for another Homecoming,” said Phyllis Lalli Bardini. “The decorations, food, entertainment and even the speeches were outstanding.”

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The *Rider News*’ masthead looked different 50 years ago.

Rider Revisited: In 1953...

Information compiled by Tim Green, Enterprise Reporter

- Franklin F. Moore was Rider’s president.
- Rider College was located in Trenton with its main building situated on East State Street. Most of the residence halls were located on Greenwood Street.
- Residence Halls: Greenwood Hall
Harold West Hall
Peters Hall
Ida Boffey Bacon Hall
Mary Hooper Hall
Wright Hall
- Long before Residence Life was created, the halls were regulated by the inter-dorm council, where house mothers and house presidents met to discuss the problems within each hall. All residence halls were same-sex.
- Purple and gold were the school colors.
- Greeks had a large influence on the school. Their activities often dominated *The Rider News*. Greeks also lived in actual houses around Trenton.
- Fraternities: Sigma Beta Chi
Sigma Lambda Pi (present day Zeta Beta Tau)
Phi Sigma Nu
Delta Sigma Pi
Alpha Gamma Upsilon
- Sororities: Zeta Mu Epsilon
Sigma Tau Delta
Sigma Iota Chi (present day Alpha Xi Delta)
Iota Alpha Pi
Eta Upsilon Gamma (present day Zeta Tau Alpha)
- Students were charged five cents for a copy of the school paper, which at the time was very sports and Greek-centered.
- Political correctness was definitely a thing of the future. In the 1953 *Shadow*, Edith Wright, dean of Women, was referred to as Mrs. James C. Wright, with no mention of her first name.

Sources: *The Rider News* archives

Full of Promise: The Story of Rider College 1865-1994 by Dr. Walter Brower
1953 Shadow

Career conferences provide a look down the road

By Andrew Silver
Staff Writer

Throughout this semester many departments, including communications, business and political science hold their career conferences for the students studying those areas. These are more than just conferences involving students in a certain track, they are conferences based on careers involved in that track.

Professors and members of the department of a particular track said that they feel it is beneficial for students to attend.

“We encourage the students to come and we feel it is valuable, even though they don’t have to,” said Dr. Frederick Turner, professor of communications.

Although students are not required to attend these conferences they will find that in the long run it will have been beneficial to go.

‘Networking is an excellent opportunity for students to connect with someone in the field they are interested in.’
— Dr. Kelly Noonan

Other than a student learning the areas of their majors from their professors, this is the best possibility to hear what really goes on in the field, Turner said.

Networking is an important factor that attracts students to these events, according to Dr. Kelly Noonan, a member of the economics department.

“Networking is an excellent opportunity for students to connect with someone in the field they are interested

in,” she said.

After a student meets an alumnus they can exchange contact information and within a few years the student may have help obtaining the position he or she is looking for.

“It is great to see the alumni speak about their current positions, because students can connect to them that way,” said sophomore Joe Dato, political science major.

It is important to make connections and Rider provides that opportunity, said Turner.

“The alumni can give students a great hand on details about their careers,” he said.

When the students are at these conferences speakers always make references to internships they took part in that led to their job, said Turner.

“This is an excellent way to discover internships you did not consider before

you were looking,” he said.

This year the communications department altered their conference a little by splitting the tracks into separate rooms.

“We feel it is a great idea for public relations majors to hear about employees in the field of public relations,” said Turner. “Why should they have to sit through a speech about radio and television?”

The speakers not only describe the job they are currently working at, but go into great detail about their job, for example, their salary.

Sophomore business student Mike Steiner attended the business career conference earlier this year.

“It is good to hear the alumni’s perspectives, but a lot of the material they were discussing is common sense,” he said.