New honors lounge to open more opportunities

By Candice Grieco

Talk of an honors lounge comes about with the interest to strengthen honors programs on campus as well as Rider's student community. It has been considered that, in the past, Rider's honors programs have been ignored and over-looked. With many changes occurring at Rider, several faculty members decided to make this adjustment to the Rider community as well. The creation of an honors lounge is meant to better many programs, such as the Baccalaureate Honors Program (BHP) and the Business Honors Program, as well as Rider as a whole.

"During the past two years, faculty and the academic administration took a hard look at how the BHP was working and found there was room to improve," said James Castagnera, Associate Provost. "There are a lot of Rider students who are qualified to be in honors and can benefit from an honors program; the Honors Lounge is just one aspect of our efforts to open up more opportunities for more good students."

Honors have been overlooked at Rider for many years, according to Castagnera. When the faculty came together, they decided the honors lounge would improve what has been neglected for many years. Castagnera said that BHP was always excellent, but has "not enjoyed the high profile that similar honors programs have enjoyed at other colleges and universities."

"It was an area we didn't focus on very much the first few years I was here," said Castagnera. "I am not sure we used it effectively as a tool for recruiting and retaining students. I am not sure we did a very good job of publicizing the program, of making it visible on campus."

The overall goal is to enhance the honors programs at Rider. By doing this, more students will come to Rider with a higher interest in learning and establishing themselves, according to Castagnera. By enhancing the honors program, Rider attracts better students, which improves Rider's community overall. Students who are eager to learn also hope to better the school they are attending by getting involved.

"If you're going to have an honors program, it's going to attract good students," said Castagnera. "The goal is for students to be able to congregate on their own and with faculty. Once the Honors Lounge is ready in its tentative location on the weekend for Homecoming, it'll become the focus of many great ideas and initiatives." The Honors Lounge was被誉为"the honors lounge i, the home of many riders, the home of many great ideas and initiatives."

Correction

In the October 15 issue of The Rider News, the photo of President George W. Bush and Senator John Kerry over the election map in the front page of the election pull-out should be credited to Al Viciedo.