By Randy Townsend

Students in Trenton for financial aid

Members of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in New Jersey (AICUNJ) convened Monday at the State House in Trenton for Leadership Day, an event that teaches students how to increase funding for education.

A delegation of Rider students, led by accounting major Robert Fink, who attended Leadership Day last year, represented the university and took part in the half-day event that thanked state legislators for their support and funding and made a case for increased financial support.

“There is a multi-million dollar bond referendum that is coming up for voter approval this spring,” said Fink. “This will be money for all colleges and universities in New Jersey, not just private institutions.”

In the afternoon, the AICUNJ will meet again in Trenton to lobby for the referendum to pass and increase financial aid opportunities for college students throughout New Jersey.

The association is the public relations, research and government liaison organization for 14 privately-supported institutions of higher education in New Jersey. Members include non-profit, four year under-graduate and professional schools accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools licensed by the state of New Jersey.

The students’ focus was on getting more financial aid for the colleges and universities. This includes everything from Pell Grants to TAG programs.

The students represent students of New Jersey and all of the citizens of New Jersey are fighting for the same amount of money,” said Fink. “You’d feel horrible for what you’ll live without.

Having the opportunity to lobby for more financial aid options gives students the chance to represent the elected officials and let them know what else is needed.

“I know students who are working two jobs supporting themselves to go through college,” said Fink. “There should be some funding for them.”

By Stephanie Mostaccio

WCC students now able to receive degrees in American Studies

Students at Westminster now have the opportunity to either major or minor in American Studies.

For the first time, Westminster students can choose to have a double major or minor in American Studies. This is in addition to their declared major at Westminster, in which they will attain a Bachelor of Music or a Bachelor of Arts in Music. Students will be able to take their required courses at Westminster and also take American Studies at the Lawrenceville campus.

Lawrenceville's Dr. Jack Sullivan, the director of American Studies, is now in the process of arranging to have classes for this course moved from the morning or afternoon to accommodate the Westminster schedule.

A bus service will also be provided, which will enable the Westminster students to travel from campus to campus. In doing this, the students will be able to both expand and diversify their college education.

“This academic opportunity will allow the students to have a broader college experience instead of a conservative one,” said Sullivan.

However, this will also connect the two campuses both academically and intellectually. Integration between the two campuses has been attempted on a smaller scale in the past. For example, the American Studies Department sponsors a jazz trip which many Westminster students take each year as a three-credit course.

The American Studies core course has also been offered at Westminster since 1992. However, it was only offered as an elective and not as a major or minor.

Sullivan believes that offering this course as a major or minor would encourage more students to vote on Election Day and their votes will matter this year, especially in swing states.

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a long term plan has been tough, according to Perry.

Currently, the Princeton Borough has issued an ordinance which creates permit parking for both residents of the area and students of the high school, which is a major part of the parking problem.

However, Perry said that Westminster students can park on the south side of Hamilton Street immediately on the south edge of campus.

“It is always open and I wonder why no one parks there,” said Perry. “Students are too petrified of angering a heart attack, saying, ‘I can’t find a parking spot!’

Students like Woodhull said they waste a lot of time finding parking.

“I lose about a half hour that I should be spending on observing my elementary practicum trying to find a spot,” said Sullivan, “I’m not late for my symphonic choir,” said Woodhull.

For the time being, the students of WCC will have to face the current situation, according to Perry.

“There are more vehicles fighting for fewer spaces and that’s a problem,” he said.

Like most young people this year, students at Rider University are more engaged than in the 2000 election; in that race, 64 percent of Rider students intended to vote, as compared with 82.4 percent this year. The increase in voter participation appears to help the Democratic candidate.

“The interesting question is whether, and how much, increased voter participation among college students, and young people in general, will affect the election,” said Rusciano.

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