



REAL-LIFE HAUNTED TALES

Students tell of their ghostly encounters



Photo by Jennifer Kuhn

Many doors have been covered with Halloween decorations. It is this time of year that is associated with creepy ghost stories, although some students have real ghost experiences all the time.

By Cara Latham
Staff Writer

Ghost stories are a reality for many students. Some have encountered ghosts, either around campus or at other places.

Freshman Erica Pasquin has encountered many experiences with the supernatural.

"The one that sticks in my head the most occurred at the house that my family rented every year in Maine," she said.

The cottage that Pasquin stayed in was old and had belonged to a former mayor of the small fishing town who was very disliked. Many citizens of the town were trying to remove him from office, and he, apparently distraught by this, hung himself in the very attic of the house that her family rented, said Pasquin.

"The skeleton key that was given to us was able to open all of the doors in the house except the attic," she said. "You could turn the key and it would move the handle and lock, but you would not be able to get the door open, and from time to time, you could hear the rocking chair moving in that room," she said.

As if that wasn't frightening enough, when her mom was cooking, sometimes things would be moved, including the time she put bread on the table next to her while cooking. When she needed it, she reached to get it but, Pasquin said, it was all the

way at the end of the table.

One night while she was sleeping, the sheets were suddenly ripped off of her and pulled to the end of the bed, according to Pasquin.

"The sheets being pulled off was the scariest for me," she said. "I don't remember our family going back there since that time."

Because she has had other encounters with ghosts, Pasquin said that she finds the supernatural something that occurs when someone is receptive to it.

"If you are open to it, it will happen," she said. "But when you really want it to happen, such as receiving a sign from a lost one, it most likely won't happen right away."

Freshman Mike Taylor had a similar odd experience. One day, while he was sitting in his living room after having just cleaned the entire kitchen, he said he heard something violently fall to the ground.

"I got up, knowing that I had just put away every utensil inside the drawers," he said. "And I saw a fork and a knife just laying in the middle of the floor."

This was not the only time something bizarre occurred in his house.

"Another time, I was watching television when it suddenly turned off. Immediately after that, the radio turned on," he said.

Despite these weird occurrences, and the fact that recently his phone

conversation was abruptly interrupted and his music simultaneously stopped in his residence hall, he said he is not frightened by these things.

"Ghosts are everywhere," said Taylor. "But it doesn't really scare me. I don't mind it."

Although most spiritual encounters are classified as frightening, sometimes a visit from a deceased family member or just his or her presence can be relieving.

Sophomore Caitlin Matt said that she recently became aware that her mother was still present in the lives of her family members. After her mother had passed away last summer, her father later began seeing another woman. When Matt had been introduced to the new woman and after her father's conversation with her, the encounter occurred, she said.

"The books in my father's room flew off the shelf and the cover to the light on the ceiling fell," said Matt.

Figuring that her mother was unhappy with the new woman's presence in her father's life, Matt said she saw the event as meaningful.

"Sometimes it is just really good to know that she's still around and with us," she said.

Remember, it may not be too weird to think that the television turning off is something supernatural, rather than just a power failure.

"It will come when you least expect it," said Pasquin.

Assistant professor Cynthia Ozeki embraces the Rider community

By Lauren Varga
Staff Writer

Cynthia Ozeki, assistant professor of human resource management (HR), is a new member of Rider's staff.

Ozeki is originally from Salt Lake City, Utah, and received her Bachelor's Degree in journalism from Brigham Young University (BYU) in Utah. While attending BYU, Ozeki said that she had the opportunity to room with a foreign exchange student from Japan. Little did she know that this would open up a whole new world. Because of this meeting, Ozeki decided to study in Japan.

Ozeki said that she had planned on living in Japan for nine months. Those nine months turned into nine years.

While living in Tokyo, she taught English, took Japanese classes, worked for several Japanese companies, including the Berlitz Schools of Languages, International Communications Strategies and The Boston Consulting Group and helped write a guide book to Tokyo, which is called *Kid's Trips in Tokyo*, she said.

"All my life I've wanted to write a book so the guide book was fulfilling," said Ozeki. "In a couple of months I'll have a chapter in a book published."

Not only did Ozeki get the opportunity to travel around Tokyo, learn an interesting language and become familiar with a foreign

culture, but, she said, she also met the person who would later become the most influential person in her life.

"[My husband] has encouraged me to stretch and try new things," said Ozeki.

Ozeki and her family recently moved to New Jersey from California where she said they don't have autumn, so at Rider she gets a chance to see the autumn leaves. She interviewed at many schools but said that Rider seemed to have the best atmosphere.

"I really liked the people here," Ozeki said. "They are nice and seemed fun to work with."

Although Ozeki did not always want to become a teacher it is something that she has gained a passion for. She said that being a professor let her combine everything she wanted to do.

"I swore I would never become a teacher," said Ozeki. "But I discovered I loved teaching when I went to Japan."

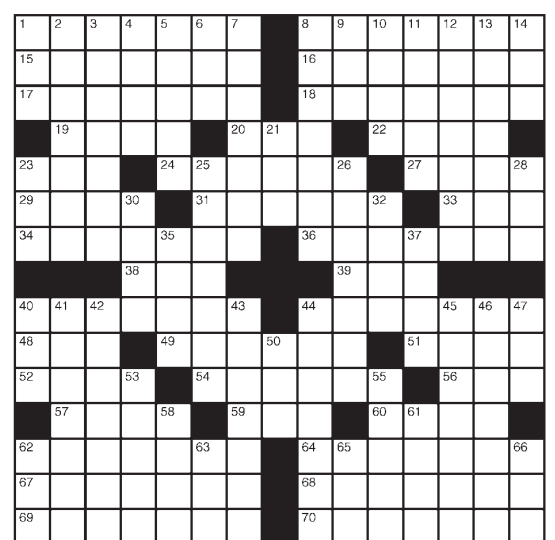
Ozeki is already starting to get involved around campus. She is currently on the Global Business Committee and an advisor for the HR Club. She said she is also interested in being a positive influence on her students.

"I would like to help students develop a broad perspective," said Ozeki, "as well as broaden their perspectives and explore options that will be open to them."

Crossword

- ACROSS
1 Blockhead
8 Defeatist
15 South Pacific region
16 Deprive of fortitude
17 Italian baroque artist
18 Bombardment
19 Makes lace
20 Giants and Titans org.
22 ___ the Red
23 Pop's partner
24 Necessitate
27 Animated bug film
29 DOS rival
31 Heavy overcoat
33 Wide shoe width
34 Propriety
36 Surrendered
38 Zilch
39 Neptune's realm
40 Prescribed amounts
44 Throb
48 Scheduled
49 Spillane's Mike
51 Slender
52 Use acid for art
54 Band leader?
56 East Lansing sch.
57 Getz or Kenton
59 Yak
60 Inspires dread
62 Rampaging tenant
64 "The New Colossus" poet
67 Near the kidneys
68 Mournful poems
69 Moral of the story
70 Ailment

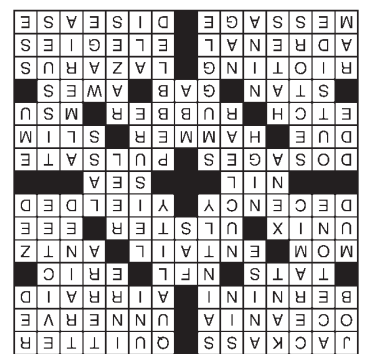
- DOWN
1 Occupation
2 Fragrant solvent
3 Fired clay
4 German philosopher
5 Licorice flavoring
6 Transgression
7 Pious



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Solutions



- 8 Superiority of kind
9 Verse opener?
10 As to
11 ___ firma
12 Prepared physically
13 Dispossessed tenant
14 Checkers side
21 Notes in scales
23 Wet dirt
25 Part of NRC
26 Free time
28 Last letter from London
30 "___: Warrior Princess"
32 Virginia dance
35 Close by, old-style
44 Paved with small stones
45 Spanish port
46 Paper hankies
47 Rhea's relative
50 Bus, degree
53 Loathes
55 Demolishes
58 Pinta's sister ship
61 Carry on
62 Butt
63 Pester
65 Muhammad
66 Compass pt.