

## 'RENEWAL'

Continued from page 1

atrium between the Alumni Gym and the SRC, the two of the phases will be combined. Three of the trustees, who are also Rider alumni, pushed for the fundraising to concurrently combine the phases.

"I am pleased to announce we've raised enough money and we are confident that we'll be able to implement Phase II, which will involve an atrium connecting the Alumni Gym and SRC," said Rozanski.

The beginning of the planning for Phase II has been initiated, going "hand-in-hand" with construction on the new residence hall, which is also scheduled to be finished by next fall.

Rozanski also announced that the University is working on renovations of the studio theater in Fine Arts. The necessary fundraising is \$300,000, of which \$240,000 has already been raised. Six hundred thousand dollars is also going to be raised to upgrade the Cranberry Café, the Pub and other eating facilities on campus. In the future, they also hope to install first class stadium seats, concessions and lights in the new Sonny Pittaro baseball field.

Strategic planning, which involved the work of task forces, was prominent in enabling all of this progress to take place and is still in the process of being developed, according to Rozanski. Instead of waiting to start the projects, the University initiated the plans.

"[Strategic planning] has provided a context for our renewal and is driving many of the initiatives we've undertaken and frankly, we're not waiting for [strategic planning to be completed], although the plan is to have it completed by the

summer of 2005."

Included on the list of significant issues discussed were enrollment management, academic programming initiatives, institutional leadership issues, the integration of the two campuses, facilities enhancements and fundraising activities.

"We are moving gradually now to the process of also developing goals and action plans, but the key first issue was to establish initially our strengths as an institution. They are the foundation, the pillar upon which this institution has been so successful over the years and will continue to be successful in the future."

Part of this included strengthening institutional focuses and the "student-centeredness," intellectual engagement and leader development.

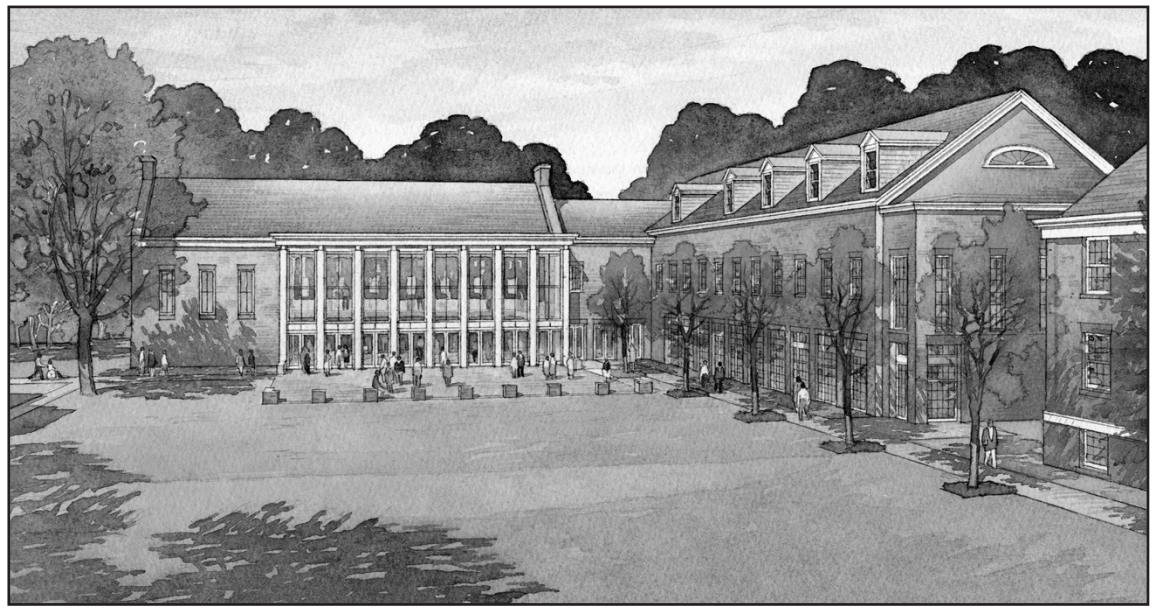
"I don't have to tell you about the commitment to success of the students," said Rozanski. "I think it's the combination of these that make us so distinctive, and make this place so desirable for us to live, learn and to work."

Active and engaged learning both within and outside the classes, honors programming, installing learning communities in residence halls and the Center for Development and Leadership Skills were all highlighted as part of the efforts.

"Our hope is that our students will have portfolios where they can demonstrate, articulate how they have achieved leadership skills both in the classroom and through experiential opportunities," said Rozanski.

Other issues included outreach to surrounding communities, the increased involvement of alumni and development of diverse perspective and social responsibilities.

One of the more striking announcements was that the University has been fairly active this first semester in fundraising



Conceptual drawing courtesy of Earle Rommel

President Rozanski announced the proposed construction of a new \$10 million academic building on the WCC campus, located near Taylor Hall, completing an enclosed academic quad.

as figures were displayed that showed from July 1 to Nov. 1 of this year, fundraising produced \$3.23 million dollars, up substantially from \$0.71 million raised during the same time period last year.

"We're going to continue to work very hard," said Rozanski. "We must develop a margin of excellence because we can't just rely on tuition."

The integration of the campuses will also include offering performance themes across both campuses, Arts Management and American Studies minors and Westminster Choir College (WCC) pursuits of Law minors.

"We need to be offering more programs [at Westminster] for the benefit of the students there and also for the Princeton community," he said.

Phyllis Frakt, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, highlighted the critical search for the Dean for the College of Business and also the 25 Shanghai students from Sanda University who are scheduled to arrive here to take classes from January 2005 to January 2006 in order to get a degree that is from both Rider and Sanda. Three of them have

already been approved for their student visas and Frakt said that she hopes the rest of the students will also be as successful in attaining theirs.

"The wildcard has always been the granting of visas [by the U.S. consulate in China]," she said.

She also included new programs to be initiated, including an integrated math and science major, particularly of interest to Education majors who want to teach in those areas. There will also be a Masters Degree in teaching with various tracks, liberal studies in environmental sciences, events planning and arts management minors, an advertising major with multiple tracks and a graphic design certificate program.

Vice President of Enrollment Jamie O'Hara also talked about freshman enrollment, citing the need for more open houses and some 80 families on average who attend the open Saturdays they recently started holding. They have also reached out to guidance counselors of schools in the area, offering them events to attend and increasing transfer enrollment from surrounding community colleges. Westminster

enrollment has also been a significant focus, he said.

"We will participate for the first time in international recruitment," said O'Hara, who pointed out that they have marketed to eight Asian countries as well.

The University has placed ads in national and local newspapers and has also done radio announcements, along with the new website, which he said is a lengthy project, and is still incorporating use for current users.

"The website really addresses needs of current students and current faculty members," O'Hara said.

Rozanski then opened up a question and answer session and told the audience if anyone had any questions, they could contact more on the topics discussed.

"My hope in sharing these ideas with you, [is that] it will give you a sense of the tremendous energy of this University," said Rozanski. "It is contributing greatly to the sense of focus and direction of our institution as we look at ourselves in five years or ten years from now."

## Women's rights among topics discussed by UNFPA member

By Jeff Frankel

Women's rights and the AIDS epidemic were topics of concern for Dr. Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, executive director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and United Nations Under-Secretary General, who visited Rider for her talk entitled, "ICPD is What I Am About."

In her speech, Obaid talked about the world population, and the rising dangers of HIV/AIDS, but mainly how women are being treated in the world.

"Women can make a difference—they can work and walk around as they please," said Obaid, referring to women in Saudi Arabia.

Obaid is credited with raising women's rights a step higher, by endorsing an adopted resolution by the United Nations Security Council that labels rape during war as a war crime.

She also discussed how the world communities are faring. Latin America has pockets of poor people, mainly those who are indigenous to the area. In Asia, particularly India and China, people are affected by the AIDS epidemic. Europe's immigrants from places like Africa are also hard hit with AIDS, along with Russia, according to Obaid.

"Russia is the fastest growing country for AIDS," she said. "And 95 percent of women 17-25 are on drugs."

Obaid noted, however, that Africa is the most impacted area. There they have poverty, malnutrition and HIV/AIDS, she said.

Despite being two of the most industrialized countries in the world, the USA and Britain have troubles of their own. One example is that both countries are plagued with teenage pregnancy.

However, despite the problems of the United States, other countries still look up to it, said Obaid.

"Coming from developing countries, everyone wishes they could be more like America," she said.

The event, which took place in Sweigart Auditorium on Thursday, Nov. 4, was

co-sponsored by Global and Multinational Studies, the Multicultural Studies Program, the Global and Multinational Studies Society, the Political Science Club and the Public Relations Society.

According to Dr. Roberta Fiske-Rusciano, adjunct assistant professor of political science, Rider's Global and Multinational Studies students first spoke with Obaid one year ago during a video conference with the U.N. Ambassadors Club.

"They found her so engaging that they immediately wanted her to visit Rider," said Fiske-Rusciano. "With her busy schedule, it has taken a year for this to come to fruition."

Obaid is the first Saudi