

Key member of senior staff retires after 25 years

By Cara Latham

After 25 years serving as part of the Rider family, Christina Petruska, the Vice President for Institutional Planning, is retiring at the end of this semester.

Petruska has worked for three out of six of Rider's presidents, along with many different departments during her time at the University.

Beginning her career with Rider in 1979, she was hired as the assistant director for personnel, covering for the Director of Personnel, who was on maternity leave. However, the director was not able to return and the position opened up. Petruska was then promoted as Director of Personnel, which eventually became Human Resources.

Petruska liked working with the Department of Human Resources because it dealt with many people, which allowed her to interact with so many faces.

"Everyone comes through

your door [at Human Resources]," said Petruska. "I got to deal with some great people."

When Bart Luedeke became President of the University, Petruska was asked to work in Auxiliary Services as well, which included the bookstore, the University's printing press, (which existed before Rider had Collegiate Press) and facilities.

"[Luedeke] gave me the opportunity to expand my responsibilities," she said.

After a couple of years, Petruska was asked by Luedeke to work in the President's office, where she was involved with the first strategic planning process to occur within the University, as well as the first National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) self-study that Rider conducted. She also became involved with athletics. Luedeke restructured the senior staff after one of its members retired and Petruska became involved with admissions and facilities,

in addition to the athletics.

"All three areas depend on each other," said Petruska. "It was a wonderful opportunity for me to get involved in areas [that I hadn't worked with before]."

Petruska had planned on retiring last summer, but when President Mordechai Rozanski arrived and announced the construction plans, which involved facilities, she decided to stay a little longer, she said.

"I always had a special place in my heart for facilities," said Petruska. "I've seen a lot of changes at Rider, and with this renewal effort that [Rozanski] has going, there's more opportunities on the horizon. It's more spirited."

Petruska received her degree from Douglass College at Rutgers University and studied abroad in England during her junior year. Before coming to Rider, she worked for personnel at a manufacturing company. Her husband retired two years ago and Petruska said that



Photo by Marie Brophy

Christina Petruska, Vice President for Institutional Planning is retiring to complete 25 years at Rider.

his retirement was a motivation for her to retire as well.

However, Petruska said that she was content with her experience at the University.

"I have a real sense of satisfaction, particularly in this last period, to see the buildings go up," she said.

Petruska said that she would miss the people, including col-

leagues and students, the most when she leaves Rider.

"We talk about [Rider] as being a family place for students, but it works the same way for [the employees]," she said. "How wonderful to spend 25 years in a work environment that has as its goal education. It's satisfying."

Minimal damage causes maximum stress for victim of car theft

By Randy Townsend

A victim of the recent rash of stolen vehicles that were taken from the Lawrenceville campus recalls her nightmarish experiences, including the inconveniences that have resulted from the recovery of her car.

Freshman Amanda Coyle, whose 1989 Honda Accord was stolen from the O-Lot in late October, said she thought her car would be safe if she parked on campus.

"It was a horrible feeling to walk into the lot and not be able to find my car," said Coyle. "I walked back and forth six times. It felt like my stomach dropped."

Nearly a week after her car was reported stolen, it was found abandoned in Trenton with what Rider Security described as "minimal damage." The entire passenger side was dented and scraped, the rear bumper was falling off and a rear light was smashed. The

inside of the vehicle had been stripped of the head unit, ashtrays, air vents, glove compartment, CD player and speakers, along with \$2,000 of CUTCO products. Soda and ashes littered the interior.

It appears the thieves gained access by popping out the driver's side mirror and using a thin, metal object, which was found inside of the recovered vehicle, to unlock the door. Coyle said she also found two screwdrivers and traces of marijuana in the car and estimates that about \$5,000 worth of damage had been done to the vehicle, which was only covered with liability insurance.

"The only parts of the car that were still there were the seats, steering wheel, gear shift, seat covers and the rearview mirror," said Coyle. "I guess minimal damage just means drivable."

When she discovered her car was stolen, Coyle was going to visit her grandfather in the hospital, who has since passed

away. Now, she uses his car to get around and parks it in the O-Lot.

"I still don't feel that the cars are safe," said Coyle. "I'm on my guard all the time."

According to Security, the University has been very cooperative with their recommendations on how to prevent further incidents of car theft.

"They respond to our requests in a timely manner," said Captain Thomas Tucker. "There have been no more stolen vehicles reported since we returned from the Thanksgiving break."

Since her car was stolen, Coyle has done her part to make sure the thieves don't strike again. She photographed

two suspicious individuals in the parking lot and reported the incident to Security.

"I know Security works very hard, but I think we need more security cameras," said Coyle. "I'm not sure if those guys were going to try and steal a car, but they looked suspicious and I didn't want to take any chances."

'MBA'

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a career path leading there," Newman said.

Rider University has dual accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), an external organization that measures the quality of a program based on the quality of teaching, faculty and facilities. Rider is

accredited for both its business and accounting schools.

Only 9 percent of schools have dual accreditation, said Newman.

Conflicts between professors and executives-in-residence over certain topics aren't a major concern.

"That's not an issue," said Newman. "I think of the butting of heads as intellectual stimulation."

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