

'MONEY'

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understanding is, once disbursements got everything settled everything has been okay."

Sophomore Rachel Messler works in the Admissions office. Every other Friday, she has had a paycheck waiting for her, as expected. However, a few weeks ago she received a call from student financial services informing her that her I-9, a federal identification form, which, according to her, was handed in over the summer, is missing.

"I never realized there was a problem until they called me," said Messler. "I told them that I had handed it in months ago and they told me they would take care of it. Then they called again and said they were going to hold my paycheck until I gave them my I-9 form."

She visited financial services three times this week alone to sort out the issue.

"I went back just to double-check and they didn't really pay much attention to me," she said. "If my paycheck does not go through because of something that isn't my fault, I'm going to be really mad. I'm just nervous. This is not a time

when I can afford not to have money."

Messler's supervisor, admissions counselor Susan Makowski said that she understands Financial Services deals with an "enormous" amount of students, which makes the office's job even more difficult.

"From what I've heard, contracts have been lost. Now I am copying everything that I send over to them," she said. "I know that Financial Services is overwhelmed. It's a busy time of year for everybody."

The assistant director of Student Financial Services Judith Wood has temporarily taken over the area that deals with students working forms. According to her, the office has a system of ensuring that students who experience problems with their forms are notified immediately.

"We currently have a way of tracking the progress of our inquiries to the students," she said. "We have, in place, a tracking device from our department so we can determine how many times a student has been called."

According to William Roell, Associate Vice President of the finance division, there are three parties involved in the student payment process:

disbursements, which takes care of the pay; student financial services, which is in charge of the contracts federal forms and the supervisors who are in charge of getting their workers' timesheets into Disbursements on time.

"What I would suggest for students is to have that conversation with their supervisors and tell them that time sheets are going to be due so that there is no issue of guessing," he said. "If you as a student miss that prearranged date then it's your fault. If not then it's an issue with the supervisors."

Director of Disbursements Debbie Farris said the department welcomes calls from students who are concerned about getting paid.

"We prefer to deal with students," she said. "It's their pay and they have the right to hear it directly from us if there is a hold up."

Farris said that her office has not noticed any rise in problems this semester, when compared to previous semesters.

"You're going to notice some every semester," she said. "I would say that this has been slightly less than last year. We have gotten to the point where the process has come together

United holiday lights up the Cavalla Room



Photo by
Haley Baum, SGA president, received the flame to light the big Rider candle at the Celebration of Lights yesterday.

pretty smoothly."

Associate vice-president of student affairs, Anthony Campbell said he was not aware of the issue and that it "certainly should be investigated." "If they've done the work, they should be compensated," he said. "I'm happy to help students who are having problems with this."

Junior Jim Lewis works for Security and said that he is

currently looking for an off-campus job for next semester to avoid taking any chances with his pay.

"I'll still keep my on-campus job but just drop some of my hours because I can't have this happening," he said. "You never know when something like that is going to happen. Personally I think that they should get a hold of the system a little better."

'RATIFIED'

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gramming role, a new structure would be greatly needed."

The biggest challenge the SGA faced in writing the new constitution was with the use of specific words. The use of the word "may" as opposed to the word "will," "shall," or "must," could cause problems in interpretation and could void the entire document. Every word had to fit with every other word in every other sentence. Larry Johnson, associate dean of students, helped the SGA in

selecting the proper terminology.

"My objective was to work along with the group and really analyze the document to make sure that it had internal consistency, and that the language of the constitution met the specific needs and objectives of what the government was seeking to accomplish," said Johnson. "I was more of a guide for this; they did all of the work."

The old constitution was purposeful for programming and allowed the SGA to meet on a regular basis to talk about the issues on campus. Advisor Laura Hubbard, who helped

with the creation of the new constitution, said it wasn't on the level that they needed.

"We didn't have a senate, committees or all of those things that help you through the legislative process," said Hubbard. "Some things were omitted or left out, so we took the foundation of what they had and added to that."

In order to make sure they were using the correct structural organization and wording, the SGA researched the governing documents of Rider's Lawrenceville campus, Northwestern University, The College of New Jersey, Princeton University, and

Eastman School of Music at Rochester University. Dean Robert Annis said the new constitution represents an optimistic and forward-moving outlook that is held by both campuses of Rider University.

"The motivation came from the leadership of the student body and it was there energy that moved it along," said Annis. "It's important as an administrator to know that there's a group of individuals that understand the pulse of what's going on in the student body."

Associate vice-president of students affairs, Anthony Campbell said the new consti-

tution will help make sure that the students on the Princeton campus have the same opportunities as the students on the Lawrenceville campus.

"This ratification ceremony creates a student government that represents all of the students on the Princeton campus and integrates more fully into what we're trying to do at the Lawrenceville campus," said Campbell. "This is an exciting time because it fulfills a lot that we have a mission, that we have a student government on both campuses that are equally powerful and equally active."

'SANDA'

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has already asked us to expand to other majors, but that's going to take some [discussion]," because there are some differences in the programs between Sanda and Rider, and they would have to be worked out first.

"They're interested now also in developing a program with the communications department," said Frakt.

Frakt visited China in 1998 to tour 10 universities in five cities to see which of those could establish a partnership program. On the trip, she visited Sanda, who expressed sig-

nificant interest in Rider. In 2002, Rider signed an agreement with Dr. Yuan Ji and Sanda began to recruit students for this program. Frakt said that this start to the program was all due to the help of Dr. Minmin Wang, a professor in the communication department.

"She's the one who got Rider in touch with a college friend of hers in China," who works for an international group in New York. "He arranged the trip for me to go to China. If it wasn't for [Wang], the program wouldn't have started."

Since Sanda is located just outside of Shanghai, the school is in a major economic development zone, where corporations from all over the world, such as Volkswagen and General

Motors, have large corporate business branches.

"The intent [of the program] is to prepare these students for work in these areas," said Kelly. "It gives them a great opportunity."

Kelly said that Rider is undergoing the extensive process of preparation for the students.

Student mentors are currently training through a series of seminars to prepare them for the Sanda students' arrival. The students, who are business majors, were paired one-on-one with each Sanda student to help them in their adjustment. In addition, business school faculty members will be selected as faculty advisors to both the Sanda students and their stu-

dent mentors.

"We want to create real good communication," said Kelly. "We want to minimize their anxiety."

The mentors have already begun corresponding to the Chinese students via e-mail.

Threatt said that Residence Life has also been active in laying the groundwork for the program. A special orientation program has been planned.

The staff has also put together an FAQ sheet, which will be given to them before they get here. Things included in the FAQ are the use of the computer labs, the amount of spending money they should bring for a whole year, the type of clothes needed for four seasons, the details for purchas-

ing extra-long bed linens and advice on adjusting to the typical schedule of a Rider student.

"The standard day of a young person in China is really structured," said Threatt, and for this reason, they might not be used to as much free time as an American student is used to.

The staff is working on ensuring the nutritional needs of the students.

"We will work with Aramark for dietary courtesies we should know ahead of time," said Threatt. "We're going to figure out comfort food options and balance it so that we're not minimizing their American experience."