Editorial:
Summer sessions fall just shy of A+

Summer school. These two words are more than enough to scare any elementary-school child into straightening up and flying right. However, the term has come to take on a different connotation at Rider. The University has recently revamped its summer session offerings in an attempt to sell more students on the concept of warm-weather education. Rider has done an excellent job creating its new plans, but there are still a few kinks in the system that will need to be worked out as the years go by.

Chief among these weaknesses is the course roster itself. Very few classes are actually offered over the summer and these usually only fulfill general requirements. For example, there are only two courses in the Communication Department being offered this summer that would fulfill an individual track requirement. These classes are Radio and Television Communication, which counts toward the Radio and Television track, and Intercultural Communication, which counts toward the Interpersonal Communication track. The rest of the University’s offerings fulfill general Communication course requirements, such as Writing for the Media I and Mass Media Communication, which can be easily met during the normal school year. In the future, the University will need to offer more specialized courses that aren’t available as readily during the fall or spring.

However, when it comes to tuition, Rider seems to know its stuff. Summer undergraduates will pay only $370 per credit, as opposed to the normal $730 per credit fee paid each year as part of every student’s blanket tuition. This one should be a no-brainer, since summer sessions should cost considerably less than fall or spring sessions. Classes offered in the fall or spring last considerably longer than the three-week and six-week sessions available during the summer. As such, a course condensed into such a small time frame, while much more intense than a normal class, usually ends up consuming much less of an individual’s time in the long run. Furthermore, a lower price is required in order to convince students that giving up any part of their summer break is, in fact, worth their time.

Rider does another good thing with their summer tuition, they don’t differentiate between in-state and out-of-state students. At The College of New Jersey (TCNJ), summer tuition is broken down into four categories: in-state visiting students who pay $371.95 per credit; in-state TCNJ students who pay $306.95 per credit; out-of-state visiting students who pay $547.30 per credit; and out-of-state TCNJ students who pay $482.30 per credit. This is done because TCNJ receives state funding for New Jersey students only. Because of this, the school is forced to make up the difference by charging out-of-state students more money. Rider is not affected by this, however, and has benefited from it by establishing a uniform summer tuition for each student. This simple price could motivate a large number of individuals from other states to join the Rider community, at least for the summer.

The University’s new approach to its summer sessions is an exception to the norm. As with all new things, some time is needed to iron out the imperfections. If Rider can begin offering more specialized summer courses while maintaining their current tuition rates, then the stigma surrounding the words “summer school” may just become a thing of the past.

This weekly editorial expresses the majority opinion of The Rider News editorial board and is written by the Opinion Editor.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“If you feel that you have both feet planted on level ground, then the university has failed you.”

— Robert Goheen

Gender Matters:
Why can’t all women just get along?

Ladies, imagine you’re going out on a Saturday night with this great guy. You’re stunning—your hair, make-up and the outfit you put together all look amazing. You and your date are out when you notice another woman, whom you think looks great too. You wonder where she got her outfit, until you see the guy you’re with checking her out too. What thoughts creep into your head? As a woman, I know I immediately start verbally bashing her in my head, saying she’s trying too hard.

Something I’ve recently noticed from both my own perspective and my other friends: it seems as though women are always competing with one another. It’s hard not to notice other women, and even teenage girls look at you disgustedly when you walk out of the house thinking you look spectacular. It’s understandable to a point that some women don’t like it when another woman is getting all the guys’ attention, or even if you, as a woman, see her wearing something that you want, but can’t buy, but come on. Why does a woman have to go out of the house and compete with the rest of us?

Let’s face it; we can’t live with or without men. In a group of single women, their prime objective is probably to pick up a hot guy and take him home. So, when we see our prey looking at another woman, we turn from Miss “Seductive” to Miss “I Saw Him First.” Ladies, we have to get over the fact that men will stare at other women. Just like us, men do have wandering eyes. But just because they’re not interested in us doesn’t mean we can’t find someone else. I believe in taking on the policies of “there are plenty of fish in the sea” and “he doesn’t know what he’s missing.”