



## Brick Campaign

As you reflect on your time at Rio and the friendships you built, we invite you to celebrate your journey by purchasing a personalized brick. These bricks serve as a lasting tribute to your experiences, achievements, and the enduring bonds forged within our university community.

So far, we've sold 200 bricks and raised nearly \$11,000 for our students. If you haven't purchased a brick yet, it's not too late!

Bricks will be prominently displayed around the Bell Tower, creating a permanent testament to the memories you hold dear, and the connections shared by the Rio family.

Bricks purchased will be installed in two phases, November 2024 and May 2025, as we lead up to our historic 150th-anniversary celebration in 2026.

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## Insuring Success with Higher Education

For first-generation college students, University of Rio Grande is a way to strengthen a family legacy. Rio Grande is also an opportunity for both traditional and non-traditional students to excel in an environment of shared learning experiences.

Robin Fowler ('01) has been all three.

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DePaul Cristo Rey Chief Financial Officer Randy Koehler ('01) was the nonprofit CFO category winner at the Cincinnati Business Courier's 10th annual C-Suite Awards which honor top-level executives who've shown outstanding leadership and led stellar performance at Greater Cincinnati businesses and nonprofits. He, with the other nominees and winners, was honored at a ceremony in downtown Cincinnati in October.



### **Celebrate Excellence: Nominate a Rio Alum**

Rio takes pride in recognizing the remarkable achievements and contributions of its alumni. Each year, we honor individuals who exemplify the values, spirit, and excellence of our

institution. As alumni, you have the unique opportunity to spotlight your peers who have made a lasting impact in their fields, communities, and the university itself.

Whether it's celebrating athletic prowess, professional milestones, or selfless service, these awards are a testament to the incredible talent and dedication within our alumni network.

Established in 1973, the **Athletic Hall of Fame** honors exceptional individuals who have left a lasting legacy as athletes, coaches, or athletic administrators at Rio.

As Rio Grande's most prestigious accolade, the **Distinguished Alumnus Award** award—founded in 1967—honors graduates who have achieved unparalleled success in their professional lives, contributed to society, and demonstrated unwavering support for the university.

This **Distinguished Service Award** has recognized alumni who have dedicated themselves to serving Rio Grande or the Alumni Association. From alumni programs to advisory committees, these individuals have worked tirelessly to support the institution's mission and welfare.

Established in 1970, the **Atwood Achievement Award** highlights alumni who have distinguished themselves through personal achievements in professional or civic spheres, bringing honor to Rio Grande. It also celebrates those who are dedicated to promoting the university's ideals and objectives.

The **Educator Hall of Fame** celebrates Rio's tradition of academic excellence by recognizing alumni who have excelled in the field of education. From inspiring students to pioneering teaching methods, these individuals represent the finest of Rio Grande's educational legacy.

### **Submit Your Nominations Today**

Do you know someone who deserves to be celebrated for their contributions at Rio and beyond? Nominate them for one of these esteemed awards! Your nomination helps preserve and honor the legacy of our alumni and inspires future generations to reach for greatness.

[\*\*Nominate\*\*](#)

## **Rio Receives Two Transformative Endowment Gifts, Paving the Way for Academic Growth**

We are proud to announce two endowment gifts from the estates of generous benefactors. The gifts, totaling \$2.8 million, will enhance our scholarship endowment, offering sustained financial support to deserving students.

"These gifts allow us to expand scholarship opportunities that will open doors for students," said President Ryan Smith. "We are deeply grateful for the generosity and vision of these donors, whose legacies will empower generations of students to achieve their academic goals."

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## Bevo Weekend Recap

This year's Bevo Francis Invitational was held November 22 & 23. The men's basketball team picked up a pair of wins against Carolina and Lindsey Wilson. The Redstorm women were also unbeaten on the weekend, topping both Governors State and Lindsey Wilson.

Along with the strong showing by both basketball squads, the weekend was capped off by the 2024 Athletic Hall of Fame ceremony. The 2024 inductees were, Kaylee Helton, Brandon Ivery and Whitney (Smith) Roseberry. You can learn more about this year's class on [Rio's website](#).

The 2024 invitational marked the first year without either Bevo or Jean Francis. Jean passed away in September of this year and was preceded in death by the great Frank "Bevo" Francis in 2015, after 63 years of marriage.

## Yearbook Project

We know that your time spent at Rio is an important part of who you are today. Celebrating and sharing these memories with those around you is also important. That's why we are launching a project to create virtual yearbooks for students from 1993-present day.

The Grandion has not been produced in over 30 years. So, we need your help! If you have any photos, memories, or important information to share from your time at Rio in the 90's, please email us at [redstormmedia@rio.edu](mailto:redstormmedia@rio.edu).

And if you didn't go to Rio in the 90's, don't worry, we'll be asking for information from alumni in the 2000's soon.

To celebrate the kick-off of this project, we've uploaded copies of yearbooks from years past on our alumni page. [Be sure to check it out!](#)

