



## **Fall Founders' Fridays Around Rio Grande**

This fall, to celebrate the 148th birthday of University of Rio Grande & Rio Grande Community College, we hosted a series of events throughout August and September. Click the photo collage to see all of the fall event albums on Facebook. We hosted tailgates in Jackson and Gallipolis; a Live on the Green Concert and Community Celebration, which highlighted our Founders' Day of Giving projects, and promoted local businesses, Athletic Teams, and Greek Life; enjoyed weekly Throwback Thursday videos from Archives Volunteer, Jake Bapst; hosted weekly campus tours for alumni; a Farm to Fork Dinner; and raised over \$230,000 for five projects across campus. It was lovely to see everyone for our several events.

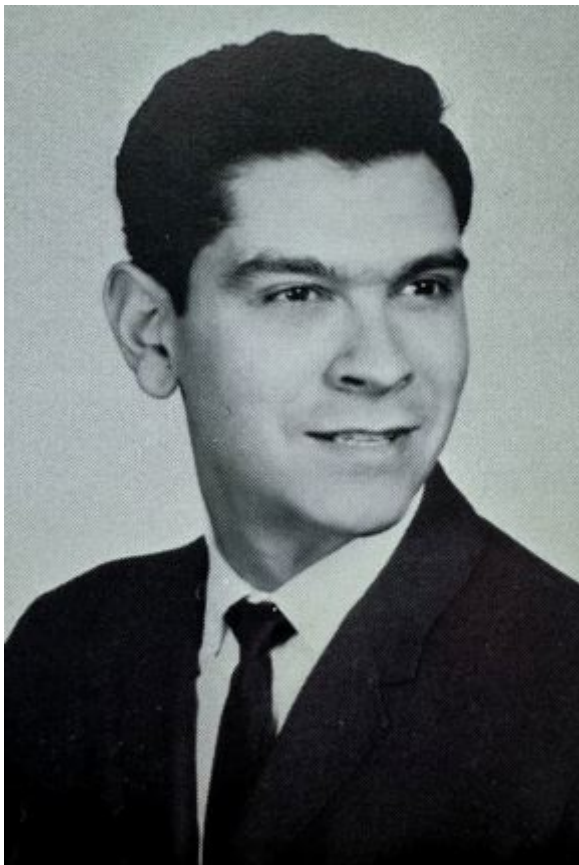


*Pictured (top left) is Cami NYX, who was the headline performer at our Live on the Green event, with her father, who attended Rio briefly. The middle right photo features Rio alums Dr. Marla and Paul Haller with Coach Wilson at the Jackson vs. Ironton pre-game tailgate. Pictured (bottom left) is Chef Austin Cole explaining a Farm to Fork Dinner course to University Trustees, Jim and M'Lou Morrison, and Athletic Director Jeff Lanham and wife Mary Lou. Lastly, the bottom right photo is Head Women's Wrestling Coach Alexia Wagner and assistant Qiante Wagner with Archon brothers Kurt Williams and Brad Varney after the duck drop.*



**Attention: The deadline to buy your personalized brick for Fall 2024 installation is October 5. You can click this image to navigate to the order form.**

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## **Alumni Spotlight - Angel Colon ('69)**

Everyone's journey to the University of Rio Grande is unique. For some, it's a convenient, cost-effective solution to earn a high-quality education. For others, it may be the promise of more playing time in a collegiate sport. It could also be the comfort of smaller class sizes on a campus that feels like home.

For Angel Colon ('69), it was a second chance to do college the right way.

"I graduated from high school in New York City in 1962 with a 3.5 GPA and a full scholarship to Hunter College," he said. "Unfortunately, I did not receive much pre-college counseling. I wound up flunking out the first semester, which was devastating. I then worked for two years to save enough money to attend any school in the country."

So, how did a kid from the mean streets of the South Bronx wind up at Rio Grande College?

"I read about an organization called Dollars for Scholars," he said. "It was like a clearinghouse for scholarships, and one of the recruiters suggested applying for a grant from a very fine school in the southern part of Ohio. So, I wrote them a letter, and they called and accepted me over the phone."

Angel flew to Ohio for a tour of Rio Grande College in 1965. His student tour guide, Phillip Bush, made such a positive impression that the two became roommates in Haning Hall that fall.

"There aren't many nice people in the Bronx," he said. "I come to Ohio, and everyone is so nice in these wide-open spaces. It was farm country, and I loved it."

As a student, Angel became a yearbook photographer and helped form a pep band to support the basketball team. He also majored and thrived in his one true passion: math.

After graduation, Angel moved to Chicago to live with his brother and find work. With the Vietnam War still raging, landing his first job was challenging.

"The first question they ask you in an interview is your draft status," he said. "I was 1-A, which meant I could be available for active military status at any time. No one would hire me and waste money on training because they thought I'd get drafted."

Because of Angel's experiences at Rio, he also knew he didn't want to live in New York again.

"I could not see myself living in apartment buildings for the rest of my life," he said. "Not after living in Rio Grande and seeing the countryside and houses where you'd have to walk several minutes just to see your neighbor. It changed my life."

Angel eventually landed sales jobs in southern California with Belden Wire & Cable and later at for AMP, Inc. during the microelectronics boom. After a recession, he took a job with the government of Puerto Rico, which he hated.

"It was a typical government job, and it was terrible," he said. "While I was there, I started looking for another more permanent career. Some of the guys in the office were talking about how their stocks were up and down, so I asked how they invested money. That's how I found out about stockbrokers."

Angel began making calls and got hired immediately. He wondered why every brokerage firm he talked to practically wanted to hire him over the phone.

"Little did I know that one of the things that stock brokerage companies look for in a candidate is the ability to pick up the phone and call a stranger to talk to them about investing," he said. "They wanted a person who was self-driven to make phone calls, make appointments and bring in clients. I didn't know that. I thought it was just a salary job. What did I know?"

Angel would spend the rest of his career on 100% commission, selling stocks and bonds for well-respected investment firms like Payne Weber Jackson, & Curtis and Smith Barney.

Angel retired in 2009 and now spends his golden years in sunny Laguna Niguel, California. He still loves the fact that a little college in Ohio prepared a New Yorker for a successful life in California.

"The courses I took gave me a very well-rounded education," he said. "I think that it prepared me for the working world. That was a wonderful, wonderful part of my life. My wife recently had my

diploma framed for me as a birthday gift; looking at it brings back a warm memory. That's the best way I can describe it. And it always puts a smile on my face."

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## **REGIONAL CHAMPIONS**

In their inaugural tournament as the University of Rio Grande Archery Team, the team earned 17 podium finishes and recorded a dominant 191 overall team points, winning the 2024 USA Archery Collegiate 3D Regionals North Championship. Way to Go Rio!

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The annual [Fox Float, benefitting Alpha Mu Beta Lorie Neal Memorial Scholarship](#) is scheduled for Saturday, October 12, 2024 and will be followed by a Beer Garden from 4:00 PM-10:00 PM with Live Entertainment for Rockets over Rio as part of the Bob Evans Farm Festival Activities. There's plenty to do, so make a day of it and join your Rio Family to Celebrate the festivities. Rio Grande Men's Soccer will face WVU Tech at 11:00 AM, followed by Women's Volleyball vs. IU Columbus at 12:00 PM in Lyne Center, Women's Soccer vs. WVU Tech at 3:00 PM and Men's Rugby vs. Thomas More at 5:30 PM. The fireworks are scheduled to begin at 8:30 PM.

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## Faculty in the News

Rio's Dr. Savannah Applegate was recently named to a list of forty up-and-coming food safety professionals from all across the world! Join us in congratulating Savannah on being named to the "40 Under 40" list by the Alliance to Stop Foodborne Illness.

[Alliance 40 Under 40 Food Safety Professionals | STOP \(stopfoodborneillness.org\)](#)

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Exciting news in the world of football. This fall, we have coaching staff and 17 student-athletes on campus preparing for the launch of football in Fall of 2025. Students are from several states and have been doing 6:00 AM workouts, evening lifting practices and community engagement events like the Jackson County Apple Festival Saturday Night parade. Mike and Vicky Denney of Denney Enterprises have gifted the first \$100,000 to help with start-up costs of the program. [They have challenged fellow Alumni to support football.](#)



## Save the Date for Rio Events

September 28, Rio Renaissance Faire

September 29, Football Derby Fundraiser at The Colony

October 1 [Last Day to Purchase a Brick for the Alumni Bell Tower Fall Installation](#)

October 11-13 Bob Evans Farm Festival

October 12 Rockets Over Rio, AMB Fox Float and Beer Garden

October 25 [Tailgate in Waverly, OH with Pike Center Director Tracy Rice and Coach Wilson](#)

November 7 - Cathleen Kneafsey, Ceramics Workshop 1 PM (register with [kyles@rio.edu](mailto:kyles@rio.edu))

Exhibition to follow in the Gallery, Artist Reception, 5-7 PM Greer Museum

November 21- 23 [Bevo Classic Weekend, Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony \(Tickets\)](#)

November 24 - Grande Chorale Fall Performance

April 10 Changing Tomorrows Fundraising Dinner for Student Scholarships

May 11 Commencement, Class of 1975 50-Year Celebration

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**Thank you to Mrs. Phyllis Brandeberry, Class of 1974 for the beautiful new wreath that adorns the Alumni Memorial Bell Tower! We appreciate every one of you that continues to support our mission of providing opportunities to students. Everyone can make a difference by giving their time, talent, or treasure to an area they feel passionate to support. Contact the Office of Institutional Advancement 740-245-7200 or visit [rio.edu/giving](http://rio.edu/giving) to find out more.**

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