



Rio "like Ohio" Alumni in Columbus May 31

Calyssa Mayes '13 and husband Nick, President Smith and wife Vickie Smith '92 and their children, Larry Gugliemi '73 and wife Celeste '03, Nicole Ogg, '90 Betsy Kite '89 and husband Steve, Athletic Director Jeff Lanham, wife Mary Lou, daughter Mattie Miller '17 and husband Cameron, Jen Wickline, Head Baseball Coach Brad R. Warnimont and wife Sue, baseball player Reid Shultz and softball player Kate Brisker, Kurt Williams '66, Joe Ullery '68 and Art Barr '71. Tracey Cokenhauer '90 joined the group at the Columbus Clippers Baseball Game.



Rio Awards 379 Graduates at Commencement Ceremony

Despite early morning rain and lingering clouds, University of Rio Grande and Rio Grande Community College held its 148th Commencement Ceremony on the afternoon of Saturday, May 11. The annual ceremony celebrated the academic achievements of the 2024 graduating class.

Elaine Armstrong, a 1986 graduation of University of Rio Grande, was this year's Commencement Speaker. Armstrong spoke to the graduates about the importance of resilience and chasing their dreams.

A total of 379 students received certificates and degrees, with 26 earning more than one. The full ceremony can be seen on Rio's YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/@uofriogrande



Prior to the ceremony, the Class of 1974 enjoyed a President’s Brunch in the Alumni Heritage Room to celebrate 50 years since their special graduation day! Pictured with President Smith is Earl Thomas, Paul A. and Christi Dunfee, Dr. Vicki Smith and Phyllis Brandeberry.

Legacy Giving Luncheon Planned for July 25 in Jackson, Ohio

If you work for or own a financial planning, insurance or estate law practice, please consider joining us for a free luncheon to learn more about all the great things at Rio! We look forward to partnering with you to help us create a sustainable financial future for decades of students to come! Those of you who have indicated that you have left gifts to Rio in your will shall receive an invitation by mail in the coming- weeks for this event as well. Call 740-245-7200 to RSVP or for more information.



Alumni Spotlight

Recently, Mr. Adam Bush '03, made us aware of a wonderful achievement about his wife, Allison (Sword) Bush.

Allison graduated from Rio in 2001 with a degree in Music Education. In 2002, they moved to Nashville for Adam to pursue endeavors in the recording business/music industry, while Allison began her teaching career in Tennessee.

She recently received the Tennessee Arts Academy (TAA) Teacher Hero award through the Tennessee Arts Academy at Belmont University. The TAA is one of the premier associations in the country supporting arts education/ educators.

Allison is also a 3x teacher of the year recipient of two different schools, in her career, along with other awards mentioned. Her school, Union STEAM Elementary, was also an "Arts Rich School of Merit" through the Tennessee Arts Academy this year.

Way to go, Allison and family!

percussion groups at Jack White's Third Man Records Recording Studio where they make 45/single record every other year and Allison with team after receiving the STEAM designation.



Scholarship Dinner raises over \$44,000 for URG/RGCC Students

Jackson County native Kayleigh Osborne, who returned to school as a non-traditional student, shared her story on the impact that scholarships had on her educational journey.

“I probably wouldn’t be here if it weren’t for scholarships,” she said. “We had to shift to a one income household and scholarships helped tremendously to make my dreams come true.”

All proceeds from the event will directly impact the scholarship fund, ensuring that deserving students have access to the resources they need to pursue their academic endeavors.

For those who were unable to attend but wish to contribute or learn more about sponsoring future events, please visit www.rio.edu/giving. For inquiries regarding sponsorship opportunities, donations, or general support, please contact Ashley Knight, Director of Institutional Advancement, at aknight@rio.edu or call 740-245-7200.



Purchase A Personalized Brick

At commencement, we kicked off a “brick campaign” to give the Alumni Memorial Bell tower a face-lift. Your custom 4x8 brick will forever be displayed around the Bell Tower, located right in the heart of our campus! You may choose to buy a brick for yourself, your child or commemorate your favorite Rio Professor or friend. The possibilities are endless.

Bricks will be installed twice annually around the bell tower, one of the most photographed locations on campus, before Homecoming Weekend and again at Spring Graduation. In addition to ordering your personalized brick, you can choose to purchase a custom certificate to gift to a loved one or to purchase a mini brick as a keepsake. [Check it out here.](#)



Expanding to McArthur!

URG/RGCC awarded \$12,000,000 in grant monies to build a McArthur branch, continuing to make higher education accessible for Southeastern Ohio students. [Read More](#)

Save the Date:

Move in Weekend August 16-18 ** volunteer opportunities available

Founder's Day September 13
* schedule to follow in August!

Rockets Over Rio / Bob
Evan's Farm Festival
Weekend October 11-14

URG/RGCC Homecoming
and Bevo Weekend
November 22-24

***If you plan to visit campus this spring or summer, please let us know! We want to say hello and would be happy to give you a campus tour if time allows. Email alumni@rio.edu or call 740-245-7200.*



Oral History Project Continues to Collect Stories

Alumni Stories through August 2024. PCI will continue to reach out to you to update your contact information and audio-record your alumni story now through August 15, 2024. Over 10% of our alumni base have completed the project. Thank you for taking the time to make sure we are able to stay in contact with you! We look forward to seeing the book, which will compile the stories. If you have any questions or need to contact the company to tell your story or update information, please visit [Alumni Oral History Project | University of Rio Grande](#). Pictured is Mrs. Martha Poland, class of 1967. She cannot wait to read everyone's stories and receive her book in March of 2025.



We are excited to share that Coach Quincy Wilson is on campus and has already signed two players in his first week. Read the article [here](#).

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