THINK GRANDE
The University of Rio Grande and Rio Grande Community College announced the appointment of Michelle R. Johnston, Ph.D., as its 22nd president on Sept. 2.

Johnston, the second female president in the 138-year history of the institution, assumed her duties on Sept. 29 with a three-year contract.

“I am honored, humbled and extremely excited to be joining the ranks of Rio Grande,” Johnston said. “The hearts and minds at Rio are focused on students; My interests and passions have revolved around ‘students first’ through every step of my career. My hope is that this shared purpose will be the springboard from which we reach unprecedented success.”

Johnston was selected following a six-month national search by both the URG and RGCC Board of Trustees. Rio Grande formed a joint Presidential Search Commission and hired AGB Search to coordinate the effort, which produced 39 qualified applicants.

Johnston previously served as Senior Vice President for Administrative Affairs at the University of Montevallo in Montevallo, Alabama.

At Rio, Johnston plans to build a more vibrant campus spirit while also expanding external awareness, growing enrollment and increasing philanthropic support. And she believes the makings for each already are present.

“As I experienced Rio Grande up close, I was blown away by the strong leadership and determination among the boards, impressive faculty and staff, community-focused atmosphere, and students and alumni who are making a significant difference in this region and the world,” Johnston said. “This particular chemistry makes the possibilities endless for Rio Grande. I can’t wait to listen to the campus community and learn about their creative ideas for attracting, retaining and serving students.

“And I want the student body to know that I am available and approachable,” Johnston continued. “We are here for a very important purpose – to help students achieve their goals and dreams. Our size and our approach to serving students give us the chance to develop strong, personal connections. This is something very special and unique. I can’t wait to get to know our students.”

Johnston also has held administrative positions at the University of Louisiana at Monroe, Mississippi State University, Wood College and Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas. Her 19 years of experience in higher education includes both administrative and faculty leadership positions.

“The presidential search was a collaborative process from start to finish, and that unified effort produced an outstanding leader who will guide Rio Grande to new heights,” said Jack Finch, Chair of the URG Board of Trustees and co-chair of the Presidential Search Commission.

The Presidential Search Commission also included RGCC Chair and fellow Commission co-Chair Shawn Saunders, URG Board Vice-Chair Alice Dachowski, URG Board immediate past Chair Gerald E. Roach Jr, and RGCC Board Vice-Chair Larry Kidd.

“I think Dr. Johnston will be a servant leader with a strong focus on our students; retention, recruitment and just helping each of our students be as successful as they can be,” Finch continued. “She is going to be a very hands-on president, very personable and involved with the campus community.”

The search process also included a Presidential Search Committee that reviewed all applications, handled preliminary interviews and made recommendations to the Presidential Search Commission.

The Presidential Search Committee included: URG Board member, Gallia County Coroner and co-chair Dr. Daniel H. Whiteley; RGCC Board member, Farmers Bank & Savings Co. President and co-chair Paul Reed; URG Board member and Information Investors Group
Barbara Gellman-Danley, Ph.D., former president of the University of Rio Grande and Rio Grande Community College, was appointed president of the Higher Learning Commission, effective July 7, 2014.

The Higher Learning Commission is a nonprofit regional accrediting agency that accredits more than 1,000 colleges and universities with a home base in one of 19 states stretching from West Virginia to Arizona.

“The Higher Learning Commission is among the most respected entities within higher education. To have one of our own appointed president is an accomplishment for the entire Rio Grande family to celebrate,” said Jack Finch, chair of the University of Rio Grande Board of Trustees. “Barbara Gellman-Danley has had a great and positive impact as the president here at Rio Grande. It’s difficult to summarize her numerous accomplishments since unifying this institution under one president in 2009, but she absolutely will leave a lasting legacy of innovation and positive change.”
The University of Rio Grande was named among the top tier of Ohio colleges and universities with the greatest lifetime return on investment according to rankings released in July of 2013 by AffordableCollegesOnline.org.

Touted as the No. 1 resource for college affordability and financial aid information, AffordableCollegesOnline.org (ACO) confirmed Rio Grande graduates are among those who enjoy the largest earnings gap between non-degree holders over a 30-year span.

“Life enrichment is a fundamental principle at the University of Rio Grande, and to be recognized for that commitment is a great honor,” then Rio President Dr. Barbara Gellman-Danley said. “Every member of the Rio Grande family takes a great deal of pride in insuring our students graduate with both the educational and social building blocks necessary for lifetime success.”

To be considered a High ROI College by ACO, institutions must be fully accredited; public or private; four-year, degree-granting; with ROI according to PayScale’s 2013 College Value Report.

Institutions were analyzed through highly respected, authoritative data sets to determine net tuition prices, graduate’s average starting salaries and ROI calculations.

“These are important lists for prospective student to consider,” ACO founder Dan Schuessler said. “We’ve sifted through comprehensive data sources to find colleges and universities in Ohio that offer a high quality education with consistent, long-term payoffs in the workplace.”

Utilized data sets included: NCES, the primary federal entity for collecting and analyzing data related to education; IPEDS, the primary federal source for higher education data; Carnegie Classification, a framework widely used in the study of higher education for institutional differences; and Payscale.com, premier salary data collection organization.
• NCES (http://nces.gov), the primary federal entity for collecting and analyzing data related to education. It provides consistent, reliable, complete, and accurate indicators of education status and trends.

• IPEDS (http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/), the primary federal source for data on colleges, universities, and technical and vocational postsecondary schools in the United States.

• Carnegie Classification (http://classifications.carnegiefoundation.org), a framework widely used in the study of higher education, both as a way to represent and control for institutional differences, and also in the design of research studies to ensure adequate representation of sampled institutions, students, or faculty.

• Payscale.com (http://www.payscale.com/about/methodology), the premier salary data collection organization.
The University of Rio Grande was selected to participate in a national initiative to expand educational opportunities for adults as a LearningCounts Featured Network Institution.

LearningCounts is a comprehensive one-stop Prior Learning Assessment resource for adult learners through the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL). Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) is the evaluation and assessment of an individual’s life learning for college credit, certification or advanced standing toward further education or training.

Río Grande has offered PLA since 1999 to best serve post-traditional students and veterans. The LearningCounts partnership through CAEL and the Ohio Board of Regents further solidifies Río Grande’s commitment to providing the best educational experience possible through continuous improvement.

“Over the last couple of years the number of students registering for Río Grande’s PLA program has increased more than 400 percent,” said Río Grande Associate Provost David Lawrence, DMA. “As a LearningCounts Featured Network Institution, Río will be able to increase the program’s capacity and more efficiently serve the needs of our students.”

LearningCounts is part of CAEL’s PLA State Adoption Initiative, which selected three state systems to participate in the program. The University System of Ohio was chosen, along with the Texas A&M system and Montana Higher Education system. The Ohio Board of Regents, through its PLA with a Purpose initiative, selected four Ohio institutions to participate.

“The University of Río Grande has a strong reputation for serving non-traditional students and was a natural choice to participate in this national initiative,” Ohio Board of Regents Chancellor John Carey said. “The LearningCounts initiative will improve policies and capacity for Prior Learning Assessment best practices to strengthen educational opportunities for all students.”

Prior Learning Assessment allows students to earn credit for learning gained outside a traditional academic environment through knowledge gained while working, participating in employer training programs, serving in the military, studying independently, volunteering or doing community service and studying open source courseware.

Río’s LA 20103 – Prior Learning Assessment – is a three-credit, semester-long course that offers face-to-face interaction throughout the portfolio development process. Students have one year to complete their portfolio to demonstrate the college-level learning previously acquired. Río faculty then evaluate the portfolios to determine whether credit has been earned.

Recognition as a LearningCounts Featured Network Institution allows Río Grande to offer CAEL 10003, a six-week online portfolio course. The CAEL course is more expensive but offers greater flexibility since courses start twice a month and is available in disciplines not currently offered at Río Grande.

Credits earned through either course appear on official transcripts as residential credits – not transfer credits – and more than 1,500 colleges and universities across the country accept LearningCounts credit recommendations.

“Adults know their knowledge comes from more than just a course, a classroom or a lecture; and we know it too,” CAEL President and CEO Pamela Tate said. “They have the desire to resume their college studies and are searching for ways to do so while saving time and money. CAEL is committed to working with higher education institutions in Ohio and beyond to recognize the importance of this kind of learning. We are privileged to have Río Grande come on board with our efforts.”
Richard Sax, Ph.D., was hired in March to serve as Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at the University of Rio Grande and Rio Grande Community College, effective July 1.

Sax brought more than 30 years of experience as an educator to Rio Grande, including more than 20 years of academic leadership in positions of increasing responsibility and complexity.

Sax previously served as Dean of Instruction and Chief Academic Officer at the University of New Mexico-Valencia Campus in Los Lunas, New Mexico. He also has served as Vice President of Academic Affairs & Dean of the College at Lake Erie College; Dean of the School of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences at Fort Lewis College; and Dean of the College of Arts & Humanities at Madonna University. Sax also has extensive experience as an English professor, including recognition as the Distinguished Teaching Professor in the Humanities at Lake Erie College.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts in English from Haverford College, a Master of Arts in English Language and Literature and a Doctorate of Philosophy in English Language and Literature from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

“I was especially attracted to Rio Grande because of the quality of the people whom I met during the interview process, as well as the unique challenges of the position: a private comprehensive residential campus combined with a public community college, including the centers in Meigs and Vinton Counties,” Sax said. “I hope and expect that my experience as a faculty member for three decades, and as a department chair, dean or chief academic officer for more than two decades, will help me to serve all of the various Rio constituencies for many years to come.”

**SAX HIRED AS PROVOST, VP OF RIO GRANDE**

**RIO GRANDE CREATES DIRECT SERVICE WORKER CERTIFICATE**

In-home health care is among the fastest growing sectors in the country, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics projects the ranks of home health and personal care aides to grow by more than 1.3 million by 2020.

To meet the job force demands that come with an expected industry growth of 70 percent from 2010, Rio Grande developed a Direct Service Worker (DSW) certificate program to train personal care aides that launched in the spring of 2014.

The four-week program consists of 80 contact hours comprised of both classroom and clinical components taught by Rio Grande Nursing faculty. Students learn skills ranging from patient personal care to safety, transfer, good body mechanics, hand washing, care of choking and the proper application of each.

“The demand for in-home personal care aides in southeastern Ohio grows each day with the aging Baby Boomers,” said Teri Pearson, administrator at Family Senior Care of Gallipolis and Jackson.

“Rio Grande’s Direct Service Worker program will help in-home health care providers maintain the highest quality of service for our customers, while also allowing us to better focus our resources.”

**RIO ADDS BANKING MINOR; CERTIFICATE**

The University of Rio Grande and Rio Grande Community College created an innovative and exciting new Banking Minor & Professional Banking Certificate Program available to students fall of 2013.

The program is designed to provide students with an introduction and overview to the principles, concepts and operations of banking through a five course curriculum: Principles of Banking, Money and Banking, Consumer Lending, Commercial Lending and Bank Laws and Regulations.

“Financial institutions provide numerous career opportunities, and the School of Business is excited to offer this program to assist students,” Assistant Professor of Business Roger Watson said.
Bob Evans Farms and the University of Rio Grande and Rio Grande Community College have enjoyed a unique partnership dating back to the 1950s.

So when the company unveiled its new corporate campus in October of 2013 in New Albany, Ohio, it should come as no surprise that Rio Grande faculty played a vital role in helping Bob Evans create “an interactive, educational farm experience” that pays respect to the original Rio Grande farm.

A quartet of Rio Grande faculty was commissioned to provide artistic works for the 40-acre campus, which consists of three buildings and more than 175,000 square feet.

Associate Professor of Art Benjy Davies created a 6-foot by 18-foot triptych of paintings depicting the iconography of Bob Evans – from the signature Stetson hat worn by the founder, to the architecture and flora of the original farm in Rio Grande. The native Ohioan’s work, “Evans Essence,” brings the Bob Evans brand to life in a bright and vibrant display for all who visit the campus to enjoy.

“Joe Eulberg, who is Executive Vice President of Human Resources at Bob Evans, approached us about doing artwork for the new corporate headquarters,” said Davies, who teaches courses in graphic design and printmaking. “Joe is also on the Board of Trustees for the university.”

Fellow Professor of Art Kevin Lyles crafted stainless steel and 5 ½ ton of Ohio glacial stone into a 10-foot by 12-foot sculpture entitled “Farmland Forest.” Reminiscent of the hills and forests seen on the original Bob Evans farm adjacent to the university, the piece greets guests at the new corporate campus.

Fine Woodworking instructors Eric Matson and Mark Nelson produced multiple pieces for the campus, all crafted from Gallia County burr oak. The duo utilized a natural edge style to make six benches totaling 48 feet long, six saddle-seat stools and a 66-inch diameter table in the café.

“It was pretty cool to be a part of the new Bob Evans Farms corporate campus,” Matson said. “Mark and I worked about two months over the summer on the project.”

Thanks to online gaming, students in the Emerson E. Evans School of Business know they’re prepared for success in a global economy.

Once considered somewhat of a social faux pas, online gaming is not only accepted within the Evans School of Business, it’s strongly encouraged.

The game is The Business Strategy Game, in which students from business schools throughout the world compete each week by running all aspects of their own international manufacturing company. Each week simulates one year of a business lifecycle, with performance measured in four categories: overall score, earnings per share, return on average equity and stock price.

Students who perform best in their class in each category are ranked against fellow top performers worldwide. At Rio Grande, the game is a major component of the senior strategic management capstone course.

In the fall of 2013, three Rio Grande students ranked among the top 100 globally. Rio students work in two-person teams with the occasional individual team. The duo of Bonita Glasgow and Tiffany Duncan ranked 20th in return on average equity, while Jordan Jenkins twice ranked among the top 100 in overall score.

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Rio’s success, however, is nothing new.

The game has been a component of the Evans School of Business for roughly 20 years. Since it went online in the fall of 2006 with global rankings, Rio students have ranked among the top 100 in 14 of last 15 semesters.
Sangeeta Gulati, Ed.D., a professor of Education at the University of Rio Grande, was the 2014 Ernie Wyant Outstanding Teaching Award recipient.

The Wyant Award is given annually to a full-time faculty member who strongly encourages student academic achievement by providing an innovative classroom, accessibility to students and is especially conscientious in helping students achieve high standards of academic success. Professors must be nominated by a member of the student body to be considered.

The Wyant Award honors 1937 alumnus Ernie A. Wyant, who was an educator for 41 years in the public school systems of southeastern Ohio.

Gulati joined the faculty ranks within the Bunce School of Education at Rio Grande in 2005. Since then, she has secured more than $1 million in grant funding that has aided both Rio Grande students and public school systems throughout southeastern Ohio.

“Dr. Gulati does not just teach how one should be a professional educator; she builds professional educators,” said nominating senior Education major Arlene Anderson.

“She strives to shape our classrooms and our communities,” Anderson continued. “She encourages us to do this through the use of technology so that we can instill a sense of pride in each of our students about who they are in a global community.”

Kevin Lyles, a professor of Art at the University of Rio Grande, was the 2014 Excellence in Scholarship Award recipient.

A renowned sculptor, Lyles has been a full-time member of the Rio Grande faculty since 1990 and is an integral part of the Fine Arts Department. He teaches courses in Art History, Drawing, Ceramics, Sculpture and 3D Design.

Founder and coordinator of the Rio Grande Sculpture Park, Professor Lyles’ most recent work is on display at the new Bob Evans Farms corporate campus in New Albany. “Farmland Forest” is a 10-foot by 12-foot sculpture of stainless steel and 5 ½ tons of Ohio glacial stone.

“Passage,” an 11-foot by 6-foot sculpture of steel and river rock, also is on permanent display at the renowned Grounds for Sculpture park in Hamilton, N.J. The piece was reviewed on the front page of the Arts and Entertainment section of the New York Times (1998).

“The only way that you can really teach is to practice what you’re teaching. I don’t think you can separate the two,” Lyles said. “I’m really appreciative of the fact this award reinforces the administration’s support of faculty scholarship. I feel really blessed to be given this award as I have colleagues who have done as much or more than me and deserve it every bit as much.”

Don Althoff, Ph.D., an associate professor of Biology, at the University of Rio Grande, was the 2014 Edwin A. Jones Excellence in Teaching Award recipient.

The Jones Award is voted on each year by the Rio Grande faculty and has been presented each year since 1985. Althoff is the eighth School of Sciences recipient, joining an illustrious group that includes: T. Michael Rhodes, Ph.D. (1986); Thomas Osborne (1992); Benjamin Forshey (1995); Paul Holeski, Ph.D. (1997); William Stitt, Ph.D. (1999); Linda Sigismondi, Ph.D. (2001); and Jacob White, Ph.D. (2011).

Althoff heads the Wildlife & Fish Conservation & Management program. His extensive work includes the Rio EcoMonitoring (REM) project, which secures access to and establishment of study sites for student and faculty labs, directed studies and practicums.

Althoff repurposed the funds traditionally utilized in recognizing the Jones Award recipient for the Wildlife & Fish program.
Mother Nature may have darkened the sky, but the 391 graduates of the University of Rio Grande and Rio Grande Community College shined bright during its 138th Commencement.

Friends and family from near and far gathered in the Lyne Center located on the Rio Grande campus to honor the Class of 2014. For some the journey was simple, just a short drive down the road. But others came from as far away as Montana, Wales and Columbia to share in the memorable day.

A total of 413 degrees – 219 Associate’s Degrees, 158 Bachelor’s Degrees and 36 Master’s Degrees – were conferred. Countless pictures were taken and lasting memories shared.

“For all of you, this is an achievement that represents hard work and perseverance. I hope you will take a moment to soak in what you’ve accomplished and to be proud of being here,” said keynote speaker and Ohio Supreme Court Justice Judi French.

Justice French delivered a memorable speech, apologizing for those who expected to see Judge Judy and sharing “a few basic rules that I try to live by.”

Rule Number 1: Know yourself, and be true to that person regardless of what outside pressures exist.

Rule Number 2: Consider every opportunity that comes your way for personal or professional growth. Life can be like a game of cards, keep an eye out for the card that gives you a winning hand.

Rule Number 3: Don’t be afraid. Justice French reference this as perhaps the most important rule, and not always easy to accomplish.

“As you think about who you are and what you want to do next, I hope you will do so without fear of falling or looking foolish,” she said. “I hope you will surround yourself with hopeful, positive people who will encourage you to pursue your own, personal path, just as you encourage them.”

Among those who received degrees were Mark Anthony Bentley and Cody J. McNeely, who each earned four degrees. Each earned their Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology, Associate in Technical Science in Industrial Automation and Associate of Applied Science in Plant Maintenance Technology. Bentley also earned an Associate of Technical Science in Power Plant Mechanical Maintenance, while McNeely earned an Associate in Technical Science in Welding.
Life is full of unexpected twists and turns. But the right education makes the navigation process a little easier.

Take 21-year-old Emily Burnham. Thanks to the University of Rio Grande and Rio Grande Community College, the Lewistown, Montana, native earned her Associate of Applied Science Degree in Radiologic Technology in May and continued her education at the prestigious Mayo Clinic in Minnesota.

“It’s a crazy opportunity. They have a 100 percent pass rate and job placement,” Burnham said. “They’re the No. 1 research hospital, and they just started working with Proton Beam Therapy. … It was one of those long shots. It never hurts to apply, but never in a million years did I think I would get it.”

Growing up in Montana, Burnham never heard of Rio Grande, Ohio. She started her collegiate career in Indiana, but quickly felt lost in the shuffle and looked the transfer.

At Rio Grande she found the student-centered approach and one-on-one opportunities with faculty that allowed her to thrive.

“I don’t think I would’ve ended up at Mayo if I didn’t come to Rio,” Burnham said. “The faculty got to know me and what I would be good at. At a bigger school I probably would’ve just settled.”

Burnham was one of seven accepted into the program.

Chris Barker, an associate professor and clinical coordinator for Rio’s Radiologic Technology Program, said working with each student to find their best-suited career path is a priority at Rio Grande.

“Just learn as much as you can,” Barker said. “A lot of students are young and just don’t know what’s out there.”

The results speak for themselves. Rio’s Radiologic Technology Program boasts a 100 percent pass rate on the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists licensure exam since 2011.

Burnham was one of eight Radiologic Technology graduates honored during a May 6 pinning ceremony.
FINANCIAL DATA

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STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

GRADUATION 2014

Individuals by Degree*

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* Some individuals received multiple degrees

HOUSING

TOTAL — 348

ENROLLMENT 2014

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TOTAL — 2227
Arcadia Publishing’s popular Images of America series released “Meigs County,” authored by a student-teacher tandem from the University of Rio Grande.

The book brings the rich history of Meigs County to life through more than 200 vintage images and captions. The work features a historical overview of the five incorporated villages within the county with four primary focuses – economic pursuits, pillars of the community, transportation and natural disasters.

“I transferred to Rio Grande because of the outstanding Education program, but I never imagined I’d be a published author before I earned my cap and gown,” said Jordan Pickens, an Integrated Social Studies Education senior at Rio Grande who went on to graduate in the spring.

Pickens, a 2009 Southern High School graduate, said his family has been rooted in Meigs County for at least six generation. The extensive family history created a strong starting point with numerous built-in networking opportunities that gave the project a personal touch.

The idea, however, spawned from a fall 2012 Ohio History course with Professor Ivan Tribe, who earned faculty emeritus status in 2007.

“Jordan was one student in class who had an idea,” Tribe said of Pickens. “He told me he wanted to do it, and asked if I would be interested in working on it with him. It was quite gratifying. I’ve taught for 31 years at Rio Grande, and then six years before that at the high school level in Meigs County. Having the privilege to work with students on such projects is quite rewarding.”

Tribe has authored seven previous books and numerous published articles. One of his previous publications, “Rio Grande: From Baptists and Bevo to the Bell Tower, 1876-2001,” also was co-authored by a Rio student, Abby Gail Goodnite.

Tribe is already working on other projects, and he said, “one book usually begets another one” regarding Pickens.

Pickens admits the idea has already been discussed. With the publication of “Meigs County” coinciding with the county’s 195th anniversary, he is thinking about a second book for the 200th anniversary. As of now, only the general idea has been discussed.

But the sheer wealth of material generated through the research for “Meigs County” was inspirational for Pickens.

“There were just so many different, and fascinating things that I learned,” he said. “The racial issues in this area really turned my head. … Just the buildings that were around in the 1800s and are still here. It’s amazing that these buildings are so old, and we use them every day, especially in Pomeroy. … The people that came from here who had an impact not only on Meigs County but the entire country, is amazing. … Meigs County has several Congressional Medal of Honor recipients.”

Pickens proudly boasts on and on, sharing stories ranging from the invention of the towboat to the first published African American poet. But each story always comes back to the same theme: the people of Meigs County.

“A lot of people go all over the world and still call Meigs County home,” Pickens said. “Like we said in the front of the book, we dedicate this book to anyone that has ever called Meigs County home.”

The choice to go with Arcadia Publishing was simple. As the leading publisher of local and regional history in the United States, Pickens simply reached out with an idea. Told to submit 10 images with captions for review, the idea was accepted and the project was on.

“Meigs County” retails for $21.99. It is available at various locations throughout Meigs County and online, through arcadiapublishing.com and amazon.com, among others.
The number of families and individuals in need of food assistance has increased significantly throughout southeastern Ohio within the last year.

At the Vinton Baptist Food Pantry in Gallia County, 8,130 people were served in 2013 with 43,980 pounds of food. Up from 6,000 served in 2012, the pantry relies entirely on volunteerism and donations.

While numerous donations and volunteers contribute, Vinton Baptist Food Pantry Director David West insisted the efforts would not be possible without the support of Enactus students from the University of Rio Grande and Rio Grande Community College.

“If it weren’t for the students there and throughout the county, we wouldn’t be able to do a lot of what we do,” West said. “It would just be impossible.”

Enactus, formerly known as SIFE, is an international collegiate organization that applies business concepts to develop community outreach projects, transforms lives and shape a better, more sustainable world.

Rio Grande Enactus members include Matt Akers, Cody Bennett, Stephanie Cartmell, Aryn Gritter, Shannon Johnson, Michael Memory, Austin Short, Becca Steiner, Skylar Thompson, Brooke Wolni and President and Project Leader Paris Morris. Carol Smith, director of the Loren M. Berry Center for Economic Education at Rio Grande, is the Enactus advisor.

Since 2008, the Rio Grande chapter of Enactus has organized an annual food drive to benefit local pantries. Enactus partnered with Campbell’s in 2009 for the Let’s Can Hunger campaign, and has continued to do so each year since.

The 2013 campaign began in October and raised 9,342 pounds of food for the Vinton Baptist Food Pantry. The program consists of drives on the Rio Grande Campus, Rio Grande Elementary, Vinton Elementary and the Miss Heart of Christmas pageant. SODEXO Food Service also supports the food drive by offering one free pizza party at each elementary for the classroom that raises the most donations.

“The URG Enactus team promotes awareness of food insecurity in our community and helps stock the shelves of our local food pantry so that people in need can obtain food for their families,” Smith said. “We also provide information and workshops to empower people in need to break the cycle of hunger.”

This year’s conference attracted 24 students from eight counties, some traveling from as far as Lorain County in northern Ohio. More than 3,000 students have gained an appreciation for free market economics and entrepreneurship since the conference started in 1973.
Coping with catastrophic trauma is something most Americans thankfully never experience. The 9/11 attacks changed that for millions, including a generation of children who lost loved ones.

Through America’s Camp – a fun and supportive summer camp for children who lost a parent or sibling in the attacks – artistic expression became a powerful coping mechanism. The large-scale collaborative works generated through the camp were first exhibited at the Pentagon in 2012, and were on display throughout southeastern Ohio thanks to the University of Rio Grande and Rio Grande Community College.

The exhibition, high-end reproductions of the original works to be permanently displayed at the 9/11 museum in New York, were gifted by the Pentagon to former America’s Camp Artistic Director Traci Molloy “so that I could take it to people who could not see the show otherwise.”

Consisting of 34 panels, the exhibition was on display in three locations: Bob Evans Farms Hall located on Rio Grande’s main campus, Rio Grande’s Meigs Center in Pomeroy and the Lillian Jones Museum in Jackson.

“America’s Camp was the first place where many of (the 9/11 children) felt like they could be kids again,” Molloy said. “The work is what it is because they felt safe. These pieces are depictions of grief and loss, and they’re also celebrations of hope and love. There is a power to this that you just can’t explain.”

The exhibition was made possible through Rio Grande’s ImagineArts Endowment, and School of Fine Arts Chair and Professor Benjy Davies.

“I went to grad school with Benjy and last fall he was in New York bringing his students on a trip,” Molloy said. “We got together then and things just sort of worked out.”

Molloy was originally scheduled as a visiting artist at Rio Grande through the endowment to work with Portsmouth High School students on a project about identity, which resulted in a March Arts Education Workshop for teachers.

The 9/11 exhibit was not originally planned for southeastern Ohio. Following its premiere at the Pentagon, the exhibition traveled to DePauw University in Indiana. Its third scheduled destination was canceled, however, and Davies seized the opportunity.

“Our first installation at DePauw took a year to make happen,” Molloy said. “But Benjy made it happen in less than a month. The fact that he did this, my brain is just boggled. But this is exactly where it should go. In talking with Benjy and (Lillian Jones Director) Megan Malone, a lot of people in this region have never been to New York and otherwise would not have the opportunity to experience something like this. This is exactly why the show was created.”

Aside from the pieces on display, Molloy also hosted a pair of lectures.

“I hope people are able to come and see how the arts are able to play such a vital role in someone’s life, and to get a sense of what it was like for the children to deal with the 9/11 attacks and how we as a society try to process something like that,” Professor Davies said. “It’s a moving tribute to the power of art to process deep emotions.”
JAZZ ENSEMBLE HOSTS REUNION CONCERT

For 20 years the University of Rio Grande’s Jazz Ensemble has entertained the musical palates of southeastern Ohio and the region. That rich history and tradition was celebrated on April 22, 2014 with the 20th Anniversary Jazz Ensemble Reunion Concert.

The current five-member Jazz Ensemble was joined by nearly 20 Rio alumni for a memorable performance under the direction of Dr. Chris Kenney in the Berry Fine & Performance Arts Center on the Rio Grande campus.

“The audience will hear an evening of great jazz, performed by many generations of Rio students,” Dr. Kenney said before the show. “This is the first time that members of the Jazz Ensemble have gotten together for a reunion.”

The Jazz Ensemble featured Rio students Jacob Hocker (trumpet), Jordan Lombardo (bass), Andy Milliken (guitar), Matthew Rinehart (trombone) and Skyler Thompson (drums).

Dr. Kenney formed the Jazz Ensemble when he joined the Rio faculty in the fall of 1993, and the reunion opened with the first song the ensemble ever performed, Blue Train by John Coltrane.

“A lot of alumni are really excited,” said Kristin Coen, a saxophone player on the Jazz Ensemble from 2001 to 2005 who performed at the reunion. “The pieces that we’re playing are iconic in American music history. The concert will be a great event for the campus and entire community.”

Coen works as the band director for Huntington Local Schools in Chillicothe.

The reunion featured other songs performed throughout the years by the ensemble including Fables of Faubus by Charles Mingus, In Walked Bud by Thelonious Monk, Tin Tin Deo by Gill Fuller, original compositions by Dr. Kenney and more.


“I’m looking forward to the concert. It’s nice to get to perform with all the old jazz people and get to hear their experiences from the past,” senior Skyler Thompson said. “I think opening with the first jazz piece that they did (in 1993) will be pretty neat. I think the audience will really enjoy that.”
Sgt. Cruz said the training programs first initiated after the 2007 Virginia Tech shooting that resulted in 33 deaths.

Such training is not new for Rio Grande, which has hosted similar exercises in the past.

“We’re always concerned about the safety of our students, faculty and staff, and what could happen because of what we’ve seen and read in various publications over the years,” Executive Vice President Paul Harrison said. “Hopefully we will never have an incident, but if we do have an active shooter we will be prepared to handle it properly because of training like this.”

The Active Shooter Training began at 8 a.m. in Bob Evans Farms Hall, where the law enforcement officers took in a PowerPoint presentation regarding tactical training and medical response. The rest of the morning included various classroom-style training sessions.

The afternoon’s activities began with staging at 1 p.m. that included makeup to turn 12 university faculty and staff members into life-like victims. The live scenarios that followed ranged from active shooter engagement in different locations with various obstacles to hostage situations.

“Active Shooter training is something you hope to never need, but you absolutely have to be prepared for any scenario,” URG Police Chief Scott Borden said. “I can’t thank the Ohio State Highway Patrol’s Special Response Team enough. This training was fantastic. These tactics are tried and true from national experts, and it was a first class training from start to finish.”

The August 2013 Active Shooter Training is one of four free programs the Ohio State Highway Patrol offers on request. They offer a 4-hour Direct to Threat, Building Security Assessment and a Field Training Exercise – an all-encompassing, multi-agency active shooter scenario.
Fine woodworking is a timeless craft, and every bit an art.

For Augustus Unverferth, mastering his craft requires going above and beyond. The University of Rio Grande and Rio Grande Community College sophomore commuted from Dayton for the opportunity to study in the nationally renowned Fine Woodworking Program.

That commitment paid off in December of 2013 when Unverferth was one of two Rio students honored by Western Ohio Woodworkers. Unverferth was awarded the WOW Scholarship, while fellow sophomore Kevin Peterson was awarded the Harris Bartine Scholarship.

“When you take something that’s completely raw and produce something that people want, its super gratifying,” Unverferth said. “I live two hours away, so it definitely helps. I drive 1,000 miles a week. So that’s a lot of gas.”

The scholarship was established to honor George Reid, the only honorary member of WOW. Recipients must be a sophomore or higher in the Rio Fine Woodworking Program, maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 and be from Ohio. All applicants are reviewed by the WOW Scholarship Subcommittee, which includes reviews of their work and in-person interviews.

“The primary objective of this club is to promote education and to foster craftsmanship in the art and technique of woodworking,” said Bartine, who serves as WOW's Scholarship Chairman, Awards Chairman and Shop Tours Chairman. “I believe the scholarship is an excellent means to help promising young students while promoting fine woodworking and honoring the memory of George Reid and other club founders.”

Professor Eric Matson said WOW also hosts Artistry in Wood in Dayton, in which one piece is auctioned off each year with the proceeds benefiting the Rio Grande endowment.

“Western Ohio Woodworkers is an amazing organization, full of individuals who are deeply passionate and dedicated to the craft of fine woodworking,” Matson said. “The entire Fine Woodworking Program is extremely grateful for their continued support on so many levels.”

Greek Life at Rio Grande overhauled its governing body in the spring of 2014.

The Greek system consists of nine organizations – four fraternities and five sororities – all governed by the All Greek Council. Formerly a four-member elected council in which all Greeks were welcome to attend meeting, the newly constituted All Greek Presidential Council features the active president from each organization.

“I have seen many changes to the All Greek Council but the evolution to a President’s Council is the biggest change I have seen,” said Lambda Omicron Psi President Kassandra Mosher, who has been a Greek since 2004. “I think it is great because we are all on equal footing with each other. Everyone that attends is a president of the respective organization and is to be respected.”

Similar to the past council, any split votes at the monthly meetings will be decided by a vote from the All Greek Presidential Council Advisor. The old council consisted of a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.
The University of Rio Grande was unanimously approved for membership into the Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference during a December 2013 meeting.

Rio Grande’s 11 scholarship sports – baseball, softball, volleyball and men’s and women’s basketball, cross country, soccer and track and field – began play as a member of the KIAC with the 2014-15 school year.

“Athletics serve as an extension of the Rio Grande mission and values,” RedStorm Athletic Director Jeff Lanham said.

“The institutions within the Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference align well with our beliefs, and Rio Grande is thankful for this opportunity. As many of our alumni remember, this conference was our home prior to 1971.”

Rio Grande remained a member of the Mid-South Conference through the 2014 spring season.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for the athletes of the University of Rio Grande and our students,” then Rio President Dr. Barbara Gellman-Danley said. “I really appreciate the warm welcome from KIAC Conference leadership and its presidents.”

Beginning in 2014-15, the KIAC featured 12 teams in four states. Alice Lloyd College, Asbury University, Berea College, Brescia University and Midway College are located in Kentucky. Indiana has Indiana University-East, Indiana University-Southeast and Indiana University-Kokomo. Pennsylvania features Carlow University and Point Park University. Cincinnati Christian University and Rio Grande represent Ohio.

The RedStorm had been members of the MSC since the 2009-10 school year. Rio Grande competed in the America Mideast Conference from 1998 to 2009, and the Mid-Ohio Conference from 1971 to 1998. Prior to 1971 the then-Rio Grande College Redmen were members of the KIAC.

“I remember when Rio was a member of the KIAC in the 1960’s,” KIAC Commissioner Bill Melton wrote in an email. “I played baseball at Berea College during that time and competed against Rio teams. It is good to have you back in the KIAC.”
Bickerstaff highlights ’13 HOF class

The 2013 Class of the Rio Grande Athletic Hall of Fame featured a National Basketball Association coach, lifestyle change strategist, vice president and chief commercial officer for an international corporation, and a professor of sports medicine and exercise physiology at Bangor University in Wales.

The four-member class – better known throughout the Rio family as Bernie Bickerstaff, Jenny Olding, Matt Powell and Steven Kehoe – were honored at the Rio Grande Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony in November.

“The Athletic Hall of Fame is an outstanding showcase of the Rio Grande spirit, and the 2013 Class is as accomplished and worthy as any we have ever inducted,” Alumni Relations Director Annette Ward said. “These four individuals not only excelled within their athletic disciplines and were true champions of character during their days at Rio, but each has also carried those same characteristics throughout their personal and professionals lives.”

Bickerstaff, then an assistant coach with the Cleveland Cavaliers in the NBA, was the starting point guard on the men’s basketball team from 1961-62. He averaged 13 points, five rebounds, five assists and three steals per game.


Jenny Olding, a lifestyle change strategist in Tampa, Fla., was a four-year (2003-06) standout for the women’s softball team from the moment she stepped on campus. She finished as a three-time All-America Mideast Conference 1st Team selection (2nd Team as a freshman) having started all 186 games with a career .419 batting average, 61 doubles, 15 triples, 26 home runs, 138 runs scored and 170 RBI.

“Thank you so much … What an honor and a pleasure,” Olding said when informed of her induction. “My time at Rio was very unique and special, and something in which I will never forget.”

Steven Kehoe, a professor at Bangor University, was NAIA National Championship MVP for the 2003 men’s soccer championship team, a three-time All American (2001-03), four-time All Region First Team (2000-03), four-time All American Mideast Conference First Team (2000-03) and three-time team captain with a career record of 81-6-6.

Kehoe signed to play for the United Soccer Leagues’ Pittsburgh Riverhounds for one season before returning to Rio as an assistant coach for the 2004-05 season.

Matt Powell, vice president and chief commercial officer for Ormet Aluminum Corporation, graduated from Rio in 1995 as the second all-time leading scorer in men’s basketball history behind only Bevo Francis with 2,367 career points. He was an honorable mention All American in 1992-93 after averaging 23.5 points per game, was two-time All District (1993-95) and shot over 43 percent from three-point range as a co-captain his senior season (1994-95).

“It is truly a great honor and I am very appreciative,” Powell said. “I was extremely fortunate to play with some great players and play for some fantastic coaches, such as coach (Earl) Thomas.”
Baseball – Finished 24-31
- Placed ninth in the MSC
- David Steele and Marcus Makuch named 2nd Team All-MSC
- Three named Academic All-MSC

Men’s Basketball – Finished 16-14
- Tied for fifth in the MSC
- Ranked as high as No. 14 in NAIA Division I
- Josh Reagan named 1st Team All-MSC
- Jermaine Warmack named 2nd Team All-MSC
- Evan Legg and Travis Elliott named to the NABC Honors Court and Academic All-MSC

Men’s Cross County – Finished third in Mid-South Conference Championship
- Won Patty Forgey Invitational
- Kyle Sanborn named Academic All-MSC

Men’s Soccer – finished 16-3-3
- Mid-South Conference Tournament Champions
- Co-Champions of the MSC regular season
- Ranked No. 7 in final NAIA coaches poll
- Luiz Filho led nation in scoring, named 1st Team All-American and 2nd Team CoSIDA Academic All-American
- Maxi Viera and Jon Dodson were named 3rd Team All-Americans
- Pau Rodriguez named MSC Freshman of the Year
- Scott Morrissey named MSC Coach of the Year
- Six named 1st Team All-MSC; two named 2nd Team All-MSC
- Nine named Academic All-MSC

Men’s Track & Field – Finished third at MSC Championship
- Nate Kosnich named MSC Freshman of the Year
- Kosnich placed 12th in 110-meter hurdles at NAIA Nationals
The 2003 men’s soccer team captured the University of Rio Grande’s first team national championship, and thusly earned the right to be the first RedStorm team inducted into the Wall of Honor.

The ‘03 champs, who finished 24-0-1 and outscored its opponents 82-6, were honored during an induction ceremony Oct. 12, 2013 on the Evan E. Davis Soccer Field.

“That was really a special team,” RedStorm coach Scott Morrissey said. “Everyone played a key role in that season.”

Women’s Basketball – Finished 18-13
- Placed sixth in MSC with 10 more wins than previous season
- Ranked second in nation in scoring
- Brianna Thomas named Honorable Mention All-America, 1st Team All-MSC and National Player of the Week once
- Sarah Bonar named 2nd Team All-MSC
- Three named Academic All-MSC
- NAIA Scholar Team with cumulative GPA of 3.35

Women’s Cross Country – Finished 6th in MSC Championship
- Placed third at Patty Forgy Invitational
- Brittany Piccone named Academic All-MSC

Women’s Soccer – Finished 10-8
- Placed fifth in Mid-South Conference
- Set school record for wins in a season
- Kasey Crow became Rio’s all-time leading goal scorer and point leader; name 2nd Team All-MSC
- Karla Garn and Renee Davis named NAIA Scholar-Athletes
- Five named Academic All-MSC

Softball – Finished 30-20
- Tied for fourth in MSC
- Jenna Jones threw two no-hitters; named MSC Freshman of the Year and 1st Team All-MSC
- Kim Rollins and Cheyenne Hamaker named 2nd Team All-MSC
- Rollins and Ariel Roder named Academic All-MSC

Women’s Track & Field – Finished fourth at MSC Championship
- Clarissa Johnson set a new Rio indoor record in the 500-meters at 1:21.16

Volleyball – Finished 14-16
- Placed seventh in MSC
- Kayla Briley and Autumn Snider named 2nd Team All-MSC
- Five named Academic All-MSC
- Nicole Ogg and Betsy Schramm named NAIA Scholar-Athletes
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