



This year's [scholarship fundraising dinner](#) will feature performances by Grande Chorale, testimony from students who have been impacted by scholarships, as well as online and live auction items and is set to raise over \$30,000 for students. Limited seating is available. If you have a heart to support students through scholarship, please consider



Wednesday, April 10 Rio will be hosting the first "Rio on the Road" event in Gallia County at The Colony. Alumni and friends are encouraged to come after work from 5-7 to hear a campus update from President Smith. Admissions will be set up in case high school students want to hear more about becoming a part of the Redstorm Family. Be sure to invite

attending or donating an auction item before April 15.

those you know if you are local. [Click the photo to RSVP.](#)



May 11 Celebration

Pictured: Rebecca Long, Class of 1999 and her father, Early Thomas, Class of 1974. Attention members of the 1974 and 1999 graduating classes of Rio! You are invited to an unforgettable reunion event on Saturday, May 11, filled with nostalgia, camaraderie, and celebration. Learn more and RSVP before May 1: [Decades of Memories: 1974 and 1999 Alumni Celebration | University of Rio Grande](#)

Start the morning off with shopping at the bookstore, open at 9AM. Next, enjoy brunch with the President and Commencement Speaker, Eileen Armstrong. We will honor you as a VIP at the Commencement Ceremony where you will hear from Rio Alumni representative, Mr. Earl Thomas and finish the afternoon with a campus tour that will conclude at Greer Museum.



The Archon Alumni Association recently gathered at RedOak Brewery in Whitsett, NC. The attending members, shown from left to right, included: George Patterson '71, John "Jersey" Taylor '83, Kelly Robson '81, Brad Varney '82, and Russell Chafin '63.



Thriving Arts and Community Engagement: The Grande Chorale has been busy on campus and in the community. This spring they have hosted a worship night with another to be held at the Davis Career Center Amphitheater on April 11 at 7:30PM. Photographed here, is our Grande Chorale performing several numbers at the Oak Hill Presbyterian Church during a St. David's Day event hosted by Mr. Dan Rowbotham, Class of (2020). Be sure to scroll to the bottom of this newsletter to see several upcoming campus events, to include a few fine arts opportunities.



Something to Brag About!

Undergraduate Program One of Only 48 in the U.S. to Earn Highest Distinction from the National Council on Teacher Quality for



AMB Update

In March of 2024, 18 Alpha Mu Beta Actives and Alumni cruised to the Bahamas. They

Preparing Aspiring Teachers in the Most Effective Methods for Teaching Reading

“We are very pleased to have earned such a high rating from the National Council on Teacher Quality. This is something that the staff and students should be very proud of receiving.” Lynley Carey, Dean of the College of Arts & Science said.

Carey added, “It is important to the staff in the education department to always provide our students with the most up-to-date instruction in order to prepare them to be the most successful teachers in the future.”

spent 4 days on the Liberty of the Seas, a Royal Caribbean cruise ship. From snorkeling with sharks to swimming with pigs to spending many hours in the sun, they celebrated their amazing sisterhood with lots of laughter and love.



Career Fair Hosts 42 Employers

Pictured is Condy Richardson, '94 Director of Career Services and Members of Kenworth and Vinton County National Bank. Out of 42 employers, we welcomed several Rio Grads representing their perspective companies. Derek McManus '13 with Total Media, Ben Matthews '18 with Kenworth, Terri (Eddy) Camden '98 and Cristobal Encina '22 Ohio with Valley Bank, Candace Yongue '21 with Field of Hope, Shayne Gay '12 from Ohio Army National Guard, Renee Conley with Austin Powder, Mary Guthrie with Bellisio Foods, Becky Godwin '80 and and Carole Armstrong '15 of Holzer Health Systems. [Register your business on our Handshake platform to post jobs for our students to apply for!](#)



Join your fellow Rio Alumni on Friday, May 31 in Columbus! We will start the evening with a happy hour at 5:30 PM at Park Street Cantina in Columbus. Please RSVP on the Alumni Facebook Page as "Going" if you plan to attend that happy hour. You may also reserve tickets to the Columbus Clippers game, which starts at 7:05PM and will end with FIREWORKS! Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children. Ticket price includes an alumni t-shirt IF you supply your shirt size. [Purchase baseball tickets here before MAY 15!](#)

Upcoming Events:

April 1- ["Storm Tank" Student Entrepreneurship Night \(Click to see a Recap and Photos\)](#)

April 10 – [Rio on the Road at the Colony – Alumni, Faculty and Staff Night](#) (The Colony)

April 11- Symphonic Band Concert, Berry Fine and Performing Arts Center, 7:00PM

April 21 - Grande Chorale Spring Concert, Berry Fine and Performing Arts Center 3:00-5:00PM

April 27- [Hope Fest and 5K for Suicide Prevention](#)

May 2 – [Changing Tomorrows Scholarship Fundraising Dinner](#) (Holzer Leadership and Innovation Institute)

May 11- [Graduation and Class of 1974/1999 Honorary Brunch and Campus Tour](#)

May 31- Alumni Outing at Columbus Clippers Baseball – [Purchase Tickets Here](#)

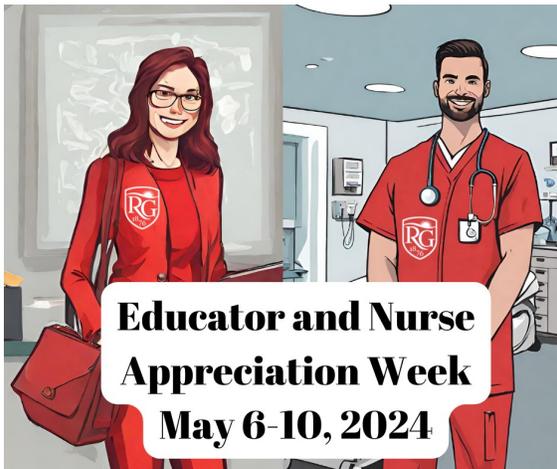
June 7- Planned Giving and Estate Planning Lunch and Learn (Jackson, OH) Call 740-245-7200 to learn more

June 15 – [Rio Athletics Golf Tournament \(Mason, WV\)](#)



PCI UPDATE

The Office of Institutional Advancement has partnered with PCI to collect alumni stories over the next six months. Stories will be compiled into a digital and printed book which will be released next year as we lead into 150 years as an institution. You may have received a postcard and email from PCI. Nearly 100 of our alumni have updated their information and told their Rio story in just two short weeks. Thank you! If you have not yet called in to tell your story, consider doing so! The number is 877-582-3199. PCI is the same company that completed a directory for our institution in 2003 and 2010. More information on the project can be found here. [Alumni Oral History Project | University of Rio Grande](#)



To celebrate our esteemed educators and nurses, the Office of Advancement is gifting an exclusive alumni badge clip to any nurse or educator who completes [this survey before April 30](#). The clip can be picked up at Berry Center before May 6 or can be mailed to you on us! Thank you for all you do.



International Women's Day - March 8.

Celebrating International Women's Day: Beryl Halley, Written by Jacob L. Bapst and Ivan M. Tribe

Today the name of Beryl Halley is largely forgotten. But in the decade remembered as the "Roaring Twenties," she made a name for herself. Best known for three seasons as a "Ziegfeld Girl."

Nannie (later changed to Nina) Beryl Halley was born in the tiny Ohio River hamlet of Bladen, Ohio on June 20, 1897, the middle child of Samuel and Melissa Porter Halley. She had an older sister Cecile and a younger brother.

Educational opportunities were limited in Gallia County, and the parents aspired for their children to get as much schooling as possible. As a result, the parents took charge of the Boarding Hall at Rio Grande College in the summer of 1909, a position they held until 1912. By that time, both Cecile and Beryl were firmly ensconced into the "Rio community" from whence both girls were graduated from the High School and Cecile obtained a bachelor's degree in 1917. Beryl completed high school in 1916 and entered college. [Continue Reading!](#)