Recently, the University of Rio Grande implemented an Academic Program Viability process. We are living in an educational environment in which colleges/universities across the country, small and large, are being challenged by a reduction in the numbers and enrollment of traditional high school students and the resulting loss of revenue. To manage the impact on financial stability many institutions are streamlining programs, reducing personnel and operating budgets and even closing. Even without those challenges, in higher education, academic programs are reviewed on a regular basis to determine viability and future offerings. The University cannot be all things to all people; we must provide the programs that are in demand by our students, discontinue those that are not in demand as evidenced by low enrollment and focus on strengthening and recruiting students for those programs that are continued. Our students, current and future, are our customers and we have responded to what our students want, as well as responding to the employment needs of our communities.

Our message is that we are: strengthening Rio’s focus by streamlining course offerings and discontinuing certain under enrolled degree programs to meet the educational needs and goals of our students and the communities we serve.

Of the programs remaining, 92% of the undergraduate students (96% of Associate Degree students and 84% of Bachelor’s Degree students) are enrolled in programs that remain at Rio. The programs that will continue are identified on our website at www.rio.edu at the “Academics” tab. The programs that will be discontinued reflect either no enrollment or single digit enrollment. Students in the discontinued programs will be able to complete their degrees in a specified period of time, enroll in an individualized degree program, change their program of study, or, if desired, transfer to another institution. Our deans, chairs, and advising staff are ready to assist students in implementing their choices. Courses that are part of the General Education offerings or required of specific majors will continue to be taught.

Streamlining programs and reducing operational expenses cannot result in long-term sustainability without additional changes. To that end, we are developing an Enrollment Management Plan to identify new groups of students to recruit, a comprehensive Marketing Plan, an assessment of on-line course offerings, a review of tuition costs, and other opportunities that change how we operate and what we offer to students.

Rio has been an important part of the communities we serve and in the lives of students for many...many years. We will continue to be a part of the communities we serve and we will continue to provide educational opportunities to students for many...many years to come.

Press Release by Dr. Catherine Clark, Interim President
Rio Grande Alumni Association going places...

Southwest, Ohio

Central, Ohio

Alpha Mu Ladies: Ruth Heigle, Cinda Barton, Sue Leedelle and Jane O’Neal

Archon Brothers TJ Riggs, Kurt Williams & Art Barr with Delyssa Edwards, Alumni Director
...and seeing familiar faces!

Northeast, OH

Nick Kostis, owner of Pickwick & Frolic, pictured with Alumni Director Delyssa Edwards, Northeast OH Chapter President Lucretia Scalia, and Jenny Henchey, Rio Grande Alumni Association Council Member.

Ashland, KY/ Huntington, WV

Ashland/Huntington Chapter
This year marks 46 years of inducting former Rio Grande athletes into the Hall of Fame. The University of Rio Grande Hall of Fame Selection Committee proudly announces this year’s three inductees. They are Scott Peterman ’06 Baseball; PJ Rase ’10 Men’s Basketball, and Ann (Barnitz) Snell ’92 Women’s Basketball.

Peterman lettered three years in Baseball for Rio. He is a two-time NAIA All-American, two-time First Team NAIA All-Region Selection, two-time First Team All-Conference Selection, and a two-time NAIA Champions of Character representative.

According to his coach, Brad Warnimont, Peterman was a standout both on and off the field. During his three years at Rio, Peterman’s team made it to the Regional tournament all three years. As a centerfielder, Peterman made ‘spectacular defensive diving catches’ as well as ‘robbing potential homeruns’ scaling the outfield fence. Peterman was known throughout the conference as a ‘base stealing threat’ with his exceptional foot speed.

Once receiving his bachelor's and master’s degrees from Rio, Peterman went on to play in Italy and Australia in their professional baseball leagues for a total of 8 seasons.

Rase is a 2010 graduate of Rio Grande, and played under Ken French for Men’s Basketball for three years. Described by French as a ‘quality individual in the classroom, on the court, and in the community,’ Rase racked up several awards while wearing red and white.

Rase scored 1,118 career points, and led the entire nation in all divisions in Free Throw Shooting Percentage (95.2%). Rase is also in the Rio Grande record books for his three point shooting (10 in one game), most three's in one season (95), and most made three-point goals (233). In addition to that, Rase is number two on OHSAA’s list of All-Time FT% for a season (95.2%), and his career (90.8%)

Rase was also All Mid-South Team (2010) and All AMC and MSC All-Academic Team. He also was nationally recognized for being an Academic All-American, NAIA Scholar Athlete, and NABC Honors Court 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 teams.

Snell was a four-year Women’s Basketball player with Rio Grande during 1989-1992. While wearing the Rio Grande jersey, she garnered Mid-Ohio Conference honors including All Mid-Ohio Conference Team, 90-91 Mid-Ohio Conference Player of the Year, District 22 Qualifier, and she and her team won the MOC Championship in 90-91. Snell was also named the WBCA Kodak All-American Honorable Mention her senior year.

Her total career stats are worth mentioning. She currently ranks seventh with 1,571 career points. The former Rio Grande center led her team in rebounding and scoring, averaging 7.7 rebounds a game, and 12.9 points. She also ranks 12th on the list for offensive rebounds with 209, 15th for defensive rebounds 391 – totaling 600 total rebounds for Rio Grande. That puts her at the 12th spot overall for the team’s program history. Snell also ranks second for the most blocked shots, totaling 120.

During her tenure, Snell also was on the Bevo Francis Classic All-Tournament Team, two-time All NAIA Team, and was either the leading rebounder or scorer each season. Her senior year at Rio, Snell also took home the Team MVP award and led her team with the highest field goal percentage (she did this her junior year too).

Peterman, Rase and Snell will be inducted during this year’s Homecoming festivities on Saturday, Nov. 9 at 6 pm. This is a ticketed event, $15 each. To purchase a ticket or to reserve seats, contact Delyssa Edwards.
Dylan Shockley's life-long dream of becoming a professional baseball player turned into reality not too long after crossing the Commencement stage at Rio Grande.

The University of Rio Grande standout was selected by the Pittsburgh Pirates in the 34th round of Major League Baseball's Amateur Draft in June.

"I couldn't tell you how glad I am for this moment to happen," said Shockley, after getting his long-awaited phone call. "I've worked my whole life for this. I'm happy to be a Pittsburgh Pirate."

Shockley, a native of Minford, Ohio, was named the River States Conference Player of the Year for the second consecutive season after leading the RedStorm to a 39-21 record, a conference tournament championship and an NAIA National Tournament berth.

Shockley is just the third draft pick in Rio's program history and its first in 24 years.

Jeff Wayland was the school's first draftee when he was taken in the 30th round by the Pirates in 1984. David Robinson was selected in the 39th round of the 1995 draft by the Philadelphia Phillies.

Shockley, who had just begun his second season with the Chillicothe Paints of the Prospect League - a summer league for collegiate players – now plays with the Golf Coast League Pirates in Florida.

"It's been going great," Shockley said in a recent interview with Alumni Director Delyssa Edwards. "They had me in a progression program for about a week and a half to slow work me into things which was good. It's definitely a job and definitely what everyone said it would be, but I've been loving every minute here."

Shockley said he has enjoyed meeting new people, meeting guys who have been in the MLB and have been in Florida on rehab assignment, but most importantly, he is learning from everyone.

"It's been a big transition from Rio to here, but just playing baseball as a job – I can't complain much," Shockley stated. "This is definitely everything I could have wished for."

Shockley is engaged to another Rio Alum, Chelsy Slone who also is a 2019 graduate and former Women's Basketball star.

This may be some news you will find interesting! A former Rio Grande student went on to become a Ziegfeld Beauty!

Be sure you get your copy of this book Co-Written by Jake Bapt and Ivan Tribe.

The book can be ordered on Amazon! Just search ‘Beryl Halley’. We would love if during this purchase, and any other future purchases through Amazon, that you support Rio by selecting us as your charity! Just type smile.amazon.com and select the University of Rio Grande as your charity.

A total of 357 students received degrees on Saturday, May 4 on the campus green at the University of Rio Grande/Rio Grande Community College. Ohio Astronaut Dr. Don Thomas, who served as a mission specialist on four space shuttle missions as well as serving as NASA director of operations at the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center in Star City, Russia, was the commencement speaker for this year's ceremony.
Over the weekend, the brothers of Alpha Sigma Phi Alumni Association held their 6th Annual DCM Open Garage Rules golf outing at Apple Valley Golf Club in Howard, Ohio.

The golf outing is held each year to commemorate Brother Chris Mickley and to raise funds for a worthy cause. This year the participants at the golf outing raised $3,300 for the University of Rio Grande Track and Cross Country Teams.

Did you play a sport at Rio? Would you love to see your teammates? How about play against other alumni from different decades than you?

If you said yes to any of the above questions, then you might be interested in our very first Alumni Weekend.

We know many of you come back for Bob Evans Farm Festival and Rockets over Rio. So this year, we thought of adding to the weekend schedule some Alumni Games for former athletes.

Alumni Weekend Schedule of Events/Times

*Note – This is the same weekend as Bob Evans Farm Festival/Rockets over Rio – Bring your family!

**Friday, Oct. 11**
- 6-8 pm – Alumni Women’s Basketball

**Saturday, Oct. 12**
- 8 am – AMB Foxtrot
- Noon – High School Girls Soccer (Chillicothe vs. Point Pleasant)
- 1-7 pm – Beer Garden at Soccer Fields
- 3-5 pm – Alumni Softball
- 3 pm – Alumni Soccer
- 6 pm – High School Boys Soccer (Gallia Academy vs. Southeastern)
- 6:30 pm – President’s Party (Alcohol permitted, wine/cheese, Cornhole & Bonfire)
- 8:30 pm - Fireworks

**Sunday, Oct. 13**
- 11 am – Alumni Baseball

Fee: $25 *Includes t-shirt

Get registered now! Email: dedwards@rio.edu for more information or call 740-245-7431.
For the second year in a row, a group of dedicated individuals, friends, and Rio graduates, gathered on the green to remember Jim Marshall – a former Rio Men's Basketball player and friend who left Rio after graduating in 1969 to enlist in the US Military.

After his service to our country, (fighting in the Vietnam War), Marshall returned to Rio and received the award named in his honor – the Jim Marshall Veteran of the Year Award. He was given this award in 2016, and passed away in 2017.

But Jim’s memory lives on as the University of Rio Grande has formed a group dedicated to keeping Jim’s memory alive while continuing to bestow the award yearly to an individual in recognition of their military service, sacrifice, and dedication to the country.

Led by Coach Arthur Lanham and former teammates, the annual golf tournament is held to raise money to cover expenses for the dinner and banquet held the last Saturday in October each year. Since 2016, three award recipients have been honored, starting with Jim Marshall. In 2017, Walter McCarley of the US Army received the award, and just last year, Danny Wagner of the US Army was the recipient.

This year, the committee will meet to discuss the nominees in August. The group asks the community for help in finding someone deserving of the award. (An application process is required and can be obtained by contacting any of the committee members.) The recipient determined by vote will be invited to attend the Jim Marshall Veteran of the Year Award Dinner and Banquet. Held on campus, the event is free for any Veteran to attend. For those without a military background, you are still welcome to celebrate the evening and enjoy a spaghetti dinner. A small admission price will be taken at the door.

The 2019 dinner and banquet will be held on Saturday, Oct. 26 at the Davis University Center Marketplace. For more information about getting tickets, please contact Delyssa Edwards at 740-245-7431 or email: dedwards@rio.edu. Edwards can also provide information about the award.
Jordan Pickens transferred to Rio Grande to become an education major. In 2014, he graduated with an Integrated Social Studies bachelor’s degree and entered the workforce. But while at Rio, Pickens was an involved student who received more than just an education.

“Transferring to Rio Grande allowed me to become what I am today,” Pickens says. “It allowed me to expand my love of history and work closely with my history professors.

Pickens goes on to mention Professor Ellen Brasel, Professor Judithe Thompson, and Dr. Ivan Tribe, as well as his education professors Dr. William Capehart, Professor Diane Downard, Dr. Nanetta Fults, and the late Dr. Alan Dean.

1. **What made you want to choose to pursue an education at Rio Grande?**

I began college at Ohio University where I was originally a communications major. I didn't care for the culture of the campus, and I felt like most of my professors didn't care about their students. After thoughtful consideration, I transferred to Rio.

2. **How were you involved on Rio’s campus?**

During my time at Rio, I was elected to Phi Alpha Theta (History Fraternity), and eventually become the Vice President of the Rio Grande Chapter (Alpha Alpha Delta).

3. **What are some of your favorite Rio memories?**

I loved having Ohio History Class with Tribe, and review sessions with Brasel.

Pickens has taught several different positions at Southern Local, including Intervention Specialist, Carol M. White P.E.P Grant Coordinator, A.S.K After-school Coordinator, and Health teacher. Two years ago, he was able to step out of his comfort zone and was fortunate to teach 8th grade Science at Meigs Local. In the fall of 2017, Pickens returned to Southern High School where he currently teaches American History, Geography, Psychology, and Sociology. His high school and college sweetheart, Calee, also teaches at Southern. The couple currently reside on their three acre homestead on 143 in Pomeroy where they are raising their two children, Andrew (2) and Clara (4 months old).

In his spare time, outside of teaching, Pickens is very active in Freemasonry. He is a Senior Warden at Middleport Masonic Lodge #363 and the 2019 Worshipful Master (presiding officer) of Harrisonville Masonic Lodge #411. He has held various positions in Pomeroy Chapter of Royal Arch Masons Chapter #80, Bosworth Council of Royal and Select Masons #46, and Ohio Valley Commandery #24 of Knights Templar. He and his wife are the Associate Matron and Associate Patron respectively at Racine Chapter #134 - Order of the Eastern Star. In addition, Pickens is also an 32° Scottish Rite Mason in the Valley of Gallipolis, a member of Valley Lodge #169 Knights of Pythias (non masonic fraternity) in Nelsonville, as well as a member in the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels. He currently serves as President of the Southern Tornado Alumni Association. On the historical side of his life, Pickens is a past President of the Meigs County Pioneer and Historical Society, and currently serves as a judge for Ohio History Day State Contest.