Dear Alumni,

I hope this finds you and your family safe during this unusual time. I wanted to give you an update on the events and Rio’s response during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In early March, we closed campus and moved to finish the semester with alternative modalities of learning. Faculty swiftly began working on three delivery methods for students. We knew with limited internet access for many, it simply was not an option to go completely online. Students had a choice if they would prefer just a simple email method, our online Blackboard system, or they could come and pick-up a course packet. Grading went to a pass/incomplete option. With so much going on we also offered students that felt it would be too much to complete, the opportunity to take the class over at no charge.

This Spring, we welcomed 356 graduates to the Rio Alumni Family. Unfortunately, celebrations had to be postponed. Commencement will be held on August 29. This is the same weekend as move-in and we think it may also provide some inspiration to campus.

We are planning to resume our face-to-face classes in the second Summer session; Summer 1 will remain online. We are optimistic that the Fall continues as face-to-face as well. Our COVID-19 task is, however, planning for anything. Safety and success are always at the heart of all our decisions.

In mid-April, the CARES Act was signed into law. Half of the money received goes directly to students to help with living expenses. The other portion is helping us with COVID related costs such as additional cleaning and support for online learning. The funds are limited on use though, so we always welcome your tax-deductible contributions to our endowment as well. Read more about the cares act on our website: rio.edu/coronavirus

As many of you know, this is an entirely new normal. We will get through this. Stay safe.

Best,
Ryan Smith, President
University of Rio Grande and Rio Grande Community College
A moment of Nostalgia – Bill Karn ’72

I suppose it has something to do with the aging process, but more and more I seem to experience moments of nostalgia and any one of them can be triggered by something different. In most cases, I would credit a song that took me back into that period of time but it could also come from reading someone’s obit, or from seeing a car that was in one way or another connected to my past. Whatever the source, I can get lost in in the moment and it can even bring a tear to my eye or a smile to my face depending on the memory of that time or event. A few days ago I was nurturing my newly seeded lawn when I got to thinking about a moment that took place over 50 years ago and it had something to do with the game of basketball. Not exactly sure what triggered this remembrance but it probably had something to do with the pep talk I had given my oldest grandchildren about their upcoming hoops tryouts and/or the fact that I was listening to oldies as I watered what I hoped would soon be a luscious shade of green.

To set the stage, it was January of 1968 and after pit stops at Ohio State and Franklin Universities, I was in my first semester as a student at Rio Grande College. Why Rio Grande? Not exactly sure but it was a small school, which appealed to me, plus it was away from home which is where I needed to be at that stage of my life. At Rio, TVs were not allowed and there was a historic basketball game to be played on the tube, so I headed over to the so-called Student Union to watch undefeated UCLA play undefeated Houston in front of the largest crowd to ever watch a basketball game.

Since I hardly knew anyone, I found a seat and was watching the game by myself when I started up a conversation with a guy who I assumed was just another student. We pretty much talked throughout the contest and parted ways after Houston upset the favored Bruins 71-69. Never did catch his name. Days later, a group of guys who I was just getting to know asked me if I wanted to go to Gallipolis to watch the men’s basketball team so I said sure. I didn’t realize that Gallipolis, twelve miles east of Rio and sitting on the Ohio River, was where Rio played all of their home games as we didn’t yet have our own gym which was soon to be constructed. You can only imagine my surprise when I saw our team hit the floor and on that team was that nice guy who I watched the UCLA - Houston game with. Even more to my surprise was the fact that this young man, whose name was Tony Bass, turned out to be one of the greatest college players I have ever seen. There was no 3 point line back in 1968, but Tony still averaged about 35 points a game and was an NAIA all-American. To this day, I have never seen anyone better in the paint which is amazing as he stood only 6’2” tall.

Later on that Spring, after the basketball season ended and as the weather was warming up, outdoor hoops became a popular activity on the Rio Grande campus and often the varsity players joined in with regular students in choosing up sides for pick-up games. I played in a lot of those games and while I didn’t have much of an overall skill set, I could always shoot and at least one person that mattered took notice. That person was none other than Tony Bass and on one sunny afternoon Tony showed up to play some hoops and Tony being Tony, he would naturally be involved in picking sides. With one of his picks Tony looked my way and announced to all “I’ll take the Little Man.”

I have no memory of who won that game but I have vivid memories of how good it felt to be chosen by Tony and as if I didn’t already look up to this local legend, that afternoon cemented the warm feelings I had for him. I heard that after he graduated, Tony got a tryout with the Cincinnati Royals of the NBA and although he didn’t make the team, it is pretty amazing that a player of his size even got a look. Years later, when he must have still been in his 20’s, I heard that Tony had passed away and it left me with a sadness I still feel today. I don’t know if Tony ever realized what his gesture of choosing “The Little Man” meant to me, but it makes me wonder if I too have ever done something for someone else that resurfaces as a fond memory at a time when they are doing nothing more than maybe just watering their lawn. I sure hope so. As for Tony, I bid him a forever Thank you and pray that he found his peace even though leaving us way too soon.
**Special Glasses**

By Allison Ward

The Columbus Dispatch

To someone who is colorblind, surroundings and objects might appear dull.

Blues, browns and purples can fade together and look similar. Greens and reds can be almost indistinguishable.

A scarlet Ohio State football jersey might appear like a "dark blob" — at least that's how 21-year-old Seth Bledsoe describes it.

Since the fall, though, Bledsoe has seen the world in a new way, thanks to special colorblind eyeglasses.

"The day that I got them, I walked out into the parking and saw a red car — red is totally different to me and so much brighter," said Bledsoe, a Vinton County resident. "I instantly started crying, and part of that was I was so blown away by how amazing colors are."

His emotional response was also due to the glasses being a gift from his classmates at the University of Rio Grande, where Bledsoe is studying to be a special education teacher.

A 47-second clip of the scene at the private college in Gallia County in southern Ohio went viral, attracting more than 1.7 million views on Twitter. In the video, Bledsoe immediately begins to cry, putting his head in his hands in disbelief, after trying on the glasses.

It's one of dozens of joyful clips that have spread across the internet in recent months, capturing people trying on EnChroma glasses for the first time.

Part of the fascination with these videos is that people — both those with and without the vision deficiency — wonder what it might be like to see color for the first time, whether it's seeing a loved one's hair color or discovering that the flowers in the front yard no longer appear dead, said Kent Streeb, director of public relations for EnChroma.

"It's become a bit of a phenomenon, and more people are sharing their experiences with us," said Streeb, whose company, based in Berkeley, California, launched its products to the public in 2014.

Color vision deficiency — the clinically preferred term to colorblindness — is often misunderstood, Streeb said. Someone with normal color vision might see 1 million hues, whereas someone with abnormalities might see only 2% to 10% of them.

The condition affects 1 in 12 males and 1 in 200 females, said Dr. Aaron Zimmerman, an Ohio State University professor of clinical optometry. Some people's issues are milder, while others are more limited in the colors they can differentiate.

Some color vision deficiencies arise from injury or illness in the eye, but most people inherit them from their mother or maternal grandfather, experts said. The condition is typically diagnosed in children through a simple test using images of dots of various colors.

EnChroma was initially invented to protect surgeons' eyes from lasers. However, it was discovered that the glasses also could help people with color vision deficiencies.

These retinal abnormalities can affect a person's education, career choice and daily life, health professionals said.

"Kids in school, parents or teachers might wonder, 'Why can't this young person differentiate color?'" Zimmerman said. "They might have a hard time picking out clothes that match or doing art projects in school."

Angela Brown, a doctoral psychologist at Ohio State who studies the sensory development of the human visual system, said the condition can hinder people's driving abilities — traffic lights and signs can pose problems — and prevent them from entering certain industries.

"For an electrician, for example, it would be a bad mistake to mix up the red and black wires," Brown said. "You wouldn't be allowed to pilot an airplane, commercially or for the military."

Zack Crites, a Northwest Side resident, said his color vision deficiencies can cause issues when he plays board games or is working in his information-technology job and a presenter talks about "a red graph versus a green graph."

"I tell them they have to be more specific," the 34-year-old said. "Sometimes it can be embarrassing, like I don't know my colors."

He said people are often fascinated when they learn that he's colorblind, asking him repeatedly what color an object appears to him.

"I've seen people posting videos of the colorblind glasses," Crites said. "As soon as they put them on, they break down crying. I wonder if I would do that. I've always been interested in trying them."

Streeb said that while emotional videos such as Bledsoe's are great for spreading awareness about the eye condition, they also elevate expectations. Only about 15% to 20% of people have such an immediate emotional response, he said.

"Typically, it can take five to 15 minutes and even longer for the person to acclimate," he said. "Each time you wear them, that acclimation takes less time as the brain starts to understand."

"The videos that don't go viral are the ones where it might work more slowly."

For roughly 10% to 20% of those with color vision deficiency, the glasses will provide little change, something that Streeb and the company stress. He said EnChroma offers refunds up to 60 days after purchase.

continued on page 4
Zimmerman said there’s little risk to trying the glasses, except for expense — they cost roughly $239 to $429.

Brown, however, said that while these types of filters might allow someone to pass a color vision test, they provide no cure.

“It doesn’t mean your colorblindness improves,” Brown said.

For Bledsoe, the glasses have allowed him to differentiate football jerseys better in his role as a high school coach and to pick out the colors of his friends’ cars.

He wears them most days, and he even gave a pair to his maternal grandfather, Jim McFadden, who is also colorblind.

“His exact response was, ‘That grass really is green,’” Bledsoe said. “I’ve learned color can give you feeling. They speak for themselves in a way.”

Video: https://twitter.com/TheeSethBledsoe status/1189995987932200960
Brigadier General Clellan was commissioned from the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps at Rio Grande College in Ohio, as a Second Lieutenant in the as a Military Police Officer in 1989. Upon commissioning, she served three years on active duty as a Military Police Platoon Leader in the 978th Military Police Company. During her three years on active duty, her unit deployed to Honduras, Desert Storm and Panama. In 1992, she left active duty and became a school teacher teaching middle school science. After being in the Inactive Ready Reserves for three years, she returned to duty as a reservist in the 91st Training Division in Denver, CO where she served as an Observer/Controller Training Officer for one year.

In 1998, she joined the COARNG as the 220th Military Police Company Commander and deployed to Tazar Airbase, Hungary in support of Operation Joint Forge, in the Balkans. Upon returning from Hungary, she began working full time as the Quality Manager for the Commander, COARNG. Her traditional assignments included Commander Headquarters, State Area Command and S1 (Personnel Officer), 89th Troop Command. In 2002, she was chosen to serve as the full-time Assistant Professor of Military Science (APMS) and Executive Officer at CU Boulder ROTC, where she taught leadership and tactics to Army cadets. In 2006, she left the Full Time force of the National Guard and went back to being a traditional Soldier, serving as the Personnel Officer for Special Operations Detachment-Korea, while simultaneously working as a civilian in the Department of Veterans Affairs in Denver, CO.

In 2007, she took command of the 193rd Military Police Battalion whose missions included the 2008 Democratic National Convention and Detention Operations in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) 2010-11. Upon return from OEF, she was selected for the Army War College and assigned as the Brigade Executive Officer for the 89th Troop Command. In 2012, COL Clellan was chosen to command the 168th Regimental Training Institute. In 2014, she was selected as the Land Component Commander for the Colorado Army National Guard, overseeing operational readiness of 7 major Commands, ~3800 Soldiers. In 2017, she was selected to serve in her current position as the Assistant Adjutant General for the Colorado Army National Guard.

Concurrently in her civilian career, she works as the Chief, Leadership and Employee Development at Region 6, US Fish and Wildlife in Lakewood, Colorado, where she is the lead in the design, development, implementation, management and assessment of conservation leadership and workforce development. She coaches teams and leaders in problem solving, work methods and procedures. She also serves as primary advisor to the Regional Director on training, leadership and organizational development strategies.

Clellan is married to Stephanie Harding. They live in Golden, CO. She enjoys the outdoors, hiking, biking, and snowboarding.

1. What made you choose to pursue a college education at Rio Grande? I went to a small rural high school, so I wanted to go to a small college. Also, I paid for my first year of college and the cost was very affordable. I ran out of money at the end of my first year, so I walked into the ROTC building inquiring about college assistance and came out with a three year scholarship... AND an eight year commitment to the military.

2. How were you involved on Rio’s campus? I don’t remember a lot, but I played intramural sports and played on the softball team for four years as the catcher.
3. **What did Rio offer you besides an education?** It offered me a chance - I didn’t go to college right after graduation. I worked a year and realized I needed to have an education to get anywhere in life. I wasn’t the most disciplined in high school; my parents were divorced and I was a typical ‘Gen X latchkey kid’. When I went to college, I set my goals and worked hard to achieve them, even without the support of my parents. The smallness of the school allowed for intimate classes, one on ones with professors, and close friendships.

4. **What are some of your favorite Rio memories?** Playing softball - double headers every game! Biology classes with Professor “Oz”. Walking through the woods during Ornithology testing our ability to recognize birds by their songs. Late night class studies in the anatomy lab memorizing skeletal parts. ROTC classes- conducting land navigation on the Bob Evans property.

5. **Was there any teacher, advisor, coach, etc. that made an impact on your life? How?** We had a coach named Dixie - I can’t remember her last name. I also have fond memories of Dr Osborne- or Oz. He kept me passionate about science and engaged - I later became a teacher.

6. **What did you learn about yourself during college?** I learned that leadership came natural to me, whether it be on the softball field or in ROTC. I also learned that I could accomplish difficult tasks- like graduating college studying Biology and Chemistry.

7. **How did Rio prepare you for your career?** I think my experiences in ROTC, softball and in my sciences courses led to my current work ethic, reliability and commitment to excellence.

8. **Why are you proud to be a Rio Alumna?** It is a small school that had great educators. I am proud to have studied there and had such an intimate college experience.

9. **Do you have any advice for current students?** You really can do anything if you set your mind to it and work hard.

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**ART ALUMNI**

A large group of former students and professors recently gathered for the Art Alumni Reception held at the Greer Museum on Nov. 26. Those in attendance also included current professors James Allen and Kevin Lyles. The show was open to any art alumni to showcase his/her work. A total of 38 pieces were on display from Nov. 15 to December 5. Those with pieces in the show included: Janet Martin ’08; Keri Lawrence ’18; Erin Beach ’13; Bryan Minear ’09; Brad Painter ’05; Natalie Miller ’10; Gabe Richmann ’18; Sam Taylor ’16; Joseph Hamilton ’18; Dustin Beach ’11; Jennifer Blake ’13; Brian Horton ’95; Chris Wood ’96; Jon Simmons ’15; Jerry L. Waters ’14; Barb Abels ’17; Emma Lyles ’18; James Hamilton ’12; Dave Snyder; Kristin Beattie ’03; Charles Maxum ’12; Angela Petrie ’96; Emalea Rupe ’16; and Joy Duffy ’08.
Randy S. Koehler II has been named Chief Financial Officer at DePaul Cristo Rey High School. In this role, he oversees all activities related to the school’s business and financial management including the annual audit, budget process, facilities, human resources, and information technology. He serves on the school’s Executive Leadership Team, reporting to the President.

A graduate of the University of Rio Grande in Ohio, Koehler holds a bachelor’s degree in accounting and is a certified public accountant. Prior to joining DePaul Cristo Rey, he served as vice president of Finance and Administration at Cincinnati Christian University and in earlier positions as a senior accountant for Wellpoint, Inc., Western & Southern Financial Group and Kamphaus, Henning & Hood, CPAs.

DePaul Cristo Rey, sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati, offers a nationally recognized, dual-focus education model to students whose families need significant financial assistance to afford a private, college preparatory program. This education model, not available at any other local high school, partners challenging college preparatory academics with a Corporate Work Study Program (CWSP). It is one of 37 Catholic high schools in the nationwide Cristo Rey Network® which serves 13,000 young people.

SiM Center Ribbon Cutting

Rio Grande was host to many as they officially opened the new Nursing Simulation Center. Officials from partner hospitals, local politicians, faculty, nursing students and students from Buckeye Hills were in attendance.

The ribbon cutting marked the unveil the state-of-the-art learning center where Rio Nursing, Allied Health, Social Work and other students have already been gaining real-world experiences in a controlled setting. According to Michelle Young, the Simulation Center Specialist, this event will showcase the incredible technology available to those attending Rio.

The Rio Simulation Center is funded by an Appalachian Regional Commission Grant. Groundbreaking for construction of the new center took place in April 2017. The center is located inside of the Davis Career Center on Rio’s main campus.

Storm The Business

How to participate:
Step 1: Fill out survey
Step 2: Get a window cling for your business
Step 3: Be a proud Rio Alumni and show off your cling

What we do:
Update your information/business information in our database
Promote your business on social media (free marketing, oh yeah)
Brag about you - We are proud of all Rio Alumni!

Open to all Rio alums/business owners
Some Remembrances, Quickly Noted  
By Mary Evelyn Wilson VanMeter ‘51  
Rio Grad 1951, BS in Secondary Education  
Marshall College, 1956 MA (Started Liberal Science Classes) Liberal Science at University of Utah, Teaching Certificate 1963  

At Rio Grande College – Fall 1945 – One of about 45 students, and some of them commuters, Second semester enrollment jumped to about 95 (vets returning!)  

I’d worked as a clerk-typist after graduation for Waterloo High School, 1942 at the age of 16 until after atomic bombs hit Japan and I was already making school plans. I had taken by dad’s advice to save with war bonds – with any extra money after necessities to work in Dayton as a clerk-typist-overflow officer of Signal Corp from Wright Field to prepare to pay my way for education.  

At Rio, with small staff and low enrollment, we got to know the administrators and staff as well as most students. College operated a diary at the College Farm (The Woods Homestead – now Bob Evans). Most students worked on campus or at the ‘farm’. I and other spent many Saturday mornings assisting boys who washed milk bottles. I had a close friend who would assist my roommate – peel potatoes in the cafeteria – a new experience.  

I’d grown up in Lawrence County – on Greasy Ridge – so number two of give. I’d learned to help do thing (no electric or plumbing). Anyway, as opportunity availed, I found myself working at various things on campus and in community. All students who lived in dorm were expected to do two hours each week/somewhere in forms or where needed in office, library, kitchen, or whatever. My first official job was to work for the President (McDermott and later Dean Lewis) as secretary. I soon found myself helping with various office tasks. Working staff was limited so there was after paid (.25 an hour) things one could do that could help staff as well as for one to earn towards next term – or meals. Most of us who lived in dorms and other classmates became acquainted.  

The CCA (College Christian Association) was one of the most active organizations on campus and as more vets returned from service, the vets organization gave an outlet for many. One as I recall – the Future Teachers Association – was active. There was no sororities or fraternities, but many students socialized in sort of groupings and I’m sure became lifelong friends. Most of us became associated with work and/or interest with leadership generally from faculty or staff people.  

My years at Rio were great for me, and my friends. My experiences such as yearbook – “The Grandion” was a very valuable volunteer experience that helped me so much in later life. High school year book, newspaper and even later during work for college and high school reunions, even some work with community and political group meetings.  

I’ve been grateful for opportunities and participation when Rio was in early growing stage after WWll. Sports were important but other things on campus were also a very important part of our lives. We looked forward to Homecoming, May Day, and other events and much was Christ-centered at that time.  

I feel blessed to be able to enjoy the rural life but don’t get out alone as much as in years past. Daughter who lives one and a half to two and half hours from here insist on limits of things in other areas. I still like some independence.  

Grandson who thinks he wants to have farm is presently in Uncle Sam’s Army. Activities have been busy – in service – and he had advanced, but God holds the future for all. No more land is being created and farm (most of it) has been in family for nearly 100 years. He has some experiences as a child with his other side – on tractor – then when in school (Pickaway County) worked for a commercial farmer (made more money than when first in army). The commercial farmer here would probably help him.  

I’m the last of this generation of my late husband’s family and have one sister (90) on my side. Last time down past Rio (out 325) I looked up Al and Emelyn Scarberry on Holcomb Hollow Road and learned at Alumni Reunion of Birmingham (OH) Erie County May 2019 that both has passed in the past year. I had Emelyn (Wickline) in my classes in 1952 and 1953. Both are Rio Grande Alumni.  

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