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RIO GRANDE

News



September 2010



NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE *Dr. Barbara Gellman-Danley*

With a slightly cooling air in the evenings, we approach our new fall semester with both excitement and some trepidation. On Friday evening, August 20, we began the year with a faculty-staff picnic which reached attendance of around 175 from our full time employees and their guests. As we enjoyed great camaraderie, games and family, I looked over the beautiful view of our campus, enjoying the breathtaking vista of the athletic fields. Something felt right that entire day. I know there was an endless amount of heroic effort by our enrollment management team, maintenance and housekeeping staff, faculty advisors, academic leadership and staff to prepare for the start of the new academic year. In so many ways, we were ready. I will surely fail in naming individuals, so please accept my heartfelt thanks to everyone who

came together to create a perfect storm for success.

Allow me to personalize my message by noting my great joy in spending Move-In Day as “Prez of the Rez.” Thanks to our creative staff, I wore a rather noticeable golf shirt with that title and my scheduled “World Tour” on the back. Indeed, I kept asking folks to read my back so I would know which dorm came next in my journey.

Each dorm provided an exciting and emotional experience for me, as President. Early in the morning when the first mother walked in with her daughter, I had to fight back empathetic tears. They came armed with more than any human being can possibly fit in a dorm room. Having done this with my own husband for four children (multiplied by several years in college); I suspected they

would meet the challenge. As this mother-daughter team dragged in a carpet for the room, my mind’s eye flashed back to four years ago when I dropped off my youngest son. Having recently left him in Chicago for law school, I knew how these parents were feeling. I kiddingly say that I was out of the fetal position within 36 hours, and frankly, that’s not much of an exaggeration. I also know the students often cannot wait for their parents to leave, so they can start their own independent lives. How then, do I balance out my interaction with the families knowing all this?

There were so many little brothers and sisters “serving” their elder siblings. I thought to myself about how our youngest told his three older siblings it would be “big time pay back” when he went to college. He

continued



Welcome Back continued

was going to sit and drink tea, while they did all the work. Naturally, that did not happen – and it will not with these families. But I could not help but notice the sadness on some of the younger children’s faces as they bid farewell to their sisters and brothers. Again, be a president and don’t cry.

Our residence hall staff and volunteers were fantastic. They had the process completely perfected; everything moved along very well. The soccer players helped me understand the way their game works; the basketball players promised to help the fearful new students coming into Holzer Hall. I, in turn, spoke with parents about their aspirations for their children, and promised them they can call if they are lonely or scared about their kids being homesick. I also told one

young man to march up to Allen Hall any time he wants to call home. Throughout my own conversations, I saw several members of the President’s Cabinet dropping off water, dragging up refrigerators and assuring registration was complete. This was a real team effort.

It is so interesting how moments of our lives flash in front of us. I imagine several of our volunteers remembered their own days in college, many at Rio Grande – and their children’s. Parents wonder how the years passed so quickly; just yesterday the kindergarten bus was seemingly grabbing our little ones from our arms. Generations of Rio Grande graduates and employees have passed through our dorms and classrooms; many more await their turn. We need to keep those doors opened, safe and welcoming.

Thank you Rio Grande, for letting me be a small part of this day and time. I want to be with our students, help them, guide them, know them and share in their ups and downs. Although my Saturday journey ended in a rain-soaked golf cart ride, I was filled with the sunshine of the experience. This is going to be a very strong year at Rio, if we all continue to apply the “welcome” throughout the year. We simply cannot let the spirit of Move-In day pass, or we will surely be moving students out of Rio as quickly – residential or commuter. Let’s continue to celebrate that feeling of new beginnings, and plot a path for a successful journey together. And remember, if there are any pizza parties in the dorms – I want “in.” ♦



Davis Library

Marketing and Signage Project

Working with the Office of University Relations and with Instructional Design and Media Services (IDMS), library staff developed new interior signage, a directional brochure and other marketing materials for the Davis Library over the summer. The result of these efforts will help to enhance the library user’s experience by making information services more accessible.

Davis Library participates with Rio Orientation.

New students and their families were encouraged to check out the Davis

Library while visiting campus for orientation this summer. Library staff were available at these sessions to provide more information on library services and to promote the Friends of the Davis Library organization’s activities and membership.

Find out about Davis Library on FACEBOOK.

Become a fan of Davis Library and keep up with events, special hours, holidays and more! Davis Library is always looking for new and exciting ways to reach out to patrons, and through Facebook students are informed of general library policies, common questions are answered and pictures are posted of special events.

Davis Library’s Central Stairwell gets Improvements.

The central stairwell in Davis Library received some much-needed improvement over the summer. As anyone who has traversed this stairwell over the past few years knows, it was in dire need of new carpeting. With the help of the University’s maintenance

department and with funding through Davis Library’s maintenance endowment, new carpet was installed on the stairs and tile was installed on each of the landings.

Oversized Books Project

Oversized books have presented perennial shelving problems for many years, causing unsightly and disorganized shelves. Over the summer, library staff decided to create a new location for shelving these books. Oversized books will now be shelved on the second floor, directly adjacent to the elevator and Seminar Room 205. Oversized books will be designated as such in RioCat, Davis Library’s online catalog. Patrons should note the location of books when using RioCat: Oversized Books – 2nd Floor.

Database Errors Project

Library staff established a system to locate and correct cataloging errors. This as an ongoing project for the year intended to catch all the typos and other often minor, but annoying,

mistakes that come through when cataloging records are imported catalog from OCLC bibliographic database. Importing records is a necessary time saver, but occasional cleanup is needed.

Paperback and Media Project

Library staff also worked on the weeding of both the Paperback and Media Collections over the summer and work continues on this project into fall semester. While some older microform items have been retained for their research value, other items, such as old/worn romance novels, dated/brittle filmstrips and poor quality audiocassettes are being withdrawn. Paperback works that previously have not appeared in the Library's catalog will now be searchable in RioCat and be organized on shelving for easier access. Paperback books will be moved from their former location in the second floor lounge area and will now be shelved on the Main Floor, directly adjacent to the Media Collection. Patrons should note the location of books when using RioCat: Paperback Books – Main Floor. ♦



The New Student Advising Office reports that 497 students were advised, scheduled, and registered in the month of August. (Susan sends a big "Thank You" to Bev and Kathy!)

September's activities will include:

- Susan's presentations to the LA 101 classes
- Susan's coordination with Beverly Crabtree on the Founders' Day/ New Student Convocation to be held Monday, September 13, at 10:30 am in Lyne Center
- Bev McManus will administer the (national) ACT on Saturday, September 11 ♦

Come Join the Band!

Gary Stewart, Band Director in the Fine Arts Department, has extended an invitation to all musicians on campus to join the University Symphonic Band. Rehearsal takes place on the stage in the Fine Arts building each Thursday evening from 7-8:30 pm. If you would like to participate but need an instrument, contact Mr. Stewart for his help in obtaining a horn or percussion instrument.

The band is open to all faculty, staff, and students with no audition necessary. Later in the semester, the band program also forms their Pep Band and performs at most home basketball games. This group uses volunteers and musicians are always needed.

For more information, please contact Gary Stewart at (740)245-7087 or gstewart@rio.edu. ♦

Greer Museum Exhibit



"In three, two, one..."

September 28 through October 24, 2010

Reception:

October 8, 2010 • 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Masterworks Chorale Performs *Messiah*

The University of Rio Grande's Masterworks Chorale presents George Frederic Handel's famous oratorio *Messiah* Sunday, 5 December, 2010, at 3:30 p.m.

Messiah is an oratorio which celebrates the whole of Christ's work,

from the advent of his birth in the prophecies of the Old Testament, through his life, suffering, death, and resurrection, to his future second coming in glory. It is more than just a piece of music; it is a monument of western civilization which has become one of the most loved and performed compositions in the two-and-a-half centuries since it was written. Handel's oratorio is regarded as one of the greatest works in the whole of choral music. The Masterworks Chorale has performed *Messiah* many times in the history of the ensemble, the last being in 2006.

The members of the Masterworks Chorale are student and area musicians from Gallia and surrounding counties. By their participation, all are actively contributing to the artistic culture of the southeastern Ohio region.

Dedicated to developing an appreciation for the art of choral music and promoting all types and styles of the world's great choral music, the Chorale specializes in the performance of extended compositions, usually by famous composers and often accompanied by professional ensembles. It is our joy to master great works in order to share them with our audience.

If you or someone you know is interested in joining the Masterworks Chorale, please contact the director at cpryce@rio.edu or 740/245-7405.

No audition is required and anyone from high school through retirement age is welcome to join. Masterworks Chorale may be taken for college credit.

This performance is free and open to the public. ♦

***A mind once stretched by a
new idea never regains its
original dimensions.***

- Anonymous



Sarah Gray-Hammond was employed as the new Math Specialist for Jenkins Center. She is a graduate of Shawnee State University and has a Masters from the University of Rio Grande. She is located in Rhodes Student Center room 110 from 8-5 p.m. to assist students with math and chemistry. We are glad to have Sarah here as part of the Jenkins Center staff. ♦

Donald P. Althoff, Ph.D.



Donald P. Althoff, Ph.D., assistant professor of biology, made an oral presentation at the 22nd North American Prairie Conference

in Cedar Falls, Iowa on August 4. His topic was “*Use of Low-level aerial photography for delineation of biological and physical features of tallgrass prairie.*” His co-authors were Kevin Blecha of Kansas State University, Philip Woodford of Fort Riley Military Installation in Kansas, and Philip Gipson of Texas Tech University. The paper was based on development of the photography system from 2003-2009 in north-central Kansas. ♦



Rio Named “Military Friendly School for 2011”



The University of Rio Grande and Rio Grande Community College have been named a “Military Friendly School for 2011” by GI Jobs Magazine.

Rio Grande was recently notified of this honor, given to the institution for its efforts to help veterans and their family members.

“This honor places you in the top 15% of all schools nationwide,” states the plaque presented to Rio Grande for the award. “Your steadfast commitment to educating our great nation’s military veterans will enable the United States to prosper for years to come.”

Charles Gray, who works in the Veterans Affairs Office at Rio Grande, explained that colleges and universities across the country are asked about the programs and services that they offer to veterans. He is proud that Rio Grande was honored for the many different ways it assists veterans.

Gray is on campus every day to help veterans with different issues they may face, and Rio Grande opened a new Student Veterans Center on campus during the 2009-2010 school year. For the 2010-2011 school year, work study students will staff the Student Veterans Center so that it will be able to be open throughout the day for veterans on campus.

The center was set up as a place for veterans to hold meetings, study for classes, talk about issues facing veterans who are going back to college and just have a place to relax

and socialize with friends. Veterans often face numerous challenges as they transition from the military life to taking college classes, and the veterans center is a place where these students can meet with each other.

Also during the 2009-2010 school year, the new Rio Grande Veterans Organization formed and began holding meetings and bringing in speakers to talk to veterans. The organization is based on campus and was instrumental in opening the new Student Veterans Center, but it is also open to veterans in the community.

Rio Grande faculty and staff also had the opportunity in the last year to attend a seminar where they received special training in assisting veterans who are in college. The training was designed to help them better understand the challenges veterans may face, and Gray said it was very beneficial.

Gray and the other employees in the Veterans Affairs Office are also available to help veterans, and Gray also assists veterans affairs offices at other colleges in the region. He often talks with veterans in the community about the many different educational benefits that are available to them pay for college, and he helps them receive the benefits they have earned. He also assists students who are members of the National Guard, and also assists family members of soldiers and veterans.

He is proud that Rio Grande was honored with this award, but he is even more proud about the excellent response Rio Grande has been receiving from veterans in the community.

“We have about four times as many veterans taking classes here this summer as last summer,” Gray said. The veterans enrollment is also up substantially during the school year, and Gray is pleased that so many veterans are choosing to continue their educations at Rio Grande, where they can receive a wide array of services. ♦

Rio Nursing Students Partner with Rio Valley Stables



Nursing students from the University of Rio Grande and Rio Grande Community College visited the Rio Valley Stables recently to work with an innovative program designed to help children and adults with autism, development disabilities or cerebral palsy.

Hope Intervention, a local non-profit organization that provides resources and support to families with children or adults who have autism, designed the program with Rio Valley Stables. The program allows individuals with special needs to take part in therapeutic horseback riding at the Rio Valley Stables. The therapeutic horseback riding has numerous benefits, such as helping the riders improve their balance, muscle tone, strength, endurance, posture and coordination. In addition, having success with tasks such as putting the saddle onto the horse or just getting onto the horse can also help improve the rider's attention span and increase his or her confidence.

The riders also benefit from having the experience of smelling the horses, tack and feed. They are able to improve their fine motor skills by working with the horses in different ways and improve their communication skills by working with the staff and customers at the Rio Valley Stables. The Rio Valley Stables is staffed by volunteers and provides numerous services for the community, and the organization works well with Hope Intervention on this project.

One of the regular volunteers at the Rio Valley Stables is Michelle Young, MS, RN, CNE, who also serves as a nursing instructor at Rio Grande.

On Thursday, July 22, Young took 23 of her nursing students over to the Rio Valley Stables so that they could also assist with the Hope Intervention program. Young explained that she wanted the students to take part in the program in order to help them gain more experience working with area residents with different needs, and to help them learn about the importance of community service projects. The day was also a good way for the students to learn more about therapeutic riding and other therapeutic programs that they could be working with as nurses.

Jack Howbert, a second year student from Portsmouth who is in the LPN to RN advanced placement track program at Rio Grande, said it was interesting to see how the riders gained self-esteem and confidence from riding the horses, and how it helped them in numerous ways.

"You can see that it really works well," Howbert said.

Young added that she was proud of the work her students did helping out at the Rio Valley Stables.

"The students have been super," Young said, adding that they learned a great deal during the day.

"They have seen the importance of being involved with the community and volunteering their time and experience."

Donna Mitchell, director of the Holzer School of Nursing, said she was pleased that the students were able to work at the Rio Valley Stables.

"It was an excellent opportunity for our students to learn more about autism," Mitchell said. "I'm very proud of Michelle for putting this project together for the students."

Patti Slayton, owner/manager of the Rio Valley Stables, said she

was happy to have the Rio Grande students volunteering their time.

"I think they learned quite a bit," she said. Slayton is proud to work with Hope Intervention on this program, and she is thankful for all of the volunteers who work at the stables throughout the year.

"The community involvement is great here," Slayton said. The Rio Valley Stables currently has 47 horses, and offers horseback riding for people of all ages and experience levels. The Rio Valley Stables offers several trails for people to ride, senior nights, carriage rides, after-school programs, summer day camps, riding lessons and numerous other programs for the community. ♦

Rio Students Visit Child Care Centers

Four University of Rio Grande and Rio Grande Community College students had the opportunity to visit several child care centers in Columbus recently in order to learn more about the techniques these centers use while working with the children.

The tour was hosted by Action For Children: The Source for Child Care and Early Learning Services. Some of the centers the students visited were very large and work with large numbers of children every day, while other centers were smaller.

The idea behind the tour was to give the students an opportunity to visit a variety of centers and see the different ways the instructors work with the children in early childhood education.

The students who took part in the tour were Angela Hale of Vinton County, Brianna Layton of Jackson, Arin McGoye of Vinton County and Megan Wise of Gallipolis.

The students visited the South Side Learning and Development Center, the Broad Street Infant Center, the Ohio State University Ackerman & Buckeye Village, and the Brightside Child Care Center.

continued

The Rio Grande students enjoyed the trip and said they learned a great deal from the experience.

“My favorite part of the trip was seeing how the teachers treated the children like dignified little people, with formal place settings and all,” Megan Wise said.

Angela Hale explained that while the centers were all very different, they all shared one common theme.

“I really appreciate the time and effort given to our group. Our field trip to Columbus to experience the different childcare centers ended up being very culturally diverse and informative,” Hale said. “The centers, the curriculum and the assessments were diverse, but the children were all the same...very curious and special!”

Brianna Layton said she is also very thankful for the opportunity to go on the tour.

“Our trip to Columbus was a great experience,” Layton said. “Seeing the different childcare centers and how diverse they were was amazing. It made me realize how kids are kids no matter where they live.”

Arin McGoye said she learned a great deal on the trip.

“The overall experience visiting the daycare centers was amazing. It was very eye-opening,” McGoye said. “I learned that kids are kids no matter where they live, and we need to provide them with unique learning opportunities that are meaningful to them. Dinner at the Cheesecake Factory (in Columbus) was a nice touch, too.”

One special part of the tour was the opportunity to visit with Shannon Brown from the Broad Street Infant Center. Rio Grande faculty member Valerie Valentine, Ph.D., who organized the tour for the students in one of her upper level classes, explained that Brown is a Rio Grande graduate who played on the women’s basketball team while she was on campus. ♦

Rio Students will be Traveling to Wales this Fall



Six University of Rio Grande and Rio Grande Community College students will have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to spend a semester studying in Wales this fall.

The students are taking part in Rio Grande’s exchange program with Trinity College in Carmarthen, Wales. Rio Grande’s Madog Center for Welsh Studies coordinates the exchange program each year, which allows Rio Grande students to study at Trinity College during the fall semester and then Trinity College students to study at Rio Grande during the spring semester.

The six Rio Grande students chosen for the exchange program for the 2010-2011 school year are Krystle Clemens of Austintown, Matthew Hosken of Pomeroy, Joseph Rosler of Shade, Angela Stuart of Pomeroy, Markia Wright of Gallipolis Ferry, W.Va., and Derek Weber of Pomeroy.

“I’m extremely excited to have this opportunity to study abroad in Wales, and I’m anxious to see the home of my ancestors,” Stuart said. “This will be an invaluable experience for my future career and education; it promises to be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I will cherish forever.”

Hosken, Stuart, Wright and Weber all studied the Welsh language in a special course at Rio Grande during the 2009-2010 school year. Sioned Wyn, the Welsh Intern for the Madog Center, taught the class to students and community members, and the course was very popular.

Jeanne Jindra, director of the Madog Center, said that the students were excited to be able to study some of the language and culture of Wales before leaving for the fall semester.

Since the exchange program between Rio Grande and Trinity College began in 2002, more than 40 Rio Grande students have been able to expand their educational and cultural experiences the opportunity to spend a semester studying in overseas.

While at Trinity College, the Rio Grande students are able to study with students from all over the world, while also being immersed in the Welsh culture. The students are also able to take part in travel programs that allow them to visit places throughout Wales, along with visiting other locations in Great Britain and Europe.

Currently, six students from Trinity College are planning to spend the spring 2011 semester at Rio Grande. Previous students from Trinity College have been involved in theater productions and musical performances at Rio Grande and around the region during the semesters they have spent at Rio Grande. ♦

Fine Woodworking Endowed Scholarship Established

The Western Ohio Woodworkers Club has endowed a new scholarship fund to benefit students studying fine woodworking at the University of Rio Grande and Rio Grande Community College.

“The students and faculty in the fine woodworking program are passionate about their work and the members of the Western Ohio Woodworkers are passionate about helping young woodworkers,” said Beverly Crabtree, vice president of institutional advancement at Rio Grande. “We appreciate all they do for our students, not only through scholarships, but through the guidance and inspiration they provide for our students.”

Eric Matson, who leads the fine woodworking program at Rio Grande, said he very thankful that the Western Ohio Woodworkers Club has set up this scholarship in order to help the students.

“This will provide a great opportunity for our students,” Matson said.

The Western Ohio Woodworkers Club members chose to develop the scholarship fund a few years ago, and then presented scholarships to Rio Grande students while they were still raising money for the endowment fund. Recently, the woodworking club presented Rio Grande with the endowment funds for the scholarship, and several members of the club visited the campus.

“It’s really going to help our students,” Matson said about the scholarship funds. In addition to helping students pay for tuition and materials, the scholarship winners will also benefit from being invited to make presentations to the club members. The presentations will be excellent learning experiences for the students, and they will also allow them to make contacts with people involved in fine woodworking from around the region.

One member of the Western Ohio Woodworkers Club who came to campus for the scholarship presentation, for example, has his own television show about woodworking. Scott Philips, whose show “The American Woodshop,” is featured on Saturday mornings on public television, is a member of the Western Ohio Woodworkers.

Philips was impressed with the Rio Grande program and the work the students are doing, and the students were happy to be able to talk to such a well-known and respected woodworker.

Harris Bartine, who is also a member of the Western Ohio Woodworkers, explained that the club members have been saving up for the past five years to create the scholarship fund.

“The club members really came through,” Bartine said, adding that the club plans on continuing to add to the scholarship fund in future years.

The Western Ohio Woodworkers Club is made up of people who love fine woodworking and are proud to help



Eric Matson, Fine Woodworking Instructor; Dick Reese, Vice President of the Western Ohio Woodworkers; President Barbara Gellman-Danley, Ph.D.; and Harris Bartine, member of WOW, are shown as the scholarship gift is presented.

students in Rio Grande’s fine woodworking program. The club members also invited the Rio Grande students to take part in a fine woodworking show in the Dayton area last year, and they hope to have the Rio Grande students at the show again this year.

Bartine and the other members of the club are pleased to see the outstanding work being done by the Rio Grande students in the fine woodworking program each year, and Bartine said he enjoys visiting campus and talking to Matson and the students.

Rio Grande’s fine woodworking program draws students from around the country, and the students have won several national awards in recent years. Graduates of the program are in demand around the country, and many of the alumni have formed their own woodworking businesses. ♦

New Trustees Inducted

The University of Rio Grande Board of Trustees has officially inducted four new members.

The new trustees are Mary McCurdy Pierce, Robert D. Foster, Glenna K. LeGrand and Thomas F. Davisson.

Mary McCurdy Pierce earned her bachelor’s degree in secondary education from Rio Grande and a master’s degree from Xavier University before serving as a teacher and administrator in the Pickerington City School District. Now retired, she is active with volunteer work in her community and also serves as the President of the Rio Grande Alumni Association. She is proud to now also be a member of the Board of Trustees.

While a student at Rio Grande, she helped found the Rio Grande chapter of the Alpha Mu sorority, met her husband, made many friends and learned a great deal.

continued



Mary McCurdy Pierce '67



Robert D. Foster '85



Glenna K. McCorkle LeGrand '65



Thomas F. Davisson '72

“It had a great impact on my life,” McCurdy Pierce said. The university is very vital to the region today, and McCurdy Pierce wants to help Rio Grande continue to grow in order to benefit its students and the community.

One area in particular that she hopes to work on is the continued improvements to the residence halls and campus facilities, and she has already met with a few students to discuss this.

Glenna LeGrand also served as a teacher after earning her degree from Rio Grande. After graduation she went on to earn an additional degree from Ohio University and then teach in school districts in Texas, Columbus, Oak Hill and Jackson.

“I am pleased to be a Trustee at the University of Rio Grande and am pleased to participate in an effort for staff development, for curriculum enhancement, for updating facilities and for strengthening finances,” LeGrand said.

“I look forward to Rio Grande moving to the next level by providing quality education for a greater number of students,” LeGrand said. “I am excited that we have a new president with strong leadership qualifications and I am pleased that an exceptional and promising provost has been appointed.”

Robert Foster is Rio Grande graduate who today is the owner/operator of a local transportation company. His business goals include facilitating infrastructure improvements in Gallia County and

all across Ohio in order to improve commerce. He also utilizes advanced technology in his business in order to keep his company on the cutting edge of logistical resources.

Foster, who lives in Bidwell, is a member of the National Federation of Independent Business Owners, the Gallia County Chamber of Commerce and several other business and community organizations.

Thomas Davisson is a Rio Grande graduate who went on to also earn a degree from the Louis National University in Evanston, Ill. Today, he serves as the Senior Vice President of the Sullivan University System in Louisville, Kentucky.

“My Rio Grande education has afforded me the opportunity to pursue a career that I had never considered, that of higher education administration,” Davisson said, adding that his career is very fulfilling.

Rio was the perfect place for me to complete my undergraduate education. The friends I made and lessons I learned have lasted a lifetime. Joining Archon fraternity was another great decision. Not only for the fun and friendship but also for the commitment to service to community and the university that Archon instilled in me,” Davisson said.

After working for nearly 40 years in higher education administration, Davisson felt that he could use his knowledge to benefit Rio Grande, and he is honored to be a member of the Board of Trustees.

“I believe that Rio Grande has a

unique mission that has been, and can continue to be, a tremendous economic engine for Southeastern Ohio and beyond. There are many young people that need a small, nurturing environment with caring professors and staff that truly care about the student and the individual,” Davisson said. Rio Grande served that role perfectly for him, and he wants the institution to be able to offer even more opportunities to students of all ages.

“The world is truly changing and becoming smaller. We need to change with it and expand our vision and our mission to better serve this exciting and dynamic global community,” Davisson said. “I am happy for the opportunity to serve my alma mater in some small way in this journey. It is a way for me to say ‘Thanks’ to all those teachers and staff that gave of themselves to help this young man mature and gain confidence in the God-given abilities which I did not know I had. That confidence has allowed me to travel to various parts of the world in my career and to even testify before the U.S. Congress on education and workforce issues. Things this small-town boy could never have dreamed of doing before coming the Rio Grande.”

During the induction ceremony for Foster, Davisson, LeGrand and McCurdy Pierce, the four new members all received Honorary Master of Public Service Degrees from Rio Grande. ♦

Rio Grande Selected for AEP Ohio Scholarships to Develop Ohio Workforce Scholarships focus on low income students

AEP Ohio, a unit of American Electric Power (NYSE: AEP), has donated \$225,000 in scholarship funds to qualifying applicants that plan to attend two-year Ohio community and technical colleges. The scholarships are part of a workforce development initiative designed to help low income Ohioans compete for jobs in an evolving economy.

Eligible recipients will be AEP Ohio customers at or below 200 percent of the 2009-2010 Federal Poverty Guidelines. Scholarships will be awarded to those who are seeking to upgrade their skills, particularly in utility industry careers.

The scholarships will be administered through each of the nine educational institutions, including the University of Rio Grande and Rio Grande Community College. Applicants may apply for the scholarships through the office of financial aid by sending an email of interest to dknepper@rio.edu.

“In times like these, AEP Ohio, along with other businesses and government must work together to help Ohio families compete for jobs,” said Joseph Hamrock, AEP Ohio president and chief operating officer. “We are pleased to be able to offer these scholarships to Ohioans in need to help to upgrade their skills.”

“Rio Grande is the only combined public and private institution in the state, and indeed nationally. This partnership creates a unique opportunity for the citizens of southeastern Ohio and those coming

to us from other parts of the state, country and internationally,” stated Barbara Gellman-Danley, Ph.D., president of the University of Rio Grande and Rio Grande Community College. She continued, “With a full range of student services and a very active student life, there is plenty to do on campus from sports to clubs and fraternities. We are very proud of how our students become integrated with the surrounding communities, and participate actively in service learning projects. Our students have successful careers, and many go on to graduate level programs and professional degrees.”

AEP Ohio’s Partnership With Ohio (PWO) Fund is a three-year \$15 million shareholder-funded program that provides additional help to Ohio’s needy families. The programs are designed to include families with incomes up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level, a segment of the population that often does not qualify for state and federal aid.

Since 2009, the company has provided through the PWO Fund \$6.25 million to support regional food banks and United Way agencies, workforce development initiatives, direct bill payment assistance, and weatherization efforts for low-income customers. AEP Ohio also has used the funding to support the company’s Neighbor-to-Neighbor Program, a program designed to help low-income customers struggling to pay their electric bill. Other PWO contributions will be announced throughout the year.

AEP Ohio provides electricity to nearly 1.5 million customers of major AEP subsidiaries Columbus Southern Power Company and Ohio Power Company in Ohio, and Wheeling Power Company in the northern panhandle of West Virginia. AEP Ohio is based in Gahanna, Ohio, and is a unit of American Electric Power.

American Electric Power is one of the largest electric utilities in the United States, delivering electricity to more than 5 million customers in 11 states. AEP ranks among the nation’s largest generators of electricity, owning nearly 38,000 megawatts of generating capacity in the U.S. AEP also owns the nation’s largest electricity transmission systems combined. AEP’s transmission system directly or indirectly serves about 10 percent of the electricity demand in the Eastern Interconnection, the interconnected transmission system that covers 38 eastern and central U.S. states and eastern Canada, and approximately 11 percent of the electricity demand in ERCOT, the transmission system that covers much of Texas. AEP’s utility units operate as AEP Ohio, AEP Texas, Appalachian Power (in Virginia and West Virginia), AEP Appalachian Power (in Tennessee), Indiana Michigan Power, Kentucky Power, Public Service Company of Oklahoma, and Southwestern Electric Power Company (in Arkansas, Louisiana, and east Texas). AEP’s headquarters are in Columbus, Ohio. ♦



UNIVERSITY OF
RIO GRANDE
& RIO GRANDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE