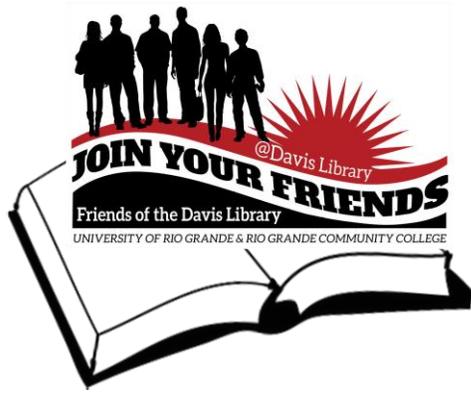


August 2017



Hello Friend,

The 2017-18 Academic Year at the University of Rio Grande and Rio Grande Community College is now underway and Davis Library is full of activity. As always, we are looking forward another year with friends like you—our **Friends of the Davis Library**.

Last year, you helped our Friends group succeed in many important advocacy initiatives for the library, university, and community. You know the hard work, dedication, and attention it takes to promote library patronage, to grow library services, and to defend every individual's freedom of expression and information. Your continued support helps create a future where the social benefits of libraries and higher education are well respected and valued—**thank you!**

Friends sponsors numerous events to raise awareness on how Davis Library's services and resources enrich the larger community and foster a culture of lifelong learning. Such outreach efforts stimulate interest in our institution's educational mission and goals. Encouraging support of the upcoming levy for Rio Grande Community College in November is also vital to our group's activities. The college and university partnership that Davis Library serves provides important learning opportunities that influence both the supply and demand for a skilled workforce in Ohio's Appalachian region. Our Friends organization firmly believes that education is key to improving the quality of life for everyone.

Some of our recent efforts have included:

- an annual **Banned Books Week** event to draw attention to the harmful effects of censorship;
- a **Zombie-thon Walk-a-thon** to encourage support of local food pantries and to promote greater understanding of the relationship between poverty, hunger, and poor academic achievement;
- the sponsorship of the **Ohio Night Stalkers**, a cryptozoology and Bigfoot search team, at the **Mothman Festival** in Point Pleasant, West Virginia;
- a decorated tree for **Gallipolis in Lights**, an annual holiday event in Gallipolis, Ohio; and
- **Splendor in the Grass**, a poetry reading/workshop featuring author and poet Kathleen McCoy, that celebrated both **National Poetry Month** and **National Library Week**.

We need YOUR support to continue such community building activities!

Friends has already begun its work for the 2017-18 Academic Year. In September, Friends will, once again, celebrate **Banned Books Week** at the Davis Library and offer participants the opportunity to read from their favorite frequently challenged books while enjoying food and beverages supplied by the organization. At this year's **Mothman Festival: September 16-17, 2017**, Friends is sponsoring a discussion on paranormal investigations led by **Ohio Ghost Hunters**. (Please check out their website <http://www.ohioghsthunters.com/> and Youtube videos!) We also plan to decorate another tree for the **Gallipolis in Lights** annual holiday event and we have even purchased new lights for the Christmas tree on Rio Grande's Main Campus. Of course, we have a host of ideas for more activities and welcome your ideas. We will explore and make some decisions on some of these activities at our next meeting. **Look for more information on ALL the dates and times of our efforts to be forthcoming in the next few weeks!**

Your help in promoting the Davis Library is much appreciated. You are invited to join our organization or renew your membership now. Please complete and return the enclosed **AY2017-18 Membership Form**. Remember, annual membership dues are only \$5.00 for Rio Grande faculty, staff, alumni, and other interested individuals. Students and Senior Citizens (55+) can still join for just \$1.00. **Please help... "Join Your Friends @Davis Library!" today!**

Many thanks,

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