Get INVOLVED!
UC Students in the Community
Dear Alumni and Friends,

The history of the University of Charleston is a story of consistent and relentless innovation. As Morris Harvey College and UC, we have adapted to current circumstances and re-positioned ourselves to thrive in changes we see ahead. Today, we stand on the threshold of another monumental change.

The opening of the Russell and Martha Wehrle Innovation Center will change the physical look of our campus and it will reinvigorate the spirit of creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurism that infuses the University. The Innovation Center will be comprised of an innovation hub and an athletic facility.

The innovation hub will be the focal point for embedding the learning of innovation skills in every academic program. Our new Vice President and Chief Innovation Executive, Fonda Holehouse, will coach innovation scholars and teams of other students in developing new ideas, new methods, and new products.

The H. Bernard Wehrle, Sr. Athletic Facility will provide an outstanding venue for student athletes to train and compete. It will be the home for UC’s intercollegiate sports as well as for Commencement and other special functions.

Our history of change incorporates the move from Barboursville to Charleston, crossing the river from downtown Charleston to Kanawha City, and expanding to Beckley and other regional locations. Our innovation is evident in our adopting an outcomes-focused curriculum, developing the pharmacy school, expanding into graduate business and leadership programs, adding a Physician Assistant degree, creating online learning opportunities for military personnel and others, and now embedding innovation across the curriculum and into the community.

Innovation requires support and we are so, so grateful for all who have helped bring us to this moment in time. Board members, donors, alumni, faculty, staff, students, and many friends have supported and served the University of Charleston through changes of necessity and changes of choice. Thank you for your vision, trust, and investment.

Dr. Edwin H. Welch
President

The mission of UC is to educate each student for a life of productive work, enlightened living and community involvement.
UC welcomes Fonda L. Holehouse, the new Vice-President and Chief Innovation Executive. She will lead the operations of the new Russell and Martha Wehrle Innovation Center, as well as the inaugural team of Innovation Scholars in their entrepreneurial endeavors. 

Read more on page 8.

On the Cover:
Students from UC pose with elementary students from the Mountaineer Montessori School (MMS) in Charleston. UC Students helped to train the MMS students for a 5K run in April, while also educating them on the importance of nutrition.

Photo by: Katie Speece and JoEllen Zachs
For University of Charleston nursing student, Gabrielle Fonseca, life hasn’t always followed a straight road. “I decided later in life that I wanted to go into nursing,” said Fonseca. “I was 42, living in California, and working in a different field. While being a nurse had always been my dream, it just didn’t seem to be a possibility.”

Because of lengthy school waiting lists, frustrating admission procedures and a lack of funds, Fonseca decided that investing nearly $100,000 into a nursing program in California wasn’t an option.

On a random weeknight while watching a television reality show, Fonseca heard one of the contestants briefly mention they had spent some time at a small private school in West Virginia – the University of Charleston.

Fonseca looked up the school out of simple curiosity and was intrigued to find she could attend classes on the weekend at the UC Beckley campus while being able to hold down a job.

“Tuition here was going to be one-third of the price I would have been paying in California,” said Fonseca. “But despite the ability to supplement my financial aid by working, I still had a funding gap I just couldn’t close.”

Fonseca finally concluded that all great changes in life take sacrifice; however, some take more than others. She donated or sold all her possessions from her California home. This was her best option to finalize the required cost of a cross-country move, and it was a way to turn the page in her story.

Not only has the weekend ADN program offered at the UC Beckley campus given Fonseca a chance to chase that dream, it’s also given her a chance to experience a different part of American culture.

“The people in West Virginia are so kind,” said Fonseca. “Southern hospitality is 100% real. I find myself getting into long conversations with people I don’t even know, conversations that build a real relationship between us. It’s not like that in California. It’s just a general approach to life that I can appreciate.”

As with all great stories, though, things aren’t always perfect.

“I do miss the weather,” said Fonseca.
University of Charleston student Amanda Whitman has always loved animals, and the last year and a half have shown just how much.

Since the start of 2015, Whitman, a junior pre-veterinary student from Logan, has rescued more than 500 cats that were due to be euthanized in area shelters.

Whitman took in nine cats on her first “rescue” and eventually turned her basement into a kennel. The space not only allowed her to more easily care for the cats, but it also showed her that even she had limits.

“Once I dove right into fostering it escalated quickly,” said Whitman. “At one point I had 21 foster cats in my kennel at one time, but I learned from that experience that I needed limits. That’s why I only have space for ten at a time now.”

Aside from the skills she is learning in the UC pre-veterinary program, Whitman leans on her work experience at the Logan Animal Hospital to properly care for the cats that she fosters.

“Before rescuing, I only had basic knowledge about cat health and behavior,” said Whitman. “After a year of working closely with cats, both studying and observing them, I’ve learned so much.”

As Whitman uses her heart for felines to live out the UC mission of productive work, enlightened living and community involvement, she knows this journey has meant as much to her as it has to the animals she has saved.

“This past year has changed my life,” said Whitman. “I see things so differently now. Get active and get involved – it’s so worth it to save a life.”

UC students have had a long partnership with the Kanawha Charleston Humane Association, volunteering their time and energy to help the animals there. They placed donation boxes around campus to collect food and supplies for the shelter.

One UC student, Tristan Maynard, decided to go the direct route. He called Purina and asked for a donation for the Kanawha Humane Association, resulting in three pallets of food for the animals sheltered there.

Other UC students also helped with additional donations this winter, bringing 39 gallons of donated bleach to the shelter.
UC Students

“Children smile a lot when they run.”

UC First-Year Experience Program Teams Up with Montaneer Montessori School

Nineteen UC First-Year Experience Program students partnered with more than 70 Montaneer Montessori School (MMS) elementary students to get them ready for the 5K portion of the UC Welch Colleague Half-Marathon/5K held in the spring.

The goal of the collaboration was to encourage children to be active and live a healthy lifestyle from an early age.

Varun Shah, Peer Educator for a University 102 section, says the group’s goal “is to bring awareness of a growing national problem, obesity.”

“We selected a ‘Couch to 5K’-type event because it would be a good stepping stone for living a healthy life. We wanted to work with kids because they are the most impressionable group, and healthy habits might continue toward a healthier future.”

UC requires each First-Year Experience class to plan and execute a service learning project. Hallie Dunlap, assistant professor of social sciences, led her section of freshmen as they worked with young athletes to build fundamental jogging and running skills.

The Montessori students weren’t the only ones who benefited from the partnership.

“The UC students didn’t imagine that they would grow to look forward to training sessions as much as they did,” explained Dunlap. “They began to understand that the students counted on them and looked forward to seeing them and talking to them at scheduled times each week.”

The students trained in rain, snow and cold – and wore specially designed matching shirts for the race.

“My favorite observation from this collaboration,” said Dunlap, “was that children smile a lot when they run!”
Put that Knowledge to Work!

INTERNSHIPS FROM THE STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Many of us have been there, the dreaded how-do-I-get-career-experience-if-I-have-no-career-experience dilemma. Employers want to see it and students need it to land jobs in their chosen fields. So how do students bridge the gap between the classroom and the professional work world? Internships.

UC students are putting their classroom knowledge to work and gaining valuable skills at internships around the Kanawha Valley. Internships are a crucial tool for the soon-to-graduate student. According to an annual survey by the National Association of Colleges and Employers, 95 percent of employers said candidate experience is a factor in hiring decisions. Nearly half of the surveyed employers wanted recent graduates with experience from internships or co-op programs.

Students who intern gain many benefits outside of resume building, including a pre-graduation introduction to prospective career paths, valuable hands-on learning opportunities, chances to expand and hone transferable skills and apply knowledge and theories learned in the classroom. Internships also increase students’ networking circles and professional contacts thereby increasing the students’ potential employment opportunities.

ADVICE FOR INTERNSHIPS:
Apply for anything that sounds interesting! It could lead to a career path you never considered or even knew existed.

INTERNSHIPS: STUDENT PROFILES

Madison Gray, Junior
Major: Pre-Physician Assistant
Welch Colleague
Internship: CAMC Women and Children’s Hospital Emergency Room

I chose an internship in the medical field because I want to continue my studies in the Physician Assistant Program at UC. This opportunity is preparing me for my future career path and teaches me about direct patient care, how to handle difficult situations and how to apply knowledge learned in the classroom to real life situations in the emergency room. It is the most amazing sense of accomplishment when I leave a pathophysiology lecture, walk into the ER and then witness what we discussed in class play out in front of me.

Jared Page, Sophomore
Major: Political Science with Public Policy concentration
Internship: Donald J. Trump for President Campaign

I chose an internship in the political field because I’ve had a passion for politics most of my life. My grandmother was a political junkie, so I grew up watching CNN and CSPAN. I’ve been hooked since then. My 12th grade AP Government class required presentations on 2016 presidential candidates, and I said Trump would be a candidate. My classmates were skeptical, but he has been my hero since I was 5 or 6. I was elated when he announced his candidacy and knew I had to intern for his campaign. I was already involved in and serving several political groups, so it was a smooth transition for me. I had even met Donald Trump for the first time at CPAC 2015 (Conservative Political Action Conference).

Amanda Pratt, Senior
Major: Business Administration
Internship: Three Point Strategies (3PS)

I chose an internship in government affairs because I felt my skillset would be an asset to Three Point Strategies and its clientele. 3PS focuses on government affairs, public relations and grassroots/coalition building. On a daily basis, I attended legislative committee meetings and Senate and House Floor Sessions, wrote meeting reports and conducted research about various things pertaining to client interests.

The internship didn’t necessarily fit with my major or career goals, but it has greatly influenced them. I found a passion for government affairs – something I never considered before this – and now I am open to options outside of event management. I gained a unique perspective and new skillset that will further my career no matter what field I choose.
In today’s competitive job market, higher education is more important than ever. Yet for some students, traditional in-seat classes don’t fit with their schedules and busy lives. Online courses offer those students the chance to get a degree without disrupting their lives.

UC online courses allow schedule flexibility for nontraditional students, which can be especially beneficial for those serving in the military. Many of our students are deployed full-time and based on the west coast. UC’s single-point of contact model allows the unconventional lifestyle of military students to fit with conveniently continuing their education.

Many students prefer online education, as it provides them with the ability to complete coursework when it’s convenient for them. Online education overcomes geographic and scheduling constraints, as well as other issues that may make it difficult to attend traditional classes. The coursework can be completed at the student’s own pace, making the programs an excellent option for parents who want to complete a degree or full-time employees who need to hone their skills. The courses provide an advancement opportunity for many students who would otherwise be unable to attend college classes.

The University of Charleston currently offers online bachelor degrees in Accounting, Business Administration, Nursing (RN-BSN), Organizational Leadership and Psychology. Graduate level degrees include Master of Science in Strategic Leadership, Master of Forensic Accounting (Hybrid) and Doctor of Executive Leadership.

The BestOnlineColleges.org is a leading resource for prospective students seeking a college or university degree. Many schools in the United States reference their rankings including Auburn University, Boston University, Texas A&M University, Fordham University, and many more.

The complete article can be found at: http://www.thebestschools.org/west-virginia-education/best-online-colleges-west-virginia/
Dangerous Situations. Unpredictable Schedules.
Classes on the Move.

Such is the norm for many active members of the United States military. It is often impossible to know what challenges may arise with each new day, and with such uncertainty education is often the furthest thing from a soldier's mind. But the University of Charleston’s School of Business and Leadership is looking to change that.

“We say to people that we want to offer an educational opportunity with an ease of access, and then we follow through and facilitate that,” said Dr. John Barnette, the Associate Dean of Leadership and Professional Development for the University of Charleston’s School of Business and Leadership. “Our military students are really busy but, obviously, not in the traditional sense.”

The leadership programs that the University offers were originally designed for working adults, so while the appeal does extend beyond military students it really is a perfect fit for those in the armed services. Some military students that attend the University of Charleston, either in-seat or online, have had multiple military deployments; some a dozen times or more.

UC has been named a Best College for Veterans by U.S. News & World Report, and has been recognized six years in a row as a Military Friendly School by Victory Media.

Aside from working closely with UC’s military students, Dr. Barnette has led efforts to establish a Learning Your Way program for employees of the Toyota Motor Manufacturing Plant in Buffalo, WV. Over 70 Toyota employees have enrolled in University of Charleston classes on-site at the Toyota plant, choosing either the Bachelor’s Organizational Leadership program or the Master’s program in Strategic Leadership. These programs include eight-week courses that have real world focus for adults and teams, an accelerated format to be completed within 24-40 months and can be continued even if an employee must travel or relocate.

Our students don’t have a lot of time to be traditional students. If the students have a problem they know they can quickly talk to someone who can both advocate and facilitate their needs.

– Dr. John Barnette, Associate Dean of Leadership and Professional Development, UC School of Business and Leadership.
The University community offers a warm UC welcome to Fonda L. Holehouse, the new Vice President and Chief Innovation Executive. She will lead the operations of the new Russell and Martha Wehrle Innovation Center, as well as the inaugural team of Innovation Scholars in their entrepreneurial endeavors.

Holehouse was previously Director of the West Virginia University LaunchLab at the Office of Innovation. She was instrumental in developing an environment that fostered innovation and entrepreneurship, working with students in converting creative ideas into innovative products and, in some cases, marketing the ideas they developed under her supervision.

A graduate of West Virginia University, Fonda Holehouse earned her doctor of laws degree and worked as a practicing attorney for over a decade. She moved from law to an instructor role at WVU and was a 2013 WVU Foundation Outstanding Teacher Award recipient. She has recently been affiliated with the Statler College of Engineering at WVU where she taught technology entrepreneurship and enterprise development to engineering students. Her students consistently won stateside competitions for their excellent work.

“I am not a traditional academic,” she explains. “I do not have a Ph.D. but, instead, hold a law degree. I came into higher education as an adjunct and built a career at WVU by bringing the real world to the classroom.”

“In essence, innovation is not an activity, it is a culture,” states Holehouse. “And, perhaps most importantly, a culture is expressed and identified by the behavior of its members. So, in order to know we have a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, we have to not only study but act. Innovation, and the commercialization of it, does not and CANNOT occur in a vacuum. It requires collaboration – a cross-student, cross-discipline, cross-community, cross-university, cross-state collaboration that truly looks and feels like a ‘culture.’

“I have contemplated the amazing opportunity of taking the skills I possess and honed over the past decade and applying them at the University of Charleston. I am excited by the opportunity.”

Holehouse will provide support to faculty members and students as innovative learning strategies are embedded in every academic program. Her experience and statewide contacts will provide access to many new partnerships as the University launches innovation as a distinctive feature of the learning environment.
UC COACHES: LEADING BY EXAMPLE

It's been a great year for UC athletics on the playing field – but it's the trophy case off of it that keeps on winning after the season ends.

Softball coaches Ray Loeser and Justine Kodesh were recently named the 2016 NFCA Atlantic Region Staff of the Year, following a banner 50-12 season that saw the Golden Eagles advance to the 2016 Division II Women's Softball World Series for the first time in program history.

The duo's honor marks the second time during the 2015-16 season that members of the athletic coaching staff at UC have been recognized by the league. Earlier this year Men's Head Soccer Coach Chris Grassie was named the Mountain East Conference Coach of the Year for the second consecutive season. Grassie led the team to a 15-2 overall record and helped his squad hold a top five national ranking for most of the season.

For Loeser and Kodesh, this season brought unparalleled success to UC's softball program, setting a record for program victories at 50.

COACH REED GETS 300TH CAREER WIN

Women's Tennis Coach Shari Reed claimed her 300th win for UC on February 21st as her team beat visiting Bluefield State in a 7-2 match.

Reed made her coaching debut for Charleston in 1997 and is the leader in all time wins in UC's Women's Tennis history. Her teams have won six conference titles and made seven NCAA tournament appearances. She has been named conference coach of the year five times and earned the International Tennis Association (ITA) Region Coach of the Year in 2009.

Reed was inducted in the Golden Eagle Athletic Hall of Fame in 2009 for her success as a coach for the University of Charleston.

“Arriving at the 300 career win mark is certainly not an easy accomplishment,” said UC Athletic Director Bren Stevens. “It speaks volumes to Shari’s ability to train tennis players.”
This year, faculty members have made over 37 total presentations and published eight volumes. Faculty have traveled through West Virginia, but have also presented at professional conferences in Orlando, San Diego, Denver, New Orleans, Indianapolis, Las Vegas, Chicago, Pittsburgh and more.

Several faculty members have added new presentations, publications and credentials to their resumes this year:

**Dr. Michelle Easton,**  
**Dean, School of Pharmacy**  
and two Pharmacy students, Randal Steele, a fourth year student and Jeremy Arthur, a third year student, were invited to attend the community forum hosted by President Barack Obama at the East End Family Resource Center in the fall. The topic was the opioid epidemic.

**Dr. Rebecca Linger,**  
**Associate Professor of Medicinal Chemistry**  
in the School of Pharmacy, is the coordinator of the West Virginia Master Naturalists Program Charleston chapter. The program seeks to train individuals to be naturalists who can lead nature walks, conduct scientific field research and be advocates of our natural environment.

In addition, Dr. Linger has received two grants: a $15,000 grant from the West Virginia IDeA Network for Biomedical Research Excellence for her project “Protein Expression and Enzymatic Analyses of Burkholderia cenocepacia LlpE,” and an $8,400 grant from the West Virginia Health Sciences and Technology Academy to train an undergraduate student in her library.

**Dr. Michael Martin,**  
**Assistant Professor of Humanities & English**  
was published in the December 2015 issue of *The South Atlantic Review*. His essay, “Picturesque America Comes to Appalachia: David Hunter Strother, Henry Colton, and the Visionary Traveler of the Mid-19th-Century Appalachian Expedition Narrative” was the first-ever journal piece written on the 19th-century North Carolina-based travel writer Henry Colton. In the 2015-2016 school year, Dr. Martin served as the Editorial Advisor for a Gale Reference Publishing series book in 19th-Century Literary Criticism; the book was on 19th-century West Virginia-based author David Hunter Strother. In April 2016, Dr. Martin was selected to be a peer reviewer for a critical article on 18th-century American writer William Byrd II which was being considered for publication in *The South Atlantic Review*. Finally, Dr. Martin has been selected to present his paper “Building a Representative Frenchman: Emerson’s Francophone Turn in Poetry and Prose in the 1840s” at the Emerson Society Panel held at the Thoreau Society Annual Gathering at Concord, Massachusetts, in July 2016.
The UC Faculty Center presented its First Annual Faculty Scholarship Showcase in April, giving the faculty an opportunity to present examples of its thought-provoking work. Five faculty members gave Dissertation TED talks, and five gave presentations. Topics ranged from student engagement to J.S. Bach, from protein expression to socialization among first-year faculty members, and more.

**Dr. Xiaoping Sun, Professor of Chemistry**

Published a paper in August, 2015 in “Inorganica Chimica Acta.” The title was “Investigation of Charge-transfer Absorptions in the Uranyl UO22+(VI) Ion and Related Chemical Reduction of UO22+(VI) to UO2+(V) by UV-Vis and Electron Paramagnetic Resonance Spectroscopies”.

In addition, Dr. Sun’s work entitled “Investigations on Charge-transfer Reduction of Uranyl UO22+(VI) to UO22+(V) by UV-vis and Electron Paramagnetic Resonance Spectroscopies” has been accepted as an oral presentation in the Applied Chemistry 2016 Conference to be held in Houston, Texas on October 17-18.

**Dr. Dawn Turner, Assistant Professor of Biology**

Will be working this summer at Marshall University in the WV-INBRE Summer Research Program (see related article, p. 21) as a fellow. She will be working in the lab of Dr. Jiang Liu conducting biomedical research.

**Ray Yeager, Associate Professor of Art, Coordinator of Art**

Was a contributor to “Noticing Nature”, a juried art exhibition at the Foundry Art Centre, St. Charles, Missouri, that ran from January 28 through March 10, 2016.

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**First Annual FACULTY Scholarship Showcase**

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This year’s spring commencement ceremony was moved to the Charleston Civic Center because of the threat of bad weather. While we missed being able to hold our traditional riverfront ceremony, the Civic Center allowed a larger than usual number of family and friends to attend. Over 3,000 guests came to support the graduates. Undergraduate and graduate students from all UC locations; Beckley, Charleston, Martinsburg and online, proudly turned the tassle as they crossed the stage.

Three notable community leaders were honored at the ceremony: BB&T Chairman Kelly King, (who was also the keynote speaker); co-founder and Artistic Director of the Appalachian Children’s Chorus, Selena Midkiff; and Businessman William Rice all received honorary degrees for their contributions to the state and its citizens.
In 1966, nursing degrees were awarded to 17 students at Morris Harvey College. The class was notable not only for being the first nursing class at Morris Harvey, but also for leading the way in demonstrating that students could complete a nursing curriculum in two years, and for having a male nursing student, unusual in the early 1960s. (In fact, it made the headline in the Charleston Gazette at the time.)

At the outset of the program, classes were held in a house on campus (where Brotherton Hall is now located).

“The living room was crammed with 27 wooden desks,” remembers Sandra Bowles, current Dean for Assessment and Special Projects for the UC School of Pharmacy, and the first faculty member hired for the nursing program. “The mantle over the fireplace was removed and a piece of black chalkboard was nailed on the wall. The dining room and kitchen were our nursing labs.”

Six members of that class returned to campus in May to celebrate their shared history. The reunion included a luncheon in the Clay Tower hosted by Dr. Welch, and a tour of campus highlighted by how much the University has changed in 50 years. (Did you know that the Communications Office used to be the chemistry lab?)

Three members of the Class of 1966 represented their class during the April Pinning Ceremony held in Charleston for the Nursing Class of 2016.

In an address to the current students, Patty Bivens reflected on that first class. "I am proud to say that all of the first year graduates passed their boards and went on to have very successful careers. Many of us continued our education, some went into anesthesia, some worked in area hospitals, and some went into academics. The point is—we made a difference."
Fall Athletes Receive MEC Academic Honors

Seventy-seven student-athletes were honored by the MEC for the fall 2015 semester, including 33 athletes from seven fall sports who earned All-MEC Academic Team honors. Forty-four athletes earned spots on the Commissioner’s Honor Roll.

To be a member of the All-MEC Academic Team, the student-athlete must be a member of the active roster of a sport and have a grade-point average of 3.70-4.00 in the semester of their championship season.

To qualify for the Commissioner’s Honor Roll, a student-athlete must be a member of the active roster and post a grade-point average between 3.25-3.69 in the semester of their championship season.

Three Football Players Named All-Americans

Torie Wagner, Brett Benes and Justin Johnson were named to the 2015 Don Hansen NCAA Division II All-America Teams. Wagner was selected as a Second-Team Corner Back, Benes a Third-Team Punter, and Johnson an Honorable Mention Offensive Guard selection.

Men’s Soccer Alums Sign Pro Contracts

The 2015 Elite 90 Award Winner, Conor Branson, signed a professional contract with the United Soccer League Pittsburgh Riverhounds in March 2016. Before signing with Pittsburgh, Branson led the Golden Eagles to record setting seasons and consecutive Final Four appearances. In addition, Branson won the coveted NCAA elite 89 and 90 awards and was named an NSCAA First team All-American for the second consecutive season.

Former UC standout, Rob Vincent, was also acquired by Pittsburgh after graduating from UC in 2013. He spent three years and posted 88 appearances with the Riverhounds and led the team in minutes played as well as overall points. In February 2016 Vincent became the first Golden Eagle to be acquired by a major league team with his transfer to Major League Soccer team D.C. United.
Basketball

Both Men’s & Women’s Basketball teams advanced to the MEC Quarterfinals, but both seasons ended with a loss. The men’s team dropped its game to Concord 75-61. Senior Tino DiTrapano led with 17 points in his farewell game for the Golden Eagles. Junior Justin Coleman was the only other UC player in double-figures, finishing with 11 points and eight rebounds.

The UC Men’s team finished the season 16-14. Senior Jevonte Hughes and graduate student Aleks Kesic earned MEC honors for the men’s team.

The women’s basketball team lost to Wheeling 53-49. Senior Chyress Lockhart ended her Golden Eagle career scoring a team high 13 points, while adding four assists and four rebounds. Fellow senior Kiara Johnson was the only other double-figure scorer for Charleston, netting 10 points and grabbing nine rebounds despite being plagued by foul trouble for much of the game. The women’s team finished the season with a record of 13-17.

KJ Johnson and Chyress Lockhart were chosen as All-MEC for the women.

Morrow Earns All-Region Honors

San Diego, California native Timmyra Morrow earned 2015-16 NCAA Division II Indoor Track & Field All-Region honors for her efforts in the hammer throw following a stellar indoor season. Morrow, a senior student, threw over the national qualifying mark in four of the five indoor meets this year. Her best throw of 17.14m ranks as second all-time at UC behind All-American Candace Swann.

WOMEN’S LACROSSE EARNS FIRST WIN IN PROGRAM HISTORY

The inaugural team for Women’s Lacrosse beat Davis & Elkins with an impressive 20-1 victory to secure its first win as a program.

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In August, three University of Charleston students were traveling in Ohio when a log truck overturned in front of them. The driver of the rig was ejected from the cab, but was pinned underneath a log from the truck as the truck caught fire.

The students – all UC athletes - Conor Branson, Jordan Lavender and Elle Martin – went to the aid of the driver, joined by two people who lived nearby, despite the danger of the burning truck.

In a letter to his rescuers, Garrick Lewis, of Brewton, Alabama, expressed the horror of his situation: “I knew laying on the ground that I couldn’t move, and that I was going to burn. All I could think about was how my wife wasn’t going to have a husband, and that my two kids (which are 2 and 3 yrs. old) were not going to have a father. Let alone me just being a 25 year old and having a full life ahead of me still!”

Mr. Lewis was pulled to safety, and continues to heal from his injuries. The Ohio State Police sent representatives to the UC campus to present the students with certificates and thank them for their community service in saving a life.

Sergeant Kent D. Jeffries, Norwalk Assistant Post Commander of the Ohio State Police, requested the students be honored, stating, “I feel confident that if it had not been for the actions of these six citizens, the truck driver’s life would have been lost in the fire. These citizens contributed to a safer Ohio that day, and I feel they deserve to be recognized for their bravery and their actions.”
Women's Softball Scores a Record Season

The lady Golden Eagles set a school and program record with 50 wins and a 25-game winning streak – the longest of any team in UC athletic history – for an amazing season.

The team hosted the first round of the NCAA Division II playoffs, winning both games to advance to the Super Regional, hosted on the campus of WV Wesleyan. After capping a best-of-3 series over Wesleyan, the team earned an appearance in the NCAA Division II Women’s College World Series in Denver, Colorado.

While UC Softball’s record-breaking season came to a close after being eliminated with their second loss in the double-elimination bracket, it was still a magical year.

Senior Kelly Browning said, “We have taken the program from average to a top MEC and now regional team. A few years ago we were unknown and now, people know who we are.”

The team also clinched the Mountain East Conference South Division and was ranked No. 8 in the National Fastpitch Coaches Association coaches poll.

The UC Softball staff was also named National Fastpitch Coaches Association Atlantic Regional Staff of the Year.

The 2016 College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) Academic All-District™ Softball Teams recognize the nation’s top student-athletes for their combined performances athletically and in the classroom. Charleston’s Jessie Rowe, Kelly Browning, Katelyn Hamilton, and Rachelle Toppings were all named to the 2016 Academic All-District Softball First Team in District 2.

In other entries for the record books this year, the regional win was Alli Burdette’s 30th win pitching. She is only the third UC pitcher to do so in program history.
A student-generated idea for delivering high-quality locally produced food brought the University of Charleston a first-ever win at the 10th Annual West Virginia Statewide Collegiate Business Plan Competition.

Placing first in the Hospitality & Tourism category the UC team, comprised of students Ashley Clark and Christopher Veazey, created a business plan for Appalachian Aqua Farms, LLC. The company seeks to deliver high-quality locally grown food directly to consumers. The students’ plan featured such alternative farming techniques as aquaculture, aquaponics and hydroponics.

Winners of each category; Lifestyle & Innovation, Hospitality & Tourism, and STEM, all received a prize package consisting of $10,000, access to virtual/physical incubator space, as well as accounting and legal consultation.

UC was the only school other than WVU to place this year.

“We were honored to represent the University of Charleston,” said Chris Veazey. “It was a great learning experience and all the time and effort we put in proved to be worth it.” UC instructors Nora Myers and Sam Payne were the faculty coaches for the UC team.

It was eye-opening to see how much people in our classes were willing to help us. We had group discussions about the name of our company and other marketing issues. We ultimately took those suggestions and they made our project even better.

- Ashley Clark
Joshua Higginbotham, a sophomore, ran for office against the incumbent Republican in the 13th House District and won. Higginbotham, a Political Science/History double major, says he hopes to help end the drug epidemic in West Virginia. “Many members of my family have been the victim of addiction to opioids and other drugs. Many of our leaders are talking about it, but few of them are actually doing anything to stop it. I am working with advocacy groups and partnering with the pharmaceutical industry to come up with a mutual solution to our problem.”

Higginbotham also received the 2016 Newman Civic Fellows Award, awarded to students who are proven leaders with both the motivation and ability to make substantial contributions toward public problem solving. The Newman Civic Fellow Award is awarded by Campus Compact, a Boston-based non-profit organization working to advance the public purposes of higher education.

As quoted in an article in the April issue of The Eagle, DesRocher said “When I first came to college, I was shy and would barely leave my room. I started getting involved and look at me now. I became open to new experiences and new people.”

For this Chapmanville, WV, native, it’s been quite a journey – particularly considering he entered UC being unsure of his career path.
UC School of Pharmacy Wins National Awards

The School of Pharmacy is one of two national award winners in the 2016 National Consumers League Script Your Future Medication Adherence Team Challenge.

Congratulations to our Script Your Future Student Chairs, John Robinson (Class of 2017) and Melissa Buse (Class of 2017); all members of our Script Your Future Committee; Dr. Karrie Juengel, Ms. Jamie Bero, Professor Melissa Garrett and Dr. Susan Gardner who advised the group; and Ms. Barbara Smith and Dr. Sarah Embrey for their support of PSAs and programming at their respective radio station locations. A special thanks to the Physician Assistant Program and athletic training students who assisted with a number of events to make this year’s initiative truly interprofessional!

This is the third time that the UCSOP has won an award in the national challenge:

• In 2013 UCSOP received the National Award
• In 2015 UCSOP received an honorable mention for the National Award AND received a Focused Award for its emphasis on health disparities
• In 2016 UCSOP received the National Award once again

School of Pharmacy Hosted Interdisciplinary Health Forum with Senator Joe Manchin

The University of Charleston School of Pharmacy hosted an interdisciplinary health forum with Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) and UC health professional students in March 2016. Senator Manchin provided his perspective on the public health epidemic of prescription and heroin drug abuse that is disproportionately affecting West Virginia when compared to the rest of the country. He discussed his efforts in Congress and how he believes health professional students can be utilized to assist in fighting this epidemic. Students from the UC School of Pharmacy, School of Nursing, Physician Assistant and Athletic Training Programs were in attendance.

We believe interdisciplinary activities and key community partnerships enable us to make a difference in the healthcare of West Virginians. Achieving national recognition as a Script Your Future award winner for the second time further attests to the quality of our curriculum, faculty, staff and students.

- Dr. Michelle Easton, Dean, UC School of Pharmacy
Four UC students – Mackenna Boone, David Runyon, Kaden Hudson and Madison Jennings – have been selected to participate in the 2016 WV-INBRE (Idea Network for Biomedical Research Excellence). Interns will conduct biomedical research projects under the direction of faculty mentors and present the results of their research at the Summer Research Symposium at WVU, to be held in June.

Boone and Runyon will work at WVU and Hudson and Jennings will work at Marshall University.

WV-INBRE is a competitive federal research program established by the National Institutes of Health in 2004. The goals of WV-INBRE are to:

- Help build biomedical research expertise and capacity.
- Assist faculty at the state’s undergraduate institutions with development of biomedical research programs and competitiveness for external funding.
- Provide student research opportunities; and
- Help train the state’s future workforce in science and technology.

DMS and Nursing Receive Full Accreditation

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program completed the processes for full accreditation. This program is one of only two schools in the U.S. with accredited associate’s and bachelor’s degrees.

The Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) continued full accreditation for the BSN Program and scheduled its next evaluation for Spring 2021. Dr. Pam Alderman and the faculty team of the program worked hard preparing for the site visit. Donna Lewis and Cheryl Moses were very helpful in working with the team to create a thorough self-study.

This accreditation also includes the RN-BSN program.

Four Students Selected for Summer Research Program

Four UC students – Mackenna Boone, David Runyon, Kaden Hudson and Madison Jennings – have been selected to participate in the 2016 WV-INBRE (Idea Network for Biomedical Research Excellence). Interns will conduct biomedical research projects under the direction of faculty mentors and present the results of their research at the Summer Research Symposium at WVU, to be held in June.

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- Help build biomedical research expertise and capacity.
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- Help train the state’s future workforce in science and technology.
Adam Stollings, a recent UC graduate, is serving as the Capacity Development Manager for Charleston Main Streets. Stollings received both his undergraduate degree in Business Administration (2013) and an MBA (2015) from UC.

Following graduation, Stollings went to work for East End Main Street, where he had to “jump right in” to organize the Bazaar without much time to get oriented to his new job. With a year of experience under his belt, he has been working to rebrand and improve the Bazaar, working to attract more vendors and create more exciting events.

“My job is organizing fun events,” explains Stollings. “There is always something different for me to tackle. I work with many different people, including planners, vendors, volunteers, artists and more. I never have the same day twice!”

Stollings latest project was the East End Main Street Foam at the Dome event, where he organized a craft beer festival at the University of Charleston Stadium in early May 2016. He brought together 40 breweries,

Jim Holland, Class of ’80, has left his position as general manager of the Princeton Rays (a professional baseball affiliate of the Tampa Bay Rays, operating in Princeton, WV) after 24 years.

Frank Viscuso, Class of ’88, a tour commander at the Kearny Fire Department, is a UC graduate with several books to his credit. Viscuso’s most recent book is titled “Step Up and Lead.” He was recently in Charleston, speaking at the Annual West Virginia Public Safety Expo, where he noted several key points of what makes a good leader, including adaptability, education, determination, and trust.

Viscuso is a New Jersey native, has been a firefighter for 25 years, and has written six books. He has been touring the country for about four years to present officer and leadership development training.
Adam Stollings
End Better

serving 150 different craft beers, 20 restaurant vendors and 20 artisans to perform. "This has been a huge endeavor – to create an exciting event for over 2,000 attendees, and bring together so many participants. It was amazing to see all the work and effort pay off!"

When asked about how his education at UC helped his ability to jump in and tackle his job, Stollings said that the University’s mentoring and internship programs made a huge difference. "My business administration degree gave me the skills to be successful in business. The MBA program taught me the thought process and insight into how business works. My mentors were so valuable in providing guidance, support – and suggesting that I apply for this job!"

East End Main Street is an affiliate program of Charleston Main Streets, a private 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization focused on the economic development of Charleston’s East End and West Side. Through various projects and programs, EEMS has been the impetus for over 40 rehabilitation projects, new construction, and public spaces that continue to create strong neighborhoods and thriving commercial districts.

Patricia (Stecher) Byrne, Class of ’92, recently obtained a Doctorate of Physical Therapy degree from Neumann University in May 2015.

Leslie Bartner, Class of ’77, was the recipient of the “National Distinguished Service Award” from her sorority, Gamma Sigma Sigma. GSS is a national service sorority that has made an enormous impact on campuses and in communities nationwide. Leslie began volunteering at Sunrise of Woodcliff Lake in the fall of 2010, volunteering an average of 25 hours a month.

Leslie was also honored by Sunrise Assisted Living for her volunteer work. When she received the distinguished service award from her sorority, the activities director honored her in their monthly newsletter.

Dr. Gary S. Cohen, Class of ’68, has completed a pilot study on a new treatment for selected cancer patients in which he transitions patients from stomach tube feeding to normal, oral feeding. This life-changing procedure is not done anywhere in the U.S. and the results have been accepted for presentation. He is currently seeking a larger cancer treatment center to expand the study. Dr. Cohen was recognized as having as one of the top speech language pathology offices in Wisconsin.
We offer our condolences to the family and friends of Morris Harvey College/University of Charleston alumni who have passed away since January 2015.

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Join us for a weekend TO REMEMBER!

HOMECOMING & Family Weekend

October 7 - 9, 2016

Friday, October 7

Bonfire and Cookout
6 - 9 pm | UC Riverside

Reunion Celebration
6 - 9 pm | Rotunda and Patio

All alumni gather to celebrate with classes ending in 1 and 6. Join your classmates for a buffet, fun, and live music from The Band Wagon.

Please RSVP to Catherine Wright:
304-357-4369 | catherinewright@ucwv.edu

Saturday, October 8

Pre-game Tailgate
11 am | UC Stadium

Golden Eagles Football vs. West Liberty
1 pm | UC Stadium

Visit www.ucwv.edu/alumni for details.

Women’s Volleyball Alumni Game
6 pm | Location to be announced

Sunday, October 9

Brunch
10 - 11:30 am | Rotunda

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New Dedication Date

INNOVATION CENTER

December 2-3, 2016

The new date for dedicating the Russell and Martha Wehrle Innovation Center is Dec. 2-3, 2016. We want the dedication to celebrate the completion of the Innovation Hub and the Athletic Facility, and construction delays have pushed back the completion date. We are continuing to seek gifts to complete the fundraising for this dramatic project.

We are grateful to those who have supported this momentous event in the history of the University of Charleston, and we look forward to celebrating with you at the grand opening.

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