

# The Eagle

## University of Charleston

V. XII Issue VIII

### *Has Catfishing Migrated Away From Dating Apps?*

by Shan Esmer

As trust in technology increases with facial recognition features on iPhones, online doctor's appointments, and the pandemic, it's easy to leave caution at the door and be too trusting. Finding proper housing can be a difficult task to go about during such abnormal times, especially since an increased dependency on online search-es has become more common. This newfound reliance on online property listings has increased scammer opportunities. A property can be falsely portrayed online, or it could simply be a farce altogether— meaning there was no property to be seen at all from the beginning. "This scam is the rental market equivalent of catfishing, and while it's not new, we want the public to be aware of the increased risks during the pandemic," Attorney General Maura Healey said in a statement" (Tiernan, 2020).

One would assume that the real-estate market is low on business nowadays due to people quarantining, but there's a demand for it now than ever. "The pandemic has sparked Americans to relocate in large numbers. From February through July [of 2020], more than 15.9 million people filed change-of-address requests with the United States Postal Service" (Nearly 16 Million..., 2020). There's been an influx of people moving out of highly populated cities like New York, Brooklyn, Philadelphia, Houston, Washington, Chicago, etc.... "Twenty-eight percent of nearly 10,000 adults, recently surveyed by the Pew Research Center, said the most important reason they moved was to reduce their risk of contracting COVID-19" (Nearly 16 Million..., 2020). Despite this rise in people relocating away from cities due to the pandemic, housing prices are still rising across all

fifty states— making property searches even more difficult for prospective tenants and/or buyers. "'Home prices grew by 5.4 percent in the second quarter of 2020 compared to a year ago, despite the impacts of COVID-19," said Dr. Lynn Fisher, Deputy Director of the Division of Research and Statistics at FHFA" (U.S. House Prices Up..., 2020). Not only is there competition among prospective tenants and home-buyers right now [due to the pandemic and people migrating], but prices have risen as well— making real-estate searches even more complicated!

Real-estate scams are reportedly rising at an alarming rate due to a newfound dependency on technology while many people quarantine. Usually, tenants are more vulnerable to real-estate scams than home-buyers due to required online de-posits and/or application fees. These scams come in many forms, though, and we're still learning the full-extent of them. "A... common scam involves real estate that is posted via classified websites. The scammer duplicates postings from legit-imate real estate sites, alters them, and reposts them. Often, the scammers use the broker's real name to create a fake e-mail address, which gives the fraud more le-gitimacy. When the victim sends an e-mail through the website inquiring about the home, they receive a response from someone claiming to be the owner. The "owner" typically says he and his wife are doing missionary work in a foreign country and need someone to rent their home while they are away. If the victim is interested, he or she is asked to send money to the "owner" in the foreign country. These funds go directly to the scammer, and the would-be renter loses his or her money" (Common Rental

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### *Living Our Mission*

by Kasey McNamara



Part of the University of Charleston's mission statement is to "educate each student for a life of productive work, enlightened living, and community involvement." Due to COVID-19, achieving the university's mission statement this year has been much more of a challenge than in years past. The university takes this mission very seriously, which shows each Labor Day as students and staff take part in the Labor of Love. Labor of Love is an annual event started in 2019, that encourages members of the UC campus to participate in service projects to give back to the Charleston community.

As with every other campus activity, the University of Charleston set forth new rules for the 2020 Labor of Love event, such as wearing masks and socially distancing. One of the most significant changes was the event taking place over the whole Labor Day weekend, rather than just on Labor Day as it was last year. A second significant change were the many new service projects added to the weekend. Some of the new projects included making fleece blankets, notes of kindness cards, hygiene bags, a virtual read aloud, and mask making activities. Along with these projects, some students also participated in litter

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and Real Estate..., 2010). Newer forms of real-estate scams [among the pan-demic] include photoshopped properties for sale/rent online and 'catfish' neighbor-hoods. Real-estate agents are not legally allowed to digitally cover up permanent issues with a property, or else it would be considered false advertisement, but they can photoshop furniture, adjust lighting and even edit things out (like power-lines). Catfish neighborhoods aren't a new trend, for they have existed long before the in-ternet was even created, but they're an increased concern now. They occur when a neighborhood is falsely portrayed to be better than what it is, from its crime rates to its 'polite' neighbors. Another example would be a listing agent who's not legally ob-ligated to disclose if a registered sex offender lives next-door to the property you're looking at or not (this is legal in many states, including WV).

To help prevent yourself from being a victim in one of these horrid online scams, it's important to look-out for red flags. If possible, an in-person inspection is highly recommended before any payment arrangements are made, as well as an intro-duction to a few potential neighbors in order to get a grasp of the neighborhood. If an online ad seems too good to be true and/or you can't see the property physical-ly, sometimes hiring a licensed real-estate broker can mean the difference between losing your savings or not. If necessary, a broker can conduct a background check on the potential landlord to determine their reliability. Free websites, like the Family Watch Dog, list registered sex offenders near-by any location you look for, but it's also recommended that an independent search be conducted on the crime rates within the area. As scammers become slyer and more determined during this pan-demic, it's our job as young adults to learn how to protect ourselves more cautiously from such easy mistakes.



Images sourced from R. Eddie



Images sourced from R. Eddie

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Continued from Page 1 *Living our Mission*

clean up around the community. On top of the abundance of service projects, there was an event on campus known as "Lounging on the Lawn" in which students could participate in a number of activities to relax, unwind, and enjoy themselves before classes picked back up the next day.

The majority of students and staff were broken into "project groups" and assigned one of the many projects offered. These groups were broken up by sports teams, UNIV 101 freshman sections, and majors (sophomore, junior, and senior undergrads). Although groups were split the same way last year, continuing to do so this year was important as it made it easier to keep people in groups with others they come into contact with often on campus. Keeping people in groups makes contact tracing much easier, if necessary.

I was a project group leader, and the group I oversaw was fleece blanket making with the women's track team and a couple of commuters. Once the participants in my group arrived, we sat on the front lawn of Rigglesman Hall making blankets in the shade. The process was simple, and it felt good to be able to do something even as small as making a blanket, knowing it would make someone else's day when they received it. I had a few people in my group that I did not know well as they were moved from other groups due to schedule issues; however, it was nice to get to know them and spend the hour and a half chatting and helping each other cut and tie the fleece for the blanket. We were able to complete four blankets during our project time, which was exciting because there were only a few of us in the group.

Overall, the 2020 Labor of Love event was very successful and was said to have a much better turnout of staff and students than the previous year. We, as a UC community, should feel proud of ourselves for the way we live our mission, even when it was more difficult due to COVID. The majority of students and staff took time out of their Labor Day weekend to give back to the community. Some even participated in multiple service projects throughout the weekend. Many are curious to see how the event will go next year as the turnout was so much better this year than last, and there were more projects available to participate in.



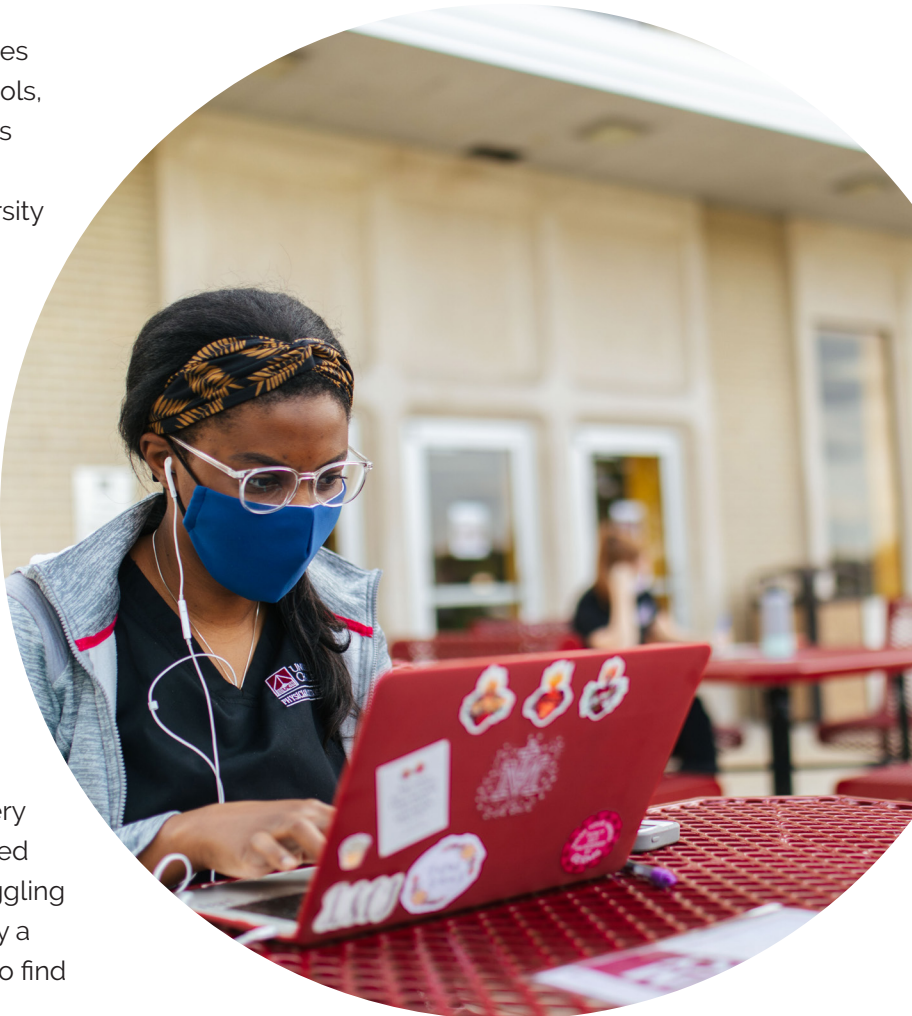
# Commuting Through a Pandemic

by Heather Meade

The COVID-19 pandemic has altered the lives of millions around the globe. It has shut down schools, businesses, and restaurants. With fall here, students are arriving back to campus for another semester; however, this one looks very different. At the University of Charleston students, faculty, and staff alike are required to follow COVID-19 guidelines in order to protect our campus from the spread of the coronavirus. These regulations include wearing masks, random COVID-19 testing, temperature checks, social distancing, distanced learning, and more.

These guidelines are important in ensuring the health and safety of our community; however, they can also be a large stressor for students. Commuter students at the University of Charleston are struggling to adapt to procedures that reframe their learning experience. Often times, classes are stacked with alternating online and in-seat. This is something that can be very stressful for a commuter student. With no designated place on campus to go for class, students are struggling to find ways to attend their online classes. With only a ten-minute break between classes, it can be hard to find a quiet, empty space to learn.

Commuter student Dana Summers feels as though commuter students have been forgotten during this time. Due to her schedule being an “absolute nightmare,” she has had to work with limited resources in order to make her semester work. Like most commuter students, alternating in-seat and online classes has been one the biggest stressors for Dana this semester. In the process of adapting to the changes, Dana has also been doing some major problem solving. With her challenging schedule, she has discovered new and creative ways to attend class. Dana makes use of empty classrooms, the library, and the lawn to participate in distanced learning.



Empowered by her own situation, Dana says that she “requested change with professors and staff and advocated for support from peers to make changes.” She believes that working together as a community and communicating effectively is the best way to ease the stressful times we are all facing. Dana praised her professors for their help during this time. “All of my professors are amazing and being understanding... they are doing the best that they can.” Photos are taken from @ucwv on Instagram





# Civilians' Health put in States' Hands

by Shan Esmer

As more information is learned about COVID-19, the federal government and the CDC's response to it changes as well. Their recommendations, testing procedures and data collection methods have changed substantially since the beginning of the pandemic until now. What's even more important is how our state has responded to it, though, since they're virtually the ones in charge of things.

Almost all federal testing sites across the country have disbanded—meaning that it's up to individual states to decide on how they'll go about testing in their communities. They're responsible for gathering personnel, equipment/supplies, sending tests to labs, gathering and reporting cases, etc... This doesn't mean that the states receive no federal assistance, though: "The federal government will continue supporting each site through the transition process to ensure that the states can fully manage and operate their CBTS [community-based testing site] program independently" (Option To Transition..., 2020). In other words, states receive federal funding and general guidelines to follow, then carry them out themselves locally. There have been national concerns with allowing states to conduct their own community-based testing, for some states have been lacking testing-wise, but it seems to be going well for West Virginia so far. Approximately 3,400 people in Kanawha County, as of November 1st, have tested positive for the virus, which equals a populace rate of 1.95%.

As for the question of what colleges (like UC) will do moving forward, it's most mostly dependent upon individual states. There's currently extra federal funding for higher education, but how they decide to spend that money is usually up to state government and the schools themselves. "Dr. Sarah Armstrong Tucker, Chancellor of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC), ... announced that Gov. Justice is providing the necessary resources to allow for all of West Virginia's public two-year and four-year institutions, as well as the state's not-for-profit private institutions, to conduct surveillance testing on 10 percent of their students and staff each

week" (COVID-19 Update..., 2020). As Virginia Moore has stated in her previous emails to students, they've been randomly selecting 10% of the student population for the virus testing every week. Thanks to HEPC coordinating with West Virginia's DHHR and National Guard, colleges across the state (including UC) have transitioned from nasal testing to saliva-based testing (COVID-19 Update..., 2020). Saliva tests are easier to collect, more comfortable [for us students] and also provides less risk to those collecting them.

Testing at UC is usually limited to those who've been in contact with the virus, those who experience symptoms for a lengthened amount of time and/or those who have been randomly selected. If you're afraid you *may* have come in contact with COVID-19 or just want to double-check, you can receive a free test at one of the testing sites listed at <https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/pages/testing.aspx>. Proof of insurance isn't needed, only a form of identification is required. "I want everybody to go get tested because, even if you don't have any symptoms, we have the opportunity to identify positive cases in people who may get symptoms later," Gov. Justice said. "Then we'd be able to isolate them, do contact tracing, and everything we need. It will give us the ability to stop this dreaded disease" (COVID-19 Update..., 2020).



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# Athletes in the Time of COVID

Written by Andrea Quezada Interviews by AJ Martin

Being an athlete in college is hard. There are long hours of practice and long hours of classes and homework. Balancing everything is complicated; however, a lot of people are able to achieve this. Here at UC, most of the student athletes achieve great things, from winning championships to getting good grades.

When COVID hit last semester and UC's community was sent home, all athletic events were also shut down. The spring season was barely starting, and most athletes were not able to participate in what they loved most. Almost five months later, UC opened campus, started classes, and students were allowed back. Athletic teams started practicing; however, their Fall 2020 season was postponed to the spring. Practice for all athletics has also been different; masks are now required, and because of social distancing, most teams are separated into smaller groups. Now, mid-semester, all athletic teams have had time to adjust to new regulations.

UC's tennis teams, both men's and women's, have been training since the beginning of the semester. "We try to train in different courts and with two people maximum in each court," said Alejandro Martinez, a sophomore from Spain. "The tennis team is making great work during this "extended preseason." We're training six days per week, as well as conditioning and weight training. We want to be prepared for the Spring." They have adapted to COVID regulations, including wearing masks. "It is hard to train with a mask because it makes it harder to breathe or they are uncomfortable," mentions Regina Lopez, "The mask sometimes moves at the wrong time which can be distracting and make you lose the point. However, it is good to be back training and in school."

Teams have also had to adapt to training in "pods" and not with their whole team. Kasey McNamara from the Women's Cross Country and Track team said that their pods were decided based on roommates and where each student lives. "For

example, I live in a single. Out of the three other girls in my pod, two are roommates and one have a single." Having these pods has made the team dynamic change. Alyssa Yungwirth, a junior from the softball team, said that her team is not training in pods anymore. However, they were at the beginning of the semester. "Having pods definitely made an impact on the freshman I was introduced to." Andrew Berry, a senior baseball player, added that having pods made it harder for the team to bond as quickly as they are accustomed to. "Since we have been in team training, I feel as if that aspect of the team has improved, but it is still very hard to bond with each other like we were able to in past years."

Even though everyone was disappointed to learn that the Fall 2020 season was postponed to Spring 2021, all teams are trying to improve be better prepared for the spring. Ebube Emeh from the football team feels like they should have played because bigger schools are playing, however, he is "training and getting to know the full schematic of the team offense." Kasey McNamara agreed by saying that although she was disappointed that the season was postponed, she thinks they can use this extra time to be in better shape and ready to go when they are able to start racing again. "I was worried about getting burnt out. However, everyone on the team seems to be doing well in listening to their bodies and taking recovery serious to prevent injuries and burnout." Garcia, from the current National Champion soccer team, added that it was sad to learn that their chance of winning the championship again was pushed back. "We are a team that is always training to get to the finals and win the championship. However, we know that next semester we will get the chance to defend the title--that is our mindset."

Some new Golden Eagles were also disappointed to have their debut season with UC postponed. Getse Lopez, a golf transfer, said that she

was very excited for the season to start "I wanted to experience competition at a higher level. Not being able to start playing is frustrating, but I know I have more chances to get better for the next season." Bryce Keith, a freshman football player, added, "At first I was upset because I was really looking forward to playing this fall but now being in it for a month or two, I am glad that it was postponed because it gives the team and I more time to prepare and get better."

Fall 2020 has been a semester of



adapting and learning. Athletes at UC have done an exceptional job and are under way to have an amazing Spring 2021 season. Dr. Bren Stevens, the Director of Athletics, said that she has been impressed with how well student-athletes and coaches have adapted to wearing masks throughout practice and training sessions. "Our plan is to increase COVID testing for athletes upon their return to campus in January if they participate in higher contact sports such as basketball, volleyball, lacrosse, soccer, and football. In speaking with our coaches and athletes, I know that they are beyond excited to have the opportunity to compete during the spring semester." Wings Up Golden Eagles, the spring semester is almost here!



# The Effects of COVID-19 on Mental Health

by Heather Meade

"I think it's been hard to adjust for some students because so much is going on in not only school now, but the entire world. For me, I'm just grateful to be back in campus and be able to see my classmates," says Emmy McPhail, a nursing major here at the University of Charleston. While everyone knows well the detrimental effects of the novel coronavirus on physical health, a lot of us tend to overlook the negative and long-lasting effects it also has on mental health. Numerous studies have shown that college students/young adults are the ones who are most severely impacted by the pandemic. A study conducted by the CDC of 5,400 young Americans over the age of 18 revealed that more than 60 percent of them reported having strong feelings of extreme depression and anxiety due to COVID-19. These statistics are three times higher than they were in 2019. "This whole thing with COVID-19 this semester has left me really uncertain and anxious about what happens next to us as students", says Alexander Forsbrey, commuter student and junior here at UC.

With finals quickly approaching and the strong feeling of uncertainty constantly looming as to whether or not a second wave of COVID-19 is on its way, college students everywhere are trying desperately to cope with the stress. "I'm really struggling to cope with everything," says Andrea Quezada, a junior and international student. "My ability to cope has definitely gotten worse, especially knowing that I'll be back home and working completely online here in a few weeks. I'm really nervous about how all of this is going to go with the time change and everything for me and other international students here."

CDC: COVID-Related Anxiety, Depression Skyrockets in Young Adults." Hartford HealthCare, 2020, hartfordhealthcare.org/about-us/news-press/news-detail?articleId=27860.

## Internships

by James Priest

One of the biggest stressors for college seniors is finding meaningful employment after graduating. It can be quite the daunting task; how do you set yourself apart from the rest of the new graduates entering the job market? Luckily, internships are a great way to get experience in your field for your resumé. In many cases, you can even be hired before you walk across the stage to get your degree.

Haley Meade, of Chapmanville, West Virginia, is one of many recent UC graduates who has found success through an internship. Haley started at UC in the Fall of 2014 as a bio-chemistry major but converted to political science. During her senior year in 2018, she got accepted into UC's MBA program. During her time in the program, she fell in love with marketing after taking a Jim Strawn class. This newfound love for marketing led to her first marketing internship with Travis Kahle at the West Virginia chapter of Association for Talent Development (ATD). Between her work with Kahle and her mentor Jennifer Pharr, she found a paid internship in April of 2019 with the YWCA as a Developmental Marketing Associate. She got a lot of experience doing clerical work, social media marketing, mass mailing, and graphic design work. In September of 2019, through a series of new hirings and promotions, she worked up to the position of Developmental Marketing Manager, 4 months before she graduated from the MBA program. She was able to work her way up to a leadership role in her organization in just under 6 months--all before she even graduated from the program.

Most good employers are open to internships. Internships are a good way for employers to do a trial run on potential graduates before they hire them full time to see if they are a good fit. However, during the Covid-19 pandemic, internships have been hard to come by. Some industries have been hit harder than others and

some may be operating on tighter budgets. But if you're looking for an internship or you are needing one for your major, don't be afraid to ask around; many businesses are open to having interns but don't advertise. For example, Haley Meade points out that the YWCA is always looking for good interns in all departments. Also, think about what companies or organizations you could see yourself working for. From there, you can visit their company website and go to their careers or employment tab. You can then apply for available internship positions or, if they don't have any listed, you can try contacting the head of the department you want to work in and explain that you are looking for an internship.

These are just a few options for internships that can accelerate a student's professional career and help them to find a job in their field before they even walk across the stage on graduation day. In an increasingly competitive job market, new graduates need every advantage they can get. Internship experience is a great way to set yourself ahead of the pack.

For more information on internships, contact Dr. Travis Kahle, Director Center for Career Development. [laurenkahle@ucwv.edu](mailto:laurenkahle@ucwv.edu)





*SGA: For the Students, By the Students*  
by Andrea Quezada

SGA is the Student Government Association at UC. SGA is an official government formed by and for students that serves as a liaison between students and the UC administration. This organization has the ability to make changes in the university; changes that may be brought up by the student body or changes that council seems to think are needed. Changes are possible not only because of the work the council puts in, but because it is one of the two university-funded organizations. SGA Council consists of freshman, sophomore, and upperclassmen senators, as well as an executive board, all elected by the student body. When positions open up, any full-time student that meets GPA requirements, has a clean disciplinary record and has filled out an application is allowed to apply as a senator for their respective class.

SGA's purpose is to represent the interests and concerns of the entire student body in front of the university's faculty, staff, and administration. Council has the ability to implement changes to these interests and concerns through resolutions approved by the university. SGA also helps fund student organization and spread information from the administration to the students.

Virginia Moore, SGA's advisor for five years and the Dean of Students, says that SGA is the organization on campus that takes any issues, improvement, or changes students suggest to the administration in order to make things better for the student body. "SGA is your voice. They are there to bring any small or big changes that they feel would make the UC

experience better, and sometimes students and faculty forget that SGA has that ability."

Current SGA president Ryan McFarland has been in SGA for three years. He has previously served as a freshman senator and vice president of communications. Some of the goals he has for his term in office are to make sure SGA is focused on student advocacy and to make sure the student body knows that SGA is a resource that has actual power to enhance their university experience. "In the past, our SGA focused too much on funding fun events, instead of representing the institutional concerns of the Student Body."

With COVID and all of the changes implemented around campus, SGA council has been listening carefully to concerns that the student might have body regarding COVID and the University protocols and being the voice for the students to help the entire UC's community to overcome difficulties that might arise. Meredith Suttle, Vice President of Finance, says, "We are almost there. Unlike many Universities across America, we have been able to remain in-seat and on campus. Continue to wear your mask and social distance."

Even with COVID, SGA is working on improving student life on campus and has some projects on the way. "I would like to remind the student body that SGA works for them. We are elected by the students, for the students, and that we are here to fix any problems they may have. We represent them and welcome any input," said McFarland. "I would also like to say that the student body's reactions to COVID guidelines have been overwhelmingly positive and that they have done an amazing job at preventing the spread of the pandemic."

For more information about SGA, you can follow their Instagram @uc\_sga or email them at [sga@ucwv.edu](mailto:sga@ucwv.edu)



# *Behind the Scenes of Labor of Love*

*by Arianna Whitehair*

Professors Hallie Dunlap and Kara Fisher have worked relentlessly over the past couple of years to create a way for the students at UC to give back to their community in a productive and exciting way. From this idea and an immense amount of effort from students, staff, and businesses around the community, Labor of Love was born. What was already a difficult event to plan became even harder thanks to the novel coronavirus. A learning experience for all, this year's Labor of Love event came with some changes that will likely be implemented in the event for years to come. "I think that last year our biggest hurdle to overcome was transportation. Moving 1,100 people back and forth from campus safely was a challenge for us. This year we were challenged in not leaving campus, and how to find meaningful projects that would serve vulnerable communities while staying here," said Professor Fisher.

One factor that many fail to take into consideration is the number of people it took to merely set up the event. Weeks before the event even took place, there were countless individuals moving and cleaning the tables behind the scenes, contacting necessary vendors and community members, and taking every possible measure to ensure that every aspect of the event ran smoothly. Many students only attended the event during their scheduled time, so they were not able to witness the immense amount of time and effort from students and staff alike to get each individual event set up for the new arrivals. This year, events ranged from making cards and blankets for veterans to making hygiene packages for homeless shelters.

Labor of Love wouldn't be so successful if it weren't for the fact that it's made out of the very thing it exudes: love. Professors Dunlap and Fisher created this event out of immense love for their school, their students, their community, and the deep friendship they share.







Student Organizations are Hopeful Despite COVID-19 Regulations  
by Nina Harbert

In 2020 the world was struck with a pandemic that forever changed our way of life. However, we did not let this stop us, and we have continued to adapt to our ever-changing environment. The University of Charleston has many clubs and organizations on campus that have been affected by the coronavirus, but they are discovering ways to get through these tough times. They face difficulties such as finding safe ways to meet, meeting minimum requirements for fundraisers and having their membership process altered.

Before the pandemic, no one really considered holding meetings through Zoom or Collaborate. It's now become a constant in our everyday lives so that we can still be involved without putting others at risk.

However, there are some complications with using these programs. Ryan McFarland, the president of SGA, said, "First we tried first to do online meetings through Zoom or Collaborate, but that didn't really work; it killed involvement and it was hard to get answers from people. So, we switched back to meeting in person, and we meet in a lecture hall so that people can be socially distant and wear their masks."

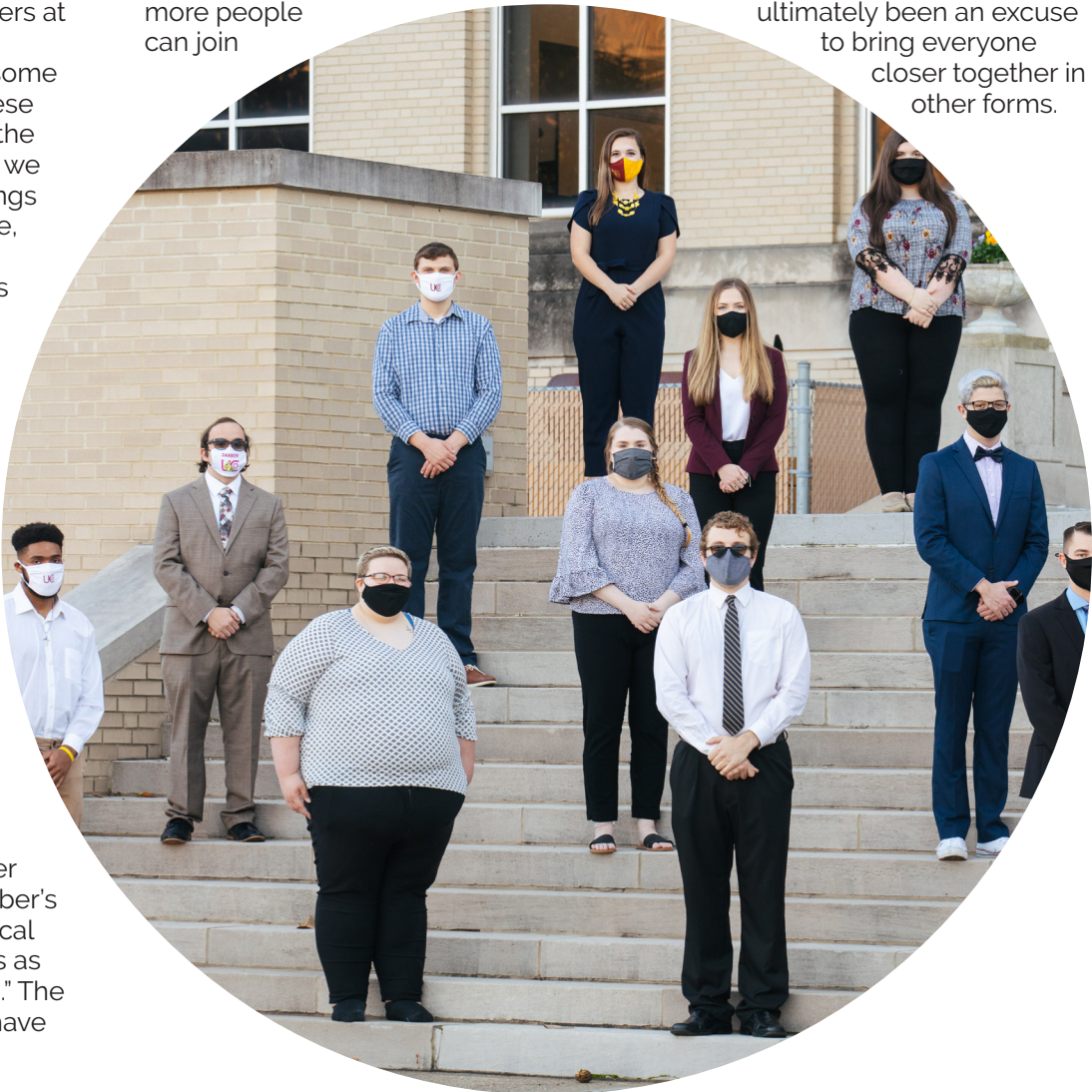
Fundraising and funding have also been significantly impacted by the pandemic. Shelby Bayliss, the president of Pi Gamma Mu, said that "Fundraising is banned in accordance to Student Life, that is one of the activities that we did that has been put on hold for a while. We fundraise to travel to discover job enrichment for our member's futures to see different political science-related career paths as well as enrichment activities." The activities that clubs can do have

been cut to the bare minimum; however, many clubs have been finding ways to safely stay involved. Pi Gamma Mu, for example, wrote letters and made blankets that they sent to nursing homes and veterans' hospitals. Even though they were not able to see the reactions of the people who received them, they still were able to know that they could help those who needed a little kindness in their lives.

Even though finding a way to do activities during the pandemic is challenging, many clubs and organizations have had an influx of membership applications. Alexander Sypolt, the president of DREAM Studio, stated, "More people have time now; it seems like they want to join DREAM, and more people can join

because it is not limited to Charleston. They do not have to travel because they can just join from their computer." Joining these clubs helps students take a break from the monotony of social distancing and the recommendation of staying home.

Adapting to a pandemic is tough; not just for the clubs and organizations, but for individual students as well. People are now looking at these clubs to become more involved. International students are able to participate in clubs through Zoom and keep in contact with their peers. These online club meetings allow people to spend time with their friends virtually. Even though the pandemic has been a hardship for everyone, it has ultimately been an excuse to bring everyone closer together in other forms.



FALL 2020 Eagle Contributors

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