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Winter/Spring 2022



UNIVERSITY OF
CHARLESTON

LETTER

from the President



I hope this message finds you and your loved ones healthy and safe.

Despite the ongoing pandemic challenges, UC students have had great experiences on campus and virtually. Our faculty's deep expertise in various teaching modalities and our staff's exceptional service delivery have ensured that students get an excellent education however they engage with us.

There's an interesting saying that life in college matters for life after college.

A Gallup-Purdue University study supported by the Lumina Foundation found that students who had supportive relationships and meaningful experiences in college go on to have more fulfilling lives.

In particular, six types of student experiences are critical: having an advisor or professor who excites them about learning, cares about them as a person, and encourages them to pursue their dreams; and participating in activities such as extracurricular events, semester or longer project work, and clinicals and internships where they apply what they have learned. When students experience two or more of these, they have much better odds of being engaged and satisfied adults, personally and professionally.

Knowing the importance of these experiences, we surveyed recent graduates on the six dimensions. Not surprisingly, we found that our students scored all six experiences higher than the national average.

As a result, we now describe the UC student experience as ***Relationship Rich and Career Relevant***.

While providing students with these essential experiences makes a UC education special and impactful, it also requires much planning, coordination, and oversight. Yet we take equal pride in ensuring that a UC education is accessible and affordable. That is why your support for scholarships, special programming, the annual fund, and other purposes is so important.

Your generous contributions make an immediate impact on UC and our students each and every day. And they exemplify your commitment to the power of an excellent education that pays dividends long after graduation. So, from all of us, thank you for your vision and support!

Martin S. Roth, Ph.D.
President



Winter/Spring 2022

THE MISSION OF UC
is to educate each student
for a life of productive work,
enlightened living and
community involvement.

IN THIS ISSUE:

Q&A with Joseph Janisch	3
Living the Mission	5
Alumni Spotlight, K. Offei Dei	7
New Programs	9
Faculty Highlights	11
Alumni Spotlight, Trey Lockhart	15
New Sports Degree Options	17
Athletic Highlights	19
Colts Rookie WR Strachan	21
Alumni News	23

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Q&A with Dr. Joseph Janisch

Faculty members foster an environment of learning while navigating such things as teaching, course loads and academic milestones. Retirement is one of those long-term academic milestones that Dr. Joseph Janisch, director of choral activities and associate professor, will accomplish at the end of this academic year. After 23 years at UC, Dr. Janisch will soon transition into the next chapter of life so we sat down with him to reflect on his time here.

How has the choral program changed over the years?

The primary goal of the ensembles has shifted from education to enlightenment.

When I started at UC, the focus of the groups was educational. I was responsible for programming pieces that ensured the students had experience with the canon of choral literature. The choir's focus now is to enrich the lives of the singers and the audiences. While I still include music by historically significant composers, I also program music that allows the students to express themselves and what is important to them.

You conduct choral concerts in a variety of settings for wide-ranging audiences.

How does this impact the students' performances?

Students often perform for an audience of people who know them; therefore, the audience reaction might be skewed. Your parents, aunts and uncles, and friends are often more appreciative of your efforts than a stranger. When the choirs sing on tour or for total strangers, the students are surprised at the powerful reaction to their music. Additionally, performing music multiple times for different audiences and venues allows students to refine their performance and relate to a new group of people. Students understand the science of acoustics when they sing in various venues.

Your groups offer more than an opportunity to perform - they offer community. How impactful have those communities that you've helped facilitate been to you personally through the years?

Working with the choirs keeps me young and allows me to experience things in a new way and with fresh eyes. For example, when I take the students to New York City, I see the city differently because I see it through their eyes. The same thing happens with music. Even if I have conducted a piece many times, I learn new things because I am working with a different group of students.

Most recently - because of the pandemic - the emphasis of the choirs has shifted from performing to relationship building and the use of music to express emotion and heal wounds. When the pressure of preparing a concert was no longer there, the students and I were able to explore the music in new and interesting ways, to discuss the meaning of the piece and how it relates to our current existence. We didn't always have time for that before. But, now that we are getting back to performing, we mustn't lose what we learned about relationship building and the power of singing to help both the audience and the singer.

What's your favorite part of conducting musical groups?

Singing in a choir allows individuals to work toward a common goal of excellence. No one is left behind; everyone works together, using the individual's strengths to meet the group's ultimate goal. Each group is a little different, but there are common features among all the groups of students. They all are willing to work hard to achieve a valued goal. They all care for each other. They all want to have fun. And they all want to be a part of something bigger than themselves.

I enjoy students growing and accomplishing things they didn't think they could. When you begin to rehearse a challenging piece, the students struggle. But when you successfully perform that piece, the look of satisfaction and achievement is life-changing.

Has music always played a major role in your life?

Yes, music has always allowed me to express myself in a socially acceptable way and has kept me sane over the years. When I'm happy, I sing. When I'm sad, I sing. When I'm angry, I sing. Music is the way I connect with the world.

Do you have a favorite song or musical genre?

Because I connect with the world through music, there is no single genre or song that is my favorite. Instead, I use music to help me remember events in my life and recreate them. Therefore, my favorite depends on the mood and the occasion.

What has being a part of UC meant to you?

Working at UC has been a gratifying experience. I look around at the people I graduated with, and some have lost their connection with music, while others are doing the same things they have done for the past 40 years. UC has challenged me to reinvent myself several times while keeping a connection with the things that mean the most to me - family, faith, choral music, young people, and different cultures. UC is a unique place that has allowed me to grow and flourish in ways I didn't imagine when I started here.

What is one of your best UC memories?

I have several peerless memories, but the most meaningful is of the day when a student came to my office suffering an existential crisis. They came to me because of the relationship we had built in the choir, and they knew they could trust me. I would not judge but would offer practical and supportive advice. In that single day, I accomplished my goal of a lifetime - I helped a student who has gone on to do great things. They say that teaching impacts the future, and I'm proof of that.

What are you looking forward to in retirement?

I am planning two projects.

First, I sing with the Opus Chorale of West Virginia, and I hope to help grow the ensemble and the audience. Fewer people are singing in choirs, and if the art form is going to survive, we have to find a way to engage people in the experience. I hope to discover that way.

I also plan to start an afterschool tutoring program that will welcome unhoused people. Hopefully, I will use my relationships with UC and St. Marks United Methodist Church to connect people who have skills with those who need those skills.



Labor of Love

While some take the Labor Day weekend to enjoy time off, UC students are part of a special project. The Labor of Love initiative takes students out into the community – both literally and figuratively – through service projects of all levels.

From cleanup and landscaping projects, to making blankets and back packs, to washing a fire engine, to painting a playground, and much more, students take time to experience how satisfying making a difference can be. And, they have a lot of fun, too!

This year, nearly 1,000 students, faculty and staff took part in making our community stronger, helping those in need, and learning more about how service to others can be very rewarding.

The voices of state Supreme Court justices, legal advocates, practicing attorneys and others offered a unique perspective on women and the law during a special event in October 2021.

“When There are Nine” offered an informational opportunity for those considering a career in the law. Organized by Hallie Chillag, assistant professor of Social Sciences and director of Multidisciplinary Studies, and Kara Fisher, Honors College director and assistant professor of Political Science, the conference addressed issues of equity, inclusion, advancement, and leadership. Students at all West Virginia universities and colleges, as well as the public, were invited to attend the conference virtually.

Special guests included an array of professionals in the field of law, including a U.S. District Court judge, attorneys from several area firms, legal advocates from Mountain State Justice and Legal Aid, and those who have taken their law degree in unexpected directions.

One of the goals of the conference, Chillag said, was for students to learn about careers that they may not have considered.

“We’re able to expand their imagination beyond their prior experience to enable them to excel in professional environments,” she said. “You can’t be what you can’t see, and this type of offering really plants seeds of possibilities for our fantastic young people to excel.”

A live podcast recording of *Lady Justice: Women of the Court* also took place during the event. The podcast features three women Supreme Court justices on their state’s highest appellate court who come together to discuss the law and its real-world implications.

The event also included a series of interactive sessions, skill-building workshops, and roundtable discussions designed to facilitate discussion among participants and provide space to share experiences, reflections, and skills to make positive differences.

The title of the event references a quote from late U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg regarding when there will be enough women serving on the nation’s highest court.

**“WHEN
THERE
ARE
NINE”**
-Ruth Bader Ginsburg



UC Graduate Changing the World

We often say that UC students change the world. And in the case of K. Offei Dei, that statement couldn't be more accurate.

Dei is currently the assistant representative - administration at UNHCR, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The UNHCR is mandated to aid and protect refugees, forcibly displaced communities, and stateless people; to assist in their voluntary repatriation, local integration, or resettlement to a third country. The organization is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, with over 17,300 staff working in 135 countries.

"I have been teaching for many years," stated Dr. Suzanne King, program director of the UC Accounting major. "K. Offei Dei was one of my first students and is one of the most outstanding students I've ever had. He has done incredible things with his life working with the United Nations [UN High Commissioner for Refugees]. He is truly one of the most altruistic people I have ever known."

Dei was searching for a school in the U.S. from his home country of Ghana when he discovered the University of Charleston. He had no preconceived ideas of what type of school he wanted, just one that would give him a good education.

At UC, he found an admissions director who made all the difference. At the time, he explained, international students were "foreign students," and the application process could be confusing.

"At UC, I found the admissions director who not only guided me through the process but was very encouraging about my studying in the states. She walked me through every step, and that connection helped me to decide on UC."

He was accepted and made plans to start his UC education in the fall of 1981. But those plans nearly fell through when a coup took place in Ghana, closing the airport and the country's borders. Fortunately, within a few weeks, he could travel to the U.S., although the delay would put him in Charleston after classes started.

Arriving on campus three weeks behind in his classes, he was understandably worried. However, several of his professors quickly helped him catch up, meeting with him weekly outside of class.

"I would meet with one of my professors in the morning at the CT. When he declared that he felt I had caught up and didn't need the additional meetings anymore, I tried to convince him to continue. During our meetings, he would buy me a large cup of orange juice, and since I couldn't afford to buy such things for myself, I knew I would miss having that juice!"

As a soccer player, he was able to make friends quickly. In fact, the first day he practiced with the team, one of his teammates invited him to dinner in the cafeteria that evening – but when he opened his dorm room door to what he thought would be one teammate, there were eight students, all ready to eat. He still keeps in touch with some of them.

But what he remembers most are the UC professors who supported him in his journey. His English professor pushed him hard to do well in her classes, but then was very motherly to him as well, making sure that he was okay outside of class as well.

Or the physics professor who would regale his classes with scary science fiction stories. He lived on the edge of campus, and his wife would type his students' papers for them in the evenings. However, as Dei remembers, "you never wanted to go to their house alone. He would tell scary stories, and then you would have to go back across a dark campus. We would always try to have someone with us so that you felt a little safer walking back to the dorm!"

He says that his UC accounting degree absolutely prepared him for his future. "UC graduates measure up to anyone in the accounting field because we received such a solid foundation. My education gave me confidence because it put me on a level playing field. It doesn't matter if you come from a big school, small school, private or public university, as long as you have the technical skills, you will be able to excel. And at UC, we learned those skills."

While at UC, Dei interned at Kanawha Valley Bank (now Truist) in the finance department. While this experience provided a strong real-life experience, he wasn't sure it was a good fit for him when he was offered a job in Elkins upon graduation.

Instead, he earned a full scholarship to Northeastern University and relocated to Boston. While at Northeastern, in addition to studying for his MBA, he also taught accounting classes. The 150-member class would meet three times – the professor taught two days, and Dei taught on Friday when the class would be broken up into five sections of 30.

He earned his CPA license in 1988.

In addition to his accounting major, Offei minored in Computer Science, which in a roundabout way, led to his current career.

"The fax machine had just come out, and I had purchased one. Wanting to test its abilities, I faxed my resume to the UN in Geneva, where a position had come open. I wanted to see if the fax would work, and then I got a call asking if I would come to Geneva for an interview," recalled Dei. "I thought, well, I probably won't get the job, but I get to spend a couple of days in Switzerland, so I agreed to the interview. When I returned home, they offered me a two-year employment contract – which has turned into a 28-year career!"

Throughout that career, Offei has lived/worked throughout the world: Geneva; Rome; Freetown, Sierra Leone; Nairobi, Kenya; and is currently working on assignment in Kabul, Afghanistan.

His advice to current UC students? "Go get it! You can do anything you put your mind to. My best advice would be to get a couple of professors as advisors and develop a relationship. For example, I had Justice Richard Neely as a professor and would call and ask him for advice, even after graduating – that is so important even after you graduate. And network – I hated it, as I was very shy while at UC, but it is important to make those connections whenever and wherever you get the opportunity."

And he says, while having the support of your professors is important, you also need to work. "UC prepared me for my future, but it is a give and take relationship. You have to put in the work – study hard, do your best work – and the effort will pay off."

And Dr. Suzanne King? Dei says to make sure she knows his career and experiences are "all her doing."



"UC graduates measure up to anyone in the accounting field because we received such a solid foundation. My education gave me confidence because it put me on a level playing field. It doesn't matter if you come from a big school, small school, private or public university, as long as you have the technical skills, you will be able to excel. And at UC, we learned those skills."

– K. Offei Dei
Class of 1988

NEW PROGRAMS OFFERED

GAME DEVELOPMENT MINOR INTRODUCED

The new game development minor provides UC students with a focused computer program development experience. It is intended to be an entry-level experience in game design and provides students with many of the fundamentals of computer science.

The minor provides a foundation in the study of game development with a focus on content and systems design, Unity, and C# programming. Students will have the opportunity to sit for the Unity Certified User, Unity Certified Associate, and Unity Certified Programmer certificates.

The program is offered through a unique partnership between the University of Charleston and Lower Cost Modules Consortium (LCMC), a group of 19 independent colleges and universities (including UC), which is committed to making higher education more accessible for all students.

Through the LCMC partnership, the game development minor will be infused with input from major names in the games industry as well as top computer science experts. Courses will include content and systems design, working with Unity, C# programming and more.

The minor is an option for students from all majors, requiring no previous programming experience.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING OFFERED

UC will begin offering a Master of Science in Nursing, with an emphasis on practice as a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP).

The degree will enable graduates to develop the knowledge and skills required to sit for the FNP national certification board examination and to take their place as a family nurse practitioner providing primary care to individuals across the lifespan.

HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT BACHELOR'S DEGREE

This new four-year program prepares students to become administrators and managers with a combination of business and health science courses.

Offered both online and in seat on the Charleston campus, students can complete the major on either a full or part-time basis. Students will engage in a multidisciplinary curriculum with a strong health science and business emphasis that provides a robust health care foundation. The opportunity to gain real world skills in the professional environment of their discipline equips graduates with the work experience that employers and graduate schools desire. For example, students can do an immersed internship within their desired career area. Graduates can be employed in settings such as hospital administrators, nursing home administrators, human resource managers, medical practice managers, or social and community service managers. Graduates will also have the education required for further study in graduate programs in health care administration.

OCCUPATIONAL SCIENCE

A unique accelerated bachelor's degree program that explores human behavior through an occupational lens. Students will be introduced to a multidisciplinary approach to the study of humans as occupational beings and the impact of occupational engagement or lack thereof on health and well-being. This program prepares students for application to a graduate occupational therapy program, which UC plans to begin offering in 2023, or other advanced degree or work as a non-credentialed health care professional in a variety of settings.

The program is offered in seat on the Charleston campus and takes 3.5 years to complete.

Faculty Highlights



Dr. Lindsay Acree, assistant professor, Pharmacy Practice Department; pharmacist-in-charge, PharmU Patient Care Clinic and the UC School of Pharmacy, was recently awarded an additional \$6 million from the WV State Opioid Response Grant, sub-grantee of the WV Department of Health and Human Resources Department of Behavioral Health. Dr. Acree received original funding of \$1.95 million and the additional grant money brings the total grant to \$7.95 million – the largest grant awarded in the history of the UC School of Pharmacy.

The grant will fund the purchase of almost 95,000 naloxone kits for the state of West Virginia and will be provided to organizations in the areas of prevention, corrections, treatment programs, hospitals, Quick Response Teams, local health departments, and others.

Dr. Acree was also the recipient of the WV Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors Russ Taylor Award. The WVAADC Board recognizes and awards “outstanding commitment and dedication in the field of addiction treatment and prevention.”

Catherine Wright, UC instructor of English, has received a full scholarship from the Key West Literary Seminar to attend its event. The seminar theme is “A Seminar Named Desire,” and it took place in Key West, Florida, from January 6-9, 2022.

Catherine is one of twenty scholarship recipients who led a session on an author, met acclaimed authors, and participated in professional development activities.

The mission of the Key West Literary Seminar is to promote the understanding and discussion of important literary works and their authors. Scholarships are awarded to provide support for those who are “making positive impacts upon readers in their communities.”



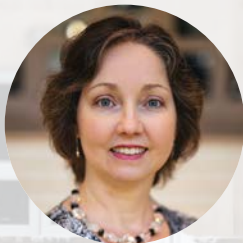
Dr. Peter Ward, an adjunct in our Physician Assistant Program, has authored a Netter’s Anatomy textbook: “Netter’s Integrated Musculoskeletal System: Clinical Anatomy Explained!”. The textbook will be available August 20 on Amazon and Kindle. Dr. Ward has been an adjunct in our program since its inception in 2013 and has been voted adjunct of the year first year didactic students for several consecutive years.

Dr. Tamer Fandy was awarded a supplemental grant of \$100,000 from WV-INBRE for a collaborative project with Dr. Michael Hu from the WVU School of Medicine. The project tests a novel therapy, known as “epigenetic therapy,” to restore cell sensitivity to chemotherapy for a type of blood cancer known as multiple myeloma. Dr. Fandy is chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical and Administrative Sciences in the UC School of Pharmacy.



Dr. Lisa McCool, assistant professor of Management and program director for Entrepreneurship, was featured in an article on the website AdvisorSmith.com. AdvisorSmith is an online publication focused on small businesses and entrepreneurs.

Dr. McCool and Dr. Melissa Farrish, associate professor and program director for Management, presented “Technology and Engagement: Gaming in the Classroom” at the Appalachian College Association’s annual fall summit on September 24 in Pigeon Forge, TN. The presentation focused on incorporating game-centered technology to increase student engagement. The presentation included data related to the importance of technology for engaging Gen Z learners and a discussion of specific game-centered learning.



Congratulations to **President Marty Roth** for publishing a new book in 2021, Foreign Market Entry and Growth. The eBook co-authored with Douglas Quackenbos accompanies the CountryManager simulation game which they use in UC’s MBA program and is also adopted at 130 other business schools worldwide. In addition, Roth and Quackenbos’s case study “SAM 100: Will Construction Robotics Disrupt the US Bricklaying Industry?” recently won the EFMD Global Award for Bringing Technology to Market. Co-authored with Dominique Turpin the case focused on automation and innovation. EFMD is a global, non-profit, membership-driven organization dedicated to management development. It is globally recognized as an accreditation body for business schools, business school programs, and corporate universities. The Case Writing Competition rewards innovation and creativity and provides studies for management development and its future challenges.

“Neuron,” a quarterly journal of science and research, published by West Virginia Science & Research, a division of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, featured **Dr. Aida Jiménez Esquilín**, UC Biology program director and associate professor of Biology in its Winter 2021 issue.

The publication’s introduction reads: “Aida Elisabet Jimenez Esquilin, Ph.D., associate professor of biology and biology program director at the University of Charleston, strives to provide purposeful science experiments for her undergraduate students so they can begin finding their own research identities.” The article primarily focuses on the Scholars Program for Environmental Challenges, created as the result of the National Science Foundation Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Grant awarded to UC in 2019. The article also features photos by UC Photographer Brock Burwell.



Dr. Xiaoping Sun, professor of Chemistry in our Department of Natural Sciences, published an article in Inorganica Chimica Acta titled “Investigations of the Photochemical Charge-Transfer Reduction of Uranyl UO22+(VI) to Uranyl UO2+(V) by Benzene-1,4-diol (1,4-C6H4(OH)2) and Oxalate (C2O42-) by UV-Vis, Electron Paramagnetic Resonance, and Luminescence Spectroscopies.” Coauthors of the paper were Dr. Derrick Kolling and Amanda Smythers of Marshall University and Roger Deal, a recent UC chemistry graduate. Prior to the publication, Dr. Sun presented this work at the American Chemical Society Spring national meeting in April 2021. Inorganica Chimica Acta is an international inorganic chemistry journal published by Elsevier, a leader in information and analytics.

Dr. Jacob Tenney, director of Financial Planning and Financial Literacy is featured on wallethub.com in an article on the U.S. economy. Tenney offers his views as one of the site’s featured ‘Ask the Experts’ contributors.

Tenney offered tips for consumers looking to improve their finances, if the vaccine rollout and reopening of businesses has increased consumer’s economic outlook, and when will be a good time to start making large purchases.



Staff Highlights



UC Board Extends Dr. Martin Roth's Contract

The UC Board of Trustees voted to extend the contract of UC President Marty Roth to June 2025. During Roth's current tenure, UC has experienced significant enrollment growth; increases in retention, alumni engagement, and fundraising; and grant awards from private foundations, individual donors, and federal sources. Roth is the 26th president to lead UC and came to Charleston from the Barney School of Business at the University of Hartford, where he served as dean.

Dr. Mindy Smith has been named dean of the Bert Bradford School of Health Sciences

Dr. Mindy Smith has been named dean of the Bert Bradford School of Health Sciences. Smith brings more than 15 years of experience in higher education at UC to this leadership position. She has taught in the Radiologic Science Program as an associate professor, clinical coordinator, and program director.

Dr. Smith graduated from the University of Charleston in 2002 with her Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Science. She earned a Master of Arts in Education from Marshall University, and with both an MBA and a Doctorate in Executive Leadership from the University of Charleston.



UC Vice President Dave Traube has been named as one of the State Journal's "40 Under 40" for 2021

UC Vice President Dave Traube was honored as one of the State Journal's "40 Under 40" for 2021.

The State Journal recognizes and honors young professionals throughout West Virginia with its Generation Next 40 Under 40 annual issue. Those named are honored for their contributions to making their communities, as well as West Virginia, a better place to live, raise families and do business.

Traube has served as the vice president of communications and marketing since 2019. Prior to that, he was the University's director of communications. He is a 2010 graduate of Marshall University.

VP and Director of Athletics Dr. Bren Stevens Named President of D2 Athletics Directors Association

UC vice president and director of athletics Dr. Bren Stevens has been named the D2 Athletics Directors Association President for the 2021-2022 membership year.

"I am humbled by the opportunity to serve as president for the D2 ADA, as our board members are some of the best leaders across all three NCAA divisions," said Stevens. "As the landscape in college athletics continues to change, it will be vital for our membership to navigate challenges and opportunities to ensure that our student-athletes have incredible experiences while on our respective campuses."

Stevens is the third female in the history of the association to hold this position.



UC Celebrates December Graduates

December graduation 2021 featured a lot of pride, a great deal of joy, and of course, a few tears.

This year's commencement took place in early December with just over 200 graduates participating in the ceremony. Graduates included some students who graduated in 2020, but because of COVID, had a virtual ceremony. Those who participated in that ceremony were invited to return this year to experience a live graduation, and about twenty did.

The graduates represented all programs at the Charleston campus, Beckley location, and online. There were 136 who received an undergraduate degree and 66 received a graduate degree.

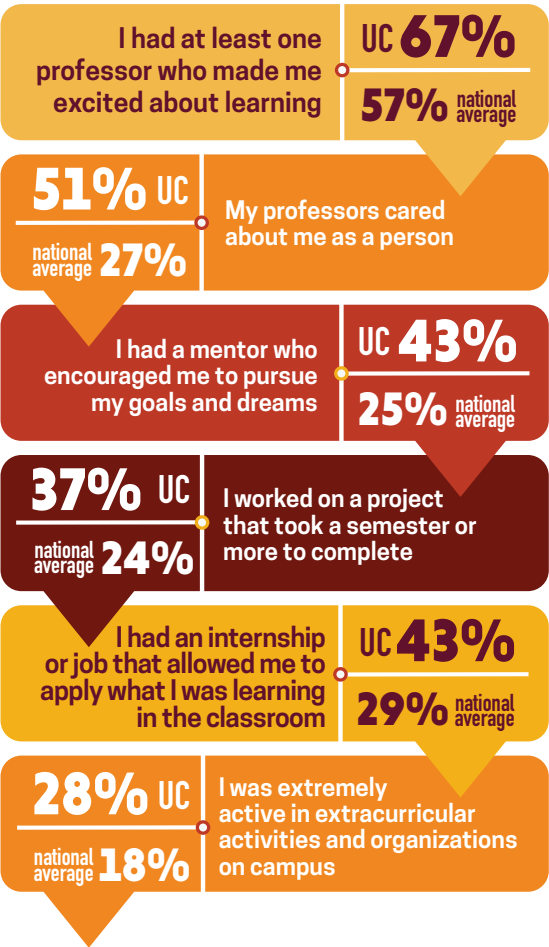
Dr. Sherri Young, associate chief medical officer of CAMC and clinical leader for the WV Health Network, provided the commencement speech, and received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree. Dr. Young served previously as the health officer and executive director of the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department.

STUDENT SURVEY

A recent national survey used six markers to determine how students felt about what they are learning, the support they received, and the experiences they had. The more experiences a student has, the higher their confidence that they will succeed.

So, we were curious – how would UC students score on this same test? Turns out, for every one of the six experiences, UC students rated their experiences higher than other students nationally.

Source: news.gallup.com



FROM VICTIM TO PHARMACIST.

Trey Lockhart remembers the day very well.

It was November 19, 2020. He had finished the day's pharmacy school rotation and followed up with dinner and Christmas shopping with his girlfriend.

It's what came after that, though, that is still a little fuzzy.

After leaving his girlfriend and driving towards home, Lockhart was hit head-on by a drunk driver. The accident nearly cut him in half from the inside – he was perforated in three separate places – and left him with a future that was as uncertain as his memory.

"There were times when I didn't even know I was in the world," said Lockhart. "I was in the hospital for 41 days and, at one point, I realized that I had lost an entire month of my life that I couldn't recall."

The road to recovery was as difficult as it was long. Lockhart lost 40 pounds from an inability to digest food efficiently. He had to rely on his family, most notably his mother, to care for him until he could regain the ability to walk and function on his own.

"I couldn't do anything for myself when I got home," said Lockhart. "When you're 27, and you need your mom to help you shower – that's not something you want to experience. But I give my mom a lot of credit for helping me recover. She stepped up when I needed her."

Another group that stepped up for Lockhart in his time of need was the faculty and staff of the UC School of Pharmacy. His accident had forced him to take some time away from his degree pursuit – a journey that had been coming to a close with only a few clinical rotations left to complete his degree requirements. The Pharmacy School faculty created a custom plan that worked for him, a plan that provided completion options without giving him too much to handle during his recovery.

"Trey's success is a factor of several key elements in his amazing story," said Dr. Kristy Lucas, associate dean for Academic Affairs and professor at the UC School of Pharmacy. "First of all, Trey has a determination and steadfast work ethic that saw him through this difficult time. Secondly, he had a team of faculty and administrators who were willing to be his voice when he literally had none."

So, after completing his recovery, Trey Lockhart completed his degree. His hard work even enabled him to graduate with the same UC pharmacy class that started with him.

Lockhart didn't just check the boxes needed to graduate, either. He committed to studying his licensure material, while he was relearning to walk, and passed all his exams on the first try – an achievement that not only evokes pride in Lockhart but in the pharmacy staff that dedicated itself to his success.

"At the UCSOP, we are committed to the success of every student, but Trey's is truly a special case," said Dr. Lucas. "I have no doubt that Dr. Lockhart is going to be a compassionate, dedicated, and exceptional pharmacist."

As Lockhart remembers the moment that he walked across the graduation stage, he's overwhelmed with emotion. Not so long ago he wasn't sure that he'd even be alive, let alone finishing his goal of becoming a pharmacist.

“You’re going to have setbacks in this life,” said Lockhart, “but it’s all about mindset. Had I dwelled on my accident, my life might be over. Once I got my mind right, I knew I could do it.”





UC EXPANDS SPORTS DEGREE OFFERINGS

The University of Charleston is offering new degree options in Sport Analytics and Sport Media. These complement the previously established and increasingly popular Sport Business degree.

That's not the only new thing about the expanded sports offerings, though. Brand new program director Jake Augustin comes to Charleston by way of Northwood University in Michigan. He brings with him an impressive resume of athletics experience and a clear vision for what these UC courses can offer incoming students.

"I don't just want to grow the three programs; I want to stabilize them," said Augustin. "We have so many great organizations in and around Charleston to partner with on sports internships. Not just any internship either, but opportunities that provide meaningful experiences."

Charleston has already been a good fit so far for Augustin and his family, but being a professor wasn't always the plan. A former college athlete, Augustin spent time working for the Mississippi Golf Association, the United States Golf Association, as well as a period working outside the world of athletics – all valuable experiences that he is implementing into the DNA of the programs.

"Degrees like these allow you to turn your passion for sports into a career," said Augustin. "One of the things that brought me into my career path was that I missed being around sports and the engaging atmosphere it offers. You don't often get the same opportunities to participate in such a competitive and fun atmosphere in the normal business sector."

All three sport-related programs offer the potential of satisfying outcomes for students, and Augustin hopes that his vision for meaningful work opportunities will set the UC version of the programs apart when potential students are looking for the right fit.

“THE NUMBER ONE THING FOR EMPLOYERS IN ATHLETICS IS A RESUME THAT FEATURES REAL EXPERIENCE OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM,” SAID AUGUSTIN. “TYPICALLY, STUDENTS GRADUATE WITH THE BELIEF THAT THEY HAVE THIS DEGREE AND IT’S THE TICKET TO SUCCESS – BUT THAT’S NOT QUITE THE CASE. THE DEGREE IS THE FIRST STEP, BUT IT’S THE REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCES, LIKE THE ONES WE CAN OFFER AT UC, THAT MAKE YOU THE MOST ATTRACTIVE CANDIDATE.”

ATHLETICS

HIGHLIGHTS



MEN'S SOCCER

Another amazing season for men's soccer. An overall record of 19-2-3 (14-1-1 conference record). MEC Champions. NCAA DII Super Region One Champions. And a run that ended on the National Championship stage as the runners-up.

All-American forward Gabriel Rodriguez said, "I'm obviously disappointed in the loss. I am happy to be here, but we are Charleston. We expect to win every game, but sometimes the better team doesn't always win, but that's football and that's why we play."

One unique note to the season. The team's first loss was to Davis & Elkins during the regular season. The two teams met again during the season, and the game ended in a tie. During the MEC Championships, UC took the field against D&E for the third time, and this time came away with a win. The fourth meeting for the two teams took place during the Sweet 16 round of the NCAA Atlantic Regionals, where UC tied D&E in the game, but took the win on penalty kicks to advance to the quarterfinals.

Lucas Christensen, Alexis Ledoux and Gabriel Rodriguez received CCA All-Region honors while nine more Golden Eagle soccer players won All-MEC selections.

Four players were selected by the United Soccer Coaches to the 2021 All-America First Team: Lucas Christensen, Ploutarchos Alonefti, Alexis Ledoux, and Gabriel Rodriguez.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Women's soccer ended the season with a 16-5 overall record and 13-3 in the conference. The team earned an NCAA tournament berth for the first time since 2016. Eight team members received All-Conference nominations, while Madison Hansen and Kaylee Hensley earned CCC All-Region honors.



CROSS COUNTRY / TRACK AND FIELD

Coach Nick Bias was named the MEC Coach of the Year as well as the Atlantic Region Coach of the Year by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross-Country Coaches Association – his third consecutive USTFCCCA win. Bias, in his eighth year as head coach, once again led his teams to an incredible year.

Both Golden Eagle teams took home Mountain East Conference titles. For the men, it was their fourth straight MEC title. In addition to the overall title, every runner on the men's team took home All-Conference honors. The women's team earned their second straight title – with four runners finishing in the top ten.

At the NCAA Championships, the men's team placed in the top 15 nationally, coming in 14th – the highest finish for an MEC team in conference history. The women's team recorded its best finish in UC history, coming in 29th. Golden Eagle Joao Periera had an All-American finish, coming in 22nd – the highest ever for any MEC athlete. Elise Leveel won the women's cross country Atlantic Region Athlete of the Year.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

The women's volleyball team finished their season with a record of 22-11 and a Mountain East Conference record of 12-6. Post season, the team won the first round of the MEC championship, beating number 2 seed Fairmont State University. Individually, Sage Bearnson won All-Region honors.

GOLF

The men's team had a very successful season, finishing the season winning 4 of 6 of their tournaments, as well as the MEC Championship. Mitch Hoffman was named MEC player of the year after coming in first place at the MEC tournament.

The women's golf team finished third at the MEC conference championship at Avalon Lakes golf course in Ohio. Beatrice Dietz placed 4th.

FOOTBALL

Charleston's Football team finished its season at 8-2 overall and 5-0 at home. 13 Golden Eagles finished the season with All-MEC honors and Tyreik McAllister was the MEC Offensive Player of the Year. McAllister also earned First Team D2 Conference Commissioners Association All-Region honors.

MEN'S TENNIS

The men's tennis team had one of the most successful seasons in the history of the program. After winning the MEC tournament, the team advanced to the Sweet 16 for the first time in program history. Singles player Daniel Llorente and doubles team John Giesberts and Drew Dagostine qualified for International Tennis Association National Cup competition after winning the Atlantic Region tournament in mid-September.



Behind the scenes of Colts rookie WR Strachan’s ROAD TRIP OF A LIFETIME

by: Charlie Clifford, WISH-TV, Indianapolis, Indiana
Posted: Dec 7, 2021 / 05:12 PM EST / Updated: Dec 7, 2021 / 05:14 PM EST

INDIANAPOLIS (WISH) — What were the odds of this dream coming true?

In person, Colts rookie wide receiver Mike Strachan doesn’t look like an NFL underdog: 6-foot-5, 225 pounds. Speed. Good hands.

We watched a fearless approach as he quickly became the most talked-about diamond in the rough at Colts training camp this past August.

Heck, his NFL debut was camouflaged by two critical catches in traffic as quarterback Carson Wentz attempted to pull off a late comeback against Seattle during his Colts debut.

The rally fell short, and Strachan has since shuffled out of coach Frank Reich’s wide receiver rotation, but there is still a very bright future in Indianapolis for the 24 year old.

Strachan’s selection in the final round of April’s NFL draft was an historic one; he became only the third Bahamas-born player drafted by an NFL team.

Colts General Manger Chris Ballard did not expect Strachan’s arrival to pay immediate dividends.

Instead, this is simply the latest pillar on a bridge from the Bahamas to wherever Strachan sees fit.

Earlier this season, we witnessed how it all started.

It made for one of the most special road trips the NFL will witness this season.

2 schoolteachers from the Bahamas

This was all originally Jerome Strachan’s dream.

Back in the day, Jerome Strachan could play some serious ball.

Jerome, a gifted athlete in the Bahamas, chased his football dreams to Bethune-Cookman College in the early 1980s.

His professional football aspirations did not materialize, and Jerome returned to the Bahamas to start his family.

Decades later, here comes his son Mike, a star athlete in the Bahamas, looking for a path forward on the football field.

In high school, the big decision came when Mike left home and moved to the United States. The University of Charleston in West Virginia opened the door to play Division II ball, and Mike took it.

And then tragedy struck the Strachan’s homeland.

In late August of 2019, Hurricane Dorian made landfall in the Bahamas as a Category 5 Atlantic hurricane, becoming the most devastating tropical cyclone in the country’s history.

Strachan was on campus in West Virginia, anxiously awaiting communication from his parents and extended family in Freeport.

He didn’t yet know the herculean effort Jerome was in the middle of.

By the grace of God, this story was relayed from father to his son in the United States.

“He (Jerome) had to walk out and pick up his mom, my grandmother, from her house. She couldn’t move, and with the floodwaters, she had to stand on top of her dresser.”

“He had to run in the water, basically was swimming, because she called. She doesn’t know how the call went through because all of the phone lines were down, but somehow it went through, thank God.”

“Thank God for that. He was able to go and save her life.”

With winds reaching 185 mph, Hurricane Dorian took 77 lives, 74 in the Bahamas alone. As of August 2020, 245 people were still unaccounted for after Hurricane Dorian.

‘I had to hold myself from crying’

Back home this fall, schoolteachers Jerome and his wife Sheba continued to raise their family, never getting the chance together to watch Mike play football stateside.

That changed Week 4 in Miami.

As part of a surprise announcement live on the NFL network, Mike Strachan learned during a national TV with Kyle Brandt that his parents were being gifted free airfare from Bahamas Air to travel to Miami to watch the Colts battle the Dolphins.

The plan went off without a hitch, and upon arrival at Hard Rock Stadium, a usual pregame warmup transformed into a celebration of this Disney-like underdog NFL story.

“I had to hold myself from crying almost,” Mike Strachan said. “Finally getting to see all of them, and they all have their Colts jerseys on. That was awesome.”

In the stands, Dolphins fans began to figure out something special was playing out here and offered their congratulations

to the family seated behind the visiting sideline.

Jerome and Sheba Strachan were almost at a loss for words.

“I am super proud of Michael,” Sheba Strachan said. “My heart is full for him because Michael has always been a hard worker, and he has always put his best foot forward. I am just happy. I am overwhelmed. I just don’t know what to say.”

“I am just elated,” Jerome Strachan said. “This is really just a blessing for us. We are a family of faith, and we just thank God that he has opened this door and allowed me also to live my dream through my son Michael.”

Looking around the teal seats at Hard Rock Stadium, taking in the pageantry of an NFL Sunday, everything, including a convincing Colts victory, lived up to the hype.

“The amount of people from Freeport (Bahamas) where we live, this stadium could hold all of them,” Sheba Strachan said. “To be in an atmosphere of so many people, it is just amazing to me.”

“To know that my son is on the center stage of all of those people? It just blows my mind. It is just unbelievable.”

Strachan saw the field on a handful of plays, but his highlight reel plays will certainly be saved for reunions down the road.

Regardless of where this goes from here, Michael Strachan made it.

And if you know anything about Michael Strachan, there are no little plans for what happens going forward.



“32 TEAMS, I COULD HAVE GONE TO ANY TEAM, AND GOD HAD IT THAT I WENT TO THE COLTS,” MIKE STRACHAN SAID. “I COULDN’T HAVE BEEN IN A BETTER PLACE. THE FAMILY CULTURE WE HAVE HERE WITH THE COLTS IS JUST TREMENDOUS. IT IS TRULY A BLESSING.”

ALUMNI NEWS



MEET CHRIS WELTY UC's Donor Relations Specialist

"I've grown up around UC my entire life," said Welty, "and there's something special about this place. The beautiful campus, the friendly teachers and faculty – I felt welcomed working here from day one."

When Charleston native Chris Welty came to work at UC as a donor relations specialist this past fall, he already knew how important the school was to the surrounding community.

Welty graduated from nearby West Virginia State University in 2015 but, while UC may not be on his degree, it is in his blood. Chris's father, Bob, graduated from UC when it was still known as Morris Harvey – and Welty attended many athletic events on campus with his dad when he was young.

Welty comes to UC from the nonprofit world, having spent nearly a decade working for various organizations in the Charleston community. While the skills he's developed over the past few years are already serving him well in his new role, it's his commitment to building lasting relationships that define his approach to work ethic and goals.

"Though I didn't attend UC, I'm friends with several people that did, and they reflect fondly about their time here," said Welty. "To build a meaningful career so close to home by informing our donors of the exceptional programs offered by UC is a privilege. Working here is an opportunity that excites me. Go Golden Eagles!"

Get to know Chris or drop him a note at:
christopherwelty@ucwv.edu
304-357-4386

STAY CONNECTED TO YOUR UNIVERSITY

Join the UC Alumni Association

Alumni Association membership comes with many great benefits, but more than anything, it's the easiest way to stay connected to your alma mater! Members have opportunities to catch up with old classmates, make new and lasting friendships, support current Golden Eagles in various ways, and stay up to date with our growing campus!



Questions? Contact:
Christina Carr
Director of Alumni Relations
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UC
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ALUMNI HONORS

Two very special alumni were honored during our Homecoming Weekend held October 15-17, 2021. Andrew Paterno, CEO of Centurion Insurance Services, and member of the Class of 1975 was named Alumnus of the Year. Chelsea Kinzinger, vice president of operations for General Corporation and its affiliated companies, and member of classes 2008 and 2011, was named Rising Alumnus.

Both awards are given to alumni of Morris Harvey or University of Charleston who demonstrate the ideals of the University's mission by living a life of productive work, enlightened living, and community involvement.



ANDREW PATERNO, Alumnus of the Year

The Alumnus of the Year Award is given to honor an alumnus who distinguished themselves in their profession and/or community and has proven to have a profound positive impact on their industry and/or community. They must have made significant contributions to UC and/or their community on a local, state, national, or international level through professional service, public service, or civic activities.

Paterno's career history includes being president of the West Virginia Region of Huntington National Bank for over five years, and leadership for Wells Fargo Insurance Services for more than 30 years. Holding senior executive positions in their insurance brokerage and claims administration operations he also served as vice chairman of their Board.

He was the 1999 recipient of the Italian American Man of the Year, was named the 2000 Son of the Year by the West Virginia Society of Washington, D.C. and in 2008 was a meritorious inductee into the University of Charleston Hall of Fame.

Paterno earned his Bachelor of Arts in Geography and Economics from Concord College and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Charleston.

CHELSEA KINZINGER, Rising Alumnus of the Year

The Rising Alumnus Award is given to honor an alumnus who is surpassing the expected standard in their field and identifiable as an emerging leader through their professional achievements and/or community involvement. This individual is proving to be an innovator with rational, modern, and well-informed ideas that will have a positive impact on the future of their professional field and/or community.

Kinzinger is a graduate of the University of Charleston with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Sports Administration and a master's degree in Business Administration and Leadership. Originally from New Athens, Illinois, she was a four-year letter winner in women's volleyball. While at UC, the women's volleyball team brought home two conference titles and appeared in two NCAA National Championship Tournaments.

She is a 2015 graduate of Leadership Kanawha Valley and a 2017 graduate of Leadership West Virginia. She is a proud member of the UC Alumni Association and stays active in the community by serving on the Children's Therapy Clinic Board of Directors, UC Athletic Network Advisory Board, Charleston Parkinson's Support Committee, and volunteering with the Charleston Sled Hockey program. Most recently, Chelsea helped organize the 9th Annual Fox Trot where over \$70,000 was raised to fund high-impact research for a cure for Parkinson's Disease.

She resides in Charleston and in her free time enjoys traveling, spending time with her family, and cheering on the Golden Eagles and Fighting Illini.





Sigma Phi Epsilon FUNDS BOATHOUSE PROJECT

The men of Sigma Phi Epsilon share a bond that has remained strong. The Morris Harvey College chapter began at the suggestion of a beloved professor and although there is not currently an active chapter on campus, the brothers continue to have an impact on the University.

Joseph Robertson, Frank Mathews, Mark Robinson, Fred Rapp, Jim Arthur, and Rocky Bowers were in Dr. Fred Barkey's history class when he posed the question, "Why aren't you boys in a fraternity?" When they did not have a solid answer, he suggested, "maybe you should start your own." The idea was born, and Dr. Barkey became the first faculty advisor.

The founding members petitioned Morris Harvey College to form a local chapter with the original name Sigma Epsilon Phi. The petition was approved in the spring of 1965 and by the end of spring 1967, membership had grown to 25 brothers with Frank Mathews being named the first president.

In the fall of 1968, the group's second president, Greg Ayers, took office. Greg was responsible for leading the group through petitioning to become a chapter of the national Sigma Phi Epsilon organization. Greg took the petition, which he still has a handwritten copy of today, to the Sigma Phi Epsilon headquarters in Richmond, Virginia, in the fall of 1969.

The brothers were accepted as the 201st chapter of the national organization on January 10, 1970. Their official name changed to Sigma Phi Epsilon, West Virginia Zeta chapter. Representatives from the Richmond office came for Charter Night, a dinner-dance celebration held at the Daniel Boone Hotel.

The brotherhood saw steady growth through the 1970s. They enjoyed social events such as the Penguin Ball held in the Cloud Room at Yeager Airport and gatherings at Pine Manor, where two fraternity brothers lived. "The Anchor was the place to be on Thursday nights for beer and pizza," said John Robertson '74, a Sig Ep brother who returned as the fraternity's faculty advisor while working on his master's degree.

The fun continued through the early 1980s as the group sponsored annual events like Grape n' Grain and Southern Jam. These years included fraternity presidents like Steve Kawash, Phil Morabito and Rob Pumo. Steve and Rob were later inducted into the UC Alumni Hall of Fame and Phil has served on the University's Board of Trustees – just a small example of the brotherhood's successes.

The brothers remained true to their original goal of service and completed clean-up projects at the Sunrise Museum, worked with the Red Cross, and one year adopted a little brother from Northeast Brazil.



Pictured left to right are Tom Donohue, David Blashford, Sam Femia, Dave Steele, John Robertson, Bob Nichols, Dr. Marty Roth (special guest for photo), Jeff Robertson, Steve Kawash, Randy McCollum, Francis McNeill, Chuck Smith, Paul Turner, Joe Natalie, Tom Moriarty, and Rob Pumo

A special part of the brotherhood was the Golden Hearts, the women's auxiliary of the fraternity. They helped with the rush process, fundraising, new pledges, and presented the Brother of the Month award. Joe Robertson, a founding member, married his Golden Heart sweetheart, Mary (Marty) Frazier Robertson. They live in Charleston and hold season tickets to the Golden Eagle basketball games.

Before the pandemic, brothers gathered monthly at the Smokehouse on the west side of Charleston. Frank Mathews, Greg Ayers, Joe Robertson, John Robertson, Dick Williams, Pete Mezaros, and Bill Grizzell have made it a priority to stay connected. Dr. Frank Barkey, who encouraged the start of the fraternity, makes an appearance every now and then, too.

David Blashford remembers time spent in the Coffee Tavern, painting the drainpipe with the Greek letters, and most of all, "being together then AND now." He is part of a group that joins monthly Zoom calls and annual golf outings. The Zoom call is coordinated by Phil Morabito '79 who is living in Houston, TX. The golf outing is organized by Steve Kawash '78. This year's event attracted 25 brothers from 11 states.

Sadly, only five of the six founding members are still living. While at work, Mark Robinson suffered what is believed to be a heart attack. He would have been a graduate of the Class of 1969. A tribute from his brothers reads, "A self-made man living life to the fullest, Mark possessed an effervescent personality which made his presence always felt by those around him."

The brotherhood continues its legacy by giving back to the University. Last year the Sig Eps collectively gave over \$15,000 to our annual Give Day, and those funds helped renovate the UC Boat House into an outdoor recreation center for students. In June, some of the brothers visited campus and saw the updates as part of their 2021 reunion!

A NEW LOOK

in Rigglesman Hall
as Renovations Continue





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UC is committed to preparing students to live in an increasingly complex and changing society by helping them develop the knowledge, skills and character needed to be lifelong learners. A planned gift exemplifies your support of UC's mission to educate each student for a life of productive work, enlightened living and community involvement.

Naming UC a beneficiary of your will, retirement funds, insurance policies, and more, are the tools of charitable gift planning and can provide you with valuable tax benefits.

Planned gifts are among the most powerful tools available to donors. They can make it possible for you to give more and have more impact than would otherwise be the case.

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