



OFFICIAL UC ALUMNI NEWSLETTER / July 2022 / VOLUME III ISSUE VII



Alumni and Friends,

I hope you had a wonderful Fourth of July weekend and spent time with your loved ones celebrating our great nation.

Last week, we honored long-time professor Dennis McMillen. Dennis spent forty-two years as part of Morris Harvey College/ University of Charleston and had a positive influence on so many students, including Jason Thompson, '86 and '92. The renovations to The Dennis McMillen Classroom located in Riggelman Hall were made possible by the generosity of Jason who said, "I wanted to do this as a thank you."

Jason is one of many who would name Dennis as a favorite professor, myself included. He and Armando Alcazar, who also has a classroom named in his honor thanks to Jason, are two of my most influential teachers and it was special for me to see them on campus again.

It has been over fifteen years since I sat in their classrooms and yet, Dennis recognized me immediately. That kind of personal relationship students experience with their professors is what sets our University apart from so many. Alumni often comment on how our professors knew who we were. We weren't just another face in a crowded classroom.

As combinations of people were being asked to stand with him for photos, Dennis said, "How about one with any former students?" With my arm around him, I was filled with pride to be in the company of my beloved professor and witness students from each of his four decades of teaching feel the same.

We are alumni much longer than we are students, and yet the impact our time as students has on our lives is immeasurable. As a proud Golden Eagle, I encourage you to attend

alumni events, become a member of the UC Alumni Association, and visit campus during Homecoming and Family Weekend 2022 so you, too, can be reminded of how proud you are to be a Golden Eagle.

Wings Up!

Christina Carr, Director of Alumni Relations

Pictured below are Jason Thompson and Dennis McMillen





We have two awards that will be given during the Homecoming and Family Weekend festivities, the Alumnus of the Year Award and the Rising Alumnus of the Year Award.

#### **Alumnus of the Year Award**

The award is given to honor an alumnus who distinguished themselves in their profession and/or community and has reached the pinnacle of success in their chosen field. This individual has proven to have a profound positive impact on their industry and/or community.

##### Criteria

- Graduate of Morris Harvey College or University of Charleston
- 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.
- Demonstrates the ideals of the University's mission by living a life of productive work, enlightened living, and community involvement.
- Exceptional service in support of the advancement and continued excellence in education of the University of Charleston.

#### **Rising Alumni Award**

The award is given to honor an alumnus who is surpassing the expected standard in their field and is 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.

##### Criteria

- Graduated from the University of Charleston within the last 15 years
- Made notable contributions to UC and/or their community on a local, state, national or international level through professional service, public service, or civic activities.
- Demonstrates the ideals of the University's mission by living a life of productive work, enlightened living, and community involvement.

Alumni who are not eligible for nomination for either award:

- Current members of the University’s faculty or staff
- Currently in a position of elected or appointed government office or known to be launching a campaign
- Must be living (No Posthumous nominations)

**Nominations are due to the Office of Alumni Relations by August 24, 2022.**

**Click [HERE](#) to submit a nomination**



# Athletics

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## CORNER



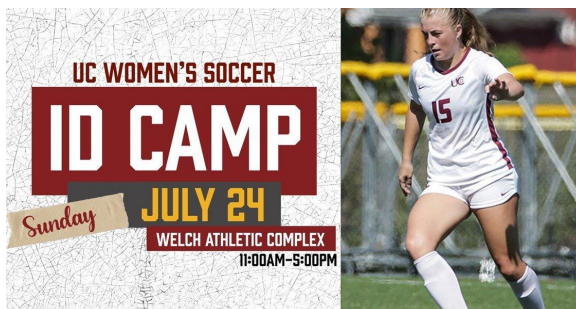
I became the AD at UC in 2012. It has been part of my vision to become a top destination for D2 Athletics. I believed if we could hire an amazing staff and recruit top DI and DII athletes to Charleston, this could become a reality. The goal has been to become a top 25 athletics program. The rank is based on how many sports programs advance to NCAA Regional and National events and the further teams progress the higher your ranking in the Learfield Directors Cup.

Well, congratulations to our university on securing the 17th place finish for this past academic year. This is really a dream come true and probably one of the most significant accomplishments in our athletics history. To say that I am beyond proud would be an understatement. From my perspective, athletics excellence for a small school in Charleston, WV speaks volumes to the talent of our coaches, athletic trainers, staff, and administration team. It is truly a great day to be a Golden Eagle!

-Dr. Bren Stevens, Director of Athletics

## We'd love to see your kids on campus!

Several of our athletic teams offer summer youth camps. Follow the link for details.



**Summer Youth Camp Information [HERE](#)**



### It's More Than a White Coat!

Receiving a white coat is one of the most memorable experiences in a UC student's journey toward becoming a pharmacist. Our incoming class at the University of Charleston's School of Pharmacy will receive their white coats on August 26th, 2022, and we want to give them a warm welcome by helping to cover the cost of a white coat and more.

With a gift of \$125, you can provide an incoming UCSOP student with their required white coat, name tag, blood pressure cuff, stethoscope, and MacBook screen protector. When you make your gift, you will have the opportunity to write a note of encouragement and support that will be included in the pocket of the white coat of an incoming student this fall.

Help us give a white coat, and more, to a member of the UC School of Pharmacy Class of 2026!

Click [HERE](#) to make your gift today!

# ALUMNI

# SPOTLIGHT



Daniel S Reich, MD, '67

**Luck, perseverance, courage, friendship, desire, and having a game plan.**

Daniel grew up in Long Island, NY with his mother and two brothers. His father passed when he was only eleven years old. He was encouraged by his family through pivotal times and relied on their advice when making life changing decisions. Daniel's interesting career story is full of what he refers to as "lucky breaks". Whether it was luck or a mixture of hard work and opportunity, he has had a successful career serving his communities

as an educator and physician.

After graduating from Morris Harvey and completing one semester at West Virginia University, he went back home to Long Island and taught school. During his first year, the school needed a science teacher and Daniel was asked if he would be willing to take the required classes to be certified to also teach science. He obliged and took classes at a local community college while also coaching track and assisting with coaching football on the junior high level. "It really was quite a bit of fun."

While teaching, Daniel noticed many student athletes were getting injured and requiring physical therapy. This sparked the idea to change careers to physical therapy. He turned to his brother for advice on the decision.

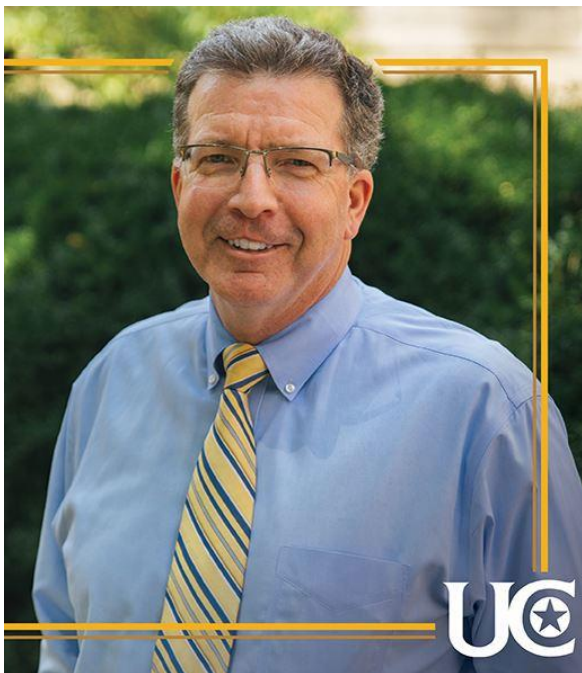
To read more about Daniel's decision and his interesting career as a medical doctor in California, click [HERE!](#)

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## Happy Retirement!!

**Jerry Forster**, '83, returned to his alma mater as UC's vice president for administration and finance from 1992-2001. He left UC to take on the role of treasurer and chief financial officer for Sewanee, the University of the South. When UC took on the teach out partnership with Mountain State University in Beckley in 2013, the school called him back to West Virginia.

Dr. Forster served as regional president for UC-Beckley, helping guide the teach out program to make sure that over 400 MSU students were able to complete their degrees. He was also responsible for assessing and solidifying academic



programs that would eventually become the cornerstone for our Beckley location.

In 2015, he was named Chief Operating Officer, overseeing many of the day-to-day operations for the university.

After 18 total years serving UC, Dr. Forster will be moving on to the next chapter in his life, he leaves behind many memories, a long list of accomplishments, and many colleagues who will miss him. All our best wishes go with Dr. Forster and his wife, Gayle, on their continuing journey.

**Mr. David Bowyer**, the UCSOP Department of Pharmacy Practice Chair and a member of the West Virginia Board of Pharmacy, has retired. He was founding faculty for the pharmacy program and has dedicated 17 years to the University of Charleston.

He was honored with Emeritus Faculty status during spring commencement for his many years of service to the institution. Dave is looking forward to having more time to golf, travel, volunteer, spend time with friends and family, and of course keep up with the yard work.



**Dr. Sandy Bowles** retires this year, also honored with Emeritus Faculty status, as the longest serving faculty member in Morris Harvey/UC history. She came to UC in 1963 with her husband John, planning to stay just one year, which turned into fifty-one.

She was the first instructor in our new nursing program, teaching in a converted house on Cherokee Avenue with very few supplies. She later became Dean of the Division of Health Sciences, then Director of Assessment and Special Projects at the School of Pharmacy. Sandy also is active with the Higher Learning Commission,



doing site visits around the region – and she plans to continue her work with the HLC.

She says “In any Charleston hospital or community agencies you will find a Morris Harvey/UC graduate. I am very proud to have been a part of the development, implementation, and oversight of these programs over these fifty-plus years.”

**Dr. Joseph Janisch** - “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.”



From a traditional Quaker hymn to Queen’s *Bohemian Rhapsody*, Dr. Joseph Janisch has brought music to his UC students – and our community – for over twenty years. This year, he will retire from UC – but plans to continue serving his community.

Dr. Janisch has been an Associate Professor as well as Director of Choral Activities at UC, conducting both the UC Concert Choir and the University Singers, and retires with Emeritus Faculty status as well.

He says, “They say that teaching impacts the future, and I’m proof of that.”

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thanks  
FOR YOUR SUPPORT  
You make a difference!

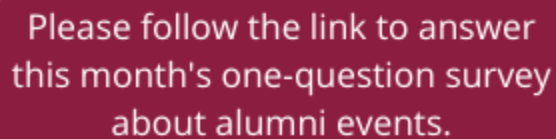
Thank you to all of our supporters who made contributions to our annual fund throughout the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Your generosity will allow the University to continue offering outstanding experiences that prepare our students for a life of productive work, enlightened living, and community involvement.

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**We want to  
hear from  
YOU-C  
Alumni!**

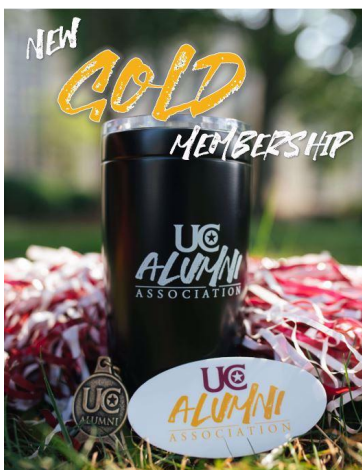


Please follow the link to answer  
this month's one-question survey  
about alumni events.

**Answer July's survey question [HERE!](#)**



The UC Alumni Association is a great way to stay engaged, help plan alumni events, network with other



alumni, and give back from wherever your wings have taken you!

**The Gold Level** requires a \$100 membership donation and includes a decal, key chain, coffee tumbler, invitations to special VIP events, discounts, and more.

**The Gold Renewal** requires a \$100 membership donation and includes an alumni roll-up stadium blanket, cell phone holder, invitations to special VIP events, discounts, and more.

**The Maroon Level** requires a \$25 membership donation and includes our decal, alumni koozie, invitations to special events, discounts, and more.



**The Maroon Renewal** requires a \$25 membership donation and includes an alumni cell phone holder, invitations to special events, discounts, and more.

**The next UCAA Zoom Meeting will be on August 3rd @ 4:00 pm EST.**

**Click [HERE](#) to join or renew TODAY!**

### **"Welcome" to our new members!!**

Howard Crain, '70

Bill Thomas, '00

Chris Treadway, '98

**Click [HERE](#) to view a list of all current UCAA members!**

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### ***In Memorium***

*Remembering Golden Eagle Alumni who have passed away in the last month.*

Jeremy Burnside, '99

Betty Cunnings, '53

George Hawthorne, '78

Susan Pahl, '67

Michael Carton, '73

Richard McDorman, '75

Please note: This list includes updates provided by family members, newspapers, and other sources. These dates reflect the period during which UC received and processed the information, not necessarily the dates that the individual passed away.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

The image is a promotional graphic for the UC Building Resilience Leadership Immersion Program. On the left, there is a brown and white text box with the UC logo at the top. The text reads: "BUILDING RESILIENCE in a Complex World Leadership Immersion Program July 25 – 29 or August 1 – 5 10 am – 1 pm, daily Offered Virtually via Microsoft Teams Open to all for high school sophomores, juniors and seniors, and 2022 high school grads." On the right, there is a photograph of a young woman with long brown hair, wearing a maroon long-sleeved top, smiling and leaning on a metal railing outdoors.

Great leaders don't just take charge. They communicate well, know how to build strong teams, and understand a range of problem-solving techniques. Today, we need leaders more than ever – and here is your chance to become a strong one.

Click [HERE](#) for details on the Leadership Immersion Program for high school students.

**SAVE THE DATE!!- 2022 Homecoming and Family Weekend - September 23-24**

**For a full athletic schedule, click [HERE](#).**

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# LET'S KEEP *IN TOUCH*

Have you recently changed jobs? Did you and your family make a big move? Do you have exciting news to share with your alumni family? We want to hear about it! Update your alumni record and enter your "Class Notes" [here](#) so that we can share your successes with the rest of the Golden Eagle family. Keep soaring to new heights!



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