



UNIVERSITY OF
CHARLESTON



maroon gold
m&g
Winter/Spring 2023

LETTER

from the President



During the summer of 2022 we completed an unprecedented number of projects. These include new and renovated classrooms, centers, and labs for business and healthcare programs at both the Charleston and Beckley locations; new turf at our football and softball athletic facilities; improved student dining, lounge, outdoor recreation, and residential building enhancements; and network, security, computing, audio/visual, and virtual reality technology investments. These have benefited students, faculty, staff, and guests and would not have been possible without gifts and grants for which we are grateful. We look forward to your enjoying them when you next visit campus.

Alumni and parents here for homecoming and family weekend, and community friends attending weddings, conferences, and UC events have enjoyed being back on campus after a pandemic hiatus. The calendar is full of educational, motivational, and athletic events that support lifelong learning and university engagement. Be sure to check the Events page on the UC website as well as our social media channels so you do not miss out.

If you have not done so this year, please consider supporting our students with a gift to UC. Each year more students face economic challenges as they pursue a great UC education. Your generosity helps us provide access to students who may not otherwise be able to attend college, enjoy a transformational residential experience, or participate in collegiate sports. And what better place for these students than your university. You can help students soar as Golden Eagles!

Your generosity can also support current students who may be struggling to make ends meet. You would be overwhelmed by how appreciative students are when we can help them get the computer they need, find necessary food and personal care items in our Essentials Pantry, or help them with an unpaid balance.

Your gifts really make a difference in the lives of others.

Best regards,

Martin S. Roth, Ph.D.
President



Winter/Spring 2023

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

IN THIS ISSUE:

Virtual Reality Classroom.....	3
Pharmacy Highlights.....	6
Business & Leadership Highlights.....	11
Campus Updates.....	15
Athletics Highlights.....	21
Bren Stevens.....	23
Alumni News.....	25
Alumni Spotlight.....	27
Campus Life.....	29

President:

Dr. Martin Roth

Contributing Writers and Editors:

Amanda Hinchman

Carrie Stollings

Graphic Design:

Bridget Turley

Photography:

Scott Abbott

Brock Burwell

For more information on UC's academic programs, admissions process, alumni or athletics, call 1-800-995-GOUC (4682) or visit www.ucwv.edu.

School of Health Sciences Adds

VIRTUAL REALITY

and Upgraded Facilities

From a virtual reality lab to expanding programs, the UC School of Health Sciences continues to offer exceptional opportunities for healthcare students.

In March 2022, UC received major funding to grow its nursing programs with an award of \$964,850 through Gov. Jim Justice's Nursing Workforce Expansion Program. This program is designed to address the state's nursing shortage through a multifaceted approach to attract, train, and retain nurses in the Mountain State, including expansion of nursing programs at colleges, universities, schools of nursing, and career technical education centers across West Virginia. An additional \$786,000 from the HRSA was awarded through the 2022 Congressionally Directed Spending program supported by U.S. Senators Shelley Moore Capito and Joe Manchin.

Through the awards, the Capito Department of Nursing in the School of Health Sciences will be able to expand its current Associate Degree in Nursing and Bachelor of Science in Nursing programs, with a goal of up to 20 new nursing students at UC's Charleston and Beckley campuses.

"The University of Charleston is very excited to expand our nursing programs to help address the acute shortage of licensed nurses in West Virginia," shared UC President Marty Roth. "These funds will enable us to host high school bootcamps to generate awareness and excitement in joining the nursing profession, implement a first year Bachelor of Science in Nursing direct admissions program, and provide students with state-of-the-art simulation and virtual reality technology to enhance their clinical skills. Through the

Governor's generosity, we will be able to attract, enroll, and better prepare more students to enter the nursing profession in our state."

In addition to expanding our nursing programs, the School of Health Sciences has also added new equipment in multiple locations. A virtual reality classroom has been created for immersive anatomy, physiology, and radiology instruction, including an Anatomage table.

The nursing labs now offer a comprehensive healthcare simulation center including new manikins and a nursing station setup to practice that aspect of nursing as well.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to experience the innovative technology found in most high-grade medical facilities," stated Dr. Amy Bruce, Capito Department of Nursing chair, program director of Nursing, and associate professor. "Being immersed in these simulation situations with a mock nursing station and documentation center will prepare students for life-like acute care conditions in both hospitals and communities. It is exciting to see how we are preparing our nurses to meet workforce demands after graduation."

In addition, radiology imaging equipment has been upgraded and new simulation equipment added for the School of Pharmacy and the Physician Assistant Program.



UC Celebrates December Graduates with Two Ceremonies



December Commencement celebrated nearly 150 students. Graduates represented the Charleston campus, UC-Beckley, and online students. Both undergraduate and graduate degrees were conferred at the ceremony.

Charleston Mayor Amy Shuler Goodwin was the commencement speaker and received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

That afternoon, a special group of WV Emergency Management Services professionals celebrated the completion of their Leadership Certificates. The program is a new one for UC, funded by Governor Jim Justice's Emergency Management Services Initiative.

The EMS Leadership Certificate Program is part of a broader statewide initiative to address West Virginia's need to attract, develop, and retain emergency medical service professionals. The new "EMS WV: Answer the Call Program" is backed by CARES Act funds and will enhance the quality of services for people in need in communities throughout the state.

Governor Justice addressed the ceremony and received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree.



Patrick Graney Receives 2022 Spirit of the Valley Award

UC Board of Trustees Chairman Patrick C. Graney III was named as the 2022 recipient of the Spirit of the Valley Award, given by the YMCA of the Kanawha Valley. The award recognizes those who offer exemplary community service in the Kanawha Valley and across West Virginia.

In addition to serving on the UC Board, Graney also serves on the Executive Committee of the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce and Executive Board of the Buckskin Council. He is a member of the Sacred Heart Parish and serves on the Parish's Finance Council. He is a member of the Board of Directors of two public companies, Truist Financial Corporation and Ramaco Resources, Inc.

"We are honored to recognize Patrick Graney for his lifelong commitment to the Kanawha Valley," said Sarah Bolyard, president and CEO of YMCA of Kanawha Valley, in an article from *The State Journal*. "Pat is the embodiment of community service and steadfast leadership in the Mountain State."



Pharmacy Highlights



Lucas Named Dean

Dr. Kristy Lucas was named dean of the UC School of Pharmacy in July 2022. Dr. Lucas, who has been with the university since 2010, previously served as the associate dean of academic affairs.

"We are fortunate to have Dr. Lucas assume this critical leadership position," said UC President Marty Roth. "Given the school's opportunities and challenges, and the confidence and trust her students, colleagues, and the administration have in Dr. Lucas, we are confident that we have the right dean at the right time for the School of Pharmacy."

Prior to her role as associate dean, Dr. Lucas also served as a full professor at UC – following more than a decade at West Virginia University as an associate professor in both the Schools of Pharmacy and Medicine. While at UC, Dr. Lucas has been instrumental in the modernization of the pharmacy school curriculum – leading to improved NAPLAX pass rates and high employment rates for pharmacy school graduates.

Dr. Lucas graduated from Campbell University School of Pharmacy in North Carolina and completed her residency in clinical pharmacy practice at Charleston Area Medical Center.

Students Receive Something Extra with their White Coats

The UC School of Pharmacy White Coat Ceremony, an annual event where incoming first-year pharmacy students receive their first official pharmacy lab coats, showcased a new way for these future pharmacists to have a positive impact: the life-saving medication naloxone was added to one of the white coat pockets. Pharmacy students were previously trained to properly administer naloxone, a medication used to reverse an opioid overdose.

"West Virginia leads the country in the rate of overdose deaths; therefore, it is extremely important to get naloxone into the hands of individuals who may be able to save a life," said Dr. Lindsay Acree, assistant professor in the Pharmacy Practice Department and certified naloxone trainer. "This includes our students just beginning their pharmacy education."

The ceremony serves as a visual reminder of a pharmacy student's dedication and commitment to the community. The coat is white to represent the desired purity and goodness of the pharmacy profession.

The cost of the incoming class coats was covered by the "More than a White Coat" donor event, which allows friends, family, and past graduates an opportunity to support the incoming class financially.

Dr. Lindsay Acree Taking the Lead in Naloxone Training

Dr. Lindsay Acree has, among other things, been awarded some of the largest grant amounts in the UC School of Pharmacy – nearly \$8 million – to fund the purchase of naloxone kits for the state of West Virginia. Dr. Acree has been tireless in the teaching of naloxone administration and is a driving force behind the UC School of Pharmacy's involvement in working with other organizations to combat the rising opioid crisis in the state.

See the recent NPR interview with Dr. Acree on page 7.





UC Professor Awarded for Naloxone Advocacy

West Virginia Public Broadcasting | By Amelia Knisely
Published October 18, 2022 at 11:10 AM EDT

As West Virginia continues to deal with its drug epidemic, naloxone has become more readily available around the state in the last few years in the wake of changed state laws regarding its use. Naloxone is a medication that can reduce the effects of an opioid overdose.

University of Charleston professor of pharmacy Dr. Lindsay Acree has worked with the university's pharmacy to get naloxone into county health departments as well as into the hands of everyday West Virginians.

Her advocacy on on-the-ground work recently earned her an award from the state health department, and reporter Amelia Knisely spoke with Dr. Acree about it.

This interview has been lightly edited for clarity.

Knisely: *Tell me a little bit about your background. When I Google you, I can tell this is a field you're well-awarded and very passionate about. I'd love to hear where you're from and how you got started in this field.*

Acree: I'm from South Charleston. I've been here the majority of my life. I became a pharmacist in 2013. There were a number of things that made me want to get into addiction and recovery — just wanting to make an impact on individuals and save lives — one of those being I had a high school friend pass away from an overdose my first year of pharmacy school and another one right after I graduated. It has impacted me in a way that really made me want to do something else.

I started working with the health department here in Kanawha County when they started offering their harm reduction program, and I started offering free naloxone training to individuals that were coming into the harm reduction program but also to anyone who wanted training.

When the harm reduction program was stopped, we just really didn't see those people coming in for naloxone. So, [we had] to figure out ways to get it out in the community and meet people where they were. We knew people were dying, and we were seeing an increase in overdoses.

Knisely: *For our listeners who may not know what naloxone is, can you provide a brief summary?*

Acree: Naloxone is a reversal for an opioid overdose. It's not a forever kind of thing. Once it reverses the overdose, the idea is that we let that person breathe. And it's really all we're doing — we're just trying to save that person's life. Anyone can carry naloxone in the state of West Virginia with or without a prescription.

Knisely: *Do you feel there is more the state could be doing to get naloxone to more community members around the state?*

Acree: I think there are some things we are working on that are helping in that regard (including) distribution in the jail system — when people are leaving, making sure that those individuals who are high risk have the opportunity to get naloxone to take with them. And, in the emergency departments and with EMS, we are working on ways to get those individuals to be able to distribute as well. I think the

other piece has to do with stigma, and I know everyone talks about stigma — some people are sick of hearing that word — but it makes a difference. The way that people look at naloxone tends to prevent people from getting it and keeping it with them. We need to get past that stigma.

Knisely: *You recently won the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources' first-ever Impact Award for Commitment to Advancing the Field of Addiction Prevention, Treatment and Recovery. Congratulations.*

Acree: Thank you. I was very surprised that I got the award. I was not expecting that at all. I was very thankful for it.

Knisely: *This award is due to your efforts with the University of Charleston in increasing naloxone access around the state and taking it outside of just health departments.*

Acree: The big thing that we've done here is that we've taken a program that was originally mostly at health departments — not that, that's not a great place to have it, because that's a great place in every community to access naloxone — but we've taken it to the next level. We've also looked at what in the legislation needs to change to increase access to naloxone, which I feel like we've done in West Virginia by allowing organizations and community groups to be able to distribute naloxone. So, we do all the trainings, or the majority of trainings, for organizations that are going to distribute, as well as we are the ones that coordinate the distribution to those organizations and health departments. I know a lot of people are still dying, and we still have a lot of work to do, but imagine had we not had that naloxone out there?

Knisely: *What is next for West Virginia? Where do we need to focus on to reverse the opioid crisis in our state?*

Acree: I always say naloxone is like a band-aid. All we're doing is keeping people alive, and that's great. That's what we want to do. But, we need to connect the dots in the other areas as well. So, really just getting the word out about where they can get treatment, making sure people are aware of how to find treatment and helping them get there. I think those are all the big pieces that need to be a little stronger here in West Virginia.

Why Our Differences *Make a Difference*

(Gazette-Mail Opinion Piece from President Roth on August 27, 2022)
Read it at www.wvgazette.com

You may be surprised to learn that the most diverse college in the state of West Virginia is right here in Charleston. How diverse can the University of Charleston (UC) be you may ask.

After all, Hoppy Kercheval recently shared in this newspaper that West Virginia ranks third among states in the nation in the percentage of white people – 89.8% according to the 2020 U.S. census. Well, in our most recent academic year 25% of UC’s students were black, Hispanic, Asian, or reported as non-white another way. About one quarter were low-income, and a similar percentage were first-generation college attendees. And UC became the education home for students from over 40 states and 50 countries.

When we talk about diversity at UC, we proudly serve in fairly equal proportions traditional-age and adult learners; full-time students and adult learners engaged with us part time; and those who study in-seat and online. Across these groups our students are increasingly heterogeneous in their current and desired occupations, faiths, sexual orientations, and world views.

As such, UC is a community of learners with diverse backgrounds and experiences. We strive to ensure that students of every background have the opportunities and resources they need to be successful. We focus on embracing, celebrating, and learning from our university community’s diversity. And we are committed to a culture of belonging that makes everyone feel welcomed, accepted, valued, and safe.

One of the remarkable things I often hear from our native West Virginia students is how surprised they are to be around people from so many different backgrounds and places, and even better, how positively this exposure is impacting them. A recent video series (accessible on the University of Charleston’s YouTube channel) we call “*What Do Students Really Think?*” captures their impressions of UC’s diversity.

A few student quotes include:

- **“That’s what makes the University of Charleston so special – that you get to meet people from countries and places and backgrounds that you probably never thought you would have gotten to.”**
- **“I have all sorts of different friends here which is really cool because you get to learn about people from different states and different countries.”**
- **“I love to talk to people from around the world and learn something new every day.”**
- **“It’s the next closest thing to being able to travel to meet people from other cultures.”**
- **“We meet people from places we may never have a chance again to meet.”**

As we think about the transformational potential of the college experience, our students’ thoughts and feelings indicate that their classmates’ differences make a very positive difference in their own lives. Through their peers, horizons are broadened, assumptions questioned, perspectives refined, and boundaries stretched. And in the process our out-of-state and country students gain a deep appreciation and affinity for the people, culture, and places in Charleston and West Virginia.

Of course, the diversity of our campus and online learning communities offer ample occasions for interactions and relationship building that in turn leads to increased awareness and understanding of differences. Just as important is the mindset it manifests long after courses have ended and degrees have been earned – the genuine interest in learning about and from people unlike ourselves. In fact, it does not take any of us much effort to identify diversity in the communities where we live and work, and to derive the exact same benefits.

At times we question whether our differences should be identified, discussed, and debated. A friend recently shared this insightful quote attributed to Johnnetta Cole, President emeritus of Spelman College, “We must celebrate our differences until our differences don’t make any more difference.” When it comes to fundamental issues of equality and justice I could not agree more. Yet there are ways that our differences, what makes each of us unique and special, are important not only to us and our families, but to others who can gain much by learning from those with dissimilar life experiences. We will continue to share, celebrate, and revel in UC’s rich diversity so our differences help us grow in positive and productive ways that equip the next generation of leaders to build a better, more inclusive future.

“It is far too common today for our differences to be magnified in ways that pull us apart. This does not need to be so.”



Business & Leadership Highlights



UC School of Business & Leadership Receives ACBSP Accreditation

The Accreditation Council for Business Schools & Programs (ACBSP) Baccalaureate/Graduate Degree Board of Commissioners voted to approve the University of Charleston School of Business & Leadership for full accreditation with no notes and no conditions in January 2022.

“University of Charleston has shown its commitment to teaching excellence and to the process of quality improvement by participating in the accreditation process,” said ACBSP Chief Accreditation Officer Dr. Steve Parscale. “This accreditation is evidence that University of Charleston is committed to providing the highest quality business education for their students.”

ACBSP accreditation certifies that the teaching and learning processes within the business degrees and programs offered through University of Charleston meet the rigorous educational standards established by ACBSP. It evaluates aspects of leadership, strategic planning, relationships with stakeholders, quality of academic programs, faculty credentials, and educational support to determine whether the business programs offer a rigorous educational experience and demonstrate continuous quality improvement.

UC Partners with the West Virginia National Guard

UC cybersecurity faculty are part of a new initiative to provide education and skill training in cybersecurity to Mountaineer ChalleNGe Academy participants in a partnership with the West Virginia National Guard. The program was developed to provide an opportunity for MCA cadets to be exposed to IT and cybersecurity to spark their interest in the growing career field.

Adam Beatty, UC cybersecurity program director, said that the university was honored to collaborate with the Mountaineer ChalleNGe Academy and the WV National Guard by offering the future leaders of the cybersecurity sector the education and skills needed to ensure our digital safety.

He noted that according to ZDNet (2021), the University of Charleston is ranked as the best online cybersecurity degree program.

“We are happy to provide the accessibility of our cybersecurity faculty and their educational delivery methods to the next generation of cybersecurity professionals. In cybersecurity, the future starts in the current moment, and with the partnership between the University of Charleston, Mountaineer ChalleNGe Academy, and West Virginia National Guard we can be surer that our online security needs will be adhered to now and moving forward in our technology endeavors.”

“The WVNG and University of Charleston have had a long history of synergy in regard to UC providing information technology (IT) training to the Soldiers and Airmen of the WV National Guard,” stated Major William Hargis, U.S. Army, WVANG. “With this new Mountaineer ChalleNGe Academy initiative, both organizations planned to expand that synergy to the cadets as a formal elective in IT. This initiative will provide entry-level IT training and help further prepare the next generation of leaders in West Virginia to begin careers in IT and cybersecurity.”

With the demand for IT and cybersecurity professionals at an all-time high in the U.S., WV has a great opportunity to develop the next generation of cybersecurity and IT technicians that are seeking to join this ever-evolving career field.

UC offers associate, bachelor’s, and master’s level degrees in cybersecurity.

University of Charleston Launches EMS Leadership Certificate Program

In July 2022, UC launched a leadership certificate program for Emergency Management Services (EMS) professionals throughout West Virginia. The program, designed to enhance the leadership skills of first responders, is part of West Virginia Governor Jim Justice’s Emergency Management Services Initiative. 300 EMS professionals enrolled in the initial program.

During the 21-week program, participants complete five 7-week courses, earning an EMS Leadership Certificate and 15 college credits that can be applied to a leadership degree program. Participants are organized into regional cohorts that engage online with supportive and experienced industry faculty. The content is tailored for first responders and the delivery is flexible to meet the needs of working adults.

“This is the perfect opportunity to leverage UC’s deep expertise in leadership training to address the critical need for professional growth of the state’s first responders, on whom all of us rely every day,” said UC President Marty Roth. “We are honored to partner with the state on this initiative.”

The EMS Leadership Certificate Program is part of a broader statewide initiative to address West Virginia’s need to attract, develop, and retain emergency medical service professionals. The new “EMS WV: Answer the Call Program” is backed by CARES Act funds and will enhance the quality of services for people in need in communities throughout the state.

“We are excited to offer such a robust training program to EMS professionals at no cost to them individually or to their community offices,” shared Dr. Cynthia Persily, vice chancellor of health science for the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission. “The state is fortunate to have these resources available and to have such a valuable education partner in the University of Charleston.”

UC currently has over 1,500 working adults enrolled in leadership programs ranging from associate, bachelor’s, master’s, and doctorate degrees. In addition, UC has extensive expertise designing and delivering custom leadership training for many organizations.

“We proudly partner with Toyota Manufacturing, U.S. Navy Seals, U.S. Army Rangers, the state Department of Transportation, the West Virginia National Guard, and other national organizations on leadership programs,” according to the dean of UC’s Division of Continuing and Professional Education, Dr. John Barnette. “Leadership skills are at the heart of every organization’s success. Our applied learning approach helps individuals gain and refine the knowledge and skills needed to engage effectively in the field and excel at leading teams and departments at every level.”



UC MBA

UC Offers 3+1 Program

A new 3+1 program allows motivated students to earn two degree in four years, after earning both a bachelor of science in business administration and an MBA at UC.

Students complete their undergraduate business degree in three years, then transition into the MBA program for their final summer, fall, and spring semesters. The program provides flexibility to shape the educational experience to fit students' goals and interests. Students can pursue any of ten undergraduate majors, and three MBA concentrations.

The program emphasizes collaborative work, essential leadership skills, critical thinking abilities, and industry-specific knowledge and skills. Each student will complete at least two internships and engage in professional development programs designed to help them build a robust network to successfully launch their careers.

"In addition to providing the opportunity for students to move into their careers faster, the UC 3+1 also helps them stand out as high achievers to potential employers" shared UC President Marty Roth. "Students and their families will get an exceptional return on their educational investment as well as significant savings compared to the standard five or six-year BS/MBA option. The combination of deep business knowledge and applied, experiential learning will set these students up for great success."

Qualified students enroll in the program in the fall of their freshman year. They become part of a learning community with other students in the program, with a dedicated advisor to support them throughout the completion of both degrees. To learn more about this unique new UC program, visit our website at www.ucwv.edu/3plus1.



ON-CAMPUS SPEAKERS & EVENTS



RAHUL GUPTA



JUSTIN PATTON



NEEMA AVASHIA



SHERRY WINN

This fall, the UC community enjoyed several campus events and speakers offering opportunities to learn more, to experience new ideas, and to gain new perspectives.

Rahul Gupta

Dr. Rahul Gupta, director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, headed a National Drug Control Q&A event, "Beating the Overdose Epidemic" in August 2022.

The Office of National Drug Control Policy leads and coordinates the nation's drug policy to improve the health and lives of Americans. Dr. Gupta is the first medical director to lead the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. He formerly served as director of both the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department and the WV Bureau of Public Health.

"As a practicing physician and former health official who has served in rural communities, I have seen firsthand the heartbreaking toll of addiction and overdose in our communities," said Dr. Gupta. "But I have also seen how we can save lives if we understand the individuals behind the statistics and meet them where they are."

Dr. Lindsay Acree from the UC School of Pharmacy also shared information on UC's community naloxone and substance use activities.

Justin Patton

With support from the Maier Foundation, we hosted Justin Patton in September. Patton delivered a keynote address titled "Your Roadmap to Trust."

Challenging leaders to reimagine how they lead, love, and communicate, Patton is an executive leadership coach who has been working with the NCAA and many other top organizations on issues including leadership presence, emotional intelligence, and how to build authentic relationships.

His presentation addressed the following items:

- Trust Leads to Teamwork
- Trust Leads to Candor
- Trust Leads to Loyalty
- Trust Leads to Opportunity
- Trust is Your Biggest Competitive Advantage

Neema Avashia

Neema Avashia came to campus in early October. Avashia is the author of "Another Appalachia, Coming Up Queer and Indian in a Mountain Place." The event was sponsored by the West Virginia Humanities Council and was free and open to the public. "Another Appalachia" was a finalist for the 2022 New England Book Award.

Supply Chain Panel Discussion

A panel discussion took place in October 2022 on "Supply Chain Challenges – Post Pandemic." Sponsored by Segra, the panel was moderated by Robert Pepper, executive advisor at Implementation Engineers, and included Cyndi Scallion from Segra; John Sciarra, UC Class of '77, from VGL World Inc.; and Christine Westgate from Dow.

Sherry Winn

Sherry Winn, leadership speaker, consultant, author and former UC women's basketball coach, spoke on campus in November 2022. Winn is a two-time Olympian, National Basketball Coach of the Year, and is an Amazon three-time bestselling author. This "homecoming" event was sponsored by the Maier Foundation.

Moving Mountains Event

In 2019, West Virginia was ranked fifth nationwide in total energy production, and of that, coal was responsible for 84% of that production. To explore the future of clean energy in the Mountain State, the American Security Project and the University of Charleston presented "Energy, Climate, and National Security in WV."

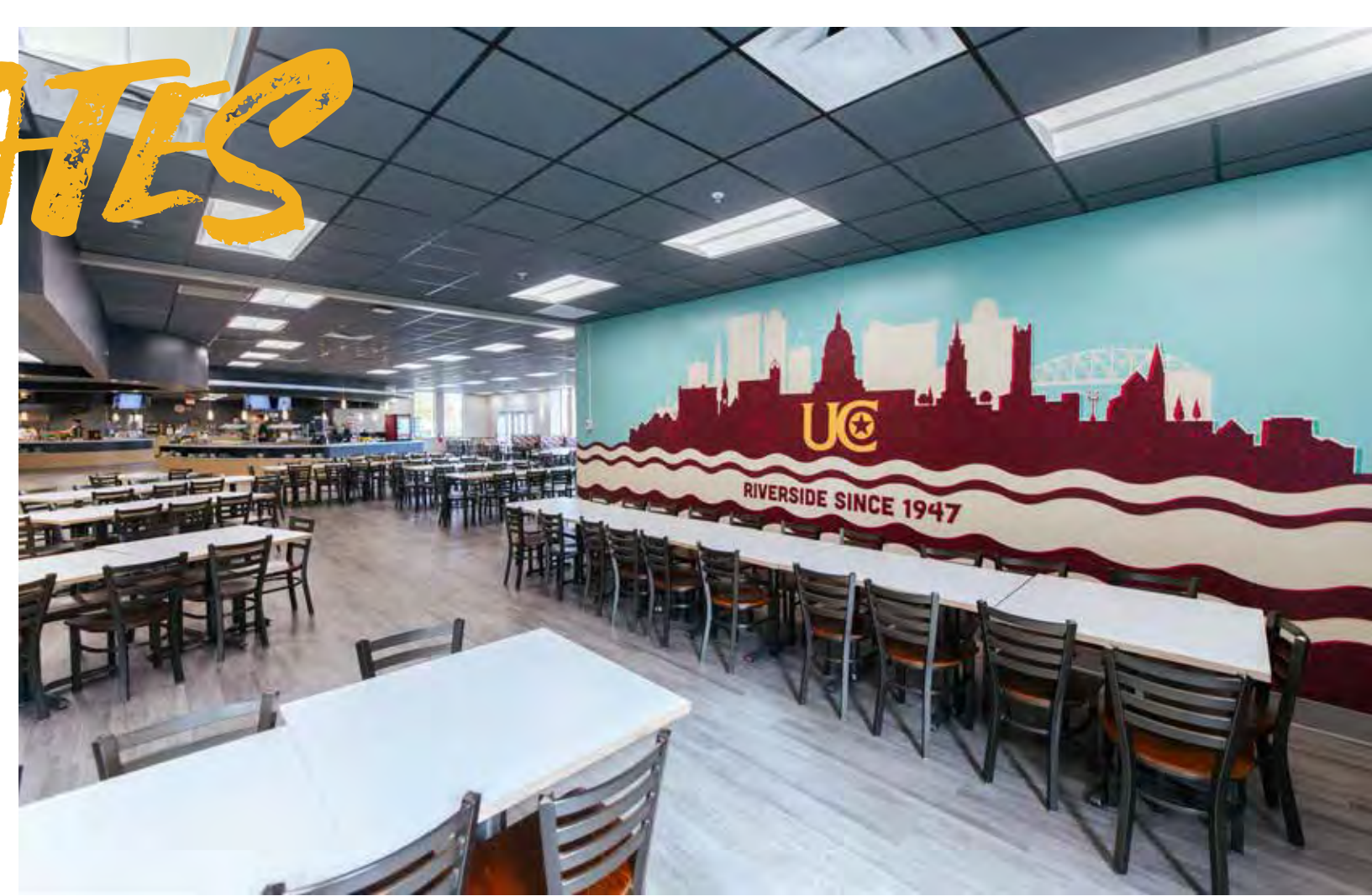
The virtual roundtable brought together experts in various fields to discuss the critical role WV plays in the national energy discussion and how it can help enhance U.S. national security.

CAMPUS UPDATES

Create New Spaces, New Opportunities

It has been said that the only constant in life is change. This certainly applies to UC. Whether due to growing enrollment, new programs, updated technology, or unique opportunity, there have been many years when exciting changes took place on campus. This year was no exception.

Two large projects this past summer involved the renovation of our dining facilities and adding upgraded technology to our healthcare simulation labs. (See: UC School of Health Sciences Adds Virtual Reality and Upgraded Facilities, page 3)



The former Food Court on the first floor of the Geary Student Union has become The Riverfront Dining Hall, with an upgraded look and more food choices. There are eight food serving stations, new and renovated furnishings, updated décor, and expanded seating. Both meal plans and à la carte dining are available.



The Golden Eagle Commons, the former Dining Hall on the second floor of GSU, has been reformatted as a student commons area with comfortable furnishings and updated décor. This area also includes UC to Go, a new service offering takeout orders, and the Eagle Market, with a variety of prepared and packaged items available through the day and evening.



A NEW LOOK

as Renovations Continue

Other updates/renovations that took place this year included:

Riggleman Hall

- RH 120 classroom renovated on the first floor
- Education Learning Lab established in RH 125
- SSC and other second floor hallway areas renovated
- New Rotunda patio floor surface

Gear Student Union

- Second floor restroom renovations
- HVAC upgrades

Clay Tower Building

- New virtual reality lab in CTB 212, and movement of Computer Science classroom to CTB 205
- New 40-seat classroom and testing and small group work rooms on third floor of the library
- Consolidation of all Learning Commons student support staff and service to the third floor of the library, including librarians, circulation desk, academic support center, and career center
- IT Help Desk moved to former second floor library circulation desk area to provide counter as well as order ticket support

School of Pharmacy

- New simulation equipment

Residence Halls

- New carpet in Brotherton and Rattie Halls
- New cabinets, bathroom fixtures, and general repairs in select areas of Brotherton, Middle, and Rattie Halls
- Replacement of damaged or worn furniture in select areas of Brotherton Hall and East Apartments

Athletic Facilities

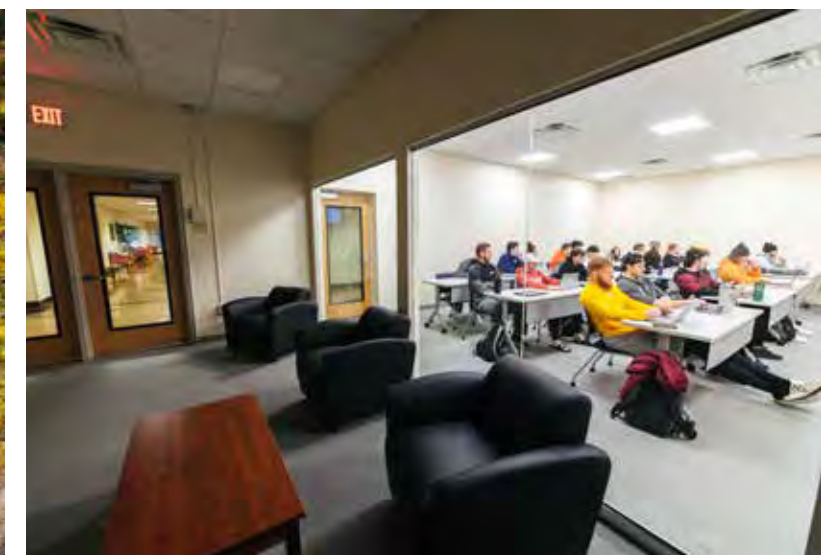
- New turf at softball and football stadiums
- Portable bench coverings for soccer and lacrosse at Welch Athletic Complex

Charleston Building Exteriors

- Masonry work
- Surface cleaning and pressure washing
- Window cleaning

Beckley Campus

- Relocation of OTA classroom and lab
- Simulation equipment
- Classroom technology upgrades



NEW

Outdoor Recreation Area

In the space once occupied by Cox Hall, a new outdoor recreation area has been built for UC students, thanks to the 2022 Give for Gold campaign and some generous donors.

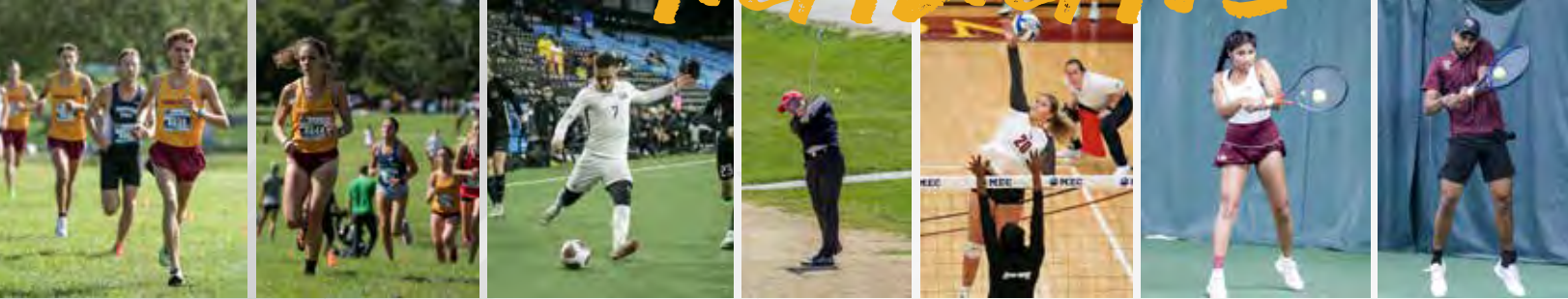
The new space includes a large sand volleyball court, a basketball court, and two pickleball courts. There was a special ribbon-cutting ceremony held during our Homecoming and Family Weekend festivities as an official opening and a thank you to those who helped make it possible. The courts have been heavily used since their completion.

The men's volleyball team held a Beach Volleyball Tournament during our Week of Welcome this fall. Students, faculty, and staff made up 12 teams, with 77 total players – including President Roth. Estimates were that there were about 200 people at times around the court, cheering on the teams and adding to the festive atmosphere.



ATHLETICS

HIGHLIGHTS



UC WINS MEC COMMISSIONER'S CUP FOR THE SEVENTH TIME

UC won the annual Mountain East Conference Commissioner's Cup, the fifth year in a row and the seventh time overall that the Golden Eagles have won since the Mountain East Conference began in 2013-14.

The award recognizes overall athletic excellence among its membership each year.

Charleston finished on top of the 2021-2022 standings with a .94149 rating. UC claimed conference championships in nine sports, including men's and women's cross country; men's golf; men's and women's indoor and outdoor track and field; men's tennis (regular season and tournament); and women's tennis (co-regular season and tournament). The Golden Eagles also claimed tournament championships in men's soccer, women's basketball, and baseball. UC baseball won the league's southern division during the regular season.

TITLE IX CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

A special Title IX 50th Anniversary reception was held for all former UC female athletes to celebrate the federal statute that has helped girls and women advance in a variety of educational spheres, including athletics. Since Title IX, women's participation in college athletics has increased, with 44% of all NCAA athletes now being women, compared to 15% pre-Title IX.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES FOR 2022

On September 23, the 2022 UC Athletic Hall of Fame welcomed its newest inductees: men's basketball player Carl Edwards; women's basketball players Kathi Penczak and Courtney Thomas; baseball player Robert James Daily III; and the 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 women's basketball teams.

Special recognition was given to John and Fonda Elliot for their generous contributions to UC and its athletic department throughout the years.

UC 6TH IN LEARFIELD CUP RANKINGS

UC has been ranked 6th in Division II in the Learfield Director's Cup fall rankings. The Learfield Cup is given by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics to the schools with the most success in collegiate athletics.

AN EVENING OF CHAMPIONS

On May 23, a few familiar faces were on campus to help raise funds for the UC Athletic Department. Former men's soccer coaches Chris Grassie (now at Marshall) and Dan Stratford (now at WVU) joined current head coach Dan Smee for a very special evening. Guests were treated to dinner and a panel discussion featuring the three coaches and Athletic Director Dr. Bren Stevens.



A GREAT TIME TO BE A GOLDEN EAGLE FAN!

UC enjoyed a lot of success on the playing field with several UC teams hoisting MEC trophies:

CROSS COUNTRY

It was quite a year for Cross Country. Both the men's and women's teams were named MEC champions, and Coach Nick Bias was named both men's and women's MEC Coach of the Year. Both teams also finished first overall at the Atlantic Regional Championships - the men's team making it their fourth-consecutive championship, and the women's team earning its first.

The teams traveled to Seattle, Washington, for the NCAA National Championships, where they marked the best finish in Mountain East Conference history as the men finished in eighth place and the women finished 15th.

The top 40 finishers in the 10k race were given All-American honors, and for UC, those honors went to Joao Pereira, Thomas Termote, and Elise Leveel.

MEN'S SOCCER

Men's Soccer earned its fifth consecutive MEC title, ending the regular season 18-1. Coach Dan Smee was named MEC men's soccer Coach of the Year. The team traveled to Rindge, New Hampshire, to compete in the NCAA Tournament, making it all the way to the Elite Eight game.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Women's Soccer put up a valiant effort but fell in the MEC Tournament semifinals in a double overtime game. The team ended the season with a 10-10 record.

GOLF

In Golf, the men's team came in third in the MEC golf championships in Ohio, with the women's team coming in second.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Women's Volleyball had an amazing run this season, clinching the MEC South Division Title and hosting the MEC Tournament for the first time in its history. The women made it to the MEC title game, falling to the number one seed, Wheeling University. The team ended the regular season with an impressive 32-4 record, and Coach Tyler Kanelos was named MEC Coach of the Year.

The team earned an invitation to the NCAA championships, where it earned its first NCAA tournament win since 1998, but then lost in the Atlantic Region semifinals.

TENNIS

In Tennis, UC qualified a record number of players to go to the ITA Nationals and won five matches within the tournament. Coach Alec Foote said, "Getting to Nationals and winning matches firmly places both the men's and women's teams as national competitors. The experience gained and seeing the level of play will help our teams reach our goals of making the NCAA team Nationals in the spring."

FOOTBALL

Golden Eagle Football finished the season at 6-5, 6-4 in the MEC, following a tough loss to West Virginia State University in the last game of the season. The team averaged an incredible 40 points a game on offense.



COACH DIUGUID RETIRES FROM COACHING

Following a storied career as the head women's soccer coach for the University of Charleston, Todd Diuguid has announced his retirement from coaching at the end of the 2022 season.

Coach Diuguid has served as head coach for 22 seasons, and his impact on thousands of athletes during this time has been nothing short of remarkable. He is well respected by his coaching peers and has served countless years as the chair of the Mountain East Conference and the NCAA's National Soccer Committee. He has worked tirelessly to grow the game of soccer in our local community and throughout the state of West Virginia.

He will continue to serve in his role at UC as the senior associate athletic director and his wisdom and compassion for our student-athletes will allow the department to continue to strive for excellence both on and off the field.

NEW COACHES: FOOTBALL, CHEERLEADING, WOMEN'S SOCCER

QUINN SANDERS - FOOTBALL

Following a national search in which over 80 applications were received, alumnus Quinn Sanders was named head coach for UC football. He served as the interim head coach following the departure of Pat Kirkland and is a former player and 2011 UC graduate. He has been part of the offensive coaching staff since 2015, serving as offensive coordinator/quarterbacks/recruiting coordinator.

MONICA DIAL - CHEER COACH

Lincoln County native Monica Dial will join the Golden Eagles as the new head cheerleading coach, bringing 15 years of her own experience as a cheerleader and time spent as a mentor in the competitive cheer community over the past decade.

Dial also serves as a professor in the nursing program after 26 years of field experience.

GARY OGILVIE - WOMEN'S SOCCER

Gary Ogilvie will take over the women's soccer coaching duties next season, following Todd Diuguid's decision to step down. Ogilvie is currently in his third year as an assistant coach for the men's program.

The Essex, England native brings in multiple years of experience as a coach and a player. He currently serves as the head coach for the local USL2 squad, West Virginia United. In just one season with the program, he led them to their third playoff appearance in club history. He is also the head coach of the WVFC 05 Girl's squad, which reached the regional final this summer.

“HELLO, BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE!”

Bren Stevens Inspires Enthusiasm and Success

Ask anyone about the success of UC athletics, and the conversation must include our most enthusiastic cheerleader – UC Vice President and Director of Athletics Dr. Bren Stevens.

Stevens has served as UC director of Athletics for 10 years. Prior to that, she was head volleyball coach for 19 years, and she is a UC alumna. She has guided the UC Athletic Department to unprecedented success, including winning national titles, the MEC Commissioner’s Cup seven times, and making a 6th place finish in the 2022-23 Learfield Director’s Cup.

“My purpose in life is to empower people to become the best versions of themselves,” she stated. “It is my goal every day to help with lifting up those around me, and through athletics, I believe we have a unique opportunity to influence young people and to help them to grow their game in the classroom, field or court, and in life. I am blessed to work for a university that I love, and with amazing individuals that are committed to championing our students daily, in an effort to make the world a better place.”

UC President Marty Roth stated, “Every day we see and benefit from Bren’s insight, passion, and commitment to excellence. Under her leadership, students and coaches excel in their sports, studies, and as active contributors in the community. Bren is a driving force for positive change and serves as an outstanding role model for women and diverse leaders in athletics and far beyond.”

This year, we highlight some of the recognition she has received not only for what she brings to UC athletics, but for all she does for the entire college athletics community:

Nike Executive of the Year

Women Leaders in College Sports selected Dr. Stevens as the DII Nike Executive of the Year for 2022. She was recognized for her outstanding leadership and accomplishments at the 2022 Women Leaders in College Sports National, including her commitment to and advocacy for women working in sports.

Division 2 Athletics Directors Association (D2 ADA) President

Dr. Stevens became only the third female in the history of the association to be named the Division 2 Athletics Directors Association (D2 ADA) president. She was elected for the 2021-2022 membership year.

The D2 ADA is the first organization of its kind to provide educational and networking opportunities; enhancement of acceptable operating standards and ethics; and establishment of the overall prestige and understanding of the profession of Division II athletics directors.

NACDA AD of the Year

Stevens was one of 28 winners of the Cushman & Wakefield AD of the Year Award from the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA).

The award highlights the efforts of athletics directors at all levels for their commitment and positive contributions to student athletes, campuses, and their surrounding communities.

While national recognition is important, it is also the everyday support that Stevens offers her coaches, her students, and the entire UC community that makes her such an important member of the UC team.

“Having personally observed her dedication and passion for the growth and success of athletes, coaches, staff, and the university coupled with her work ethic and unwavering conviction, I cannot think of a more deserving candidate,” said UC Assistant AD for Recruitment & Retention Jenna Theden. “Dr. Stevens always tells us she has the best and hardest working staff in all of DII Athletics, but I truly believe it is us who have the best and hardest working athletic director in all of DII.”



“MY PURPOSE IN LIFE IS TO EMPOWER PEOPLE TO BECOME THE BEST VERSIONS OF THEMSELVES”

ALUMNI NEWS

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The Development Office launched a new Alumni Mentorship Program designed to provide a positive addition to a student's educational experience and provide professional development opportunities through alumni engagement opportunities. We are excited to report that the pilot semester in Spring 2022 went well with seven mentorship pairs reporting meaningful experiences. The program is growing and there is a need for more alumni mentors. If you would like to serve as a mentor, contact Christina Carr at christinacarr@ucwv.edu or 304-357-4734 for details.



JOIN UCAA

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 alumni playing cards, water bottle, 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 water bottle, invitations to special events, discounts, and more.

Visit our web page to learn more! www.ucwv.edu/alumni/alumni-association/



BRADLEY HARRIS

2022 Rising Alumnus of the Year

Bradley Harris serves as the senior external affairs specialist for West Virginia American Water. In his role, Bradley spearheads all community engagement and philanthropic efforts for the largest publicly traded utility in West Virginia. He builds relationships and develops strategic partnerships for the company through programs and campaigns that support water, community sustainability, healthy living, and environmental education across the state.

Nearly 13 years after first committing to living the mission of the University of Charleston, Bradley continues to lead a life of productive work, enlightened living, and community involvement in the Kanawha Valley and across the state. He serves on the board of the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine Foundation, the YMCA of the Kanawha Valley, Friends of the Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences, and the Kanawha Valley Council on Philanthropy.

Last month, The Public Relations Society of America's West Virginia Chapter, the leading professional organization of communications professionals in the state, honored Bradley as their 2022 Young Professional of the Year for his extraordinary contribution to West Virginia American Water's external affairs team and to West Virginia's public relations community.

A proud 2013 graduate of the University of Charleston with a background in public policy and public relations, Bradley had the honor to serve in leadership roles for the West Virginia Secretary of State and the West Virginia Cabinet Secretary of Commerce prior to joining West Virginia American Water. Bradley resides in Charleston with his partner, Dr. Wes Lafferty, and his bonus son, Liam.

NETTIE HORNE

2022 Alumna of the Year

Nettie Horne was a vice president in the IS&GS Legal Department, supporting the PAE Inc. subsidiary. Previously, she served as vice president & deputy general counsel of the IS&S Business Area and vice president & general counsel of Lockheed Martin Mission Systems. She has served as counsel for a variety of other business units within Lockheed Martin and two other high technology companies. In this capacity, she has represented clients in their pursuit of a wide range of commercial and government business opportunities in the U.S. and abroad, in particular regarding systems integration and complex technology transactions.

Ms. Horne received a B.A. degree with honors from the University of Charleston and a J.D. degree from Harvard University. Prior to attending law school, she did graduate work in Spanish at West Virginia University and the Universidad de Antioquia in Medellin, Colombia, where she was a tenured professor. Ms. Horne is admitted to the practice of law in New York and the District of Columbia.

Nettie has been a faithful friend to the University as a professor, trustee, and donor. For the 1977-78 and 1978-79 academic years, she was the assistant director of the Learning Lab. In 2013, she began serving a term on the UC Board of Trustees. Her financial contributions to the institution have allowed campus renovations to take place, most recently the nursing simulation station in Riggleman Hall.



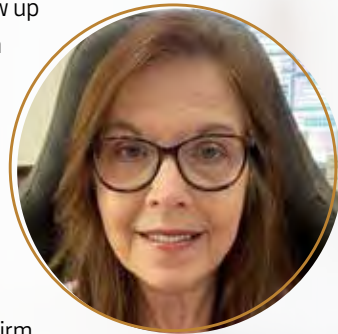
Alumni Spotlights

Judy Proctor '84 and Brian Wadsworth '97

UC Accounting Graduates Find Success

The West Virginia Society of CPAs is an advocate for supporting legislation and education benefiting the CPA profession. It offers its members a selection of discounted benefits and affinity programs.

The CEO of the Society is Judy Proctor, who graduated from UC with a degree in accounting. Judy grew up in Sissonville, WV, graduated from Sissonville High School in 1980, and still lives in the area. "Through my junior year of high school, I thought I wanted to be a math major, because I was good in math. Then I took one accounting class and changed my mind. I graduated valedictorian of my class and was offered a scholarship to a couple of colleges, including UC. I wanted to stay at home and UC was a wonderful fit," says Judy. "I met Suzanne King there and she has been in my life ever since, she was a wonderful professor and advisor."



After graduating from UC with her degree in accounting, Judy went to work for Columbia Gas (now TC Energy), where she stayed for 17 years. She moved to Suttle and Stalnaker, LLC, a public accounting firm in Charleston, where she was named the first female partner of the firm. Judy has been CEO of the WVCPA Society since 2011.



The current president of the Society is Brian Wadsworth '97. Brian grew up in Cross Lanes, WV, and wanted to go to a local college so UC was the obvious choice. "I loved that the class sizes were small enough that the professors could take an interest in your success, and I can say I truly felt that when I was there. Suzanne King, Dennis McMillen, and Armando Alcazar were a great group of people to be around. I saw Dennis not long ago and he remembered me, and Suzanne and I have been in constant contact. I always appreciated their vested interest in my education."

It was through that local connection that Suzanne introduced Brian to Chris DeWeese, a partner at Suttle and Stalnaker and UC alumnus. Chris was a couple years ahead of Brian, graduating with his accounting degree in 1995. He became a young mentor for Brian and was president of the Society prior to Brian having the role. The Society awarded Brian the Young CPA of the Year Award in 2008 and the Public Service Award in 2020. He is currently Chief Operating Officer for AB Contracting.

During its 2022 Committee Day, the Society recognized UC graduate Jason Prince '20 as the 2021 West Virginia CPA Exam Merit winner. The award is given to the person with the highest score on all four parts of the CPA exam for the year. Jason is the third Merit winner from UC in the past six years. Aaron Souza '11 was the 2016 Merit winner and Sarah Henderson '17 was the 2018 winner. Sarah was also recognized as a 2018 Elijah Watt Sells Award (national award for high scores on CPA exam) winner.

Also recognized was May 2022 graduate Sean Woody, as the WVSCPA Outstanding Accounting student. Students in their freshman year of college through their first year of graduate school are invited to be members of the Society.

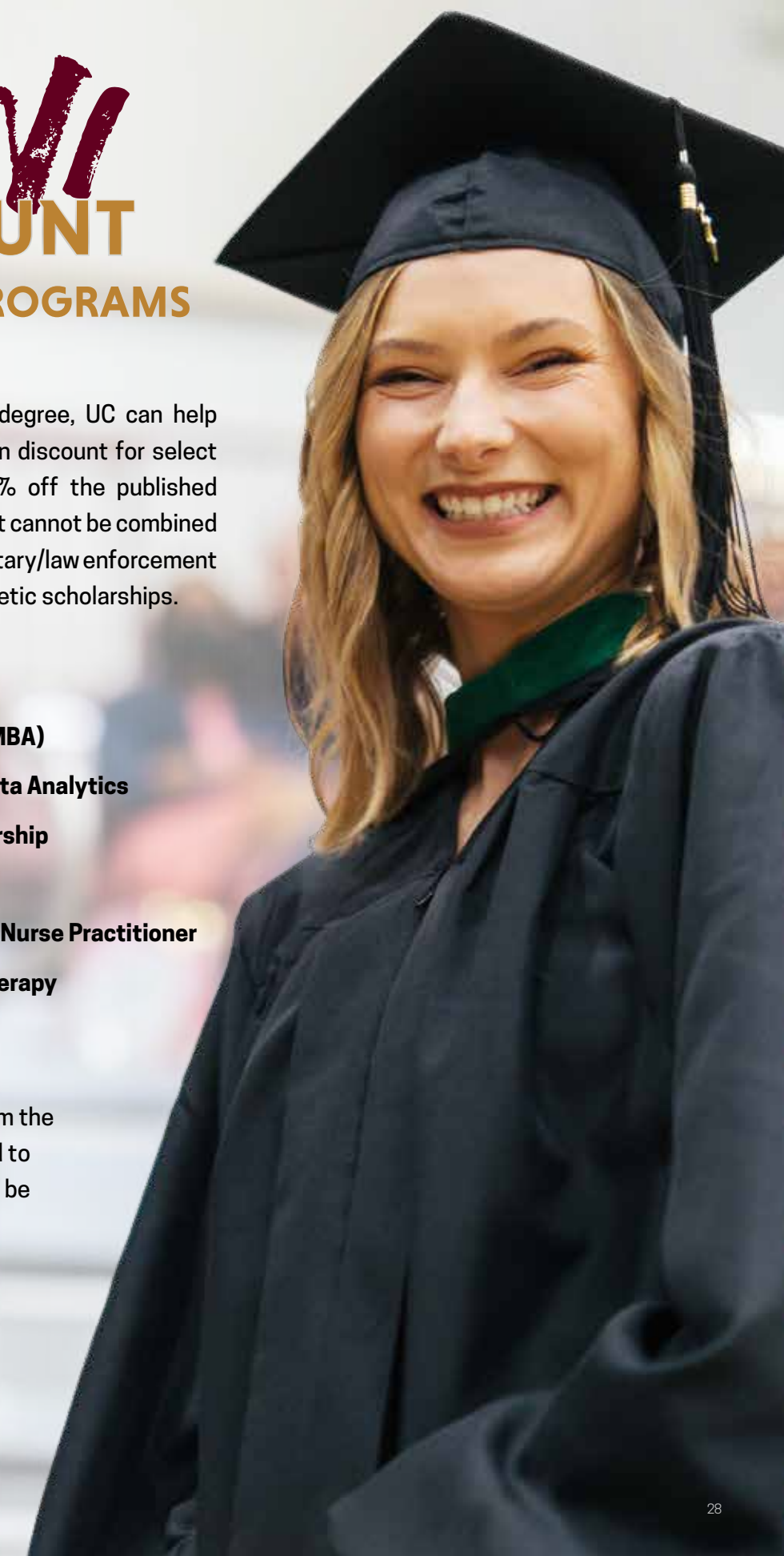
ALUMNI DISCOUNT FOR UC GRADUATE PROGRAMS

For UC alumni considering a graduate degree, UC can help make the decision easier with our tuition discount for select graduate degrees. The discount is 20% off the published tuition for the selected degree program. It cannot be combined with any other tuition discounts (e.g., military/law enforcement discount, etc.) with the exception of athletic scholarships.

The following UC graduate degrees are eligible for the discount:

- **Master of Business Administration (MBA)**
- **Master of Science in Business and Data Analytics**
- **Master of Science in Strategic Leadership**
- **Master of Science in Cybersecurity**
- **Master of Science in Nursing - Family Nurse Practitioner**
- **Master of Science in Occupational Therapy**
- **Doctor of Executive Leadership (DEL)**

Students must have earned a degree from the University of Charleston and be admitted to one of the approved graduate degrees to be eligible for the discount.





Week of Welcome

Our annual Week of Welcome provided plenty of fun for new and returning students. EagleFest brought games, food, free shirts, activities, and a water slide to campus to kick off the year.

UC Night at the Levee

Bringing the Golden Eagle spirit downtown, UC Night at Live on the Levee was a great time. UC has proudly been a sponsor of Live on the Levee, a free concert series offered by the city of Charleston.

UC Night at Power Park

Thanks to Mani, Ellis & Layne, LLC, UC students, faculty and staff enjoyed a night at Power Park. International students carried flags from their country out on the field in a special ceremony before the game.

Labor of Love

Despite challenging weather conditions, the Golden Eagle spirit was evident throughout the weekend. Students cleaned; landscaped; fed the less fortunate; cared for shelter animals; made hats, scarves, and mats; and more. LOL also featured a Family Fun 5k Walk/Run that also offered wellness screenings, activities for kids, and information about UC programs.

UC-Beckley students participated in a "Plarn (plastic yarn) Project" to create hats for the homeless, and online students were encouraged to do community service wherever they are.

"Our mission and our commitment to community involvement is especially important now when so many people are in need," said Assistant Professor of Social Sciences Hallie Chillag. "The University of Charleston is offering more projects than ever before to help students serve our community. The enthusiastic participation tells us how UC students, staff, and faculty are committed to serving others."

West Virginia American Water Company supplied water to participants during the event. Other financial supporters include Centurion Insurance via Andy Paterno, Fifth Third Bank, Bailey Glasser LLP, ProSource, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield of WV, State Farm Insurance (Elizabeth Carmichael), and Poca Valley Bank.



To celebrate West Virginia's 159th birthday, the WV Department of Tourism picked nine of the "most Instagrammable spots across West Virginia" to place handcrafted, larger-than-life Almost Heaven swings.

One of the nine spots selected was the University of Charleston's campus, where visitors can enjoy a gorgeous view of the Capitol from one of the swings, located near the Boat House on campus. They can even find a special note from the state's First Dog, Babydog. She added her paw prints in the concrete at the base of the swing when Governor Jim Justice and Babydog stopped by during construction of the UC swing.

As a pilot project, swings were placed in a scenic location or overlook in each of the state's nine travel regions. The swing sites were strategically positioned after analyzing over 100,000 social media posts from across the state to find some of West Virginia's most beloved vistas.

The WV Department of Tourism teamed up with students at Nicholas County Career and Technical Center to build the nine supersized wooden swing sets and students from the Mountaineer ChalleNGe Academy installed the swings.





UNIVERSITY OF
CHARLESTON

2300 MacCorkle Ave SE
Charleston, WV 25304

www.ucwv.edu

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 2066
Charleston, WV

The University of Charleston does not discriminate on the basis of sex and anyone with questions regarding Title IX may contact the University's Title IX coordinator or the Office of Civil Rights.

FO
OT
BA
LL



JOIN US FOR

GIVE DAY 2023

2.16.23

HELP US RENOVATE THE UC GOLDEN EAGLE
FOOTBALL LOCKER ROOM!

LEARN MORE:



#GIVEFORGOLD