



UC NEWS

ALUMNI FROM THE NEST

OFFICIAL UC ALUMNI NEWSLETTER / July 2023 / VOLUME IV ISSUE VII



Dear Alumni and Friends,

At this point of the summer, our advancement and alumni relations office is looking back and forward at the same time. We look back to the past academic year and celebrate that we ended our fiscal year on June 30th successfully because of our generous and dedicated donors. Thank you to each and every one of you for your unbelievable generosity and commitment to UC's students, faculty, staff, campus and quality education programs!

Among that success was exceeding goals set for donations to the annual fund. The annual fund includes your contributions to student scholarships, sponsored programs for students, and speakers to enhance learning, just to name a few of the uses. It is a vital part of continuing quality education, aiding our students in attending UC, and working toward their end goal of a higher education degree to be a proud and productive member of our society as a Golden Eagle.

Now we start to look forward because in just six weeks the new fall academic year will start. Football and Homecoming & Family Weekend will be close behind and we can't wait to see you back on campus for a UC special weekend in September.

Finally, this week we hosted the ribbon cutting and opening of the new University of Charleston Downtown Innovation Hub in downtown Charleston. Not only will this location allow UC to have a great presence downtown, we are offering our expertise through a program for small businesses to accelerate their growth and contribute to economic development in the region. This project was funded through a grant from the US Economic Development Administration in partnership with the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation and the City of Charleston. We also thank John and Fonda Elliot for their

generosity with the renovation of the building along with Aric Margolis Architecture for design and Pray Construction for their great work.

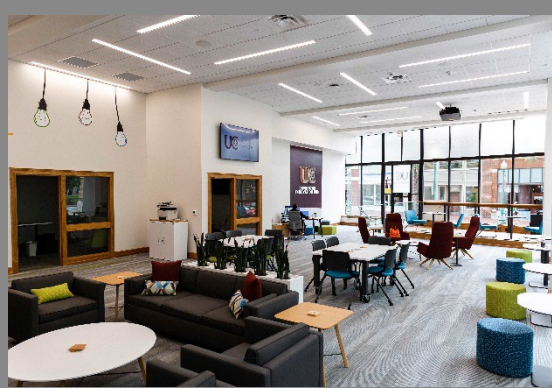
I hope you enjoy the rest of your summer. Campus will be buzzing in just six short weeks with students, faculty and staff joining together to help Charleston's University meet our mission of educating our students for a life of productive work, enlightened living and community service. Thank you for your continued and enthusiastic support of the University of Charleston.

Best Regards,

Gail Carter, VP of Development

On Monday, July 10th, the UC Downtown Innovation Hub was filled with special guests, alumni, and friends to celebrate the opening of this new space. Thank you to Senator Shelley Moore Capito, Charleston Mayor Amy Goodwin, President of the UC Board of Trustees Pat Graney, and others who shared remarks of insight and encouragement.





ALUMNI

SPOTLIGHT



Synita Gates, '13

Synita's path from high school track star to a director's position at a prominent D1 university includes a few influential UC professors and lessons learned on our Charleston campus.

"Having a twin brother, I knew I would have to ease the burden of college tuition cost on my family. In high school, I was successful in track and cross country and graduated top five in my class.

"UC offered financial aid for both my academic and athletic achievements which gave me an opportunity to afford college.

"When I arrived as a freshman, I was quickly greeted by a lot of cool people. I was one of only two African American females on the cross-country team, but my teammates and coaches embraced me and made me feel welcome.

"I still have wonderful relationships with some of my professors. Dr. Bren Stevens, Michelle Wells, and Annie Valeant taught me lessons that have helped me get to where I am today and continue to inspire me."

To read Synita's full story, click [HERE](#).

WV State Journal 40 under 40 list includes **FOUR from our UC Community!**

The State Journal Generation Next: 40 Under 40 program was created 18 years ago to give special recognition to young professionals making a difference on the job and in their communities. The Class of 2023 includes a UC professor and three UC alumni - way to represent, Golden Eagles!

To read the full articles about each of these outstanding Golden Eagles, click [HERE](#).





Bradley Harris graduated UC in 2013 with a communications degree, is our reigning Young Alumnus of the Year, and currently works for WV American Water as the External Affairs Manager.



Sarah Gallagher began her time at UC one year ago as an assistant professor in the education department. Before that she taught in the public school system.



Chelsea Kinzinger (pictured right) earned her bachelor's degree in 2008 and her master's degree in 2011. She is the Vice President of Operations for General Corporation and its affiliated companies.

Mason Olszewski (pictured left) has been instrumental in the growth of CAMC's telemedicine program and access to healthcare during the global pandemic. He holds a radiologic science degree ('17) and a master's degree in business administration ('18).

It is always great to share what alumni are doing and celebrating! If you're reuniting with fellow alumni, we want to know about it! Please submit photos and details of your event to Christina Carr, 304-357-4734, christinacarr@ucwv.edu

We want you AND your alumni friends here for Homecoming! So, send a text or make a call inviting your fellow Golden Eagles to join you for a very special weekend!

Individual event RSVP links are now open. Register for a campus tour, Dinner on the Lawn, the NEW! Greek Life Reunion, and more! Then, invite a friend to come along for a trip down memory lane with you.

See ya in September!



GREEK LIFE REUNION 2023

Come together with your sorority and fraternity friends to celebrate with good music, food, and drinks in the UC Ballroom!

SATURDAY
9.23
7:00 - 10:00 PM

Cash bar service will be available
\$25 registration fee, visit www.ucwv.edu/alumni/homecoming to RSVP

Contact the UC Alumni Office with any questions!

Christina Carr, Director of Alumni Relations
christinacarr@ucwv.edu | 304-357-4734

[Click HERE for hotel discount information and to register for Homecoming 2023 events!](#)



UNIVERSITY OF CHARLESTON ATHLETICS



For the 6th consecutive year, the Golden Eagles have won the Mountain East Conference Commissioner's Cup!

Our teams claimed 11 regular season titles throughout the 2022-2023 season to bring home this impressive award – and keep an equally impressive streak alive! Congratulations to our athletic department leaders, coaches, and most of all, our student-athletes!

This is the eighth time UC has won the cup since the league began in 2013-2014. The award recognizes overall athletic excellence among its members.



20TH ANNIVERSARY CHARLESTON FOOTBALL 2003-2023

Join your fellow football teammates at the Tailgate Tent to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the return of the Golden Eagle football program!

SATURDAY
9.23
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Contact the UC Alumni Office with any questions!
Christina Carr, Director of Alumni Relations
christinacarr@ucwv.edu | 304-357-4734

Let us know if you plan to come HERE!

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Did you know that 100% of UC students receive some form of financial aid? Our students are afforded these opportunities in part because of the continued support of alumni and friends like you. Below are two important giving opportunities that allow our current and future students to have wonderful UC experiences.

Thank you for your generosity!

The UC Pharmacy White Coat Campaign

Receiving a white coat is one of the most memorable experiences in a UC student's journey toward becoming a pharmacist. Help us give our incoming class a warm welcome to the UC School of Pharmacy family by helping to cover the cost of a white coat, and more.

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.



[Donate to the White Coat Campaign HERE.](#)



The Student Supply Fund

This fund helps to cover the cost of incidental expenses, including notebook computers, webcams, distance learning tools, textbooks, class and lab fees, and emergency travel expenses for students in need. These expenses can quickly add up to thousands of dollars, and many students are unable to cover

the cost of these necessities without the assistance of the Student Supply Fund. Thanks to the support of friends and alumni like you, the University of Charleston is able to quickly and easily provide these students with support to acquire the materials and resources they need to be successful at UC.

Be sure to choose the Student Supply Fund under the "I want to support" drop box.

[Donate to the Student Supply Fund HERE.](#)



Thank you, Catherine and Brenda!

We would like to share some personnel changes within the Office of Advancement and Alumni Relations. Both Catherine Eckley, Director of Annual Fund and Brenda Dearien, Gift Processing Specialist left UC, effective June 30th.

Catherine (pictured on the left above) has worked in a few different roles in the Advancement Office over the past 8 years and has decided to make this change for her family. Her talents are many and she always shows up with a smile. We are going to miss her enthusiasm, take charge approach and connectivity with our alumni, UC Builders and friends.

Moving forward, Christina Carr will be acting as the liaison for the UC Builders and Chris Welty will be the Annual Fund Manager.

Brenda (pictured on the right above) is retiring from her daily office role at UC. We have been fortunate to have Brenda with us for more than 3 years in helping to make sure all of our donors dollars are taken care as well as acknowledged properly. She has kept the advancement office running smooth and has been very dependable and reliable. We will definitely miss Brenda's cooking and treats.

We wish them both the best and understand how important family is in our lives. Make the most of the time you spend with them.

While we search for our next Gift Processing Specialist, please contact the advancement office directly and our team will help facilitate the answers to your questions or address any of your gifting needs and requests. 304-357-4735



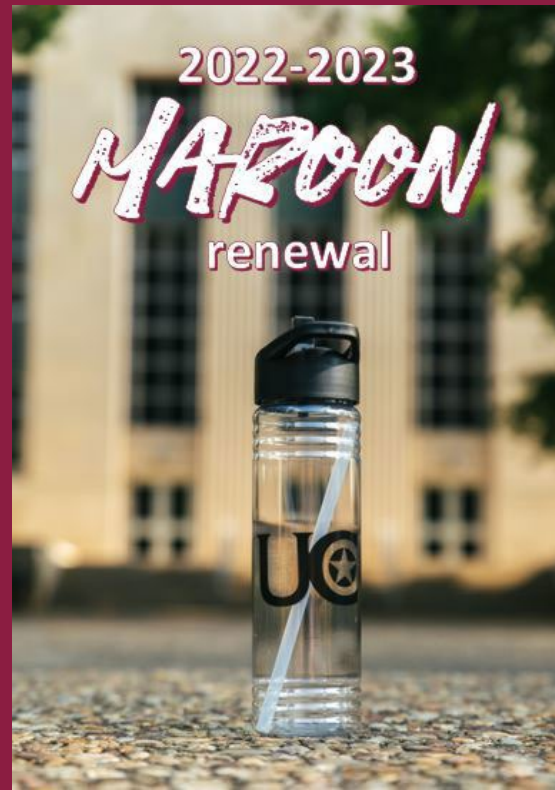
Christina Carr, Director of Alumni Relations

christinacarr@ucwv.edu

Chris Welty, Annual Fund Manager

christopherwelty@ucwv.edu

JOIN TODAY!
UC **ALUMNI**
ASSOCIATION





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.



The next UCAA Zoom Meeting will be THURSDAY, August 10th @ 4:00 pm EST.

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

Thank you to all who have joined or renewed their membership in the last month!

Michael Shock, Shane Reines, Scott Kinard, William Durkin, and David Kurtz

In Memorium

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

Jack Pierce, Jr, '70

Doris Copenhagen, '73

David Delk, '73

Victoria Leach Estep, '84

Connie Menefee Hoblitzell, '68

Jean Koch Kiser, '53

Alton Auville, '89

Jordan Manickam, '17

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.



You're invited to campus!

July 20 @ 5:00 - 8:00 pm - Art Walk - The Downtown Innovation Hub will be a participating location in Charleston's Downtown Art Walk. Join us for live music and a celebration of local artists.

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

The 2023-2024 UC Builders Luncheon Schedule is below! Click [HERE](#) to learn more about this organization and how to join!



**2023-2024
LUNCHEON
SCHEDULE**

Erma Byrd Gallery, Noon

WEDNESDAYS

September 27, 2023
Book & Author Luncheon

October 25, 2023
Book & Author Luncheon

December 6, 2023
Holiday Membership Luncheon

February 28, 2024
Book & Author Luncheon

March 27, 2024
Book & Author Luncheon

April 24, 2024
*12th Annual
Artists Among Us Luncheon*

May 22, 2024
*Annual Meeting &
Spring Membership Luncheon*



UNIVERSITY OF CHARLESTON
HOMECOMING
AND FAMILY WEEKEND
SEPTEMBER 22-23 **2023**

SAVE THE DATE 

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 so that we can share your successes with the rest of the Golden Eagle family. Keep soaring to new heights!

[Update Your Information HERE](#)



Gail Carter

Christina Carr

VP for University Development

Director of Alumni Relations

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