



OFFICIAL UC ALUMNI NEWSLETTER / May 2024 / VOLUME V ISSUE V



Dear Alumni and Friends,

Another academic year has come to an end, and we graduated another class of Golden Eagles. We hosted commencement ceremonies at the end of April, and no matter how many times I attend, it is exciting to see the smiles on the faces of the students and their families celebrating their milestone and receiving a degree from the University of Charleston.

I hope you are smiling and beaming with pride as well, realizing the impact that so many of you have made helping these students with your generosity of

scholarship funds.

As we begin summer, we welcome the community to campus for special events – Symphony Sunday and Wine & Jazz. We also welcome local high school students for academic boot camps and sports camps. We host graduation parties, weddings and baby showers. We serve the Charleston community as Charleston's University™ and are proud to open our campus to visitors and friends.

There is always something good happening at UC. Thank you again for your continued support of UC and helping us to carry out our values and mission every day.

Wishing you a great start to summer!

Gail Carter

VP of University Development



Commencement Ceremonies Are So Special!

On April 27th, we celebrated undergraduate and graduate students as they transitioned to alumni status. West Virginia Senator Joe Manchin was on campus to provide remarks during the undergraduate ceremony and Dr. John Barnette, UC Assistant VP for Strategic Initiatives, served as commencement speaker during the graduate ceremony. Dr.

Barnette and Dr. Jay Wildt were both honored during the ceremonies as the newest Faculty Emeritus members.

Both ceremonies, as well as, a virtual graduation are available to view [HERE](#).





Graduation on Saturday, Projects Begin on Monday!

Summertime on campus is always bittersweet. We miss having students buzzing around but the summer break gives us a chance to complete facility projects.

The Breezeway is officially closed for construction and the results of your generous donations toward the Give Day 2024 project will soon be revealed. We

plan to dedicate the renewed Breezeway and brick walkway during Homecoming & Family Weekend 2024, so mark your calendars for September 20 & 21.

Our new Outdoor Fitness Court is being installed this week. The National Fitness Campaign and UC have partnered to create this new fitness area, located between the Fitness Center and the Boat House. It will be a wonderful addition to our campus and community. We encourage you to enjoy our beautiful spot on the riverbank as part of your fitness routine and join us for the Outdoor Fitness Court Opening Ceremony on May 29th (details below).

Gorman Hall is in the transformation stage as well. The space previously occupied by the swimming pool will now be home to our Master of Occupational Therapy program and the Doctor of Physical Therapy program coming in 2026. This major renovation project will include new program space with offices, classrooms, and labs. It will also include renovation of the athletic laundry area and the addition of a new weight training space. UC has raised over \$10 million to fund the startup costs of the Master of Occupational Therapy and Doctor of Physical Therapy programs and the renovation work for the Rehabilitation Science and Athletics Center. This is an exciting time of growth at UC! See the renovation rendering below.

Our Beckley campus will also receive some upgrades. Our facilities team has been preparing the new additional rented space for the Solutions team and the Bookstore across the street from our current location. Moving these departments will allow us to create more student and employee circulation and gathering areas in their former spaces. Additionally, the Radiologic Technology program is getting a new piece of equipment installed.



YOU ARE INVITED

Please join us for a special ribbon cutting ceremony and lunch to celebrate the opening of the

UC OUTDOOR FITNESS COURT

Wednesday, May 29, 2024 | 11 am

Please RSVP by Thursday, May 23 to Christina Carr
christinacarr@ucwv.edu | 304-357-4734

The Fitness Court is located between The Boathouse and Fitness Center

TICKET DISCOUNT FOR UC ALUMNI!!



June 22nd
3:00 pm - 10:00 pm

**UNIVERSITY OF CHARLESTON
LAWN**

***YOUR UC ALUMNI DISCOUNTED
TICKET IS ONLY \$40!***

Contact Christina Carr, Director of Alumni Relations, before June 14th to reserve your discounted tickets (while supplies last).
christinacarr@ucwv.edu, 304-357-4734



Athletics

CORNER



New Coach Alert!

We are excited to spread the news of the new head coaches for the men's basketball, women's basketball, and men's volleyball teams.

New Men's Basketball Head Coach James Long spent the 2023-2024 season as the Head Boys Basketball Coach at Davidson Day School where he helped lead the team to a 24-7 record. Long was able to drastically improve the squads win percentage, improving from 22% to 77% as well as going on to win the State Championship in NCISAA 2A division.

"This job has been a lifelong dream, originating from my childhood days in Charleston. Throughout the interview process, it became evident that this

prestigious university is exceptionally well-aligned from top to bottom," said Long. Read more of the official announcement [HERE](#).

New Women's Basketball Head Coach Bubby Johnson is returning to UC after spending the last two seasons at Presbyterian College where he helped lead the team to a program first ever NCAA Tournament appearance in 2024.

"All anyone can ask for is an opportunity. Someone to believe in them. That is the same belief that I have poured into previous players and promise to pour into future ones," said Johnson. "I thank God, Dr. Stevens, Dr. Roth, and everyone who has played a role in me getting this opportunity. Time to get to work!" Read more of the official announcement [HERE](#).

New Men's Volleyball Head Coach, Robert Poole, has been the Assistant Coach for Charleston for the past two seasons and in his inaugural season the program shattered numerous school records, boasting a remarkable record of 22 wins and 7 losses. Notably in 2023, Charleston Men's Volleyball embarked on a formidable 14-game winning streak at the season's outset, not dropping a single set.

"Having already worked with our athletes for two years, they were a big part in my decision to step into the new role, and I hope to build on the brand of volleyball Luke has developed. I am thankful to all those involved for the opportunity, and the ability to continue to represent UC in my new role," said Poole. Read the official announcement [HERE](#).



Bring your young athletes to campus this summer! Our stellar coaches, staff, and student athletes have exciting camp experiences planned for youth athletes, check out dates and registrations [HERE](#)

UC student athletes continue set the bar high within our conference and beyond. What an impressive line up of MEC Champs we have!!

MOUNTAIN EAST

SPRING CHAMPIONS



MEN'S GOLF

MEN'S TENNIS

WOMEN'S TENNIS

SOFTBALL

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

ALUMNI

SPOTLIGHT



The Gamma Delta Phi Sorority Gathered in Jacksonville!

Nanci Snyder ('76) says having the opportunity to organize the Gamma Delta Phi reunions is truly a labor of love. The most recent gathering of these Morris Harvey/University of Charleston sisters was held this past weekend in Jacksonville, FL. However, the reunions and bond go back much further.

The first pledge class of the local sorority, Gamma Delta Phi, took place in the fall of 1968. The twelve founding members are pictured above. The sorority was active on campus through 1979 and the personality of the group is described by Nanci as, "A group of ladies who were full of love for life, school, and their friendships".

In 2010, Nanci had wanted to find her Sorority Sisters that she had lost touch with over the years. With the help of just a handful of Sisters, they were able to find close to 125 GDP Sisters and their contact information. Their first official reunion was held in 2011 on the Charleston campus with about fifty sisters in attendance.

The reunions have continued approximately every two years since 2011. Besides Charleston and Jacksonville, the other locations included Atlantic City, NJ, Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, Virginia Beach, VA and Clearwater Beach, Florida.

The reunions typically last four days and each evening is a planned event with the daytime left free to socialize and explore the area.

Nanci shared, "During the weekend we have an official GDP Sorority Meeting, calling it to order and all! This year was extra special as one of the sisters-Gayle Cohen prepared a slide show to memorialize the sisters who have passed. We want to preserve and remember all the sisters we've lost throughout the years. These reunions are so heartwarming. Although we may have aged 'slightly' the Gamma Delts always loved a good party and were always smiling, and that sentiment remains true with each reunion. From one reunion to the next, we literally pick right back up where we left off, like no time has passed at all."

"We all loved Morris Harvey College (and the University of Charleston), and we may remember the professors or other experiences but what truly ties us together is the bond of the sorority."

Thirty-one sisters (and two of their husbands) attended the most recent reunion in Jacksonville and they have the t-shirts and memories to prove it!

Pictured below are Carolann Alfano, Mary Kay Anania Boyle, Debi Ball McCoy, Sue Barnard, Betty Binkley Gomez, Linda Brannick Jackson, Pam Brunner, Brenda Canal, Brabara Casdorph Christo, Gayle Cohen, Maureen Cullen Keenan, Cencille Dabbs Green, Michele Fruchter Weiss, Kathy Hackney, Debbi Hountz Beers, Jackie Iaia, Ellen Jonesbury

Linger, Janet Knudson Richards, Beth Knudson Clancey, Lois Kushner Lewis, Cyndi Mitchell, Eileen Quinn McDonald, Nancy Rabel Canterbury, Helen Shapiro Siegal, Susan Small, Nanci Snyder, Kathy Sokol Hodge, Janice Stuhl Brody, Cathy Tarket Cunningham, Honorary Sisters - Stephanie and Jackie Weiss.



ALUMNI GATHERING

SATURDAY
MAY 18

UC
ALUMNI

IN NEW JERSEY!

MONMOUTH PARK RACE TRACK



Spots still available!

\$25

Includes admission,
parking,
program, and
refreshments..

Send check payable to Jon Block

9111 East Bay Harbour Dr., Apt. 3A, Apt. 3A

Bay Harbor Islands, FL 33154

Contact Jon Block with further questions - 732-299-1287 or
rawtac@yahoo.com

RSVP for this event [HERE!](#)

JOIN TODAY!

UC ALUMNI

ASSOCIATION

The 2023-2024 NEW UCAA Swag has arrived!! Now is the time to join and renew your membership.



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, tumbler, invitations to special VIP events, discounts, and more.

The Gold Renewal requires a \$100 membership donation and includes alumni tote, holiday ornament, 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 holiday ornament, invitations to special events, discounts, and more.

The next UCAA Zoom Meeting will be THURSDAY, JUNE 6 @ NOON EST.

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

Thank you to those who joined or renewed their membership this past month - Drew Elliot, Thomas Marchio, Brandon McCray, Joshua Gulke, and Dustin Mangham

In Memorium

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

John Cunningham, Jr., '67

Robert K Young, '54

Paul Nunley, '84

Sandra Miller Bagley-Sprouse, '68

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.

UC EVENTS

You're invited to campus!



TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024

8:00-9:30 am | UC Downtown Innovation Hub

STEPHANIE SPENCER

SVP, Receivables Product Segment Manager,
Treasury Management, Huntington Bank

DISPELLING THE MYTHS AND MYSTERIES OF
MERCHANT ACCOUNTS



*Breakfast is free; registration is required;
seating is limited to 30 attendees*

May 14 - Fresh Start Breakfast series with guest speaker Stephanie Spencer, SVP at Huntington Bank. Register [HERE](#).

May 18 - Alumni Gathering at Manmouth Park - to register, click [HERE](#).

May 29 - Outdoor Fitness Court Opening - RSVP to Christina Carr, christinacarr@ucwv.edu or 304-357-4734

June 22 - Wine and Jazz Festival - contact Christina Carr to reserve your discounted tickets, christinacarr@ucwv.edu or 304-357-4734

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

SAVE THE DATE



UNIVERSITY OF CHARLESTON

HOMECOMING

AND FAMILY WEEKEND

**SEPT.
20-21**

2024

**CELEBRATE TRADITION.
CREATE NEW MEMORIES.**



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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[Unsubscribe](#)

University of Charleston

www.ucwv.edu

