



OFFICIAL UC ALUMNI NEWSLETTER / July 2024 / VOLUME V ISSUE VI



Dear Alumni and Friends,

Words cannot express the gratitude we have for our alumni and friends – thank you for supporting us financially, engaging with our students, faculty and staff, and attending events on and off campus. This activity enables us to have and provide a vibrant and uplifting environment on campus and online as Charleston's University™.

I am pleased to report to you that our fiscal year ended on a very positive note in the Advancement office. We raised over \$2.4 million for our annual fund alone. Many of the projects on our

campus and new programming can all be attributed to donors! Your support has helped us to impact students with scholarships, professional development and leadership experience, campus projects, program specific learning and more.

As you enjoy your summer, we are doing the same, but already making plans for the fall when our students return to campus. Homecoming 2024 will be here before we know it. We hope you will join us the weekend of September 20-21 for some great food and visiting with old friends. We have a special surprise this year which we will announce in August you won't want to miss.

Thank you so much for all you do to help the University of Charleston continue its quality education experience!

Best Regards,

Gail Carter

VP of Development



KDR at the W&J!

Kappa Delta Rho fraternity brothers enjoyed alumni discounted tickets to the annual Wine and Jazz festival. "It was a great day to be on campus," says Larry Boggs. The University of Charleston Lawn was filled with music and folks braving the heat to enjoy friends and the scenery. The festival is one of the staple fund raisers for the West Virginia Fund for the Arts and they proclaim the 2024 event a HUGE success!

Pictured left to right: Larry Boggs ('96), Robbie Knight, Ross Arroyo ('23), Derek Hudson ('02 & '05), Travis Arroyo ('21), and Sammy Magner ('01).





Ya Gotta Regatta!

In it's third year back, Charleston's Sternwheel Regatta is now the focal point of the 4th of July holiday weekend. Jim Kranz, a three time graduate of UC ('79, '83, and '90), and his wife, Jean, are owners of a thirty five year old sternwheeler named "Donna Rae."

Jim says, "I came to Morris Harvey College from New York, site unseen. I

was enrolled in the radiology program which started in the summer and then just a couple of months later, there was this awesome regatta party. I remember sitting on the banks of UC and watching the boats. It is really awesome that they have brought this event back and I am able to participate now with my own boat."

Highlights of the weekend included performances by Shaggy and Vanilla Ice! It was great to see the boulevard filled with excitement!



TIME TO SUBMIT NOMINATIONS!

A special part of our Homecoming celebration is announcing the recipients of our annual alumni awards. Please see below for the description and qualification for each award and then follow the link for instructions on how to submit a nomination.

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 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 23rd, 2024.

[Submit Your Nomination HERE!](#)



The UC Builders 2024-2025 season will kick off in September. This group is the self-proclaimed "best lunch club in town" and they would love to have you join them. The membership annual dues fund projects that help improve the quality of life for University students. In consultation with the University, members choose a plan and follow it through to completion. The projects have ranged from intellectual stimulation such as the purchase of library books and computer software to physical comforts such as the redecoration of the

Student Lounge, Frankenberger Art Gallery, and Appalachian Room.

The Builders host a spring luncheon meeting, a fall luncheon meeting, and three or more Book and Author luncheons annually. The guest speaker for each luncheon typically is either someone associated with the University or a visiting scholar or West Virginia author.

Learn more [HERE](#) or contact Christina Carr, 304-357-4734, christinacarr@ucwv.edu.



2024-2025 LUNCHEON SCHEDULE

Erma Byrd Gallery, Noon

WEDNESDAYS

September 25, 2024

Book & Author Luncheon

October 23, 2024

Book & Author Luncheon

December 4, 2024

Holiday Membership Luncheon

February 26, 2025

Book & Author Luncheon

March 26, 2025

Book & Author Luncheon

April 23, 2025

*13th Annual
Artists Among Us Luncheon*

May 21, 2025

*Annual Meeting &
Spring Membership Luncheon*



Athletics

CORNER

LEARFIELD DIRECTORS' CUP

DIVISION II FINAL STANDINGS



UNIVERSITY OF CHARLESTON

7TH



3RD STRAIGHT TOP-20 FINISH



A Note from our UC Athletic Director, Dr. Bren Stevens:

The Learfield Directors' Cup, also known as the NACDA Directors' Cup or simply the Directors' Cup, is an annual award given to the college or university in the United States with the most success in collegiate athletics. The National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) and USA Today developed the award, which began in 1993–94 for Division I and expanded to include Division II, III, and NAIA in 1995–96. Learfield has been the title sponsor since 2008. In 2012, when I first stepped into the role of Director of Athletics, our program finished 241st out of 313 institutions in the DII Learfield Directors Cup. Unfortunately, we were sending only a couple of teams annually to NCAA post-season play. I am proud to say that for the third year in a row, UC Athletics has made it into the Top 20, and this year, we

broke into the Top 10 with a seventh-place finish.

While finishing in 7th place out of 308 NCAA II institutions is most impressive, we are only successful with the support of everyone on campus, including our faculty, staff, administration, and students. I am also incredibly proud of our coaches, athletic trainers, support staff, and the Athletic Admin. team, who care for our student-athletes with big hearts and who spend a great deal of time away from their families to ensure that we can provide an excellent experience for our athletes. A big shout out to everyone who has supported our athletes and coaches, and we have immense gratitude for your love, empathy, and passion.

Wings up!

Bren

ALUMNI

SPOTLIGHT

**Dr. Colby Cook, UC Class of 2017,
2018, 2021, & 2023 – Yes, FOUR UC
degrees!**

Colby Cook's academic journey is a testament to dedication, resilience, and a lifelong commitment to learning. A Navy serviceman for the past 17 years, Colby began his higher education journey in 2013 and embarked on his studies at the University of Charleston (UC) in 2016. His educational achievements are both impressive and inspirational.

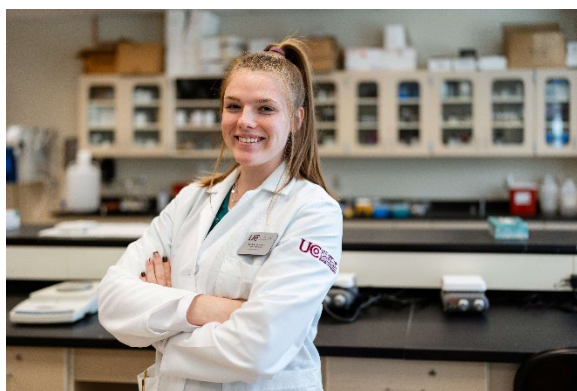


"I was introduced to UC during a briefing that the Naval Special Warfare personnel receive annually. The brief covers several options for colleges and UC was one of the choices. After asking around, I was advised that Charleston worked best with a military lifestyle schedule. All my professors had some kind of military connection and understood what kind of off tempo schedules we deal with. I found it to be accommodating and had a wonderful experience. I am a big advocate for UC."

Read Colby's full UC story [HERE](#).

It's MORE Than a White Coat!

The transition into pharmacy school is a significant and challenging step for many students. While the iconic white coat symbolizes their entry into the pharmacy profession, there are numerous essentials that go beyond this symbol of dedication. These essentials include scrubs, lab supplies, equipment, and other resources that are crucial for their education and future success.



Your generous contribution to the "More Than a White Coat" campaign will help cover these vital needs, ensuring that incoming pharmacy students have the tools and support necessary to thrive in their studies and future careers. By donating, you are not just providing financial assistance; you are making a profound difference in the lives of these future healthcare professionals.

When you make your gift, you can provide an incoming UC School of Pharmacy student with their required white coat and write a note of encouragement that will be placed in the coat pocket.

Give our future UCSOP Class of 2028 a warm welcome by making a donation to the MORE Than A White Coat Campaign TODAY!

Give a White Coat HERE!



Answer: Riggleman Hall

Answer: The Boathouse

Have you been playing the "Name That Building" game along with us on our social media outlets? We share four photos of one campus building, you comment your location guesses. We promised to confirm your guesses here (take an extra close look for the answers).

If you aren't following the UC Alumni Facebook and Instagram pages, please do! We share alumni information, campus updates, and keep you briefed on upcoming events. With Homecoming & Family Weekend just around the corner, you don't want to miss any special announcements. Give us a LIKE, FOLLOW, and SHARE!



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, August 8 @ NOON EST.

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

Thank you to those who joined or renewed their membership this past month - Paul Clarke and Josh Huggins

In Memorium

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

Jon Pyrtle, '92

Wilkes "Bill" Wilcox, Jr., '66

Benjamin Blackwell, '67

Roberta Dunlap, '88

Doris Campbell Gillespie, '49

Benjamin King, '64

Mary Quigley, '79

Lona Roberts, '86

Emma Jean Thomas, '51

Beverly "Cookie" Brinkley Brown, '78

Johnnie Young, '70

Judy Shalhoup, '67

Jodi Hoover, '01

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!



TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2024

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

ROBERT MCCOY

President and CEO, Amherst Madison

— WHY CHOOSE —
EMPLOYEE OWNERSHIP

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

August 8, NOON -UC Alumni Association bi-monthly Zoom call

August 13, 8:00 am - Fresh Start Breakfast at the Downtown Innovation HUB with guest Robert McCoy, President and CEO of Amherst Madison. RSVP [HERE](#)

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



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