



OFFICIAL UC ALUMNI NEWSLETTER / October 2024 / VOLUME V ISSUE X



Alumni and Friends,

Two weeks ago, we celebrated UC's 2024 Homecoming and Family Weekend. The number of participants continues to grow each year. You'll find pictures and details in this edition of the Alumni Newsletter. Heartfelt gratitude goes out to our alumni and advancement, campus safety, catering, communications, facilities, and other teams for their extraordinary work. And kudos to UC Athletics for hosting so many

competitions and winning most of them!

Both during the weekend and after, my conversations and observations once again reinforced how positive UC and Morris Harvey graduates feel about their experiences. The lifelong friends, caring professors, and preparation for careers and life's adventures are common themes. Our current branding, "Relationship Rich, Career Relevant" fits the UC of today and the past.

We also appreciate the positive feedback on the many changes we have made to campus. Student and family expectations for the campus experience continue to increase, while at the same time we want to provide a work environment that our faculty and staff appreciate. If it has been a while since you have visited UC, we would love to show you how the campus is evolving and changing to best meet student and employee needs.

As always, we strive to create an inclusive and caring culture that creates a sense of belonging and ability to fulfill personal and professional goals. We value your engagement and the opportunity to stay connected with your alma mater.

We will continue to innovate and make tomorrow's UC even better. Your support is essential for us to do so. Thank you for helping Golden Eagles soar!

Best regards,
Marty Roth
President



“There is something special about returning for UC Homecoming! The campus where we spent our formative years brings back so many memories of our youth. Each year, everyone who attends has a great time reminiscing with old friends, and often making new ones. We see each other as we once were, talk to one another until our throats are raspy, and then laugh together so much our facial muscles get tired. All while retracing our steps on that magical piece of land along the Kanawha River. It is our touchstone.” – David Kurtz



I couldn't have said it better myself, David. As your Director of Alumni Relations, one of the highlights of my year is Friday afternoon of Homecoming Weekend. After all the planning is done, there's an undeniable energy on campus, and I feel like a grandmother eagerly awaiting her kid's arrival for the holidays – oh, the anticipation! Once I start seeing your familiar, smiling faces, I know the celebration is about to begin—and what a celebration it was!

From Golden Reunions and ribbon-cutting ceremonies to flipping through old yearbooks and enjoying tailgates, the weekend was filled with special moments.

We hope to see even more of you in Charleston for Homecoming and Family Weekend 2025!

Christina Carr ('06) and David Kurtz ('80) pictured above.



Lynn Radzilowski ('98) – "I'm back home safe and sound after another wonderful trip to Charleston WV. My home for 9 years. It's always a special and emotional time. Charleston West Virginia will always be a home to me and I can't wait for my next visit. I love UC, my Delta Phi Delta tribe, and my friends that I am honored and blessed to see each visit."

Ellen Linger ('78) - "The weather was perfect for the UC Homecoming weekend. It was nice to see old friends and meet new ones! We reminisced fondly about our years at UC. Thanks Susan Tatlock Stoddard ('81) for bringing those great photo albums!"







[Check out more Homecoming and Family Weekend photos HERE!](#)

Special THANKS to our Homecoming event sponsors:

Mary Converse ('65), Alpha Omicron Pi sister, and longtime member of the UC Alumni Association.

Doug Singleton, ('01), member of the former UC Swim team, and active member of the UC Alumni Association.

Glenn Kirk, alum attend and soon to be graduate, and member of the UC Alumni Association.

The sisters of the **Delta Phi Delta** sorority, founded in 1995.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Jon Block, Class of 1979, has been named Alumnus of the Year 2024 in recognition of his unwavering commitment to his alma mater. A retired Health and Physical Education teacher with 35 years of service, and Head Baseball Coach at Freehold High School in New Jersey for 30 years, Jon has left an indelible mark on the athletic and academic community in his hometown of Point Pleasant Boro, NJ. He is a past president and founding member of the Shore Baseball Coaches Association and

served on the New Jersey Baseball Hall of Fame Committee.

During his time at UC, Jon was a member of Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity and acting president during the 1978-79 academic year. He enjoyed intramural sports as a

participant and student assistant intramural director from 1975-79. During those years, he also proudly resided in Benedum Hall.

In retirement, Jon splits his residency between New Jersey and Florida and enjoys traveling to Europe, Costa Rica, and throughout the U.S. He has remained an enthusiastic supporter of the UC Baseball team and is an active member of the UC Alumni Association. He was instrumental in organizing the Mammoth Park Alumni gathering this past spring, furthering his efforts to connect and engage fellow alumni. Jon continues to exemplify the spirit of the Alumnus of the Year award, congratulations, Golden Eagle.

Sam Scott ('16), the 2024 Rising Alumnus of the Year recipient, serves as the Associate Area Director for Young Life Kanawha Valley, a faith-based mentoring organization supporting students from middle school through college, including those at UC.

He also works as a substitute teacher in the Kanawha County School system and serves as the Sports Information Director at Sissonville High School, where he leads the Strategic Media Club which UC sponsors. Through the club, he teaches students skills in social media management, communication, branding, marketing, photography, and graphic design. Additionally, Sam is a teaching instructor with Box Out Sports, the nation's top platform for creating and sharing professional sports graphics.

A proud UC alumnus, Sam graduated summa cum laude in 2016 with a major in Political Science and a minor in Integrated Communications. He later earned a Master of Arts in Ministry and Leadership from Fuller Theological Seminary. During his time at UC, Sam was involved as president of the TOMS Service Club, a Peer Educator, and a member of Psi Chi, the psychology honorary society.

Sam, along with his wife Katie and daughter Sophie, are active members of Hope Anglican Church, where he occasionally preaches. He also remains connected to UC by contributing annually to the President's Circle.





Athletics

CORNER



The University of Charleston Athletic Department inducted four honorees into the 2024 Hall of Fame Class, the highest recognition for those who have contributed to the history of Golden Eagle athletics.

The 2024 Hall of Fame Class includes men's soccer player Dion Peters, women's volleyball player Rebecca LaBrake, women's soccer player Kim (D'Angelo) Smee, and former Head Football Coach Tony DeMeo.

The Hall of Fame Dinner is always a highlight of Homecoming and Family Weekend, and this year it provided one of the most memorable moments. Coach Tony DeMeo, who left a lasting impact on his players at UC and beyond, was

honored during the event. Upon hearing the news, Joe Busby and Tony Scollieri, two of Tony's former players from his time at Washburn University, were determined to be part of the special occasion. Despite living in Texas, they made the trip and surprised Tony, leaving him speechless when he saw them at the celebration.

Tony's family was also well represented for the festivities, his daughter Annie DeMeo shared, "UC created such an incredible atmosphere to honor athletics. It was great fun to cheer for UC from the stands again and be part of celebrating how coaches and student athletes impact the university as a whole."

[Read more about the Hall of Fame Class of 2024 HERE.](#)

Pictured below: Joe Busby, Tony DeMeo, and Tony Scollieri



Next time you are on campus, stop by the
NEW digital Hall of Fame with interactive screen!



Located in the left hallway next to the entrance of the Wehrle Arena.

A basketball game poster for a match between UC and WVU. The background is dark with a large orange basketball on the right. The text is in white and yellow. The title 'BASKETBALL' is in a white box. Below it, 'UC vs WVU' is in large white letters. A yellow banner across the middle says 'MORGANTOWN GATHERING' in a stylized font. The date '18 OCT' is on the left, and the time '7:00 pm' is on the right. The logos for UC (a hawk head) and WVU (a yellow 'W') are in the center, separated by 'VS'. Below them is 'WVU COLISEUM'. At the bottom, there are two sections: 'TICKETS ARE LIMITED' with contact information for the UC alumni office, and 'PRE GAME GATHERING' with details about the time, location (Pizza Al's), and free parking.

BASKETBALL

UC vs WVU

MORGANTOWN GATHERING

18 OCT

7:00 pm

VS

WVU COLISEUM

TICKETS ARE LIMITED
CONTACT THE ALUMNI OFFICE
WITH FURTHER QUESTIONS.
CHRISTINACARR@UCWV.EDU,
304-357-4734

PRE GAME GATHERING
4:30 - 6:30 PM
PIZZA AL'S
1389 SARATOGA AVE.
MORGANTOWN, WV
FREE PARKING FOR THE GAME

We're taking this show on the road! The UC Men's Basketball team will play an exhibition game against WVU Mountaineers on Friday, October 18th. You are invited to join fellow Golden Eagle alumni at Pizza Al's prior to the game and enjoy complimentary game tickets (limited availability). You can also park for free at Pizza Al's through the duration of the game.

David Kurtz, '80, will be our alumni ambassador and host for this event. Follow this [LINK](#) to RSVP or contact the UC alumni office, 304-357-4734.

Wings Up, Golden Eagles!

You can pick up your bottle of Morris Harvey Bourbon and UC glasses today!

Order online for pick up or stop in Bullock Distillery on Washington Street in Charleston during their regular business hours. Feel free to call the distillery, (681) 205-2770, or the alumni office, 304-357-4734, with questions.

Your donation supports the UC Annual Fund.

(**bottles cannot be shipped due to WV ABC law regulations)



[Purchase a bottle of Morris Harvey Bourbon HERE.](#)

[Purchase your UC Bourbon Glasses HERE](#)



UC Downtown Innovation Hub Wins “We Love Our Community” Award

The Charleston Area Alliance recognized our Downtown Innovation Hub with a “Best Redevelopment Award” during its “We Love our Community Awards” ceremony Monday evening at the DIH. The award honors a project that gives new life to an existing structure through redesign and refurbishment.

Sponsored by Spilman Thomas & Battle, PLLC, the annual awards program recognizes individuals, organizations, or programs that have devoted a significant amount of time, energy, or resources to making a positive impact on the community.

Academic Announcements

Enrollment is UP!

Check out this [article](#) from WCHS News! Dr. Roth shares our enrollment success and what is on the horizon for student programming.



JOIN TODAY!

UC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The '24-'25 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 5x7 UC photo frame and grey cooling towel, 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 a grey cooling towel, invitations to special events, discounts, and more.

The next UCAA Zoom Meeting will be THURSDAY, November 7 @ NOON EST.

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

Thank you to those who joined or renewed their membership this past month -
Bren Stevens, Jan Wilking, Shawn Gerena, Kerry Harmon, Virginia Nelson, Kelly Roush, Lynn Bria, Kevin Fulmer, Glenn Kirk, John Rider, David Kurtz, Dianna Carpenter, Carolyn Burton, and Susan Duernberger.

In Memorium

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

Debrah Skulski, '77

Matthew Frey, '91

Bob Keese, '66

Shirley Knight, '65

Julian Jordan, '53

James C. Smith, '57

Ken Callahan, '84

Manuel P. Arvon, '58

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!



DANNY FORINASH

SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
MANAGER OF COMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA TRAINING
CHARLES RYAN ASSOCIATES

Danny manages CRA Forum, the firm's Communications & Media Training team, applying years of experience in journalism, presenting and media strategy.

Before joining CRA in 2013, Danny worked in a variety of writing and communications careers, building the skill set that makes him invaluable to our company and clients. He worked as a writer and copy editor with the State Journal for six years, served as the communications manager for the economic and community development organization within the Charleston Area Alliance and headed communications for the West Virginia State Tax Department.

Danny's background now serves him well in his role as senior account executive. His career path helped him learn a little about a variety of topics – including social media, surveys and focus groups – as well as how to ask the right questions to get to the heart of a subject.



KEVIN CARR

Attorney/Member
Spilman, Thomas & Battle

MBA SPEAKER SERIES

NAVIGATING THE NEW HR FRONTIER: Tackling Today's Workforce Challenges

Mr. Carr is a Member at Spilman Thomas & Battle, co-chairing the Labor & Employment Law and Education Law practice groups. His work covers traditional labor law, employment trials, class actions, complex immigration issues, and wage laws. He advises employers on collective bargaining and union efforts, serving as lead counsel in numerous unfair labor practice trials and over 200 employment cases across the U.S. He develops strategies for EEO policies and personnel decisions. He holds both a bachelor's and law degree from West Virginia University.

Wednesday, October 16, 2024

12 p.m. | Erma Byrd Gallery

In person or online

Registration required for the event



Lunch sponsored by:  UNITED BANK



Oct. 8, 8:00 am- UC DIH Speaker Series Fresh Start Breakfast [RSVP HERE](#)

Oct. 16, Noon, Erma Byrd Gallery - MBA Speaker Series with special guest, Kevin Carr. [RSVP HERE](#)

Oct. 18, Pizza Al's, Morgantown, WV - UC Alumni Gathering ahead of the UC vs WVU Men's Basketball Game. [RSVP HERE](#)

Oct. 23, UB Builders Luncheon with guest speaker, Doug Van Gundy. [RSVP HERE](#).

Oct. 29, 6:00 pm, UC Rotunda - UC Singers Halloween Concert, free admission, open to the community

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



The banner is divided into two main sections. The left section has a maroon background at the top with the UC logo (a stylized 'U' with a star) and the text 'UC' in yellow. Below this is a grey arrow pointing right with the text 'BLOOD DRIVE BATTLE' in white. At the bottom left is a yellow background with the WVSU logo (a bee) and the text 'WVSU' in black. The right section has a white background with the text 'OCTOBER 28 & 29' in maroon. Below this is the text 'Schedule your appt. at RedCrossBlood.org (keyword: uc)' in grey. At the bottom right is the text '10 A.M. – 4 P.M.' in maroon, with 'APPALACHIAN ROOM, GSU' in smaller maroon text below it.

UC

OCTOBER 28 & 29

BLOOD DRIVE BATTLE

Schedule your appt. at
RedCrossBlood.org
(keyword: uc)

WVSU

10 A.M. – 4 P.M.
APPALACHIAN ROOM, GSU

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

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