



**OFFICIAL UC ALUMNI NEWSLETTER / December 2024 / VOLUME V ISSUE XII**



Alumni & Friends,

On Saturday December 7th we celebrated the accomplishments of our most recent graduates. U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito joined us and provided an excellent message on going out, exploring the world, and always looking up. And when the time comes, country roads will always welcome you home.

While earning their degrees was the reason students came to UC, their experiences were the totality of their

interactions with UC throughout their journeys. As such, in addition to the outstanding work of our faculty across our degree programs and the School staff that support them, everyone throughout the university played a role in our students' accomplishments. The daily work of our exceptional Athletics, Campus Safety, Communications & Marketing, Facilities, Food Service, Information Technology, Student Life, and Student Solutions teams truly make UC a special place to study, work, and live!

In harmony with the holiday season, commencement ceremony is a time for gratitude. Our students were grateful for their UC experiences, our guests grateful

for us assisting their loved ones and hosting such a meaningful ceremony, and we were grateful for students' and families' confidence and trust in UC to help them achieve their personal and professional goals.

Being appreciative and grateful are two states of mind that can serve us well not only on special occasions.

As Voltaire is quoted as saying, "Appreciation is a wonderful thing. It makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well." Ralph Waldo Emerson also shared "Cultivate the habit of being grateful for every good thing that comes to you, and to give thanks continuously. And because all things have contributed to your advancement, you should include all things in your gratitude."

We appreciate all of the ways you support UC. Our University would not be so successful without your assistance!

I hope that you enjoy a healthy, safe, and fun holiday season with your families and friends!

Best regards,

Marty

[View the UC Holiday Card HERE!](#)



This past weekend, we welcomed a new class into the alumni community and witnessed the second generation of a UC family walk across the commencement stage. Ava Reed ('24) is pictured here with her father, Michael Reed, sister, Maryn Reed, and mother, Kathryn Brown ('92 & '95).

A communications major, like her mother, Ava graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication and minor in Digital Media Design and finished with Summa Cum Laude (4.0) honors. Ava entered as a

prestigious Presidential Scholar and made the most of her UC experience by staying active in the Honors College, Gamma Beta Phi, Teaching Assistant, Peer Educator, President of Public Relations Student Society of America, and earned an Excellence in Communications Award.

She has been a joy to have on campus and we extend our congratulations to all of the Class of 2024!

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## **MSOT Helps Make “Light the Night” Mobility Friendly**

The Charleston Dirty Birds and AARP-West Virginia worked together to make it easier for people with mobility issues to enjoy the annual Light the Night display at GoMart Park. Our Occupational Therapy Department offered expertise and assistance, enabling the Dirty Birds to hold its first-ever Mobility Friendly Night for the display.



"We are grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with the Dirty Birds and AARP on this meaningful initiative as we integrate our new program into the community," said Nicole LaRue, University of Charleston Associate Professor in the Occupational Therapy Master's Program. "Occupational therapy is dedicated to helping individuals participate in activities they find meaningful, and this event perfectly aligns with that purpose.

Our Master of Science in Occupational Therapy students are eager to support individuals with mobility challenges during the event while applying their expertise to enhance accessibility and inclusivity. By assisting participants and recommending adaptations to pathways, seating, and the overall experience, our students aim to create a more accessible and enjoyable community program."

Pictured from left to right: MSOT Program Director Nicole Scheiman, Kristen Bettermann, Jordan King, Cara Gartin, McKalah Martin-Helton



# Athletics

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## *CORNER*



In honor of our men's soccer team competing in the Final Four match this afternoon, we wanted to share a little piece of soccer history. The photo above shows the 1980 soccer team and standing tall in the middle of the back row is George Seyfert ('83). The photo below shows George's letterman jacket that he was proud to share with UC Men's Soccer Head Coach, Dan Smee. George now lives in Clarksburg, WV and when the Golden Eagles traveled to the area to play Salem University this fall, George attended the game and gave the jacket as a token for Coach Smee to bring back to the University. Coach keeps the jacket in his office and even sports it around campus sometimes.



So many players are proud to say they are an alumnus of the UC Men's Soccer program and we know the current players will represent our university and the rich soccer history well as they compete for a national title.

Pictured with George are (front row) Peiman Haririan, Paul Turner, John Sintic, Mark Beach, Brian Hall, Robert Pecora, Steve Rodgers, Mark Hirsch, John Comerford, (back row) Head Coach Tom Nozica, Ed Sailer, Jim Plumb, John Scharff, Mirch Ellisen, Mark Wallis, George Seyfert, Rick Barry, Norm Kristic, Bob Schaefer, Mohammad Moozoun, and Assistant Coach Chip Spencer.





Did we mention 🏆 🏆 FINAL FOUR!!! 🏆 🏆 ?!?! 🏆

Today at 3:00 pm, the UC Men's Soccer team will compete in the NCAA DII Championship Tournament Final Four!

If you live near Matthews, NC, they would love to have you in the stands!

If you want to watch via livestream and find more tournament details, click here>><https://www.ncaa.com/game/6349023>

Give to help support your FINAL FOUR team with their extended season.

Shop great holiday gifts or be a Fan in the Stands in STYLE! Catch the latest in Maroon and Gold apparel at the UC Online Bookstore!

**SHOP [HERE](#).**



**Be a Fan in the Stand! Click [HERE](#) for a full athletic schedule.**

# ALUMNI

# SPOTLIGHT





Brad Wachsmuth, '89, Men's Soccer alumnus

During Homecoming this past fall, Brad shared with us the story of his lost and found class ring. This is the perfect feel good story we all need during the holidays. Add some great "then and now" photos and the fact that he's a soccer alumnus, it was the perfect story for our December edition. Enjoy!

Pictured with Brad is his wife, Candy.

I graduated from UC in May of 1989 and played soccer all four years under coach David Carr. In my senior year, I lived in Cobb Hall along with three teammates Toni Aranha (Nassau, Bahamas), Todd Robinson (Pittsburgh, PA), and Doug Coffey (Columbus/Grove City, OH).

Being only the second person on my father's side of the family to graduate from college, my grandparents graciously decided to pay for my class ring. Unfortunately, shortly after receiving it and prior to graduation, it disappeared. Not long after its disappearance, I was going back home to visit my grandparents for the Easter weekend.

I can remember feeling so terrible about losing the ring. I couldn't bear to tell them it was gone, so when I was asked by my grandmother to see the ring, I just said, "I forgot to pack it and I need to get it resized," the latter was true. I hoped this excuse would buy some time and enable me to still find the ring.

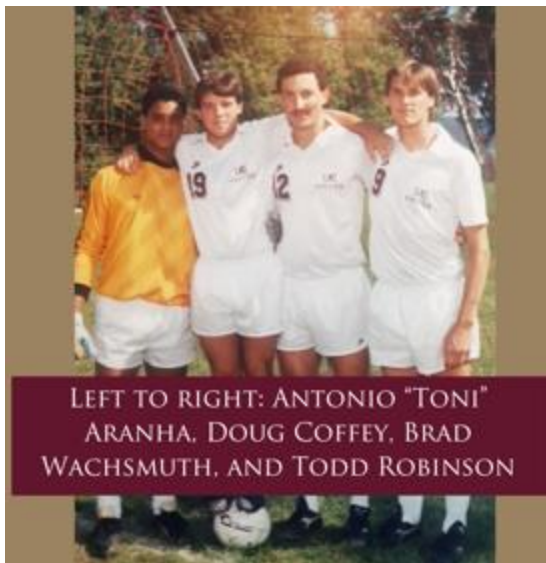
Unfortunately, graduation came and I returned home to Maryland to figure out my career life without the ring.

Flash forward twenty or so years after graduation, I received a call from the UC Alumni Relations Office asking me if I lost my class ring. I immediately answered in an emphatic “yes” followed by asking how it was found. It seems it must have fallen from my dresser or end table and lodged itself between the heater and wall. When Cobb Hall was being demolished, it was found by two of the university staff members working in the building. It was immediately turned over to Alumni Relations who then used the graduation date and initials inside the ring to track me down. Within a few days, the ring was delivered to my home and it’s never been lost again. My grandparents passed before the ring was returned to me, I can't help but think they had a hand in the recovery.

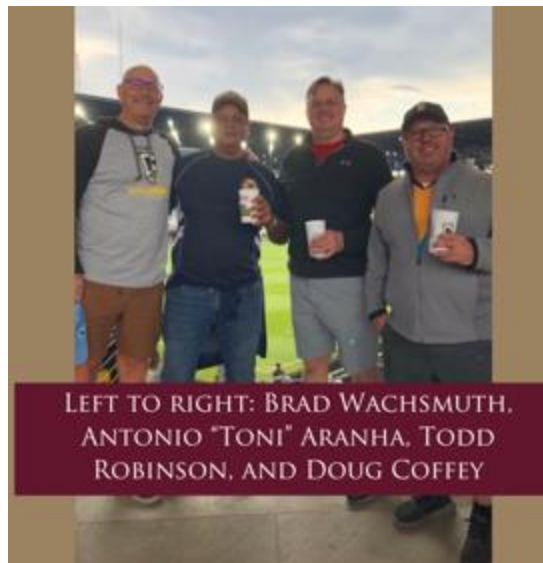


Needless to say my faith in honesty and humanity perseveres and I made sure everyone was treated to a nice lunch out on me. Most people are good and want to help you. This is especially true at UC where professors gave out their home phone numbers to their students. Since graduation, I’ve been able to travel all over the US and even out of the country; however, Charleston and UC is still a special place that feels like home to not only me, but my teammates.

Moral of the story - make sure the Office of Alumni has your current information, you never know what you may get in the mail!



LEFT TO RIGHT: ANTONIO "TONI" ARANHA, DOUG COFFEY, BRAD WACHSMUTH, AND TODD ROBINSON



LEFT TO RIGHT: BRAD WACHSMUTH, ANTONIO "TONI" ARANHA, TODD ROBINSON, AND DOUG COFFEY



LEFT TO RIGHT: JOHN YIANNE, LIONEL HAVEN, BRAD WACHSMUTH, AND LESLIE BAGYI



This holiday season, YOU can make a lasting impact on the University of Charleston. Every donation, no matter the size, contributes to scholarships, academic programs, and student success. Consider making your year-end gift today before December 31.

[www.ucwv.edu/giving/give-now/](http://www.ucwv.edu/giving/give-now/)

**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](#)



**The Breezeway looks fantastic!!**

Thank you to those who contributed to the Give For Gold '24 campaign by purchasing a brick or otherwise. Good News - we still have room for more bricks. Get yours today or gift it for the Holidays.

Bricks ordered before the new year will be installed in late spring 2025.



Your donation benefits the UC Annual Fund.

Purchase your brick [HERE](#).



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 in January 2025 - watch for details on date and time.**

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

**Thank you to those who joined or renewed their membership this past month -**  
Allen Capps, Robert Wilson, Ally Clark

***In Memorium***

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

Thomas Crouser, '87

Paul Gallagher, '74

William Johnson, '54

Joann Scott Keesee, '91

Hazelene Anderson, '77

Wendy Bryant, '79

Bobbie Shamblin Johnston, '58

Sandra Shaver Moss, '67

Larry Poe, '69

Richard Ferrell, '70

Barbara Grose Gardner, '72

Mary Perriello, '67

**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.**

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You're invited to campus!

December 23-27 - UC Offices Closed

January 1, 2025 - UC Offices Closed

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

# 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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