



OFFICIAL UC ALUMNI NEWSLETTER / February 2025 / VOLUME VI ISSUE II



Greetings from UC!

While this winter has brought more cold temperatures and snow to campus than in the past, the Spring 2025 semester is moving right along. Our enrollment continues to grow as we serve students of all ages and backgrounds in Charleston, Beckley, and online. Despite demographic and other headwinds, the future looks bright as we launch new programs and develop others that fit the needs of an ever-changing market. A few examples

include undergraduate programs in artificial intelligence and nutrition, and graduate degrees in occupational and physical therapy.

We are excited for the upcoming Give for Gold Day. This annual day of giving to UC helps us enhance student experiences. This year donors can select the school, team, or other area they would like to support. If you will not be able to participate on February 18th, please contact the Development Office or visit us online at <https://www.ucwv.edu/giving/>. Every contribution makes a positive impact!

This is a busy time of year in athletics. The basketball teams are nearing the end of their regular seasons, track and field and men's volleyball are midway through theirs, and baseball, golf, lacrosse, softball, and tennis are preparing for competitive play. As always, our teams compete at a very high level – and our student athletes excel in the classroom as well. Their backgrounds are amazing as is their appreciation for the opportunity to represent the maroon and gold. Please try to attend a game or match in Charleston or if we travel to your area, and to watch the

Golden Eagles via livestream. Schedules can be found here <https://ucgoldeneagles.com>.

We also hope to see you at educational, professional development, and health and wellness events. The MBA Speaker Series features local area business professionals who provide industry, management, and leadership insights over lunch in Charleston and via Zoom. At the UC Downtown Innovation Hub, the “Inspiring Innovation” series features “Thinking Outside the Lunchbox” and “Two Views” events. The series is sponsored by Huntington Bank and includes food from area restaurants and caterers. We will also host choir and band concerts, and a half marathon during the spring semester. Please visit our Events page at <https://www.ucwv.edu/events/> to learn about and register for these and other activities.

We value your engagement and the opportunity to bring back great memories, enjoy outstanding events and programs, and support your alma mater!

Best regards,

Marty Roth

President



Join University of Charleston faculty, staff, and students as we come together for a special day of giving! This year, donors will have the opportunity to choose between 8 unique areas of giving.

Here are the ways your gift can make an impact:

Area of Greatest Need – UC Annual Fund

A gift to the UC Annual Fund empowers the University of Charleston to meet its most urgent needs, ensuring that every student has the resources to succeed and thrive.

UC Student Supply/Emergency Fund

Donating to the UC Student Supply Fund directly equips UC students with the essential tools and materials they need to excel in their studies, achieve their academic goals, and fill a need in an emergency.

UC Scholarships

Supporting UC Scholarships opens doors for talented students, providing them with the financial support they need to pursue their education and turn their aspirations into reality.

UC School of Arts & Sciences

Donating to the UC School of Arts & Sciences will support students and faculty by sponsoring field trips, providing professional development opportunities, and funding research projects.

UC School of Business

Donating to the UC School of Business will serve our students and faculty by sponsoring our student organizations on trips for competitions, career day visits to corporations, provide continuing education and certifications opportunities for professional development. Also, sponsor faculty/student research projects.

UC School of Health Sciences

Donating to the UC School of Health Sciences would support an annual Healthcare Interprofessional Education Week (HIPE), upgrade or expand our simulation labs providing high fidelity mannequins, virtual reality tools or simulation software, allowing health sciences students to practice real-world scenarios in a safe controlled environment improving their clinical decision making and hands-on skills.

UC School of Leadership

Donating to the School of Leadership will support continuing education and certificate opportunities for professional development, technology to enhance student and faculty experience, and/or fund a collaborative learning trip using on our strategic partners.

ALL Athletic Programs (Weight room Renovation Project)

Join UC's athletic teams as they come together to achieve a shared goal: updating the weight room in the Wehrle Innovation Center! This upgraded facility will provide athletes with the tools they need to excel, building strength and teamwork across all sports. Your support powers their success—every gift makes an impact!

[Check out the Give Day Video HERE!](#)



A Special Red Carpet event was hosted for UC International Student Director, Violetta Petrosyan.

"We lived in fear for over a year. "We would always say 'goodbye' to each other every day without knowing that we can see each other in the evening. How long can you live like that?" Violetta Petrosyan, UC Director of International

Students

On Sunday, January 26, Regal Nitro Theater offered a special screening of the film "Between Borders." This film is a true story of Violetta Petrosyan, UC Director of International Students, and her family, forced to flee their Azerbaijan home with only what they could carry during the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Through American missionaries, they sought refuge in the United States, became citizens, and found their home in Charleston, WV. It is a harrowing tale and a testament to love, courage, and faith.

UC and Violetta's church, South Charleston First Church of the Nazarene, offered their communities a chance to see the film by hosting the showing. The movie showing included a red-carpet entrance to the theater, with a display of items depicting the Petrosyan's frightening journey. The evening was complete with a Meet & Greet before the event, and a Q & A session following it.

For more about the film, visit here: <https://www.betweenbordersmovie.com/>



Pictured from left to right: Emma Eliassen (Violetta's granddaughter from Denmark), Ivan Petrosyan (Violetta's husband), Elsa Eliassen (Violetta's granddaughter from Denmark), Violetta Petrosyan (UC Director of International students), Leah Christoffersen (Violetta's granddaughter from US), Patrick Sabongui (actor from New York, who played Ivan), Julia Petrosyan- Eliassen (Violetta's daughter from Denmark).





Please join us for a special presentation
from the UC Global Student Organization
and UC Director of International Students,
VIOLETTA PETROSYAN

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

11:30 a.m. | Meet and Greet
Noon | Meeting and Luncheon
Erma Byrd Gallery | Riggleman Hall

RSVP on or before Monday, February 17
to christinacarr@ucwv.edu | 304-357-4734.

Violetta will also be the guest speaker for the February UC Builders Luncheon and this special group invites you to become a member!

The UC Builders has been critical to the continued growth of the University, having donated more than \$400,000 over its history for various projects. Members' \$40 annual dues fund projects that help improve the quality of life for University students. The Builders host a spring luncheon meeting, a fall luncheon meeting, and three or more Book and Author luncheons annually. The luncheons are held in the Erma Byrd Gallery and cost \$20 for members and visitors. The guest speaker for each luncheon typically is either someone associated with the University or a visiting scholar or West Virginia author.

"I love being part of the UC Builders because it is a great way to stay connected to my school and give back to something I care about. The luncheons are always delicious, held in a beautiful setting, attended by many wonderful people, with interesting speakers. I recommend a membership to any alumni!" - Ellen Linger, '78.

For more information about UC Builders, click [HERE](#).

ALUMNI

SPOTLIGHT



Vincent A. Centofanti, ABV, MBA, ('14)

Our MBA Speaker Series continues this spring semester and to kick things off, we had one of our own return to the nest. Vincent A. Centofanti earned both his bachelor's degree and master's degree in business administration at UC. Since graduation, he has added the professional credential and is Accredited in Business Valuation (ABV) by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Vincent is currently serving as a Senior Manager in the Valuation and Forensic Services group at Brown Edwards. He spoke on his decade of expertise in business valuation, transaction

advisory, litigation support, and forensic accounting.

Since 2015, he has contributed to more than 500 valuation engagements across a variety of industries, including real estate, construction, technology, manufacturing, and more. His work supports critical areas such as estate and gift tax planning, mergers and acquisitions, ESOPs and litigation cases involving lost profits, personal injury, and economic loss calculations.

Vincent's leadership in forensic accounting and business valuation extends to his involvement in professional organizations such as the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants' Forensic and Valuation Services Section and the West Virginia Society of Certified Public Accountants. His passion for excellence and dedication to his field makes him a sought-after expert in his industry.

Thank you, Vincent, for sharing your knowledge with our MBA students, faculty, staff, and members of the community!



Each year, the University of Charleston offers its community Enlightened Living Week, a visionary agenda focused on the betterment of society. It is held to honor the university's commitment to its mission – particularly its pillar of enlightened living – and offers students and community members an opportunity to participate in workshops,

discussions, and other programs to help empower them to become better citizens.

Our keynote speaker was Bunmi Kusimo-Frazier, Esq., Kusimo-Frazier is an experienced and skilled litigator specializing in criminal defense, civil rights, and legal support for small businesses, and is the reigning Mrs. Black West Virginia, USA.

This year's unity walk was moved indoors due to extreme cold weather. We've all been finding ways to stay warm this new year!

To see week's full schedule, click [HERE](#).



Athletics

CORNER



New Head Coach Announced

The University of Charleston Director of Athletics, Dr. Bren Stevens announces the hiring of Michael Tesch as the new head football coach, effective immediately.

"I am pleased to announce that Mike Tesch has been selected as the new leader of our football program," stated Dr. Stevens. "Coach Tesch is exceptionally bright, passionate, articulate, and possesses a high level of emotional intelligence. His extensive experience in various coaching roles within the UC football program has prepared him to lead a talented staff and to coach highly competitive NCAA Division II student-athletes."

A native of Albany, NY, Coach Tesch brings a wealth of experience as a player and coach, including over a decade of leadership roles at several programs. With a strong foundation in offensive strategy and player development, Coach Tesch is primed to take the University of Charleston football program to the next level. For the full story, click [HERE!](#)



Support the UC Baseball team and enjoy dinner in the UC Ballroom with special guest speaker Keith Madison, former Head Coach at the University of Kentucky and Editor of Inside Pitch magazine.

[RSVP for the UC Baseball Dinner HERE!](#)

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.



UC Half Marathon and 5K on Saturday, April 5, 2025 starting at 8:30am and 8:45am. Registration is open!

Funds raised at the Half Marathon and 5K will directly serve students in the UC Honors College for program activities, research, and conference participation. This event is designed for participants of all ages and fitness levels. The UC Half Marathon/5K unites us with our Charleston neighbors, generates new connections and friendships, and allows us to experience the strength

that comes from supporting each other. We invite you to join the fun!

If you have questions, would like to volunteer, or are interested in sponsoring student participation, please contact Honors College directors Hallie Chillag (halliechillag@ucwv.edu) or Kara Fisher (karafisher@ucwv.edu).

[Register HERE!](#)

CHEERS to a New Year!

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 '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 February 27, 2025 @ 4:00 EST, watch your email for a invite and Zoom link.

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

Thank you to those who joined or renewed their membership this past month - James Holland, Thomas Moore, and Robert Willock

GENEVIEVE "JENNY"
ADAMS
1922-2024



CLASS OF 1944
GOLDEN EAGLE ATHLETIC HALL OF
FAME INDUCTEE
ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR
2002

In Memorium

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

Beverly Cobb, '77

Genevieve "Jenny" Adams, '44

Mary Meadows Abbot, '62

Rudy Raynes, '74

Juanita Bailey, '60

William Ratliff, '67

Philip Von Blond, '72

James Ashworth, '86 & '89

Kimberly Moore Green, '97

Thornton Ridinger, '63

Lawrence Warnock, '59

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!

SAVE THE DATE HOMECOMING AND FAMILY WEEKEND SEPTEMBER 19 & 20 2025



UC
**INSPIRING
INNOVATION**
SPEAKER SERIES
2025

Series sponsored by:  **Huntington Bank**

THINKING OUTSIDE THE LUNCHBOX

Featuring area leaders sharing their innovative business, management, and leadership models.
Each event takes place from noon - 1:30 pm.

January 14
March 4
May 14

June 10
August 12
October 14

TWO VIEWS

Featuring fireside chats followed by happy hour networking.
A moderator will facilitate discussion with two experts who share different viewpoints on contemporary topics.
Each event takes place from 4-6 pm.

February 6
April 10

September 9
November 12

[RSVP for the DIH Speaker Series HERE.](#)



MBA SPEAKER SERIES

JON DADISMAN

Executive Director, Supply Chain Management - MRC

SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT: From Mine to Market

Thursday, February 13, 2025

12 p.m. | Erma Byrd Gallery

In person or online

Registration required for the event

Lunch sponsored by:  UNITED BANK



[RSVP for the MBA Speaker Series HERE.](#)



FEBRUARY 12 & 13

BLOOD DRIVE BATTLE

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



10 A.M. – 5 P.M.

APPALACHIAN ROOM, GSU

[Make an Appointment 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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