



OFFICIAL UC ALUMNI NEWSLETTER / May 2025 / VOLUME VI ISSUE V



Dear Alumni and Friends,

With graduation day already behind us, I can only share how special each one of those ceremonies are for our students, faculty, staff and their family and friends. The culmination of hard work that goes into helping our students achieve their success and making the UC experience special takes a village. That village certainly includes you – our alumni and friends. Whether it was taking your time to engage with students in

the classroom, offering internships or clinical experiences, or giving financial support, we are grateful how big our village has become and continues growing with our alumni.

We will continue to send you emails and social media updates over the summer months on UC happenings. One event to note will be the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Morrison Rehabilitation Science and Athletic Center on **June 19th**. This center is the renovation of Gorman Hall and replacement of the former pool space. This space will house the current Master of Occupational Therapy program and the Doctor of Physical Therapy program (Fall 2026 start date). We welcome your attendance at this event.

In just a few short weeks, we will be hosting our annual summer community events such as Symphony Sunday and the former Wine and Jazz which has now become Charlie West Music Fest. Those will fall on the same weekend this summer on May 31 and June 1.

Hope to see you on the UC campus this summer and then back in the fall for Homecoming!

Best Regards,

Gail Carter

Vice President of University Development

UC Celebrates Spring Commencement with Inspiring Speakers and Honored Graduates

The University of Charleston proudly celebrated its Spring Commencement ceremonies with an uplifting tribute to the Class of 2025, honoring 382 graduates from its

Charleston, Beckley, and online campuses. The graduates represent UC's five distinguished academic schools: the School of Arts & Sciences, School of Health Sciences, School of Business, School of Leadership, and the School of Pharmacy.

This year's ceremonies featured two keynote speakers: Chef Paul Smith and Brigadier General (Ret.) Michaelle Munger-Dulong. Chef Smith, a trailblazer in the culinary world, recently became West Virginia's first James Beard Award winner. Brigadier General Munger-Dulong made history as the first female general officer in the West Virginia Army National Guard. In recognition of their outstanding achievements and contributions, both received honorary degrees from the university.

Among the many achievements celebrated, UC extends special congratulations to Kelton Graye Boblits, named Undergraduate Senior of the Year, and Matthew Steven Ballard, honored as Graduate Senior of the Year.

The Spring Commencement serves as a powerful moment of pride and promise, celebrating the accomplishments of UC's newest alumni as they take their next steps to lead and serve in communities across the country and the world.

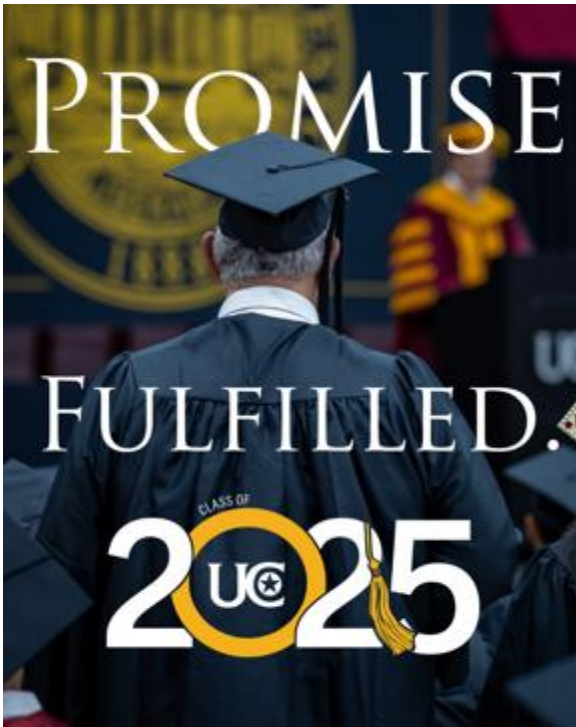




ALUMNI

SPOTLIGHT

2025 Commencement EDITION



In February 2024, Glenn Kirk visited campus to take part in the annual Give Day festivities. After the trademark bear hugs we've come to expect during his visits, he had a request for us. Although Glenn has remained connected to the university since his days as a Morris Harvey student in the mid 1960s, Glenn's official status was "alum attend," and he wanted to become a recognized alumnus. For Glenn, the title change wasn't about earning a degree—it was about fulfilling a promise he had made to Joyce, his wife of more than 65 years.

“In 1967, my wife was expecting our first daughter at the end of July. One day in early May, we were out walking at the capital, and she suggested we go down the steps and put our feet in the water. We sat there as two young, dumb, happy kids, not knowing what life had ahead of us and we watched the class of 1967 walk out of Riggleman Hall and take the traditional graduation walk to the gymnasium. She looked at me and said, ‘Someday, that’s going to be us.’ I promised her that one day I would graduate.” They both hoped it would be at MHC but that was not in the cards.

“After three years at MHC, I could not afford to stay enrolled. Joyce’s brother-in-law, Philip, worked as a foreman on the line at General Motors and knew we were having financial difficulties paying for college. Philip and Joyce’s sister, Carol, offered to let us live with them in Michigan and Philip could help get me a position at GM.”

So, after he completed his junior year, Glenn and Joyce moved to Michigan.

“I started on the assembly line but moved into the accounting department in the fall of 1968. I went on to become the CFO of General Motors Lansing Car Assembly Operations, a company with an average of \$8.5 billion in sales for GM per year. I had 36 years in with GM when I retired in 2004.”

Along his career path, Glen graduated with an accounting degree from Eastern Michigan University in 1979 and five years later earned his master’s degree from Central Michigan University.

In November 2023, Joyce died after a long battle with Alzheimer’s disease.

“Earning my degree from University of Charleston is the only promise I never kept, and I want to fulfill it.”

Dr. Beth Wolfe, UC EVP of Enrollment Management, started researching and learned that Glenn had enough Morris Harvey College credits to fulfill an associate’s degree in business administration.

Glenn, with four generations of his family members in attendance, walked across the commencement stage on Saturday, April 26th and is officially a member of the Class of 2025.

“I will always be grateful to MHC and the experience that took a kid from Mingo County, WV, who talked funny and slow (they called it Mingonese) and gave me the confidence that I could compete with anybody in the world if I believed in myself.

"My wife and I viewed the campus as hallowed ground. I don’t think there has ever been a time that I was back on campus that I didn’t choke up and get tears in my

eyes. We had a wonderful feeling towards that riverbank, the institution, and the people that changed my life. I am forever grateful for the opportunity to call this place my alma mater.”



Glenn was joined by 30 of his family members for a celebration lunch after the ceremony. This picture represents a lifetime of love and success for a very special UC Graduate. **Congratulations, Golden Eagle- Class of 2025.**



This heartwarming story received a lot of local press. Our own UC Annual Fund Manager, Chris Welty, produced a video to tell even more of the story. Please click the link below to watch!

[Watch the Full Video Story HERE!](#)



The Brick Walkway Brings Visitors!

Nancy Rabel Centerbury ('73) sent in this picture from this past weekend. Several Gamma Delta Phi sisters gathered for some time together in Charleston that included stopping by campus to see the brick dedicated to their sorority alumni.

Pictured from left to right are Kathy Hackney, Cencille Dabbs Green, Eileen Quinn McDonalds, Sue Barnard, Janet Knudson Richards, Nancy Rabel Canterbury, and Barbara Casdorph Christo.

We love to know and see when alumni gather together! If you are visiting with fellow Golden Eagles,

snap a pic and submit it to christinacarr@ucwv.edu.

The UC Band will be looking sharp this fall when they debut their NEW uniforms. UC Bands Director, Josie Fisher, joined the UC Alumni Association call last week to give us a sneak peak at the new digs. The uniform can be worn with or without the vest giving the band options for the many venues they play.

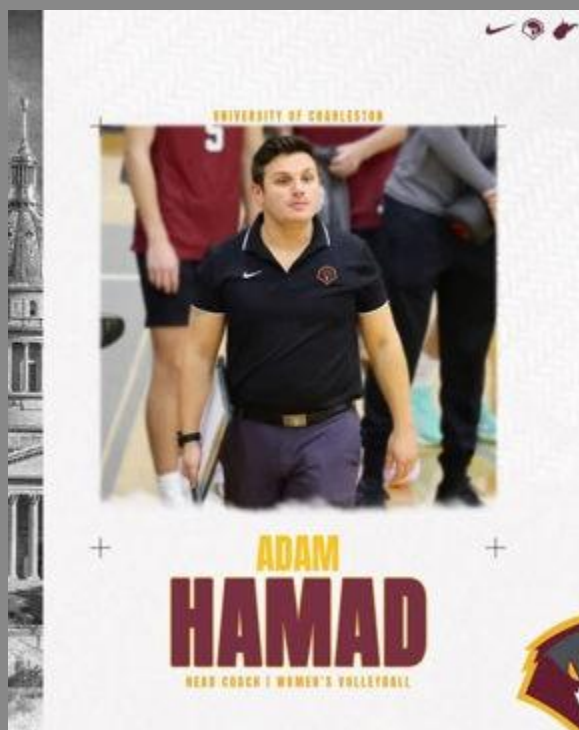
Director Fisher, the band students, and the entire UC community extends our gratitude to the Balgley Family Charitable Foundation for their generous donation and support in purchasing the uniforms.



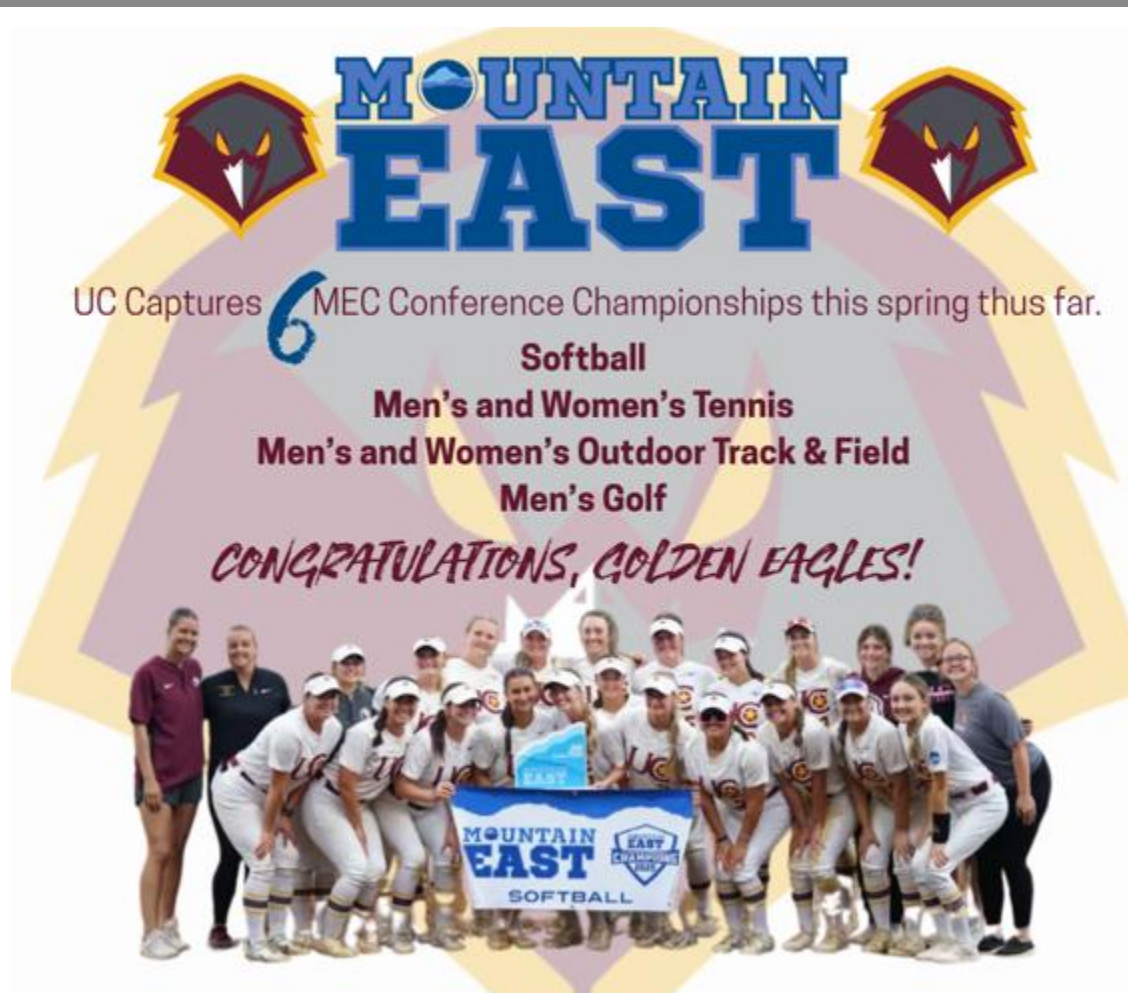
Athletics CORNER

The University of Charleston Director of Athletics, Dr. Bren Stevens announces the hiring of Adam Hamad as the new head women's volleyball coach, effective immediately.

"It is an incredible experience when you have the opportunity to bring back to campus one of your assistant coaches to take over the helm of a program. I am quite pleased to announce that Adam Hamad will be the new head coach of the women's volleyball program," said Vice President and Director of Athletics, Dr. Bren Stevens. Additionally, Dr. Stevens shared "Adam's leadership



ability along with his commitment to state-of-the-art training will allow our team to excel on the court, in the classroom, and in life. Coach Hamad possesses a high level of emotional intelligence, and I am looking forward to the synergy that he will add to the UC community." Read the full story [HERE](#).



University of Charleston football player Chavon Wright has won the Hardman Award for Athlete of the Year in the state, as voted by members of the West Virginia Sports Writers Association.

The Hardman Award, called the Amateur Athlete of the Year from

1934-82, is named for A.L. "Shorty" Hardman, who served as sports editor (1936-60) and executive sports editor (1960-78) of the Charleston Gazette.

Wright, a 5-foot-8, 200-pound redshirt junior running back in the 2024 season, was second in the Harlon Hill Trophy balloting, which goes to the Division II National Player of the Year.

"It's an honor (to win the Hardman Award)," Wright said. "When I saw the list of names of people that have received this award in the past, I'm familiar with plenty of them."

Read the full story [HERE](#).

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

2ND ANNUAL ALUMNI GATHERING

IN OCEANPORT, NEW JERSEY!
MONMOUTH PARK RACE TRACK

SATURDAY
MAY 31



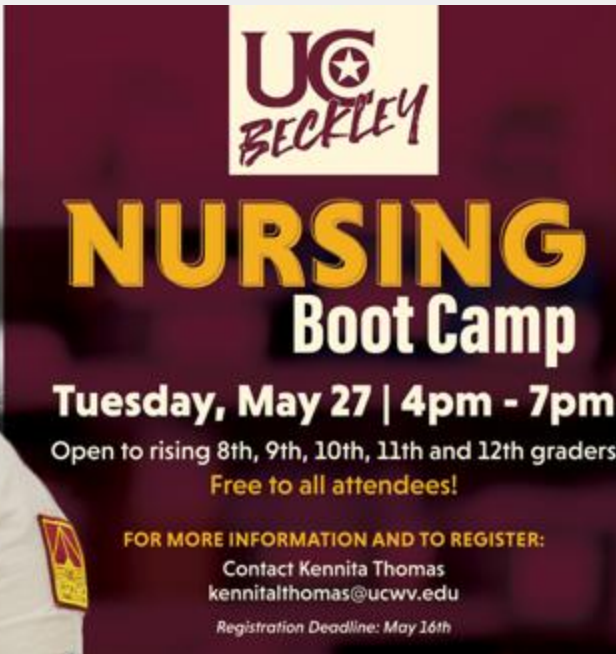

\$30

Due May 15th

Includes admission,
parking,
program, refreshments,
and commemorative t-
shirt.

Send checks payable to Jon Block- 151 Tennis Court,
Wall Township, NJ 07719

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



UC BECKLEY



NURSING Boot Camp

Tuesday, May 27 | 4pm - 7pm

Open to rising 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th graders
Free to all attendees!

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER:
Contact Kennita Thomas
kennitalthomas@ucwv.edu
Registration Deadline: May 16th

[Learn More HERE!](#)



UC

HEALTH SCIENCES Summer Boot Camp

Open to: High School Juniors and Seniors

June 10 - 11 | UC Campus

The University of Charleston (UC) will be hosting a Health Sciences Bootcamp June 10 – 11, 2025. The camp's purpose is to respond to the ever-growing shortage of healthcare providers in West Virginia. Program goals are to introduce, educate and inspire young students to explore healthcare as a potential career choice while highlighting all UC has to offer.

The camp will focus on students interested in careers such as exercise science, nursing, radiology, occupational therapy, physician assistant, and physical therapy.

Additionally, students will be provided with information to be better informed when selecting the correct coursework to prepare them to pursue a career in healthcare.

The camp will be held June 10th and 11th at the University of Charleston in Charleston, West Virginia. Students will be housed on campus for two days and one night. Students will stay in one of the UC dormitories to provide them with a semblance of dorm life. The camp will also offer hands-on experiences and education to offer students with a “snapshot” of what a day in the life of a healthcare provider may look like.

[Learn More HERE!](#)



Summertime Pantry Needs

The Student Life Office always needs donations for the Eagle Essentials Pantry. Currently, there is a special need to assist our students who are here for the summer months. If you are willing to donate items for the pantry, please see the list below of items needed this week or use this [Amazon Link](#) to place an order from our pantry re-order list.

Items can be dropped off at the Student Life Office in Geary Student Union 309 or the Alumni Relations Office in Riggleman Hall 131. If you would prefer to donate monetarily to help Student Life shop for the pantry or to help purchase resources that students need for the classroom, please [give](#) your donation to the Office of Advancement to be placed in the Student Supply Fund.

Items needed: single serve boxes of cereal, fruit cups- mandarin oranges and mixed fruit, Chewy granola bars, chicken noodle soup, cereal bars, microwave meal (Chicken Alfredo or other pasta), Belvita Bars, Brunswick tuna/chicken salad boxes, chips/popcorn, applesauce, PB to-go cups, hearty/Chunky soups, Spaghetti Os, canned tuna, Cup of Noodles, Tonkatsu Ramen, canned fruit, canned beans (i.e. baked beans, pinto, great northern beans, chili beans, etc.),

men's shaving cream, men's razors, men's shampoo, tampons, tissues, women's shaving cream, women's shampoo and conditioner, body wash, dishwashing liquid, laundry detergent, and dryer sheets.

You're invited to campus for the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and walk through of the new Morrison Rehabilitation Science and Athletic Center on June 19th.

The Morrison Rehabilitation Science and Athletics Center will be the home for our occupational therapy and physical therapy programs. The multi-million-dollar renovation of the old Gorman Hall includes occupational and physical therapy labs, quiet study rooms, a lounge, and meeting spaces. The facility will also house a classroom and faculty and staff offices. Adjacent spaces will include new and renovated visitor locker rooms, laundry facilities, and weight training rooms for student athletes.

Please RSVP to Chris Welty by June 11th, christopherwelty@ucwv.edu, 304-357-4386.



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 June 26, 2025 @ 4:00 EST, watch your email for an invite and Zoom link.

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

Thank you to those who joined or renewed their membership this past month -
Cindy Green-Ortiz, Andrew Orrison, and Anthony Turner.

In Memorium

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

Hazel Childress, '51

Lossie Mahone, '67

Geraldine Jackson, '72

Sue Patterson, '89

Paul Shipley, '53

Joseph Estep, '93, '96

Delbert Bowen, '65

Ethel Mahaffey Stoneman, '60

John Michael Bancheri, '83

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!



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

Mike Stockman, Founder and CEO of BizSolutions.Tech will offer guidance on Integrating AI With Your Business at the Downtown Innovation Hub's next Thinking Outside the Lunchbox program on May 14, 2025, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Adelphia Sports Bar and Grille will cater the event.

The Inspiring Innovation series, generously sponsored by Huntington Bank, is free and open to the public. Registration is requested, and you can do so on our website.

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

UC
UNIVERSITY OF
CHARLESTON
UNIVERSITY BUILDERS



**Please join writer, actor, director,
and playwright**

ERIC FRITZIUS

as he discusses highlights from his career.

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

11:30 a.m. | Meet and Greet

Noon | Meeting and Luncheon

Erma Byrd Gallery | Rigglesman Hall

RSVP on or before Monday, May 12
to christinacarr@ucwv.edu | 304-357-4734.

[RSVP for the Luncheon HERE.](#)

You're Invited



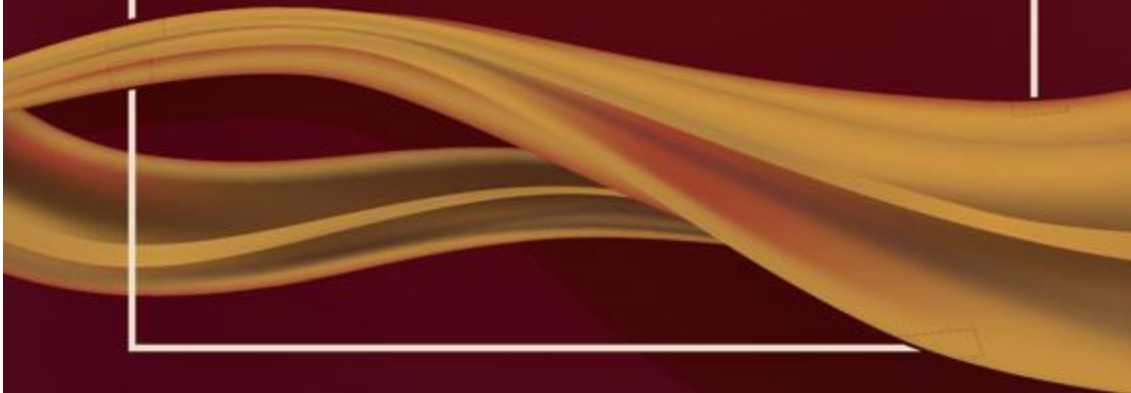
RIBBON CUTTING
Ceremony

June 19, 2025, 5 pm | Gorman Hall

We are excited and hope you will join
President Roth and the Board of Trustees
in the opening of the

**MORRISON REHABILITATION SCIENCE
AND ATHLETIC CENTER**

RSVP to Chris Welty by June 11:
Christopherwelty@ucwv.edu or 304-357-4386





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

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