



OFFICIAL UC ALUMNI NEWSLETTER / June 2025 / VOLUME VI ISSUE VI



Greetings from UC!

Summer is in full swing here. This past weekend we hosted two music festivals on the back lawn. These are great ways for us to show our commitment to be *Charleston's UniversityTM*.

On Saturday we hosted the new *Charlie West Music Fest*. This

Fund for the Arts fundraiser replaced the former *Wine and Jazz* event. The next day was the 44th annual *Symphony Sunday*. The weekend culminated with a great fireworks display with the state Capitol in the background. Please be sure to check UC's Facebook and Instagram pages for some outstanding pictures and videos from the weekend!

If you are in the area, please join us in Charleston on June 19th at 5 pm for the Morrison Rehabilitation Science and Athletic Center ribbon cutting ceremony. This new space in Gorman Hall will be the new home for our graduate occupational and physical therapy programs. It will also house our expanded weight training spaces for student athletes and upgraded visitor locker rooms for teams competing in the Wehrle Arena. Including the new program development and renovation costs, this is a \$10 million project, made possible through the generosity of many area foundations and individual donors. I am particularly proud that every member of the UC Board of Trustees contributed to this important initiative that will help address the critical need for rehabilitation services in the Kanawha Valley, state, and region.

We are also pleased to have record summer enrollment at UC. Across our Beckley, Charleston, and online programs, over 2,000 students are currently taking classes at UC. We hope to sustain this momentum by welcoming many

new students to join those returning this Fall. Our summer SOAR (Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration) events for new students are quickly filling up!

Thank you for supporting UC and our mission to educate each student for a life of productive work, enlightened living, and community involvement. Your contributions are essential to our success.

Best wishes for a great summer!

Marty







It's always our pleasure to host these annual events and serve as Charleston's University.



The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) has continued our accreditation with reaffirmation through the 2034-2035 academic year. This is a great moment for the university. The accreditation followed a rigorous evaluation, including a comprehensive document submission and a February 2025 site visit by HLC reviewers.

“We’re proud of this outcome because it reinforces that we’re successfully fulfilling our mission,”

said President Marty Roth. “At the University of Charleston, our mission to prepare students for lives of meaningful work, enlightened living, and community involvement remains at the heart of everything we do. It’s the kind of student-focused mission the Higher Learning Commission looks for when evaluating schools like ours. This reaccreditation confirms that we’re truly committed to students and preparing them to succeed in today’s evolving educational landscape. We are grateful for the outstanding work of our faculty and staff, dedication from our Board of Trustees and various Advisory Councils, and generous community support that led to the HLC’s continued trust in our vision and the important work happening across our Charleston campus, Beckley location, and our online programs.”

The Higher Learning Commission accredits degree-granting institutions in a 19-state region of the United States. Accreditation is granted to institutions that meet the Commission’s rigorous Criteria for Accreditation, which reflect key values such as integrity, excellence, and accountability.



Trip Report: Alumni Gathered in Jersey!

Last weekend, I took our tagline “Wings Up!” literally and hopped on a plane to the Jersey Shore! After a detour to LaGuardia Airport, I was off on a planes, trains, and automobiles adventure to attend the second annual UC Alumni Gathering at Monmouth Park in Oceanport, NJ.

As I walked into Monmouth Park on Saturday, I could feel the nostalgia of the racetrack. It was old-school and

well-loved, full of tradition and history - a perfect setting for a group of college mates to sit around and talk about the good ol’ days.

Jon Block ('79) served as our local host and spent weeks reaching out to alumni in the surrounding area, spreading the word about the event and the success of last year’s inaugural gathering. We were expecting 65 guests!

Despite the cold winds and threat of rain (which eventually arrived), Golden Eagles flocked to the event.

Our maroon and gold flags were flying, the playlist was just right, hot dogs were on the grill, and subs—courtesy of local favorite Jersey Mike’s—were being shared.

Bill Greenblum ('68), who helped plan the event, took charge of the alumni 50/50 raffle, while guests headed to the windows to place their bets on the races.

Spanning nearly 40 years, the group included graduates from the Class of 1964 through 1990—and 2006 if you include me! There’s something truly special about coming together and saying,



Nancy Burke ('76), Linda Bottger ('74), Michele Dempsey ('73), Jackie McMullin Kern ('76), Barbara Carte ('77)

“I’m a Golden Eagle, too.” No matter the year on your diploma, being part of this community connects us across generations.



Steven ('80) and Regina Wojcicki, Bob Hammond ('78), Mike Emley ('79), Rick Baruffi ('78), Mark Wallis ('80)

I enjoyed hearing stories about campus love that blossomed into 50 years of marriage, tales from the rowers, basketball and soccer memories, and—though I tried—no fraternity or sorority secrets were spilled!

While it was fun reminiscing, I also enjoyed answering questions about how campus has changed over the years—what it looks and feels like today, bringing a little bit of Charleston to the setting.

Stella Cooksey was mentioned more than anyone else, friends embraced after a forty-year absence, and many promised to be in Charleston this September for Homecoming.

I’m back home safe without trading in my southern twang for the fast-talking charm of a Jersey accent that I now want so badly. “Caw-fee” just sounds so much cooler than “Coffee”. I also now have a couple of assignments to track down specific photos and videos and learn the story behind a certain jersey of one Mr. Jerry Moore. I’m on it and will report back shortly, Ed Sarluca.

It’s always a great day to be a Golden Eagle, but May 31, 2025, was extra special, and I’ve got the pictures to prove it! Be sure to check out our Facebook and Instagram pages to see more from the trip—and maybe spot someone you know who joined the fun.

Paul McNamara ('81), Cheryl Fowlie Leahy ('82), Michele Bayarsky, Bill “Bayonne” Carr ('84), Tim Gallagher, ('83)





Joan Vancampen Wallis ('80)



Jill Bohlinger ('79)

"We made our own group called Knights of the C, and you aren't allowed to know what the C stands for!"



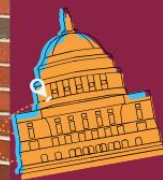
Laurie McGraw ('80)



Cathy Stewart Arcell ('79 & '80)



Tom Donohue ('79), Rob Pumo ('81),
Bill Greenblum ('68), Vito Delgripo

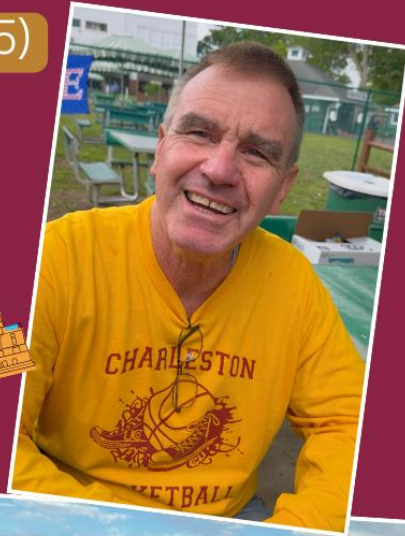


Toni Cimildora Stock ('66)



Ellen Kane, Cathy Arcell ('79 & '80), Paul
Arcell ('79), John Scharf ('80), Debbie
Scharf, and Kevin Kane ('79)

Jon Block ('79) and Bill Daneluk ('75)



Bill traveled the farthest to join the reunion, coming from Macomb, Michigan!





Pat Amendola ('68)



Peter McAtee ('67)



THANK YOU, HOSTS!!!

Jon Block was our ring leader and with some help from Jim and Michele Dempsey and Bill Greenblum, this event was a HUGE success!!



[Check out our page for more pictures!](#)



[See more about the trip on our page!](#)



Which Golden Eagles received a Golden Watch?

Rick Baruffi, his wife-Betsy, and daughter-Sofia, attended the New Jersey event. Rick was proudly sporting his Morris Harvey ring purchased by his family in celebration of his graduation and a special watch. Rick was a four year letterman basketball player who received a plaque after year one, a Morris Harvey letter blanket after year two, a varsity letter jacket after year three, and a gold watch after year four.

Our conversations at the reunion led to Rick and Betsy submitting the following photos and memories from the Closing of

the King event that took place in February of 2015.

We want to know if YOU also have a gold watch! If you were a four-year letterman and received a watch, email christinacarr@ucwv.edu.



Bob Wetesnik ('78), Rick Baruffi ('78), and John Jividen ('77) - Circa 2015



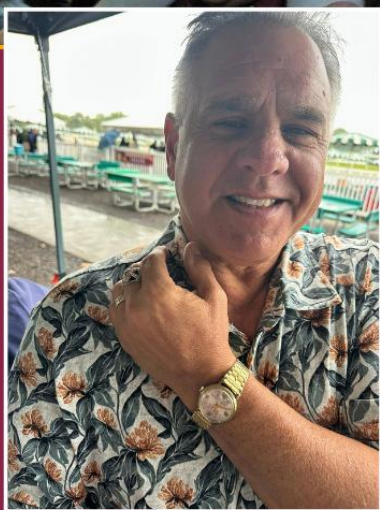
Rick with Eric Fletcher
(‘80)

Rick and Sofia with UC
Hall of Fame Coach, Rich
McFessel





From the Closing of the King ceremonies in 2015 to a 2025 New Jersey reunion, Rick Baruffi and his daughter, Sofia, have displayed their Maroon and Gold pride more than once in the past decade.



You're Invited

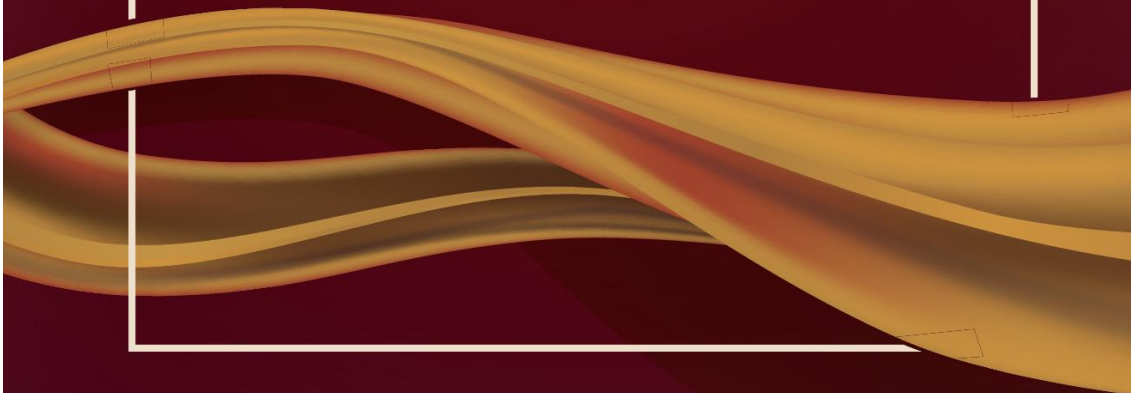
UC
RIBBON CUTTING
Ceremony

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





Athletics

CORNER



We're almost there! The University of Charleston Men's Soccer Team is headed to the United Kingdom for an unforgettable preseason training and competition tour — an experience that will challenge our team on and off the field, broaden our horizons, and prepare us for a championship season.

Thanks to the incredible support of our families, friends, and community, we've already raised **75% of our \$90,000 goal** — but we need your help to make the final push.

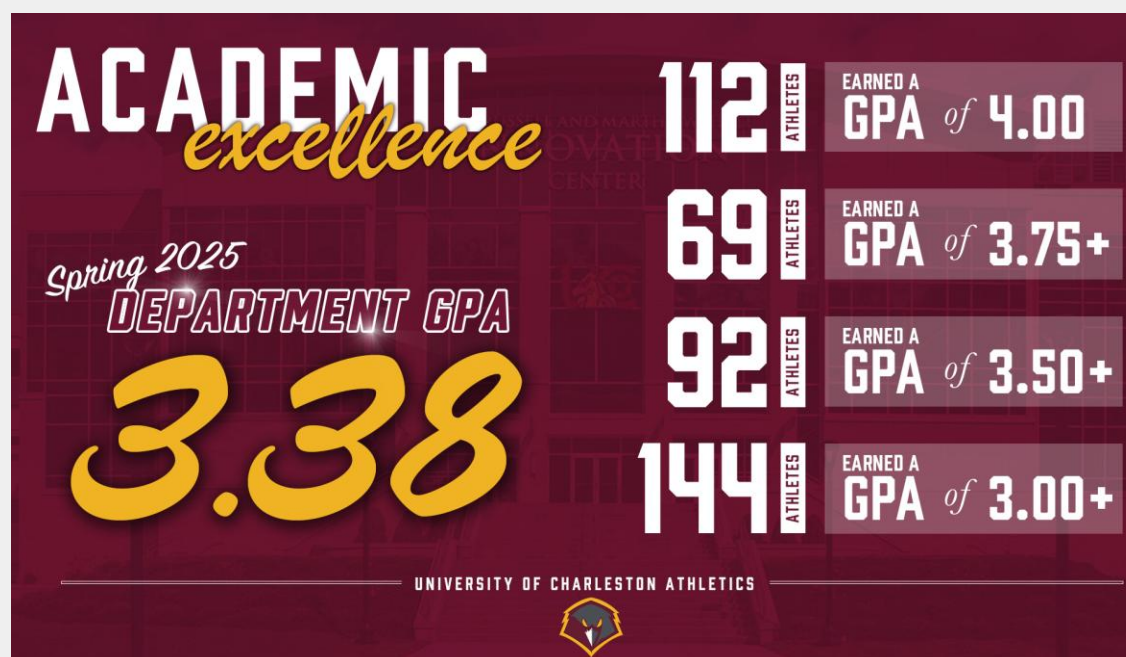
Your contribution will help cover:

- International travel and accommodations
- Training sessions with top UK clubs
- Cultural and educational excursions
- Meals and team logistics

Whether it's \$10 or \$1,000, **every donation brings us one step closer to this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.**

[Help Men's Soccer Reach Their Goal HERE!](#)

Our student athletes are stellar on AND off the field! Check out these academic stats coming from our Golden Eagles.



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

Homecoming and Family Weekend 2025 is set for September 19 & 20. We partner with several Charleston hotels to offer alumni discounts. Make your reservations for Homecoming or any visit today!



The graphic features the UC logo at the top, followed by the word "ALUMNI" in large letters filled with photos of campus buildings. Below this, "SPECIAL OFFERS" is written in a stylized, outlined font. A yellow bracket on the left side of the text box contains the following information:

The following hotels have partnered with UC to provide discounted rates for UC Alumni. Make sure to call the hotel to receive your "UC Alumni Rate".

Four Points Sheridan Charleston: 304-344-4092
Holiday Inn & Suites Charleston West: 304-744-4641
Fairfield by Marriott Charleston: 304-744-4444
Hampton Inn Charleston Southridge: 304-746-4646



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.



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 -
Anthony Lombardo and Darrell Campbell

In Memorium

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

Keith Morrison, '75

Homer Bowers, III, '67

Kenneth Higginbotham, '59

Jerry Davis, '52

Marian Elaine Greene Kinder, '65

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!



TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2025

12-1 pm | UC Downtown Innovation Hub

SCOTT APPLGATE, JD

Staff Judge Advocate, WV National Guard

WITH **JODY OGLE**

Supervisory Cybersecurity Advisor, CISA - Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

LEGAL ISSUES USING AI

*Lunch is free; registration is recommended;
seating is limited.*

Legal Issues in AI Speaker: Scott Applegate, JD Staff Judge Advocate for WV National Guard. Accompanied by Jody W. Ogle, Supervisory Cybersecurity Advisor, CISA - Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. Catering by Black Sheep. Register Now!

[RSVP for the DIH Speaker Series 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](#)



Gail Carter

Christina Carr

VP for University Development

304-357-4849

gailcarter@ucwv.edu

Director of Alumni Relations

304-357-4734

christinacarr@ucwv.edu

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