



OFFICIAL UC ALUMNI NEWSLETTER / July 2025 / VOLUME VI ISSUE VII



Dear Alumni and Friends,

As we close the books on another remarkable fiscal year, I am filled with deep gratitude and pride in all we've accomplished—together. From finishing a breezeway with named bricks below to the opening of the Morrison Rehabilitation Science and Athletic Center and everything in between, this year has been amazing!

Thanks to your generous support, we have advanced our mission of “educating each student for a life of

productive work, enlightened living and community involvement” in meaningful ways. Your gifts have directly impacted students through scholarships and enhanced our campus with vital resources and innovative programs. Behind every statistic is a story—of a student who can now pursue their education without financial worry, a faculty member who gained the resources to further their expertise, or a community enriched by expanded outreach.

Your belief and pride in the University of Charleston makes this progress possible. I want to personally thank each of you for your trust, your partnership, and your unwavering support.

As we look ahead to the coming year, I remain inspired by the strength of our community and the shared vision we hold for the future. Together, we are not just imagining a better tomorrow—we are building it.

Best Regards,

Gail Carter

VP of University Development



Opening of the Morrison Rehabilitation Science and Athletic Center

University leaders, UC Board of Trustees members, donors for the project, faculty and staff, neighbors, Senator Shelley Moore Capito, and others gathered to celebrate the opening of the Morrison Rehabilitation Science and Athletic Center on June 19, 2025.

“The University of Charleston has a vested interest in not only providing programs that enable our students to enter their career fields as experienced, knowledgeable professionals, but also in having a significant impact on the health of our communities,” stated UC President Marty Roth. “The Morrison

Rehabilitation Science and Athletic Center, along with these two vital programs, reflects that commitment and the strong growth that UC is experiencing.”

The Morrison Center will be home to our two graduate degree programs in occupational and physical therapy,

designed to meet the increasing demands for rehabilitation services in the city, state, and region.

It includes modern occupational and physical therapy labs, quiet study rooms, and lounge and meeting spaces, ensuring students have the tools needed for success. The facility will also house a classroom and faculty/staff offices. Adjacent spaces include new and renovated visitor locker rooms, laundry facilities, and weight training rooms for student athletes.

The \$10 million project, which includes the new program development and renovation costs, is made possible through the generosity of many area foundations, individual donors, and external grants.

For more about the Center and additional photos, visit our [website](#).

It was great to have some special Sigma Phi Epsilon brothers in the crowd for the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony! If you are in Charleston, you will want to stop in and see the new Morrison Rehabilitation Science and Athletics Center.

Pictured from left to right - Chris Schmutz, John Finlayson, Tom Donohue, Tom Moriarty, Rob Pumo, and Bob Nichols.





The University of Charleston Physician Assistant Program Class of 2025 has achieved a 100% first attempt test taker pass rate on the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination.

The PANCE is a standardized exam administered by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants to assess the clinical knowledge, clinical reasoning, and other medical skills and professional behaviors deemed important for entry-level practice as a PA. It is a crucial step for PA graduates to gain certification and practice as a physician assistant.

“This milestone is a direct reflection of our program's collective, collaborative dedication to its PA students,” stated Lesley Adkins, UC PA Assistant Professor/Principal Faculty. “From admissions to the classroom to the clinical setting, and all the logistics that go into the behind-the-scenes details, offers a robust education that makes for an exceptional student experience. We are so proud of the Class of 2025 and honored to now call them our colleagues.”

To learn more about this growing program, click [HERE](#).





We are working to compile a list of all former Student Government Association presidents and still missing a few years. If you can identify these presidents, please email their name to christinacarr@ucwv.edu.



Calling all Band, Choir, and Dance Team Alumni!

Get ready to relive the glory days and show your Golden Eagle pride at this year's Homecoming Football Game on Saturday, September 20th.

For pregame festivities, choir alumni will join current UC choir students for powerful performances of the National Anthem and Alma Mater. Band and Dance Team alumni are invited to join the Squadron of Gold Athletic Band and Dance Team to kick off the football game with the Fight Song then stick around to take center field for a special halftime performance! You're also invited to play in the stands or dance on the sidelines throughout the game.

Don't miss this chance to reconnect, perform, and be part of the UC tradition once again!

For more info and to RSVP to participate, contact Director of Music Activities, Josie Fisher, at josiefisher1@ucwv.edu or Christina Carr, Director of Alumni Relations at christinacarr@ucwv.edu.

Let's make some noise, Golden Eagles!



The UC Builders Invite You to Join Them!

Members of the University of Charleston (UC) Builders serve as ambassadors for the University of Charleston. The organization was established as the Women Builders by President Leonard Rigglesman in 1954. In 1990, the organization

welcomed men to its membership and voted to adopt the name University of

Charleston Builders. President Marty Roth values the members as builders of the vision and promoters of the image and growth of the University.

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. Member's annual dues fund projects that help improve the quality of life for University students. The projects have ranged from intellectual stimulation such as the purchase of the Juno ManiKind for the Health Sciences Department to campus beautification projects like the living plant wall in The Commons and lampposts along the riverbank lawn.

The Builders members enjoy seven luncheon meetings throughout the academic year. Meet and Greet begins at 11:30 am and lunch is served at noon. The guest speaker for each luncheon typically is either someone associated with the University or a visiting scholar or West Virginia author. The luncheons are informative, enjoyable, and a great way to make connections.

The UC Builders' success depends on their involved members. With over 250 members, the organization has been able to make a huge difference in the well-being of the University. This is a unique opportunity for alumni and community members to stay engaged with Charleston's University.

Click [HERE](#) to join!



2025-2026 LUNCHEON SCHEDULE

Erma Byrd Gallery, 11:30 am

WEDNESDAYS

September 24, 2025

Book & Author Luncheon

October 22, 2025

Book & Author Luncheon

December 3, 2025

Holiday Membership Luncheon

February 25, 2026

Book & Author Luncheon

March 25, 2026

Book & Author Luncheon

April 22, 2026

*13th Annual
Artists Among Us Luncheon*

May 27, 2026

*Annual Meeting &
Spring Membership Luncheon*



Athletics **CORNER**

University of Charleston Repeats as MEC Commissioner's Cup Champions in 2024-25

Read the MEC report [HERE](#).



UNIVERSITY OF CHARLSTON
GOLDEN EAGLES

**1ST
PLACE**

COMMISSIONER'S CUP





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 89% **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!**](#)



We also want to extend our congratulations to Men's Soccer Head Coach, Dan Smee for recently being named the Male “Coach of the Year” by the MEC out of all the sports sponsored by our conference office. UC Athletic Director, Dr. Bren Stevens, shared the following statement.

“Dan Smee exemplifies the standard of excellence in collegiate athletics. As an expert coach, he brings a rare blend of technical mastery and leadership that elevates not only his team but the entire campus community. His ability to foster synergy among student-athletes, staff, and peers is unmatched. Dan leads with unwavering integrity, grace, and a profound sense of emotional intelligence, making him a respected role model on and off the field. His “Coach of the Year” honor is a well-deserved recognition of his dedication, class, and the lasting impact he has on our institution.”

Introducing...The UC Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2025!

These athletes and coaches will be celebrated during Homecoming and Family Weekend (September 19 & 20). Congratulations to Sean Teepen (men's soccer, '15), Lindsey Kentner (women's basketball, '11), Xavier Humphrey (men's basketball, '14), and Coach Nick Bias (track and field, cross country). Look for more details on how to get your ticket to the Hall of Fame dinner set for Friday evening of the annual weekend.

CLASS OF 2025



SEAN TEEPEN



LINDSEY KENTNER



XAVIER HUMPHREY



NICK BIAS

HALL OF FAME

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!

UC
ALUMNI
SPECIAL OFFERS

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



Now taking Nominations!!

Follow the link below to submit your nominations for the two 2025 Alumni Awards. The recipients will be honored during the Homecoming & Family Weekend celebrations. Nominations are due on or before August 22, 2025.

Alumnus of the Year Award

The award is given to honor an alumnus who distinguished themselves in their profession and/or community and has reached the pinnacle of success in their chosen field. This individual has proven to have a profound positive impact on their industry and/or community.

Criteria

- Graduate of Morris Harvey College or University of Charleston
- Made significant contributions to UC and/or their community on a local, state, national, or international level through professional service, public service, or civic activities.
- Demonstrates the ideals of the University's mission by living a life of productive work, enlightened living, and community involvement.
- Exceptional service in support of the advancement and continued excellence in education of the University of Charleston.

Rising Alumni Award

The award is given to honor an alumnus who is surpassing the expected standard in their field and identifiable as an emerging leader through their professional achievements and/or community involvement. This individual is proving to be an innovator with rational, modern, and well-informed ideas that will have a positive impact on the future of their professional field and/or community.

Criteria

- Graduated from the University of Charleston within the last 15 years
- Made notable contributions to UC and/or their community on a local, state, national or international level through professional service, public service, or civic activities.
- Demonstrates the ideals of the University's mission by living a life of productive work, enlightened living, and community involvement.

[**Submit a Nomination HERE!**](#)

Hit That LIKE Button!

Be sure to follow our social media pages, you never know when an old photo of yourself will pop up and we love to hear from our Golden Eagles.

Thanks for connecting with us on Facebook, Nancy Ward Godby ('75).



Morris Harvey College graduated it's first Radiologic Technology class on May 11, 1975. UC now offers a bachelor's degree in radiologic science on the Charleston campus and an associate's degree in radiologic technology in Beckley.

These students helped pave the way 50 years ago! We hope many of the 1975 graduates will be with us during Homecoming and Family Weekend to celebrate their Golden Reunion.



RADIOLOGIC SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



First row, l. to r.: Ann Barker, Rita Robinson, Beverly Haynes, Karen Christensen. second row, l. to r.: Beverly Rose, Cindy Landers, Ruth Jean, Rebecca Elliott. third row, l. to r.: John Brown, Cindy Scott, Cheryl Myers, Libby Carter, Everett Warner.





Nancy Godby

Thank you for posting this photo. I graduated with this group of Radiologic Technologists, but was not officially part of the class. I had graduated from the last hospital based program at Charleston General Hospital and Mark Wilcox graduated from Charleston Memorial Hospital in 1974. Mark and I then joined this first class at Morris Harvey College to complete an Associate Degree and graduate in 1975. Mark passed away several years ago, and I am currently the Director of Radiology at Cabell Huntington Hospital - Marshall Health Network.

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2



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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 September 18, 2025 @ NOON 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 - Tessa White and Sandy Sayre.

In Memorium

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

Janie Wood Bifano '62

Betty Plybon Howard, '53

Kim Thorn Shields, '70

Anne Sammons Wood, '90

Robert Lee Carter, '53

Pat Atkins Whitten Elkins, '67

Donald Hottle, '60

Geraldine Braden Marsh, '54

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!



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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