

UC NEWS

ALUMNI FROM THE NEST

OFFICIAL UC ALUMNI NEWSLETTER / October 2025 / VOLUME VI ISSUE X



Greetings from UC!

We are thrilled to welcome you to this edition of our alumni newsletter—and to share some truly exciting news about the continued momentum at your alma mater.

Breaking records, forging growth

In a time when many colleges nationwide are facing enrollment challenges, UC is bucking the trend. For Fall 2025, we set a new all-time high with **3,032 enrolled students**, the largest student body since 1969!

Over the past decade, four-year colleges in West Virginia collectively lost 16.2% of their enrollment—nearly double the national decline of 8.4%. In contrast, UC has grown by 42.5% during that same span—the strongest growth among the state’s 18 four-year institutions, and the only private four-year institution in West Virginia to experience continued growth.

This year’s record reflects both sustained strength and recent gains:

- Undergraduate new student enrollment rose by 15%.
- Total degree-seeking students increased by 4%.
- On-campus student housing grew to 722 residents—a 5% year-over-year rise.

And the good news does not end there. We are further honored that [Niche.com](#) has named UC “[The Best College in West Virginia](#),” based on academic quality, student experience, and alumni feedback.

Why this matters—and where we’re headed

These achievements are more than numbers. They reflect how UC is evolving to meet the needs of modern learners and regional employers. We have expanded programs in high-demand areas such as healthcare, business, and technology, strengthened partnerships with the military and industry, and enhanced flexible online and hybrid formats for adult learners. Supported by a career-driven curriculum, robust student support, athletics, and affordability initiatives, UC is positioning itself as a model of adaptability and impact.

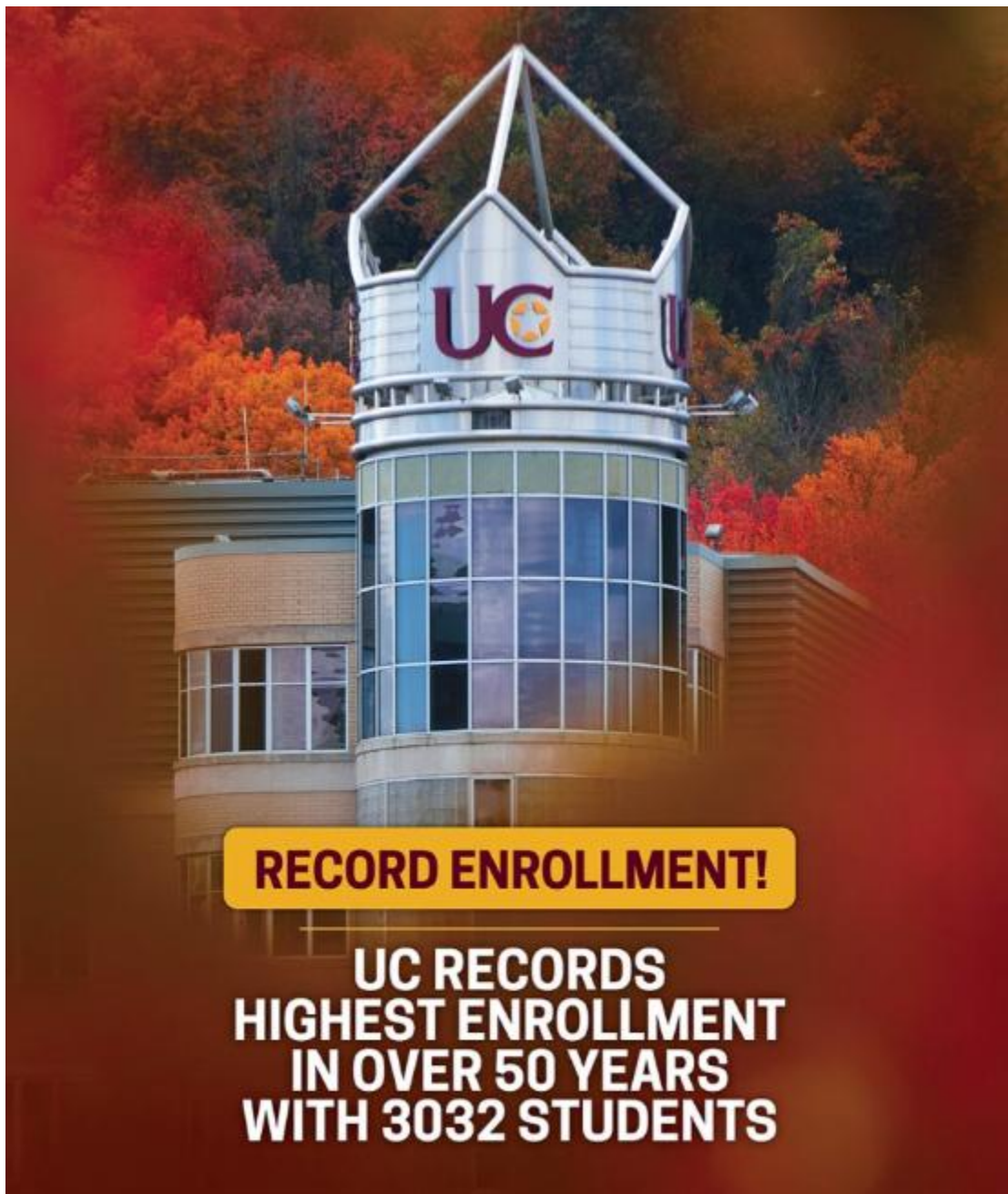
Our alumni are part of this story

You are at the heart of UC's story. Your achievements, your feedback, your connection with the university help shape its direction. As we celebrate this milestone, we need you to be engaged—share your stories, help us connect with future students, champion the university in your communities, and assist us in making the strategic investments necessary to sustain this great momentum.

We look forward to bringing you more updates, celebrating more successes, and growing stronger—together—every step of the way!

Best regards,

Marty



RECORD ENROLLMENT!

**UC RECORDS
HIGHEST ENROLLMENT
IN OVER 50 YEARS
WITH 3032 STUDENTS**

Read more [HERE!](#)



How was Homecoming, you ask?

Well, Mochito and I give it a big 'ole **THUMBS UP!**

A lot goes into planning our annual reunion weekend, but the real spark that makes the magic happen is *you!* Golden Eagle alumni know how to show up ready to celebrate, reconnect, and relive those unforgettable college days—and this year, you did not disappoint! We were thrilled to welcome so many of you back to campus who followed the call to “Fly Home.”



Everywhere we turned, there were tokens of UC pride and nostalgia—Greek-letter t-shirts, Morris Harvey letterman jackets, yearbooks, and keepsakes from decades past. But even more memorable were the smiles, laughter, hugs, and stories that were sworn to secrecy once upon a time.

Our first event Friday afternoon set the tone perfectly as members of the Classes of '75, '80, and '85 packed the Boathouse for the Golden Reunion. David Kurtz ('80) and President Roth offered

heartfelt remarks and toasts to these milestone reunions, while the UC Choir filled the room with classic favorites that transported us right back in time.

From there, the celebration spilled onto the best real estate in town, the UC Lawn. We enjoyed food, drinks, and a pep rally where we honored our outstanding alumni award recipients (see the next section for their bios).

Saturday morning brought more camaraderie at UC Stadium where we fired up the tailgate, recognized the Alumni of the Year and the UC Athletic Hall of Fame inductees at halftime, and cheered the Golden Eagles onto victory under a sunny sky!



We closed out the weekend with a relaxed evening at Recovery Sports Grill downtown, where the stories and laughter continued.

As your Director of Alumni Relations, I'm filled with gratitude. Homecoming isn't just about revisiting the past—it's about celebrating the enduring connections that make UC feel like home no matter how far life takes us. Thank you for showing up, for sharing your energy and pride, and for keeping the Golden Eagle spirit alive.

Pictures tell even more of the story, and we've got quite the collection waiting for you! Follow the link below to relive the memories—and if you snapped a few of your own, send them my way at christinacarr@ucwv.edu so we can add them to the album.

Until next year—keep soaring, Golden Eagles!



[See Homecoming Photos HERE!!](#)



HOMECOMING
AND FAMILY WEEKEND
SEPTEMBER 19 & 20 **2025**

THANK YOU! TO OUR SPONSORS

Glenn Kirk '25

Doug Singleton '01

Members of the UC 

JOIN OR RENEW TODAY!



UC
ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION

Membership
donations help
support alumni
events!

ALUMNI

SPOTLIGHT



B. Dianne (Deon) Clements, '64

Deon Clements has always been connected to Morris Harvey College, now the University of Charleston. Growing up on McCorkle Avenue, the campus was quite literally in her backyard until her senior year of high school.

In 1964, she earned bachelor's degree in business administration with a minor in marketing and business education.

Deon began her teaching career at the West Virginia Department of Rehabilitation in Institute. The following year, she joined the faculty at Charleston High School. In 1985, she was recognized as the Outstanding Business Education Teacher for the state of West Virginia. When Charleston High closed, she transitioned to Capital High School, serving as Vocational Computer Lab Coordinator and Business Education Department Head.

Deon retired from teaching in 1998 and embraced opportunities to travel.

In her community, Deon has been active with the Shepherd Center of Charleston, Charleston High School Class of 1960, and the Kanawha County Association of Retired School Employees, helping to plan meetings and communicate with more than 200 members.

Her loyalty to UC has never wavered. When Dr. Welch established the National Advisory Board, Deon helped organize the group and served as secretary until shortly before it was disbanded. She has been an active member of the Alpha Omnicron Pi sorority since pledging as a student, held season tickets to UC basketball games for many years and is a long-standing member of the UC Builders.

Congratulations, Deon!



David Kurtz, '80

David graduated from UC in 1980 with a degree in political science. During his time on campus, he was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity, a founding member of the Student Activities Board, a member of the rowing team, a competitor on the national finalist UC College Bowl academic team, and president of Student Government.

After graduation, David continued his education at West Virginia University, where he earned a master's degree in public administration and a law degree.

His career included positions at NASA headquarters and the U.S. Treasury Department. Following his retirement, he served more than two years in the Peace Corps—making sure to return home for UC Homecoming during that time.

David has also given back to his community, serving on the Wood County Board of Education and the West Virginia School Boards Association.

For more than four decades, David has been a loyal and engaged alumnus. He was selected for the National Alumni Board, serving as president in 2014. He maintains annual membership in the UC Alumni Association, regularly attends alumni and athletic events in Charleston, across the state, and beyond, and has hosted several alumni gatherings, including last fall's event in Morgantown.

David continues to be a valued resource for university history, and the Alumni Office is grateful for his advocacy and promotion of all things UC.

Congratulations, David!



Chyress Obregon, '16

Chyress Obregon is a proud 2016 graduate of the University of Charleston and former UC Women's Basketball player. Chyress holds a degree in Biochemistry and continues to embody the values of hard work, perseverance, and service she cultivated during her time at UC.

While attending UC, Chyress found a mentor in Tom Minturn, owner of the Southridge and South Charleston Chick-fil-A restaurants. After

graduation, she remained in Charleston, where she advanced to Director of Operations at the Southridge location. In 2019, she joined Chick-fil-A's Corporate Leadership Development Program, traveling across the country to build and train teams while helping launch new restaurant locations. Her journey led her through a rigorous ten-interview process before being selected as the Owner/Operator of Chick-fil-A at Beachwood Place Mall in Beachwood, Ohio—a suburb of Cleveland and close to home.

Over the course of her career, Chyress has successfully revitalized a struggling location, turning challenges into opportunities through strategic leadership and resilience. She has been recognized with Chick-fil-A's **Symbol of Success Award** for her outstanding sales growth and is now preparing to expand into a larger location in Streetsboro, Ohio.

Beyond her professional achievements, Chyress serves as a member of Chick-fil-A's **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Council**, helping foster a culture of belonging and growth across the organization.

She continues to support UC Athletics and will return to campus this fall as a featured presenter in the [MBA Speaker Series](#), where she will share her inspiring journey and be recognized as the Rising Alumnus during a UC basketball game.



CERTIFIED QUALIFIER

Boston Marathon
NYC Marathon
Chicago Marathon
London Marathon



Today, a press conference was held at our Downtown Innovation HUB to announce the UC Marathon is now a USATF-certified course and a Boston Marathon qualifying race. On April 11 & 12, 2026, runners can use this fast and flat course to earn entry into the most prestigious races around the world.

[Register for the UC Marathon HERE!](#)



Athletics

CORNER



The UC Athletic Hall of Fame Dinner continues to be an exciting event of the Homecoming Weekend.

"Tonight, we gather to celebrate excellence in every sense. Our four inductees have not only achieved extraordinary success in their professional careers but have also become leaders and difference-makers in their communities, embodying the very best of what it means to be a Golden Eagle."

-Dr. Bren Stevens, UC Athletic Director

Allow us to introduce the UC Hall of Fame Inductees Class of 2025...



Lindsay Kremer, '11

Women's Basketball

Read Lindsay's Bio [HERE](#).



Sean Teepen, '13

Men's Soccer

Read Sean's Bio [HERE](#).



Xavier Humphrey, '14

Men's Basketball

Read Xavier's Bio [HERE](#).



Coach Nick Bias, '14-'25

**Men's and Women's Cross Country
and Track**

See Nick's Bio [HERE](#).

For a full list of UC Hall of Fame Inductees click [HERE!](#)

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

CHARLESTON BASKETBALL
**SEASON
TICKETS**

35 SEATS LEFT

WWW.UCGOLDENEAGLES.COM



2025-2026 HOME OPPONENTS



TICKET LEVELS

MAROON

\$125

One ticket for General Admission seating for all home games.

GOLD

\$250

One ticket for Reserved Chairback seating for all home games and access to three Hospitality rooms.

PRESIDENTIAL

\$500

One ticket for Reserved Chairback seating for all home games. Pullover or Polo UC Basketball shirt. Access to President's Box for basketball games and one Football game. Access to one practice (RSVP).

CORPORATE

\$2,500

Five tickets for Reserved Chairback seating for all home games. Pullover or Polo UC Basketball shirt. Access to President's Box for basketball games and one Football game. Access to one practice (RSVP). Dinner with coaches.



2025-2026 HOME OPPONENTS



[Click HERE to purchase your Golden Eagle Basketball Season Tickets!!](#)

SAVE THE DATES ALUMNI GATHERINGS

AT THE UC BASKETBALL GAMES

DECEMBER 10, 2025

UC VS WEST LIBERTY
WEHRLE ARENA



FEBRUARY 7, 2026

UC VS FROSTBURG STATE
WEHRLE ARENA



UC
ALUMNI

JOIN TODAY!
UC **ALUMNI**
ASSOCIATION

The '25-'26 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 UC lunch cooler and UC icons lanyard, 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 UC icons lanyard, invitations to special events, discounts, and more.

The next UCAA Zoom Meeting will be November 19, 2025 @ 4:00 pm 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 -
Janice Wilking, Jason Burns, Lisa Woo, Jim and Michelle Dempsey, James Triplett, Megan Keffer, Sara Stelfox, Dianna Carpenter, Carolyn Burton, and Stephanie Tallman.

In Memorium

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

Donna Goebel, '82

Ann Saville, '78

Lisa Dellisola, '75

Judy Taylor Farley, '74

Floretta Jarvis Nestor, '73 (died at age 105)

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, OCTOBER 14, 2025

12-1 pm | UC Downtown Innovation Hub

MATT HERRIDGE

WV Secretary of Commerce

**WEST VIRGINIA'S ECONOMIC FUTURE:
Insights from the Secretary of Commerce**

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

[RSVP for the Speaker Series HERE!](#)



Please join us for lunch with guest speaker

LYNN ELDRIDGE

national award winning author
of contemporary and historical
romantic suspense.

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

11:30 a.m. | Meet and Greet

Noon | Meeting and Luncheon

Erma Byrd Gallery | Rigglesman Hall

RSVP on or before Wednesday, October 15
to christinacarr@ucwv.edu | 304-357-4734.

[RSVP for the Builders Luncheon HERE!](#)

Don't Just Imagine It, Come Have a Day of Spooktacular Fun!

EXPERIENCE **UC** **NURSING**

UNIVERSITY OF CHARLESTON DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

BOOT CAMP

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21 | 6-9PM

CHARLESTON CAMPUS

Open to all high school students. Free to all attendees.

LEARN MORE: 



To learn more or register, please contact Jessica Pistner
at jessicapistner@ucwv.edu.



UC MBA
SPEAKER SERIES

Lunch sponsored by:
 **UNITED BANK**

REGISTRATION REQUIRED: 

CHYRESS OBREGON
Chick-Fil-A Owner/Operator
and UC Graduate, Class of 2016

**MY JOURNEY FROM STUDENT
ATHLETE TO ENTREPRENEUR**

Tuesday, November 18, 2025
12 p.m. | Erma Byrd Gallery

[RSVP for the MBA 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](#)



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