



OFFICIAL UC ALUMNI NEWSLETTER / February 2026 / VOLUME VII ISSUE II



We keep promising each other that Spring is just around the corner!

Despite prolonged cold, windy, and icy conditions, we have largely been unaffected by winter weather. We seamlessly transitioned to remote learning for two days as some students and employees faced hazardous travel conditions. Otherwise, the Spring 2026 semester has been full of traditional classroom, lab, and clinical activities, as well as various

academic, athletic, cultural, and social events.

One of the best things about being in higher education is being around terrific students every day. Here are two recent student accomplishments I want to share with you.

As this is the time of year that the West Virginia legislature is in session, we are pleased that not one, but two UC students were selected as Herndon Fellows. The Judith A. Herndon Fellowship is a prestigious, competitive program for West Virginia undergraduate students (typically 10 per year) to work directly with the state legislature during its session. Open to juniors and seniors from all West Virginia colleges, the fellowship provides in-depth experience in state government, public policy, and the legislative process. We are proud of Maliah McCann-Coles

and Abbi Roberts for being selected, and know they will learn a lot while providing valuable assistance to legislators over the coming months.

Also, the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Undergraduate Research Day at the state capitol occurs this month. Students from around the state will present posters of their research between the House and Senate chambers. We are excited that UC has 26 students presenting their research – the 2<sup>nd</sup> most of any school, and we suspect the most per capita across all West Virginia colleges and universities. This is a testament to the motivated students that come to UC to learn and prepare for post-graduate careers and the great mentorship our faculty provide them.

As UC alumni and friends, I hope these students' accomplishments come as no surprise. They would not be possible without your support for scholarships, programmatic funding, and other contributions that support student experiences.

I hope that the rest of your winter is mild, that daffodils and tulips are abundant soon, and that your travels bring you to campus or the Downtown Innovation Hub for upcoming events very soon!

Best regards,

Marty



### **Enlightened Living Days 2026**

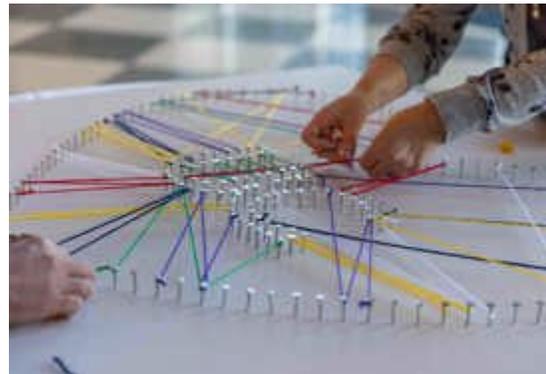
Each year, the University of Charleston invites its campus and community to pause, reflect, and engage through Enlightened Living Days—a visionary initiative rooted in UC's mission and its pillar of enlightened living. The week is

designed to move learning beyond the classroom, offering workshops, discussions, and shared experiences that empower students and community members to grow as compassionate, engaged citizens committed to the betterment of society.

The week began on Monday, January 19, with a series of programs honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Through breakfast discussions, welcome remarks from President Marty Roth, educational programming, and a screening of *Selma*, participants were encouraged to reflect on justice, service, and

leadership. The kickoff of the UC Strands of Unity String Art Installation and the Unity Walk & Celebration further symbolized the importance of connection, belonging, and shared responsibility. As the Community Engagement Committee shared, “MLK Day reminds us that leadership begins with service and courage,” calling the campus to actively build a community rooted in justice, respect, and care.

Momentum continued throughout the week, culminating in Thursday’s events focused on empathy, resilience, and understanding. Interactive workshops, a resiliency roundtable, and a powerful film screening—*Ireland West Camino: A Pilgrimage Reborn*, featuring the work of UC’s own Thomas Breiter—invited participants to better understand the challenges others face and respond with compassion. These experiences reflected the heart of Enlightened Living Days and reinforced a central message shared by the Community Engagement Committee: compassion is not a single event, but a daily choice. Together, the week served as a meaningful reminder of UC’s commitment to ensuring every individual feels seen, supported, and valued—hallmarks of an enlightened community.





Alumnus Returns to Campus  
for Speaker Series

**The MBA Speaker Series spring lineup featured a proud member of our community who returned to share their professional journey.**

Greg Hoyer ('00) is the Vice President of External Affairs and Government Relations for Hope Gas and Hope Utilities. Greg is a respected external affairs professional with twenty years of industry experience across multiple states and at the federal

level. He most recently served as Vice President of Government Affairs for Diversified Energy.

Prior to joining Diversified, Greg served as Senior Government Affairs Manager for EQT Corporation, helped develop and manage the government affairs practice for Charleston, WV – based LGCR Government Solutions, and held various positions in government and politics.

Greg is an avid cyclist and skier. He lives in Charleston, WV with his wife and daughter and is active in the local community.

Thanks for being with us, Golden Eagle!

Thank you, PRAY Construction, for sponsoring this speaker series.

During his visit, Greg, on behalf of Hope Gas, presented a \$100,000 gift to support UC Works — a scholarship and work program that allows eligible students to attend school with no out-of-pocket tuition costs and no student loans.



We are grateful for partners who invest in both our students and our state!

Pictured from left to right is Dr. Beth Wolfe - EVP of Enrollment Management, President Marty Roth, Greg Hoyer, and Gail Carter- VP of University Development.



**Give for GOLD** is almost here, and we're excited to invite you to be part of one of the most meaningful days of the year for our campus community.

On **Tuesday, February 24, 2026**, alumni, friends, faculty, staff, and supporters from across the country will come together for **24 hours of generosity** in support of the students and programs that make UC soar.

This year's Give for GOLD will follow the same successful format as last year, allowing donors to direct their support to the area of campus that matters most to them. Whether you're passionate about academic excellence, student success, or Golden Eagle Athletics, your generosity will make a direct and immediate impact.

**Here's what your support will help make possible:**

#### **Academic Programs & Student Opportunities**

Gifts will support professional development, hands-on learning experiences, and resources that help our students prepare for success beyond the classroom.

#### **Golden Eagle Athletics – Training & Recovery Equipment**

This year's athletic focus is on upgrading training and recovery equipment, ensuring our student-athletes have the tools they need to perform at their best, stay healthy, and compete at the highest level, both on and off the field.

We'll be sharing more details as **February 24** approaches, including ways you can help spread the word and maximize your impact on Give for GOLD.

Thank you for believing in our students, our faculty, and the future of the University of Charleston. We can't wait to celebrate Give for GOLD with you.

**Save the date. Spread the word. Give for GOLD.**

Every Gift Matters. The UCAA Zoom Call will include more information on how YOU can make an impact!



**JOIN US!**

**UC**  
**ALUMNI**  
ASSOCIATION

 **ZOOM MEETING**  
**FEBRUARY 19TH**  
**4:00 PM EST**

We will be joined by special guest, Kasey Ferguson, UC Head Athletic Trainer. Learn more about how your **Give for GOLD** donation will impact the UC Athletics Department.

All Alumni and Friends are welcome to join this special edition Zoom chat!

[Sign Up to Join the Zoom Call HERE!](#)



### **Fast, Flat & Fun...The UC Marathon**

**We're so excited for the inaugural University of Charleston Marathon on a fast, flat, Boston Qualifier certified course taking you through the most iconic parts of the Capital City.**

**Here's what you need to know:**

- The 5K is on Saturday, April 11**
- The Half & Marathon are Sunday, April 12**
- The Party at Slack Plaza is during the marathon**

**Follow the link below to register!**

[\*\*Learn More and Sign Up HERE!\*\*](#)

**UC**

**BUY A BRICK**

SUPPORT THE ANNUAL FUND

**\$250**

4X8 BRICK - 3 ENGRAVED LINES  
20 CHARACTERS PER LINE

University of Charleston  
Class of 2025  
Congratulations!

#WINGSUP!  
LYNN & MARTY ROTH

For more information and  
to donate:

For \$250, you can purchase a personalized brick that will be placed on the sidewalk between Riggleman Hall and the Geary Student Union. This is a unique opportunity to leave a lasting legacy on the University of Charleston campus. Bricks will be installed in Spring 2026, and your contribution will directly support UC's continued growth through the Annual Fund. Secure your brick today and become a permanent part of UC's history!

Thank you for your support! Click [HERE](#) to learn more and donate!

A longtime UC Basketball supporter, Avas Hamon ('68) purchased a brick to honor some of his favorite players, including Dakota Reeves ('23). We were excited to capture this moment when the two connected at last weekend's alumni gathering.

Get your order placed by **February 27th** and honor someone with a brick!



# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

**Vernon Lovejoy, '71**

**Veteran. Conservation Leader.  
Global Advocate for Public Lands.**

Vernon Lovejoy has lived a life defined by service—first to his country, then to the stewardship of public lands, and to communities around the world. A Purple Heart–recipient and Vietnam combat veteran from Hamlin, West Virginia, Lovejoy's journey from military leadership to national and international conservation influence reflects

resilience, vision, and a lifelong commitment to making places better than he found them.

Seeking a school close to home, Lovejoy found Morris Harvey College to be a place of transition, healing, and opportunity. He credits two professors in particular—Dr. Thomas Lowe and Dr. Charles Lieble—for helping him navigate the shift from military to civilian life. “I give them a lot of credit for making Charleston a great place, and I found a home there,” Lovejoy says. “I still credit UC for helping me be a success. Since then, I have taken classes from ten other colleges across the country, and UC is my favorite.”

His professional career would span decades and shape outdoor recreation policy across the United States. After graduate school, Lovejoy accepted a position in Mobile, Alabama, then relocated to Wyoming, where he spent twelve years building expertise in parks, recreation, and tourism. His work eventually led him to Denver and the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), where he rose to roles of national leadership, including National Manager of the Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Program, and overseeing programs across seventeen western states.

Among his most enduring contributions was his role as one of five individuals who helped create the **America the Beautiful – National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass**, formerly known as the Golden Eagle Pass. Today, millions of Americans use this pass to access public lands—often unaware that a UC graduate's work helped make it possible.

For the past 15 years, he has worked extensively in Belize, advising on the management of 103 protected areas and helping develop strategies to generate revenue, drive tourism, and support local economies through sustainable practices. His work includes feasibility projects that elevate regions to National Heritage Destination status, strengthening both conservation outcomes and economic vitality.

Despite residing in Colorado, Lovejoy maintains deep ties with Charleston and West Virginia. One of his most meaningful contributions was to the West Virginia State Museum at the Capitol. After Vietnam, Lovejoy preserved numerous artifacts but had no clear plan for them—until the museum learned he was a West Virginia native and asked him to donate. Not only did he deliver a truckload of personal items, but he also encouraged museum staff to collect artifacts from his late mother's home. An avid collector of West Virginia history, her collection—combined with Lovejoy's—resulted in hundreds of donated items. Today, Vernon Lovejoy is the museum's single largest donor. The UC connection continues there

as well, with museum director Charles Morris also being a University of Charleston graduate, class of 1976.

Outside of his professional life, Lovejoy is an avid world traveler, having visited 25 countries, and has enjoyed big-game safari hunting in Africa. He has been married to his wife, Lori, for over 25 years.

Read Vernon's full story [HERE](#).

During visits to WV, Vernon often had the honor of chauffeuring Brigadier General Chuck Yeager, who was also raised in Hamlin, WV.





# Athletics

---

## CORNER

**Several spring sports are beginning their seasons off campus, but get ready to cheer on the teams when they play their first home games.** To get the full schedules for all teams, visit <https://ucgoldeneagles.com/index.aspx>.

**Baseball** will hit the Welch Athletic Complex field against Seton Hill University on February 21 at 4:00 p.m. and February 22 at 2:30 p.m. Their next home game isn't until Tuesday, March 10, against Shawnee State University. The team was picked as the divisional favorite in the South in the MEC baseball preseason poll.

**Lacrosse** will play its first home game on Sunday, February 22, at 11:00 a.m. against Walsh University. The team was second in the MEC preseason poll, just behind Frostburg State.

The Golden Eagle Invitational will be held at the WAC, with **softball** playing several games that weekend. The UC Invitational will take place the following weekend, with plenty of softball action. After winning their third straight MEC Championship, UC was selected as the South Divisional favorite, picked as the number one team.

**Tennis** gets underway at the Schoenbaum Courts against Wayne State University on Saturday, February 21, and against Tiffin University on Sunday, February 22. Both teams came in at the number one spot in the MEC preseason poll.



*University of Charleston*

# NIKE SOCCER CAMP

JUNE 15-19  
JULY 13-17



Register for the Nike Soccer Camp [HERE!](#)

Never miss a game! Click [HERE](#) for a full athletic schedule.

# UC *online* ★★ ★★ ★★ ★★ ★★ BOOKSTORE



Shop the online bookstore [HERE](#) for all your UC Gear and Gifts!



—SAVE THE DATE—

# HOMECOMING AND FAMILY WEEKEND

SEPTEMBER 25 & 26

2026

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.

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

**Thank you to those who joined or renewed their membership this past month -** Christine Spaulding, James Holland, and Jonathan Caldwell.

---

---

### ***In Memorium***

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

T.S. Tinsley, '71

Russell Harrison, '71

Mary Blaine McLaughlin, '72

Norman Lindell, '75

Mary Ann Duncan Arthur, '70

Janet Hill Benincosa, '71

David K. Clarke, '60

Judy Hackworth Dunn, '62

**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!

[Register for the Two View Series HERE!](#)



CELEBRATE  
**BLACK  
HISTORY  
MONTH**  
WITH  
THE UC CHOIR CONCERT  
**HONORING THE  
HERITAGE:**  
A CELEBRATION OF  
**BLACK COMPOSERS**

**FEB 22**

**3:00PM**

**RIGGLEMAN ROTUNDA**



# UC 2.24.26 GIVE FOR GOLD SO ALL EAGLES CAN SOAR



Hebrew isn't just a language — it's a time capsule of Jewish history, culture, and humor.



## ELON GILAD

Columnist for Haaretz Newspaper  
Historian, Writer, and Language Expert Specializing in  
Hebrew Etymology and Jewish History.

### FROM THE BIBLE TO BALAGAN: The Secret Life of Hebrew Words

February 25 | 6pm

Erma Byrd Gallery, Riggleman Hall

*Light Reception to Follow the Speaker*

*Sponsored by*

B'nai Jacob Synagogue, Temple Israel  
and the University of Charleston

*Reception sponsored by*

Liz & Louis Weisberg and Family



A *New York Times* Bestselling author, described in the *Wall Street Journal* as "the premier futurist in the national-security environment" and "all-around smart guy"



AN EVENING WITH

## PETER SINGER

Strategist, Author, and Professor

### NEXTTECH: The Future of Technology, Security and Threats

March 19, 2026

5-6pm: Reception | Rotunda, Riggleman Hall

6-7pm: Speaker Event | Auditorium, Riggleman Hall



Admission is free;  
registration is recommended;  
seating is limited.

Sponsored by: Elizabeth and Herschiel Sims Fund



Register for this event [HERE!](#)

# 3RD ANNUAL ALUMNI GATHERING

SATURDAY  
MAY 30



IN OCEANPORT, NEW JERSEY!  
MONMOUTH PARK RACE TRACK

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**



Contact Jon Block with further questions - 732-299-1287 or  
[rawtac@yahoo.com](mailto:rawtac@yahoo.com)

**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

VP for University Development

304-357-4849

[gailcarter@ucwv.edu](mailto:gailcarter@ucwv.edu)

Christina Carr

Director of Alumni Relations

304-357-4734

[christinacarr@ucwv.edu](mailto:christinacarr@ucwv.edu)

[Unsubscribe](#)

[University of Charleston](#)

[www.ucwv.edu](http://www.ucwv.edu)

