



OFFICIAL UC ALUMNI NEWSLETTER / March 2026 / VOLUME VII ISSUE III



Dear Alumni and Friends,

As we welcome the month of March, I want to share my heartfelt gratitude for the incredible generosity shown during **Give for Gold 2026**. Because of donors like you, we raised **\$153,000** for the University of Charleston, with support from more than **1,200 donors**. Your commitment to UC continues to inspire us, and we are truly proud and grateful for your partnership.

With spring just around the corner, campus is already beginning to show signs of new energy. Soon we'll see students back out on the lawn—studying together, reconnecting with friends, and taking in the beautiful view of the Capitol and the West Virginia mountains. It's one of the most special times of year at UC, and your support helps create an environment where our students can learn, thrive, and dream boldly.

We also have an exciting lineup of **educational programs, campus activities, and athletic events** in the months ahead. I invite you to explore our newsletter and visit our website to stay informed about all the opportunities to stay engaged with UC.

Thank you once again for your generosity, your trust, and your belief in our mission - to educate our students for a life of productive work, enlightened living and community service. We are building an extraordinary future for our students and our university.

With appreciation,

**Gail Carter**

Vice President of Development  
University of Charleston

**Thank You!**

**UC** **2.24.26**  
**GIVE FOR GOLD**  
**SO ALL EAGLES CAN SOAR**



**Let There Be Cake as We Celebrate!** We are very grateful to the more than 1,200 donors who participated in Give for Gold 2026, raising over \$150,000! While the primary funding goal this year was to enhance our university's athletic training and recovery equipment, gifts also supported our Student Supply Fund, scholarships, each of our four academic schools, and our Annual Fund.

On behalf of the entire campus community, we extend our sincere thanks to every donor who chose to invest in UC and our students. The continued generosity of our alumni and friends reflects the strong sense of community that makes UC such a special place, and we are grateful for the many ways you continue to support the next generation of Golden Eagles.

Every gift makes a meaningful impact on our students, and we appreciate everyone who helped make Give for Gold 2026 such a **success**.

A special thank you goes to our Give for Gold Champions: Nettie Horne, Kim and Rory Isaac, Phil Morabito, Ann Moran, Dave Gallagher, Clark Mechanical Services LLC, and Pray Construction Company.

**NETTIE HORNE**

**KIM AND RORY ISAAC**

**PHIL MORABITO**

**ANN MORAN**

**DAVE GALLAGHER**



CLARK MECHANICAL SERVICES, LLC

**PRAY**

Construction Company

DESIGN-BUILDERS • GENERAL CONTRACTORS

**UC GIVE FOR GOLD**



Cinderella stories, busted brackets, and serious alumni bragging rights—our March Madness bracket challenge is back. Are your picks ready?

Prizes Up for Grabs:

**1st Place** - \$50 Visa Gift Card and UC t-shirt

**2nd Place** - \$25 Visa Gift Card and UC t-shirt

**3rd Place** - UC T-shirt and water bottle

[Register to enter a Women's Bracket HERE.](#)

[Register to enter a Men's Bracket HERE.](#)

**UC**  
PRESENTS

AN EVENING WITH  
**PETER SINGER**  
Strategist, Author, and Professor

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

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**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 **AARP** West Virginia

*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"*

**Pete Singer**, a New York Times bestselling author, strategist, and professor, will offer his views on “NextTech – the Future of Technology, Security, and Threats.” Singer is the author of *Cybersecurity and Cyberwar: What Everyone Needs to Know*, and *LikeWar: The Weaponization of Social Media*. He is a recognized expert in cybersecurity, drone warfare, and related areas.

The event will take place in the Auditorium from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. A reception will be held in the Rotunda before the talk at 5:00 p.m. It is sponsored by the Elizabeth and Herschiel Sims Fund and AARP.

[Register for this special event HERE.](#)



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!](#)

# ALUMNI

# SPOTLIGHT



## **Empowered by Experience: Four Alumni Reflect on Leadership, Confidence, and Community at UC**

For many women, the college experience is more than earning a degree—it's a time of discovering their voice, building confidence, and finding mentors who shape the path ahead. At the University of Charleston, that journey often continues long after graduation.

Four UC alumni who now serve as faculty members shared how their

experiences as students helped empower them as women and leaders, and how those lessons continue to influence the way they mentor and teach the next generation.

For **Professor Shehna Kahn ('98)** of the School of Business, the relationships she built during her time as a student left a lasting impact.

She recalls that UC provided not only a strong academic foundation, but also a culture of collaboration and encouragement that helped shape her personal and professional growth. As an international student arriving in a new country, the support of classmates and faculty helped her discover her path.



Today, as a faculty member herself, Kahn strives to extend that same encouragement to her students through mentorship and engagement. She believes resilience, collaboration, and lifting other women along the way are essential to success in higher education and beyond.

*“The culture that UC intentionally cultivates helps empower its graduates to have personal and professional success. Now, as a faculty member, I try to continue that culture by mentoring students and supporting the success of others.”*



For **Professor Jennifer Hoffman ('96)** of the School of Arts and Sciences, empowerment came through opportunity and perseverance.

As one of the only—and possibly the only—female math major during her time at UC in the mid-1990s, Hoffman often studied independently, developing the discipline and confidence that would define her career. While working in the university’s former MET Center

computer lab, she quickly moved into a student management role—her first taste of leadership.

That experience helped prepare her for an unexpected opportunity shortly after graduation. Encouraged by a UC employee to apply for a suddenly vacant math faculty position, Hoffman took a leap of faith and was hired just months after earning her bachelor's degree.

Nearly three decades later, she has progressed through the academic ranks to become a full professor and department chair. Hoffman now encourages faculty and students alike to pursue opportunities boldly—even when they feel uncertain.

*“Don’t be afraid to put yourself out there because you never know what can happen if you dream big and go for it.”*

For **Professor Kristi Barnett ('85)** of the School of Health Sciences, her UC education became a gateway to independence and purpose.

As a first-generation college student who started at UC just weeks after graduating high school, Barnett says she initially had little understanding of how transformative higher education could be. Over time, however, she recognized the power that education holds in shaping a person's future.



Today, as an educator in the radiologic science program, she sees that same transformation in her students—many of whom are women seeking careers that allow them to support themselves and their families. For Barnett, helping students gain confidence in their abilities and step beyond their comfort zones is one of the most rewarding parts of her work.

*“Nothing ventured, nothing gained. Growth does not happen in comfort zones, and it is incredible to watch students take that leap and begin to believe in their own abilities.”*



For **Dr. Kristen Dugan ('14)**, Dean of School of Leadership, UC demonstrated what leadership can look like for women.

Since joining the university after completing the Doctor of Executive Leadership program, Dugan has grown from program director to dean. "UC has been a place where women are not only supported, but where their voices and perspectives are valued. Being part of that environment has strengthened my

own confidence as a leader and deepened my commitment to developing the next generation of leaders."

Today, Dugan focuses on helping students recognize their own leadership potential. She encourages them to embrace learning through experience, reminding them that leadership is not about having all the answers, but about remaining curious, open, and willing to grow.

*"Remember that leadership is not about having all the answers. It is about being willing to learn, to listen, and to grow. If you stay curious and open to the opportunities around you, your voice and your path will begin to take shape in ways you may not have expected."*



**Athletics**  
**CORNER**

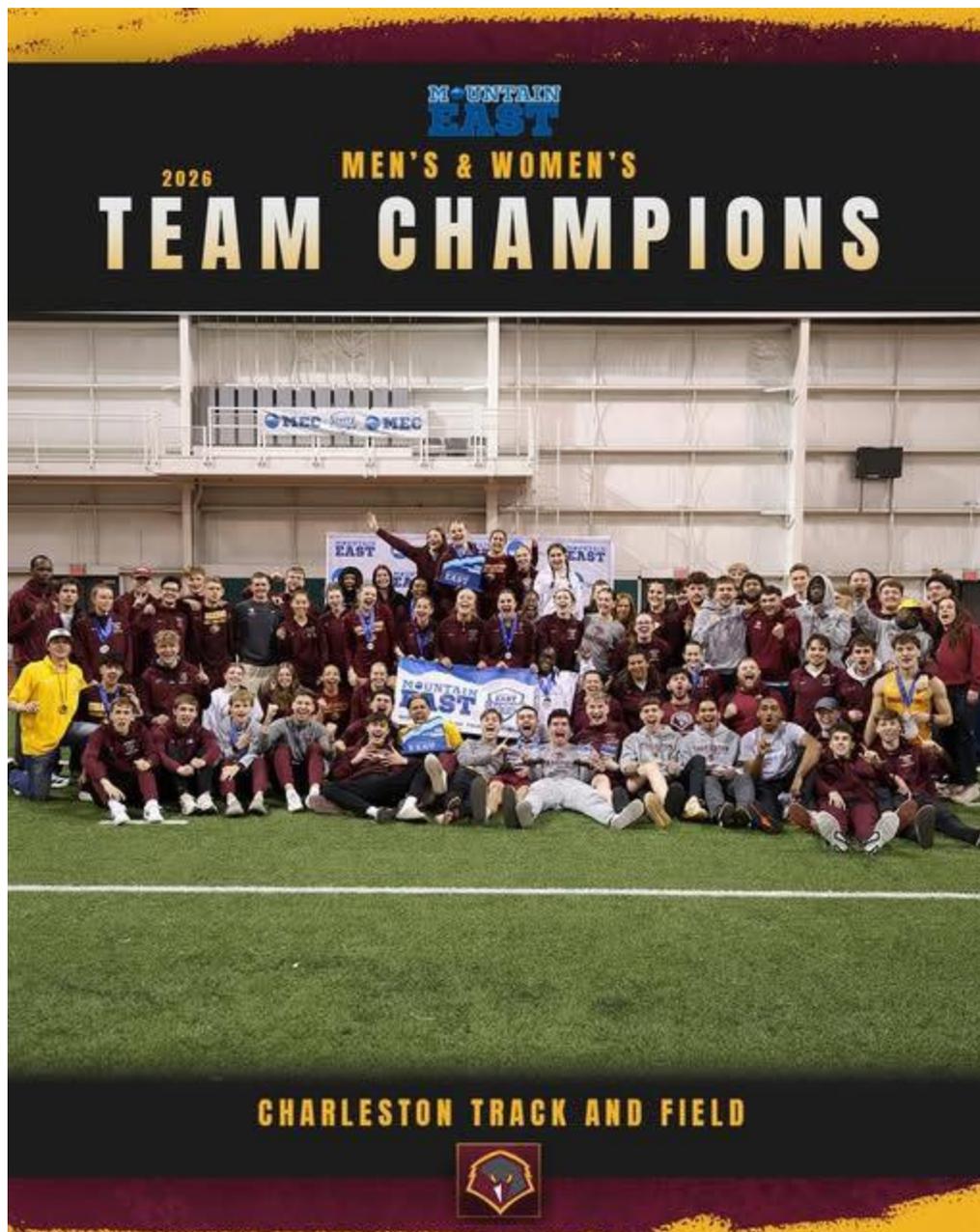
UNIVERSITY OF CHARLESTON



CLASS OF 2026

**HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN**

[Nominate a Golden Eagle HERE.](#)



### **2025 MEC Champions Men's and Women's Indoor Track and Field**

With over 100 athletes, you'll have to zoom in to really see their faces. Happy, happy faces!

The men's team has won the last 3 titles and its 5th championship in 6 years. They earned a team total of 177 points, defeating Point Park by 94 points. UC's Track Athlete of the Year and Freshman of the Year, Matthew Meli, won the 3000m, the one mile, and the 4000m DMR. Coach Nick Bias was named the MEC Men's Coach of the Year.

The women's team won their 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive championship with a team total of 140 points. Championship MVP honors were awarded to Laura Delgado de Torres after winning the Indoor Pentathlon and the triple jump. Collete Patti received the Track Athlete of the Year, setting a meet MEC record in the 200m, 24.29, and capturing the 60m title. Additionally, Joy Edward set an MEC record in the shot put, hurling the stone 14.78m. Coach Bias was named the MEC Women's Coach of the Year - Lot's of shelf space needed for Coach Bias' awards!



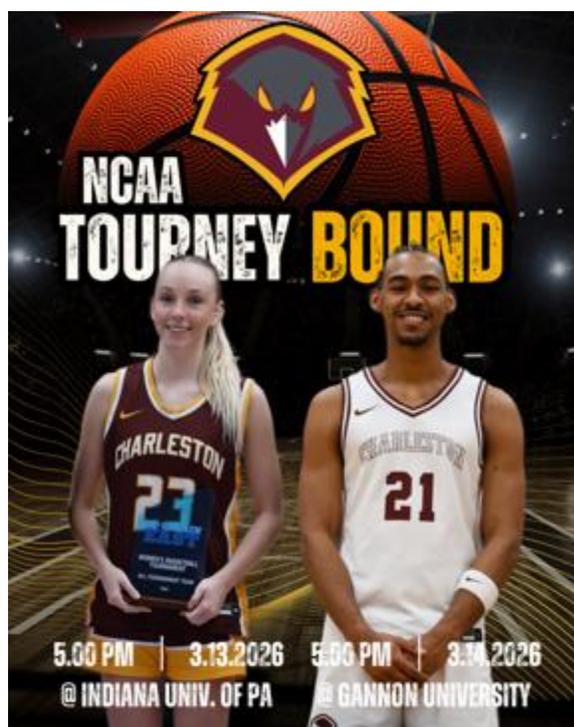
**Head Coach Bubby Johnson led the Women's Basketball team to MEC Championship Victory!** The #3 Charleston team defeated #1 Glenville State with a score of 48-43. Read how the game played out [HERE](#).

UC Men's and Women's Basketball teams aren't finished yet. Up next, they are headed to the NCAA Division II Tournament this weekend. The women will compete first on Friday, March 13th at IUP with the men following on Saturday at Gannon University.

Follow the tournament brackets and watch live at [NCAA.com](https://www.ncaa.com).

[Click HERE for the women's link.](#)

[Click HERE for the men's link.](#)



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

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# 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!



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 -**  
Marie Ann Barnhart

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***In Memorium***

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

Michael Gibbs, '79

Gail Sargent, '63

**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!



Students interested in learning more about UC are invited to campus for our Spring 2026 Open House event on Friday, March 20th. The event will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Experience campus firsthand, meet faculty and current students, explore academic programs, and discover all that UC has to offer. Whether you're just starting your college search or ready to apply, this is the perfect opportunity to picture yourself as part of our community. There is a limit of two guests per attendee, and lunch will be served.

Those interested in attending should register by Tuesday, March 17th to reserve their space for the event.

[RSVP for the Admissions event HERE!](#)

INSPIRING INNOVATION SPEAKER SERIES  
**THINKING OUTSIDE THE  
LUNCHBOX**

Join us

**THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026**

12-1 pm | UC Downtown Innovation Hub

**FILM INDUSTRY OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR SMALL BUSINESSES**

**FEATURING**

**Robert Tinnell**, Founder - Allegheny Image Factory

**Jeffery Tinnell**, Founder - Allegheny Image Factory

**Meghan Smith**, Manager, Business Development at WV Economic Development

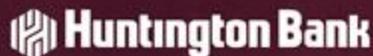
**MODERATOR**

**Jamie Cope**, Executive Director of Innovation



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

Series sponsored by:



Catering by:



[RSVP for the Lunchbox Series 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)

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