



OFFICIAL UC ALUMNI NEWSLETTER / April 2026 / VOLUME VIII ISSUE IIII



Alumni and Friends,

Plans and celebrations are well underway for our Spring 2026 commencement ceremonies next month.

We will soon complete our Spring 2026 semester. Over 500 students will be graduating with UC degrees! We will host two

commencement ceremonies at 10 am and 1 pm on Saturday May 2nd. We expect about 160-170 students at each along with their families, friends, and other guests to help them celebrate. Many graduates who are unable to attend in person will enjoy the ceremonies via livestream. Local broadcast journalist Amanda Barren will deliver the morning commencement address, and alumnus Dr. Ryan Moran, a public health executive, will provide one in the afternoon. With a journalist and a public health expert as our commencement speakers, we'll get the facts, the science, and—if the stars align—a perfectly timed reminder that both good storytelling and attentive care can set the tone for the next chapter in life. I am certain they will inspire all of us.

This week we are very excited to bring a marathon back to the Capitol City! Working closely with the Mayor's Office and the Convention and Visitors Bureau, we are hosting the "UC Marathon" Sunday April 12th. Over 550 runners are registered for the full and half marathons, representing 37 states and five countries. This will be a win for Charleston as a sport tourism event, a win for area runners, and a big win for UC's Honors College which is coordinating the event and will use the proceeds to enrich students' experiences. The race starts and ends on Capitol Street near UC's Downtown Innovation Hub, with the route going through

downtown, the West Side, East End, UC's campus, and Kanawha City. You can learn more about the UC Marathon by clicking [here](#).

In the meantime, there are no lack of activities between now and then. Students will be working on term papers, completing research projects, and studying for exams. Faculty will be racing to the end of their syllabi and bracing for end-of-semester grading endurance contests. Staff will enthusiastically encourage both groups to the finish lines. On the way there, we will applaud at many hooding and white coat ceremonies, cheer on the Golden Eagles at outdoor athletic events, and find some time to enjoy amazing spring weather!

Wherever you are, cheer loudly for our graduates and marathon runners. Your support of UC is instrumental in helping others start their journeys and reach their finish lines!

Best regards,

Marty



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 (UC campus)
- The Half & Marathon are Sunday, April 12 (downtown Charleston)
- The Party at Slack Plaza is during the marathon

Follow the link below to register!

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



Hey Golden Eagles!

Thanks to everyone who jumped into the bracket challenge, we love having a little friendly competition that connects us no matter where you've landed.

Now, full transparency...my bracket strategy is *not* based on logical things like rankings, coaches, or team history. We're talking more like team colors, mascots, and whether one of my besties is a fan -yes, I'm *that* girl. So you can imagine my shock when I somehow WON!? I mirrored Ryan Gosling's reaction to when he won Best Song for "I'm Just Ken." Total disbelief.

Although winning is fun, bragging rights with my avid sports fan husband is enough for me! I'm passing mine along and bumping up 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place to take home the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes in the men's bracket challenge.

In the meantime, you should all be making plans to be in Charleston for Homecoming!

See ya in September!

Christina Carr- Director of Alumni Relations



Men's Bracket:

- 1st place - Tom Cappaert, '89
- 2nd place - Rick Ferris, UC Faculty
- 3rd place - Lynn Radzilowski, '98

Women's Bracket:

- 1st place- Josh Camp, '15
- 2nd place-Todd Robinson, '89
- 3rd place- Logan Cox, '17

RETIREMENT
Celebration

You are cordially invited to celebrate the remarkable career of

Suzanne King
in honor of her 45 years of dedicated service.

APRIL 24 | 4:00 - 5:30 PM
Riggleman Hall Rotunda

RSVP: 
<https://tinyurl.com/233w9w7t>

In honor of Suzanne's work, we're launching a scholarship for accounting students. Donations are welcome. For more information, contact Gail Carter at gailcarter@ucwv.edu | 304-357-4849



[RSVP for the reception HERE.](https://tinyurl.com/233w9w7t)

If you would like to share a note of well wishes or memory with Suzanne, please send to christinacarr@ucwv.edu. Notes will be shared collectively with Suzanne as part of the celebration.

[Contribute to the J. Suzanne King Scholarship Fund HERE.](#)

ALUMNI

SPOTLIGHT



Sue Bailey, '80

When Sue Bailey planned a simple stop in Charleston last month, she had no idea it would turn into something unforgettable.

A 1980 graduate of the University, Sue decided to visit campus during her travels and sent out a casual message to a few friends—an open invitation to meet for lunch at the student union. What happened next was something special.

“To my surprise, eight actually showed up!” Sue shared.

Old roommates, sorority sisters, and dear friends gathered together—including Dr. Bren Stevens ('80), a former classmate and sorority sister who now serves as UC's Athletic Director. In an instant, time seemed to collapse.

One of the most meaningful moments of the visit came when Sue walked out to the riverbank—a place that held deep personal significance during her college years.

“That was sacred space to me,” she reflected. “I used to sit out there with my guitar, and one by one, people would join me until there’d be a big group just relaxing, talking, singing—magical times.”

Sue graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Physical Education, along with an endorsement in Special Education. After college, she began working with the Charleston Parks and Recreation Department—but her passion for music soon took center stage.

What started as side performances in local hotels and restaurants grew into a full-time career. Sue eventually returned briefly to New Jersey, performing in clubs before making a bold move to Nashville in 1988 to pursue songwriting.

Read the rest of Sue's story [HERE](#).





Athletics

CORNER

A Short Report from the Golden Eagle Athletics Department:

Spring sports are in full swing, and despite some early weather challenges, the Golden Eagles are building momentum across the board as they head into the heart of conference play.

Baseball has shown resilience through a tough early schedule and key injuries, settling into Mountain East Conference action with a 7–7 record and continued improvement. Softball is leading the charge with an impressive 28–10 overall mark and an 12–2 conference record, positioning themselves among the league’s top contenders.

Women’s lacrosse continues to progress with a 8–5 overall record and strong conference start, while men’s volleyball (13–12) is coming off a competitive weekend with a marquee home matchup against nationally ranked Penn State and will wrap up their regular season schedule in Newark, NJ April 10 & 11.

Both tennis programs remain unbeaten in conference play at 4–0, and golf is building on a strong spring start after first-place finishes to open the season.

Track and field is delivering one of the most exciting seasons in program history, with multiple school records, NCAA provisional marks, and top conference rankings. The Golden Eagles will host their only home meet this Friday, alongside a Senior Day celebration.

Did You Know?

UC’s track and field program includes more than 100 student-athletes from across the globe, making it one of the largest and most diverse programs in the Mountain East Conference—and a key driver of both competitive success and campus growth.

UC BASEBALL ALUMNI WEEKEND



FRIDAY, 4/24

TBD - Open practice with the team

SATURDAY, 4/25

2 pm - Tailgate

4 pm - Double Header UC vs Concord University

SUNDAY, 4/26

1 pm - Double Header UC vs Concord University

Free admission to all games.

RSVP for one or more of the weekend's events with the QR code or contact Christina Carr, christinacarr@ucwv.edu or 304-357-4734



[RSVP for the Baseball Alumni Weekend HERE!](#)

UNIVERSITY OF CHARLESTON



CLASS OF 2026

HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

[Nominate a Golden Eagle HERE.](#)



NIGHT AT THE NEST

MONDAY, MAY 4TH | 6:00PM

H. BERNARD SR. WEHRLE ARENA

CELEBRATE THE 2025-26 GOLDEN EAGLES SEASON

MINGLE WITH COACHES | DRINKS | HEAVY HORS D'OEUVRES

[Learn more and RSVP HERE.](#)

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

EXPERIENCE **UC** 
NURSING

UNIVERSITY OF CHARLESTON DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

BOOT CAMP

Monday, May 4 | 5-8 pm

UC-BECKLEY CAMPUS 167 DYE DRIVE, BECKLEY, WV 25801

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

FOR INFORMATION & TO REGISTER:

Kennita Thomas

kennitalthomas@ucv.v.edu

Registration Deadline: April 28, 2026



[Learn more and register HERE!](#)

UC  **online** ★★★★★
BOOKSTORE



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



—SAVE THE DATE—

HOMECOMING AND FAMILY WEEKEND **2026**

SEPTEMBER 25 & 26



CELEBRATING
60 YEARS
OF NURSING EDUCATION

HOMECOMING
AND FAMILY WEEKEND **2026**

SAVE THE DATE!
Friday, September 25

NURSING REUNION CELEBRATION

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 -
Lynn Radzilowski, Anna Georgetson

In Memorium

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

Glenn Duty, '59

Leland Rice, '68

Anna Carol Melton Greer, '61

Kyle Spradling, '77

Denver Lawson Freeman, '74

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!



JOURNEYS OF SPRING



UC BAND & CHOIR
CONCERT



APRIL 19, 2026
3:00 PM

**GEARY AUDITORIUM &
RIGGLEMAN ROTUNDA**



UNIVERSITY OF
CHARLESTON
UNIVERSITY BUILDERS



Please join us for the
**ANNUAL
ARTIST AMONG US
LUNCHEON**
with special guest **Joyce Grow**

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

11:30 a.m. | Meet and Greet
Noon | Meeting and Luncheon
Erma Byrd Gallery | Riggleman Hall

RSVP on or before Friday, April 17
to christinacarr@ucwv.edu | 304-357-4734.

[RSVP for the UC Builders Luncheon HERE.](#)

3RD ANNUAL ALUMNI GATHERING

SATURDAY
MAY 30



IN OCEANPORT, NEW JERSEY!
MONMOUTH PARK RACE TRACK



\$35

Due May 15th

Includes admission, parking,
program, hamburgers and
hotdogs, and
commemorative t-shirt.

Send checks payable to Jon Block- 151 Tennis Court,
Wall Township, NJ 07719

Contact Jon Block with further questions - 732-299-1287 or
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

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Christina Carr

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