



OFFICIAL UC ALUMNI NEWSLETTER / May 2026 / VOLUME VIII ISSUE V



Dear Alumni and Friends,

Graduation has just concluded at the University of Charleston, and with it comes one of our favorite seasons—when we celebrate student achievement and look ahead to what’s next.

Great things are happening on our campus and across our community. Our graduates are prepared to lead, serve, and succeed, carrying forward the values and education made possible through your generosity.

One recent example of that momentum was the **University of Charleston Marathon**—the first marathon held in the City of Charleston in more than 30 years. This landmark event brought together students, alumni, faculty, staff, community members, and runners from across the country showcasing the University’s role as a convener, innovator, and partner in regional vitality.

As we approach the end of the fiscal year, we invite you to continue investing in the forward progress you see today. Your support fuels academic excellence, student opportunity, and signature experiences that strengthen both our University and our community.

Thank you for believing in our students and in the future of the University of Charleston. Together, we are building on success—and the best is yet to come.

With gratitude,

Gail Carter



Inaugural UC Marathon attracts 785 Runners

April 11th and 12th featured three events hosted by the University of Charleston: a 5K on Saturday, followed by a half-marathon and marathon on Sunday morning. Participants traveled from 40 states and three countries — Canada, France, and Nigeria, highlighting Charleston’s continued growth as a destination for running events and sports tourism.

Before sunrise on a crisp Sunday morning, runners gathered along Capitol Street to take on the fast, flat

26.2-mile course through Downtown Charleston, Elk City, Kanawha City, and UC’s scenic riverfront campus.

Charleston Mayor Amy Goodwin welcomed runners at the starting line, calling the marathon an exciting opportunity for the capital city.

“You remind us that we can do hard things,” she said. “Every single day, you put your best foot forward, and you make Charleston, West Virginia, look good.”

Of the runners participating over the weekend, 157 competed in the 5K, 366 in the half-marathon, and 262 in the marathon. More than 100 marathon participants traveled from outside West Virginia, including Pascal Radley of Arizona, who completed his 522nd career marathon.

“As Charleston’s University, we are proud to help bring this event to life,” said UC President Marty Roth. “Our Honors College students played a major role in planning and executing the marathon experience. Proceeds support the Honors College and help expand opportunities for high-achieving students.”

Participants ranged widely in age and experience, with half-marathon runners from 13 to 79 years old and marathon runners from 14 to 72.

The UC Marathon is certified by USA Track & Field (USATF), allowing runners to use their results to qualify for world-renowned races such as Boston, Chicago, New York, and London, positioning Charleston as an emerging destination on the national running calendar.



13 Winner Spotlight: Senior Nursing Student Earns Top Honor at UC i3

[The i3 Innovation Showcase](#) is the premier collegiate innovation event in the state of West Virginia. The i3 Showcase gives University of Charleston students, faculty, and staff members the chance to present their innovative ideas and win cash prizes. Area business leaders and community members participate by evaluating the presentations, bringing their own perspectives to the showcase. We gave out **over \$18,000 in total prize money this year!**



For senior nursing student Olivia Moore (pictured above with President Roth and

Dr. Travis Kahle, Director of the Innovation Center), research became an opportunity to make an impact. Moore earned 1st place in the Student Secondary Research Category at the annual i3 Competition with her project titled "The labor nurse's impact on cesarean section rates using peanut balls in hospitalized patients with epidural anesthesia".

Through her senior-level nursing research course, she developed an evidence-based project that reflects the critical thinking essential to today's nurses. She was mentored by nursing faculty, Pam Smith, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, CNE.

This year, 10 nursing students presented at i3, and seven were selected to present at the Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol (URDC), highlighting the growing presence of UC nursing students in scholarly spaces.





Welcome to the alumni community, Class of 2026!

In the weeks leading up to Commencement, several celebrations mark this exciting transition. From EagleFest 2.0, which signals the final week of classes, to pinning and hooding ceremonies, the season is full of meaningful milestones—culminating in one of our favorite traditions, the Senior

Send-Off Dinner. Graduates are invited to gather on the President’s House lawn for a casual evening hosted by the Alumni Office alongside President Marty and Lynn Roth. It’s a special opportunity to celebrate their accomplishments, encourage them to stay connected, and officially welcome them into the alumni community.

This year’s special alumni guest, who joined us in raising a glass to the Class of 2026, was Ben Beakes ('02). Ben is the founder and managing member of Three Point Strategies, LLC, a Charleston, West Virginia–based government affairs and public relations firm. He currently serves on the UC Board of Trustees, and he and his wife, Sarah ('04), are excited to have their daughter, Chloe, follow in their footsteps as an incoming freshman this fall.



ALUMNI



SPOTLIGHT

“I am deeply honored and humbled to return to campus as a Commencement Speaker.

When I graduated from UC, I reflected then that there was no way that I would be able to repay the debt of gratitude I have for what the University means to me personally and professionally. That is still true today. It is good to be home again, and I look forward to continuing to pay it forward to future generations of Golden Eagles!”

~ Dr. Ryan Moran ('12)





Dr. Ryan Moran, '12

He once said he enjoys “working on something much greater than myself,” and Ryan Moran’s career has reflected that. Growing up in Preston County, he developed an interest in healthcare, fueled by a desire to help ensure that families in rural America can access medical services.

A 2012 University of Charleston alum, Moran completed his degrees in business administration and public policy, *summa cum laude*, in three years. He was named Outstanding Senior of the Year, Most Outstanding Senior in Business Administration,

Most Outstanding Senior in Public Policy, and was named a Rhodes Scholar finalist – the first in our institution’s history.

He earned his master’s degree in health services administration from Xavier University in Cincinnati and a Doctorate in Public Health from the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, where he was named a John Hume Scholar at Johns Hopkins for your potential to significantly contribute to the field of public health.

In 2025, Washington Governor Bob Ferguson appointed him as director of the Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA), citing his passion and experience, stating that his “expertise will help us provide equitable, high-quality year-round care for the people of Washington.”

Before joining the HCA, Moran served as Deputy Secretary for Health Care Financing and Medicaid Director for the Maryland Department of Health. His career includes leadership roles in large, integrated health delivery systems, and he has held executive leadership positions in state and national Medicaid policy, all with a commitment to promoting social justice and equality through health.

For his dedication to creating a better healthcare system and a healthier world community, the University of Charleston is honored to present to Dr. Ryan Moran, Class of 2012, the Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree, *honoris causa*.

[Click HERE for a recording of UC Graduate Ceremony. Ryan's remarks start at the 40 minute mark.](#)

Tuition Discount for UC Alumni

If you are considering a graduate degree, UC now offers a tuition discount for our alumni. The discount is 20% off the published tuition for the selected degree program.

The following UC graduate degrees are eligible for the discount: Master of Business Administration (MBA), Master of Business and Data Analytics, Master of Science – Strategic Leadership, Master of Science – Cybersecurity, Master of Science in Nursing – Family Nurse Practitioner, and the Doctor of Executive Leadership (DEL).

Students must have earned a degree from the University of Charleston and be admitted to one of the approved graduate degrees to be eligible for the discount. The discount cannot be combined with any other tuition discounts (e.g. military/law enforcement discount, etc.) with the exception of athletic scholarships. For more information, please contact the UC Admissions Office at 1-800-995-4682 or admissions@ucwv.edu.





Happy Retirement, Suzanne!

On April 24, alumni and friends from the accounting community gathered to celebrate Suzanne King's retirement, cheering her on as she walked the red carpet into the Rotunda. Colleagues and former students shared heartfelt remarks about the lasting impact Professor King had on their academic journeys and careers. In her honor, a scholarship has been established to support future accounting students.

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



Athletics
CORNER



Classes Complete, Competition Continues...Here's an update from Dr. Bren Stevens, UC Athletic Director

Men's and Women's Track, Flying Fast- *Congratulations to Nick Bias and his staff on an outstanding season. Our men's and women's track and field programs rose to the challenge and captured conference titles last week, capping off a grueling three-day championship meet at Mylan Park in Morgantown, WV. This marks an incredible fifth consecutive championship run for our teams, a true testament to their consistency, toughness, and competitive edge. With more than 100 student-athletes competing each year, our program continues to set the standard in the conference, not just in size but in performance. To put that into perspective, our roster surpasses the size of many MEC football programs, showcasing the depth and strength of our team. The meet was filled with record-breaking performances and standout efforts, and we look forward to sharing updates soon on our top athletes advancing to the NCAA National Championships. Adding to the excitement, **Coach Bias earned Coach of the Year honors for both the men's and women's programs**, an incredible achievement that reflects the excellence of the entire program.*

Women's Lacrosse- *Our lacrosse program, led by head coach Ryland Luciano, earned a share of the MEC women's lacrosse championship. Our student-athletes received numerous all-conference honors, reflecting the hard work and commitment shown throughout the season. Last week, at the Welch Athletic Complex, your Golden Eagles battled to the final whistle in a hard-fought 13 to 15 contest against visiting California Dominican. The effort and determination on display were a great representation of our program. Coach Luciano and his staff continue to elevate the program to new heights. With a limited number of high schools in West Virginia sponsoring lacrosse, the staff has done an outstanding job recruiting and developing a roster of 40 student athletes in a sport that is heavily*

concentrated in the New England region. The team finishes the season with an impressive 13-6 overall record and a 9-1 mark in the Mountain East Conference.

Men's and Women's Tennis- *The University of Charleston Golden Eagles defeated the Fairmont State Falcons, 4-1, on Sunday as they claimed the 2026 MEC Men's Tennis Championship. The men's team closed out the regular season with an 13- 7 overall record and a perfect 6- 0 mark in conference play. The women's team also delivered an outstanding season, finishing 15-6 overall and going undefeated in MEC competition and also defeated Fairmont State, 4-0, on Sunday evening as they claimed the 2026 Mountain East Conference Women's Tennis title.*

Softball- *Coach Taylor Welch and her staff have led the team to an impressive 40-win milestone. Following this weekend, Coach Welch's squad will head to Salem, Virginia, to compete in the MEC Tournament, carrying significant momentum into postseason play. When the latest Atlantic Region rankings were released last week, your Golden Eagles ranked fifth out of 42 teams, reflecting their consistency and high level of performance throughout the season. Our student athletes continue to raise the bar, excelling both on the field and in the classroom, representing our program with pride and determination.*

Baseball- *The field is set for the 2026 Mountain East Conference Baseball Championship. Charleston is seeded second and will follow the schedule below, making a run at the MEC title.*

2026 MEC Baseball Tournament

Go-Mart Ballpark | Charleston, West Virginia:

Day 1 Schedule (Wednesday)

3:30 p.m. – Game 1 – 1N Wheeling vs. 3S Glenville State

7 p.m. – Game 2 – 1S Concord vs. 3N Point Park

Day 2 Schedule (Thursday)

3:30 p.m. – Game 3 – 2N Frostburg State vs. 2S Charleston

7 p.m. – Game 4 – L G1 vs. L G2

Men's and Women's Golf- *Both of Coach Johnson's squads will be traveling this week to play in the NCAA Regional Tournament. Our teams qualified by winning the regular-season MEC tournament back in the fall. The top four teams from these regional events will advance to the National Finals.*

Did you know that the following athletic staff members are alumni of UC? Dr. Bren Stevens ('80), Jenna Theden ('09, '18), Will Johnson ('99), Debbie Banister ('87

& '91) (FAR), Alec Foote ('17 & '18), Dan Smee ('18), and many of our GAs and assistant coaches.

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 **2026**

SEPTEMBER 25 & 26



CELEBRATING
60 YEARS
OF NURSING EDUCATION

HOMECOMING
AND FAMILY WEEKEND **2026**

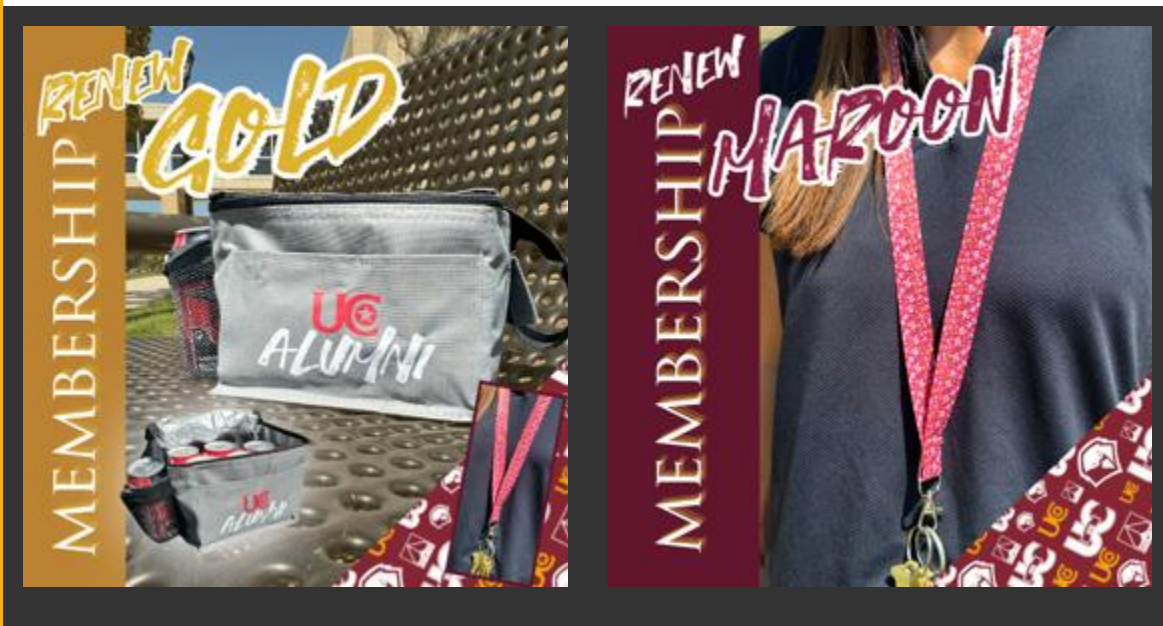
SAVE THE DATE!
Friday, September 25

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 -
Kim Sciara and Kerry Harmon

In Memorium

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

Joseph Riley, '66

Mildred Carper, '66

Sharon Volkman, '77

Jo Ann Collins, '72

David Rollins, '59

Beverly Casto, '81

Rebecca Jane Winfree, '64

Robin Manchin, '78, UC Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2005

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!



New York City
ALUMNI meet and greet

May 28, 2026, 5-7 pm
Tara Mor Irish Pub
150 West 30th Street, New York, NY 10001

Come visit with Gail and Christina from the UC Alumni Office!

[RSVP for the NYC Meet and Greet 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](#)



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