



OFFICIAL UC ALUMNI NEWSLETTER / February 2024 / VOLUME V ISSUE II



Greetings from UC!

Last week we had a very successful Give for Gold Day. This annual day of giving to UC helps us undertake projects that enhance the student experience. This year's project, renovating the breezeway that connects the Geary Student Union and Rigglesman Hall, will update this unique Charleston campus feature. Engraved bricks are available for the sidewalk below the breezeway that leads to our iconic back lawn and capitol dome view. Thank you to all who participated and helped us raise over \$105,000! There is still time to buy or gift a brick – contact the Development Office or visit us online at <https://www.ucwv.edu/giving/>.

This is our busiest time of year in athletics. The basketball teams are nearing the end of their regular seasons, track and field and men's volleyball are midway through theirs, and baseball, softball, lacrosse, golf, and tennis are preparing for competitive play. As always, the caliber of play is quite high – our student athletes perform very well in the classroom and in their sports. Their backgrounds are amazing as is their appreciation for the opportunity to represent the maroon and gold. Please try to attend a game or match in Charleston or if we travel to your area, and to watch the Golden Eagles via livestream. Schedules can be found here <https://ucgoldeneagles.com>.

We also have a variety of programs you may enjoy. Our MBA Speaker Series features local area business professionals who provide industry, management, and leadership insights over lunch in Charleston and via Zoom. At our new UC Downtown Innovation Hub we have launched the 2024 "Inspiring Innovation" series featuring six "Fresh Start Breakfasts" and four "Two Views Tuesdays". The series is sponsored by Huntington Bank and features food from area restaurants and caterers. We will also host choir and band concerts, and a half marathon during the spring semester. Please visit our Events page at <https://www.ucwv.edu/events/> to learn about and register for these and other ways to stay engaged with UC.

We value your engagement and the opportunity to bring back great memories, enjoy outstanding activities and programs, and support your alma mater!

Best regards,

Marty Roth

President

Give Day 2024 was a SUCCESS!!

Thank you to all the donors who gave to this special project. We hope you will make plans to visit us this fall (Homecoming & Family Weekend is Sept. 20 & 21) to see the Breezeway in all its glory after a full renovation.

Besides funding a campus project, Give Day is special because it truly brings the entire Golden Eagle community together. The Commons in Geary Student Union became Give Day headquarters where students, faculty, and staff took shifts asking their friends and family for their support. We even had a few alumni and former faculty members stop by headquarters with donations. Beyond campus, alumni were taking to social media and texting fellow alumni to spread the word about the Breezeway project. From students to coaches to alumni all over the country, we came together and raised over \$105,000. WOW! Thank you, Thank you!!



If you have not had a chance to donate to the Give Day campaign and would like to be a part of this special project, follow the button below!

[Give Day Link is still LIVE HERE!](#)



If you want to leave a little legacy with this project, a \$250 Give Day donation gives you the opportunity to name a brick! Follow the button above to give!

A promotional graphic for a 'Blood Drive Battle' event. The top left features the UC logo. To its right, the dates 'FEBRUARY 19 & 20' are written in large, bold, dark red letters. Below the UC logo, the words 'BLOOD DRIVE BATTLE' are written in large, bold, white letters on a dark grey arrow-shaped background. To the right of the arrow, the text 'Schedule your appt. at RedCrossBlood.org (keyword: uc)' is written in black. At the bottom left, the WVSU logo (a bee) is shown. To its right, the time '10 A.M. - 4 P.M.' is written in large, bold, dark red letters, with 'APPALACHIAN ROOM, GSU' written in smaller black letters below it.

There is a national blood donation shortage, and all donations at UC (not just faculty, staff, and students') count in the competition.

A link to the American Red Cross blood donation appointment scheduling website is below!

[Schedule Your Appointment with the American Red Cross HERE!](#)

To celebrate Valentine's Day, we asked the alumni community why they love UC. Here are some of the answers...

Glenn Kirk (alum attend) - That riverbank is like hallowed ground to me. My wife and I came there as coal camp kids who did not know what they wanted, nor really what was possible. Morris Harvey College opened my eyes to a world I didn't know. They helped me believe that I can have a vision of the future and the tools and confidence to make it happen. Yes, that riverbank at UC is hallowed ground that I will always call home.



Timmy Gallagher ('83) - Attending a small college/ university was great, the teacher student ratio was perfect. It was easy getting to know and interacting with teachers and professors. When I attended UC, many students living on campus were from NJ, NY, and CT, so you always had a ride home. I loved meeting people from different states and countries, hearing Springsteen blaring from the dorms, the competitive intramurals, the parties on campus ending with "Country Roads" and "New York New York", and the great view at night of the Capital. But, most of all, I love the friends made there, which many became lifelong friends. It was a great place to be in the late 1970's and early 1980's.

David Kurtz ('80) - I'm glad I attended a small school in a big city for my undergraduate. I had a great experience, learning both inside the classroom and outside of it. There were numerous opportunities I had as a political science student in our capital city that would not have been possible at other institutions. As an adult, I've often traveled back to (and through) Charleston, and still have a sense of home there, knowing my way around town that others don't. Lots of good memories there!

Sheila Nicoll ('79) - It was my first stop to my wonderful career. I've been successful because of the great x-ray program & training received at Mo Harv/ UC.

Speakers with alumni ties coming soon!!

On February 20th, we will welcome our next MBA Speaker Series guest, Emilie Love. In addition to being a wonderful friend and supporter of UC, she comes from a family of Golden Eagles. Emilie's mother is Diane Sherrill Doty, class of 1969. There is still time to register to join us via Zoom [HERE](#).

On February 28th, The UC Builders will welcome Jim Holland, class of 1980 and UC Alumni Association member, as their guest author. Jim has been involved with minor league baseball in the southern part of West Virginia most of his career and has written a

book titled, "My Fortunate Detour." He will be sharing about his career and details of the book at the next luncheon. You can register for this event [HERE](#). The cost of lunch is \$18.



We are here for you even after graduation!

You are invited to campus for the Career Fair and Grad School Fair on **Tuesday, March 5th from 10AM-2PM in the Rotunda.**

If you are interested in hosting a vendor booth at the fair, please register [here](#).

The Career Fair and Grad School Fair is hosted by The Center for Career Development. The center is a resource available to all Golden Eagle Alumni and you are encouraged to take advantage of everything it offers. Please reach out to Jessica Wager with any questions, jessicawagner@ucwv.edu.



The UC Honors College will again host a half marathon and 5k this spring on Sunday, April 7. The half marathon will begin at 8:30 a.m., and the 5k will start at 8:45 a.m. The course is certified by USA Track and Field. Proceeds from the event go to supporting student initiatives.

The UC Honors College welcomes volunteers to work the marathon, if you are interested in donating your time, please contact Christina Carr, christinacarr@ucwv.edu or 304-357-4734.

[**Register for the UC Half Marathon HERE**](#)



Athletics
CORNER



COACHING WITH A PASSION.

Photograph by Connor Isner, UC Digital Content Manager

This photograph was taken at the end of the UC vs WV State University game on January 27th. Head Coach Tianni Kelly ('15) had just led the Golden Eagles through double overtime to a victory.

There are multiple ways to capture this photo, using phrases to include the words love, heart, dedication, or relief. However, this photo represents the passion that Coach Kelly and all UC athletic staff have for their student athletes and their success on and off the court.

UC athletics are exciting to witness in person and via livestream. Come and support your Golden Eagles or watch from wherever your wings have taken you, click below for a full athletic schedule!!

[**UC Athletics Schedule HERE.**](#)

Let us introduce you to Rhonda!

Rhonda Braley joined the UC Advancement team in January. She will be carrying out the duties of the Gift Processing Specialist position.

"I was born and raised in Charleston, WV. However, I lived in Winchester, VA and the eastern panhandle of WV for the last ten years. I decided to move back home last summer to be closer to my family.

I am very fortunate to work with a true team, great students, faculty and staff. The University has been a part of the community for as long as I can remember.

Education is very important, and I am so happy to be part of this wonderful organization for higher education."



SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY
MAY 18
OCEANPORT, NJ



\$25

Includes admission,
parking,
program, and
refreshments.

GOLDEN EAGLE
ALUMNI GATHERING
MONMOUTH PARK RACE TRACK

[RSVP for this event HERE!](#)

JOIN TODAY!
UC **ALUMNI**
ASSOCIATION

The 2023-2024 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 alumni tote, holiday ornament, 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 an alumni holiday ornament, invitations to special events, discounts, and more.

The next UCAA Zoom Meeting will be THURSDAY, April 11th @ 4:00 pm EST.

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

Thank you to those who joined or renewed their membership this past month - Jim Holland, Sharon Burke, Eric Hautbois, Doug Singleton, Christine Spaulding, Thomas Moore, Jerry Skelly, Jimmie McGlosson, Eon Pereira, Samuel Colvin, Mary Lou Entzminger, Tammy Owen, Andrew Bierach, and William Durkin.

ALUMNI

SPOTLIGHT



Pam ('70) and Pete ('65) Thacker –

A few weeks ago, Pam called the alumni office to share the news that Alvin “Pete” Thacker had passed. Our conversation turned to their love story which is more than fitting to share on Valentine’s Day.

In the spring of 1965, the time had arrived for the annual May Day Dance and Pete had found himself without a date.

“Pete and I were set up on a blind date in hopes I would go with him to the May Day Dance, it would have simply been unheard of for a Theta Xi brother to miss his senior year May Day. My AOP sorority sisters and his fraternity brothers set us up to meet on May 5th, the dance was scheduled for May 7th.

Our blind date in the Igloo was the start of it all, I even remember what he was wearing. He had on a short sleeve madras shirt, khaki pants, and Weejun shoes with no socks.

He picked me up that weekend for our first date wearing a white sport coat and bow tie, and I had a blue and white dress. May Day was held in a the banquet hall above the Rose City Cafe downtown, and we were together ever since.”

Pete and Pam married on April 13, 1968. Pete worked for the Department of Welfare in WV and Pam was a schoolteacher. They have two children and five grandchildren. Pete’s father, Alvin “Tubby” Thacker, graduated from Morris Harvey College in 1942, was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame in 1989 and died in 2001.

Happy Valentine’s Day to all our Golden Eagles couples who have a story that started here!

In Memorium

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

Alvin "Pete" Thacker, '65

Harry Mallory, '75

Harry Folden, III, '66

Robert Gurtis, '56

Thomas Crutchfield, '57

Buffy Bonwell, '01

Shirley Ceilensky, alum attend

Robert E. Underwood, '82

William Borchert, '93

Gary Childers, '70

Ronald Mayhew, '67

E. D. Dickens, '65

Carita Strickler, '81

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.

The logo features the letters "UC" in a bold, maroon serif font. The letter "C" contains a white five-pointed star. To the right of "UC", the word "EVENTS" is written in a large, yellow, brush-stroke style font.

You're invited to campus!

Feb. 19-20 - Blood Drive Battle, schedule a time [HERE](#).

Feb. 20 - MBA Speaker Series with Emilie Love, RSVP to join virtually [HERE](#).

Feb. 28 - UC Builders luncheon with Jim Holland, RSVP [HERE](#).

March 1 - UC Spring Break, Offices Closed

March 12 - Inspiring Innovation Speaker Series at the Downtown Innovation HUB, with special speaker, **Monika Jaensson, Attorney and Owner, Jaensson Law.** RSVP [HERE](#)

For a full UC Athletic schedule, click [HERE](#).

SAVE THE DATE



**SEPT.
20-21**

2024

**CELEBRATE TRADITION.
CREATE NEW MEMORIES.**



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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