



OFFICIAL UC ALUMNI NEWSLETTER / April 2025 / VOLUME VI ISSUE IV



Dear Alumni and Friends,

They say April showers bring May flowers - and if that's true, Charleston will be in full bloom before we know it! I hope you all are staying dry and enjoying the beauty of spring in your hometowns.

For UC, April also brings a season of celebrations. Recently, our Advancement Office hosted luncheons in both Charleston and Beckley to honor the generous donors who provide scholarships to our

students. These events are always a powerful reminder of the life-changing impact donor support has on our campus community.

Next week, we'll celebrate the Class of 2025 at our annual Senior Send-Off Dinner, officially welcoming the newest graduates into the Golden Eagle alumni family. Later in the month, we'll join together for pinning and hooding ceremonies across the colleges, all leading up to Spring Commencement on April 26, a day filled with pride, joy, and new beginnings.

And the parties don't stop there. On May 31, I'll be heading to New Jersey for the 2nd Annual UC Alumni Gathering at Monmouth Park. Last year's event was filled with laughter, reconnections, and shared memories. The price of your ticket includes admission to the races, parking, a program, refreshments, and a commemorative UC t-shirt. If you're in the Jersey Shore area, or just need an excuse for a road trip, I'd love to see you there!

If you would like to be part of planning events like the Gathering at Monmouth Park or Homecoming and Family Weekend, I encourage you to join the [UC Alumni Association](#). Our bi-monthly Zoom calls are a fun and easy way to stay involved, share your ideas, and network with fellow Golden Eagles. Your UCAA membership helps support alumni events and the Annual Fund.

Speaking of Homecoming... mark your calendars now for September 19–20, 2025. We're already planning for the biggest celebration of the year, and trust me—you won't want to miss it!

Wings Up!

Christina Carr ('06), Director of Alumni Relations

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Luke graduated from the University of Charleston as the President's Outstanding Senior of the Year in 2017. He met his college sweetheart and fellow UC alumnus, Kelli Yingling, while students and the couple married immediately after graduation.

Luke then earned a master's degree from Penn State and a law degree from WVU. Luke founded his company, Rhetoric, as a 2L law

student and has since raised more than \$3 million in capital from investors. The company's products are used by lawyers and law students across the United

States. Rhetoric's user base includes top 100 law firms and top 20 law schools, and the company's products have been used on everything from class assignments to US Supreme Court filings.

Luke is proud to headquarter the company in West Virginia. The Yinglings reside in the Kanawha Valley with their three children.

Luke will be joining the panel for the next installment of the Two Views Tuesday speaker series hosted at the UC Downtown Innovation HUB. Click the button below to register for this event.



The poster is divided into two main sections. The left section has a white background with green gear and lightbulb illustrations. It features the UC Downtown Innovation Hub logo at the top, followed by 'INSPIRING INNOVATION SPEAKER SERIES' and 'TWO VIEWS' in large, stylized letters. Below this, it says 'Join us for appetizers and cocktails after the event. Registration is recommended:'. At the bottom, it lists sponsors: 'Series sponsored by: Huntington Bank' and 'Catering by: MICKEY'S'. The right section has a dark maroon background with white text. It announces the date 'Thursday, April 10, 2025', the location 'UC Downtown Innovation Hub', and the times: '4 - 5 PM | Panel Discussion' and '5 - 6 PM | Networking with Appetizers and Drinks'. The title of the event is 'ENTREPRENEURSHIP OPTIONS: Acquisition vs. Startup'. The 'FEATURING' section lists 'Max Knapp' (Partner, Whitewater Capital Partners), 'Luke Yingling' (Owner and Founder, Rhetoric), and 'Moderator: Aaron Sporck' (Senior VP, Huntington Bank).

UC
DOWNTOWN
INNOVATION HUB

**INSPIRING
INNOVATION
SPEAKER SERIES**

TWO VIEWS

*Join us for appetizers and cocktails after the event.
Registration is recommended:*

Series sponsored by:
Huntington Bank

Catering by:
MICKEY'S

Thursday, April 10, 2025

UC Downtown Innovation Hub
4 - 5 PM | Panel Discussion
5 - 6 PM | Networking with Appetizers and Drinks

**ENTREPRENEURSHIP OPTIONS:
Acquisition vs. Startup**

FEATURING

Max Knapp
Partner, Whitewater Capital Partners

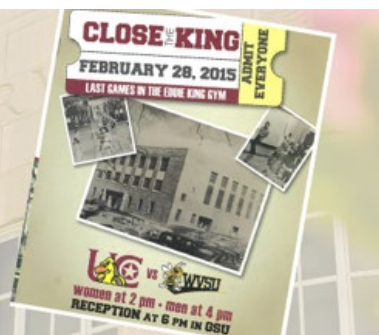
Luke Yingling
Owner and Founder, Rhetoric

Moderator: Aaron Sporck
Senior VP, Huntington Bank

[Register for Two Views Tuesdays HERE!](#)

REMEMBER When...

2025 marks the 10th anniversary of the last game played in the Eddie King Gym. The article below was published in the commemorative "Close the King" program.



EDDIE KING GYMNASIUM

has been home to some of West Virginia's most dynamic teams for over 65 years. If the walls of this Charleston landmark could talk, they would tell many a tale of hard-fought battles, heated emotions, and poignant memories.

The gymnasium, a modest building constructed of cinderblocks, opened in 1948, providing a much-needed space for Morris Harvey College men's basketball team to practice and compete. Initially referred to as the student activities building, it housed a gymnasium with seating for fans, locker rooms, offices and storage space for permanent records.

The establishment of a dedicated "nest" for the Golden Eagles was a pivotal event in the history of MHC/UC athletics, laying the foundation for many years of exciting contests and social events. The dynamic duo of basketball greats George King and Garland "Sonny" Moran elicited roars from standing-room-only crowds of basketball fans. In those days, it was referred to as the "the house that George built," paying

homage to Morris Harvey legend George King, who went on to become an NBA player and college basketball coach.

In 1964, the student activities building was renamed "Eddie King Gymnasium" in honor of Coach Carl Edward "Eddie" King, who according to the Board of Trustees "furnished outstanding leadership in the field of athletics and the sports world and exerted a profound influence for good upon his students and all those with whom he came in contact."

In 1971, after 23 years as the venue for men's basketball competition, the gym welcomed women's teams in basketball and volleyball. These squads have brought additional glory to the storied venue, boasting 21 women's basketball championships and seven volleyball titles. Finally in 2014, Eddie King Gymnasium became the home for University of Charleston's 18th intercollegiate sport welcoming in men's volleyball.

Eddie King Gymnasium was the training ground for basketball and volleyball superstars including George King, Henry Dickerson, Keith Tyler, Ajamu Gaines, Karen Mays, Beth Rist, Sherry Winn, Lisa Lee, Nicole LaFollette, and Katy Skelley as well as legendary coaches from Eddie King, Sonny Moran, Richard Meckfessel, Jayson Gee, Greg White, Bud Francis, and Bren Stevens to our current University of Charleston basketball and volleyball coaches.

Generations of alumni remember not only the athletic contests in Eddie King, but also commencement ceremonies, dances, plays, parties, concerts, and lectures. It may come as a surprise that the facility, now over 65 years old, has not been upgraded since a 1967-68 renovation that replaced windows and doors, and added the current brick veneer, in conjunction with the construction of the adjoining physical education building.

Although construction of the Russell and Martha Wehrle Innovation Center will require a complete renovation and facelift of Eddie King Gymnasium, the amazing athletes who began their sporting careers at Eddie King, and the memories that have been created there, will live on in the hearts and minds of future generations of Golden Eagle students, alumni, players and fans.





On March 15th, Geary Auditorium was the setting for a very special graduation ceremony.

President Marty Roth shared the following sentiments in our campus newsletter, *The Talon*.

Three hundred members of the West Virginia first responder community completed a five-course, 15-credit-

hour Senior Law Enforcement Leadership Certificate program. Participants represented various city and county police departments, sheriff offices, corrections facilities, and state trooper organizations. About half of them attended a graduation ceremony along with their families and friends.

For some of these graduates, it was the first time they attended a graduate ceremony in which they themselves were recognized. Picture a hardworking, GED-holding, adult public servant provided the opportunity to develop and enhance their leadership skills through our grant-funded program. They enrolled in their first-ever college course in August and, 25 weeks later, completed their fifth course. The gratitude for the investment in their professional development and pride in their accomplishment was evident in the graduates and their supporters. It also made all of us at UC equally grateful and proud.

Here are just two participant reflections after completing the first course on Health, Wellness, and Morale (CJLC 306):

“This course has greatly broadened my understanding of leadership by emphasizing that effective leadership is not just about managing tasks but also about being proactive in supporting the overall well-being of the people that I lead.”

This course was an eye-opener for me. I have received resilience training in the past but was not quite able grasp the concept and how it goes hand in hand with

wellness. The information provided in this course has showed me how leadership, health and wellness all work together.”

The certificate programs the School of Leadership has designed and developed for first responders make UC’s vision a reality: To create a culture of belonging and adopt innovative practices to promote the personal growth and professional success of learners of all ages and backgrounds. We are fortunate to do such impactful work.



If you are a working adult in the EMS, EMT, and paramedic professions and looking to enhance career opportunities, then we have a program for you! The EMS Leadership Certificate Program builder leadership and management skills and is offered at no cost.

Learn more about the program [HERE](#).



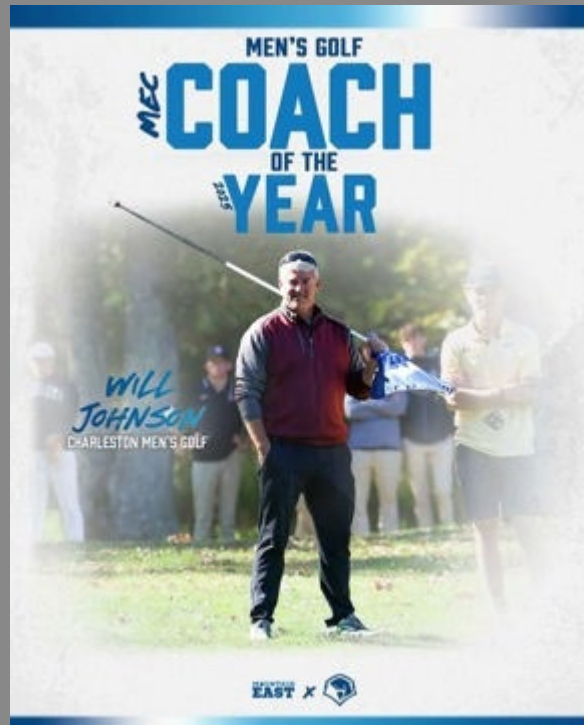
Athletics

CORNER

Congratulations to our men's golf team!

The men's golf team captured the MEC Spring Classic title last week and our very own Will Johnson was named "Coach of the Year."

For the first time in MEC history, there was a playoff between two UC golfers to determine who would be named "Player of the Year" for the conference. After regular tournament play was finished, William "Curry" Carestam from Sweden, and Carlos "Charlie" Mortera, from Spain played an additional hole to determine who would get the POY nod, which was won by William. Both William and Carlos were named to the First Team, along with Erik Ulvang.



Golden Eagles Make Program History Defeating Penn State

Coach Rob Poole and his squad defeated PSU on Saturday 3-1 (25-15, 20-25, 36-34, 26-24). Yes, you read that correctly: one of the sets went to 36-34 with UC coming out on top! The UC men's volleyball team joined the NCAA Division I EIVA conference in 2015, which is comprised of Sacred

Heart, NJIT, Penn State, Harvard, Princeton, and George Mason. This was UC's first win over Penn State since the team joined the league. Defeating an institution with 89,000 students is undoubtedly a significant win for the program.

Read more [HERE](#)> [Program History](#).

Be a Fan in the Stand! Click [HERE](#) for a full athletic schedule.

2ND ANNUAL ALUMNI GATHERING

IN OCEANPORT, NEW JERSEY!
MONMOUTH PARK RACE TRACK

SATURDAY
MAY 31



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

\$30

Due May 15th

Includes admission,
parking,
program, refreshments,
and commemorative t-
shirt.

Contact Jon Block with further questions - 732-299-1287 or
rawtac@yahoo.com



For the first time in nearly three decades, Charleston is set to host a full marathon, inviting distance runners from across the region to the Capital City.

The University of Charleston

Marathon, taking off in April 2026, will feature a fast and flat 26.2-mile course, guiding runners through some of the city's most iconic locations, including Downtown Charleston, the historic Elk City district, Kanawha City, and UC's scenic riverfront campus.

The announcement was made at this year's UC Half Marathon and 5K, where UC President Marty Roth, Charleston Mayor Amy Shuler Goodwin, and Charleston CVB (Convention and Visitors Bureau) President Tim Brady celebrated together. The marathon will be hosted by the University of Charleston, serving as a signature event for the institution and the Charleston community.

“We believe in creating opportunities and experiences that extend well beyond traditional classroom education,” President Roth said. “We are deeply committed to being Charleston’s University™. The UC Marathon reflects our mission to educate our students for a life of productive work, enlightened living, and community involvement. The UC Marathon brings that mission to life by uniting students and the Charleston community in a shared pursuit of connection and wellness.”

[Register Now for the 2026 UC Marathon](#)

Read the full article and see a map of the course [HERE](#).





👁️ 💰 I spy with my little eye....some SAVINGS with the 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, Master of Science in Occupational Therapy, Pharmacy, 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.

3 + 1 = UC Program Advantages!

The Accelerated BSBA/MBA (3+1) program enables students to earn both a Bachelor of Science in

Business Administration and a Master of Business Administration in the time and cost it would traditionally take to complete just an undergraduate degree.



Complete your undergraduate business degree in three years, then transition into our MBA program for your final summer, fall, and spring semesters. The program provides flexibility to shape your experience to fit your goals and interests.

Qualified students enroll in the program in the fall of their freshman year. They become part of a learning community with other students in the program, with a dedicated advisor to support them throughout the completion of both degrees.

In today's fast-paced job market, an MBA can be the key to unlocking higher-level opportunities. By choosing an accelerated MBA program like University of Charleston's 3+1 BSBA/MBA degree, students fast-track their careers, entering the workforce with a master's degree in just four years. This streamlined approach gives graduates a competitive edge, increasing their chances of securing leadership roles early in their careers.

Students enrolled in the program receive a tuition-free undergraduate summer internship and a 20% discount for all graduate MBA coursework.

Learn more [HERE](#).

maroon gold
m&g
Winter/Spring 2025



Click [HERE](#) for the latest edition of "Maroon and Gold", the UC biannual magazine.

CHEERS to a New Year!

You can pick up your bottle of Morris Harvey Bourbon and UC glasses today!

Order online for pick up or stop in Bullock Distillery on Washington Street in Charleston during their regular business hours. Feel free to call the distillery, (681) 205-2770, or the alumni office, 304-357-4734, with questions.

Your donation supports the UC Annual Fund.

(**bottles cannot be shipped due to WV ABC law regulations)



[Purchase a bottle of Morris Harvey Bourbon HERE.](#)

[Purchase your UC Bourbon Glasses HERE](#)



The '24-'25 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 5x7 UC photo frame and grey cooling towel, 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 grey cooling towel, invitations to special events, discounts, and more.

The next UCAA Zoom Meeting will be April 24, 2025 @ 4:00 EST, watch your email for a invite and Zoom link.

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

Thank you to those who joined or renewed their membership this past month -
Tony Gregory, Michele Lester, Jennifer Pacino-Lendavy, Jeanine Doffont, Lynn Radzilowski, and Karen Price.

In Memorium

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

Martha Turley Fulcher, '79

Jeanette Fleshman, '91

Judith Kitchen Latorre, '75

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!



THINKING OUTSIDE THE LUNCHBOX

Featuring area leaders sharing their innovative business, management, and leadership models.
Each event takes place from noon- 1:30 pm.

January 14
March 4
May 14

June 10
August 12
October 14

TWO VIEWS

Featuring fireside chats followed by happy hour networking.
A moderator will facilitate discussion with two experts who share different viewpoints on contemporary topics.
Each event takes place from 4-6 pm.

February 6
April 10

September 9
November 12

[RSVP for the DIH Speaker Series HERE.](#)

UC
UNIVERSITY OF
CHARLESTON
UNIVERSITY BUILDERS



Please join us for the
ARTIST AMONG US LUNCHEON
with special guest
LARRY GROCE

Wednesday, April 23, 2025

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

RSVP on or before Monday, April 14
to christinacarr@ucwv.edu | 304-357-4734.

[RSVP for the Luncheon HERE.](#)

SAVE THE DATE!
HOMECOMING
AND FAMILY WEEKEND
2025
SEPTEMBER 19 & 20

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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