



OFFICIAL UC ALUMNI NEWSLETTER / December 2025 / VOLUME VI ISSUE XII



We have been enjoying another great Fall semester at UC!

Some culminating events include two annual student traditions. One is the Holiday Dinner featuring crab legs, prime rib, turkey, and all of the fixings – we are still trying to determine the exact ratio of crab legs to college students, but early estimates indicate “as many as humanly possible.” Another to kick off final exam week is Midnight Breakfast, where research continues to explore if pancakes at

11:59 pm somehow taste better than pancakes at noon. And of course our Commencement Ceremony on Saturday December 13th. West Virginia State Treasurer Larry Pack joined us to share guidance with graduates based on his entrepreneurial, business, and public service successes.

Other recent notable milestones include senior business and political science double-major Maliah McCann-Coles being named a Rhodes Scholarship finalist, our first since 2012. Maliah and classmate Abbi Roberts have been awarded 2026 Herndon Fellowships, a highly competitive program in which ten undergraduate students across colleges in West Virginia are selected annually to participate in the 60-day legislative session. Abbi and Maliah will be assigned to assist a legislator from the West Virginia Senate or House of Delegates. And our Fall athletic teams achieved great success, including NCAA post-season tournament

appearances for men's and women's cross country, men's and women's golf, women's volleyball, and men's soccer.

In addition to the outstanding work of our faculty and coaches, everyone throughout the university plays a role in our students' accomplishments. The daily work of our exceptional Athletics, Campus Safety, Communications & Marketing, Facilities, Food Service, Information Technology, Student Life, and Student Solutions teams truly makes UC a special place to study, work, and live!

In harmony with the holiday season, this is a time for gratitude. Our students are grateful for their UC experiences. Their families are grateful for us assisting their loved ones and helping them pursue their dreams. And we are grateful for students' and families' confidence and trust in UC to help them achieve their personal and professional goals.

As Voltaire said, "Appreciation is a wonderful thing. It makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well." And in the spirit of the upcoming holiday season, "Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it," from William Arthur Ward. If gratitude were a final exam, UC alumni and friends would be earning straight A's — and yes, we would happily curve the grade if needed!

We appreciate all of the ways you support UC. Our University would not be so successful without your assistance!

I hope that you enjoy a healthy, safe, and fun holiday season with your families and friends. May all your lights untangle, your travels be smooth, and your leftovers still taste amazing on day three!

Best regards,

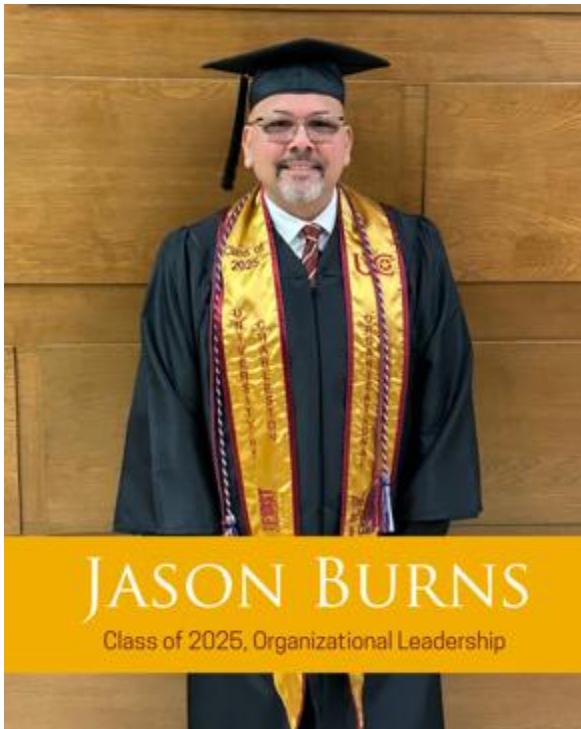
Marty



[Click here to view our Holiday Greeting Card message.](#)



Congratulations to the class of 2025 and welcome to the alumni community! Winter commencement was a special time of celebration as 125 of the 475 graduates were in Charleston to take part in the ceremony. Each graduate has a unique UC story and we hope you enjoy just one of those shared below.



From Unfinished Business to Unstoppable Purpose

Jason Burns had built a successful consulting career within the Department of Defense, working with sophisticated technology and cloud-development programs. Yet something remained unsettled.

“I always wanted my degree,” he said. “In my world, if you understand technology and cloud development, you’re good. But it always bothered me that I didn’t have that credential. I was training supervisors who were advancing above me simply because they had a degree and I didn’t.”

Jason’s strong background in technology gave him opportunities to lead large teams of employees so when it was time to claim a major, he wanted to deepen his leadership skills. His search for an Organizational Leadership program five years ago led him to the University of Charleston.

After exploring the curriculum, he reached out to Dr. Dale Ratzlaff, whose mentorship quickly solidified Jason’s decision.

“He showed me it’s not just about education; it’s about the people. He introduced me to UC’s culture and purpose-driven approach. After speaking with him, I was sold.”

To read more about Jason’s career and UC journey, click [here](#).



Alumni Gathered at the Nest!

On December, 10th, we hosted our first of two Alumni Gatherings at UC Basketball. We cheered on our Golden Eagles, shared some food and beverages, and enjoyed being back on campus together! Please join us on Feb. 7th for our next event as the Golden Eagles face Frostburg State.

Special thanks to John Jividen ('77 & '94) for being with us to represent Burke and Herbert Bank, the game sponsor.



[RSVP for the Feb. 7th Gathering Here!](#)

If you can't make it to Charleston in February, maybe you could meet us in Pittsburgh in January!



[RSVP for the Pittsburgh Gathering HERE](#)



Need a unique gift idea? We've got ya covered!

For \$250, you can purchase a personalized brick that will be placed on the sidewalk between Riggleman Hall and the Geary Student Union. This is a unique opportunity to leave a lasting legacy on the University of Charleston campus. Bricks will be installed in Spring 2026, and your contribution will directly support UC's continued growth through the Annual Fund. Secure your brick today and become a permanent part of UC's history!

Thank you for your support! Click [HERE](#) to learn more and donate!

ALUMNI
SPOTLIGHT



Proud to say I am a UC Graduate.

My name is Greg McCollam and I graduated from UC in 1980.

In 1976, I was awarded a scholarship as an incoming freshman by Athletic Director Rich Meckfessel to work as the school's Sports Information Director during my undergraduate years.

Upon graduation as an English major with a Mass Communications minor, I was hired by the Indiana Pacers of the NBA, and two years later joined the Cincinnati Reds. After four years there I left the Reds to go into promotional sales to sports teams all

across the country.

During those years, I completed a three-year program for bi-vocational ministry through the American Baptist Churches of Ohio and eventually received my ordination while serving as pastor of Walnut Hills Baptist Church for over thirteen years.

I am retired now but keep busy by writing (I currently have four books available on Amazon, including my newest one which is a children's Christmas story entitled, "Sedgwick, Santa's Secret Mouse/Why Santa Doesn't Need a Chimney" check them out on Amazon.

I also produce a weekly podcast ("Where's God? Finding Him in the Small Stuff") and I post regularly on a blog as well (straightouttathethebook.blogspot.com).

My son Jordan is also a proud UC graduate, class of 2012. He was recruited to play for the UC men's soccer team the year after the program went 0-17.

To read Greg's full story, click [here](#).

Thinking of returning to school in 2026?

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](tel:18009954682) or admissions@ucwv.edu.



Golden Eagle Athletics Highlights:

Women's Volleyball

The University of Charleston women's volleyball team capped off a historic season by claiming the Mountain East Conference Championship, defeating West Virginia State in four sets in the MEC title match. The Golden Eagles showcased their most complete performance of the year, applying relentless pressure and executing calmly in key moments to secure the victory and earn an automatic bid to the NCAA Atlantic Regional Tournament.

Charleston's postseason run concluded in the NCAA Atlantic Regional Quarterfinal, where the Golden Eagles fell to East Stroudsburg at the Highmark Events Center. UC closes the 2025 season with a 23–13 overall record, an 11–4 mark in MEC play, and the program's 2025 MEC Championship, along with multiple individual conference honors—marking one of the strongest seasons in recent program history.

Track & Field

The University of Charleston track and field teams opened the indoor season with strong showings across two meets. The distance runners competed Friday at the Grand Valley State Holiday Open, while the rest of the roster made its season debut Saturday at the Marshall Holiday Open.

Across both competitions, Golden Eagles athletes recorded several top finishes and competitive marks, signaling early-season promise as the indoor campaign begins. UC will return to action after the new year at the Mondo College Invitational.

Basketball

Both Golden Eagle basketball programs continue their seasons as more conference play approaches. The men's basketball team currently holds a 4–5 record and will look to build momentum when it returns to the court on December 18 at Frostburg State.

The women's basketball team enters the matchup with a 5–4 record, aiming to secure another win as they also face Frostburg State on December 18.



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



As the year comes to a close, one thing remains true - your generosity changes lives at UC.

Your year-end gift helps support:

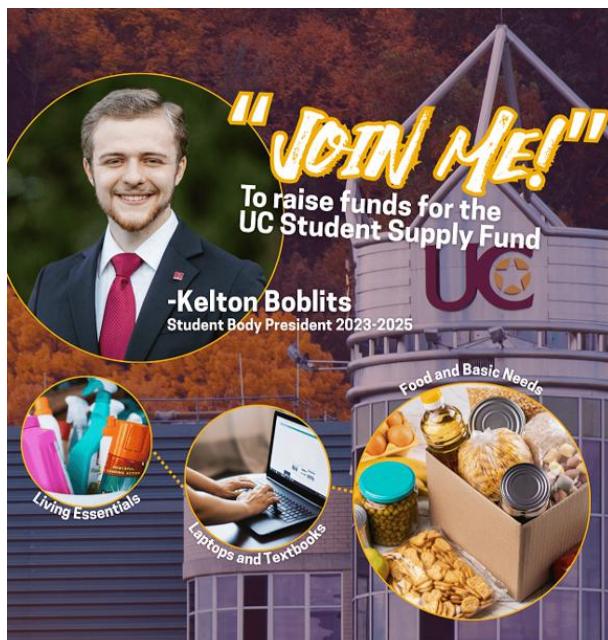
- 🎓 Scholarships
- 📚 Academic programs
- 🏡 Campus improvements
- 🌟 Student success initiatives

Every gift makes a difference and strengthens the experience for today's students and tomorrow's Golden Eagles.

Make your year-end gift today! Click [HERE](#) to donate!

❓ Still deciding on what cause to support for your UC donation?

Support the Student Supply Fund through former Student Body President and Advancement Graduate Assistant Kelton Boblits' campaign: Donate [HERE](#)!





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 -
Jon Block, Gregory Webb, Phillip Familletti, and Alvin Taylor

In Memorium

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

Mary Frances Harvey, '84

Robert "Bob" L. Brown, '54

Timothy Shields, '69

James Foster, '60

Bobbie Rose, '65

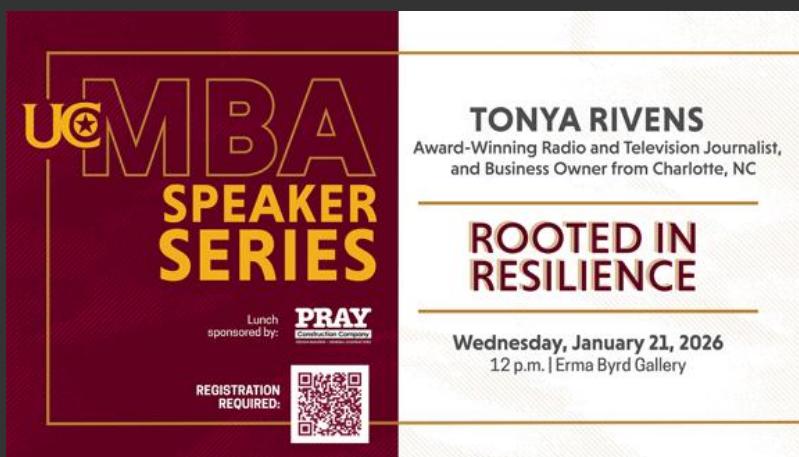
Gail Lathey Warner, '82

Ed Rabel, '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!



The poster for the UC MBA Speaker Series. It features the UC logo with a star, followed by 'MBA SPEAKER SERIES' in large, bold, yellow letters. Below this, it says 'Lunch sponsored by: PRAY Construction Company' and 'REGISTRATION REQUIRED' with a QR code. To the right, it introduces 'TONYA RIVENS' as an 'Award-Winning Radio and Television Journalist, and Business Owner from Charlotte, NC'. The title 'ROOTED IN RESILIENCE' is displayed, along with the date 'Wednesday, January 21, 2026' and time '12 p.m. | Erma Byrd Gallery'.

[RSVP for the MBA Series HERE.](#)

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

Christina Carr

Director of Alumni Relations

304-357-4734

christinacarr@ucwv.edu



[Unsubscribe](#)

[University of Charleston](#)

[www.ucwv.edu](#)

