UNIVERSITY OF BRIDGEPORT

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

May 2026

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UBAA Mission

The Association unites University of Bridgeport alumni to support the University’s mission, strengthen alumni connections, and engage current students and graduates as the next generation of alumni.

From the UBAA President, Bill Moran

University of Bridgeport, Founded 99 Years Ago

Greetings fellow UB alumni, and welcome to our Spring 2026 newsletter.

Can you believe that the University of Bridgeport was founded 99 years ago? Its origins as the Junior College of Connecticut marked the beginning of a long tradition of innovation and "firsts" that have defined UB throughout its history. Through both challenges and successes, the university is now preparing for its centennial celebration, beginning in 2027 and culminating in 2029, with the 100th anniversary of its first graduating class. I invite you to visit campus and join in the celebration. It's a wonderful opportunity to reconnect, share your memories and reflect on how UB has enriched your life. In the meantime, I encourage you to explore the Centennial website for updates on UB's history, news, and events.

Commencement ceremonies for the Class of 2026 were held on May 2 at the Hartford HealthCare Amphitheater in Bridgeport. We were honored to welcome Carl Wilkens, a renowned author, humanitarian, and this year's guest speaker, who also received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree in recognition of his global humanitarian contributions. You can read more here.

Most important of all we are also delighted to celebrate and welcome the newest members of our UB Alumni Association. This year, over 1400 graduates join our global community as they begin their careers and take on their roles as UB ambassadors. CONGRATULATIONS and a heartfelt WELCOME to the Class of 2026!

Accompanying our 2026 graduates was our newest cohort of "Golden Knights." Congratulations to the class of 1976 for their 50th anniversary and reunion and welcome to the UB Golden Knights Society!

I would also like to draw your attention to a special section of our newsletter: the "Alumni Spotlight." This feature highlights alumni whose stories reflect the diversity, accomplishments, and spirit of our global network which now spans more than 80 countries. Our alumni make meaningful contributions every day to their families, communities, and professions, and we are proud to recognize them through these profiles. If you have a story to share, we would love to hear from you since we are always looking for alumni to feature in future spotlights.

Finally, thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Giving Day a success. Alumni engagement is vital to the strength and future of the University, and your support truly makes a difference. We look forward to staying connected and continuing to build UB's future together. To learn more or get involved, please visit UB's website, contact Yvrose Romulus (Eve-Rose), UB Development Officer, yromulus@bridgeport.edu or 203-576-4801, or stop by Bates Hall when you're on campus.

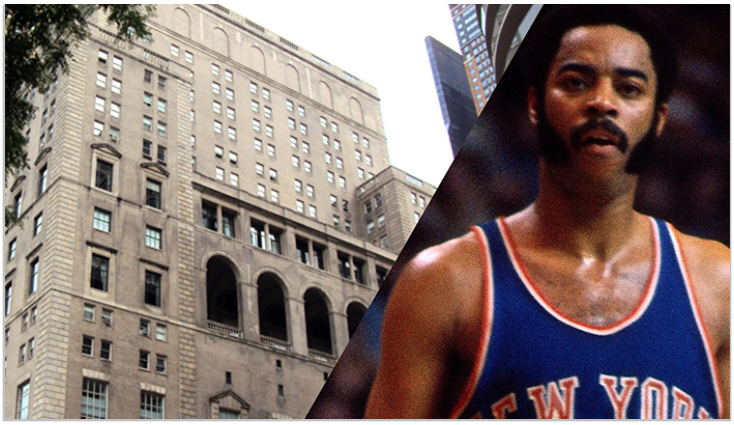


Bill Moran

From the UBAA Vice President, Gordon Stier

Upcoming Events

Basketball Star Walt "Clyde" Frazier to Speak at the New York Athletic Club -- June 9, 2026, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.



Join us for a fun evening with fellow UB Alumni at the New York Athletic Club! Enjoy appetizers, drinks, and the chance to meet special guest Mr. Walt Frazier, who will be mingling with guests, taking photos, and signing jerseys throughout the event. Register here.

New York Athletic Club 180 Central Park South New York, NY 10019

University of Bridgeport Golf Tournament -- September 28, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

Join us at the University of Bridgeport Golf Tournament, where we will be playing at Racebrook Country Club in Orange, CT. Enjoy a round of golf, along with breakfast, lunch, and a cocktail hour to follow, along with raffles, tournament contests, and prizes! Register here.

Racebrook Country Club 246 Derby Ave. Orange, CT 06477

Knights Fest Gala -- October 3, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.
Register for the Knight's Fest Gala! Dress up and join us for a formal dinner and awards ceremonies for outstanding alumni, faculty, community leaders, and for hall of fame and lifetime achievement in athletics. Register here.

John J. Cox Student Center, 244 University Ave. Bridgeport, CT 06604

Alumni Spotlight: Juliet Taylor ‘23



Juliet Taylor with Development Officer Yvrose Romulus at Commencement.

A member of the most-recent class of inductees in the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame credits much of her success to experience gained at UB.

“UB became my guiding light,” Juliet Taylor said. “It grounded me during a season of transition and reminded me that my story did not end with my military service.”

Taylor was born and raised in Jamaica before migrating to the United States at the age of 17. She served in the Army from 2000 to 2014, including a deployment to Iraq.

Taylor began at UB in 2017, eventually completing her undergraduate degree, and continued into the master’s program in mental health counseling She graduated in the spring of 2023.

“I was searching for direction, purpose, and a place where I could rebuild,” Taylor remembers. “UB became that place. UB was not just where I enrolled in classes; it was where I began to rediscover myself. In the classrooms, I gained knowledge. But within the community, I gained something even more valuable -- connection, support, and belief."

“Professors saw potential in me when I was still learning to see it in myself. Mentors offered guidance when my path felt uncertain. Peers provided a sense of belonging during a time when I deeply needed it.”
Taylor’s road to UB was facilitated by a fateful encounter with Yvrose

Romulus, the school's Development Officer of Advancement.

"While attending Housatonic Community College, I met Yvrose at an outreach table -- she introduced me to the IDEAL program," Taylor recalls, referring to UB's Individualized Degree for Adult Learners program tailored for students 23 and older looking to complete their degrees in a flexible and accelerated format.

"At the time, I was a single mother of three," Taylor says. "She followed up with me throughout the entire semester and guided me through every step -- from completing my application to enrolling and gathering the documentation needed to use my GI Bill benefits. What once felt overwhelming became possible because someone took the time to invest in me."

Romulus calls Taylor a "proud UB veteran ambassador" and "a valued two-time alumna who consistently supports UB behind the scenes with dedication and commitment."

"Juliet is an exceptional team player whose impact knows no boundaries," she added.

Taylor is currently employed at the Connecticut Veterans Legal Center as the intake and program access specialist, working with veterans facing transitional issues.

She is in her second year at Capella University, pursuing a PhD in counseling education and supervision, with an anticipated graduation in spring 2028.

In January, Gov. Ned Lamont announced that Taylor was one of 14 veterans to be selected for induction into the hall of fame, which recognizes former members of the U.S. Armed Forces who are from Connecticut and have continued making significant impacts in their communities after leaving military service.

Taylor indicated that the honor may not have come about if not for her alma mater.

"I carry deep gratitude for the role UB played in my life," she says. "The university did more than prepare me academically -- it helped me navigate life beyond the Army, reclaim my confidence, and reimagine what was possible for my future.

"The University of Bridgeport will always represent a pivotal chapter in my story -- a place where uncertainty gave way to purpose, where challenge gave rise to strength, and where I was reminded that new beginnings are always possible."

By Michael Schneider, '84

Do You Remember? Conty's Restaurant and the Carriage House Coffeehouse



The former Conty's Restaurant as it appeared in the 70s, near the UB campus.

Conty's: Delicious Fast Food near the Beach
Among many off- campus eateries, there was Conty's for the best burgers and fries around. Built in 1961 near Seaside Park, the family-owned Conty's also served seafood, Italian dishes, and was known for its chile and chow mein. It was not just lunch; it was the experience. Conty's was popular with UB students, who would grab their food and head to the beach to enjoy a meal with friends. Memories were made enjoying the breeze from Long Island Sound while eating a delicious meal and hanging out with friends.


The Carriage House Coffeehouse in the 1970s and today, as home to the UB Facilities Department.

The Carriage House Coffeehouse: A Campus Performance Space
Tucked behind Bryant Hall, the old carriage house—once a 19th-century stable—found a second life in the 1970s as one of campus's most memorable hangouts. The Carriage House Coffeehouse was entirely student-run, serving up late-night music, snacks, and good vibes a few nights each week.

Inside, the mood was cozy and a little mysterious — "dark and esoteric," as The Scribe put it back in 1975. Folk and jazz musicians filled the room with

sound, while poetry readings, film screenings, and guest speakers kept things fresh and creative. It wasn't just a venue; it was a place where students and local artists connected and the campus culture came alive.

The building itself dates to 1895 and is tied to Waldo C. Bryant, whose electric company once powered Bridgeport's industry. These days, it's home to the UB Facilities Department—but it's easy to imagine the lights dimming again, the music starting up, and a new generation discovering a little late-night magic in that same old space.

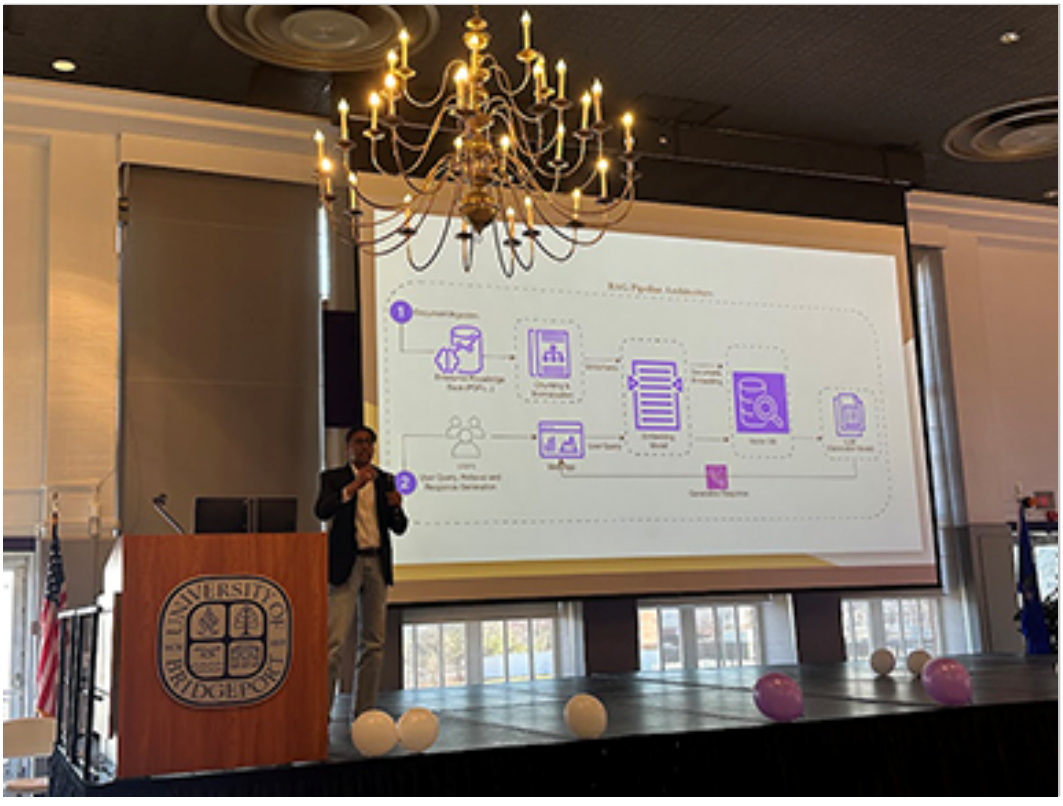
By Veronica Walker, '98, '23 and Victoria Loe, '76

Recent Events

16th Annual Mardi Gras Alumni Celebration: Held on February 17, 2026: Open to the entire UB community, this annual event is hosted by alumnus Ken Graham '71.

March Madness Bracket Competition: held from March 15 to April 6, 2026 (Virtual).

IEEE Innovation Hackathon (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers): Held on March 28, 2026: Hosted for the first time by UB, the 24-hour competition brought 13 teams from six universities to Bridgeport to tackle challenges in healthcare, AI, sustainability, infrastructure, and the future of work. Top prizes went to New York University, Northeastern University, and Fairfield University. Bhumika Shah, who earned her master's degree at UB in 2019 and serves on the Alumni Association Board of Directors, helped to organize the event and served as a judge.



The Hackathon created an impactful learning experience and provided the teams with a platform to showcase their creativity, while gaining real-world problem-solving experience.

Immigrant Song: An exhibit from April 2 to May 17, 2026: On display at UB's Schelfhaudt Gallery that depicted the immigrant experience in our country.

Best Hour with Alumni: Building an AI-Powered Career: Tools, Skills, and Mindset: Held on April 8, 2026: An interview session to learn how AI can be used to power your career.

4th Annual UB RISE (Research, Innovation, Scholarship, and Entrepreneurship): Held on April 17, 2026: A day to learn about the interdisciplinary work of UB faculty, students, staff, and alumni; as well as by colleagues at Goodwin University and Concurrent University Enrollment (CUE) high school students.

UB Commencement Ceremony: Held on May 2, 2026: Annual UB graduation also recognizing "Golden Knights" alumni who graduated in 1976.



Pictured here are some of the Golden Knights from the Class of 1976 who were honored at the May 2 UB graduation ceremony.

Announcements

Thanks to those alumni whose contributions helped 11 students purchase their caps and gowns for participation in the UB graduation ceremony.

Get Connected

- University of Bridgeport Alumni Association
- Donate Today!
- Connect with UB alumni businesses!

- UB's Centennial Celebration (2027)
- Update your contact info!

  Have you moved, changed your email, or updated your phone number? We want to make sure you don't miss out on important updates, events, and opportunities from UB. Please update your contact information here or contact us directly at UB Alumni Relations:

  Phone 203-576-2433

  Email alumni@bridgeport.edu

  Bates Hall, 135 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604