Austin Lewis’ bright future

by Sherry Meeks

Austin Lewis, a local from Eleanor, is a senior at the School of Business & Leadership majoring in business administration and finance. Lewis came to the University of Charleston to play basketball, but after two years decided to focus more on his studies. Austin has made the most of his time at the University, and in combination with the school has created a wonderful future for himself.

Lewis is the type of student that explores his options and makes the most of them. “I came in as a walk-on for the basketball team because I had played basketball in high school. I enjoyed playing with my fellow teammates, and we also have a great coach.” But after two years, he wanted to discover what else the School of Business & Leadership had to offer.

Professor Hannah Johnson and Instructor Annie Brackley encouraged him to participate in an internship through the school and BrickStreet Mutual Insurance. When describing Lewis, they both use strong words such as “remarkable, driven” and “intelligent.” Lewis states, “The combination of UC and BrickStreet Insurance is a good partnership.” He also says that working 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for the company over this past summer opened his eyes to the ways of the working world preparing him for his life after college.

Mary V. Richter, Project Manager with BrickStreet Mutual Insurance Company and Lewis’ mentor says, “Austin is an inspiration to young professionals entering today’s workplace.” Lewis is also a Welch Colleague, a title that, according to him, motivates him to be a “change agent” at UC and in the local community. In the past, Lewis states that Welch Colleagues have worked together to help local elementary schools and have also participated in Sustainable Agricultural Entrepreneurs (SAGE) – a non-profit that centers its efforts around agriculture in local low-income areas to educate residents in how to grow their own food.

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since I was here as a young student.”

Alcazar. “This is Delores’ home town, Charleston seemed the “reasonable”

would go back to school.

to the U.S. by promising that they both

decided to come to the United States.”

“And I had what my wife calls a mid-

owned his own company for nine years.

While in Venezuela, he worked for the

various locations, people and jobs to find

money,” says Alcazar. Then, he returned

name of Delores. “We got married –

after a year on the basketball team, his

While he was completing his final

doctorate. Lewis has definitely

October and will pursue his juris

area. He will be taking the Law

suggesting he consider a Ph.D. in

Cicero-Johns recently asked him

there is a “caring attitude and

capacity.” He goes on to say that

“you have to “love it to do it.”

each semester. He states that

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future looks very bright indeed.

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Armando Alcazar

Alcazar is retiring from 30

years of full-time teaching at the end of this school year, calling

his years as a professor “humbling and satisfying.” This circle isn’t

closing completely; Alcazar will

continue to teach three courses

each semester. He states that

you have to “love it to do it.”

Dr. Scott Bellamy

Dean of School of Business

& Leadership

That’s myUC, what’s yours?

In this newsletter, we introduce you to one

of those students, Austin Lewis, a Business

Administration and Finance major currently

studying for the LSAT. You also meet

Armando Alcazar, beloved professor and soon to be retiree. Our students and faculty

are extraordinary, and I am proud to share

their stories with you.

I’d also like to tell you about how our

School is collaborating with the Office of

Advancement this year. By now, I hope you

have seen the “myUC” logo on information

you received from the University. myUC is

all about bringing together the UC family,

past and present, and we are celebrating

that through fundraising as well. Rather

than emphasizing the Annual Fund this year,

the Office of Advancement is focusing on

building support for our Schools.

We want you, our alumni and donors,

to see exactly where your support goes

and the effect it has on the University.

You have the opportunity to give directly

to students, faculty, and projects in the School

of Business and Leadership. Not only are

they students like Austin and faculty like

Professor Alcazar, they are students like you

once were and faculty like those you had at

the University of Charleston.

I hope you’ll take the time to read through

this newsletter and get to know these

members of the UC family. I also encourage

you to read through the letters from the Office

of Advancement you are receiving and visit

www.ucwv.edu/myUC to find out more about the

myUC effort and how you can support

the School of Business and Leadership. At UC,

we’re Golden Eagles for life!

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Austin Lewis

What's your UC story?