

Honors Studies Program Attracts Some of UCC's Best and Brightest

The Honors Studies Program is dedicated to a style of learning that is self-directed and more personal and interactive. The Honors professors share a commitment to critical thinking, to independent research, to information literacy, and to nurturing in students an interdisciplinary and cross-cultural perspective.

Dr. Jeff Shalan has been Coordinator since its inception in the 2005 - 2006 academic year. He is eager for more UCC students to take advantage of the opportunity to excel in their studies "in a more personal, creative, intellectually challenging and non-traditional setting."

“
... a more
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Students with a 3.0 GPA and at least 15 college credits can take Honors Seminar courses. Intriguing topics have included *A Skeptical View of the Paranormal* with Prof. Toby Marx, *Gender and Sexuality* with Dr. Susannah Chewning, *Religious Fundamentalism in the Modern World* with Dr. Shalan, and *Global Issues in Business* with Dr. Cynthia Singer.

In the past two years, more than one-fifth of the 236 Honors Studies students also did Independent Studies. Their diverse topics embraced child psychology, sports management, nutrition in young children, aerospace engineering, political journalism, and music therapy. At Awards Night in May three students were recognized as "Distinguished Honors Studies Scholars", a distinction which appears on their transcripts. These 2007 alumnae, all of whom are experienced tutors, are:

- **Alison Kaiser**, Scotch Plains, now a psychology major at Ramapo University. Alison's Independent Study bridged sociology and nutrition, examining eating disorders and individuals' relationships with food.



Conferring in the MacKay Library are (seated, l. to r.) Adalia Leander and Alison Kaiser, and (standing) Tanya Tenturier.

- **Adalia Leander**, Roselle, studying at Polytechnic University as a chemical engineering major. Her Independent Study in Media/Cultural Studies, with Nasrene Mondol '07, explored anime and the Japanese animation industry.
- **Tanya E. Tenturier**, Elizabeth, enrolled at Fairleigh Dickinson University in an accelerated Master's program, majoring in Education and Mathematics. Her goal is to operate a Charter School one day, so her Independent Study in Education was to create a blueprint for such a school, including curriculum, budget and architecture.

Students rave about the Honors Studies Program's "phenomenal" professors, open-minded and constantly challenging them, and the "awesome classes" which allow them to personalize their education and force them to actively participate. This program is one reason enthusiastic grad Tanya Tenturier calls UCC "New Jersey's best-kept secret."!

Save the Date

UCC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

All alumni are welcome!
Faculty/Staff Dining Room
Cranford Campus Center
Tuesdays, September - June, 7 PM

Nov. 13 Dec. 11 Holiday Party
Feb. 12 Mar. 11 Apr. 15
May 13 June 10

THEATER PROJECT at UNION COUNTY COLLEGE

Omnium Gatherum
by Theresa Rebeck

& Alexandra Gersten-Vassilaros
"A dinner party to end them all!"

October 4 -21

Thursday - Saturday 8 PM
Sunday 3 PM

Roy W. Smith Theater, Cranford Campus
\$20, \$12 TH, All Students \$10
Reserve at (908) 659-5189

TOMASULO ART GALLERY

Kenneth C. MacKay Library
September 25 - November 1

Mel Leipzig, oil paintings
Artists in Their Studios

November 16 - December 20

Fran Wilner & Lois Shapiro
Papermates, mixed media

UCC FOUNDATION

15th Annual Casino Gala
November 3, 2007
Richel Student Commons

About Union COUNTY COLLEGE

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Alumni Association Board



ALUMNI VOLUNTEERS. The UCC Alumni Association officers and new board members were inducted during a ceremony at the June meeting. Pictured are (l. to r.) President Nancy J. Benz '73, 1st Vice President Jeff Chait '94, Treasurer Suzanne Skillin Covine '58, Recording Secretary Linda Ives Kurdilla '89, and 2nd Vice President Gina Caivano '91. Corresponding Secretary Karen Schmidt Lledo '97 is missing. The UCC Alumni Association was formed in 1937 during a lavish buffet dinner in New York (cost, \$2.20!), where Dr. Kenneth MacKay and Prof. Hermann Bielefeld were elected "faculty sponsors for life." The first dues were 50 cents, but membership is affordable today at \$15 for three years. (See page 7.)

Alumni Association's 3rd Annual Holiday Boutique

■ **Saturday, December 1**

Shop for birthdays, Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanza - or just for fun - from 10 AM to 4 PM in the Victor M. Richel Student Commons on the Cranford campus. Retail vendors and crafters will offer jewelry, scarves, silk neckties, antiques, candy, CD's, toys, candles, ornaments, Pampered Chef, and so much more. Treat yourself, or find the perfect gift for that special someone. Karen (Schmidt) Lledo '97 chairs the event committee.

Please contact (908) 497-4377 or UCCholidayboutique@yahoo.com to rent a table or volunteer for the Holiday Boutique.

Proceeds support Alumni
Association Scholarships for
Part-time Students.



2007 Alumni Prize

At Commencement Nancy J. Benz '73, UCC Alumni Association President (r.), presented Joanna Trzaskowska (l.) the Alumni Prize, as the graduate with the highest GPA (4.0) with the most credits at UCC (80).

Joanna, of New Providence, came from Poland as an au pair before enrolling at UCC and will continue her studies at Montclair State University.



New Leadership at the UCC Foundation

With the start of the new fiscal year, the Union County College Foundation welcomed Thomas Sharkey, Jr. as Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Linda Moore, Esq. as the Foundation's new Executive Director.

A graduate of Villanova University, Tom has been a member of the UCCF Board for close to a decade. In recent years, he has served as Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Chair of the Finance Committee and Chair of the Audit Committee. He has extensive experience in banking, insurance and financial services and is currently an insurance broker with Meeker Sharkey Associates, LLC in Cranford. Tom was formerly President & CEO of Banc of America Corporate Insurance Agency, LLC., the 2005 UCC Gala honoree. In assuming

this important position on the Board, Tom stated, "UCC is a vital educational resource for the entire county and I am excited by the unique opportunities that the office of Chairman of the UCC Foundation offers to expand my service to this exemplary institution."

As Executive Director of Development, Linda Moore brings to the Foundation more than twenty years of fund raising and leadership experience. Most recently, she was the Director of Development at The Newark Museum where she implemented major fundraising campaigns with support from individual donors, corporations, foundations and government sources.

A graduate of Douglass College and Rutgers Law School, Newark, Linda is eagerly looking forward to working with trustees, faculty and staff to develop the resources that will enable Union County College to thrive as a nurturing learning community. If you would like to learn more about the work of the UCC Foundation, or would like information about the special scholarship initiatives, programs and events that the Foundation sponsors throughout the year, please contact Linda Moore at the Foundation Office at (908) 709-7113.



Casino Gala Sets Sail

Join us "way down in Dixie" for the **15th Annual UCC Foundation Gala - "Show Boat River Cruise!"** This celebration will honor Public Service Electric & Gas Company for its generous support of educational programs.

Spend an evening with many friends of the College as we "float" down the old Mississippi River, entertained by the great sounds of Dixieland. Enjoy cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and a gourmet buffet. Test your luck playing poker, black jack, roulette, craps and the Big Wheel for a chance to win tempting raffle prizes. Make a bid for fantastic items in the Silent Auction, including original art and sports memorabilia.

**Saturday, November 3, 2007
6:00 PM - midnight**


**Victor M. Richel Student Commons,
Cranford Campus**

*\$150 per person / \$350 for a two-ticket
Friend Sponsorship*

Tickets include \$25 per person "fun money"

Only 300 tickets are being sold at \$100 each for the **50/50 Cash Raffle**, which will award up to \$15,000. Consider pooled ticket buying. First prize is \$6,000, 2nd, 3rd and 4th prizes will be \$3,000 each, if all tickets are sold. That's great odds!

Can't attend? Consider participating with an ad in the *Gala Ad Journal*, which is mailed after the event and features photos of guests. One-line Donor Listing is \$100/ Quarter Page is \$225/ Half Page is \$300/ Full Page is \$500.

Join the fun while showing your support of UCC students by calling the Foundation office at 908-709-7505 or visiting www.uccfoundation.org to receive a Gala invitation, to purchase 50/50 Cash Raffle tickets, or to place an ad in the Gala Journal. 

Fall 2007 • 3

A great party for a great cause!!

UCC Foundation Presents the

15th Annual Gala SHOWBOAT River Cruise

honoring



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2007 at 6:00 P.M

Cranford Campus
Victor M. Richel Student Commons
Black Tie Optional

Proceeds support scholarships for UCC Students.

Contact Diane McCurdy, Events Manager
at 908/709-7505 or Mccurdy@ucc.edu



Read Owl About It:

FIRST NEBLETT PRIZES. The late UCC Governor and UCC Foundation Trustee Dr. Richard Neblett endowed the *Dr. Richard & Barbara Neblett Prize for Educational Excellence in Teaching & Learning*. The first Prizes were awarded in May 2007 - to Prof. John McDermott, English/ESL, who will promote the enjoyment of poetry on campus and offer faculty workshops to integrate poetry into the ESL and English curricula, and to the Black Student Heritage Organization for programs celebrating Black History Month in February. 📖

21 CLUB RAFFLE. Every Monday at noon in the Richel Commons, a dedicated crowd gathers in excited anticipation, hoping to hear their names called out as winners in the *21 Club Cash Raffle* drawing. The last drawing will be on Monday, November 19th, awarding the grand prizes - one prize at \$3,000, three at \$1,000 and one at \$500. Good luck to all ticket holders, and thank you for supporting the UCC Foundation! 📖

GEORGE ZIRNITE PRIZE. At Awards Night in May Alison Kaiser '07 was awarded the Prize of \$5,900 for future college costs, as the graduating Humanities Major who had demonstrated interest in languages, literature, art, music or theater and will pursue a Baccalaureate Degree in the Humanities. This Prize honors the memory of **George Zirnite**, English professor and 1948 alumnus. It was endowed by a generous bequest by his friend James Wise. 📖

4th GOLDEN BROOM AWARD! Students, staff and members of UCC's Americorps program participated in the City of Elizabeth's citywide clean up day - New Energy Keeps Elizabeth Clean - Earth Day, April 26, 2007. 📖

About Campus

Dr. Susannah Chewing, English/Fine Arts/Modern Languages, made two presentations at the International Medieval Congress at Western Michigan U. in May - *Chaucer or Gower? Difficult Choices in the Two-Year Classroom*, and *Speaking of Flesh and Soul: Concepts of Translation in Medieval English Anchoritic Mysticism*.

Prof. William Dunscombe, Chair of the Biology Dept., gave one of his popular *New Jersey Trivia* presentations at the annual meeting of the New Providence Historical Society in April. Coach of UCC's Golf Team for 30 years, Coach Dunscombe achieved his 400th career win on April 2, 2007 - a milestone to celebrate!

Emeritus Professor Dr. Edward Golda has published *Honore de Balzac and the Dedictees of La Comedie Humaine*. He has researched and written about the hundred plus persons to whom Balzac dedicated his works. It is available through www.xlibris.com and www.amazon.com.

The new president-elect of the Pennsylvania/New Jersey Chapter of the College Reading and Learning Asso. is **Jacqueline Leonard**, Head Tutor at the Elizabeth Campus Academic Learning Center.

Dr. Phillip Papas, Economics/Government/History, is the author of *That Ever Loyal Island: Staten Island and the American Revolution* (New York University Press, 2007). He continues to speak about his research at various venues.

Michael Yosifon, Vice President of Financial Affairs & Treasurer, Chaired the New Jersey Community Colleges Business Officers Assoc. for 2006-07.

IN MEMORIAM

Prof. Sandra Perman Itzkoff, Biology Dept. 1983 - 2000. Scotch Plains, NJ. June 2007. A memorial scholarship is being established by her sons. Contributions to the UCC Foundation are welcome - call 908/709-7505.

Shaping Our Future

Since 1933, UCC has been preparing students to face the challenges of the future. Through comprehensive curricula taught by dedicated faculty on four convenient campuses, the college is making a difference in the lives of our students. Yet for many students, a college education would remain out of reach without the generosity of committed friends and donors. If UCC is to fulfill its mission of providing high quality educational programs that are accessible and affordable, we need you as a partner. You can play a vital role in the life of a student by making a gift to the annual fund *Shaping Our Future*. A gift to the *Shaping Our Future* annual fund helps educate the next generation and trains a skilled workforce. Gifts to the annual fund create scholarships which help turn the dream of a college education into a reality. As a result of donor-sup-

The Shaping Our Future Annual Campaign supports student success with scholarships.

- Be included • Be counted
- Be generous

Send your gift or donate online at www.uccfoundation.org

THANK YOU!

ported scholarships, more than 400 students each year have realized their dream of pursuing a college education.

Enclosed with this newsletter is the *Shaping Our Future* envelope. Your contribution will help fund scholarships and support special programs and projects. Every gift counts. An investment in UCC is an investment in the future. The generosity of friends and alumni is critical. Please take a moment to make your gift today, and thank you for your support. 📖

Alumni Profile

Entrepreneur & Family Man

John Bush '86

Claiming he was only "an OK student" at Cranford High School, John Bush was energized at UCC by his teachers, who took a personal interest in his education. He made the Dean's List all four semesters as a Business major, and remembers fondly Prof. Vicki Reback's English classes and helping her and the Garden Club build the gazebo in the Peace Garden.

His business studies continued at the University of Maryland where he earned a BA. But it was his part-time job driving a wheelchair van while a UCC student that inspired his successful career. At age 24 he started On Time Transport, Inc., often working in his bathrobe out of his parents' basement. In 1990, there were four employees and three vehicles. Fast forwarding 17 years, he has 240 employees and 111 vehicles, working out of multiple locations, with headquarters in Roselle, NJ. His wife, Laura, is the attorney who handles all the contracts and legal work for the firm, while raising three lively young children at their home in Cranford.

His business offers quality 24/7 medical transportation within the tri-state area for clients in stretchers or wheelchairs, and ambulatory children and adults who need assistance. The fleet includes ambulances, wheelchair vans, and minivans. Owning a nearby NAPA Auto Parts store is a plus in maintaining

the vehicles.

OnTime Transport's priority is providing prompt, courteous and caring service to clients. John's management philosophy evolved from being a top-down manager to seeing his role as a supportive delegator. The organization is centered around supporting the field associates and 70 EMTs who are the direct link to clients.



On Vacation in Hawaii. Laura and John Bush with children (l. to r.) Johnny, Caroline and Amanda.

He claims his greatest satisfaction is from employing a diverse team of great compassionate people who find satisfaction in providing a needed service that makes a difference in the lives of many clients.

Last year John became an angel for the Peace Garden. Opposite the entrance to the MacKay Library, it provides an oasis for the College community. Prof. Allen Ashby called it "the most beautiful spot on the college campus". Dedicated Master Gardener Anna Ferrara plans and plants and keeps the Garden beautiful in all seasons. John has been exploring creative ways the Garden could be expanded and made into a larger gathering place for students. With a proven record of making his dreams come true, this enterprising alumnus may lead the way to a bigger and better Peace Garden. 🇺🇸



ALUMNI AT THE RACES: (l. to r.) Dr. Karl A. Hebbe '89, Middletown, NJ, Carol Ann Cieslak '92, Kenilworth, NJ, Cheryl Pinhoe, and Glen C. Hebbe '01, Port Reading, NJ.

14th Annual Evening at the Races

Thanks to generous donors and guests, on June 28th the UCC Foundation raised over \$43,500 for scholarships and programs for UCC students. The lead sponsors were Century 21 Atlantic Realtors, Roselle Park; Investors Saving Bank; PSE&G, and Raymond James & Associates.



UCC Foundation Trustee and Adjunct Professor of Business William Collins.

Over 14 years the *Evening at the Races* has raised over a half a million dollars! Foundation Trustee William "Bill" Collins has chaired the event the past eight years; previous chairs were Norman Lichtman, and the late Paul O'Keeffe and Sidney Lessner.

Mark your calendars for the **15th Annual Evening at the Races** on Thursday, June 26, 2008 at the Pegasus, Meadowlands, and thank you for wagering on UCC. 🇺🇸

You are invited to take a
Cranford Campus Tour
for Alumni & Friends!

Contact Laisa at (908)709 - 7505
uccfound@ucc.edu



Tuesday, October 16 - 4 PM
Thursday, November 15 - 10 AM
Wednesday, January 16 - 3 PM
Friday, March 14 - 10 AM


About Alumni

- **Marilyn Warner Rautio '46** lives in South Bound Brook, NJ and enjoys board membership on the Friends of Abraham Staats House, the Raritan Millstone Heritage Alliance, and the Canal Watch. mrautio@verizon.net
- **Barbara Ann Kloss '58**, of Elizabeth, was honored by the New Jersey Senior Corps Asso. with the *2007 Volunteer Recognition Award* in June at the Molly Pitcher Inn in Red Bank for all her volunteer work since retiring from ExxonMobil in 1994. For the past seven years she has taught computer skills to developmentally disabled adults through Community Access Unlimited. She has endowed the Barbara Ann Kloss Scholarship with the UCC Foundation.
- **Dr. Rona L. Holub '69** lives in New York City, where she graduated in May 2007 from Columbia U. with a Ph.D. in American History. She is teaching at Sarah Lawrence College and works as a book publicist specializing in non-fiction history. Rlh25@columbia.edu
- **Linda M. Kolar '72** moved to Plainfield, NJ in 2006, where she is enjoying being a first-time homeowner and drawing, painting and exhibiting her art. easeloil@verizon.net.
- **Katherine M. Buczek '74**, of Sayreville, NJ, has a BS in nursing from Barnard College and is a nurse practitioner. She now is in charge of health services for residents of a Sunrise assisted living center.

- **Marilyn (Hermann) Wickstrom '74**, of Livingston, NJ, is a 1976 Kean U. alumna. She is part owner and Executive Vice President of Snelling Staffing in Summit, NJ; her staff of 18 recruiters specialize in administrative/operations positions. mrichards@snellingsummit.com.
- **Angie Tsirkas '84**, of Sayreville, NJ, is Vice President and Branch Manager of National Savings Bank in Linden, NJ. atsirkas@northfield.com
- **Thomas Sabol, '87**, of Trenton, NJ, has joined the faculty of Middlesex County College as chairperson of the Engineering Technologies Dept. After UCC, he earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Rutgers U. TSabol@middlesex.edu
- **Frank A. Napolitano**, of Freehold, NJ, who last attended in **1992**, has a degree in Marketing from Villanova U., and has taught marketing at Union High School since 1998. This year he was named Head Coach of Union High's baseball team, for which he had played as a student. He was Captain of the UCC's first baseball team in 1991.
- **Karen A. Marotta '98** was awarded her Master's in Education/ Professional Development in May from Seton Hall U. She lives in Cranford and has two young children. kmarotta@comcast.net
- **Mayra (Barreto) Marallano '98**, of Newark, NJ, is Admissions Coordinator at the UMDNJ School of Nursing. She and husband Herman Marallano have a two-year old daughter, Sara Luz. mrsmarallano@optonline.net
- From Kean U. **Linda Haustein Ferreira '00**, of Cranford, NJ, earned a BA in 2002 in Early Childhood Education & English, and an MA in 2005 in Educational Administration. She is an Early Childhood Master Teacher for the Elizabeth Public Schools. msmermaid@comcast.net



Annual Heritage Society Appreciation Luncheon

Donors who have made bequests or other planned gifts to benefit the College were feted on June 8, 2007. UCC Foundation Chairman Larry Bashe, a *Heritage Society* member himself, inducted Marie Hudak '82, of Mountainside into this special group. Carol Ann Cieslak '92, of Kenilworth, was also inducted. They will be recognized in perpetuity for their generosity to future generations. 

- **Maurice E. Prior III '02, Luz-Patricia Torres '02, and Edite Valentim '02**, all residents of Elizabeth, NJ, graduated from the College of St. Elizabeth in Morristown, NJ in May 2007 with BS in Nursing degrees.
- **Michael S. Edwards '04**, of Union, NJ, is a real estate agent with Century 21 Atlantic in Roselle Park. Awards won in 2006 include Centurion Award, NJAR Circle of Excellence, Bronze, and Pacesetter Gold Award. medwards@century21atlantic.com
- **Patricia L. (Godsey) Howe** is retired from Verizon New Jersey and living in Sarasota, FL. Her new children's book, *Grandpa's Ladder, The First Adventure of Ooch*, is published by The Sugimori Studio in Sarasota. It is set in New York's Chinatown in 1949. patton58@verizon.net

■ IN MEMORIAM

Judge Richard P. Muscatello '41. Linden, NJ. July 2007.

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Jerry Krueger, Esq., Permanent Member of the UCC Foundation Board of Trustees

Donors Ages 70½+ Can Make Gifts to Charity of IRA Funds in 2007

Age has its privileges!

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 created a new charitable giving tax-saving opportunity for 2006 and 2007 only. Donors may make transfers from a traditional individual retirement account (IRA) or a Roth IRA directly to a charity. The gift amount is excluded from gross income and from the 50% Adjusted Gross Income rules.

“Simple and painless” is the way UCC Foundation trustee Jerome Krueger, of Krueger & Krueger, Esqs. in Linden, describes his experience making a gift to the UCC Foundation from his IRA in May. He stresses that it’s important for donors to take advantage of the benefits of IRA rollovers to charity in 2007 while this option is still available.

Charitable IRA gifts can be used to satisfy a donor’s Minimum Required Distribution requirements in the year of the gift. For federal tax purposes, Charitable IRA Rollovers are not includible in income so are not taxed, nor do they generate a deduction. Therefore these distributions will have a net zero effect on the donor’s federal taxes. The limit is \$100,000 per year per donor. Pending new legislation, this option expires December 31, 2007, so it is important to explore this giving opportunity during 2007.

The IRA Charitable Rollover option is particularly attractive to donors who are charitably inclined and who are required to take a distribution of IRA funds that they do not need. And avoiding paying income tax is attractive to everyone! For more information, contact Ann Poskocil at 908/709-7028.



Shaping Our Future Donors Honored on Tree of Education

When a donor’s contributions to *Shaping Our Future* reach \$500, an engraved leaf is placed on the Tree of Education in the Richel Commons.

Donors choose the wordings, which are often memorials or tributes to loved ones.

- \$500 • Copper Leaf
- \$2,500 • Brass Leaf
- \$5,000 • Brass Apple
- \$10,000 • Wood & Brass Stone

For information, contact Ann Poskocil at 908-709-7028



Keep In Touch

Join the UCC Alumni Association!

The Benefits of Membership include:

- Networking • Library Privileges
- Bookstore Discount • Holiday Party
- UCC Fitness Center at Low Alumni Rate

YES, I want to join

the UCC Alumni Association.

- 3 years (thru June 2010): \$15.00
- Lifetime: \$125

I am a member

- enclosed are my renewal dues.

- 3 years (thru June 2010): \$15.00
- Lifetime: \$125

Make checks payable to:
UCC Alumni Association.

UCC is proud of you!

Please share your education or career news.

Mail this form, e-mail us at uccfound@ucc.edu or use the *Contact Us!* form on www.uccfoundation.org.

Name: (Please include maiden name) _____

Phone: Day _____ Evening _____

E-Mail _____

Graduation YEAR _____ Or Last Year Attended _____

Major _____

Address: new? _____

Info for the “About Alumni” column: _____

I want to help by getting involved:

- Board Committee
- Holiday Boutique Volunteer
- Phone-a-thon
- Student Recruitment
- Other _____



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Cranford, New Jersey 07016

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2007 Graduation

Welcome, New Alumni!

The sun shone brightly at the 73rd Annual Commencement ceremonies as degrees, certificates and diplomas were conferred on 850 students in the Class of 2007, in 90 academic disciplines.



Dr. Roger Poirier

Speakers on May 23rd were the Chair of UCC's Board of Trustees, Victor M. Richel (marking 25 years of service to the College), College President Dr. Thomas H. Brown, and student speaker Edward Bontempo '07, President of the Student Government Association (SGA). 