Fall 2010

A Newsletter for

**Alumni and Friends** 



About

Dr. Margaret M. McMenamin

enthusiasm, profound respect for tradition and a tendency to question the status quo. Her experience, optimism and ambitions mirror those of many of Union's alumni.

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Growing up in central New Jersey, Dr. McMenamin was always looking for opportunities to play a positive role in the community. In high school, she lobbied to create the first girls' athletic program at the school. Her hard work paid off when the girls' basketball team won the Shore Conference championship three years later.

"Most young people in Union County have dreams and groundbreaking ideas. I was just lucky, I found people who believed in me.That's what I want to be for the students and alumni: someone supportive, who understands that by uniting with extraordinary individuals and fostering their talents, we can transform our community," Dr. McMenamin explained.

That visionary philosophy has served her well. Dr. McMenamin earned a scholarship to Temple University where she graduated cum laude with a B.S. in Physical Therapy. After graduation, Dr. McMenamin worked as a Physical Therapist for five years before joining the faculty at Lehigh Carbon Community College (LCCC) in Pennsylvania. "When I was given the opportunity to teach, I couldn't resist the chance. I believe in the college experience and I was honored to teach what I had learned to anyone who was interested."

Teaching changed Dr. McMenamin's life. "I loved working with students directly. In very few jobs can you have a direct impact on opening someone's mind, showing them something they never imagined before and supporting them when they struggle. If you are there for them during those moments, you will never be forgotten. People remember the teachers who offered them a safe environment where they can learn and take risks."

It was during her early years of teaching that Dr. McMenamin became enthusiastic about the comprehensive community college philosophy. "Unlike universities and four-year colleges, the commu-

## Meet Dr. Margaret M. McMenamin, the New President of UNION County College

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When you meet Dr. Margaret M. McMenamin, the new president of Union County College, you will encounter a natural leader possessing a unique mix of infectious ect for tradition and a nity college is 100% student-focused and it respects the needs of the entire community, including transfer-minded students, those who want to pursue a career immediately after graduation, locals who need to enhance their professional skill sets and life-long learners who are always looking for something new. Seeing how a community college orchestrates all of its assets to deliver real value to students with such diverse interests inspired me to earn my Master's at the University of Scranton and Doctorate in Educational Leadership at Lehigh University."

In 2000, Dr. McMenamin was named LCCC's Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs. "Leaving teaching was tough," she admitted. "I loved the classroom, but I knew I could make a more meaningful impact by working in the college's administration."

When Dr. McMenamin was offered the opportunity to return to New Jersey as Brookdale Community College's Executive Vice President of Educational and Student Services, she jumped at the chance. During her five years at Brookdale, Dr. McMenamin facilitated enormous changes in the way the College interacted with students. She spearheaded the proliferation of technologically enhanced classrooms, allowing students and faculty to work in a state-of the-art atmosphere vital to today's learning environment. Under her leadership, Brookdale also moved into student-centered course scheduling, offering classes at the most convenient times for those who take them and designing a system by which, as popular classes close, additional sections open.

Dr. McMenamin is particularly interested in strengthening Union's already impressive alumni association and community outreach. "The people who have attended and graduated from Union County College are our current students' most valuable assets," she explained. "They have the power to mentor, help them find jobs and offer inspiration that they too can succeed and gain from the Union experience. I welcome everyone who has ever studied here, and those who live in the County to join us in shaping Union's bright future. Together we can create an invincible network of individuals who celebrate and support each other's successes and enrich each other's lives."

The Alumni Association welcomes everyone who has attended Union County College to join and tell their stories of success. Take a moment to update your information now, and share how the Union experience changed your life or transformed your career. Alumni success stories will be featured on the College's new website which is currently in production. Contact Sara Guerin at (908) 709-7066 or Guerin@ucc.edu.



All alumni are welcome! Presidential Conference Room MacDonald Hall, Cranford Campus, Tuesdays, 7 PM September 14 • 1st Meeting

#### The THEATER PROJECT, UNION COUNTY COLLEGE'S PROFESSIONAL THEATER COMPANY

#### CROWNS by Regina Taylor (based on a book by Michael Cunningham and Craig Marberry)

A musical about the experience of churchgoing black women in the South where their hats are a symbol of the pride, beauty and endurance of black women everywhere.

September 23 - October 17

Saturdays – 8 PM Sundays – 3 PM Roy W. Smith Theater, Cranford Campus

> www.brownpapertickets.com www.thetheaterproject.org (908) 659-5189

#### TOMASULO ART GALLERY

Kenneth C. MacKay Library M-Th 1-4 pm, Sat. 10 am – 1 pm, T-Th 6-9 pm

September 16 – October 30: "Roadside" by Howard Zoubek: Solo Exhibition of photographs of unexpected beauty found along the side of the road during the artist travels.

November 12 – December 18: Barbara Ellmann: Solo Exhibition of abstract paintings.

FOUNDERS DAY CELEBRATION October 20 • Cranford Campus

#### **UCC FOUNDATION**

18th Annual Gala & Retirement Celebration for Dr. Thomas H. Brown – October 22 The Villa at Mountain Lakes

### Neblett Prize for Educational Excellence in Teaching & Learning

For the fourth year, prizes established by the bequest of Dr. Richard F. Neblett, longtime board member of the College and the Foundation, were presented at Awards Night in May. The Dr. Richard F. & Barbara Neblett Prize for Educational Excellence in Teaching and Learning was presented to two faculty honorees, Prof. James Magliano of the Mathematics department and Prof. Jennifer McCarthy, Director of the Paramedic Program. Prof. Magliano and Prof. McCarthy will each receive a one-time scholarship named in their honor, to be awarded to UCC students based on criteria set by them. 🍃



Honoree Prof. Magliano and Prof. Elizabeth Neblett, daughter of Richard and Barbara Neblett.



Martin Fontela, Regional Manager for Aaron's presented James Masterson a check for \$2,000 for the Union County College Foundation. Aaron's, which recently opened a new store in Plainfield, is a leader in lease ownership and specialty retailing of office furniture, consumer electronics, home appliances and electronics.

## WE VALUE YOUR OPINION of *About Union!*

Go to www.uccfoundation.org and fill out the Newsletter Feedback Form.And while you're there, share YOUR news for the next issue!

# About Join the could be a way by the

is published three times a year by the Union County College Foundation

James J. Masterson Executive Director

Sara Guerin Editor & Mgr. Development & Alumni Relations

(908) 709-7505 uccfound@ucc.edu www.uccfoundation.org Join the Union County College Foundation for its 18th Annual Gala on Friday evening, October 22, 2010, as we gather to honor Dr. Thomas H. Brown on the occasion of his retirement.

### Friday, October 22, 2010 6:30 in the evening The Villa at Mountain Lakes Mountain Lakes, New Jersey

This year's Gala will forego its usual themed-style affair and instead will pay tribute to Dr. Brown's 20-year career as President of Union County College. In addition to celebrating Dr. Brown's legacy of growth and achievement at the College, the Gala will also feature a special evening of sumptuous dining and dancing. Proceeds will go in support of the UCC Foundation's work in provid-



ing scholarships to deserving students.

As in past years, there are multiple sponsorship levels. Sponsorship reservations start at just \$450 and individual tickets are \$200. Tables of ten may be purchased at a special rate of \$1,800 (\$2,000 regular price). Additionally, the UCC Foundation will host a Live Auction. This exciting, fast paced auction is a great opportunity to purchase some fantastic items including vacations, dinner with a private chef, and the season's must have tickets in sports and entertainment.

Due to popular demand the UCC Foundation will continue the 50/50 cash raffle. With only 300 tickets sold at \$100 each, the potential winnings may total \$15,000! 1st prize is \$6,000, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th prizes will each be \$3,000 if all tickets are sold. Don't miss out on the chance to be a winner!

If you are unable to attend, there are multiple ways in which you can still show your support for Union County College and Dr. Thomas Brown! Please consider placing an advertisement in the Gala Ad Journal, this is an excellent way to showcase your business or offer your congratulations to Dr. Brown. A Full Page Ad is \$500, Half Page is \$300, and Quarter Page is \$225. You may also show your support by donating an item for the live and/or silent auction portion of the evening. To view a wish list of items please visit the Gala Page on the UCC Foundation website.

For additional information regarding sponsorship opportunities, event and table reservations, 50/50 raffle tickets, ad journal sales, and participation in this most memorable Gala, please contact Holland Sunyak, Manager of Special Events at (908) 709-7505, sunyak@ucc.edu, or visit www.uccfoundation.org.



The Evening at the Races Committee (1. to r.) Nancy Merrill, Sherry Heidary, James Masterson, Carol Cieslak, Janet Rocco, Holland Sunyak, William Collins, and Andrew Hamilton. (Not pictured – Lawrence Bashe, Paul Chapin, Paul Eilbacher, Dr. John R. Farrell, Jr., and Dr. Barbara Gaba.



## 17th Annual Evening at the Races

UCCF Trustee Horace Baldwin shows off his winning tickets in the Fifth Race.

On June 17th the UCC Foundation held its 17th Annual Evening at the Races at the Pegasus Restaurant, high atop the Meadowlands racing complex. A group of almost 150, including faculty,

staff, students, alumni, trustees, and corporate partners joined us for an exciting evening of harness racing. This highly anticipated event raised just under \$36,000 to support UCC students with tremendous help from friends and supporters!

Be part of the fun next year, join us at the Meadowlands in June! 🍃



UCC faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends gather to watch the start of the Third race.



## Alumni Profile

**Rachael Paulson '80**, always knew that she wanted to work with children, and as a teenager would travel to Newark with her father to work with disadvantaged youth. After the sudden death of her seven-year-old brother Johnny, which affected her deeply, Rachael took some time off from her studies at Kean University, to find her own path.

When she decided to resume her education a few years later, Rachael chose Union County College because of its convenience and affordability. UCC became a second home for her, where it was not unusual for her to spend six hours a day studying with fellow students. Rachael credits Violet Wilmore, her counselor at UCC, who pushed her to succeed and guided her toward a future in education. She also cites English professor, Dr. Karl Oelke, for inspiring her to write.

After graduating from UCC, Rachael returned to Kean University and earned a degree in Early Childhood and Special Education. For 15 years, she taught Special Education in Roselle and then later in Texas before leaving to start a family.

It was a simple question from one of her children that inspired a whole new direction for Rachael's life, "Why do we recycle?" She published two children's books on recycling *Johnny and the Old Oak Tree* and *Sir Johnny's Recycling*  Adventure. She also developed a workshop for elementary school children to help them understand the recycling process.

Rachael used the proceeds from her efforts to purchase books, run her workshops and develop projects like planting trees or gardens in schools in impoverished areas.

The success of her children's books opened up a new world of opportunity for Rachael. She presented her workshops and signed books with former First

Rachael Paulson

Lady Barbara Bush and renowned primatologist Jane Goodall, and was invited by the United Nations to meet with children from over 120 countries to share her work during the United Nations Environmental Children's Conference in 2000.At this meeting, Rachael connected with children and individuals from many developing nations. "I was amazed at how many kids had never slept in a bed or eaten with a fork and spoon. Many of them did not even have running water."

When she returned home, Rachael began researching her next book. She was encouraged to research the more than 700 schools in South Africa that lacked a basic necessity we take for granted – running water. She spoke with water companies, drilling companies, and different schools for her research. In time Rachael made contact with a school in Kwa-Zulu-Natal where students tended their small school garden by carrying water by hand from a distant ravine. Johnson and Johnson in South Africa offered to fund a trip to the school to run her workshop for the students.

When she arrived in Kwa-Zulu-Natal and saw how the students were forced to retrieve water, she decided to act. She contacted the drilling company to whom she had been speaking about her next book and agreed to pay for them to drill for water near the school. Rachael saw quickly how the search for water not only brought the community together, but also focused national attention on the lack of basic necessities in the area. Putting her book on hold, she began working with that community to sustain and expand the project to include planting food gardens and installing sinks. When other schools in rural South Africa began contacting her for assistance, she decided to create a non-profit organization to assist with fundraising and other aspects of the project. She founded **Hands on the World Global** in 2006.

As a part of the new organization, Rachael developed a model called the "Green Community Hub" that each school system must follow in order to be included. It consists of five stages; connecting the school to water, running pipes to the community and installing sinks in the schools, creating a seedling garden program, offering workshops about water options, filters, sanitation taught through art, music, literacy, and writing, and a Community Awareness Day where the people and the local government are invited to take ownership of the project.

#### Today, Rachael can proudly point to five communities in South Africa where she helped create sustainable Green Community Hubs. She is currently expanding her work to Ghana and Haiti as well.

Rachael also works with schools and youth groups in the United States and internationally, to teach them about the environment, and about South Africa. She travels to schools to offer workshops and helps students design murals to send schools in South Africa. She also works with local colleges and universities to send interns to the hubs in Africa to both learn and teach.

"I want to thank Union County College for being my safe haven as I now set out to create safe havens for children around the world," she said. "UCC worked as my bridge, crossing over from grief to healing and leading me to become the person I am today."

To learn more about Rachael's organization, **Hands on the World Global** and how you can get involved, visit her website www.howglobal.org.

E-mail your story of SUCCESS to guerin@ucc.edu



- **Eric G. Mason '80**, Police Chief of Cranford, NJ, was installed as the President of the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police (NJSACOP). On June 23rd, he was sworn in as President by Union County Prosecutor Theodore Romankow at the organization's 89th Annual Training Conference. Chief Mason also serves on the UCC Board of Governors
- William Merwede '83 and Andrew Stratton '03, both of Cranford, were promoted within the Cranford Fire Department in June. William was advanced to the rank of Captain and Andrew was promoted to Lieutenant.
- Mary E. Zago, CPA, '90 of Union, NJ, a Senior Accountant for Union County College, has been elected President of the Union County Chapter of the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants. In the Union County chapter, she has served as Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Director, and prior to becoming President, she served as a member of the NJSCPA Financial Literacy Committee.

- **Kathryn J. Warren '94** of Westfield, NJ recently published a book of memoirs and poetry entitled *Tales from the Boulevard*. Her writing will also be featured in the August edition of the "Goose River Anthology 2010."
- Mary M. Zimmerman '01 of Summit, NJ was named Volunteer of the Month by Sage Eldercare. Mary delivers meals once a week for the Meals on Wheels program and volunteers with Summit's "Loaves and Fishes" food pantry at St. Teresa's of Avila Church. She also serves as a trustee of the UCC Foundation and member of the UCC Board of Governors and Board of Trustees.

#### IN MEMORIAM

**Gloria Marjorie Holmes Eck '48** May 2010, Bridgewater, NJ

Richard J. Haberski '48 June 2010, Emerson, NJ

Walter T. Ware '98 October 2009, Lancaster, SC

Ruth B. Mysiak '04 December 2009, Cranford, NJ



## New AA Officers

UCC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS. James J. Masterson, Executive Director of the UCC Foundation, installed the new officers for the 2010 – 2011 year on June 8tb. Posing are James Masterson, Treasurer Suzanne Covine '58, Secretary Karen Lledo '97, Vice President Gina Caivano '91, and President Jeffrey Chait '94 (1. to r.). Three members of the Board of Trustees, Bonnie Bendlin '68, Camille Cormier '81, and Jean Kellogg '01, were reappointed for a three year term.

## *Alumni Association Lecture Series*

Coming this winter, the UCC Alumni Association will be offering a Lecture Series in the Roy Smith Theater on the Cranford Campus. For more information on speakers and dates, visit the Alumni Association website, www.uccfoundation.org/alumniassociation.htm. The series was made possible by a grant from the Roy W. Smith Public Affairs & Cultural Endowment Fund.

Theater Project Stages Musical for the First Time For the first time since the Theater Project began in 1994, Union County College's Professional Theater Company will be offering a musical as part of its 2010 Season. *Crowns*, based on the book *Crowns: Portraits of Black Women in Church Hats* by Michael Cunningham and Craig Marberry and adapted by Regina Taylor, tells the story of a young black girl from Brooklyn, who is sent down south by her family after the murder of her brother. It is there that she is able to cope with her loss and learn about her roots through tradition, music, and church hats, "a symbol of the pride, beauty, and endurance of black women everywhere."

Set to traditional gospel music, *Crowns* will feature a six piece orchestra that accompanies the performers. Among the cast is UCC Alumna, Daaimah Talley and UCC Professor Andre DeSandies of the Institute for Intensive English.

"Crowns has always been everyone's favorite here at the Theater Project," said Mark Spina, Artistic Director for the Theater Project. "I think that our community will really enjoy this musical."

The Theater Project was able to expand the scope of its offerings this year after being awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The show will run from September 23rd through October 17th (Thursdays-Saturdays at 8pm, Sundays at 3pm) at the Roy Smith Theater on UCC's Cranford Campus. For more information or to purchase tickets visit www.thetheaterproject.org or call (908) 659-5189.



- **Prof. Albert Bramante,** of the Psychology/Sociology Department has been chosen as the Psi Beta Faculty Advisor of the Year. This award recognizes the valuable mentoring done by Psi Beta's outstanding chapter advisors. Bramante received a plaque recognizing him as the 2010 Virginia Staudt Sexton National Psi Beta Advisor.
- Dr. Patricia Castaldi, DNP, RN, Director of the Practical Nursing Program was selected by the National League for Nursing – Academy of Nursing Education as one of 19 new fellows for her sustained and momentous contributions to nursing education. She will be inducted in October at the Annual Education Summit in Las Vegas.
- Dr. Lawrence Hogan of the Economics/Government/History department, was chosen to participate in the National Endowment for Humanities Summer 2010 Landmarks for American History and Culture Workshop for Community College Faculty. The workshop is entitled, "African-American History and Culture in the Georgia Low country: Savannah and the Coastal Islands, 1750-1950."
- Prof. Anthony Nicoli and Prof. Robert Yoskowitz of the English/ Fine Arts/Modern Languages Department are exhibiting their artworks at the New Jersey State Museum in Trenton, NJ. The exhibition, "Reality + Artifice," runs from May 8 - October 31, 2010. In the exhibition is Prof. Nicoli's pigmented ink print, "Abduction of the Innocents" and Prof . Yoskowitz's two gelatin silver prints, "Five" and "Club" (both 2008).
- Prof. Phillip Papas of the Economics/ Government/History Department, gave a lecture in April at St. John's University, Queens campus. His presentation was entitled "The Tories around Here are Damn'd Mad: General Charles Lee and the Suppression of the Loyalists in New York."
- Dr. Stephen Schoeman, Adjunct Professor of Government, gave a three

part lecture series on the "Bill of Rights," "How Congress Works," and "The Changing Presidency from President Washington to President Obama" to the Brandeis University National Women's Committee of Essex County. He also lectured on the United States Vice-Presidents to the Westfield Historical Society in June at the Echo Lake Country Club in Westfield.

- Adjunct Prof. Judy Tabak of the English/Fine Arts/Modern Languages Department was honored by the Temple Beth Shalom in Livingston, NJ for her leadership in the temple and philanthropic activities.
- **Prof. William Van Dorp,** of the ESL Department, was selected as an NEH Summer Scholar from a national applicant pool to attend one of ten summer study opportunities supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities. He participated in a workshop entitled "Along the Shore: Changing and Preserving the Landmarks of Brooklyn's Industrial Waterfront". The one-week program was held at New York City College of Technology of the City University of New York.

#### IN MEMORIAM

**Prof. Raymond C. Boly** Business Department, April 2010. St. Augustine, Fl.

#### Prof. Gunars Salins

Psychology Department June 2010, Glen Ridge, NJ





UCC WINS GOLDEN BROOM AWARD ON EARTH DAY UCC celebrated Earth Day by participating in a city wide cleanup organized by the City of Elizabeth and the New Jersey Clean Communities Council. The students of the Center for Economic and Workforce Development (CEWD) were awarded for being one of the largest groups to participate. The students were honored with the "Golden Broom Award." UCC was responsible for cleaning up the marina, Elizabeth Ave., Broad Street, and West Jersey Street.

#### UCC HOSTS "BAND TOGETHER FOR HAITI: A DAY OF CULTURE" On

Saturday, May 15, 2010, UCC hosted "Band Together for Haiti:A Day of Culture". This event raised money and awareness for Haiti relief efforts. Different events were held throughout the day on the College's Plainfield, Elizabeth, and Cranford campuses, including a Haitian Cultural Showcase with photos, art, speakers, dance, and music. A series of panel discussions were also held. Proceeds helped the Jefferson Park Ministries. "Compete for a Cause", a talent competition, was held by UCC students to benefit the American Red Cross.

#### FOUR UCC STUDENTS NAMED NJCAA ACADEMIC ALL STARS The

National Junior College Athletic Association named four UCC students, Brian Piccola, Baseball III; Garnet Roberts Batson, Men's Soccer III; Carmen Taco Garces, Volleyball III; and Stephen Tansey, Baseball III, as 2009-2010 Academic All Stars. This award honors student-athletes who maintain a grade point average between 3.60 and 3.79 while earning a minimum of 45 credit hours.

#### UCC WELCOMES NEW WOMEN'S

**BASKETBALL COACH** Rahim Graham took over the Lady Owl's Basketball team after fourteen years of experience coaching girls and boys at the high school level in Hillside. Graham is currently a Vice Principal in the Hillside school district. He promises to put forth an extraordinary effort to make his reign as UCC's Women's Basketball Coach a successful one.

# Heritage Society Appreciation Luncheon

Heritage Society members are honored in perpetuity for their generosity in making planned gifts to benefit UCC. Three new members were inducted posthumously into the Heritage Society on June 23rd at the annual appreciation luncheon for planned gift donors

UCCF Executive Director James Masterson (c) joins Heritage Society members (l. to r) Dr. Thomas Keboe, Jane Kehoe, Evelyn MacRitchie and Andrea MacRitchie.



held at Shackamaxon Golf & Country Club.

The guest speaker Dr. Jeff Shalan, Coordinator of the Honors Study Program and Associate Professor of English. provided an informative talk entitled "The Honors Study Program at Union County College". To learn about the Heritage Society and gift planning with the UCC Foundation, please contact us at (908) 709-7505.

Heritage Society members and alumni Suzanne Covine '58 and Jacqueline R. Seeland '48



## Keep In Touch

## Join your 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 2013): \$15.00
- Lifetime Membership: \$125

#### 🗆 I am a member

- enclosed are my renewal dues.

**3** years (thru June 2013): \$15.00

Lifetime Membership: \$125

Make checks payable to: UCC Alumni Association.

### UCC is proud of you! Please share your education or career news.



Mail this form to: Union County College Foundation,

1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford, NJ, 07016, or 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 □ Special Event Phone-a-thon

Other



We Make Dreams Come True

1033 Springfield Avenue Cranford, New Jersey 07016

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED** 

Support Scholarships for Student Success!

Send your annual Sbaping Our Future gift NOW!



## 21 Club Raffle 2010-2011



"21 Club" Raffle Committee Chair and UCC Foundation Trustee Jeffrey H. Katz and bis wife Sharon draw the first winning ticket on July 6, 2010 as the raffle's independent auditor, Jon Poole, cheers them on. Take a chance to be a winner and help the UCC Foundation make dreams come true for UCC students!

\$11,000 in Cash Prizes!!

Drawing tickets begins for 21 weeks on July 5, 2011. Only \$20 each!

## CASH PRIZES:

1st 20 weeks, each week: \$200 cash prize \$100 cash prize \$50 cash prize

21st week: November 21, 2011 \$2,000 cash grand prize \$1,000 cash prize Two \$500 cash prizes

*Enjoy 64 chances to win cash prizes with each ticket – winning tickets remain eligible for future weeks' drawings!* 

Tickets may be purchased with cash, check or credit card.

Call 908/709-7066 or email guerin@ucc.edu.

You can order tickets at www.uccfoundation.org with a credit card.

Proceeds support scholarships for UCC students.