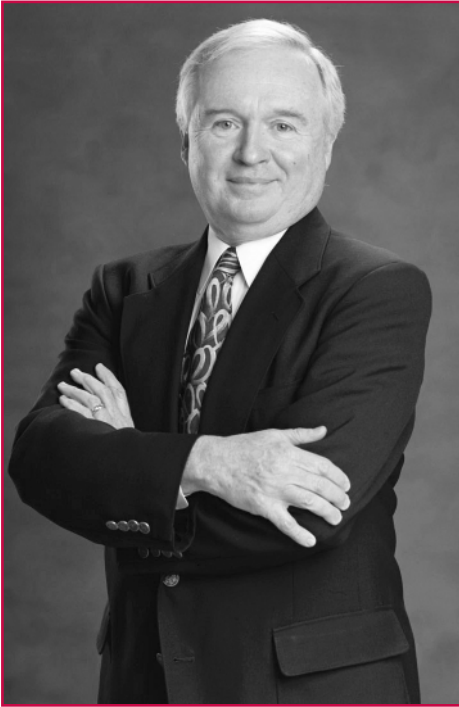


About Union

Spring 2007

What Has Brown Done for UCC?



Thomas H. Brown, Ph.D.
President of the College

Since Dr. Thomas Brown was chosen to be UCC's seventh President in 1990, Union County College has undergone dramatic changes and improvements. When Dr. Brown arrived from upstate New York, UCC had the present suburban Cranford campus but a less robust urban presence. At that time classes in Elizabeth were held in a warehouse by the docks, and the Plainfield campus consisted of only one building and served a mere 168 students. Dr. Brown negotiated the agreement with UMDNJ that resulted in today's cooperative use of the Scotch Plains campus.

Today Union County College boasts four lively campuses, offers over 90 programs of study, and 70 articulation agreements with four-year colleges.

A few statistics help tell the story of UCC's growth in the past 17 years under Dr. Brown's leadership:

- Total enrollment rose 51% - from 22,836 to 34,521.
- The number of financial aid recipients more than tripled and the monies received more than quintupled.
- Students enrolled full time in credit programs increased 48%.
- The College budget increased 76% (\$30.8 million to \$54 million).
- Computer labs increased from 9 to 57, and computer user accounts increased from 350 to 18,000.
- The UCC Foundation endowment increased from \$1,900,000 to over \$10,600,000.
- The UCC and UCC Foundation Capital Campaign raised

\$8,005,732, the largest total by any county college in New Jersey.

Twice – in 1997 and 2007 – Dr. Brown has overseen a comprehensive self-study of the entire institution in preparation for reaffirmation of accreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

Ten years ago the College received the highest possible rating, and this spring the visiting team of academics determined that UCC has met or exceeded all 14 of their standards of excellence in higher education, labeling the College "a leader among its peers".

Union County and the College community are fortunate in the vision and leadership of Dr. Brown. The next years will see the fruition of his dream of an expanded Elizabeth campus with a beautiful new \$54 million building that will more than double its capacity to serve students. **U**

Cranford Campus Tours for Alumni & Friends

Thursday, July 12th
4 PM

Wednesday, August 8th
10 PM

Monday, September 10
10 AM

Tuesday, October 16th
4 PM

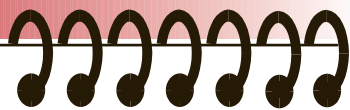
Contact 709-7505
uccfound@ucc.edu



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

**Be included, be counted,
be generous –
send your gift by June 30th,
or donate on line at
www.uccfoundation.org.**

Thank You!



Upcoming @UCC

UCC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

All alumni are welcome!
Faculty / Staff Dining Room
Cranford Campus Center
Second Tuesday – 7 PM
September - June

THEATER PROJECT at UNION COUNTY COLLEGE

Valballa by Paul Rudnick
"An epic comedy of operatic proportions!"
July 5 - 29
Thursday - Saturday 8 PM
Sunday 3 PM
Roy W. Smith Theater
Cranford Campus
Tickets \$20 - Students \$10
Reserve at (908) 659-5189

TOMASULO ART GALLERY

Kenneth C. MacKay Library
Jessica Leonard, A Decade of Work:
1997 – 2007. Prints and mixed media
May 18 - June 28, 2007

UCC FOUNDATION

14th Annual
Evening at the Races
Pegasus, Meadowlands
Thursday, June 28, 2007

15th Annual Casino Gala
Sponsored by PSE&G
Saturday, November 3, 2007
Richel Student Commons

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Holiday Boutique
Saturday, December 1
Richel Student Commons

UCC FOUNDATION & DEVELOPMENT OFFICE -

(908) 709-7505
uccfound@ucc.edu
www.uccfoundation.org

Golf & Tennis Tournament.



Balmy weather blessed the day on April 23rd for this 15th annual event, held at Echo Lake Country Club and sponsored for the fourth year by Wachovia. Thanks to individual and corporate support, \$92,500 was raised for scholarships.

Some of the hardworking event committee are: standing (l. to r.) Jim McCue, Director of Athletics/Student Activities, Ginny Crisonino, Prof. of Mathematics, Barbara Bunting, Foundation Trustee, Chairman Bob Hoeffler, Cranford Chamber of Commerce, and Chuck Walter, Banc of America Corporate Insurance Agency. Seated are (l. to r.) Marc Postiglione, Ass't. Coach, UCC Golf Team and Prof. of Business, Bill Dunscombe, Chair, Biology Dept. and Coach, UCC Golf Team, and Ann Poskocil, Director of Development, UCC Foundation. Other committee members were College President Dr. Thomas H. Brown, Foundation Trustees Suzanne Covine '58, Marylyn Luster Masia, and Bud Ziolkowski, and Joe Palmer, Mental Health Asso. of Union County. **Save the date for next year – April 28, 2008 at Echo Lake.**



UCC FOUNDATION DONORS. VIP guests at the annual Donor Thank You reception on April 11th included (l. to r.) Midge Lessner, Virginia Apelian '73, Martha Bracher, '35 and '76, Suzanne Skillin Covine '58 and Jean Kellogg '01.

Remember the future! Leave a legacy!

You can give the precious gift of higher education for generations to come by naming the Union County College Foundation in your will or making other planned gifts. You will forever be an honored member of the *Heritage Society*.

Please call Ann M. Poskocil, CFRE, Director of Development, at (908) 709-7505 to discuss possibilities.

Faculty Focus

Dr. Denise C. Lagos



by Josie Varga '87

For the Love of Learning

As a little girl, Denise Katsafados loved to play school and always knew that she would become a teacher. "I always had that instinct to share my knowledge," she explained.

Dr. Lagos has an insatiable craving for education. Since receiving her undergraduate degree in Spanish from Fairleigh Dickinson University in 1973 and her Master's of Teaching from Montclair State College in 1975, she earned several certifications and four additional degrees, most recently a Master's of Letters in Literature & Fine Arts from Drew University in 2006.

In addition to her doctorate in education, she holds two Master's of Education degrees from Rutgers University - one in Administration and Supervision in Higher Education (1994), the other in Reading (1990). Asked why she has earned so many

degrees, she answered, "With anything that I do, I want the credentials to back me up. I've always thrived on knowledge and I know that what I learned a year ago may be obsolete 10 years down the road. I need to learn whatever is new. It is important for me to keep abreast of whatever is going on in education."

Dr. Lagos is quick to credit her parents, who always stressed the importance of education. She speaks with heartfelt thanks about her parents and maternal grandmother who were her role models. Her father, a mechanical engineer, and her mother, a banker, were always very supportive. "I used to eat myself up whenever I didn't get an A, but my parents would tell me that I did my best and that's all you can do ... I would always ask myself why I was the lucky one to have the best mom and dad in the world."

A Senior Professor of English (ESL), Dr. Lagos has taught at UCC

since 1980 and has been involved in many faculty activities. Since 1986 she has been Editor and Advisor of The Foreign

Student Voice. This popular publication includes writing and art of students in English as a Second Language and English classes. She explains proudly, "We've had up to 83 countries represented ... The Foreign Student Voice represents what our students are capable of doing and I'm very passionate about it. It's good PR for our college because anyone can pick this up and understand what our program is all about."

Dr. Lagos has lived in Chatham, New Jersey since the age of 12. Her children are named after her parents: Louis works in computer engineering and Penelope is an actress. She smiles when she speaks of her husband of 31 years, Harry, who emigrated from Greece. "He owned his first business when he was just 17 years old and has been an entrepreneur ever since."

Although she has been honored many times, receiving the 2000 Woman of Excellence Award for Higher Education from Union County's Commission on the Status of Women meant the most to her.

What does she like most about teaching? Dr. Lagos asserts that her students are what make everything she does worthwhile. "I love the interaction with students," she explained. "I learn from all of my students, especially about their culture. I learn as much from them as they do from me... The students are what make me get up in the morning and want to come here. I have wonderful students and it is a pleasure to work here at Union County College."

Will Dr. Lagos pursue yet another degree? "I don't know, but you never know with me!". One thing is certain - her life-long love affair with knowledge will never end. **U**

Evening at the Races June 28 – A Sure Winner!

Looking for some excitement – a fun night out with friends to enjoy gourmet food and harness racing at its best? Join a gregarious group helping to raise funds for student scholarships at UCC. Be part of the fun at the UCC Foundation's 14th Annual Evening at the Races at the Pegasus Restaurant high atop Meadowlands Racetrack on Thursday, June 28, 2007 at 6 pm.

Tickets are \$90 (\$40 tax deductible) and include:

- Valet parking
- Clubhouse admission
- Reserved seating for your group
- Hors d'oeuvres
- Buffet dinner featuring carving, pasta and dessert stations
- Racing program
- Memento of the evening

Don't miss out! Contact the Development office for a brochure – 908/709-7505 or sign up online at www.uccfoundation.org

Union County College Alum

Nancy J. Benz '73

Alumni Asso. President, Governor
Cranford, NJ
Mental Health Counselor,
Private Practice
Nbenz97@aol.com



I liked the warm and friendly atmosphere. When I came to register the first time ... I felt very welcomed and that feeling transferred over to my experiences with my

Professors as well! I want to ...be an active part of a learning center that provided me with some great opportunities to study and learn about myself. .. to make sure as a member of a college board that the alumni perspective is maintained and that we as a college community don't lose sight of what students value UCC for...

Rhea Brown, last attended 1984

Board of Governors
Cranford, NJ
Retired, Visiting Nurse & Health Service
Rheabrown@ucc.edu



It is a privilege to serve on the Board of Governors. I attended part-time from the late '60's until going a year fulltime in the 1970's, before I transferred to

Fairleigh Dickenson U. I now take courses in the Senior Scholar and LIFE Programs. I recently retired as a nurse from Visiting Nurse and Health Service after 24 years. .. I understand and appreciate the value that our diverse communities place on education. I hope to be a positive influence as a member of the Board. You might see me on campus any day. Learning is a lifetime commitment. Retirement is great!

Suzanne Skillin Covine '58

Foundation Trustee,
Alumni Asso. Treasurer
Westfield, NJ
Retired Math Teacher
scovine@comcast.net



Through my work at the College, new UCC friendships have formed while helping to raise much needed monies for scholarships. It is one way of giving back to

UCC in appreciation for the opportunity a scholarship afforded me to receive such an excellent education.

Frank Deo '74

Board of Trustees
Scotch Plains, NJ
Director of Special Services,
Hillside High School
Fdeo@hillside12.org



I remember the challenging courses and the enjoyable ones, especially Dr. Poirier's education class. I also fondly remember the many friends I made at UCC, some of whom I still have 30 years later. UCC helped lay a groundwork of what has become life-long learning for me. ..I enjoy meeting and interacting with the interesting, hard-working and dedicated staff of UCC today. I also enjoy being able to become a member of the UCC family again. As I walk the halls now, it brings back great memories of my student days.

Thomas J. Hannen, Jr. '76



Board of Governors
Cranford, NJ
VP Operations,
Patwin Plastics, Inc.
tomjr@patwin.com

Union College allowed me to get a college education

that I may not have been able to afford otherwise. I was working 40+ hours a week at two part-time jobs to pay for my education. In addition to giving me a good foundation for further studies at Rutgers, UCC allowed me to experiment in different areas of interest. Competent, knowledgeable, engaging faculty actually knew your name, and cared about making you understand the subject matter. Professors like Dunscombe, Damerow, DeLorenzo, Ashby, McCracken, Meyers, McKeeby, Ombrello, and Patberg all inspired young minds and instilled in students a love of lifelong learning.

Stephen F. Hehl, Esq. '75

Board of
Governors
Chatham, NJ
Hehl & Hehl, P.C.
Shehl@verizon.net



At UCC teachers really cared about the students and taught them that hard work pays dividends. My AA degree resulted in an easy transition to Montclair State where I went on to graduate magna cum laude. From there I earned my JD at Fordham Law and was a member of the Law Review. It is an honor serving on the Board of Governors. It is very exciting to see how the College has developed and the great programs they offer to students. When I walk through the campus I still feel the same atmosphere I enjoyed years ago.

Donna Herran '85

Alumni Asso. Board, Governor
Former Lady Owls Coach
Roselle, NJ
Retired, Infineum
Mercedes31@verizon.net



My association with UCC dates back to 1976 and now I enjoy being part of its future. Being a Board Member has given me the opportunity to meet people from all career paths. I enjoy giving back. I am also very proud to have the opportunity to sponsor two scholarships: TC Flynn/Megan Ryan

ni Serving on College Boards

Morris Scholarship and the *Herran-DelValle Scholarship*. Both scholarships benefit entering female students from Union County.

Carol Ann Hertling '80

Foundation Trustee, Treasurer
New York, NY
Former CFO,
Kelso & Co. and Community Volunteer
Cnicksell@aol.com



The education that I received at UCC was outstanding. It was invaluable to me in helping to further my business career.

Karen Schmidt Lledo '97

Alumni Asso. Board, Governor
Edison, NJ
Insurance Agent, WGR Insurance
Kes2475@yahoo.com

What I enjoy most about volunteering at the College is having the opportunity to learn the inner-workings of the college and meeting new people who have the same dedication to the College that I feel.



Chester Lobrow '83

Foundation Trustee
Monroe, NJ
President, Furs by Severyn
severynusa@aol.com



Margaret (Meg) A. Neafsey '79

Foundation Trustee
Toms River, NJ
Executive,
New Jersey American Water Co.
Meg.neafsey@amwater.com



My earliest business background came from the classes I attended at what was then Union College. The excellent foundation that I received in pursuit of my AA in Business

Administration has served me well both in my career and in my studies at other institutions of higher learning.

Victor A. Rotolo, Esq. '75

Foundation Trustee
Lebanon, NJ
The Rotolo Law Firm
varlaw@earthlink.net

Violet Wilmore was an incredible woman who worked as a guidance counselor at UCC. She changed my life. I try to give back in honor of her memory, and in thanks for all she did for me. I learned how to succeed academically at UCC. The professors really tried to make a difference in the lives of the students who attended UCC. They did in mine. As a volunteer, I enjoy reconnecting with so many friends at UCC. I graduated in 1975. It is wonderful to see these folks thirty years later.



Robert J. Sloan '77

Foundation Member
Westfield, NJ
Vice President,
AT&T eSales & Service
rsloan@att.com



The students, faculty and staff at Union were special people who cared and supported one another, like Prof.

Swackhamer who was as interested in what you learned in class as in how you lived life, or the many friends who continue to be a significant part of my life. Union prepared me by helping me learn how to learn....The education and support that I received opened my eyes to many opportunities. My coursework provided me with a strong, affordable foundation to my undergraduate and graduate degrees, while my involvement in Student Government and other activities helped me develop leadership skills that I use daily in my professional life.

Timothy A. Williams '00

Foundation Trustee
Rahway, NJ
Manager, Community Outreach
NUI Elizabethtown Gas
twilliam@agresources.com



Mary M. Zimmermann '01

Foundation Trustee, Governor
Summit, NJ
Community Volunteer

Ginny Crisonino was my Algebra professor. She is a superb teacher and throughout my career at UCC she tutored me in all my Math courses. I could not have done the work without her help. Ginny and I became good friends. We even played tennis together before my back gave out. She is an outstanding player. I cherish her friendship, which would not exist had I not been a student at UCC.





About Alumni

Marilyn Warner Rautio '46, of South Bound Brook, NJ, is on the Board of the Friends of Abraham Staats House, the Raritan Millstone Heritage Alliance and Canal Watch. mrautio@verizon.net

Marion Steffens Menzer '47, a longtime member of the UCC Alumni Association Board and a Fanwood resident, was profiled in the *J. of Longevity*, 2007 Vol. 13, No. 1, as a nutrition expert.

Winifred S. Weislogel '47 lives in Arlington, VA and has been a volunteer with the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History since 1983.

Jim Ford '73, of Union, NJ, received his Ph.D. in Human Services from Capella U. with a dissertation about the effects of shift work on law enforcement professionals. He received his BA in law and justice from Glassboro State U. in 1975, and his master's in education in 1989 from Seton Hall U. Since retiring from the Chatham Township Police Dept. in 2002, he has taught justice

studies at the College of Saint Elizabeth and County College of Morris. jford@cse.edu

Angie Tsirkas '84, of Sayreville, NJ, is VP and Branch Manager of Northfield Savings Bank in Linden, NJ. atsirkas@northfield.com

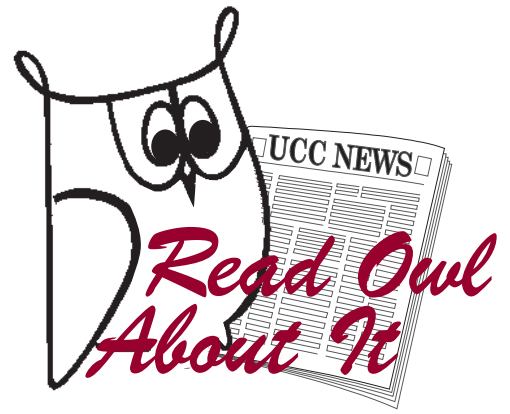
Thomas S. Maione '95 lives in Hamilton, NJ with his wife of 28 years, Marilyn. He is a staff MRI/CT technologist.

Mayra (Barreto) Marallano '98 is Admissions Coordinator for the UMDNJ School of Nursing. She lives in Newark, NJ with husband Hernan and toddler daughter Sara Luz. mrsmarallano@optonline.net

Michael S. Edwards '04, of Union, NJ, is a licensed real estate agent with Century 21 Atlantic in Roselle Park and has won many awards, including a 2006 Centurion award and a 2006 Pacesetter Gold Award. medwards@century21atlantic.com

IN MEMORIAM

Richard H. Chapman '48. Vero Beach, FL. He served as a College Trustee 1960 – 1970



ONE OF 10 BEST IN NEW JERSEY.

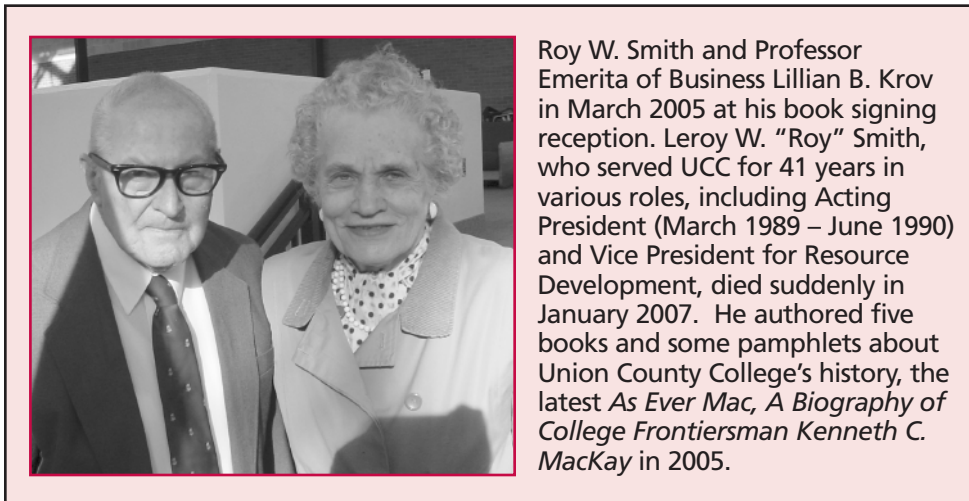
The Star-Ledger drama critic chose the Theater Project at Union County College's fall production of Thornton Wilder's *The Skin of Our Teeth*, directed by founding Artistic Director Mark Spina, as one of the ten best productions of 2006 by a professional theater in New Jersey. Bravo!

UCC'S 5 STAR PHI THETA KAPPA HONORED AGAIN.

The Iota Xi chapter received the highest award in the region, the *Award of Excellence*, for achievement in Scholarship, Leadership, Service and Fellowship. Advisor Professor Helene Roholt-Moen received the Distinguished Advisor Award and was recognized for 35 years of dedicated service.

NEW HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.

Those looking for a career with a dynamic opportunity in the fast growing hospitality industry can gain academic knowledge, practical training and an Associate in Applied Science Degree. For more information call Gina Kabak at 908-709-7090.



Roy W. Smith and Professor Emerita of Business Lillian B. Krov in March 2005 at his book signing reception. Leroy W. "Roy" Smith, who served UCC for 41 years in various roles, including Acting President (March 1989 – June 1990) and Vice President for Resource Development, died suddenly in January 2007. He authored five books and some pamphlets about Union County College's history, the latest *As Ever Mac, A Biography of College Frontiersman Kenneth C. MacKay* in 2005.

Winning tickets will be drawn each week for 21 weeks beginning July 2, 2007.

Awarding \$20,000 in cash prizes!!

Only 2,000 tickets will be sold!

Only \$20 per ticket! 85 chances to win with each ticket!

Winning tickets remain eligible for future weeks' drawings!

Tickets may be purchased with cash, check or credit card. Call 908.709.7505 or e-mail mccurdy@ucc.edu. You can also purchase at the secure web site www.uccfoundation.org with a credit card. All proceeds support scholarships for UCC students.



UCCF 21 Club
\$Cash\$ Raffle

About Campus

Dr. Susannah Chewning, Professor of English, presented *Daughter and Bride: Subjectivity and Desire in Anchoritic Mysticism* in April at the International Anchoritic Symposium in Glenstal Abbey, Ireland. Two new published articles are: *Queer Desire and Heterosexual Consummation in the Anchoritic Mystical Tradition*, in *Straight Writ Queer*, Richard Fantina, Ed. (Jefferson, NC: McFarland), 2006, and *Approaches to Teaching Chaucer's Troilus and Criseyde and the Shorter Poems*, Tison Pugh and Angela Weisl, Ed. (New York: Modern Language Association), 2006.

The Union County Commission on the Status of Women honored **Dr. Barbara Gaba**, Assistant VP for Academic Affairs and Provost of the Elizabeth campus, as 2007 *Woman of Excellence in Higher Education*. She received a joint legislative resolution from the New Jersey Senate and General Assembly and from the Union County Freeholders.

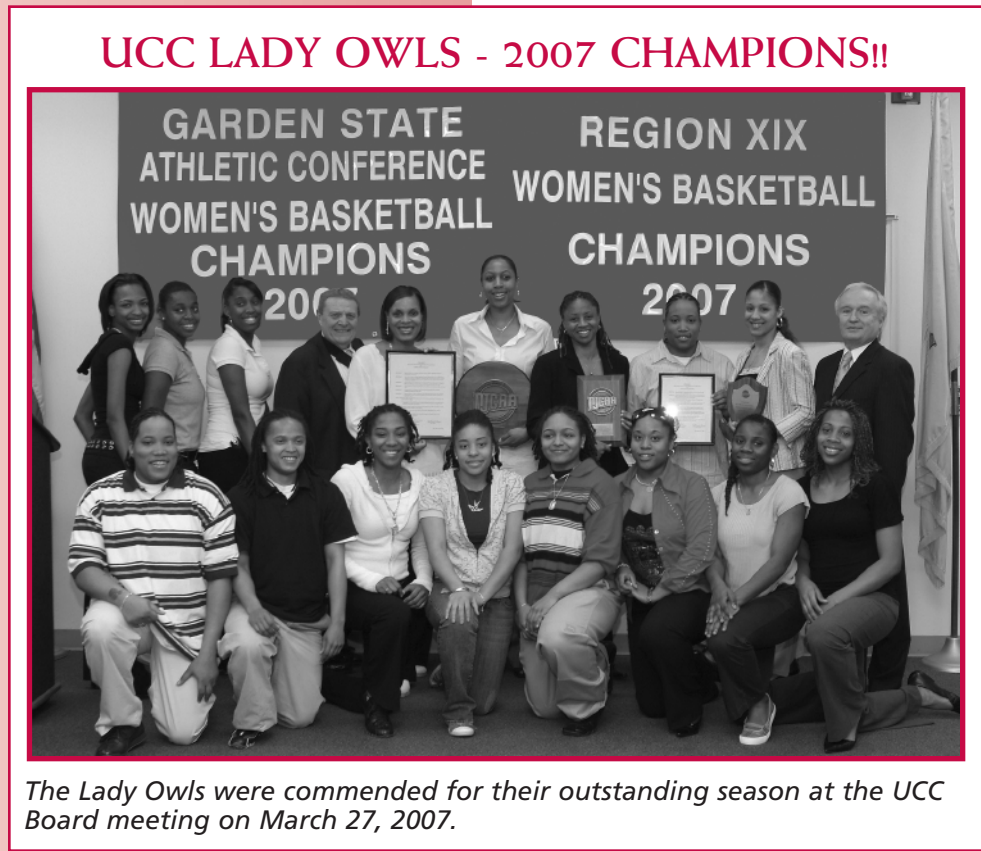
Dr. Paul Jurmo, Dean of the Division of Economic Development and Continuing Education, is a member of an expert panel on workplace literacy at the National Center for Education Statistics at the U.S. Dept. of Education.

Tomasulo Gallery curator **Valeri Larko's** paintings were featured in an inaugural solo exhibition in the new gallery at the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey in Summit during April.

Prof. John Russell, English/Fine Arts/Modern Languages, will be listed in *Who's Who in America* 2007, and in the 2007 *Who's Who in the World*.

Dr. Robert St. Amand, Senior Professor of Chemistry, was honored as EOF Champion for his dedication, advocacy and commitment to UCC's Educational Opportunity Fund program.

Prof. Robert Yoskowitz, English/Fine Arts/Modern Languages, published *Hella Bailin: Arc of an Artist* for the Kean U. exhibition of this New Jersey artist (1915-2006), who had a retrospective art exhibit at UCC's Tomasulo Gallery in 2000.



The Lady Owls were commended for their outstanding season at the UCC Board meeting on March 27, 2007.

Faculty Retirements

Allen Ashby,
Senior Professor of English

Jose Duvall,
Senior Professor of History

Dr. Sondra Fishinger,
Senior Professor of English

Dr. Rosemarie Lewandowski,
Professor of English

Judith Mayer-Rosen,
Senior Professor of English

Dr. Timothy McCracken,
Senior Professor of English

Barbara Pawlowski,
Professor of Business

Dr. Roger Poirier,
Senior Professor Education/Psychology

Vicki Reback,
Professor of English

Jacqueline B. Samuels,
Professor of English

Following their February win of the Garden State Athletic Conference title, in March the women's basketball team became Division II Region XIX Champions, with a season record of 28 wins and 5 losses. Marbely Montes was voted the Region XIX Tournament *Most Valuable Player*, and **Coach Cheryl Bell '90** was voted Region XIX and GSAC *Coach of the Year*. Assistant Coaches **Tracey Napoleon '89** and Chelsea Perry were voted the GSAC *Coaching Staff of the Year*.

The Women's Basketball Coaches Association named Marbely Montas to the 2007 Junior College/Community College Kodak/WBCA All-American Team. Players named to this team are the top 10 JC/CC players in the nation. Only two other players from UCC have won this award – in 1996 **Raquia Johnson '96**, and in 1986, **Sue Stecher '86**. **U**



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Union County College
Foundation.
Editor – Ann M. Poskocil

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you! Please share
your education or
career news.**

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

JOIN YOUR UCC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION!
Networking • Library Privileges
Bookstore Discount • Holiday Party
UCC Fitness Center at Low Alumni Rate

- YES, I want to join the UCC Alumni Association.
- I am a member - enclosed are renewal dues.
- 3 years (thru June 2010): \$15.00
- Lifetime: \$125

Make checks payable to: UCC Alumni Association.

Name: *(Please include maiden name)*

Phone: Day _____ Evening _____

E-Mail _____

Graduation YEAR _____ or last year attended _____

Major _____

Address new _____

Information for *About Alumni* _____

Please contact me about involvement opportunities:

special events committee membership

phonathons student recruitment

other _____