UCC Awarded $1.9 Million Grant To Advance Healthcare Careers

The U.S. Department of Labor announced recently that Union County College has been selected from among a highly competitive field to receive a $1.9 million grant over three years to provide expanded educational programs and resources for educating practical nurses and other healthcare workers - one of only two such grants awarded in New Jersey.

In commending the UCC team that developed the project, Building A Pathway to Healthcare Careers, UCC President Dr. Thomas H. Brown noted that, “This new initiative responds to the region's growing shortage of healthcare workers in new and innovative ways.”

This prestigious national grant will support the training of frontline health workers, such as emergency medical technicians, the purchase of state-of-the-art equipment that will benefit students pursuing healthcare careers at UCC, and expansion of the practical nursing program through new evening and weekend course offerings.

According to Patricia Castaldi, MSN, RN, Director of UCC’s Practical Nursing Program and Project Director of this new initiative, “This is a very exciting grant that will also provide important resources for recruitment, retention, tutoring and career counseling. It will better enable our students to meet the growing challenges of today's healthcare industry.” The grant will also support increased outreach to high school students and other populations to encourage pursuit of postsecondary training in healthcare careers.

In announcing the grant, Senator Frank R. Lautenberg stated, “These funds will help Union County College … provide training for students to become nurses – and to better keep families healthy in New Jersey.” In congratulating the College, Senator Robert Menendez commented that the grant will help to “develop nurses who are at the forefront of caring for those who are sick or injured.”
Melofchik Scholarship Fund

Union County College and its Athletic Hall of Fame Committee presented Ernest “Ernie” Melofchik with a plaque on April 4, 2008 to commemorate his significant contribution as the first men’s basketball coach at UCC. A dedicated group of former players, members of the UCC Hall of Fame Committee, staff and family members were on hand for the presentation. The players recited stories of practicing in the Sherman School (an elementary school in Cranford that has since closed) and how their beloved coach was a “one-man athletic department.” Coach Melofchik recalled that his years coaching “were among his happiest.” A scholarship fund has been established in Ernest Melofchik’s name. Anyone interested in making a contribution to the Melofchik Scholarship should contact Linda Moore at (908) 709-7113. Contributions should be sent to the Union County College Foundation, 1033 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, NJ 07016.

Wonderful Annual Tradition – UCC Scholarship Reception

The Richel Student Commons was packed and lively on April 8th with scholarship donors, student recipients and well-wishers. UCC celebrated the generosity of supporters and student achievement. Union County Freeholder Chair Angel Estrada congratulated 131 Freeholder Scholars. This year the UCC Foundation awarded 550 scholarships, and eleven new scholarships were established.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 13, June 10 – Reception & Installation of Officers

The THEATER PROJECT, UNION COUNTY COLLEGE’S PROFESSIONAL THEATER COMPANY
FLAMING GUNS OF THE PURPLE SAGE
by Jane Martin
“A whole-hog riot of slapstick, satire and black humor… This is all for laughs and there are plenty of them.”
- Louisville Courier-Journal

July 10 – August 3
Thursday - Saturday 8 PM, Sunday 3 PM
Roy W. Smith Theater, Cranford Campus
$22, $15 TH, Students $10
www.brownpapertickets.com
(908) 659-5189

TOMASULO ART GALLERY
Kenneth C. MacKay Library
Howard Nathanson, Photography
May 16 – June 26
Artist Reception May 16 – 6-8 PM

UCF FOUNDATION
15th Annual Evening at the Races, Pegasus, Meadowlands
Thursday, June 26

75th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee Gala
Saturday, October 25, 2008

SHOWN ARE (FROM L. TO R.) PROF. WILLIAM DUNSCOMBE, DR. RALPH FORD, VP OF STUDENT SERVICES, EDWARD M. SCHMIDT, DONNA HERRAN, EDWARD M. ROBINSON, DR. THOMAS H. BROWN, UCC PRESIDENT, ERNEST “ERNIE” MEOFCHIK, MEN’S BASKETBALL TEAM COACH FROM 1945 TO 1955, DAVE CARRASCO, JOAN MEOFCHIK, KAREN DILLON, ERNIE’S DAUGHTER, DICK WALLER, ONE OF ERNIE’S FORMER PLAYERS, JAMES MCCUE, CHAIRMAN OF THE HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE, AND NORMAN HOBIE, ONE OF ERNIE’S FORMER PLAYERS.

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Creating a Scholarship Endowment Fund With a Bequest

Many of the scholarship endowment funds managed by the Union County College Foundation were created through bequests. The UCC Foundation Testamentary Scholarship Fund Worksheet makes the process of deciding on the desired criteria for a scholarship to begin after one’s lifetime easy. Also, consulting the listing of current scholarships and their criteria on www.uccfoundation.org may be helpful. All those who include a bequest to the UCC Foundation become honored members of the Heritage Society.

This excerpt from a “thank you” letter by a scholarship recipient to her benefactor gives an idea how much this kind of help can mean to struggling students:

“My major is visual art … I will be pursuing my goal to become a graphic designer. I am an independent student, and my financial situation has been very tough. In addition to going to school full time, I have also been working full time. For a few years, managing my time and balancing my finances has been a big challenge. However, your generous support has helped me significantly.

Not only have you given me a tremendous financial support, but also your support has provided enormous emotional support. When I’m having trouble with my school work, I always tell myself that I have a sponsor who believes in me. I am so happy to know that there is somebody who cares about me. Thank you so much for your confidence in me.”

The minimum gift to establish a scholarship fund now, through a bequest or a current gift or pledge, is $15,000. One year after the funds are received, a percentage of the fund balance will be awarded for scholarships, according to the criteria the donor has chosen. Call or email the Foundation for a copy of the worksheet, or to discuss creating a scholarship endowment - (908) 709-7028 or uccfound@ucc.edu.

Join the Winners’ Circle for UCC!

Be part of the fun at the 15th Annual Evening at the Races at the Pegasus Restaurant high atop Meadowlands Racetrack on Thursday, June 26, 2008 starting at 6 pm.

Join UCC Foundation supporters for this relaxed night out, and enjoy gourmet food and exciting harness racing at its best.

The $90 ticket price ($40 tax deductible) includes:

• clubhouse admission & valet parking
• racing program
• reserved seating for your group
• hors d’oeuvres & sumptuous buffet dinner
• memento of the evening

There are other ways to support this special event. Races Journal ads start at $100 for 1/6 page up to $500 for a full page.

Sponsorships include tickets:

Show Reservation - $225 (2 tickets), $125 tax deductible
Place Reservation - $475 (4 tickets), $275 tax deductible
Win Reservation - $975 (6 tickets), $675 tax deductible

Step into the Winners’ Circle and help raise funds for scholarships and College programs.

For more information, contact the Development office at (908) 709-7505 or sign up online at www.uccfoundation.org.

FLASH!!

Act Now to Lock in Higher Rates
Gift Annuity Rates will Lower on July 1st

Beginning July 1, 2008 the rate of return for Charitable Gift Annuities will be lower - for age 65 from 6.0% to 5.7%, age 70 from 6.5% to 6.1%, age 80 from 8% to 7.6%, etc. Now is the time for anyone considering a gift annuity, which provides lifetime payments and immediate tax benefits, to explore this gift option. Call Ann Poskoci at (908) 709-7028 for a personal illustration.

GOLF & TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Beautiful Echo Lake Country Club was the site of the UCC Foundation’s 16th annual tournament on April 28th. This year was a pre-tournament demonstration by Golf Pro Gary M. Ostrega. A good time was had by all. UCC students will benefit from funds raised, thanks to the efforts of the Tournament Committee, chaired by J. Robert Hoeffler, Cranford Chamber of Commerce. Posing after a meeting are (l. to r, seated) Barbara Bunting, Honorary Chairperson Marylyn Luster Masia, and Prof. Marc Postiglione. Standing (l. to r.) are Bob Hoeffler, Dr. Thomas Brown, Linda Moore and Prof. Bill Dunscombe. Not pictured are Margaret Binion, Suzanne Covine, Prof. Ginny Crisonino, Jerry Dobbins, Jim McCue, Chuck Walter, and Bud Zolkowski. Spring 2008 - 3
CHECK IT OUT! UCC 2008-2010 CATALOG ON THE WEB. The new academic catalog can be viewed at www.ucc.edu – search for ‘catalog’.

Anticipating the College’s 75th anniversary next year, it features photos and historic tidbits in a timeline from 1933 to the present.

INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR UCC PUBLICATION. The Foreign Student Voice, a student literary publication edited by Dr. Denise Lagos, was honored with a 2007 MarCom Creative Award.

UCC CELEBRATED BLACK HISTORY MONTH. The 5th annual Frederick Douglass Birthday Celebration on February 14th featured the beautiful music of the Newark Boys Choir and the North Jersey Philharmonic Glee Club. As always the public was invited to attend.

On February 25th UCC participated in the 19th Annual African-American Read-in in the Richel Student Commons.

75TH ANNIVERSARY ACADEMIC CONFERENCE. UCC will host a conference on April 3-4, 2009 on the theme The Changing Dynamics of the Two-Year College.

The Academic Conference Subcommittee, chaired by Dr. Phillip Papas, invites proposals for papers and panels from faculty at UCC and other New Jersey colleges. Contact Dr. Papas at papas@ucc.edu regarding submissions.

Professors Patricia Castaldi ’80 and Carol Healey, of the Practical Nursing Program, have completed the first year of the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program at Rush U., Chicago.

Senior Prof. Dr. Todd Daley, Mathematics, donates the royalties from his textbook, Mathematical Concepts: An Interdisciplinary Approach (1998) to the UCC Foundation. To date, this has resulted in a gift of $5,725!

An upcoming issue of Memories and Dreams, the National Baseball Hall of Fame Magazine, will feature an article on the connection between black baseball and black music by Senior Professor of History Dr. Lawrence Hogan.

Dr. Hogan will speak on that topic at the annual Cooperstown Symposium on Baseball and American Culture in June 2008.

Valeri Larko, Curator of the Tomasulo Gallery, is featured in Sprawl, a Group Exhibition at the Jersey City Museum from March 20 – August 24, 2008.

Men’s Soccer Coach Alex Louis was named the National Coach of the Year by the National Soccer Coaches Assoc of America. This year UCC’s team ranked third in the nation, with a final record of 17 wins and no losses, both College records.

Prof. Bohdan Lukaschewsky, Physics/Engineering/Architecture, for the second year is Chair of the Advisory Board of The Theater Project, Union County College’s Professional Theater.

Prof. Joseph S. Pizzo, English, presented three workshops at the NJEA Teachers’ Convention in Atlantic City - Get a Grant the Write Way, Teach Writing – Be a Writer, and The Write Approach to Teaching Reading.

IN MEMORIAM
Margaret M. Gill
Professor of English for 22 years. Falls Church, VA. February 2008.

Alfred S. Hartman

Doris T. Schaefer

PNC FOUNDATION FUNDS ‘GROW UP GREAT’ SCHOLARSHIP AT UCC.
Five UCC students majoring in Early Childhood Education will benefit from Grow Up Great Scholarships funded by the PNC Foundation. On February 4, 2008 at UCC are (l. to r.) Joseph Whall, Director of Client and Community Relations for PNC, Nancy Topchev, PNC Cranford Branch Manager, Linda S. Moore, Esq., Executive Director of Development, and Dr. Wallace Smith, Vice President for Academic Affairs.
Still Loving It After All These Years!

Professor Barbara Foley was the first full-time faculty member Dr. Helen Aron hired in 1973 when UCC was starting the English as a Second Language (ESL) program. Although a coup in Libya had prevented her and her husband Bill from going overseas with the Peace Corps, she found her true calling as an ESL teacher during the excellent Peace Corps training. Her BA is from Marywood College and MA from Rutgers University. The young teacher came to Union College from the Plainfield schools, where she had set up their first ESL program.

UCC’s fledgling program had about 200 students and met in a multi-purpose building in the Bayway area, providing four levels of ESL. At that time there were many Cuban students. The ESL student population evolves with changes in political and economic situations in the world. At one time there were many Russian students, then Vietnamese. Now the largest numbers are Colombian, Polish, Haitian and Peruvian.

Professor Foley is a respected author of textbooks, published by the premier name in ESL publishing. Her two listening textbooks, *Listen to Me* and *Now Hear This*, are both very popular. However, she is best known for her four-text series, *Grammar in Action*, which became an international best seller. Because of this, she is often approached to give presentations at meetings and conferences.

Prof. Foley spends twelve hours a week with her Levels 1 - 4 classes. Teaching ESL requires creative activities that push the students to talk to each other and to interact as they practice their English. Students study together and help one another, which has even led to some romances. The students are fascinated to learn about the varied customs of their fellow students’ countries, as well as of the USA. (For instance, some expressed amazement about the fact that Americans obey traffic laws!)

It’s clear that this born teacher loves her job. “I love going to work each morn-
Mary (Ortuso) Zago ’90 has come back to UCC after 29 years at Verizon to be the Senior Accountant in the Controller’s Dept. She earned her BS at the U. of Maryland, and MBA at Fairleigh Dickinson U. A CPA, she lives with her family in Union, NJ.

Dr. Kim S. Daniels ’93, of Phillipsburg, NJ, earned her Ph.D at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Margaret (Maggie) Digory ’00 is an Adjunct Professor in UCC’s English department and works at the Lotus Club in Manhattan. digory@ucc.edu


Wendy Warwick ’06, of Scotch Plains, NJ, is a staff nurse at Muhlenberg Hospital.

To date, alumni serving on a UCC’s 75th Anniversary committee are: Dorothy Andrews ’97, Dolores Bruschetti ’68, Prof. Pat Castaldi ’80, Prof. Bob Comeau ’79, Camille Cormier ’81, Suzanne Skillin Covine ’58, Linda Ross Dolin ’67, and Mary Zimmermann ’01. Volunteers are welcome! Call Kathy Gianneccini at (908) 709-7505.

IN MEMORIAM
Joseph Birchett ’59
Linden, NJ. January 2008

James E. Crawford ’00
Roselle, NJ. August 2007

Wilbur Fischer ’49
Cranford, NJ. July 2007

Cynthia McDay ’82
Colonia, NJ. February 2008

Joseph S. Sink, Jr. ’74
East Brunswick, NJ. February 2007

Alumni

Did you know?

… that each year UCC’s Institute for Intensive English, a national model for teaching English as a Second Language, serves 2,000+ students representing 80 countries and 40 languages?

… that UCC students can participate in six sports teams - Men’s and Women’s Basketball, Men’s Baseball, Women’s Volleyball, Men’s Soccer, and Co-ed Golf? UCC belongs to the National Junior College Athletic Association and the Garden State Athletic Conference.

UCC PHI THETA KAPPA CHAPTER TURNS 50.

In March 2008 the Iota Xi Chapter was celebrated and Professor Helene Roholt-Moen was honored for her 36 years of dedication as faculty advisor. The Phi Theta Kappa International and Regional Presidents presented her with an award during the induction ceremony for 36 new Phi Theta Kappa members.

At the event were (l. to r.) PTK students Mindi Nordell, VP of Fellowship, Sheila Casey, Treasurer, and Prof. Helene Roholt-Moen.

About Alumni

Shaping Our Future

2008 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN:
JULY 1, 2007 – JUNE 30, 2008

Look for Icarus, UCC’s wise and friendly owl, at www.uccfoundation.org where you can securely make a gift by credit card. Or send your gift in the enclosed envelope.

Remember that matching gifts can double or triple your gift!

Donors choose wording for the engraved Leaves and Apples their cumulative gifts earn on the Tree of Education in the Richel Student Commons.

$500 – Copper Leaf
$2,500 – Brass Leaf
$5,000 – Brass Apple
$10,000 – Wood & Brass Stone

Donors with items on the Tree will be invited to the biennial Tree Tea Party in October.

Annual donors of $1,000+ are invited to dine with the College President.

Make your gift by June 30th to be included this year.

LEGACY ALUMNI. Linda Ross Dolin ’67, of Cranford, and her late Father, Herbert V. Ross ’37, posed during the Inauguration of College President Thomas H. Brown in May 1991.
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 2011): $15.00
☐ Lifetime: $125

☐ I am a member
- enclosed are my renewal dues.
☐ 3 years (thru June 2011): $15.00
☐ Lifetime: $125

Make checks payable to:
UCC Alumni Association.

UCC Homecoming
& Reunion at Union
1933 - 2008

Save the Date!
Saturday, November 22, 2008
Cranford Campus

- Men’s and Women’s Basketball Games
- Volleyball Exhibition Game
- Reunion Party with Music of the Decades
- Recognition of 75th Anniversary Alumni Honorees
- Decades Sections to reconnect and reminisce in a
celebration to span decades!

Email ucreunion75@yahoo.com
with questions or to volunteer!

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  ☐ Reunion Volunteer
☐ Phone-a-thon        ☐ Student Recruitment  ☐ Other __________________________

Spring 2008 • 7
Support Scholarships for Student Success!
Send your annual Shaping Our Future gift by June 30!

Shaping The Future

When you do make your will or estate plan, consider helping future UCC students achieve their dreams by including the Union County College Foundation.
IRS ID# is 22-15153225.

Call (908) 709-7028 to confidentially discuss a planned gift.