

# Union Re-Union

FALL 2014

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF UNION COUNTY COLLEGE

## Union's Alumni Help Turn Around Lives

Union County College's new executive director for the Foundation has a message for Alumni: "We love you, we need you, and we'll always keep the light on for you."

**D**oug Rouse joined the College Foundation on Nov. 10 and has said that connecting with College Alumni is a top priority. "Alumni have so much to offer Union County College and our students. They're a living legacy for the College. They are our goodwill ambassadors throughout the community, the region, the State and the nation."

Mr. Rouse says he has been pleased to find that Union's Alumni are deeply committed to the success of students and the College. "I have been impressed to find so many of our Alumni who are generously donating their time, talent, and treasure to the College."

On the subject of "time," Mr. Rouse credits the Alumni Board for its efforts to raise the profile of the Association. "We are fortunate to have a small but highly dedicated Board that cares a great deal about the College. They work tirelessly to attract new members—and certainly we can always use more members."

One of the ways the Association tries to boost membership is by hosting special events like the recent Jazz concert and



As attendees and donors of the table favors, the Alumni Association helped make the Nov. 7 Scholarship Gala the College's most successful fundraiser in Union's 82-year history.

Louis Armstrong symposium. The Oct. 5 show in the Roy Smith Theater attracted more than 200 Alumni as well as current students.

Regarding "talent," with more than a million people having attended Union over the past 82 years, College Alumni have built successful careers in virtually every industry across the planet. Some have returned to the College to teach. Others stop by on occasion for a presentation or workshop. For example, best-selling author and '99 graduate Jamie Novak visits the College on occasion to share her insights on how to live a clutter-free life.

Mr. Rouse feels that Alumni provide a great deal of value as role models for current students. "The success our Alumni achieved after graduating is an inspiration for current or future generations of students."

The third way that Alumni contribute is through "treasure." Alumni are among the Foundation's most generous donors. Says Mr. Rouse, "Donations by

our Alumni provide scholarships for dozens of students in our community. Three of the College's top ten donors are Alumni. They are truly making a real difference in their lives and helping end the circle of poverty."

Mr. Rouse cites three ways Alumni are giving back to their alma mater. A contribution of at least \$25,000 creates an endowed scholarship that generates 5 percent in tuition support for students annually, and forever. Individual Alumni have created seven of these scholarships. This includes an endowed scholarship that the Alumni Association funded to support part-time students.

The second is an annual scholarship, which the donor replenishes each year. Alumni fund a number of these as well. Last year, the Alumni Association created the "Alumni Scholarship for Degree Completion" to give students a financial boost during their last semester before graduation.

The third way Alumni continued on pg 4

# Notes from the Graduating Class of...

## 1956

**Laurence Mohn** is the president of Philanthropic Solutions, LLC, a Naples, Florida-based insurance company. He previously served for 38 years as general agent for John Hancock Financial in Michigan.

## 1961

**Marvin Bronstein** retired in 2008 from ABC Television after nearly 30 years as a broadcast engineer.

## 1963

**Bob Marquardt** owns Dallas-based law practice Marquardt & Associates. After graduating from Union with a business degree, he earned a bachelor's in business from Rider in 1965, an MBA from Fairleigh Dickinson in 1966, a juris doctorate from the Arkansas School of Law in 1973, and additional law certifications from Temple University and Southern Methodist University.

## 1967

**Wayne Orlowski** is a retired petroleum-exploration geologist specializing in structural geology. He is currently consulting in geoscience. His work experience includes 20 years as a geologist for Conoco.

*Please Tell Us About*

**U**

Since Union's 1933 founding, more than a million students have attended Union. Our mission is to keep in touch with all of you, but we need your help. Send us an update about yourself at [nacco@ucc.edu](mailto:nacco@ucc.edu) or by snail mail to Rebecca May, Union College Life, 1033 Springfield Av., Cranford, NJ 07016. You'll appear in a future issue of *Union Reunion*.

## 1969

**Mike Hand** is an attorney for New England Law, PC, of Rutland, Massachusetts. A graduate of the Massachusetts School of Law in 2000, his previous experience includes four years as a managing member of Ferrand Associates, LLC, 19 years as the Human Resources director for L'Oreal, USA, seven years as labor-relations manager for Sequa Corporation, and seven years as a labor-relations representative for Foster Wheeler.

## 1970

**Thomas Martino** is the owner and lead advisor of the Greendell, NJ-based Martino Advisory Group, which provides personal attention to business owners and executives who are looking for private, expert and unbiased advisory resources. His previous experience includes serving as executive director of communications for more than 26 years at Pfizer Inc./Warner-Lambert.

## 1971

**Vincent Avantagiato** has been a registered representative for Transamerica Financial Advisors, Inc. Prior to that, he served for 12 years as marketing director for the World Financial Group. He is also a Doctor of Chiropractic, having earned his degree from Logan University in 1987. He owned and operated a chiropractic office in Denville, NJ, from 1990-2002.

## 1972

**Rob Rubilla** is the Senior Media/Marketing Specialist for EDGE Magazine/Trinitas Regional Medical Center in Elizabeth. His prior experience includes more than 17 years as senior account executive for Verizon Information Services. After receiving an associate in Political Science at Union, he transferred to Kean where he received a bachelor's degree in 1975.

## 1976

**Joan Skimmons** owns the River's End Gallery in Milwaukee. She opened the Gallery in 2006 to market fine art from

around the United States and world. More than 150 artists are displayed at the Gallery, which is also a venue for painting classes. Joan has an extensive background in sales and marketing services, including more than 30 years direct experience in the data processing and financial industries. Joan is the second highest selling artist in the gallery.

## 1986

**Anthony Birritteri**, the editor-in-chief of New Jersey Business Magazine, was recently promoted to assistant vice president of the New Jersey Business & Industry Association.

After earning an associate degree in Journalism at Union, he transferred to Rutgers, where he received a bachelor's degree in English.



Anthony Birritteri

## 1989

**Steven Naraine** recently celebrated his one-year anniversary as an accountant for Elizabeth-based MW Moore & Associates. His responsibilities include preparing federal, State and local taxes for LLCs, partnerships, sole proprietorships and individuals as well as overall tax-planning services including investments, savings and credit counseling. After Union, he earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration at the City University of New York – Baruch College.

## Union Re-Union

This is an official publication of Union County College: Dr. Margaret M. McMenemy, President; Dr. Maris Lown, Chief Academic Officer; Mrs. Helen Brewer, Vice President, Student Development; Tammy Smith, Dean of College Life; and Rebecca May, Manager of College Life.

The newsletter is produced quarterly by the College Relations Department, Ellen Dotto, Executive Director; Sara Bontempo, Graphic Designer.

# Discover the Fountain of Youth

## JOIN THE UNION COUNTY COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION!

Any graduate or former student with 30 credits or more may join the Union County College Alumni Association.

For dues of only \$15 for three years, or a Lifetime Membership for \$125, you will become a member of a dedicated group who value the education they received at Union.

### Benefits of membership in the Alumni Association include:

- Membership in the state-of-the-art Union County College Fitness Center at the unbelievable price of only \$25 per semester.
- Free library privileges at all three campuses.
- Invitations to join trips, events, and other projects of the Alumni Association throughout the year!

*To join, please use the attached envelope and fill out the information about yourself.*

## 1990

**Christine Cederquist** owns Survival Gear Source, which offers a full range of customized emergency preparedness kits, disaster relief and flood mitigation supplies to government agencies, businesses and individual consumers.



Christine Cederquist

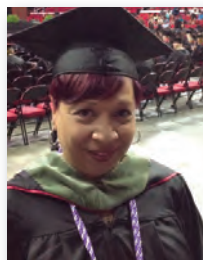
group advocating for mental health, Linda has had the opportunity to meet with congressional representatives on Capitol Hill requesting elected officials to support bills pertinent to the mental health profession and promoting social justice — an area where Linda has illustrated many of the human injustice stories that impact the therapeutic process of her daily work.

## 1993

**Linda McQuilla-Jones**, M.Ed., Ed.S., is a psychotherapist in the adult outpatient behavioral health division of an acute care community hospital. Linda recently was elected as the President of the New Jersey Mental Health Counselors Association (A Division of NJCA) and has served as a member on the Executive Board over the past six years. In addition to collaboratively working with a talented, multigenerational and a diverse

## 2001

**Jo Ann Page (Wingate) Wilkins** received an associate of science and attended Muhlenberg School of Nursing. She went on to receive a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Kean University with honors in 2006 and graduated this year with a Master of Science in Nursing and a GPA of 3.59. She is an inductee in the Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society. Jo Ann recalls her Union experience fondly. “I



Jo Ann Page (Wingate) Wilkins

returned to school in my mid-thirties and Union embraced me and helped me feel like I could succeed. I enjoyed my professors, especially the Anatomy classes. My learning experience with Union set the foundation for me wanting to continue on in my scholarly endeavors. I will forever have a warm spot in my heart for Union County College.



**Dr. Isabelle Beveridge**, who earned an associate in Occupational Therapy Assisting at Union, recently became the new Director of OTA at Piedmont Technical College in Greenwood, South Carolina.



**Undersheriff Vincent Detrolio** (right, receiving an award from Acting Union County Sheriff Joseph Cryan) recently retired after 36 years of service in law enforcement in Union County. He earned an associate degree from Union in 1978.

## Union Re-Union

### Alumni Board of Directors:

Jeff Chait '94, President; Nancy Benz '73, Vice President; Suzanne Covine '58, Treasurer; Donna Herran '85, Secretary. Trustees: Bonnie Bendlin '68, Camille Cormier '81, Marion Curka '50, Donna Herran '85, Jean Kellogg '01, Linda Ives Kurdilla '89, Patrick LaQuaglia '76, Susan Lordi '13, Marlene Abitanto '97, Melinda Ayala '11, and Marion Menzer '47.





continued from pg 1

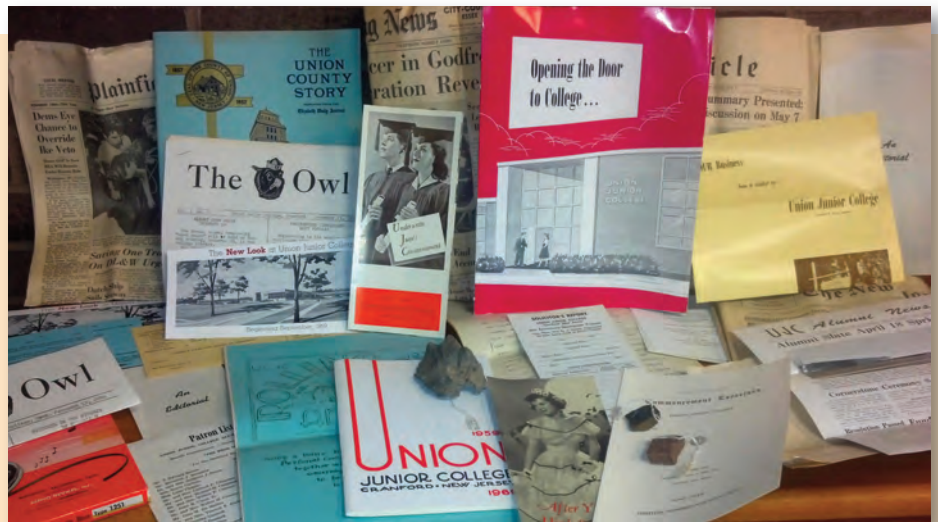
donate money to support students is in their participation in Foundation scholarship fundraisers. These are the Scholarship Gala, most recently held on Nov. 7 at the Galloping Hill Country Club in Kenilworth, and the Scholarship Golf Outing, held every April at Echo Lake Country Club in Westfield.

This year's 22nd Annual Gala and 22nd Annual Golf Outing raised a combined \$310,000 in net revenue. In human terms, this would provide full-semester scholarships for at least 200 students.

Mr. Rouse points out that Alumni don't just make financial contributions to these chief fundraisers. "They also volunteer their time and talent to serving on committees to manage these events from planning to working throughout the event."

Mr. Rouse's message to all of the Alumni contributors: "Thank you so much for your generous support and commitment to the College's mission of "transforming our community, one student at a time."

*If you would like to contribute your time, talent, or treasure to support students at your alma mater, contact Doug Rouse at 908-709-7113, email him at douglas.rouse@ucc.edu, or communicate by sending in the attached envelope and enclose a note, a donation, or both.*



## A Historic Find in a Cornerstone

In the midst of demolition to prepare for constructing Cranford's Student Services building, the contractor removed a section of the Nomahegan building that included the cornerstone—and made an amazing discovery. Buried within a nook of the granite base was a veritable treasure trove of College memorabilia, circa 1959, which was when the Nomahegan building was constructed.

Highlights of the historic find include a reel containing an audio recording of a Government 202 class that Saul Orkin—then instructor, but the College's future president—taught on Apr. 23, 1959. The repository also featured period newspapers ranging from the New York Times to the Cranford Chronicle as well as a representative array of Union Junior College brochures and bulletins and catalogs and newsletters.

One of the more fascinating finds is the April 1957 Report for Union Junior College "by the evaluation team of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools." Then there is a stack of black and white pictures that the College began featuring this month on the Union Web site in celebration of our Oct. 16, 1933, Founder's Day.

Along with the photographs and about 30 printed documents, the collection includes three mysterious rocks.

*The Alumni Association has claimed the box of historic artifacts. Any Association member wishing to check out this discovery—and even Xerox anything you find interesting—is welcome to visit the Alumni Office in the Cranford Campus Foundation House. Call 908-709-7506 to schedule a visit.*