

# Union Re-Union

SPRING 2015

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF UNION COUNTY COLLEGE

## Voting for “Most Famous Owl”

Union County College has helped turn around lives for more than eight decades. You know whereof we speak. We're proud that you're one of our alumni. You're one of Union County College's success stories.

**A**mong all of the luminaries like you who have emerged from the hallowed halls of Union, four are finalists in the College's first-ever “Most Famous Owl” Contest. As a VIP alumna or alumnus yourself, we invite you to help elect the MFO. All voters who are members of the Alumni Association will also receive a special green hoodie that the College produced to commemorate Union County College President Margaret McMenamin's selection as Grand Marshal for the Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade in March.

Between now and June 1, 2015, the Union County College Alumni Association will collect your votes via email. The finalists (in chronological order based on their attendance at the College) are Wendi Nix, Horace Jenkins, Malinda Williams, and Jamie Novak. However, if you know someone even more famous—or maybe even want to submit yourself for consideration—write-in ballots are welcome too.

### Candidate #1: Wendi Nix

Wendi Nix is a sports reporter and host for college and professional football and golf. Since joining ESPN in 2006, she has hosted both NFL Live and College Football Live and has contributed regularly to SportsCenter, College GameDay and Sunday NFL Countdown. Since the 2010 season, Nix has been host of ESPN2's pre-, halftime and post-game segments on college football Saturdays.



Wendi Nix

In addition, she has covered the U.S. Open golf tournament from 2007 through 2010, as well as the Masters and British Open tournaments in 2010. Ms. Nix previously worked for NBC affiliate WHDH-TV in Boston, where she spent three years as a sports anchor and reporter. Prior to that, she was a national sports reporter for FOXSports and an anchor-reporter for FOXSports New England.

After attending Union County College in 1992, Ms. Nix attended Wofford



Horace Jenkins

College (Spartanburg, SC), graduating in 1996 with degrees in French and Economics. Nix was a captain of the



golf team at Wofford College for two years, and earned a master's degree in sports management at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst in 1997.

### Candidate #2: Horace Jenkins

**Horace Jenkins** played for the National Basketball Association and for several teams in Europe and Israel. A graduate of Elizabeth High School, he attended Union in 1993. Over the next three and a half years, Jenkins worked for the United States Postal Service, as an electrician, and in sanitation. By 1997, with his finances more secure, he returned to college and played basketball for William Paterson University. Despite his being barely over six-feet tall, he was a master at the slam dunk, winning the 2001 ESPN NCAA dunk contest.

After playing in the Italian and Greek basketball leagues, Mr. Jenkins became one of the oldest rookies in NBA history when at age 29 continued on pg 4

# Notes from the Graduating Class of...

## 1969

**Mike Hand** is an attorney for Boston-based New England Law. His prior positions include serving as a managing member of Ferrand Associates, as director of Human Resources for L'Oreal, and manager of Labor Relations for Sequa Corporation. He earned his law degree from Atlanta's John Marshall Law School.



Arthritis Foundation  
President Tom Fite  
(’70)

## 1970

**Tom Fite** is the President and CEO of the Arthritis Foundation (Heartland Region) in Chicago. After graduating from Union, he earned a bachelor's in Education from the University of Miami.

## 1980

**Jim Rau** is the Manager of Campus Administration for the United States Golf Association. He is in charge of Site Security, responsible project and budget management within the Facilities Management Department.

## 1981

**Nichol McMillan** has been a Senior Financial Reporting Analyst for Livingston, NJ-based CIT for more than 11 years. Among her responsibilities is providing financial analysis and accounting of securitization and the student loan program as well as preparing monthly and quarterly Trust financial statements.

## 1987

**Cynthia Rygiel** has been the Technical Packaging Coordinator at L'Oréal of Clark NJ, since 2010. In this role, she executes the day-to-day technical development responsibilities related to the coordination of packaging components. These responsibilities include draft-detailed documentation for packaging development, codification, specification management and component testing.

## 1988

**Sarah Kozak** is the Senior Administrative Assistant at Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University. With more than nine years' experience in this role, her responsibilities include coordinating education programs (fellow and undergraduate associate), assisting the director and associate director, and overseeing historic Wood Lawn mansion.



Sarah Kozak ('88)  
of the Eagleton  
Institute at Rutgers.



Jerroll "Dije" Burns

## 1989

**Jerroll "Dije" Burns** has been a Mobile DJ and owner of JayNique Entertainment for 11 years. He credits Union for the start of his DJ career. As he says, "I used to pump House, Disco, and Club music into the cafeteria and the gym" on the Cranford Campus.

## 1991

**Tom Grady** is the director of advocacy and public affairs for the Brain Injury Alliance of New Jersey. As such, he advances the public-policy agenda of the Brain Injury Association of New Jersey through advocating policies that prevent brain injury and provide services and supports for people impacted by brain injury. His main areas of expertise include government relations, legislative development/management, and communications. After graduating from Union with an associate in arts, he earned a bachelor's degree from Rutgers and a master's degree in Public Administration from Kean.

## 1992

**Bernice Lopez** is the Member Experience Officer at Affinity Federal Credit Union located in Middletown, New Jersey. She was promoted to this position in September 2008. She is also a board member of the Northern Monmouth County Chamber of Commerce while also serving as the chairperson of the New Membership Committee. She has been with Affinity Federal Credit Union for more than 14 years, having earned an associate of applied science in Business Management from the College. She resides in Manalapan with her husband and three children.

**Susan Alacchi** is an Associate at Grant Thornton LLP. She specializes in policy

*Please Tell Us About*

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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*.

## Union Re-Union

This is an official publication of Union County College: Dr. Margaret M. McMenamin, 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.

enforcement and streamlining procedures, working in a global environment, forging camaraderie with professionals around the world. She previously worked for the Clark Police Department. She says, "I feel a responsibility towards making the community a better place. I have organized many community-based projects including working to increase roadway safety in my former town of residence, advocating for the disabled, and working for charitable causes."

## 1995

**David Krill** has been a Sergeant for the Union County Sheriff's Department since June 2005. He has reported to the Crime Scene Unit and Identification Bureau. He is a certified Police Academy Instructor and has served on the Honor Guard. His associate degree at Union was in Business and Fire-Fighting.



Jason Michaels, owner of Lifeline Technology Solutions

## 1998

**Jason Michaels** is the owner of Lifeline Technology Solutions, a Cranford, NJ-based company that has provided information-technology services for more than 12 years. The company's clients range from individuals needing help with their home computers to small businesses requiring advanced networking support.

## 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.

# Shushi Armenian Dance Ensemble



Thurs., Apr. 23, 6:30 p.m.

**Kean University • (100 Morris Avenue, Union) • Little Theatre**

Alumna Virginia Matosian Apelian is hosting an evening with the internationally renowned dance ensemble from the St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral, NYC

**Free Admission**

For more information, go to [apelian.com/musa-dagh-girl](http://apelian.com/musa-dagh-girl)

## 1999

**Michael Mailloux** is the Field Systems Engineer at Eze Castle Integration. He monitors and maintains network servers and workstations and the applications running on them. He's also a troubleshooter for supporting the recovery of clients' environments in the event of system failure or disaster.

## 2001

**Scott Lewis** has been a computer operator for the past three years at T-Systems.

## 2003

**Dr. Ines Rauschenbach** has been a microbiology instructor at Rutgers since July 2012 and is an adjunct at Union. After earning an associate in Education, she received a bachelor's in science from Montclair State and a Ph.D. in Microbiology and Molecular Genetics from Rutgers.

## 2007

**Bob Gai** has been an instructor of Ballroom, Latin, Social dancing and Zumba Dance for the past seven years at RWJ Rahway Fitness & Wellness Center in Carteret, NJ.

## 2008

**Christine Stolte** is Pharmacy Technician at Rite Aid in Cranford, NJ. She is a New Jersey State-licensed Pharmacy Technician with significant retail experience. She is also trained and practiced in alternative medicine.

## 2013

**Lukasz Romaniecki** recently received NJIT's Dept. of Engineering Technology Outstanding Senior Award. Last spring Lukasz received the prestigious statewide Sol Seid Award.

## 2014

**Ryan Merluza** is currently featured in an article about transfer students in NJIT's Albert Dorman Honors College. In addition to extolling his academic excellence and his student leadership, it mentions that he selflessly turned down the Honors College scholarship which allowed them to accept an additional student.



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he earned a one-year contract with the 2004-05 Detroit Pistons. He subsequently played for teams in Israel, Turkey, and Italy.



Malinda Williams

### Candidate #3: Malinda Williams

Elizabeth, NJ-born **Malinda Williams** is an actress and producer, best known for her roles in feature films *A Thin Line Between Love and Hate* (1996), *High School High* (1996) and *The Wood* (1999), and *Uninvited Guest* (2000). In 2007, she played Maya in Tyler Perry's film, *Daddy's Little Girls*. From 2000 to 2004, she also starred as Tracy "Bird" Van Adams in the Showtime acclaimed television series *Soul Food*. Ms. Williams attended Union in 1995 after graduating from Westfield High School.

### Candidate #4: Jamie Novak

**Jamie Novak** is a nationally famous "Professional Organizer" and "Clutter Coach." To guide people to a more organized life, she has written and

published several books, including *1000 Best Quick and Easy Organizing Secrets* (2006), *1000 Best Quick and Easy Time-Saving Strategies* by Jamie Novak (2007), *The Get Organized Answer Book: Practical Solutions for 275 Questions on Conquering Clutter, Sorting Stuff, and...* (2009), *Stop Throwing Money Away: Turn Clutter to Cash, Trash to Treasure--And Save the Planet While You're at It* (2010), *Keep This Toss That: Unclutter Your Life to Save Time, Money, Space, and Sanity* (2015).

A featured organizer on HGTV's Mission Organization, Ms. Novak is also ivillage's Resident Organizer (3 million community members), and frequently appears on QVC. Novak also writes for Organize magazine, and is a spokesperson for companies such as Proctor and Gamble. A

Scotch Plains High School graduate, she earned an associate degree in Communications from Union in 1999.

### How to Vote

Email your selection to Union County College's College Life Manager Rebecca May at [Rebecca.may@ucc.edu](mailto:Rebecca.may@ucc.edu).



Jamie Novak

**Remember, write-ins are welcome.** If you're a member of the Alumni Association, please include your mailing address and preferred hoodie size (Medium, Large, Extra Large).



Commemorative Hoodie for all Alumni Association Voters!

If you're not an Alumni Association member but earned at least 30 credits at the College, you're eligible to join the thousands of other proud alumni of Union County College.

Please use the attached envelope to fill out information about yourself and send in your dues. A three-year membership is \$15, while a Lifetime Membership is \$125. Besides the hoodie and continuing to receive this quarterly newsletter, you will enjoy a number of other membership benefits, including invitations to Alumni events, opportunities for membership as an Alumni officer or Board Member, and discounted membership in the state-of-the-art Union County College Fitness Center.

Thank you for participating in Union County College's first-ever election of our "Most Famous Alumni." Voting results will appear in the next issue of *Union Reunion*, which we'll mail to your home in June.