

Union *Re-Union* SUMMER 2015

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF UNION COUNTY COLLEGE

If You See Someone, Say UCC

Nobody's a better ambassador for Union County College than you.

After all, you know first-hand about the great education our students receive. You still remember the names of your fabulous professors. Back in the day, maybe you were dean's list or a contralto for the Glee Club or a trash-talking point guard or a hanger-outer in the Commons.

By the way, the cafeteria food got a whole lot better since you graduated (not really).

So here's what we're proposing: From time to time, you encounter young people with promise, kids with untapped potential.

Maybe it's your daughter's boyfriend or your niece who loves reading great literature or you neighbor's kid who just got out of high school.

When you spot a prospect, someone who could really have a better life by receiving a college education, here's what we think you ought to do:

Say UCC (pronounced "You-See-See") to that person, as in "UCC is the place to be." Or else come up with your own catchy slogan.

Here's what you get out of the deal.

First and foremost, if you succeed in encouraging someone to enroll at



Here's your chance to share the joy of a Union County College education with a new generation of graduates.

Union, you will have made a difference in that person's life. You're a hero—which is indeed its own reward. So you're entitled to take a bow, or curtsy, if that's more your style.

Second, and this is a little trickier (so stay with us, please): For every student you refer to Union, and who then registers for classes, the College will make a \$100 donation to the general-scholarship fund in your name (or in any other name you designate).

A donation to the general-scholarship fund gives the College's Foundation the means to support those hundreds of Union County residents who have the brains and drive to succeed at college, but unfortunately lack the financial support. These are students whose income is higher than the eligibility level for federal and State assistance (having an individual income of \$25,000 or more) but still so low that even an affordable college like Union is

beyond the reach of their bank account. For these students, even a \$500 scholarship can make a world of difference.



When you spot a prospect, someone who could really have a better life by receiving a college education... Say UCC"

Last year, generous donors to the Union County College Foundation provided a financial boost to more than 500 students with awards totaling nearly \$750,000.

Referring a student to the College contributes \$100 to the general fund. If you are able to encourage five students to attend Union, your \$500 represents the minimum amount the Foundation

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Notes from the Graduating Class of...

1981

Michael O. Duffy, who earned an associate in applied science in Electronics at Union, subsequently received a bachelor's degree in science in Industrial Technology from Montclair State and a master's in Business Administration from Fairleigh Dickinson University. Since 2010, he has been senior director of North American Operations at Summit-based Celgene Corp., and he oversees operations for all North American facilities, including personnel, operating expenses, maintenance standardization, and outside contractors.

1987

Michael Smith graduated from Union with an associate degree in Engineering and then went to the New Jersey Institute of Technology, earning his bachelor's degree in 1994. His education has served him well as he is Vice President of Revenue Platforms and Operations, Hearst Magazines Digital Media. Smith joined Hearst in July 2013 and is responsible for all digital media revenue



Hearst Magazines
Vice President
Michael Smith,
class of '87

platforms, including the company's programmatic sales engineering efforts through the Hearst Audience Exchange as well as advertising operations, and digital ad product development.

1988

Beatriz Rodriguez has been Union County College's Director of Enrollment Services since 2009. While earning her associate degree at Union in Computer Science and Business, she began working at the College as a head tutor for ESL students. By 2002 she became Assistant Director of Enrollment Services, and then Director seven years later. Along with her Union degree, she has a bachelor's in Marketing from St. Peter's College and a master's in leadership from Thomas Edison State College.

1994

Daphnie Manzione has owned Go Daphers, LLC since April 2014. Her business specializes in providing services in Web design, marketing and social-media development for individuals and small companies. After graduating from Union with an associate specializing in Communication and Media Studies, she earned a bachelor's degree from Kean University.

1996

Hilarie Frank is Director of Human Resources for the Newark Prep Charter School. She previously served in a similar capacity at Hudson Community Enterprises and the Huntington Learning Center. Prior to that she was a Senior Manager of Business Development for AT&T. After Union, she earned a bachelor's in Speech Communication from George Washington University and a master's of Science in Human Resources Management from Thomas Edison State College.

2003

Veronica de la Paz is a quality-control supervisor for HelloFresh, USA. She performs microbiological inspections to

ensure products and materials comply with established standards and specifications.

2009

Alexis Sopko is the advertising coordinator for Chatham, NJ-based Unisphere Media. She is responsible for advertising and sales, tracking trends, building databases and developing applications. After earning an associate of Science from Union, she received a bachelor's degree in public relations and marketing from Rowan University.

Jacqueline Ziarek is a personal banker for the Basking Ridge, NJ branch of Wells Fargo. She graduated from Union with an associate of arts in Business and Commerce, and then earned a bachelor's degree of Science from Kean University in Business and Industry.

2010

Garnet Roberts-Batson is a Technology Project Manager for Newark, NJ-based Prudential Financial. His responsibilities include leading cross-functional and multi-disciplinary teams to execute domestic and international technology infrastructure initiatives. At Union he was a legendary soccer player and a key cog in Union's 2009 national-championship team. He also coached women's soccer at Union. After graduating with an associate in Business, he went to Seton Hall University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in Information Technology Management.

Please Tell Us About



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 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, Assistant Dean of College Life.

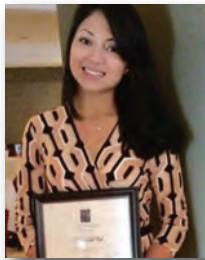
The newsletter is produced quarterly by the College Relations Department, Ellen Dotto, Executive Director; Sara Bontempo, Graphic Designer.

2012

Efrain Rodriguez is a Software Support Specialist for Integrated Business Systems, Inc. As such, he performs as a “first responder” for incoming support requests by gathering details, documenting requirements and assigning to individual or team best suited to fulfill the request. He was a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, an Accounting major, and a peer tutor at Union.

2013

Maria Del Cid is the Chief of Staff for Assemblyman Gerald Green of NJ’s 22nd District. At Union, she was President of the Iota Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society, Vice-President of Psi Beta National Honor Society, President of the Black Heritage Student Organization, and a member of the Hispanic Association for Colleges & Universities (HACU). Her honors included a national 2013 Coca Cola Scholar Award as a member of the Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society. After graduating from Union, she earned a bachelor’s degree in Psychology and Political Science.



Maria Del Cid, Class of 2013, is the Chief of Staff for NJ Assemblyman Gerald Green

Union Re-Union

Alumni Board of Directors:

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



Our Most Famous Owl

During the Winter issue of Union Reunion, we looked at some of the College’s remarkable alumni in our “Most Famous Owl” contest. Based on the outpouring of responses we received, the winner isn’t one of the four we nominated. The winner of our first annual Most Famous Owl contest is the fellow you see here: the Reverend Robert J. Cormier or Fr. Bob, as he was affectionately called. Throughout a life cut tragically short on May 13, 2014, Fr. Bob left an indelible mark in the hearts of all who had the privilege to know him. He ministered to church parishioners for more than two decades combined in Newark and Jersey City, and also served as a prison chaplain and a rehab counselor. Fr. Bob received a posthumous tribute from the City of Newark when a street was named in his honor. In addition, Fr. Bob served as a Board Member for Project Live, Inc., a non-profit agency that provides a wide range of residential, rehabilitation, support, vocational, and social services in Essex County for people requiring mental-health services. Project Live dedicated its administrative offices, five supportive housing apartments and a Self-Help Center in Fr. Bob’s name. While the other candidates (Wendi Nix, Horace Jenkins, Malinda Williams, and Jamie Novak) all generated some support, Fr. Bob is our 2015 Most Famous Owl.

Oct. 2 Gala: A Night to Reignite Your Union Flame

Alumni—here’s your chance to step out in style as you reconnect with your beloved alma mater.

Reserve your place at the Union County College Foundation’s 23rd annual Gala, which will be held on Fri., Oct. 2 at the Galloping Hill Golf Course in Kenilworth. The Alumni Board and other alumni would be pleased to welcome you (with or without a guest) at their table.

This year’s gala is dedicated to remembering the philanthropy and genius of Dr. Gerald Glasser, former member of the Board of Governors and endowed-scholarship donor to the Union County College Foundation. Mrs. Marlene Glasser will be the Foundation’s special guest of honor.

For veteran Gala-goers, you know that we put on a great event that features fine wining and dining, dancing and prancing, prizing and socializing.

For a ticket or for information about becoming a sponsor, please visit the Foundation online at www.uccfoundation.org or call the Foundation’s Kathy Giannecchini at 908-709-7506. You can pay online or by using the attached envelope.

Thank you for being Union County College Alumni.



Alumni attending the 2014 Gala will be coming out again en masse on Oct. 2.



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can offer as a one-time scholarship to some deserving, amazing student.

\$500 is the magic number. To reach that amount, you can combine referrals with your own donations. In other words, if you spread the word to three students and contribute your own \$200 to the Foundation, you've hit \$500.

At the \$500 level and above, your donation doesn't have to go into the general fund. If you like, you can create an annual scholarship and establish rules on how you'd like to see the scholarship awarded. "Left-handed, literature-loving collector of Pez Dispensers." Well, maybe not that specific. And it can't go to any individually named student.

An annual scholarship is a one-time donation that culminates with your actually meeting your student or students during our annual scholarship reception in April.

If you're ever able to raise \$25,000 or more, the scholarship becomes fully endowed and produces a 5-percent return annually for student scholarships—forever. So at \$25,000, you will award \$1,250 a year to one or more students. Best of all, your endowed scholarship will become a permanent legacy at Union County College.

But let's get you started.

You'll see a self-mailer envelope attached inside this newsletter. Write your contact information on the

inside flap. For the students who are now at Union because of you, the list of their names needs to be sealed inside our envelope.

If you'd prefer to create an annual scholarship of \$500 or above with a student-and-cash combo, put the names and a check inside the envelope or donate the balance by credit card by visiting the Union County College Foundation Web site at www.uccfoundation.org.

Any questions—call Foundation Executive Director Doug Rouse at 908-709-7113 or email him at douglas.rouse@ucc.edu.

Thank you for being the best ambassadors any community college has ever had!



Author Nancy Burke with her book, *If I Could Paint the Moon Black*

Visiting Author Series: Nancy Burke, Oct. 4

The Alumni Association is hosting author Nancy Burke on Sun., Oct. 4 in the Roy Smith Theater on the Cranford Campus. The Association is sponsoring the event through its annual Visiting Writers Series.

Ms. Burke will discuss her book, *If I Could Paint the Moon Black*, a biography about Imbi Peebo Truumees, who emigrated from Estonia to the United States when she was nine after living in fear after the Soviet invasion. Along with Ms. Burke, the presentation will include a visit from Ms. Truumees herself.

The event is free to alumni and their guests. If you want to read the book in advance, it's available at amazon.com. Attendees during the Oct. 4 event will also have an opportunity to buy the book.



On June 18, Alumna Mary Zimmermann (Class of 2001) was honored by SAGE Eldercare for her commitment to Summit-area residents. She is the local chapter's first-ever recipient of the Bob Abelson Carry the Torch Award, honoring a volunteer who devotes their talent and time to SAGE and other community organizations. Mrs. Zimmermann is a member of the Board of Governors and Board of Trustees and is the outgoing Chair of the Foundation. Attendees at the SAGE event included (from left), Governor Chip Dixon, Vice Chair Frank Bolden, Trustee and honoree Mary Zimmermann, Chair Vic Richel, and Governors Ada McGuinness and Chester Lobrow.