

Lightning Strikes Twice: Union's Alumni Win Two Straight Cooke Scholarships

They're the community-college version of Oxford University's Rhodes Scholars. For a community-college graduate to earn a Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarship, you have to graduate academically at the top of your class. You also have to be a well-rounded person who makes significant contributions to your college through some "give back to your community" form of extracurricular activities.

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarship awards the largest scholarships in the community-college world: \$40,000 a year for two years to pay tuition for community college graduates transferring to a four-year institution to complete their bachelor's degree. Each year, more than 2,300 graduates from 1,200 community colleges apply. Only 75 are chosen.

Last year, for the first time since the creation of the Scholarship in 2000, a Union County College graduate won a Cooke scholarship. Nuno Pereira of Hillside graduated from Union with a Criminal Justice Degree and earned national recognition as a Cooke Scholar. The \$40,000-a-year award is helping defray his costs of a bachelor's degree at John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

A year later, lightning has struck a second time. McDaniel Jeantus got word that he is your alma mater's second



Nuno Pereira

straight Cooke scholar. McDaniel's destination is Columbia University.

Both Nuno and McDaniel credit Union County College for helping make their dreams come true. Both were former presidents of the Student Government Association, both participated in the College's American Honors Program, and both led a number of community-outreach initiatives.

Nuno earned a grade point average that has consistently placed him on our Honor Role. Along with leading the SGA, Nuno was a member of the Psi Beta Honor Society for Psychology students, a peer tutor, and a tutor in the Academic Learning Center. In fact, students considered Nuno to be one of the best tutors in the College and have cited him multiple times for his service.

McDaniel also had a stellar grade point average, and was a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Psi Beta Honor Society, and Mu Alpha Theta Honor Society. As SGA president, he



McDaniel Jeantus

spearheaded a number of community initiatives, such as "Welcome Week" festivities for new students. McDaniel testified brilliantly on behalf of the College before the New Jersey Commission on College Affordability in the Fall. In the Spring, he served with distinction as a keynote speaker for a Black History Month event in February and again in July for a "Close the Gap" fundraiser to support African-American male students.

The JKC Foundation is a legacy of the billionaire owner of the Washington Redskins, Los Angeles Lakers, Los Angeles Kings, and the Los Angeles Wolves. A review panel of distinguished university faculty and admissions professionals judged the applicants based on a number of criteria, including academics, financial need, persistence, demonstrated leadership, and the desire to help others.

care community hospital. Linda is the past 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 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.

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 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.

2011



Joan Ikinya,
Class of 2011

Joan Ikinya is a quality engineer for S.S. White Technologies, an aviation company that has patented “flexible shaft” technology for use on most aircraft as well as surgical instruments,

cutting-edge industrial applications, and

millions of automobiles. She also serves as the president of chapter 840 of the Institute of Industrial Engineers. After graduating from Union with an associate of science in industrial engineering (and a 3.78 GPA), Joan completed her bachelor of science in industrial engineering at the New Jersey Institute of Technology.

2012



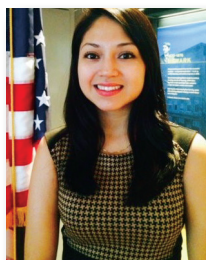
Mark Bishop,
Class of 2012

Mark Bishop is in charge of sales and analytics at Bloomberg. He previously served as a summer analyst for Credit Suisse, a summer intern for the National Beverage Corp., an intern at Portfolio

Advisors LLC, and as a software intern for 3P Learning Mathletics. After earning an associate of science in Business at Union, he completed his bachelor of science in Management Information Systems at the Rutgers Business School of Rutgers University.

Lucio Barreto is a registered nurse in the Intensive Care Unit at Trinitas Hospital. He also works at Raritan Bay Medical Center and St. Peter’s Hospital. After receiving an associate of science in nursing at Union, he earned a bachelor of science in nursing at Kean University.

2013



Maria Del Cid,
Class of 2013

Maria Del Cid is the chief of staff for NJ Assemblyman Jerry Green. Her prior work was as a legal assistant at Kantor & Jalloh. After graduating from Union with an associate of arts in psychology in 2013,

Maria studied at Seton Hall University and earned a bachelor of arts in psychology and political science.

2014

Christian Pires is the vice president of operations and technology at the Harvest Institute, an international-education company that focuses on bringing students from all over the world to learn English as a Second Language. Along with an associate degree in Business from Union, Christian has a bachelor of science in information technology from Brazil’s President Antonio Carlos University.

Attention Alumni: WE WANT YOU!

The Union County College Alumni Association would like to share a wonderful opportunity with you to become mentors at Union. Mentoring is a great opportunity to positively impact our community and to make a difference in the lives of the current students or recent graduates of Union County College.

Being a mentor does not take any special skills, only the willingness to make a difference in the life of a Union student or recent graduate. We would like to establish a system through which alumni share informal job-related advice and information.

Call it mentoring, call it influence, call it networking, call it whatever you want—but the impulse to pass down insight to current students or recent graduates is a time honored tradition at most institutions of higher learning.

If you are interested in being an Alumni mentor, please send a short profile indicating your area of expertise or interest that you would be willing to share with a possible mentee. Once we receive mentor profiles, we will be able to see what kind of forum we can set up to get the Mentor Program up and running.

It’s up to you! The more mentors we get, the better chance that the program will be a success and lives will be changed.

Please email your profile to: Donna M. Herran, Union County College Alumni Association at Uccalumni33@yahoo.com. Please include your email and current address.

Notes from the Graduating Class of...

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.

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 to 2002.

1986

Anthony Birritteri is vice president and editor-in-chief of New Jersey Business, a publication 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.

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.

1990

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

1993

Linda McQuilla-Jones, M.Ed., Ed.S., is a psychotherapist in the adult outpatient behavioral health division of an acute

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:

- Discounts (10 percent) at College Book Stores for Members
- 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.

Union Re-Union

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

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

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, Deborah Fonteix '75, and Marion Menzer '47.



In order to encourage more graduates to attend commencement ceremonies, Union has begun holding two commencements: one in January at the Rahway Center to accommodate fall and winter grads and one in May at Kean University for spring grads.

Operation Graduation

The Foundation's Operation Graduation campaign was developed to financially support the efforts of Union County College strategic plan to increase overall graduation rates. Our fund will support multiple completion scholarships as well as programs and services designed to help students complete their degrees on time.

For more information about "Operation Graduation," please call Foundation Executive Director Doug Rouse at (908) 709-7113 or email Doug at douglas.rouse@ucc.edu.