



Monthly Report

to the

Union County College Community

November 2019 Recent News & Events



UNION AND KITAMI INSTITUTE OF JAPAN SIGNED A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT



Elizabeth Mayor J. Christian Bollwage (left) and Kitami Mayor Tsuji Naotaka (right), witnessed the signing of the MOA by President McMenamin and President Suzuki.



After the signing, members of both institutions gathered for a group photo to celebrate the new partnership.

President McMenamin and Dr. Soichiro Suzuki, President of the Kitami Institute of Technology of Japan, signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on the College's Elizabeth Campus on Oct. 22. The two institutions will participate in an exchange of students and faculty, collaborate on research initiatives, establish joint education programs and grant activities, and exchange academic materials and continuing education opportunities. Fourteen members of the Kitami Institute were present for the occasion and were joined by members of the College's faculty, staff, and students. Following the signing ceremony, the Japanese delegation toured the Elizabeth campus. Led by Dean of Elizabeth Campus Dr. Lester Sandres Rápalo, this agreement continues the efforts to internationalize the College. The agreement marks the 50th Anniversary of the Sister City Partnership between Elizabeth and Kitami.

FOUNDATION'S GALA RAISED \$225,000 FOR STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS



With Union students are the evening's honorees Harvey Hirschfeld and First Lady Tammy Murphy (center). Also pictured are Union County College Board of Trustees Chair Victor M. Richel (left) and President McMenamin (second from left).



President McMenamin presented the 2019 Fiat Lux Award to First Lady Tammy Murphy.



Mr. Richel presented the 2019 Man of the Year Award to Harvey Hirschfeld.

On Oct. 25, the Union County College Foundation raised more than \$225,000 during its Annual Scholarship Gala. This year's theme was "Masquerade" and attendees were given masks. The Gala is the largest fundraising event of the year to support scholarships for Union students. Honored this year were First Lady of New Jersey Tammy Murphy who received the 2019 Fiat Lux Award for her commitment to Union's students and improving lives through education. Union County College Board of Governors and Foundation Board member Harvey Hirschfeld, Chairman and CEO of Westbury Management Group, was honored as the 2019 Man of the Year. He was recognized for his service to the College and generosity in support of the Foundation. More than 250 guests were in attendance at the celebration which was held at The Westwood in Garwood.

CONGRESSMAN MALINOWSKI VISITED UNION TO PROMOTE THE CENSUS



Congressman Malinowski at the podium speaking about the importance of getting an accurate count of residents.

Congressman Tom Malinowski visited the Cranford campus on Oct. 7 to present a short workshop on the importance of the 2020 Census. He explained how having an accurate account of all residents in the state and nation is critical to ensuring adequate future funding at the state and federal level. The Census is safe, easy, and important. Following his presentation, individuals were encouraged to sign-up to work for the Census beginning in March 2020. The Census offers both part-time and full-time positions with flexible work hours, making it an ideal job for a college student.

PANEL DISCUSSION HELD ABOUT WOMEN IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE



Standing are, second from left, Elizabeth Mayor J. Christian Bollwage, Detective Lavendaro, Detective Coll, Sergeant Ramos, Sergeant Santos, Sergeant Lopez, Acting Prosecutor Ruotolo, Dean of Elizabeth Campus Dr. Lester Sandres Rápalo, Vice President for Administrative Services Dr. Athos Brewer, Union County Office on Women Coordinator Jen Erds, Detective Greene, Sheriff Smith, Freeholder Chair Kowalski, Detective Prata, Union's Academic Specialist in Criminal Justice James Russo, and Chief Gagliardi.

The Union County Office on Women hosted a panel discussion on "Women in Criminal Justice" for Union students and community members who were interested in learning more about careers in criminal justice. The panel participants included Acting Prosecutor Lyndsay Routolo, Detectives Shameko Greene, Katelyn Prata, Sarai Lavandero, Danika Ramos, Chief Vincent Gagliardi, Sergeants Sofia Santos and Janet Lopez, Detective Annie Coll, and Sheriff Victoria Smith. Freeholder Chair Bette Jane Kowalski welcomed everyone to the event and encouraged women to pursue their interests. During the panel presentation, each speaker shared their story about how and why they decided to enter the field of law enforcement and provided tips on how to prepare for a career in traditionally male dominated fields. The discussion was held in the Kellogg Building at the Elizabeth campus.

STUDENTS THANKED ASSEMBLYMAN BRAMNICK



Union students thanked Assemblyman Bramnick for his generous support of his law firm's scholarship. Holding the "Big Check" is President McMenamin and Assemblyman Bramnick.

Prior to giving his presentation, "Keys to Success for Future Business and Community Leaders," to Union students, Assemblyman Jon Bramnick renewed his Bramnick Law Firm Scholarship for \$5,000. In its second year, the scholarship will provide assistance for five students. Union students enjoyed their time mingling with Assemblyman Bramnick before posing for the group photo. At the presentation, Union County College Board of Trustees Chair Victor M. Richel introduced Assemblyman Bramnick and thanked him for his continued support of student success initiatives.

DISTINGUISHED PANEL DISCUSSED THE ISSUE OF HATE SPEECH & DIVISION



Union's Vice President of Student Development Dr. Demond T. Hargrove; Union's Board of Trustees Chair Victor M. Richel; Executive Director, State & Local Government Program, Georgetown Law School Meryl J. Chertoff; Former Political Director, NJ NAACP Walter Fields; Assemblyman Jon Bramnick; NJ Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal; Former NJ Attorney General & US Senator Jeffrey Chiesa; Former NJ Attorney General Christopher S. Porrino; and Union's Vice President for Administrative Services Dr. Athos Brewer.

Assemblyman Jon Bramnick was the moderator for the panel discussion, "The Serious Issue of Hate Speech & Division in America" in the Roy Smith Theater at the Cranford campus on Oct. 21. The discussion was centered around the increase of hate speech and bias crimes. Attorney General Grewal provided current statistics for New Jersey. One topic covered was hate being a learned behavior and that a better job needs to be done to teach young children to love and not hate. The panel also addressed the proliferation of hate speech on the internet and protecting speech, including hate speech, under the First Amendment.

HISTORY CLUB VISITED PHILADELPHIA



Members of the History Club on their trip to historical Philadelphia.

In the College's continued efforts to provide Union students with cultural experiences, Assistant Professor of History and advisor to the History Club Dr. Michele Rotunda, took a group of 20 students to Philadelphia for a tour of Independence Hall. During their free time following the tour, some visited the Liberty Bell or toured the Benjamin Franklin Museum. A few had their first "official" Philly cheesesteaks and some students had never visited Philadelphia before.

STUDENTS ATTENDED THE 33rd ANNUAL HACU CONFERENCE



Dean of Elizabeth Campus Dr. Lester Sandres Rápalo, Jennifer Huilotl, Christy Medina, Brayan Ospina, Katherine Peralta, Bruno Gomez, Student Services Specialist Rosarita Bido, Alexandra Perez, Andres Mora-Jara, Justin Patino, and Administrative Assistant Sandra Quintero.

Union students traveled with President McMenamin, Dean of Elizabeth Campus Dr. Lester Sandres Rápalo, and members of the staff to Chicago, Illinois for the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) 33rd Annual Conference, "Championing Hispanic Higher Education Success: Meeting the Challenge of Prosperity and Equality." The conference was held from Oct. 5-7. The conference promoted and showcased best practices in the education of Hispanic students and provided Union students with the opportunity to network with others from across the nation.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEMBER HEHL HONORED BY COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED



With Board of Governors member Stephen F. Hehl, Esq., (center) are Senior Professor of Psychology and Sociology Dr. Mandana Ahsani (left) and Dean of Elizabeth Campus Dr. Lester Sandres Rápalo (right).

Congratulations to Union County College Board of Governors member Stephen F. Hehl, Esq., who was honored with the "Public Leadership Award" on Oct. 24 at the Community Access Unlimited Gala held at Newark Liberty International Airport Marriott. Mr. Hehl was recognized for his service with Javerbaum Wurgaft Hicks Kahn Wikstrom and Sinins. The College is thankful for his years of service as a board member and his continued commitment to improving the lives of Union students.

THEATER ARTS IS THRIVING AT UNION



Union student Jashar (Jay) Banks, a psychology major, recites some of his personal poetry at the OpenMic night.

Academic Specialist in Theater Arts Maria Aladren hosted two new events this semester at the Rahway Building. On Oct. 10 she held an OpenMic and OpenProjector event and on Oct. 11, students participated in an Improv Workshop. For the OpenMic and OpenProjector performances, more than 50 people were in attendance. Thirteen performers shared their talents with a variety of different style songs, spoken word, acting, and poetry. Due to the level of interest, another event is being scheduled in November. For the Improv Workshop, six students attended and many more signed up the next session. Union students are enjoying these new performance opportunities in theater arts.

UNION CELEBRATED LGBTQ+ HISTORY MONTH



Union student worker Jerwin Mertilus, Freeholder Sergio Granados, Assemblywoman Annette Quijano, Dean of Elizabeth Campus Dr. Lester Sandres Rápalo, Associate Director of Advising, Career, and Transfer Services Duane Reid, Vice President of Student Development Dr. Demond T. Hargrove, and Communications Center Director Phyllis Mirabella.

Lessner Building at the Elizabeth campus, Assemblywoman

Annette Quijano and Freeholder Sergio Granados participated in the flag raising event. Flag raising events were also held at the Cranford and Plainfield campuses. A “Sex and Religion” workshop was held at the Cranford campus and the panel was comprised



“Sex and Religion” Workshop. At the table are Rev. Kathy Irwin, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Nutley; Rev. Susanna Cate, All Saints’ Episcopal Church, Scotch Plains; Rev. Dr. LL DuBreull, United Church of Christ; and Rev. Carmine Pernini, Zion Lutheran Church, Rahway.

October is LGBTQ+ History Month and the College celebrated with a series of events held at each campus. An important part of the month is the raising of Pride Flags. On Oct. 14 outside of the

UNION’S STUDENT-ATHLETES MET WITH COSTA RICAN SOCCER TEAM



Members of the Costa Rican Deportivo Saprissa soccer team with student-athletes from the College’s men’s and women’s soccer teams.

On Oct. 18, members of the Costa Rican Deportivo Saprissa professional soccer team visited the College’s Elizabeth campus and held a panel discussion on the importance of pursuing your education as a student-athlete. The Costa Rican players spoke about balancing work, being an athlete, and maintaining excellent grades when they were college students. Student-athletes from the men’s and women’s soccer team were present to meet with the players and benefit from their advice. Dean of Elizabeth Campus Dr. Lester Sandres Rápalo arranged with the Costa Rican Consul General Rolando Enrique Madrigal Gutiérrez for the team visit.

STUDENTS CLEANED UP CITY OF ELIZABETH WITH SGA “LEND A HAND” EVENT



Members of the Student Government Association organized the “Lend a Hand” Event in Elizabeth and spent time cleaning the trash off of North Broad Street in Elizabeth.

The Student Government Association (SGA) coordinated a “Lend a Hand” Event in which Union students volunteered their time on the morning of Sat., Oct. 19, to help clean up the City of Elizabeth. On this occasion, they picked up garbage on North Broad Street, just blocks from the College’s Elizabeth campus. The SGA expressed particular thanks to the City of Elizabeth for supplying them with the needed clean up supplies. After a few hours they had removed more than eight bags of trash and they are planning on helping out again in the spring.