



The Prophet

UNION CATHOLIC REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

June 8, 2007

In this issue:

Graduation	2
Academic Awards	3
PAC Summer Productions	4
Athletic Awards	5
Relay for Life	5
NJ Capitol Forum	6
Spring Concert	7
Junior Prom	7
Freshman Day of Recollection	8
School Renovations	8
Student Council	9
PAC Awards	10

Underclassmen Superlatives

Juniors

Most School Spirit: Gabby Rossi, Tony LaRocca
Most Outgoing: Phil Duarte, Sam Peters
Most Outrageous: Ian Rudowski, Sedona Horning
Most Artistic: Asheem Jacob, Monica Picca
Most Likely to Become Famous: Garrett Ellis, Taylor Fields
Most Likely to Succeed: James Trollo, Angela Sessa
Favorite Teacher: Mr. Wright, Mrs. Caffrey

Sophomores

Most School Spirit: Mike Cowherd, Kiara Couper
Most Outgoing: Chris Brown, Melissa FitzGibbon
Most Outrageous: Paul Christy, Katie Zolli
Most Artistic: Paul Christy, Kristine Esguerra
Most Likely to Become Famous: Alejandro Cortes, Jeanette Rudnicki
Most Likely to Succeed: Steve Berger, Gina Egidio

Freshmen

Most School Spirit: DJ Thornton, Gerianna Pinto
Most Outgoing: Greg Gedman, Gerianna Pinto
Most Outrageous: Eche Nwizugbo, Gerianna Pinto
Most Artistic: Chaz Carter, Lily Altamirano
Most Likely to Become Famous: Jordan Morrissey, Colleen Sweeney
Most Likely to Succeed: John Cierpial, Jamie Ciocon

Class of 2007 Graduation

Sarah Getz

GRADUATION FOR UNION

Catholic's class of 2007 was held on June 2 in the gymnasium at 9:00 a.m.

The gym was filled with a sea of blue and white as the senior class filed in for the last time. Finally, the day had come for them to say goodbye to UC and start out on their own adventures. As they proceeded into the gym, UC's band, directed by music teacher Mr. Frio, played the moving song "Pomp and Circumstance." The band added to the festivities by providing music throughout the ceremony. Religion teacher Mr. Wright opened the ceremony with the invocation followed by the offering of his final blessing to the class of '07.

Principal Sister Percylee Hart, RSM, welcomed the class of '07, their families, and the faculty to graduation. She highlighted the many academic, sports, and club achievements that the class of '07 had accomplished, acknowledging that the senior class had set a high bar for other students to follow.

Scholarship winners were announced by Assistant Principal Mrs. McCoid. The number of scholarships and awards presented to the class of '07 totaled \$10,433,175.

Religion teacher, Mrs. Schurtz gave the address to the graduates. She had many fond memories with the class of '07. Having taught many students religion in their freshman year, she had continued her involvement with the class of '07 through Peer Ministry and Student Movement Against Cancer. Mrs. Schurtz emphasized that she had not only taught the class of '07, but had learned from them as well. "I learned that hands are quicker than feet," said

Mrs. Schurtz, "and what is on the computer screen is not always the whole story. I've also learned that I can walk faster than any senior on his or her way to class."

The class of '07 Valedictorian was Bryan Marques and the Salutatorian was Dianne Navoa. Bryan Marques gave an anecdotal speech of his memories at UC. He reminded his classmates



that, although they were one of the least enthusiastic classes at Pep Rallies, they were also one of the most loved classes by the faculty.

Assistant Principal Mr. Reagan presented medals to the class of '07. Joseph DeLucca was the medalist for art-Computer Aided Graphics and Italian. Michael Cacoilo was the medalist for French and religion. Bryan Marques was the medalist for mathematics, science and next in merit for Spanish. Dianne Navoa was the medalist for social studies, Spanish and was next in merit for science. Art-Fine Arts medalist was Melissa Barat. English medalist was Kaitlin Butler. Fine arts-Chorus medalist was Candace Pyne. Fine arts-

Instrumental medalist was Kristy Napolitano. Physical education male medalist was Andrew Kardach and physical education female medalist was Danielle Aimone. Technology medalist was Michael Sprague. Megan Dyckman was next in merit for English, mathematics, and social studies. Next in merit for fine arts-Instrumental was Matthew Madurski. Next in merit for French was Laura Biondi. Next in merit for Italian was Brianna Dugan. Next in merit for religion was Patricia Costa. Next in merit for technology was Robert Hardaker.

Student Council President, Kevin Cassidy also bid his classmates farewell with a speech that underscored how thoroughly UC had prepared him for life after high school. Cassidy emphasized the confidence he had gained through his UC experience and how it will benefit him as he starts out on a new adventure.

Once the class of '07 had all received their diplomas, the seniors, as tradition mandates, moved their tassel from right to left. Family and friends watched proudly as the graduates proceeded out of the gym and into the parking lot where the class of '07 cheered as they threw their graduation caps into the air. After four years of hard work, perseverance, laughs, and memories, the class of 2007 had graduated.

Now, official graduates of UC, members of the class of 2007 will move forward to new challenges with the words of Bryan Marques ringing in their ears. "It is survival of the fittest, and my friends we have survived."

UC Summer Reading

IT'S AUGUST 29, YOU'RE SITTING AT home flicking the channels but are reluctant to find something that holds your interest. So, you decide to surf the internet and the Union Catholic Homepage appears when you open Internet Explorer. On the side panel of the page, you see in bold letters: Summer Reading Books and Projects. Suddenly, you

panic and beg your mom to take you to Barnes & Nobles to pick up your assigned books.

Does the scenario sound familiar? This is not an unusual case when it comes to most Union Catholic students. UC requires all incoming and current students to do a summer reading project for which they have to read one

Keyana Jones
mandatory book that they are tested on when school reopens in September. Students are also required to read a selection of their own choice and submit a corresponding project.

Why have summer reading projects, you ask? "Because students need to be reading over the summer (continued on page 7)

Upperclassmen Academic Awards

Katie Moore

THE JUNIOR AND SENIOR CLASS academic awards ceremony was held on Thursday, May 3rd. That evening, students and their family members gathered in the Union Catholic auditorium, to honor those who have earned recognition for outstanding academic achievement.

Awards were presented in many categories and included certain students who rose above and beyond, excelling in a variety of subjects to earn special awards. The seniors who received awards for their performance in English were Laura Biondi, Kaitlin Butler, Megan Dyckman, Sara Ferreira, Jillian Hernandez, Danielle Kania, Dianne Navoa, Amanda Parker, John Rondo, Aileen Salle, and Kimberley Schanz. The juniors who also received English awards were

Taryn Barnes, Justin Cagaoan, Jordan Colon, Jennifer Kelliher, Michele Klimowitz, Andrew Kocur, Sarah McDermott, Alexander Niziolek, Prapti Patel, and Robert Villegas.

Senior members of the varsity math team who were recognized included Andrew Brothers, Michael Cacoilo, Edgar Cruz, Melissa Dunn, Megan Dyckman, Danielle Kania, Matt Madurski, Bryan Marques, and Dianne Navoa. Junior varsity team classmates who received recognition were juniors Christopher Jones, April Llamas, Alex Niziolek, Prapti Patel, Elizabeth Peach, Cynthia Ritter, Angela Sessa, and Chris Wytenus.

Receiving acknowledgement for outstanding performance in biology were Gabrielle Geller, Danielle Kania, April Llamas, Bryan Marques, Michael Mastrolo, Dianne Navoa, Julio Rivas, Stephanie Savino, Kimberley Schanz, and Chris Wytenus.

In the science category, the Union Catholic Physics Team is composed of both seniors and juniors. They worked together to learn as much as they could to get to this point. These students were Andrew Brothers, Elizabeth Casserly, Sophia Cheung, Brianna Dugan, Jeffery Hand,

Ryan won the Wendy's "High School Heisman" Awards. Jillian Hernandez was recognized by the College Board's National Recognition Program. Kristin Cassidy won the St. Lawrence University Book Award. And, Kevin Cassidy, along with Danielle Kania, won the American Psychological Association Award.

The academic team was also awarded for their outstanding performance as a team. They compete in numerous competitions against other teams. These competitions include various questions that the team must work together to complete. The team includes both juniors and seniors; Andrew Brothers, Charles Defendorf, Michael DiPaolo, Brian Major, Angela Sessa,

Chris Wytenus, and Nicole Siano.

The senior who came in first for his class is Bryan Marques, and a close second was Dianne Navoa. The juniors had a tie for first with April Llamas and Angela Sessa. Michael Mastrolo came in second.

"I love going to the academic awards," said Corinne Timko '07. "It makes me feel like all my hard work paid off and that it's my time to shine."

The academic awards were a great success. The students all got to return home with something to remind them of the success they had at Union Catholic.



Rebecca Mehringer, Christina Palumbo, Prapti Patel, Angela Sessa, and Keith Zukowski.

In the field of geography, those who were singled out from among their peers were Michael Brown, Michael DiPaolo, Justin Cagaoan, Jeffery Hand, and Nicholas Vislocky.

The juniors and seniors that received awards for their outstanding performance in current events were Samantha Delucia, Michael DiPaolo, Jeffrey Hand, Andrew Kocur, Nicholas Marketta, and Julian Phillips.

Other students received individual awards for separate achievements. Angela Sessa won the Bausch and Lomb Award. Alexander Niziolek won the Rensselaer Medal and Scholarship. Megan Dyckman and Angela Sessa won the New Jersey Section of the Society of Women Engineers. Charles Defendorf and Kaitlin

The Señora McHugh Story

WHEN CATHY MCHUGH ARRIVED at Union Catholic to teach the Spanish language, the calendars were turned back 25 years. This was her first official position as an educator after coming off of several years as a bilingual secretary. Now, Mrs. McHugh is a veteran *profesora* at UC, and she is the Curriculum Specialist of the World Language Department.

"You could do without the paperwork," said Mrs. McHugh of her current position, "but it's the kids you're here for."

Mrs. McHugh taught five Spanish classes during the 2006-2007 academic year, marking her 25th anniversary with Spanish 1AC, 2AC, 3AC, 4H, and 4AP. Over the course of her career, Mrs. McHugh has instructed at every level of Spanish at UC and has even tried out a year of World Studies. She has held moderator positions at various times in many clubs, including the Black History Club and Forensics.

Upon the retirement of Señor Zehnle, Mrs. McHugh took on his previous role as Curriculum Specialist. She has been the Curriculum Specialist these past five years, but she has been teaching accelerated classes since 1994

(beginning with Spanish 2AC). "Sr. Zehnle was a good friend of mine, and I came to be a teacher because of him," said Mrs. McHugh.

Mrs. McHugh can also recall the days of grading the papers of several UC faculty members and their children. "The Reagans, the Boyars, the Lubins, Mrs. Farrell, Mrs. O'Donnell, Mrs. Andrews, Mr. Cerimele, those kids," listed Mrs. McHugh offhandedly. In either a class or a homeroom moderated by Mrs. McHugh, one might also find the names of Assistant Principal Mr. Reagan, Mr. Luciano, Ms. Patti Nower, and Ms. Piasecki, and former UC faculty members Ms. Eger, Ms. Wood, and Mr. DeOliveira.

Not an alumna herself, Mrs. McHugh nevertheless sent her two daughters, Nancy '92 and Tara '97, to UC. Her husband, Brian McHugh, is also a teacher; he teaches music at Edison Elementary in Union City. With both daughters married and two grandchildren already, Mrs. McHugh lives with her husband and their pets, which total one dog, nine birds, and ten cats.

When she's not in the classroom, genealogy and family research are passions of Mrs. McHugh's. She is a

Jillian Hernandez and Kaitlin Butler
14th generation American and can trace her roots back to former Presidents Eisenhower and Nixon and out-law Jesse James.

However, when she is in the classroom, Mrs. McHugh is entirely devoted to teaching her students and engaging them in the material they are learning. In order to introduce students to authentic spoken Spanish in the classroom, Mrs. McHugh has utilized a video novella entitled *La Catrina*. The story follows a young girl on an adventure through Mexico and is entirely in Spanish. The story also has a sequel called *La Catrina: El Último Secreto*, which was purchased this year by the AP Spanish Class of 2007. "I've really enjoyed this class these past four years," said Mrs. McHugh. "Their enthusiasm is contagious, and they seem to genuinely have love and *orgullo* [pride] for the language."

Mrs. McHugh considered retiring this year, but she found herself unable to leave with so many more young minds to enlighten. "I can't do it yet," said Mrs. McHugh. "My husband and I want to do it together. We'll have to play it by ear."

PAC Summer Productions

ALTHOUGH THE SPRING MUSICAL IS over, Union Catholic Performing Arts Company has a busy summer ahead. The Romeo and Juliet Project will be performed in June followed by the musical *Merrily We Roll Along* in August. In addition to these two shows, PAC will also hold summer classes for its members.

The Romeo and Juliet Project began last summer and will be continuing this year. This show allows for the director to be creative and bring his or her own style to the stage. The project does not call for the play to be done in its traditional style, but can adapt to any time period. Although many of the same PAC members who were in *The Romeo and Juliet Project* last summer will be auditioning again, they will be cast for different roles than they previously performed. This project allows students to

expand their talents and try something new. Last year, when *The Romeo and Juliet Project* hit the UC stage for the first time, it was directed by English teacher Mrs. Carolan. However, this summer, it will be directed by UC alumnus, Joe Palinski. *The Romeo and Juliet Project* will be performed on June 29 and June 30 at 8pm.

The summer musical for this year will be *Merrily We Roll Along*. This musical is different compared to previous summer shows because it follows a storyline. What is even more interesting about this show is that it is told in reverse. It begins with a group of adult friends who are unhappy and regresses backwards through their lives to when they were teenagers. *Merrily We Roll Along* has a larger cast than other summer shows UC has produced, allowing for more PAC members to get involved. The play will be

Sarah Getz
directed by Mrs. Carolan and will be performed on August 10 and August 11 at 8pm.

In addition to both summer productions, PAC will be holding seven classes for five weeks, PAC members are encouraged to take part in these to further enhance their training over the summer.. These classes include: vocal, acting, movement for the actor, improvisation 101, private vocal lessons, tap and PAC Jr. The classes will be run by Mrs. Carolan, English teacher Mr. Addison, Kevin Carolan, Emily Eger and Tim Herman. Summer PAC classes began three years ago and have been continuing ever since. Some classes change each year, giving PAC members a chance to expand their boundaries. This year movement for the actor, improvisation
(continued on page 8)

Spring Athletic Awards Banquet

Ashley Wytenus

ON WEDNESDAY MAY 16, SPRING sports athletes, along with their parents, coaches and other members of the Union Catholic school faculty, gathered at the Westwood in Garwood for the Spring Athletic Banquet. Unlike previous years, when there was just one banquet for all of the sports played at UC during the entire year, three separate banquets were held this year for the fall, winter, and spring seasons. Mr. Reagan Sr., Director of Athletics, explained that this change was made due to the overcrowdedness that the all-encompassing banquets experienced every year.

The banquet consisted of a three course meal, the showing of a DVD made by the Digital Film class of each team playing, and the handing out of varsity letters, certificates, pins, plaques, and special student athlete awards to selected seniors.

Prior to the dinner on the evening of May 16, a breakfast consisting of bagels, apple juice, fruit juices, and water was held in the cafeteria during homeroom. During this breakfast, Mr. Reagan, Sr. introduced the captains from each team to give a synopsis of how their seasons went. Sister Percylee Hart, R.S.M., then congratulated and spoke to the spring athletes about the responsibilities they have as being "role models for others in the school."

At the banquet, Mr. Reagan Sr. and Sister Percylee spoke again to the spring sports teams about having a duty as athletes of representing the school in a positive light. In between dinner courses, videos of the track, boy's tennis, golf, girl's lacrosse, softball, and baseball team, were shown. Made by the Digital Film class taught by Mr. McCabe here at UC, the videos

consisted of actual game play by each team, along with each athlete stating their name, year, and position to the camera.

After each team's video was presented, everyone on that team went to the front of the room, where they were presented with a letter, pin, certificate, or plaque. Coaches of each team gave a speech, congratulating players and parents, and wishing seniors goodbye and best of luck in whatever they do next year.

Since there were significantly fewer teams at this year's banquet than the banquet that took place one year ago, the evening ended much earlier than usual. Everyone enjoyed the evening and felt that it the spring athletes had been well honored. .

Relay for Life

ON MAY 18, THE UNION CATHOLIC Student Movement Against Cancer participated in the Relay for Life which was held at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. It ran from 6p.m. on Friday night until 6a.m. the following morning.

It took several months to plan and coordinate for the Relay for Life; SMAC members have been preparing since September under the guidance of religion teacher, Mrs. Schurtz. Registration for the relay was very successful, with students from every grade participating in the event. Altogether, there were 72 UC students who took part in the relay in addition to 6 non-UC students and 8 parent chaperones. Those who signed up for the relay were asked to raise one hundred dollars each. This could be done through fund raising, donations from family and friends, or by buying luminarias. UC was able to raise a total of \$12,000.

Although clouds loomed overhead, weather permitted the relay to be held outside on the track. The Relay for Life began with a few speeches that reminded everyone of why they had wanted to come to the relay.

As the last speech ended, the sun peeked out from behind the clouds, filling everyone with hope and inspiration.

The ribbon was cut and the survivors lap began. The goal for the night was to have at least one person from each team on the track at all times, symbolizing the ongoing fight against cancer. The word "hope" was spelled out with lit bags in the bleachers. The glowing vision of this four letter word empowered many people to

continue walking, even after they could no longer feel their feet. A luminaria ceremony was held after dark to honor those who were fighting cancer and those who had survived it, as well as to remember those who had lost their lives to it.

UC students chose the team name to be "Obarracudas" in honor of the memory of Chris Obara. Obara was a UC student who passed away from cancer in September. SMAC chose to honor Chris at this Relay for Life, and they walked for him. A hypnotist, DJ, live bands and video games were at the relay to provide entertainment. Students from UC spent the night walking the track, playing games, and trying to find ways to keep warm through the cold night.

"This is an opportunity," said Mrs. Schurtz, "to not only require students for service, but demonstrate that service is a life long commitment."



Sarah Getz

Leaders of Tomorrow, Voices of Today: The New Jersey Capitol Forum

Julian Phillips

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, THE global economy, immigration, global warming, terrorism, and our nation's foreign policy don't really seem to be conversation topics of high school students. But on Friday, April 20th, students representing schools from across the entire state of New Jersey discussed and deliberated these topics at the first New Jersey Capitol Forum at the capitol building in Trenton. The air was charged with opinions and beliefs which were tested and refuted in the House chamber. It was not only a day of political rhetoric performed by students, but a great day of learning as well.

The Capitol Forum, which began in Connecticut in 1997, is sponsored by the "Choices for the 21st Century Education Program" at Brown University. From the beginning of this school year, students explored and studied the issues of terrorism, nuclear proliferation, international trade, immigration, and the environment. Within each of Mrs. James Current Events classes, students were selected to represent Union Catholic at the Capitol Forum as experts in each of these fields. Seniors Rahki Vyas, representing her class in "Nuclear Proliferation" and I, Julian Phillips, reporting on the "Global Environment," were chosen along with juniors Jeffery Hand, Samantha Hogan, and Taryn Barnes who undertook "Terrorism," "Immigration," and "Global Trade," respectfully.

When arriving at the capitol building, we marveled at the architecture and "plush" chairs in the Senate chamber. The ice was broken with individual schools presenting their classes' "policy posters" which expressed snapshots of their domestic and international views. The student representatives were very timid at first, allowing braver souls to perform impromptu speeches. However, in the first Breakout Session, this timidity was shed very quickly. The Breakout Session's were divided by topics. In each session, students discussed the issue they were assigned with others and decided on a certain policy as a solution to the stated

issue. I was in the Environment Breakout Session, which was more of a very thoughtful conversation, than a war of opinions like other sessions. Many of us agreed that the problems in the environment called for immediate action, from both politicians and the general public. We recognized that the biggest dilemma against this action was monetary. Much of the time, businesses and American citizens do not want to make environment conscience decisions because it will cost them too much financially. A lot of foreign relation conundrums have, at their root, money or domestic safety. But what I saw in my session were people who genuinely

could take. I was selected to be on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Along with four other students, our job was to look at each policy and come up with discussion stimulating questions that would either find holes in a policy or cause the students to defend it. After the last session, the entire Capitol Forum met again in the House chamber to discuss the four policies: Lead the World to Democracy, Protect Global Interest, Build a More Cooperative World, and Protect the Homeland. One thing that changed from the morning to the afternoon was that the timidity, which had earlier plagued the chamber, was now gone. As each

topic was discussed, microphones could not work fast enough; hands shot up after every comment, and the old House chamber came alive with the youthful urge to be heard. The interaction between the Foreign Relations Committee and each future was regulated to seven minutes which proved to be not enough time at all. After the deliberations, we met with and were able to question real life policy makers like Senator Thomas Kean Jr., and representatives from the New Jersey Education and Environmental Departments. This part of the day was very insightful because we got to see how what we had been doing is actually what happens on a larger scale. I also came to understand that politicians have a very difficult job finding the balance between pleasing their constituents and solving both national and global problems. One thing that Senator Kean impressed upon me was the power I had as a voter. I saw that people my own age had great ideas about the future of our country, and we can let them be heard through voting and constantly keeping in contact with our different representatives. The greatest thing I took away from the Capitol Forum was the knowledge that we truly are the leaders of tomorrow, but our voices can be heard loud and clear today.



cared about doing the right thing and not how much it cost. Politics had no hand in any of our decisions, only the will to create a brighter future. Even if we were just playing "pretend senator" for a day, I believe that, in our breakout room, there was a nurturing of passion and ideas, which have the potential to change the world.

Before lunch, each of the issue groups were separated into "Future" sessions in which students discussed different foreign policies America

Summer Reading

(continued from page 2)

and exercise their brains,” said Mrs. Dellanno, Head of the English Department, “success in school and success in life are directly related.” Over the summer, students program their brains into hibernation mode; it’s on but it’s not being put to work. Summer reading assignments give students interesting pieces of literature to read and then

assess by completing a project.

The Pact will remain as the mandatory book for all incoming freshman. “It sends a good message for students beginning their high school careers,” said Mrs. Dellanno. Most books on the summer reading list are contemporary in nature and include various works of fiction.

In order to successfully complete your summer book project, Mrs.

Dellanno suggests, “Not waiting until the last minute,” it is nerve-racking to try and read three books and do two projects in two days. “Devise a schedule,” you should set deadlines for when you will read the books and do the projects. Mrs. Dellanno also suggests that students “Read the book and do the project immediately after,” if you defer the project, it will never get done.

Rock and Soul Review

UNION CATHOLIC’S ANNUAL SPRING concert took place Tuesday, May 17. Music Director Mr. Frio chose the theme “Rock and Soul” for his sixth time directing the school concert, and the various ensembles reflected that choice. “The hard work was evident in the performance,” said Mr. Frio.

The concert opened with a performance of “The Classics,” beginning with Beethoven’s Pathetic Sonata 3rd Movement on piano by Andrew Brothers ’07. Subsequent performances included Cedric Alexis ’09 on violin, Austin Duong ’08 on piano, and April Llamas ’08 on violin. Following The Classics was the String Ensemble: Cedric Alexis, Justin Kagoan ’08, Chris Heyder

’08, and Rob Gutierrez ’07. Their performance included songs by Metallica and the Beatles. “This spring concert was the best so far,” said Gutierrez.

The first vocal performance of the night came from the Gospel Choir, which was accompanied by the UC Blues Ensemble: Kevin Smith ’08, Jim Harbison ’08, and Jonny Abel ’08. The Choir’s director, Jasmine Louis ’07, led them in performances of “This is the Day” and “Faithful.” The Band followed with pieces ranging from the Commodores to Weezer. “There was a perfect synthesis of rock and soul,” said trumpet player Sean Rainey ’07.

The Concert Choir followed; they performed six songs including

Samantha DeLucia
Styx’s “Come Sail Away” and Kelly Clarkson’s “Breakaway.” The culmination of the music portion of the concert came with the Senior Dedication—a performance of Lynyrd Skynyrd’s “Freebird” by Austin Duong, Jim Harbison, Kevin Smith, Kevin Riehl ’07, Matt Madurski ’07, and Danny Palinsky ’07. “I think the song selection made the concert,” said Palinsky. A/V Crew member Joey Mintel added, “Freebird was pretty cool.”

The Dance Class ended the concert, dancing to “One” and “Rock Around the Clock.” All in all, the event was considered a success. “I was very proud of everyone involved,” said Mr. Frio.

Junior Prom: Midnight Masquerade

Keyana Jones

“MIDNIGHT MASQUERADE,” WAS the night for all juniors to remember. The junior prom was held on April 27, 2007, at Berkeley Plaza, Berkeley Heights. Upon arriving at around 7:00 p.m., students greeted teachers and faculty members and introduced their dates.

Shortly after making some new acquaintances, the students proceeded into the hall where the tables were nicely decorated with center pieces and parting gifts. While some students chatted with their dates and peers, others moved on to a more isolated room where pictures were taken by professional photographers. The party really

began as everyone moved to the dance floor with friends and dates to dance the night away.



“I thought the music was great,” said Jasmine Kelley, ’07 “they

played music that everyone could enjoy.” Everyone danced until about 8:45 p.m., then dinner was served. Students

were called by table number to retrieve their meal. The selection of foods included rice with chicken, red potatoes, beef, chicken strips, and several other dishes.

Once everyone consumed their entrees, students returned to the dance floor to continue their night of fun. “There wasn’t

one minute I wasn’t dancing,” said Samantha Hogan ’08. Unfortunately, the night came to an end at 12:00 a.m. as students began to gather their things and their memories to finally leave the plaza. “Junior prom was so fun, I can’t wait until senior prom,” said Genesis Fulmer ’08.

PAC Summer Productions

(continued from page 4)

101, private vocal lessons and tap are

all being introduced to the summer program. On July 19 at 7pm, a showcase will be held in which those who participated in the classes will be able to demonstrate what they learned over

the summer.

Freshman Day of Recollection

Jessica Ballate

Union Catholic's freshmen were fortunate enough to have God for their DJ on Wednesday, March 15, during their Recollection Day. The theme of the day came from Pink's lyrics: "If God is a DJ, life is a dance floor and you are the music." On the Day of Recollection, the freshmen split into groups in order to gain some perspective on their first year in high school.

Peer Ministry organized the Recollection as always, but this was a very special recollection for the Senior Peer Leaders. This Day of Recollection was the last for the seniors before graduation. Senior Peer Minister leader Kaitlin Butler said, "Peer Ministry has been a huge part of these last two years. The time with Peer Ministry just flew by."

Freshmen started off with a Jello-eating contest where the participants were not allowed to use their hands. The Jello-eating contest was then

followed by a heartfelt speech from Mr. Cagney, a freshman and sophomore religion teacher, whose speech taught that friendship is the most important thing he remembers from high school. In keeping with the day's theme, the freshmen played a game of scrabble, the answers to which were parts of the lyrics to Pink's "If God is a DJ." They also had to build a human pyramid; the first to do so was the winner. The student speakers of the day were Katie Gigl '07 and Liz Scherer '08. Each of them spoke of the struggles of dealing with family illness and how it is important to break out and be bold, how each student will find a place where they fit it. Their speeches reminded the freshmen that even though they may not have found their place, in the years to come they will.

The Peer Ministers also lead discussions about the speeches. To keep things light and funny, the fresh-

men also played the famous Dating Game, where a lucky bachelor or bachelorette had to guess what celebrity (or teacher) each contestant pretended to be. To get a picture of what the contestant had to choose from, a few examples of those dream dates were Jessica Simpson and Borat. Very Nice, High Five!

The final event was the Mass. This allowed everyone to reflect, pray, and relax. Peer Ministry Faculty Coordinator Mr. Marino believed it was a special day saying, "I think that overall the day went well. The freshmen behaved especially in church. It was a great day."

Gabby Laguna '10 agrees, saying, "The day was a lot of fun. I got to know my classmates better. I could tell that the Peer Ministers worked hard especially on the decorations in our wing."

School Renovations

Jessica Ballate

JUST LIKE AN EPISODE STRAIGHT OUT of Dr. 90210, by next fall, our school will take on a whole new look! As we end this school year, we get a clean slate for next year where we can start a new; which is exactly what our building will be doing, as well.

Our beloved school will be getting several renovations. We will be getting a new roof, a nice clean polish over the gym floor, and, one of the most important changes, the Hallway of Traditions. The upper wings that were once filled with old, never used lockers will

now be a showcase of our proud accomplishments from the past. Since Union Catholic was built as two separate schools, one wing for boys and one wing for girls, one side will show the achievements of the one school and the other side the accomplishments of the other. At the middle, the two sides will meet and show the awards of our school when it became coed.

Other changes include a new state of the art lab for students of chemistry teacher Ms. Mascolino. This upgrade will be worth over 250,000 dollars.

Although these changes will occur over summer break, more changes are also scheduled for UC. Imagine a whole new auditorium, a new cafeteria, new locker rooms for both the boys' and girls' sports teams, and a "common area."

Administrators say Union Catholic is making many changes to adapt to the increasing technological advances in learning. As a very enthusiastic Sister Percylee said, "I am very excited for the new changes, the students will love it."

Junior Rite of Passage

As we say goodbye to the seniors, the class of '08 transitions into title of seniors. With this transition comes the tradition of the junior rite of passage. The junior rite of passage represents the path students have journeyed along their high school career to become seniors. The ceremony was held on Friday, June 8 during period 1. After the ceremony the students proceeded from the auditorium to the cafeteria.

Underclassmen Academic Awards

Ashley Wytenus

HONORING THOSE WHO HAVE achieved academic excellence is something that Union Catholic takes great pride in doing. On Tuesday May 22, deserving sophomores and freshmen, along with their families, attended the Academic Awards held in the auditorium. The awards that were presented students included Certificates for maintaining an "A" average in a subject for the entire year; Certificates of Honor, given to students who have been on the Honor Roll for the entire school year; Olympiad awards, which are tests taken by students in all different subjects, with the top 10 scorers receiving certificates; and plaques honoring those achieving first and second in the class. Christopher Brown placed first in the sophomore class, with John Szilagy and Ashley Wytenus tying for second, and John Cierpial placed first in the freshmen and Alex Bricki and Thomas Kaluzny tying for second.

At the beginning of the ceremony, Sister Percylee Hart, RSM, gave an opening address to all in attendance. Sister Percylee's pride in these students was clearly evident. Referring to the honorees, she stated "they have most certainly earned the privilege of being honored here tonight."

After those who received the Certificate of Honor had walked across the stage and were congratulated by

Sister Percylee, Math teacher Mrs. Whitehead announced the members of the Mathematics team. Students receive an award for being on the team by doing the best on a combination of math Olympiads taken throughout the school year. Three sophomores, Christopher Brown, Melissa Carey, and Gina Egidio, who are taking Algebra II, made the Junior Varsity team, with Christopher Brown receiving a medal. Members of the Geometry team were Christina Agostinho, Kyle Bowes, Angelo Cerimele, Daniel Chapman, Caitlin Conheaney, Kevin Coughlan, Connor Dick, Jaclyn Ferrie, Roberto Gomez, Russell Kinney, Magan Mauro, Katherine Sarrico, and John Szilagy, with John Szilagy winning the medal. The Algebra I team consisted of Alex Bricki, the medalist, Christopher Bruno, Damian Bzdyra, Briana Cash, John Cierpial, Jamie Ciocon, Shweta Gohil, Elizabeth Jones, Thomas Kaluzny, Christopher Murray, Mariah Phillips, Brianne Sinclair, Carson Stewart, Alexander Tran, and Amy Zofcin.

Chemistry teacher Mrs. Lubin then announced the members of the Science team. Due to numerous students tying for the eighth place position on the Chemistry Olympiad, only seven students, including Steven Berger, Christopher Brown, Angelo Cerimele, Richard Fuchs, John Szilagy,

the medalist, Camille Trongone, and Ashley Wytenus, made it onto the Chemistry team. Members of the Biology I team included Kyle Bowes, Damian Bzdyra, John Cierpial, Sara Kropoth, Jaclyn Ferrie, John Hao, Thomas Kaluzny, Samantha Marques, Aaron Pinkard, Carson Stewart, and Alexander Tran.

After the presentations to the members of the Science team, those that took part in a National Spanish Exam were recognized. Spanish teacher Mrs. Mchugh introduced Spanish team competitors, including Adam Freeman on Level Three, Christopher Brown, Melissa Carey, Spencer Davis, Gina Egidio, James Lubin, Kelsey Mahler, Magan Mauro, Kevin Mukalel, John Szilagy, and Ashley Wytenus on Level Two, and Alex Bricki, John Cierpial, Jamie Ciocon, Kevin Coughlan, Gregory Gedman, Thomas Kaluzny, and Alexander Tran on Level One.



Student Council Elections

THE STUDENT COUNCIL EXECUTIVE board elections were held on May 18. Tony LaRocca '08 was elected president, Gabriella Rossi '08 was elected vice president, Austin Duong '08 was elected media coordinator, and Deanna Rodriguez '08 was elected secretary. These positions come into effect September of 2007-2008.

The executive board is responsible for leading the Student Council meetings and also makes major decisions regarding the club. Aside from the executive board, Student Council consists of individual homeroom representatives and class officers. Elections for these positions will take place later in the year.

Throughout the month of May,

candidates designed clever campaigns to market themselves to the student body. Posters adorned the many hallways and candidates went on UCTV in the morning to explain their vision for UC. The notable campaign of Austin Duong '08 involved posters with satiric phrases, such as "Austin Duong: Raising the Bar." "I just had a lot of fun with the campaign slogans," said Austin Duong '08. "I'm really happy to be elected, and I can't wait for September."

Students generally feel confident in the capabilities of their elected officers. "Being in the same Pre-Calculus class with Austin Duong definitely aided in my decision," said Nicole Johnson '08. "I think he has all the skills necessary to be a great media

coordinator."

Other students, however, feel that the next election could be managed in a more efficient and democratic manner. "I don't feel the candidates really got the opportunity to express themselves in such a way that would allow voters to get to know them better," said Angela Sessa '08. "The election was really a glorified popularity contest, because students really did not know who to vote for and why."

Others expressed concern over the candidates' qualifications for office. "I seriously doubt some of the candidates possess even half the qualities people look for in their leaders," said Julie Mohommad '08.

PACademy Awards Ceremony

Sarah Getz

ON MAY 11 THE UNION CATHOLIC Performing Arts Company held its 25th annual awards ceremony. The ceremony was held in the auditorium at 7pm.

John Rotondo and Edward Sagendorf began the ceremony by dancing with each other for old time's sake. The only difference was that their roles were reversed, with Edward playing the woman and John playing the man. Edward is President of the Thespian Society and opened the formal part of the ceremony with a warm welcome to everyone in the audience. Next, the members of the PAC executive board gave a brief history of theater.

During the induction portion of the program, PAC enthusiastically announced the installment of 15 new members into the National Thespian Society. Stars were then awarded to PAC members based on their hours of commitment to the theater. There were nine recipients who received one star, eight who received two stars, seven who receive three stars, and four who received four stars. When a member has provided 1800 hours of service, they receive an honor bar. Eighteen PAC members received one honor bar, and three students received two honor bars. PAC was proud to announce that, for the first time at UC, two honor bars were awarded. Jillian Hernandez and

John Rotondo received this hard earned honor.



Awards were then given out by show, beginning with the fall play Rumors. English teacher Mrs. Addison announced these awards which included: outstanding performance, best actress and best actor. She went on to say that she is always amazed by the relationships that are formed while preparing for the production. English teacher Mr. Addison then announced the outstanding senior awards. Mrs. Addison proclaimed that next year's fall play will be The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940.

Next, Mr. Addison and Emily Eger announced the awards for the spring musical Sugar. The categories

for these awards include: Outstanding New Members, Outstanding Service Award, Outstanding Chorus Members, Outstanding Ensemble Members, and Outstanding Actors and Actresses. A new award was added to the ceremony this year: the Directors Award. This award was given to the people whose hard work often goes unnoticed. Laura Biondi and Becky Mehringer received this award. Emily Eger announced that next year's spring musical will be Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat.

Later in the evening the PAC executive board for the 2007-2008 school year was sworn into office at the awards ceremony. Nicole Johnson will be President; Greg Cassidy will be the Vice President; James Trollo will be Secretary; Mike McKeown will be Treasurer; and Jasmine Kelly will be Historian. It was also announced that James Trollo will be the Chief Technician next year.

The night concluded with a slide show made by Mike Brown featuring pictures of UC's past plays. It contained memories that were experienced by many PAC members and reminded everyone of the enjoyment they get out of entertaining others.

The Prophet

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