HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES WELCOME THE COMMUNITY TO CAMPUS

UACCM invites the public to attend the annual “Night of Luminaries” on Thursday, December 3, 2009 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. following the Morrilton Christmas Parade. The free community event features nearly 2000 candle-lit paper bags which illuminate the drive through campus and lead patrons to Santa himself, who will be ready to greet children following his duties in the parade.

HUNDREDS ATTEND LIBRARY COMPLEX GRAND OPENING

UACCM held a grand opening and open house for the new UACCM Library Complex on Thursday, September 17, 2009. Members of the Morrilton Area Chamber of Commerce cut the ribbon to the new facility before visitors were given the opportunity to get an in-depth look at the new 26,000 square-foot building. Guests attending the grand opening enjoyed refreshments and informal tours where they met faculty and staff members who were on hand to answer questions.

01/21 “Smoke and Mirrors,” an illusion magic show performed by Rocky and Lori Clements of Jonesboro, Arkansas, will return on Thursday, January 21, 2010 at noon and 7 p.m. in the UACCM Fine Arts Auditorium. Sponsored by the college, each performance will be a free, all-ages production open to the community, and will feature magic, music, audience participation, comedy, and special effects.

03/11 & 3/12 UACCM is again honored to bring an individual to Morrilton who has survived one of the most horrific events in history: The Holocaust. A Holocaust survivor will present on Wednesday and Thursday, March 10 and 11, 2010, and the presentations are being offered free and are open to the public. The survivor’s visit to UACCM will captivate audiences in a way only a true living piece of history can. Times and locations for the event, as well as a specific presenter, will be announced at a later date.

04/01 “Edens Edge” the band will be on campus to present a free concert at 7:00 p.m. in the UACCM Fine Arts Auditorium on Thursday, April 1, 2010. “Edens Edge” is a music trio from Nashville, Tennessee. Originally based out of Arkansas, Hannah Blaylock, Cherill Green, and Dean Bemer followed the music to Nashville in 2007. This concert is sponsored by the college and will be open to the community.

For more information on any of the events listed, contact Jacob Ward at (501) 977-2142 or at ward@uaccm.edu.

UACCM ENROLLMENT NEARS 2,500; 24 PERCENT INCREASE

The fall 2009 semester marks another record-breaking year for UACCM as the college reported an enrollment of 2,423 students on the 11th class day, the deadline for public institutions to report their enrollments to the Arkansas Department of Higher Education.

This represents an increase of 24 percent from the fall 2008 semester. This marks the third largest increase in enrollment in the 48-year history of the institution and the largest single-year increase since 1997. Additionally, the fall 2009 semester marks the first time in UACCM history when more than 2000 credit students are enrolled. Since UACCM’s last year as a vocational technical school in 1990, overall enrollment has increased 662 percent, and 88 percent since merging with the University of Arkansas System in 2001.

Conway County students account for 22 percent of enrollment at UACCM. In addition, 39 percent are from Faulkner County, 7 percent from Perry County, 17 percent from Pope County, 5 percent from Van Buren County, 5 percent from Yell County, and 5 percent from all other counties.
PROJECTS MOVING FORWARD ON CAMPUS AND BEYOND

In addition to the UACCM Library Complex, several other projects have been completed in the past few months or are currently in progress. The vacated E. Allen Gordon Library space in the Kirk Building on campus was recently renovated into “Un-ion Station,” the new UACCM Student Center, which includes a fitness center, a large student lounge area including televisions, a stage area, and will eventually include a convenience store. Once the new student center is completed, “Un-ion Square” will be constructed and will serve as an outdoor park area featuring planters, benches, and an intramural basketball court adjacent to “Un-ion Station.”

Across town in downtown Morrilton, the former Greer’s building is being renovated into the new UACCM Leadership Development Institute (LDI). When complete, the facility will house the UACCM Department of Community Outreach and will be the center of the college’s community education classes and workforce development training offerings. The LDI will include a gallery, community room, general-use classroom, computer lab, two conference rooms, and a vending area.

Back on campus, paving work is nearing completion on Timberwolf Drive, and a new 75-car parking lot has been constructed and paved. The University of Arkansas Board of Trustees also recently approved the purchase of a building located in the southeast corner of campus near the University Bookstore. Plans for the building include the creation of a new fitness studio which will include several classrooms for UACCM’s health-related courses.

TRAVEL PROGRAMS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Ready to get away? Does a completely guided, all-inclusive vacation tour sound good to you? Several of UACCM’s academic departments and the UACCM Alumni Association are setting up both fun and educational tours to several amazing locations in 2010. Check out the current UACCM travel program offerings below.

Down in Foggy London Town

UACCM world literature and art history instructors Gretchen Schol and Tina Lake are planning “London in Depth,” a tour of London for students and community members interested in literature, art, history, or religion. This tour highlighting the beautiful dream vacation destination is set for March 20 through 26, 2010.

The tour will begin in London with visits to Windsor Castle, Big Ben, the Tower of London, Westminster Abbey and the British Museum and will include stops at the ancient site of Stonehenge, the Roman ruins at Bath, the famous Bubble Cathedral, and much more. The tour will also include five overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms, roundtrip airfare, transportation, European breakfast and dinner daily, a full-time EF Tour Director, two sightseeing tours in Tokyo and Kyoto, and visits to the Meiji Shinto Shrine, Asakusa Kannon Temple, Nijo Castle, Heian Shrine and Garden, Gold Pavilion, Osaka Castle, a Sumida River cruise, and more.

For more information, visit www.eftours.com and enter tour number 690123 or contact Karen Caig at (501) 977-2075 or at caig@uaccm.edu or Lyndsey Daniel at (501) 977-2170 or at daniel@uaccm.edu.

Help Save Lives in Guatemala

If you’re in the mood to travel to a distant land to help those in need, the UACCM Fine Arts Department is teaming up with St. Peter’s Episcopal Church in Conway, Arkansas to put together a March 2010 medical mission to Guatemala in Central America. During the 10-day mission trip, participants will travel to Boca Costa de Solala Medical Clinic in Southwestern Guatemala, where a shortage of medical supplies and medical professionals has led to the highest levels of infant and maternal mortality rates in the country. Medical professionals as well as general volunteers are encouraged to participate in the mission trip, which will reach out to the poor Mayans in this region. UACCM is also currently accepting bottles of vitamins which will be sent to Guatemala and distributed during the mission trip.

If you are interested in donating to this cause, contact Tina Lake at lake@uaccm.edu or at (501) 977-2076. For more information on how you can get involved with the mission trip, contact Marianne at welch851@aol.com.

UACCM Employees and Publications Win ATNMCPR Conference

UACCM Director of Public Relations and Marketing Mary Clark and Program Coordinator for Information and Public Relations Jacob Ward recently attended the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR) District IV regional conference in San Antonio, Texas. During the conference, Mary Clark was presented the award as the 2009 NCMPR District IV Communicator of the Year. One of the most celebrated awards given to an NCMPR member, the Communicator of the Year Award honors a two-year college marketing professional who has demonstrated special leadership and ability in college communications. It is awarded annually in each of NCMPR’s seven districts, and district recipients automatically become nominees for the national award, which is presented at the national conference.

Clark said, “I’m humbled and honored to receive this award from an organization whose members I deeply admire and respect. NCMPR has been one of the greatest professional resources I have had throughout my career. I want to also express my gratitude to my UACCM colleagues Trevor Mize, Jacob Ward, and Kristi Strain for their invaluable support and assistance.”

During the conference awards ceremony, UACCM received the Silver Medallion for Web Site Design and the Bronze Medallion for Social

HELP SAVE LIVES IN GUATEMALA

During the conference awards ceremony, UACCM received the Silver Medallion for Web Site Design and the Bronze Medallion for Social
...Holiday Activities Continued

The white luminary paper bags spread across campus have been hand-decorated by students enrolled in Conway County elementary schools including Morrilton Primary, Morrilton Elementary, Morrilton Intermediate, Wonderview, Nemo Vista, Sacred Heart schools, and the Center for Exceptional Children.

Individuals attending the “Night of Luminaries” should enter campus through the Bruce Street entrance on the east end of the college property. The route will take vehicles behind the Kirk Building before passing the Science Building, and the route will continue west past the Fine Arts Building and Library Complex to the UACCM Plaza where visitors may stop for refreshments of cider, cocoa, and cookies. Santa Claus will be attending the event again this year and each child will receive a gift. After meeting Santa, guests are asked to exit campus through the new University Boulevard entrance on the far west end of campus.

The event will also include a holiday music preview performed by the UACCM Choir in preparation for their annual holiday concert on Sunday afternoon, December 6 at 2:30 p.m. in the UACCM Fine Arts Auditorium. The free concert will feature a mixture of favorite well-known carol classics and modern renditions of holiday favorites the whole family will enjoy along with Christmas cookies, hot cocoa, and other treats. Santa Claus will be attending the event again this year and each child will receive a gift. After meeting Santa, guests are asked to exit campus through the new University Boulevard entrance on the far west end of campus.

...Library Grand Opening Continued

Ground was broken for the new facility on June 3, 2008, and is the latest new addition to the growing campus in Morrilton. It includes more than 15,000 square feet of library space for the relocated E. Allen Gordon Library, seven classrooms, 10 faculty offices, space for more than 75,000 books, the college academic success computer lab, and more. The new complex also offers Wi-Fi internet access with 20 laptop computers for student use and individual study rooms. According to UACCM Librarian Leroy Gattin, “The new E. Allen Gordon Library provides students at UACCM with an inviting, comfortable place for study and research.” Gattin also noted that “In the short time that our new facility has been in use, we have observed a great increase in the usage of computers and the book collection. In fact, the facility is experiencing an average of 700 users per day.”

The majority of funding for the Library Complex was $3.15 million dollars UACCM received in revenue from the Arkansas Higher Education Technology and Facility Improvement Act of 2005, a bond issue approved by the state’s voters in 2006. Mary Clark, UACCM director of public relations and marketing, expressed gratitude to the people of Conway County and the state of Arkansas and said the library would not have become a reality without their support. Clark said the library helps bring the new facility closer in line with the rapid enrollment growth experienced by the college. “Our new library facility reinforces the college’s commitment to excellence in learning and personal enrichment.”

...Enrollment Continued

Of the 2,423 students, 41 percent are pursuing Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees, and 51 percent are enrolled in technical, business, health, and service-related occupational programs. The remaining 8 percent are non-degree seeking students, undeclared majors, and concurrently enrolled high school students. The full-time equivalent (FTE) rate increased from 1,485 in the fall 2008 semester to 1,844 in the fall 2009 semester as well. A higher FTE rate means that students are taking more credit hours on average.

UACCM Director of Public Relations and Marketing Mary Clark said “We are extremely pleased with the increase in enrollment this semester, which echoes reports from many colleges across the nation.” She added that “The economic downturn has convinced many members of the workforce to return to school to re-train, and the high quality of our programs and instructors, lower tuition costs, and personal attention they find at UACCM are helping make this an easy transition.”
Winthrop Rockefeller Institute of the University of Arkansas served as 12 gauge sponsors with a donation of $1,000 each. Conway County Regional Water District, Petit Jean State Bank, and Regions Bank of Morrilton were 16 gauge sponsors, with donations of $500 each. 20 gauge sponsors for the event included Entergy Arkansas, Koontz Electric, and Roberson Tire with donations of $250 to the Foundation. 410 gauge sponsors included Academy Sports and Outdoors, Birkner Brothers Limousin, Farmers and Merchants Bank, Pamela Brownlee, Representative Johnny Hoyt, and State Farm Insurance, each pledging a donation of $100. Coca-Cola of Morrilton served as beverage sponsor, and Ducks Unlimited was the youth trap shoot sponsor. Other donors included Ameristep, Cabela’s, The Duck Commander, Ducks Unlimited, Thermacell Mosquito Repellant, and Walmart of Morrilton. The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission served as the ammunition sponsor.

“Aiming for Education” consisted of 13 three-person skeet shooting teams and a Ducks Unlimited Greenwing youth trap shoot contest with 15 youth participants. Door prizes were given out during the day, and expert marksman Andy Miller provided entertainment in the form of a shooting exhibition during the event. A catfish dinner provided by Point Remove Lodge rounded out the event.

Winning team members of the first and second flights each received a plaque, Under Armour provided by Roberson Tire, and a deluxe gun cleaning kit provided by Ducks Unlimited. The “Top Gun” of the individual contest received an engraved plaque and a deluxe gun case provided by Cabela’s. Winners of the youth trap shoot competition received plaques, a two-man bench from Ameristep, and shooting targets.

Just Desserts '09 A Success

As its name suggests, the eighth annual “Just Desserts” fundraiser for the UACCM Foundation featured a huge variety of savory desserts for guests while also raising funds to help support the college. The event was held on Thursday, October 15, 2009 at the UACCM Plaza, and preliminary numbers show that the event raised over $5,000 in net profit.

Fennell Purifoy Architects, Koontz Electric, Mobley Construction, Petit Jean Meats, and Southwestern Energy Company were Chancellor’s Club sponsors for the event, donating $500 each. Nathan and Betty Crook, Petit Jean State Bank, Regions Bank of Morrilton, and Virco, Inc. were Ambassador’s Club sponsors donating $250 to the event. Starbucks of Oak Street in Conway served as beverage sponsor for the event, and other donors included AMI Engineering, Inc., Arvest Bank of Morrilton, Benchmark Title, Central Arkansas Dust Control, Inc., Innerplan Office Interiors, Johnson and Ruff CPAs, and Steve and Rhonda Trowbridge.

Proceeds from this year’s event will be applied toward the completion of UACCM’s Union Square project, which will serve as an outdoor park area on campus featuring green space, landscaping, benches, a basketball court, and more to be utilized by UACCM students.