

# Insights

## Taste of the Town



The 2006 “Taste of the Town” event benefiting United Cerebral Palsy of West Alabama was held at Shelton State Community College on August 15 and was a huge success. Several local restaurants and caterers brought their signature dishes for participants to sample. Everything from hot wings to seafood gumbo to artichoke dip was offered. The desserts were as beautiful as they were tasty. The Alabama football stadium cake, designed by **Mary’s Cakes & Pastries**, was a crowd pleaser and won the prize for ‘**Best of Show.**’ Local vendors set up booths to show their wares and local candidates running for political office were available for participants to engage in a friendly political discussion. A silent auction, also held during “Taste of the Town” each year, helped to raise funds for a worthy cause. Several businesses and



From “Best of Show” Mary’s Cakes & Pastries

individuals donated a variety of items for the auction. We would like to say a big **thank you** to all of them for continuing to support UCP of West Alabama. Without YOU this event would not be possible!

The winners of the Taste of the Town” are:

- Best of Show – **Mary’s Cakes & Pastries**
- Best Appetizer – **Walnut Hill Designs**
- Best Beverage – **Bad Ass Coffee**
- Best Entrée – **Gayle’s Gourmet Catering**
- Best Dessert – **Walnut Hill Designs**
- Attendee’s Choice – **Guthrie’s**

## RiverView RV Parking

RV Parking spaces are available for the University of Alabama home football games in Tuscaloosa in an appealing downtown environment adjacent to the River Walk and the Bama Belle. The RV parking lot is mostly paved with some spaces on grass.

RiverView RV Park is located 1.2 miles from Bryant-Denny Stadium at 115

Greensboro Avenue (next to the Bama Belle on the river.) It is operated by volunteers and benefits UCPWA.

### PRICING PER GAME AS FOLLOWS:

**Thursday - Sunday: \$75.00**  
 Visit [www.ucpwa.org](http://www.ucpwa.org) or email: [RiverViewRVPrk@aol.com](mailto:RiverViewRVPrk@aol.com) for more information.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| UCPWA Awards       | 2 |
| Did you know...    | 2 |
| Employee Spotlight | 3 |
| Teen Volunteer     | 3 |
| Newest Employee    | 3 |
| Fright Factory     | 4 |

### CALENDAR:

- **Fright Factory Haunted House:**
- Oct. 12 (7 pm – 10 pm);
- Oct 13 & 14 (7 pm – midnight)
- Oct 19 (7 pm – 10 pm)
- Oct 20 & 21 (7 pm – midnight)
- Oct 22 (7 pm – 10 pm)
- Oct 24-26 (7 pm – 10 pm)
- Oct 27 & 28 (7 pm – midnight)
- Oct 29-31 (7 pm – 10 pm)
- **Holiday Closings**
- Veteran’s Day – Nov 10
- Thanksgiving – Nov 23-24
- Christmas – Dec 25-26
- New Year’s – Jan 1-2

## UCPWA Awards Banquet

Each year UCPWA holds an awards banquet to honor the generous and hard working businesses and individuals that work behind the scenes to enable UCPWA to operate smoothly. The awards presented at the 2006 banquet are listed below.

1. President's Award for Excellence - **Steve Smith**
2. Board President Recognition Award - **Mike Carroll**
3. Outstanding Business Leadership Award – **Spiller Furniture**
4. New Business of the Year – **Hollywood Cobb 16 Cinemas**
5. Distinguished Service Award – **Jean Rosene**
6. Lifetime Achievement Award – **Gene Smith**
7. Nancy Butler Memorial Award – **Kellie Golden**
8. Ruby Reese Memorial Volunteer of the Year Award – **Keith Dobbins**
9. Employee of the Year – **Paula Peacock**
10. Family of the Year – **Virgil Williams' Family**
11. Citizen of the Year – **Meaghan Lawlor**
12. Scotty Cockrell Memorial Youth Volunteer of the Year – **Scotty Cockrell**

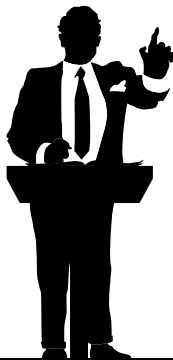


Other awards/recognition:

- Fright Factory Chair – **Mike Carroll**
- Taste of the Town Chair – **Jimmy Osmore**
- Life Without Limits Triathlon Chair– **Mike Higgins**
- UCP Telethon Chair – **Terry Waters**
- I Thee Wed Chair – **Crissi Waters**

Certificates of appreciation were given to several other volunteers including the

**Top 5 VIP's: Cindy Champion, Terry Waters, Dr. Guillermo Godoy, Sammy Watson, Steve Smith and David Hood.**



### Did you know...

- ...that 2 in every 7 families are affected directly by disability?
- ...that 2.2 million Americans use wheelchairs for mobility?
- ...that 1 in 12 children (ages 5-20) has a mental or physical disability?
- ...that you can make a charitable contribution to UCPWA by calling 205-345-3031 ext. 18?

*Courtesy of the National Center for Disabilities*

## Employee Spotlight – Cindy Champion



When you stop by United Cerebral Palsy of West Alabama the first person that you come in contact with is **Cindy Champion**. She has a

bright smile and a friendly welcome for each visitor to the agency. She began her career as the receptionist September 22, 1998 and is celebrating her 8<sup>th</sup> year with UCP. Cindy is a member of the Carroll's Creek Baptist Church in Northport. In her spare time, Cindy loves to read the Guidepost and mystery stories. She also likes to do latch hoop.

Cindy volunteers for UCP and was one of the Top VIP's for the Starfest Telethon in 2006 raising over \$1,500.00 to benefit people with disabilities. She also was awarded the UCP Citizen of the Year award in 2005. Cindy strives to be motivated, independent and

helpful. She enjoys life and tries to show others that life is to be embraced to the fullest. Cindy's positive outlook and desire to help others shines through in all that she does.



## Welcome Deirdre Miller-Rodgers

Deirdre Miller-Rodgers joined UCP in August as the Adult Program Director. Deirdre is a newlywed living in Tuscaloosa with her husband and has been working in the mental health field for 7 years. She attended the University of West

Alabama and earned her BS degree in 1999 majoring in Psychology with a minor in Biology. She earned her M.S.C.E. degree in Counseling Psychology in 2005. Deirdre's role as an advocate for consumers with developmental disabilities, her

enthusiasm and dedication makes her a great fit with our organization.

## Citizen of the Year – Meaghan Lawlor



How often do you see a teenager who will give over 175 hours of volunteer service over the summer break? Well, that's exactly what one volunteer to the UCP Camp Sunshine Program did this summer! **Meaghan Lawlor**, a junior at Tuscaloosa County High School, was a

very important part of UCPWA's eight week summer camp - Camp Sunshine. The campers all came to love and respect her as she played and worked side by side with them. Her great attitude and energy were an inspiration to everyone. She was presented with the **Citizen of the Year** award for her exceptional dedication at the annual UCP Award Banquet in August. Meaghan has great memories of Camp Sunshine and has shared some of her thoughts.

*"We got to interact with each child. Everyone has their own personality. I*

*made some new friends there and the staff was amazing! We seriously were just like one big family. What I learned this summer is that even though most of these kids had some kind of disability, they never let it hold them back. They enjoy all the same things other kids do."* A big thanks to Meaghan for her dedication and volunteer spirit this summer! One of the campers said "I really love Ms. Meaghan's smile." She made a difference in the lives of all of us at Camp Sunshine this summer. We know she will never forget us!

United Cerebral Palsy of West Alabama,  
 Inc. (UCPWA)  
 1100 UPC Parkway  
 Phone: 205-345-3031  
 Fax: 205-345-3035  
 Email: tfrankucp@comcast.net  
 Web: www.ucpwa.org

Non Profit Organization  
 US Postage Paid  
 Tuscaloosa, AL 35401  
 Permit #286



**Mission Statement:** UCPWA serves the community by providing a full array of beneficial services and resources to people with disabilities and their families and by advocating their full independence, productivity, and citizenship. We also educate through public awareness, fund-raising efforts, dissemination of information and acquisition of resources.

*Special Thanks to Kinko's of Tuscaloosa for the printing of this newsletter.*

- UCPWA Board of Directors**  
 President: **Mike Carroll**  
 President-Elect: **David Kelly**  
 Secretary: **Jean Rose**  
 Treasurer: **Cheryl Arnold**  
 Immediate Past President:  
**David Hood**  
 Executive Director: **Toni Franklin**
- Members:**  
 Carla Allen  
 Melanie Baird  
 Tim Bowen  
 Michele Z. Boyd  
 Patricia Goggans  
 Kellie Golden  
 LaTonya Hanible  
 Sidney Hannah  
 Mack Hitt  
 Fred Hughes  
 Sandra Junkin  
 Jimmy Osmore  
 Kimberly D. Payne  
 Angie Pugh  
 Gene Smith  
 Steven Smith  
 Gloria Hammer Stewart  
 Dan Tidwell  
 Crissi Key Waters  
 Allan Wood



**Double the Frights - Double the Screams!**  
**Fright Factory**

Fright Factory 2006 promises to be a spooktacular event full of surprises featuring two houses of horror (Scream Acres and The Druid Circle Institute of Education) to explore. This year's haunted houses will be located on the river, in downtown Tuscaloosa, at the dead end of Greensboro Avenue in the former Tuscaloosa Motor Company building. The street address is 115 Greensboro Avenue. New attractions and frights are sure to scare the living daylight's out of even the seasoned thrill seeker. Come if you dare!

Dates & Times: See "Calendar" on page 1.

Tickets will be available at the gate, with discount coupons available online at: [www.frightfactoryhaunt.com](http://www.frightfactoryhaunt.com).