This week Union was named one of "The 50 Most Beautiful Colleges in Winter" by Best College Values, a website dedicated to ranking the most valuable aspects of college. We couldn't agree more – our campus shines in every season!

February 2016

Union College News

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN OF STUDENTS

This month I’d like to shine the spotlight on two students who exemplify stellar scholarship.

In the case of Brent Shapiro-Albert ’16, it’s really interstellar – Brent has won the American Astronomical Society’s 2016 Chambliss Astronomy Award for research he presented at the society’s January meeting. Brent is one of only eight undergraduates from across the country, and the first Union student, to receive this prestigious recognition from the professional astronomy community. His poster, ”Modeling Pulsar Trajectories to Determine Birth Locations,” describes his senior thesis work in the Department of Physics and Astronomy with Visiting Assistant Professor Gregory Hallenbeck.

DATES & DEADLINES

Through Feb. 26: Academic advising for spring term classes
March 11: Last day of winter term classes
March 14-17: Winter term final exam period
March 18: Residence halls and houses close
March 27: Residence halls and houses open
March 28: Spring term classes begin
May 2-20: Academic advising for fall term classes
May 6: Steinmetz Symposium
May 7: Prize Day
May 20-22: ReUnion Weekend
June 3: Last day of spring term classes
In the humanities realm, biology and anthropology major Sharmeen Azher ’17 received the 2016 Marianna McJimsey Award by the ASIANEtwork for best undergraduate student paper on Asia. Her paper addressed dai (traditional midwife) survival in rural Rajasthan, India. As a consortium of some 160 North American colleges, ASIANEtwork strives to strengthen the role of Asian studies in the liberal arts. Sharmeen will be honored at the group’s annual conference in St. Petersburg, Fla. next month, and her essay will appear in the journal ASIANetwork Exchange. Her faculty adviser is Jeffrey Witsoe, assistant professor of anthropology.

I offer my hearty congratulations to Sharmeen and Brent. It’s immensely gratifying to be recognized by the larger professional community. And here at Union, we also acknowledge the hard work of all our student researchers during Steinmetz Symposium. This year’s event will take place Friday, May 6. Parents, mark your calendars, and stay tuned for more details on this uniquely Union experience. It’s a chance to see what your talented, curious, creative students have been up to these past weeks and months!

In the meantime, please read on for more news.

Stephen C. Leavitt
Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students

NEWS FROM CAMPUS

Kicking butts: This summer, Union will join more than 70 colleges and universities in New York to ban tobacco and smoking on campus.

Record number of admissions apps: There are 6,500-plus applications to Union this year, which represents a 50 percent increase in the last decade. Click here to learn more about how the Class of 2020 is shaping up.

Black History Month: We’re celebrating black history throughout the month of February. Events include concerts, stories, poetry night, films and discussions. Check the Multicultural Affairs Facebook page for more information.

Founders Day: Noted scholar and author Sherry Turkle, an expert on the psychology of human relationships with technology, will deliver the keynote address at Founders Day, Thursday, Feb. 25, in
ACADEMICS

Research spotlight: Maya Whalen-Kipp ’16 is a perfect example of how students thrive at the intersections of many disciplines. She is working on a ceramic water filtration project that combines biology and visual arts. [Read about her interdisciplinary project in the student newspaper, Concordiensis.]

Seminars focus on China: Top researchers and teachers at Union’s [environmental seminar series](http://unionny.imodules.com/controls/email_marketing/admin/email_marketing_email_viewer.aspx?sid=1684&eid=622&seid=523&usearchive=1&puid=ee8ba) address how China is dealing with its new environmental challenges.

The case for arts and humanities: This spring’s “superseminar” will explore the dynamics of a “Millennial Renaissance of the Arts and Humanities” with a look at exciting opportunities at the crossroads of these and other disciplines. Readings will include essays from the fields of media studies, youth studies, art activism, ethics, video game design, crowdsourcing, audience theory and higher education. The course will feature invited faculty members and guest speakers.

BECKER CAREER CENTER

Funding for summer service internships: Is your son or daughter interested in gaining experience in a non-profit? Once again, the College has endowed monies to support students in summer community service internships at non-profits. Encourage your student to apply for funding – the application deadline is Monday, April 4, 5 p.m. [Get information and application materials now](http://unionny.imodules.com/controls/email_marketing/admin/email_marketing_email_viewer.aspx?sid=1684&eid=622&seid=523&usearchive=1&puid=ee8ba), or contact [Rochelle Caruso](http://unionny.imodules.com/controls/email_marketing/admin/email_marketing_email_viewer.aspx?sid=1684&eid=622&seid=523&usearchive=1&puid=ee8ba) with questions. In previous years, students have interned at organizations such as The Center for Community Justice, Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program, Breakthrough Collaborative, The Legal Project, AIDS Action Committee, Peaceful Acres Horse Sanctuary, Habitat for Humanity and more.

DINING SERVICES

What’s cooking: Students have the opportunity to bring out their inner chef with the new cooking class series, UCook at Union. Taught by experienced campus chefs, they will learn how to create pasta, made-from-scratch sauces, specialty desserts and more. For details about Union Dining activities, [click here](http://unionny.imodules.com/controls/email_marketing/admin/email_marketing_email_viewer.aspx?sid=1684&eid=622&seid=523&usearchive=1&puid=ee8ba).

FINANCIAL AID
Time to apply for the 2016-17 academic year:
Students can grant their parents access to a specific list of required financial aid application documents in WebAdvising. Instructions for parent access are on our website. As the financial aid application renewal deadline approaches students and parents can monitor the status of required information, as well as view current award letters. Our Returning Students Page also has a general list of required financial aid application materials, along with links to forms and on-line applications. Most items are due by April 15, 2016. Families should send the required documents only once (there is no need to mail, fax and e-mail the same items). It is also recommended that families use our secure Dropbox, mail or fax to submit these items. Questions? Contact the Financial Aid Office at (518) 388-6123 or finaid@union.edu. Mailing address: Office of Financial Aid, Union College, 807 Union St., Schenectady, NY 12308. The fax is (518) 388-8052.

KENNEY COMMUNITY CENTER
Many acts of kindness: For the fourth straight year, students took part in Random Acts of Kindness Week with activities on- and off-campus. In addition, joining a national outpouring of kindness, students helped manage mail distribution to a local girl, Safyre Terry, who was injured and orphaned in a devastating fire. She had asked for cards to fill up a display in her home, a request that went viral and global and resulted in more than 2 million pieces of mail. Student volunteers joined Toys For Tots’ efforts to open, read and sort the mail at a local warehouse.

MINERVA PROGRAMS
Housing and events: The deadline for students to apply to live in their Minerva House is Feb. 19, 5 p.m. Check the website for more information. Meanwhile, the Minerva Houses have hosted a wide range of events this month, including a Russian feast in partnership with the Russian Club and the Modern Languages Department; Green House Jams, a Friday afternoon jam session; a Democratic debate viewing; Dinner and Discussion around Diversity; a student-led discussion on “Blackness at Union”; and talks on healthy eating, French culture and global health.

STUDENT ACCOUNTS
Pre-scheduling: Spring term class pre-scheduling begins Monday, Feb. 29. Students with past due balances received an email notifying them that there was a financial hold on their account that would
prevent their pre-scheduling classes. Emails were also sent to those parents who have access to WebAdvisor notifying them of the past due balance. Parents who did not receive an email have not been granted access to the account by their student. Complete instructions for students and parents on navigating WebAdvisor can be found here. Spring term bills will be posted on WebAdvisor on Monday, Feb. 29. Payment will be due by Friday, March 25. Questions? Please contact Student Accounts at (518) 388-6106 or StudentAccount@union.edu. The 1098T Tax Forms for 2015 were mailed to all students at their home address in mid-January.