Students meet in Atlanta with the Rev. Bernard Lafayette, a major figure in the Civil Rights Movement, as part of the Civil Rights Public History mini-term. Pictured, from left, back row, are Ayana Dowdye ’18, Sydney Giller ’16, Nia Francis ’17, Janey Fine ’16, Erin Ostheimer ’16 and Kyra DeTone ’16. In front are Antonia Batha ’17, Jacqueline Shary ’18 and Deibel Bennett ’18.

January 2016

Union College News
A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN OF STUDENTS

While cold blankets our small campus, there are plenty of good things happening to get fired up about this term.

Many of our seniors have received great news on the job front. They will be joining PricewaterhouseCoopers, Société Générale Corporate & Investment Banking, Success Academies and Teach for America, to name a few. We continue to receive summer internship news, as well, particularly in business and finance, two industries that typically recruit in the fall. Students have accepted positions at AYCO, Bank of America, Citi and PwC. If jobs and careers are on your student’s mind, read this newsletter for information on the Becker Career

DATES & DEADLINES

Feb. 8-26: 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
Center’s annual career fair, set for Feb. 16.

This month, I also want to point out the exceptional service work our students did on several mini-terms over winter break. In Union’s first trip to Cuba, 21 students delivered sports equipment to a community in Havana and brought school supplies to a fourth grade class in Santiago de Cuba. Fourteen students headed to New Orleans to help rebuild communities still recovering from Hurricane Katrina. And on the Civil Rights Public History mini-term tour of the South, students visited major sites and met with veterans of the Civil Rights Movement. We look forward to a poster presentation of their experiences, to be held at the Nott Memorial Jan. 26. They’ll be joined by participants in the Mexican-American Border mini-term.

As always, our term is speeding along. Please read on for more news from Union.

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

NEWS FROM CAMPUS
Meet our new Title IX coordinator
Melissa Kelley is on board as Union’s Title IX coordinator, with an office on the fourth floor of Reamer Campus Center. She brings a wealth of expertise about women’s health, sexual harassment and assault, and gender discrimination to our campus. She can be reached at kelleym2@union.edu, (518) 388-6865. Get to know her here.

Founders Day
Noted scholar and author Sherry Turkle, an expert on the psychology between people and technology, will deliver the keynote address at Founders Day, Thursday, Feb. 25, in Memorial Chapel. Turkle, the founder and director of the MIT Initiative on Technology and Self, is often referred to as the “Margaret Mead of digital culture.”

Save the date for Steinmetz Symposium
Steinmetz Symposium 2016 will take place Friday, May 6. Now in its 26th year, the symposium is a showcase of research in all fields. The all-day event is traditionally followed by the Steinmetz Banquet at 6 p.m. Parents are an important part of the day, so mark your calendar now – and stay tuned for more details.

May 20-22: ReUnion Weekend
June 3: Last day of spring term classes
June 6-9: Spring term final exam period
June 10: Residence halls and houses close (for students not involved in Commencement)
June 12: Commencement; residence halls and houses close

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**ACADEMICS**

**Ethics Bowl headed to nationals:** Union will take part in the National Ethics Bowl Championship Feb. 21 in Reston, Va., following an impressive performance at the Northeast Regional Ethics Bowl before winter break. The Union team consists of Andrew Forte ’18 (philosophy), Sahil Khullar ’19 (biology and philosophy), Raashika Goyal ’16 (biology and philosophy), Marc Perlman ’19 (biology and economics) and Dima Yankova ’16 (mechanical engineering). Read more about the team’s accomplishments [here](http://unionny.imodules.com/controls/email_marketing/admin/email_marketing_email_viewer.aspx?sid=1684&eiid=525&seiid=451&usearchive=1&puid=ee8b).

**MakerWeb kicks off:** Union’s unique approach to a makerspace, called the MakerWeb, is in full swing this term. An open house held last week in the Wold Atrium drew many from the campus community, who stopped by to talk about maker goals, equipment access and student projects. Read more about the MakerWeb [here](http://unionny.imodules.com/controls/email_marketing/admin/email_marketing_email_viewer.aspx?sid=1684&eiid=525&seiid=451&usearchive=1&puid=ee8b).

**BECKER CAREER CENTER**

**Career Fair set for Feb. 16:** The Becker Career Center will hold its annual career fair Tuesday, Feb. 16, 4-7 p.m. at College Park Hall. Students of all class years can explore career fields, learn about internship and post-graduate employment opportunities, and meet graduate school representatives. The career center encourages all students to take advantage of this networking opportunity. Students are asked to pre-register through the [HireU](http://unionny.imodules.com/controls/email_marketing/admin/email_marketing_email_viewer.aspx?sid=1684&eiid=525&seiid=451&usearchive=1&puid=ee8b) database, have their résumé reviewed by the Career Center (e-mail to [careercenter@union.edu](mailto:careercenter@union.edu)) and wear professional attire. Parents who have internship or job opportunities or would like to participate in the fair should contact Keri Willis at [willisk@union.edu](mailto:willisk@union.edu) or (518) 388-6176.

**FRATERNITY AND SORORITY LIFE**

**Preparing for careers:** A number of career programs will be held in Reamer Auditorium for students who are members of Greek organizations. A career services program for sophomores is scheduled for Jan. 26 at 6:30 p.m. (sororities) and 7:30 p.m. (fraternities). All newly inducted members are required to attend. Through an informal panel discussion, they will learn from their classmates who have successfully acquired internships and post-grad jobs, and/or attended grad school.
Three half-hour orientation sessions focusing on the Union Career Advisory Network are set for Feb. 2 at 5:30, 6:15 and 7 p.m. These are geared toward juniors and seniors. UCAN is a searchable database of some 9,000 alumni and friends of the College who have offered to share information and advice about their chosen fields or graduate school interests.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS
Student safety abroad: While recent terror attacks in Europe and elsewhere have heightened travel security and risks, this is a good time to re-emphasize the importance of being vigilant while studying and living abroad. Please remind your student to allow extra time for airport check-in and security, sign up for phone alerts on flight changes and program cell phones with emergency numbers. Students are also advised to stay alert to their surroundings, especially in large crowds; avoid traveling alone and using public transportation at the busiest times; use only authorized taxis; and report suspicious behaviors or persons to a program adviser or other staff.

“Studying abroad continues to be one of the most transformative experiences for our students,” says International Programs Director Lara Atkins. “While we live in unsettling times, it is important to keep in mind that mass casualty terrorist attacks are rare, and a little extra precaution goes a long way toward making a term abroad as safe, enriching and enjoyable as possible.”

KENNEY COMMUNITY CENTER
Something for everyone: No matter what their schedules or interests, students will find a host of opportunities to volunteer through the Kenney Community Center. They can sign up for long-term commitments or one-day events, both on and off-campus. For example, they can help with homework, reading and science activities at afterschool programs, tutor Spanish at Schenectady High, and visit local nursing homes as part of -U-ReBloom. This week, students paired up with middle and high school students who spent part of Martin Luther King Jr. Day at Union. Their visit included the annual march around campus and a panel discussion with Union students about King and civil rights.

RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL LIFE
Students participate in Taglit-Birthright: Hillel Director Bonnie Cramer and 23 Union students joined with 15 students from Dartmouth on a 10-day, winter
break Taglit-Birthright trip to Israel, where they learned about geopolitical and identity issues. The group visited the Dead Sea, Jerusalem, Masada, Tel Aviv, the mystical city of Sfat, the Syrian border and other areas and sites. The popular cultural immersion program, for Jewish young adults 18 to 26, is funded through private philanthropists, the Israeli government and local Jewish communities around the world.

RESIDENTIAL LIFE
RA selection process soon: The Resident Advisor selection process is quickly approaching. The RA position provides students with a unique skill set, and Union’s RAs are consistently some of the most recognizable student-leaders on campus. Learn more about the position here. In addition, it’s time to start thinking about room selection for next year. Students will have access to the online application starting in February, with room selection set for April. They will receive more information throughout this term.

WICKER WELLNESS CENTER
Back by popular demand: “Mindful Eating” with Union nutritionist Diane Pietrocarlo is set for Jan. 27, 12:50-1:50 p.m. Students can call (518) 388-6120 to sign up. The event focuses on the importance of maintaining a healthful relationship with food. Click here to visit the wellness center Facebook page and here for the website.

ALUMNI IN THE NEWS
Two alums players in biggest movie of season
Ben Schwartz ’03 served as vocal consultant for BB-8, the lovable new droid in “Star Wars: The Force Awakens.” He is best known as Jean-Ralphio on NBC’s “Parks and Recreation” and Clyde on Showtimes’s “House of Lies.” As chairman of Walt Disney Studios, Alan Horn ’64 has brought some of the most recent box office hits to theaters, including the animated musical “Frozen” and the “Avengers” series. Read more about Horn’s thoughts on “Star Wars” in The Hollywood Reporter.

DID YOU KNOW?
You can now purchase an online a copy of the New Student Directory for the Union College Class of 2019. It features color photos of each student and also academic and administrative departments. Click here for details.

THANK YOU!
As we prepare to celebrate Founders Day and our distinctive history as an acclaimed liberal arts college, we'd like to thank our generous parents for making Union's continued progress possible. We offer our sincere gratitude to all of you who support Union, and we invite those not currently supporting the College to consider it. Your participation is key to our success and that of your students. Joining us is easy, just visit us online or call (518) 388-6175 to make your gift today.

Published by the Office of Alumni & Parent Engagement, Union College, NY, (518) 388-6168