One of the most impressive things about our Union students is how they come together to make things happen. This is especially true each fall, when hundreds sign up for our biggest day of service of the year, John Calvin Toll Day. Held Oct. 17, this event brought out more than 500 volunteers, including Greek organizations and student clubs, to work at organizations all over Schenectady. They joined faculty, staff and alumni, who worked as individuals and in groups, to clean up parks, monuments and other public spaces, and provide other help as needed to spruce up the city and surrounding area.

This marked the 21st year of Toll Day. Coordinated by Union’s Kenney Community Center, Toll Day strengthens Union’s commitment to the city through these volunteer opportunities. Toll Day is named for...
one of Union’s first graduates in 1799.

Fall term also brings a full slate of academic, social and cultural activities. Read on to learn more.

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

NEWS FROM CAMPUS

New admissions coalition: Union is joining a new group of diverse public and private colleges and universities created to improve the college admission application process for all students.

Homecoming a success: See a photo gallery from our recent Homecoming and Family Weekend, and check out these Homecoming video highlights.

ACADEMICS:

Art on view: Two shows are currently on view in the Nott Memorial. “Ion Codrescu: Haiga Painting,” is an exhibition of a Japanese genre that mixes image and haiku, at the Mandeville Gallery. The 7th annual LGBTQ exhibit in the Wikoff Student Gallery recently kicked off with a reception, at which Cassandra Padilla ’17 won Best in Show for a film she created and Yuan Gao ’18 was awarded second place.

NCT is here to help: We are in the midst of fall academic advising season, and appointments with advisers run through the end of this month. If your student is still undecided about a major, which courses to take, or what clubs to join, now is the perfect time to share a “tell” with an adviser. Union’s Notice-Choose-Tell, our custom advising tool, helps students reflect upon and make informed decisions about their academic paths, college activities and careers. It’s a great way to work through interests, skills, and decision-making at Union.

ALUMNI NEWS

Alums in the spotlight: Some of our recent alumni have been making headlines. Anthony Perez ’11, a community activist in the Bronx, was recently profiled in The Bronx Chronicle. Photojournalist Nancy Borowick ’07 was featured in a Le Temps newspaper story that focused on her photography and her project highlighting her parents’ battle with cancer. “Cancer Family, Ongoing” was also on exhibit during the International Festival of Photojournalism in France. Classmate Dan Amira ’07 took home an Emmy Award for his writing on The Daily Show.

experience. Please take a moment to share your thoughts with us via this survey as we work to continually make the weekend the best it can be.

Double your impact during October: There’s still time to double your dedication to our Union community by participating in October’s “Twice as Nice October Challenge.” Thanks to the generosity of David Breazzano ’78, and other dedicated trustees, any unrestricted gift made in October will be matched 1:1, up to $400,000. Unrestricted gifts are especially critical; they allow the College to bridge the gap between tuition revenue and the actual cost of a Union education. Make your gift here today or call (518) 388-6175 before Oct. 31.

STAY CONNECTED

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Follow Union sports.  
Find Union events in your region.  
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See what’s happening on campus.  
Visit News & Events.  
Check out our YouTube the stay in touch.

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BECKER CAREER CENTER

Making the most of the winter break: The Becker Career Center will help students strategize how to effectively use their time off between fall and winter terms to gain experience in a chosen career field or position of interest. We encourage students to use their time wisely by job shadowing, securing an internship (paid or unpaid) and beginning or continuing to network with College alumni and employers. Employers prefer to hire students who have relevant experience. Encourage your son or daughter to make an appointment with a career adviser in the Becker Career Center to determine how they can gain valuable experiences over the break and become competitive candidates for post-graduate employment. Students can contact the center at careercenter@union.edu.

CAMPUS SAFETY

Self-defense course offered: Union’s crime prevention officer, Lisa Simmons, is offering RESIST, a rape prevention, education and risk reduction program that offers classes in self-defense and other personal safety skills. Students can request RESIST training by contacting Simmons at simmonsl@union.edu.

FINANCIAL AID

Tax return transcripts: Parents and students who filed 2014 federal tax extensions and are filing in October, please remember to request your 2014 federal tax return transcripts and submit this information to the Financial Aid Office as soon as it is available. Has your student granted you access to WebAdvising? All financial aid information and student billing are communicated through WebAdvising. Please ask your student to grant you access. Directions are on the website. Contact Financial Aid at (518) 388-6123 or finaid@union.edu if you have questions.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Strengthening applications for fall 2016: At Union, applying to study abroad is a competitive process, which means all students are not guaranteed a place in one of our programs. Nonetheless, there are some things students can do to strengthen their applications. These include attending information sessions about programs that interest them (dates and times are posted on the International Programs website and posters around campus), reviewing
eligibility requirements and meeting individually with faculty leaders for the desired programs. In addition, students can apply to up to two programs for the fall term, and are encouraged to do so if they have an interest in more than one. They should carefully craft their essay, focusing on how studying abroad will enhance their academic career. For more tips, and to learn about how applications are evaluated, contact intlprograms@union.edu.

KENNEY COMMUNITY CENTER

From blooms to bowls: In addition to the Kenney Center’s John Calvin Toll Day of Service, volunteers have been busy sowing the seeds of good community outreach. The U-ReBloom Club delivered 100 potted plants from Homecoming Weekend to a local nursing home. Students are gearing up for spring’s Empty Bowls Project, with a bowl-making workshop taking place this month. Volunteers also partnered with Girls Inc. to create a mural on their building. This Capital Region group helps girls build life skills through fun, hands-on activities.

MINERVA PROGRAMS

Dinners, debates, discussions: Among the dozens of events taking place in our Minerva Houses this month are dinner with President and Mrs. Ainlay; a Democratic debate watch party; discussions on the aftermath of marriage equality and on current immigration issues; a Pre-Law Society meeting; a student-faculty gathering over the ancient board game “Go”; and Writerly Mondays, an opportunity for students to enjoy quiet, creative time and get writing tips while tackling essays, theses, applications or even their novel.

Minerva Fellows: Eleven members of the Class of 2015 are working in various capacities around the world, in projects ranging from education in Ecuador and health care in South Africa to 3D design work in Vietnam. Get to know the Fellows by reading their blogs, and feel free to contact them by email. For more information about this unique social entrepreneurship program, contact Tom McEvoy, associate dean of students.

RESIDENTIAL LIFE

De-stressing: Recent activities in our residences have included “DeStress Spa Night” in Davidson, weekly movie nights in Richmond, the “UnionPunk” festival in the apartments and “Sand Out” with Fox residents. With mid-terms finished and the end of the
term not far off, you may notice increased stress levels and anxiety in your student, says Residence Life Director Amanda Bingel. “This can also be a time when roommate conflicts start to bubble to the surface. If your student is calling with roommate concerns, please encourage him or her to speak with one of our professional residence directors,” she advises.

STUDENT ACCOUNTS

Winter term prescheduling: Students will preschedule winter term courses Nov. 2-5. Those with outstanding balances were sent an email notifying them of a hold on their account, which would block the ability to preschedule their courses. Even with a hold, students are allowed to petition courses and are instructed to meet with their adviser. There are only a few days remaining to waive the health insurance charge. If the outstanding balance is due to health insurance, please visit the Gallagher web site to petition to waive the insurance. Waivers cannot be accepted after Oct. 31.

WICKER WELLNESS CENTER

Support for U: A first-year support group has been meeting regularly in the wellness center to help members of the Class of 2019 make a smooth transition to college. They have been exploring such themes as managing stress, developing friendships and more. The group combines discussion, education and activities such as meditation and relaxation. Led by Counselling Center members Kerrin Sendrowitz and Crystal Austin, the group meets during Common Lunch on Thursdays.

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