A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN OF STUDENTS

Hello to our returning students and to all first-year and transfer students. The 571 students in Union’s Class of 2019 have come to campus from 31 states, the District of Columbia and 17 countries. It’s a wonderful time to join our community, with many new and exciting things happening on campus. This fall, upper class students are living in brand new Garnet Commons, which offers fully furnished apartments and such sustainable features as solar rooftop panels and rock wool insulation. It’s a great addition to our residences. Work proceeds on the visual arts building, a transformation

DATES & DEADLINES

Oct. 9-11: Homecoming and Family Weekend
Nov. 17: Fall term classes end
Nov. 19-24: Fall term final exam period
Nov. 25: Residence halls and houses close
Jan. 3: Residence halls and houses reopen
Jan. 4: Winter term classes begin
that will include new studio and exhibition spaces for arts majors in all media. When it reopens in 2016, it will be the Feigenbaum Center for Visual Arts. We look forward to seeing this hub of creativity and collaboration flourish.

Happy fall, and please read on to see what else is happening at Union.

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

NEWS FROM CAMPUS

Union diversity efforts lauded: For the third straight year, the College has been named a winner of a HEED Award by Insight Into Diversity magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education. Read more here.

Homecoming and Family Weekend: Be sure to mark your calendars for Homecoming and Family Weekend Oct. 9-11. There are many great events, from hay rides and hockey to the harvest dinner. Come enjoy this festive fall weekend. You’ll find information about how to register here. Of particular note, the Dean’s List Reception for parents and their students is 4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 10, in the Nott Memorial.

Where we stand: Colleges and universities are subject to critical review in all realms. Here are some of the latest rankings about Union from the Princeton Review’s Best 380 Colleges (2016 edition), released last month: #4, Best Science Lab Facilities; #12, Best College Radio Station; #12, Most Popular Study Abroad program. In addition, U.S. World & News Report ranks us #38 in its 2015 listing of Best National Liberal Arts Colleges. And according to Forbes, we are #11 among liberal arts colleges whose graduates earn the most. PayScale.com ranks us #13 for return on investment among liberal arts colleges.

ACADEMICS

THE ANNUAL FUND: 104 YEARS OF GENEROSITY

We hope you’ll consider supporting the College as we begin our 104th year of The Annual Fund. Union is a powerful place that changes lives. During the past year alone we’ve celebrated the ingenuity of our students with two Thomas J. Watson Fellowships, two Davis Projects for Peace Awards, three Goldwater Scholarships and four Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Grants; the admittance of 575 members of the Class of 2018, one of Union’s most geographically diverse; and the 25th anniversary of the Steinmetz Symposium for undergraduate scholarly and creative research, in which more than 500 students took part in May. Your participation in the Annual Fund touches every corner of campus life. Please consider supporting us again this year and make your gift today.

STAY CONNECTED

Visit our Parents & Families website  
Become a fan of our Facebook page  
Follow President Ainlay on Facebook  
Join the conversation on Twitter  
Follow Union sports  
Find Union events in your region.  
Order Union gear  
See what’s happening on campus.  
Visit News & Events.  
Check out our YouTube the stay in touch.

SIGN UP FOR THE CHRONICLE

Click here to signup for Union’s weekly newsletter.
**Advising innovation:** Our custom advising tool, Notice-Choose-Tell, is helping students make meaningful, informed decisions about their academic path, their college activities and their life beyond Union. Every student at Union begins working with an academic adviser immediately to help select the right coursework, develop research topics, and pursue internship opportunities that align with their unique goals and aspirations.

**New perspectives on inequality:** Union’s 2015 Minerva course is called Inequality: Economic and Social Perspectives. This cross-disciplinary course, a staple of the curriculum, features faculty from the departments of Economics and History (co-sponsors) as well as Environmental Studies, English, Political Science and Psychology. Also featured are prominent guest lecturers whose work on inequality is nationally and internationally recognized; and films, dinners and discussions in Union’s Minerva Houses.

**Research reigned this summer:** We’re very proud of our undergraduate research program, which flourishes year-round. More than 140 students from diverse disciplines participated in Union’s [summer research program](#). Topics covered everything from visual communication in anolis lizards to the study of sacred music.

**BECKER CAREER CENTER**

**Fall workshops, programs and recruiting events:** The Becker Career Center will conduct internship and senior orientations this fall for students interested in learning more about Union’s on- and off-campus recruiting program. Encourage your student to attend an orientation to learn how to search and identify internships and full-time job opportunities and become familiar with the center’s resources. Seniors must attend a Senior Orientation to apply for positions. Mock Interview Day, featuring practice interviews with actual employers, will be held Friday, Oct. 2. All students, especially seniors, are encouraged to participate. To sign up, students can stop by the career center, e-mail [careercenter@union.edu](mailto:careercenter@union.edu) or call (518) 388-6176. The center is also asking parents
with internship or full-time opportunities for undergraduate students or experienced hires to forward the information to careercenter@union.edu.

DINING SERVICES

**Rathskeller reopens**: The newly renovated Rathskeller located underneath Old Chapel, severely damaged by flooding a year ago, is now open, with an official Grand Opening set for Tuesday, Sept. 29. The clean-up team salvaged as much as possible from the pub-style dining venue, including a pop-art mural painted by a student and an 8-foot round table on which students have been carving messages since the 1950s. Click [here](#) to read more.

FINANCIAL AID

**Info, please**: 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 Office of Financial Aid as soon as it is available. Has your student granted you access to WebAdvising? All financial aid information and student billing is communicated through WebAdvising. Please ask your student to grant you access. Directions are on the [website](#). Contact the Financial Aid Office at (518) 388-6123 or finaid@union.edu if you have questions.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

**Tips on keeping in touch; deadline info**: This fall, students are studying in a dozen countries, from Australia to Vietnam. Remember that it takes time to set up communications and adjust to new surroundings and schedules, so you may not hear from your student right away. A few things worth noting when you do connect: Remind your student to keep all valuables in a safe place. Be supportive if your child is initially homesick or unhappy. This usually resolves itself within a week or so. If it persists, encourage your child to talk to the faculty in residence, the International Programs Office or the international office in the host country. In case of illness, hospitalization, lack of contact or other potential
emergency situations, the number for Director of International Programs Lara Atkins is (518) 573-0471.

For all others, it's time to think about spring study abroad programs. The application deadline is Sept. 26 (by 5 p.m.) for the programs to Cambodia, England, Germany, Italy and Russia. The deadline to apply for a host of three-week international and domestic mini-terms has been extended to Sept. 26 as well for Civil Rights, Community Service, Ethiopia, New Hampshire Presidential Primary, Mexican-American Border, and Three Weeks in the Louvre (Art History). In addition, the U.S. Department of State’s Gilman International Scholarship, aimed at increasing student diversity in various areas of the world, is taking applications for winter 2015 and spring 2016 programs through Oct. 6. Union students can get help preparing applications from Lynn Evans, director of National Fellowships and Scholarships.

MINERVA PROGRAMS

Minerva Mentors: Our academic peer mentoring program, the Minerva Mentors, helps students improve study skills, get organized and balance academics with extracurricular activities. The mentors also share what it takes to be successful at Union. If you think this might be a good fit, please encourage your student to meet with a Minerva Mentor. The student mentors are juniors and seniors who hold office hours in their Minerva House and present on a variety of topics throughout the term. Faculty serve as an advising resource. For more information, go here.

RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL LIFE

Services and resources: The 12 religious and spiritual groups at the College have launched a variety of events, including services and meals for the High Holidays (through Hillel and Chabad), Mass Sunday nights, trips to area churches, and meditation times every morning in the prayer and meditation room. For more specifics or to meet the staff, students can visit the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life on the second floor of Reamer Campus Center.
WICKER WELLNESS CENTER

**Fair Day:** The annual Student Wellness Fair was held Friday. Students received flu shots, met staff, and had an opportunity to find out about health and wellness clubs. For more information, check out the center's [website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

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