Dear Parents and Families:

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN OF STUDENTS

There are so many wonderful things going on this term. For starters, kudos to all the students who are working hard on their research, both independently and with their faculty mentors, in preparation for Steinmetz Symposium May 8. More than 400 students will participate this year, which marks the 25th annual symposium. This tradition truly is a part of what makes Union a great place to study and learn, and make academic and personal discoveries.

In oral, poster and creative presentations across campus, students will share their research on everything from U.S. counterterrorist strategies post-9/11 to the use
of silica aerogels in firefighting gear. We invite you to attend if you can. There’s no cost for the symposium itself, which also includes dance and music performances, film, art exhibits and engineering projects. But please be sure to register for the Steinmetz Banquet. The symposium is part of Recognition Weekend, which includes Prize Day, a tribute to student accomplishments in all majors, May 9.

We hope to see you here next month. Please read on for more Union news.

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

NEWS FROM CAMPUS

College receives $11 million gift: A major new gift from the Feigenbaum Foundation, created by two Union alumni, will help support a transformation of the Visual Arts building and also introduce a new scholarship, endow a professorship and establish an annual forum on innovation and creativity.

Commencement speaker: Devin W en ig ‘8 8’, CEO-designate of eBay, will address the Class of 2015 on June 14.

Students’ global peace initiatives awarded: Tshering Lama Sherpa ’18 and Dima Yankova ’16 are among 127 students nationwide to win Davis Projects for Peace awards. Read about their projects here.

ACADEMIC NEWS

New advising tool launches: While working closely with their academic advisers, students can now use an innovative custom tool, called Notice-Choose-Tell, which encourages self-reflection and communication. Through this process, students will make meaningful, informed academic decisions that manifest their unique goals and aspirations – and build a strong résumé with their personal story.

Thinking beyond majors: With so many interesting majors and minors to choose from, many students combine their interests in fascinating ways. Read some student stories here.

Union in Africa: Beyond What You See: UNION in Africa, is on view at the Wikoff Student Gallery through Aug. 2, in conjunction with the 40th annual New York African Studies Association Conference, held at Union earlier this month. The exhibition features photography by students and alumni who have participated in terms abroad and Minerva Fellowships in Egypt, Ethiopia, Senegal, South Africa and Uganda. Participants include Dylan Cline ’16, Alexis Deeb ’12, Stephanie Delorenzo ’16, Sam Hunter ’16, Rachel Refkin ’15, Anabel Reyes ’16 and Adam
Stolz ’15.

BECKER CAREER CENTER

Summer preparation: The Becker Career Center continues to receive full-time, gap-year and internship opportunities. If your student has yet to secure a summer internship or post-graduate employment, encourage him or her to check out newly added positions in HireU. Students should email the career center or call (518) 388-6176 to schedule an appointment. As always, parents whose organizations offer jobs or internships for college students are asked to let the career center know so they can be posted for Union students to search and apply to. Contact Keri Willis.

CAMPUS SAFETY

Safety first: Spring is a good time to remind students to take precautions to help make the campus safer for all and to practice personal protection. This includes everything from keeping track of personal electronics to programming the Campus Safety number, (518) 388-6911, into cell phones.

FINANCIAL AID

Time to reapply: Students have received an email indicating documents they may need to submit to be considered for 2015-16 financial aid. They can log into WebAdvising and select “My Documents” from the main menu to see the specific items they must submit to reapply for financial aid. If your student has granted you access to WebAdvising, you can view the information as well. Instructions for parent access are on the financial aid website. Families should submit the required application information only once either by mail, fax or the new Dropbox, since email is not considered secure. Please contact the Financial Aid Office at (518) 388-6123 or finaid@union.edu if you have questions regarding your student’s 2015-16 financial aid application. Mailing address: Office of Financial Aid, Union College, 807 Union St., Schenectady, NY 12308. The fax number is (518) 388-8052.

KENNEY COMMUNITY CENTER

Fighting hunger: The Empty Bowls Project fundraiser will be held Sunday at Proctor’s Theater. Coordinated by student volunteers through the Kenney Center, this project, part of a national, grassroots organization, benefits such local charities as the Bethesda House, Schenectady City Mission and Concern for the Hungry.

MINERVA PROGRAMS
**Dinners, dialogue and more:** Among the dozens of recent Minerva House events were: a panel on the College’s domestic violence and sexual assault policies, co-hosted with Lambda Pi Chi Sorority and Latinas Promoviendo Comunidad; a discussion with pre-med students Steven Maksymowycz ’18, Ankoor Talwar ’18 and Erkan Bertram’18, who attended a global health and medicine conference at Yale University; and a talk and dinner with Holocaust survivor Martin Becker, organized by Hillel President Ariella Honig ’17 and board members.

**RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL LIFE**

**Yom Ha'Shoah events:** The campus community commemorated the 70th anniversary of Yom Ha'Shoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, with a Chabad-sponsored showing of Paper Clips, a documentary about the Paper Clips Project, in which middle schoolers from Tennessee try to collect 6 million paper clips to honor Jews killed by Nazis.

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

**Assistance for fire victims:** Members of the Red Cross Club, headed by Aarifa Gowani ’17, hosted a second donation drive to help members of the local community impacted by a massive Jay Street fire last month. Donations included household and personal items as well as money.

**Solidarity vigil:** To mourn the students killed by militants in an attack on Garissa University College in Kenya and to raise awareness about that country’s struggles with extremist groups, the African Student Association sponsored a campus vigil in front of Schafffer Library last week.

**Spring drama:** Students assembled for Spring Awakening, produced by Union College Mountebanks, considered the nation’s oldest student-run theater group (founded in 1912). Cast and crew included: James Boggs ’18 (stage manager), Andrew Clifford ’17, Brendan Duffy ’17, Elana Glickman ’15 (assistant director), Em Hiller ’18, Riley Konsella ’17, Elizabeth Magas ’15 (director), Kyle Miller ’18, Morgan Muggia ’15 (music director), Mollie Orr ’15, Lucas Rivers ’15, Jessie Rosenthal ’18, Arielle Singer ’18 (head of costumes), Julianne Tatelbaum ’17, Karin Tilsley ’15, Adam Weisse ’15 and Tommy Wilson ’17.

**Poetry trip:** The Black Students Union is sponsoring a free trip to New York City to see the Grand Slam Finale of the Urban Word 17th Annual Teen Poetry Slam at the historic Apollo Theater April 25.

**SUSTAINABILITY**

**Earth Week:** Among events scheduled next week are a clothing swap, eco-
friendly pledge, Ban Bottled Water Day, organic lunches, trash audits, bus trip to Dionondehowa Wildlife Sanctuary in Shushan, N.Y., campus greenmarket and the grand opening of a campus bike repair shop.

**Annual rake day:** Members of the campus community helped rake leaves and hay this week at the Octopus’s Garden Work Day. This organic campus garden donates food to Dining Services for Ozone Café, held Fridays in Old Chapel, and to Campus Kitchens, for use in meals prepared for the City Mission.

**April 21 is #ADAY4U**

A big thank you for your continued support of your student and the Union community as we embark on our Annual Fund challenge – Tuesday, April 21 – #ADay4U. This 24-hour challenge for alumni, parents, students, faculty, staff and friends is a way to demonstrate the impact Union College has had on their lives by making a gift to the Union College Annual Fund. The goal is 2,100 donors, 421 new donors, in 24 hours. When the goal is reached, the Board of Trustees will give $650,000. Be sure to follow the excitement on social media and make your gift that day online [www.union.edu/giving](http://www.union.edu/giving).

**DATES & DEADLINES**

- May 8-9: Steinmetz Symposium and Prize Day
- May 29-31: Alumni Weekend – ReUnion 2014
- June 5: Last day of spring term classes
- June 8-11: Spring term final exam period
- June 12: Residence halls and houses close at 3 p.m. for students not involved in Commencement
- June 14: Commencement
- June 14: Residence halls and houses close at 6 p.m.

**STAY CONNECTED**

- Visit our [Parents & Families website](http://www.union.edu/giving)
- Become a fan of our [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com) page
- Follow [President Ainlay](http://www.facebook.com) on Facebook
- Join the conversation on [Twitter](http://www.twitter.com)
- Follow [Union sports](http://www.twitter.com)
- Find [Union events](http://www.twitter.com) in your region
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