Dear Parents and Families:

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN OF STUDENTS

Winter term has been busier than ever, featuring scores of events, from guest lectures, art exhibits and a student theater production of “Twelve” to celebrations of culture, gender and race.

Guest lecturer David Clarke spoke about the intersection between religious studies and politics. Students discussed perceptions of time with the Philosophy Club and shared their words at the International Poetry Fest. In addition, a group
of students hosted a week of inspiring events to raise awareness of human trafficking, featuring guest speakers from the FBI and Safe Inc., and Corbin Addison, author of *A Walk Across the Sun*.

The College hosted a dozen events commemorating February as Black History Month. During Hijabi for a Day, the campus community learned about the Islamic tradition of Hijab. In addition, the entire campus is busy with Recyclemania, an eight-week recycling competition that pits Union against 400 other schools in the U.S. and Canada. And for the fourth straight year, our students took part in Random Acts of Kindness Week, planned by the Kenney Community Center, with activities and community service on- and off-campus. This has become a welcome Union tradition, turning the coldest month on the calendar into one of the warmest on campus.

Please read further for other news from campus.

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

**NEWS FROM CAMPUS**

**Founders Day**  
*Laura Skandera Trombley*, a nationally recognized champion of liberal arts education, will deliver the keynote address at Founders Day on Thursday, Feb. 26, 1 p.m. in Memorial Chapel. The event commemorates the 220th anniversary of the College’s charter. Trombley, whose visit coincides with the recent opening of Karp Hall, will talk on “The Enduring Value of the Humanities.” Join us for a live webstream of the event on USStream. For best viewing, ensure that your browser and Adobe Flashplayer are up to date. We recommend an updated version of Firefox or Chrome. Additional trouble-shooting tips can be found online.

**New hire for bystander intervention**  
In our ongoing efforts to ensure that the Union campus remains welcoming and safe, we have hired a new violence awareness and prevention educator. She will work with students on prevention strategies in relation to sexual violations and other forms of violence. *Sarah Adelmann* received her bachelor’s degree from Virginia Tech in 2004. She holds a master’s degree in education from Salem State University and a master’s degree in mental health counseling from Boston College. In her plans to make Union a leading school for bystander intervention, she will engage various student groups in prevention and education efforts.

**2015 Yearbooks available**  
The 2015 yearbook – the Garnet – is now on sale. Priced at $42.50, the Garnet can be ordered online at [www.yearbookordercenter.com](http://www.yearbookordercenter.com). Use school code: 14165.
For more information, contact yearbook.union@gmail.com.

ACADEMIC NEWS

Students awarded
Computer science majors Julia Isaac ’16, Liana Nunziato ’15 and Jess Sanford ’16, all members of the Association for Computing Machinery Committee on Women, recently received a $5,000 grant from Google to develop an afterschool program to mentor local middle school students on social robotics. Visiting Assistant Professor of Computer Science Nick Webb oversees the project. The students were inspired to submit an application to Google after their involvement with Webb’s Social Robotics Workshop, aimed at creating robots that can work alongside and collaborate with humans in real-world environments.

Steinmetz Symposium
Be sure to mark your calendar – Friday, May 8 – for Steinmetz Symposium. This year, the symposium celebrates its 25th year as a showcase of student research talent and creativity. Classes are suspended that day to allow hundreds of students in all majors to present their research and arts projects to faculty, peers and parents. It’s a wonderful way to see your young scholar at work. The research showcase will be followed by the Steinmetz Banquet at 6 p.m.

ATHLETICS

Athletic Hall of Fame nominations due
Nominations for the Union College Athletics Hall of Fame are being accepted, and nominees for the Class of 2015 will be accepted until March 1. You can nominate online at UnionAthletics.com; direct links follow. Nominate an Individual here. Nominate a Team of Distinction here. Once you nominate, please provide support letters to sportsinfo@union.edu.

BECKER CAREER CENTER

Funding for Summer 2015 Community Service Non-Profit 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 6, 5 p.m. Get information and application materials now, or contact Rochelle Caruso with questions. In previous years, students have interned at organizations such as The Center for Community Justice, Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program, Stamford Hospital, Peaceful Acres Horse Sanctuary, the Sanctuary for Independent Media, AIDS Action Committee and Habitat for Humanity.
FINANCIAL AID

Time to reapply for the 2015-16 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 the Financial Aid Office website. As the financial aid application renewal deadline approaches, students and parents can monitor the status of required information and view current award letters. The Returning Students Page also has a general list of required financial aid application materials, with links to forms and on-line applications. Most items are due by April 15, 2015. Families are asked to send the required documents once (no need to mail, fax and e-mail the same items). Use the new secure Dropbox, mail or fax to submit 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. Fax: (518) 388-8052

DATES & DEADLINES

- Through Feb. 27: Academic advising for spring term courses
- March 13: Last day of winter term classes
- March 16-19: Winter term final exams
- March 20: Residence halls and houses close at noon
- March 27: Spring tuition due
- March 29: Residence halls and houses open at noon
- March 30: Spring term classes begin
- May 8-9: Steinmetz Symposium and Prize Day
- May 29-31: Alumni Weekend – ReUnion 2015
- 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
- Become a fan of our Facebook page
- Follow President Ailay 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

Parent Challenge
Parents: have you seen our monthly challenge? A gift through the Parent Participation Challenge can help your student get through finals week. The class with the highest percentage of giving (by donor - not by dollars) will win a fun study break. Click here to learn more or to make your gift today.

This newsletter published by the Office of Alumni & Parent Engagement, Union College, NY