Dear Parents and Families:

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN OF STUDENTS

Winter term is in full swing. But it’s not too early to be thinking about summer
internships and jobs. With the Becker Career Center’s annual career fair approaching (Feb. 17; read more in this newsletter), it’s also a good time to talk your student about summer plans.

Some of our seniors have already received great news. Dylan Pazulinec of Seekonk, Mass., an economics major, has secured a job as an analyst in sales and trading at Deutsche Bank in New York City. Katherine Drebin of Philadelphia is also headed to New York, to MediaMath, a global technology and marketing company, where she’ll work as a business analyst. Katherine is majoring in psychology, with minors in math and economics. And Molly Ramos, a biology and anthropology major from the Bronx, will spend the next year working as a medical scribe in the emergency room at Ellis Hospital in Schenectady while pursuing further studies in the health field.

Our students are involved in great internships, as well. For example, Sara Miltenberger of Granby, Conn., a senior and an environmental policy major, is interning at The Nature Conservancy’s Albany office this term. While a sophomore, this entrepreneurial student started her first business venture, a web-based sports information business. And Jessica Sanford ’16, a computer science major from Malden Mass., has lined up a summer internship in Boston with Kiva Systems, an Amazon-acquired software and robotics design firm.

What a pleasure it is to watch our students follow their passions and interests, and grow and thrive as responsible, active citizens on the world stage. That, after all, is at the core of our educational mission.

Please read on for more news from Union.

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

ACADEMICS

Arts news

If you’re on campus this term, be sure to catch the three-part exhibition, “Mo t Ju ste ,” exploring intersections between the humanities and the visual arts. You’ll find a range of work by contemporary artists, including video, drawing, installation, film, bookmaking, photography, sculpture and printmaking. A multimedia event/discussion with artist Tony Cokes is set for Feb. 17, 6-8 p.m. in newly renovated Karp Hall, home to the departments of English and Modern Languages and Literatures. Through March 8, the Wikoff Student Gallery is showing “Pa Ipa b ly. S yn th e tic,” featuring work by students in the fall 3D computer modeling course with Fernando Orellana, associate professor of visual arts.
Environmental series

The 18th Environmental Science, Policy and Engineering Winter Seminar Series kicked off with a talk on climate change by Scott Mandia, co-founder of the Climate Science Rapid Response Team and the Climate Science Legal Defense Fund. The theme of this year’s interdisciplinary series is “Building an environmentally literate public: Communication and education in the Anthropocene.” Other speakers will address biodiversity and the worldwide movement to reconnect children and nature.

Speaking of environmental concerns, we invite you to click here, where senior Environmental Science and Environmental Policy majors are blogging about current issues, including farming, alternative energy and the politics of climate change. Please visit, comment, and follow the blog. Students are also engaging with the Twitterverse; you can see Tweets using the tag #ENS460. Both activities are part of the ESPE Capstone Senior Seminar, which is considering environmental communication and education.

BECKER CAREER CENTER

Career Fair set for next month

The Becker Career Center will hold its annual career fair Tuesday, Feb. 17, 4-7 p.m. at College Park Hall. The fair is a great way for students in all class years to 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 database, have their resume reviewed by the Career Center (e-mail resume to 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 or (518) 388-6176.

CAMPUS NEWS

MLKing Jr. Week observed

The College sponsored a Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity@Union march and program that included reflections on the Rev. King from Melinda Lawson, a senior lecturer in history, and singing by the Heavenly Voices Gospel Choir. In addition, the Kenney Community Center held a campus program for middle and high school students that featured a community service project, sign making, a hands-on engineering workshop and an informal discussion with Union students about Dr. King Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement.
COMMUNITY SERVICE

It's an honor

The College once again earned recognition on the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for exemplary service to the local community, thanks to events such as the annual John Calvin Toll Day of service.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Vietnamese experience

Ever wonder what students really do on their terms abroad? Watch this video to see Miles Ingraham ’15 and Sylvie Kalikoff ’16 in Vietnam as part of Union’s joint program with Hobart and William Smith Colleges. The students were active with an organization called Think Playgrounds, helping to build a playground in Hanoi as a safe urban play space. They also interned with ACCD, an innovative NGO working on sustainable urban development.

Bali reflections

Fifteen students learned about Balinese performing arts and Indonesian rituals on their recent three-week mini-term. Highlights included participation in the Galungan festivities, and lessons in mask making, drums and other arts. Laura Pacheco ’16 said her experience “helped me understand the meaning of a “keluarga” (family) and community, both Balinese and American.” For Matthew Hellauer ’16, it “taught me how to make amazing connections with people even with serious language barriers between us. A smile goes a long way there.” Other participants included William Barnes ’15, Jillian Callanan ’16, Katherine Cuozzo ’16, Xi Gao ’15, Kyle Irwin ’16, Grace Kernohan ’17, Madeline Lewis ’17, Allison Minchoff ’16, Timothy Palace ’15, Allison Smith ’17, Maddison Stemple-Piatt ’17, Warren Thompson ’15 and Jacqueline A. Zannos ’17. They were accompanied by Miryam Moutillet, director of the Union Dance Program.

MINERVA PROGRAMS

Author visit

Sorum House Book Club recently joined with the Rapaport Ethics Across the Curriculum initiative to co-sponsor a campus visit by award-winning journalist Eyal Press, author of “Beautiful Souls: The Courage and Conscience of Ordinary People in Extraordinary Times.” Focusing on issues of morality and politics, Press dined with members of the book club, spoke to students in a philosophy class, and met with other students, faculty and staff.
RESIDENTIAL LIFE

RA selection

The Resident Advisor selection is right around the corner. The RA position provides students with a unique skill set, and Union RAs are consistently some of the most recognizable student-leaders on campus. Learn more about the position here. In addition, the room selection process is quickly approaching, and for the second straight year, Res Life will conduct this process entirely online. Students will have access to the online application starting in February, with room selection set for April. They'll receive details about housing options and the selection process throughout winter term.

STUDENT ACCOUNTS

Bills posted; WebAdvisor reminder

Emails were recently sent to all students and to those parents who have access to WebAdvisor notifying them that the second Winter 2015 Student Billing Statement has been posted. Payment is due by Feb. 6. Parents who did not receive an email have not been granted access to the account by their student. Complete instructions for students and parents on navigating WebAdvisor can be found on our website. The 2014 1098T Tax Forms will be mailed to all students at their home address by the end of January. Please contact Student Accounts at (518) 388-6106 with questions.

SUSTAINABILITY

Green grants

There are 15 winners in the latest round of Presidential Green Grants, a program that supports environmentally sustainable campus projects. The awards, worth more than $24,000, touch nearly every corner of the campus, from the organic garden to bottle filling stations. Among them is Union’s first rain garden, an idea put forth by environmental policy major Sara Covelli ’17.

Co-generation

The College will build a cogeneration plant that will dramatically reduce the College’s carbon footprint, ease demand on current aging systems and result in significant energy saving costs. The combined heat and power plant will allow for the simultaneous production of electricity to power most of Union’s 130-acre campus.
SAVE THE DATE for 25th ANNUAL STEINMETZ SYMPOSIUM

It's been a quarter century since Union students started sharing their research in all fields with the campus community at the Steinmetz Symposium. This year the all-day event will be held on Friday, May 8, 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.

DID YOU KNOW?

You can now purchase an online a copy of the New Student Directory for the Union College Class of 2018. It features color photos of each student and also academic and administrative departments. Click here for details.

DATES & DEADLINES

- Feb. 9-27: 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

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