Dear Parents and Families:

Students attend the annual career fair.
A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN OF STUDENTS

With spring upon us, we’re wrapping up a very busy and productive winter term. From academic mentoring to consent education, a cancer fundraiser to a film festival, our community has come together in impressive ways.

- The Becker Career Fair drew a record 467 students, who had the chance to meet with 80 employers and graduate school representatives.
- Two seniors, Karlee Bergendorff and Warren Thompson, have received a prestigious Thomas J. Watson Fellowship to travel the globe for independent study of their unique interests. Read about their projects in history, art, flute music and healing here.
- Union’s LGBTQ Allies recently received training as part of our ongoing efforts to increase campus tolerance and acceptance of all, no matter what their sexual or gender orientation.
- Union’s new sexual violence prevention educator, Sarah Adelmann, and five students were invited to the state Capitol for Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s announcement about expanding a new sexual consent policy to private colleges and universities. The students – Antonia Batha ’17, Kyra DeTone ’16, Hannah Gardella ’15, Sydney Giller ’16 and Shayna Han ’15 – are members of the student-led Committee on Consent Education and Awareness.
- For the third straight year, the Colleges Against Cancer (CAC) Club organized the Dutchmen Digt to raise money for three members of the Union community undergoing cancer treatment. This year, the event brought in more than $15,000, exceeding its goal. As CAC Co-Presidents Laura Schaffer ’17 and Caroline Hartnack ’16 noted, “What is so incredibly special about Union is our extraordinary sense of community.”

In the meantime, I’m proud to report that Union was ranked among the best returns on investment for liberal arts graduates of private and public institutions, based on 20-year projected earnings. Please go here to see the Wall Street Journal article.

And take a moment to read below for more Union news. We wish all students a happy and safe spring break.

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

NEWS FROM CAMPUS

Adirondack Week

The Kel l y Ad ir on dac k Cen ter’s 2015 Adirondack Week, set for May 10-14, will feature events at the center, on campus and in Schenectady, including a student hike near Lake George, an Adirondack photography exhibition, a lecture on the Adirondack Park and a faculty panel on women and the Adirondacks. The center will also sponsor two artists-in-residence for the week. Ricochet Duo (piano and percussion) will demonstrate Union’s interdisciplinary approach to the Adirondacks through a musical lens. They will meet with music department classes, perform Professor Hilary Tann’s piece Solstice on May 11 and hold workshops for the Empire State Youth Orchestra. The Woods woman Pro ject, a multimedia concert at Proctors Theater on May 13, will weave together music (including a Tann piece), sounds and light with Adirondack photography. For the week’s complete schedule, click here.
African Conference

Nine students – Bisiayo Fashemi ’16, Kim Ferguson ’15, Anna McGillicuddy ’15, Adrian Morgan ’16, Victor Murphy ’15, Rachel Refkin ’15, Natasha Scott ’15, Erika Steuer ’15 and Alexandra Walters ’15 – will participate in a roundtable discussion of student leadership at the 40th annual conference of the New York African Studies Association next month. The topic is “Africa, Its Diaspora, and Laws.” Faculty members participating include Assistant Professor of Sociology Deidre Butler, Professor of Engineering Ashraf Ghaly, Associate Professor of Spanish and Latin American Studies Daniel Mosquera, and Associate Professor of French Cheikh Ndiaye. Union will host the first day of the two-day event.

ACADEMIC NEWS

Steinmetz Symposium

The 25th annual Steinmetz Symposium is fast approaching. This research showcase, featuring more than 450 projects, will be held Friday, May 8, followed by the Steinmetz Banquet. Learn more about research across all disciplines from our Research at Union video.

Lights! Action!

Ten students in the Union College Community Media Action Lab taught by Filmmaker-in-Residence Jim De Seve screened 13 short films made for local organizations at a banquet for 280 people at Proctors. This showcase featured films about such groups as the YWCA, Community Hospice, the Boys and Girls Club, and Community Fathers, a support group for fathers trying to find their way as parents.

Dancing at the Yulman

Hundreds of members of the campus community filled the Yulman Theater for the annual Winter Dance Concert, which featured faculty- and student-created pieces.

ATHLETICS

Faculty champion student-athletes’ success

A new program that pairs professors with student-athletes gives Union students another resource to succeed in and out of the classroom.

BECKER CAREER CENTER

Internship opportunities

The Becker Career Center continues to receive full-time, gap-year and internship opportunities. If your son or daughter plans to secure a summer internship or is searching for post-graduate positions, encourage them to check out newly added positions in HireU.

The Becker Career Center is also asking parents with internship or full-time opportunities for undergraduate students or experienced hires to forward the information for posting in HireU. Send an email to: careercenter@union.edu. The center continues to host programs for students
throughout the spring term such as the Dining Etiquette event, Start-Up Career Fairs in Boston and New York, the Environmental Career Fair as well as on-campus employer visits. Encourage your son or daughter to get connected with the career center.

FINANCIAL AID

Time to reapply for aid

Your student has received an email indicating documents that may need to be submitted to be considered for 2015-16 financial aid. Students can log into WebAdvising and select “My Documents” from the main menu to see the specific documents they need to submit. If your student has granted you access to WebAdvising, you can view the information, too. Instructions for parent access are on our website. (Note: If you student is going on a term abroad in the spring, make sure the Verification Worksheet is completed before departure. The worksheet requires both student and parent signatures.)

Families should submit the required 2015-16 application information only once either by mail, fax or our new Dropbox; email is not secure. Please contact the Financial Aid Office at (518) 388-6123 or finaid@union.edu with questions regarding your student’s financial aid application. Mailing address: Office of Financial Aid, Union College, 807 Union St., Schenectady, NY 12308. Fax: (518) 388-8052

GREEK LIFE

Application review

The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life is currently reviewing applications to serve on its Judicial Board. The board is made up of 12 Greek members. Interviews are in April, and students will be notified of results by the first Friday of May.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

New funded program, mini-term, winter term

A new program that allows students to go abroad for non-credit based three-week internships fully supported by the Klemm Fund is now up and running. The deadline to apply is April 17. That’s also the deadline for several new and established terms and mini-terms. The newest Union mini-term, set for December, will take students to Cuba, accompanied by History Professor Teresa Meade, an expert on Cuban history, culture and politics. The program is being managed by Spanish Studies Abroad, which has coordinated programs to Cuba for numerous colleges and universities, including Lehigh, Goucher, Hofstra and the University of Kansas.

Union’s latest full winter term abroad will go to Nepal, with a focus on field research and anthropology. It will be led by Assistant Professor Jeffrey Witsoe of the Anthropology Department. Information sessions for all of these programs will be held in the spring term. Contact the International Programs Office for more information.

RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL LIFE
Holiday plans

Hillel is planning student-run kosher for Passover seders Friday and Saturday nights (April 3-4) on campus, and Chabad will also host two seders for Passover. In addition, rides will be provided for students who would like to attend Easter services in the community. The Union College Interfaith Youth Core is hosting a regional conference on “Interfaith and Social Justice: Activism through our Own Worldviews.” Interested students can register here.

RESIDENTIAL LIFE

Selection process begins

Housing selection for 2015-2016 will begin when students return for the spring term. They have already received emails about the process and begun setting up their profiles in the online housing system. For more information, please visit the ResLife website.

STUDENT ACCOUNTS

Billing statement posted

Emails were recently sent to all students and to those parents who have access to WebAdvisor notifying them that the spring 2015 Student Billing Statement has been posted. Payment is due by March 27. 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. In addition, the 2015-16 comprehensive fee of $62,274 was approved by the Board of Trustees at its February meeting. See details here.

DATES & DEADLINES

- March 19: Last day of 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 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
- 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**

**February Parent Participation Challenge ~ Thank U!**

Thank you for supporting your student and Union College during our Parent Participation Challenge in February. The challenge was a tremendous success, with each class seeing an increase in participation. The Class of 2018 saw the biggest boost -- reaching 26% participation. Members of that class enjoyed their study break last Thursday night in West Dining Hall. Thanks again for your generous support and making this challenge a great success!

**April 21 is #ADAY4U**

#ADay4U is a 24-hour challenge for alumni, parents, students, faculty, staff and friends to demonstrate the impact Union has had on their lives by making an unrestricted gift to the Union College Annual Fund. Watch your inbox for more details to see how the Union community is inspired to give back to the College in one big social mashup.

**CONNECT WITH UNION: [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [LinkedIn](#) [YouTube](#)**

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