Dear Parents and Families:

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN OF STUDENTS

This term, while we’re basking in the good weather, there’s also bright news for dozens of students who have received high-profile fellowships and awards that will allow them to help others, pursue academic goals and creative work, and teach:

- **Fulbright English Language Teaching Assistant Awards**: Julia Hotz ’15 will teach English to children in Greece and serve as coach and mentor in the Hellenic American Educational Foundation’s Forensics Club and as a counselor in its English language summer camp.
- **Goldwater Scholars**: Juniors Ryan M. Bouck, Michael Warrener and
Theodor Di Pauli von Treuheim have each been awarded a Goldwater Scholarship, the premiere undergraduate award for students pursuing careers in mathematics, natural sciences and engineering.

- **Thomas J. Watson Fellowships:** Karlee Bergendorff ’14, a political science major, and Warren Thompson ’14, a dual biochemistry and music major, each will receive $30,000 to cover a year of independent study and travel across the globe as Watson Fellows.
- **University Innovation Fellow:** Sean Farrell ’17 has been named to this National Science Foundation-funded program, which recognizes and fosters entrepreneurship among students nationwide.

In addition, I am happy to recognize these achievements:

- **Phi Beta Kappa:** The Union College Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, established in 1817, recently announced the election of new members.
- **Prize Day:** Nearly 100 students took home honors at our annual Prize Day.
- **NCUR:** Nine Union students in a range of majors, from biology to political science, recently participated in the prestigious National Conference on Undergraduate Research.
- **Photo exhibit:** Five students have work in a juried exhibit at the Photo Center of the Capital District. Their 12 images are among 90 on display.

**Minerva Fellows’ Return**
This month we welcomed back to campus 11 Minerva Fellows, recent grads who have spent the last nine months working in NGOs around the world, from Uganda to Cambodia. They have returned to campus for spring term, giving presentations and lectures in classes, as well as talking informally with students. Each also has a blog of their experiences, providing fascinating reading.

Kudos to all. I speak for many when I say I never fail to be impressed by our students’ dedication and commitment to their academic and personal passions. Please read on for more news.

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

**NEWS FROM CAMPUS**

**Roundtable discussion:** U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand recently hosted a roundtable meeting at the Nott Memorial with students and officials from Union and other Capital Region colleges. They were joined by survivors, advocates and law enforcement to discuss bolstering efforts to combat sexual violence on campuses. Last fall, Union was among the first schools in the state to participate in a national public-service campaign, “It’s On Us,” aimed at preventing sexual
assault on college campuses.

**Research front and center:** More than 500 students, faculty and parents fanned out across campus to enjoy the 25th annual Steinmetz Symposium, a celebration of research in all forms and fields.

**Student Invitational:** Works by 30 seniors are at the Mandeville Gallery through June 15.

**Health Professions student trip:** Twenty-five students who are studying for careers in medicine and the health professions participated in a trip to Philadelphia recently, where they visited medical and other programs. They also dined with 20 Union alumni representing different career paths, including pharmaceutical sciences, nursing, medicine, psychology and public health.

**BECKER CAREER CENTER**

**Community service summer internships awarded:** The following students received funding for non-profit work experience: David Roy ’16, Boston Health Care for the Homeless program; Shivangi Mehta ’16, The Legal Project, Albany, N.Y.; Cara Slugaski, ’16, Head Start, Schenectady, N.Y.; Michael Vallejo ’16, Breakthrough Collaborative, Boston, Mass.; Olivia Britton ’18, HASCO Community Center, Spring Valley, N.Y. Funding came from the Class of 1973 35th ReUnion Community Service Endowed Internship; the Roger H. Hull Community Service Endowed Internship; Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity; and the Mohammad A. Omar ’94 Memorial Community Service Internship Endowment. To learn more or support the program, email Rochelle Caruso.

**DINING SERVICES**

**Survival kits and more:** You can help relieve the stress of finals week and treat your son or daughter to a gift of chocolate chip, oatmeal raisin or butter sugar cookies, delivered in a collectable Otis Spunkmeyer cookie jar. Call or email your order, (518) 388-6050. You can also celebrate a birthday, academic honors or any other occasion. Learn more at www.uniondining.com. Click here to add dining dollars to your student’s ID card.

**FINANCIAL AID**

**Applications review:** The Financial Aid Office has started reviewing upper class financial aid applications for the 2015-16 academic year. Please log in to WebAdvising to make sure all materials have been submitted. Our financial aid application due date was May 4. If the application is complete, our office will be sending your student an email when the 2015-16 financial aid award has been
posted to the WebAdvising account. Parents can log in to view this award information. Remember – students can grant their parents access to financial aid and student account information via WebAdvising. Instructions for parent access are on our website.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Visiting your child abroad: Are you making plans to visit your student on his or her fall term abroad? Think about timing your trip when it's optimal for your student. Lara Atkins, director of International Programs, says it's best to visit before or after the program, or during a scheduled vacation break. “While this is a vacation for you, your child has academic responsibilities during the scheduled program,” Atkins says.Visiting afterward “allows students to show off newly acquired language skills and serve as enthusiastic and knowledgeable tour guides.” Meanwhile, before your child leaves, arrange how you'll keep in touch (i.e., e-mail, Skype, cell phone, international calling card). It's also important to know the name, e-mail and telephone number of the Union contact person in your child's overseas program.

KENNEY COMMUNITY CENTER

Honoring volunteers: The annual Volunteer Appreciation Banquet is set for May 21. Members of the local community join with the College to recognize the outstanding work students do through volunteer service. Honorees from each class will be introduced.

Union cares: U-CARE Day brings together students to host a free carnival for the city's youth. This year's event is Sunday, May 31.

RELIGIOUS & SPIRITUAL LIFE

Discussion and dinner: The Association of Humanists, Atheists and Agnostics (AHAA), together with Sorum House, sponsored a dinner and discussion on what those terms mean with Unitarian minister and humanist Margaret O'Neall and Professor Emeritus George Shaw.

Earthquake relief: The Buddhist Student Association partnered with Hillel, Multifaith and IFYC to raise funds for earthquake relief in Nepal. The students, including several from Nepal, sold baked goods throughout the week.

RESIDENTIAL LIFE

It's that time: With the end of the year quickly approaching, students will soon be receiving information about the closing of the residence halls and apartments. All
students are expected to move out of their rooms within 24 hours of their last final. Residence halls and apartments officially close Friday, June 12, at 3 p.m. for all students except seniors and those participating in Commencement. Unless there are extenuating circumstances, students are not permitted to stay beyond that time. All requests to do so require permission from Residential Life, Greek Life or Minerva Programs (depending on the student’s residence). Seniors have until 6 p.m. on Sunday, June 14 to move out. Please go to www.union.edu/reslife for more information.

**DATES & DEADLINES**

- 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.

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