Dear Parents and Families:

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN OF STUDENTS

One of the most gratifying things for me as dean of students is seeing all the ways in which our students serve our communities. This fall, students got involved in a host of service projects. More than 500 students signed on for the Kenney Center’s annual John Calvin Toll Day of Service in October. They volunteered at 26 sites throughout Schenectady County, including the city mission, Habitat for Humanity, public library, parks, cemeteries, churches and public housing. Our Greek organizations sponsored an anti-hazing walk, weekly Rett Syndrome
awareness bake sales and a letter-writing campaign in support of child cancer research and St. Jude, to name a few activities.

Such involvement and generosity of spirit don't end with the academic term. Over the winter break, Union’s Community Service Mini-Term will venture to Dulac, La., to build wheelchair ramps for members of the Houma Indian community. Read more about it in this newsletter. You'll also find information about residence closings and upcoming Res Life events, and see what else has been happening on campus.

I sincerely wish all of you a happy, healthy Thanksgiving and holiday season.

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

ACADEMICS & STUDENT LIFE

Author talks

The English Department and the Office of Minerva Programs co-sponsored several events with novelist Elizabeth Rosner, whose historical tale, “Electric City,” is set in Schenectady and features Charles Proteus Steinmetz (1865-1923), the pre-eminent scientist who taught electrical engineering and applied physics at Union. Students, faculty and staff joined Rosner for lunch, dinner and discussions in several Minerva houses before her evening talk at the Nott Memorial this week.

Students also had a chance to meet in Minervas with sociologist and author Michael Kimmel, a leading researcher on men and masculinity, before his talk at the Nott, titled “Mars and Venus, or Planet Earth: Women and Men in a New Millennium.” Kimmel's more than 20 books include the bestseller, “Guyland: The Perilous World Where Boys Become Men.”

Forum on diversity

The Presidential Forum on Diversity and the Union College Speakers Forum hosted a talk by journalist and TV news anchor John Quiñones, co-anchor of the ABC newsmagazine Primetime, and the sole anchor of the Primetime series “What Would You Do?”

Kristallnacht commemoration

Chabad at Union sponsored a dinner and talk this week to commemorate the 76th anniversary of Kristallnacht, the “night of broken glass,” which marks the Nazi terror that began the Holocaust. Guest speaker was Martin Becker, a local
Holocaust survivor and former National Holocaust Vice Chairman of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States.

**Sociology and service**

A sociology and mini-term class taught by Professor Janet Grigsby, which focuses on the culture of New Orleans and surrounding wetlands, has been sending students to the region since 2007 to take part in fulltime community service for two weeks. This year, the class is raising funds in conjunction with the Dulac Community Center to help the Houma Indians, who have suffered from serious flooding from several hurricanes and from the 2010 Gulf Oil disaster. The 15 students will help build ramps for families to access their homes and keep them safe from future flooding.

**Eco art**

Students in Lorraine Cox’s Environmentalism and Globalization in Contemporary Art course have been working in teams all term to develop, create and install their own Eco Art “Interventions.” Their projects were installed and displayed in various locations in and around campus.

**On stage**

The Department of Theater and Dance presented Tennessee Williams’s “A Streetcar Named Desire,” directed by Patricia Culbert, senior artist-in-residence. Rose Dumbrique ’16 played Stella Kowalski, Elizabeth Magas ’15 took the role of Blanche DuBois, and William Balta ’16 was Stanley Kowalski.

**BECKER CAREER CENTER**

**Making the most of winter break**

The Becker Career Center can help students strategize how to effectively use their time during winter break to gain experience related to their career objectives. Students are encouraged to job shadow, secure an internship (paid or unpaid) and network with Union alumni and employers. Employers prefer to hire students who have relevant work or internship experience. Encourage your son or daughter to make an appointment with a Becker career adviser to determine how they can gain valuable experiences over the break and become competitive candidates for post-graduate employment. Contact the center at careercenter@union.edu.

**INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS**

**Free physicals for traveling students**
All students traveling abroad are required to have a physical within six months of their program departure date. If your student is unable to see a physician or is not yet within the window of a covered physical, Union's Wicker Wellness is designating a few days each term for study abroad physicals. The visit is free. Winter term dates are Jan. 13 and 23, and Feb. 5. Please note that these are the only days when this service is provided. Students must schedule an appointment in advance and bring a completed study abroad health form to the physical. All rescheduling must be done at least a day before the original appointment.

KENNEY COMMUNITY CENTER

Staying healthy and green

Students organized a Healthy Harvest Festival to promote sustainability, food security, local produce and a healthy lifestyle. The event, open to the Schenectady community, featured dance lessons, taste testings and workshops.

RESIDENTIAL LIFE

On the move

As the fall term winds down, students are expected to vacate their rooms within 24 hours of their last final. Residence halls close at noon on Wednesday, Nov. 26, and reopen Sunday, Jan. 4 at noon. Students who need to stay on campus over the break can access the housing form here. In January, the 2015-16 Resident Advisor (RA) selection process begins. If your student is interested in playing a leadership role in campus life, please encourage him or her to apply.

Your students are starting to see information about the room selection process for next year (2015-2016), which will be in April. And a quick note about students interested in living off-campus: As a residential college, Union requires all students to live on campus for their entire time here, provided space is available. Only a limited number of seniors are released each year to live off campus. Therefore, students are discouraged from signing a lease with a landlord off campus until they are given explicit permission to live off campus. For more information, click here.

STUDENT ACCOUNTS

Billing news

Last week, emails were sent to all students and to parents who have access to WebAdvisor, noting that the winter 2015 Student Billing Statement has been posted. 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 here.

Parents who are enrolled in the Monthly Payment Plan or have a 529 Savings Plan may be subject to an alternative due date. For all other payers, please note that late payment fees may be applied after the Dec. 5, 2014 due date. Please contact Student Accounts at (518) 388-6106 or StudentAccount@union.edu with questions. The 1098T Tax Forms for 2014 will be mailed to all students at their home address by the end of January.

DATES & DEADLINES

- Nov. 18: Fall term classes end
- Nov. 20-25: Fall term final exam period
- Nov. 26: Residence hall and houses close
- Dec. 5: Winter tuition due
- Jan. 4: Residence halls and houses open
- Jan. 5: Winter term classes begin
- 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

STAY CONNECTED

- Visit our Parents & Families website
- Become a fan of our Facebook page
- Follow President Ainalay 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

Our thanks for a successful challenge
Our October Challenge, Parent Support Counts More, was a huge success. Thank
you to those who stepped up and showed tremendous generosity. More than 250 parents raised $60,000. Your dedication is truly touching every corner of campus for our students. During this time of thanks, we are especially grateful to those who support our Union family, and we would like to wish you and your family a happy and healthy Thanksgiving season.

*It is not too late to show your support, please visit [www.union@edu/give](http://www.union@edu/give) or call the Annual Fund office at (518) 388-6175. Thank U!*

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**CONNECT WITH UNION:**

This newsletter published by the [Office of Alumni & Parent Engagement](http://www.union@edu), Union College, NY