Dear Parents and Families:

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN OF STUDENTS

Hello from Student Affairs, where we are delighted to begin the new school year. We’re always energized by Union students’ enthusiasm as they return from their summers, and we are especially eager to welcome the first-year and transfer students. The 575 students in the Class of 2018 have come to campus from 25
states, the District of Columbia and 15 countries.

Whether new or returning, all students can look forward to some exciting things, among them the official opening, in January, of the Karp Hall for the humanities, home to the departments of English and Modern Languages and Literatures. This renovation project includes electronic multi-media classrooms, a seminar room, a media lab and a performance classroom. And construction will soon begin on a three-story apartment-style building near campus that will give students in our upper classes another housing option and make the campus totally residential. You’ll be hearing more about both of these projects in future newsletters as we near completion.

In the meantime, please read on to see what else is happening at Union.

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

**HOMECOMING and FAMILY WEEKEND**

**Save the date: Oct. 24-26**

We are excited to welcome all families, alumni and guests to Homecoming and Family Weekend Oct. 24-26. There are many great events, from hay rides and tours of historic Union to football and hockey games, the harvest dinner and more. Come enjoy this festive fall weekend. You’ll find a schedule and information about how to register and places to stay [here](#).

**NEWS FROM CAMPUS**

**Where we stand**

Colleges and universities are subject to critical review in all realms. Here are the some of the very latest rankings about Union from the *Princeton Review*: #7, Most Popular Study Abroad program; #8, Most Popular Radio Station; #12, Most Beautiful U.S. Colleges; #15, Best Science Lab Facilities. And according to PayScale.com, we are ranked #8 for return on investment among liberal arts colleges.

**FROM ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

**Research reigned this summer**

At Union, undergraduate research flourishes year-round. More than 140 students from diverse disciplines participated in Union’s [summer research program](#). Topics
covered everything from visual communication in anolis lizards to the study of sacred music.

FROM ATHLETICS

Remember an historic men’s ice hockey season

Nationally known sports artist Neal Portnoy (official artist of the Union Athletics Hall of Fame) has produced a commemorative color art piece to honor the Dutchmen and their 2013-14 NCAA championship season. Order [here](#) today.

FROM BECKER CAREER CENTER

Fall recruiting events, programs and workshops

The Becker Career Center will conduct internship and senior orientations this fall for students interested in learning more about Union’s on- and off-campus recruiting program. Encourage your student to attend an orientation to learn how to search and identify internships and full-time job opportunities and become familiar with the center’s resources. Seniors must attend a Senior Orientation to apply for positions.

Mock Interview Day, featuring practice interviews with actual employers, will be held Friday, Oct. 10. All students, especially seniors, are encouraged to participate. To sign up, students can drop by the career center, e-mail [careercenter@union.edu](mailto:careercenter@union.edu) or call (518) 388-6176. The 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. Write to: [careercenter@union.edu](mailto:careercenter@union.edu)

FROM DINING SERVICES

Off-campus meal plan sale

Through Sept. 30, you can purchase a 20-block off-campus meal plan and get five more meals added to your son or daughter’s meal plan. Learn more [here](#). Why carry cash on campus? For convenience and peace of mind, add Declining Balance to your son or daughter’s ID card any time. Finally, help celebrate a birthday, an opening night performance, acceptance into a campus club or any other occasion with a surprise package.

FROM GREEK LIFE

Recruitment
The time period for joining a fraternity or sorority is Sept. 15-19. Students need at least a 2.5 GPA to participate in a Greek organization. The Fraternity and Sorority Life office recognizes 20 Greek groups on campus.

FROM HEALTH SERVICES

Health fair, flu shots and more

Health Services is sponsoring a health fair on Friday, Sept. 26. Flu shots will be available then and every Tuesday afternoon, Sept. 30-Oct. 28. Jenna, Union’s popular therapy dog, is back Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays this year. Union’s registered dietitian, Diane Pietrocarlo, will conduct group intakes Wednesdays during Common Lunch hour. Students should call for an appointment. And for those taking a term abroad in the spring, the office is doing physicals this month. Again, students should call (518) 388-6176 to set up an appointment.

FROM INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Deadlines near for spring programs, Gilman Scholarships

While 134 students are enjoying their fall term in countries as varied as Argentina, the Czech Republic and Turkey, it’s time to think about spring study abroad programs. The application deadline is Sept. 26 (by 5 p.m.). Spring term programs are offered in Cambodia, Germany, England and Italy.

The U.S. Department of State’s Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program, aimed at increasing student diversity in various countries and regions of the world, is taking applications for winter/spring 2015 programs through Oct. 7. Union students can get help preparing applications from Lynn Evans, director of National Fellowships and Scholarships.

DATES & DEADLINES

- Oct. 13-31: Academic advising for winter term courses
- Oct. 24-26: Homecoming and Family Weekend
- Nov. 18: Fall term classes end
- Nov. 20-25: Fall term final exam period
- Nov. 26: Residence hall and houses close
- Jan. 4: Residence halls and houses open
- Jan. 5: Winter term classes begin

FROM THE ANNUAL FUND
102 Years of Generosity
Thank you for your gift to Union College during the 2013-14 fund year. Between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014, nearly 10,000 alumni, parents, friends and faculty increased support for the Annual Fund, helping us reach an impressive $8.9 million. Ever-critical unrestricted monies comprised $4.5 million of this total. On behalf of the entire Union family, we would like to thank our parents for your continued support. We know you see firsthand through your student the impact of a Union education. Please consider supporting our Annual Fund effort this year. You can make your gift online. Go U!

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