



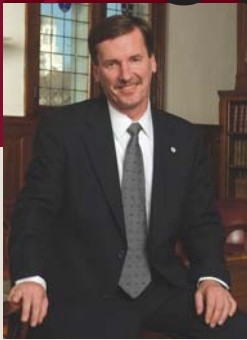
**UNION COLLEGE**

A BEACON FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT	1
ACADEMICS	4
STUDENT LIFE	8
UNION IN THE WORLD	12
ADMISSIONS & FINANCIAL AID	16
OUR FINANCIAL PICTURE	18
THE GREATER UNION COMMUNITY	22
MEDIA & PUBLIC RELATIONS	26
MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN	28
COLLEGE LEADERSHIP	29





## Message from the President

ACROSS ALL DISCIPLINES, UNION STUDENTS ARE POSING THE TOUGH QUESTIONS AND PURSUING THE INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS THAT WILL SHAPE THE FUTURE.

### Bringing the Vision to Life

Once again, I am pleased to provide the *President's Report to the Community* as a way of updating you on all the exciting things happening here at Union.

This past year was our first full year working to implement the goals articulated in the Strategic Plan. Earlier this fall, I had a chance to preview the design plans for the new Peter Irving Wold Science and Engineering Center, a unique multidisciplinary teaching and research facility which, when completed, will stand as a symbol of our progress toward many of those goals: maintaining the highest standards of academic quality, integrating engineering with the liberal arts, continuing to build on our tradition of innovation, encouraging interaction among diverse backgrounds and viewpoints, fostering sustainability and leveraging our close-knit community to make a far-reaching impact on the world.

Across all disciplines, Union students are posing the tough questions and pursuing the innovative solutions that will shape the future. They are supported in their quest not only by outstanding and engaged faculty, but by talented administrators and staff and all the dedicated alumni who have passed through Union's gates before them.

Our academic mission is to develop engaged, innovative and ethical contributors to society, and every day I see examples of that mission in action. Even in my third year at Union, I am continually reminded, as I believe you will be in the following pages, of the passion, energy and spirit of collaboration that preside over intellectual life here.

### LEADING BY EXAMPLE

In pursuit of our strategic goals, Union is fortunate to have the guidance and dedication of strong leaders throughout our community, from our faculty and staff to our students and alumni. Despite their diverse backgrounds and interests, they all share the Union commitment to innovation and action. Our faculty community has long distinguished itself by its close working relationships with students, the fruits of which were evident again in our Steinmetz Symposium, our numerous faculty-led study abroad and study away opportunities, and our summer research accomplishments. The College's talented faculty members also received several grants and awards recognizing leadership in their respective fields. Union provided intellectual leadership to the larger academic community as well by hosting significant conferences and symposia on timely topics during the past year, such as bioethics and the integration of engineering and the liberal arts.

CONTINUED





Throughout 2007-2008, the Admissions and Financial Aid team worked hard to recruit a record number of applicants. We saw a higher-than-expected yield for the Class of 2012, demonstrating the growing stature and appeal of Union in the eyes of prospective students and giving us one of our strongest classes to date. The Finance Department and our skilled investment advisors ensured that our endowment grew by more than 3 percent in the last fiscal year, despite a troubled economy and dramatic market declines. Union was also pleased to welcome new leaders in Campus Diversity and Affirmative Action, Admissions and Financial Aid, College Relations, and Multicultural Affairs in 2007-08, all of whom are passionate about advancing our strategic objectives in these critical arenas in the months to come.

Our alumni provided strong leadership in furthering our fundraising goals and helping us build Union's future through a number of generous gifts to the You are Union campaign and to our annual fund. They were also instrumental in promoting the Union brand around the world. And last, but certainly not least, our students, in characteristic fashion, exemplified leadership on campus, in the local community and in the world at large through their curricular as well as extracurricular activities. In particular, you will read about their involvement in the critical ongoing efforts to "green" Union's campus, to support a culture of diversity and open-mindedness, to engage in global citizenship and to pursue ever more innovative paths of academic inquiry.

#### THE ROAD AHEAD

Thus far, we have made progress in nearly every priority area laid out in the Strategic Plan. For every initiative covered in this report, there are undoubtedly many others that have contributed to that progress. And while we have accomplished much, we aspire to do still more.

We have an enormous pool of talented, creative and dedicated members of our community who are interested in advancing key elements of our plan. However, our existing resources allow us to do only so much. The Planning and Priorities Committee, the Board of Trustees and I will be working diligently in the coming months to increase the resources at our disposal. We will continue to build the strength of our annual fund contributions. We will continue to grow our endowment. We will continue to pursue the \$250 million goal set forth in our expanded You are Union campaign. The fact that the Board voted unanimously this past May to expand this capital campaign from \$200 to \$250 million reflects its confidence that our alumni and friends will see the importance Union has to the formation of the young men and women who study here.



WE MUST ALL CONTINUE TO IMAGINE, CONTINUE TO REACH, CONTINUE TO PURSUE THE THINGS THAT WILL MAKE UNION A BEACON FOR THOSE SEEKING AN EDUCATION WELL-HONED TO THE NEEDS AND DEMANDS OF THE 21ST CENTURY.

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Our accomplishments and our aspirations combine to make Union College a truly special place, one where all students have the opportunity—and, I would assert, the responsibility—to impact the lives of those around them. It is an honor to help provide our students with the educational foundation they need to do so. And it is a tremendous reward to see them rise to the challenge.

As I told the campus community in my Opening Convocation address in September, we have the opportunity, just as much as our predecessors, to craft a remarkable environment in which all members thrive. But we must all continue to imagine, continue to reach, continue to pursue the things that will make Union a beacon for those seeking an education well-honed to the needs and demands of the 21st century. I hope you will be as inspired by the information in these pages as I am. I look forward to working with all of you to forge a stronger Union.

**Stephen C. Ainlay, Ph.D.**

PRESIDENT



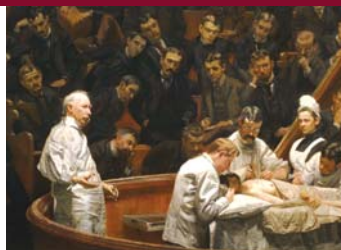
## Setting the Bar for Academic Excellence

In 2007-08, the Union community engaged in exciting, innovative work across and between academic disciplines, along with top-notch research opportunities and compelling study abroad and study away programs aimed at furthering our educational mission. Union also demonstrated its leadership role in the larger academic community by hosting important symposia and conferences on cutting-edge issues.

### Intellectual Leadership

Union helped advance the conversation about what it means to be liberally educated in the 21st century by hosting a successful two-day national symposium titled **Engineering and Liberal Education**, sponsored by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Discussing the need to give students a broad-based education for our increasingly technological world, academic leaders from more than a dozen top colleges and universities explored different models for integrating engineering, technology and the traditional liberal arts. Excerpts from President Stephen C. Ainlay's address to the participants were included in the Sept. 5, 2008 issue of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

Union also served as host of the **National Undergraduate Bioethics Conference**, marking the first time the American Society for Bioethics



"The Agnew Clinic," by Thomas Eakin, portrays the use of humans in medical research—one subject tackled at the bioethics conference.

and Humanities held the conference at a liberal arts school rather than a large university. The event, which focused on "The Human Use of Human Beings in Medicine and Science," sparked a lively dialogue among some 150 scholars and students who reconsidered conventional boundaries of bioethics while debating moral and ethical questions.

For the 18th straight year, the **2008 Steinmetz Symposium** celebrated the research, scholarly and creative achievements of more than 300 students, underscoring the robust nature of Union's hands-on learning. In addition to the high-energy

dance and music featured at the Nott Memorial, highlights this year included the design of a solar rice-drying system to aid farmers in Southeast Asia and talks on everything from "Medieval Islamic Mathematics and Tile Art Geometry" to "Moroccan Jewry: A Historical Look at Maghrebian Immigration, Isolation and Identity."

### Department and Program Developments

Union received a major grant from the National Science Foundation to help rejuvenate undergraduate computing education in the United States. The NSF's Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE) awarded Union and Lafayette colleges \$1.15 million for a joint five-year **"Campus Wide Computation Initiative — A New Model for Computing Education."** Computer Science Chair Valerie Barr is leading the project with Lafayette's Chun Wai Liew.



Martina Mironovova '09 performs summer research for the Mechanical Engineering Department.



President Carol Christ of Smith College speaks at the Engineering Symposium.

**“WE ARE IN A POSITION TO HELP RESHAPE HIGHER EDUCATION TO PRODUCE GRADUATES WITH THE SKILLS TO THINK BROADLY AND HOLISTICALLY.”**

## ENGINEERING SYMPOSIUM

“There is real urgency to educate students who are great scientists and engineers and who can see the big picture,” said Dean of Engineering Cherrice A. Traver, speaking at the national symposium on Engineering and Liberal Education, which Union hosted. “We understand that narrowly educated graduates are not prepared to address either the threats or the opportunities presented by the technological world.” Noting Union’s pioneering status as the first liberal arts college to offer engineering, Traver said the conference participants were “in a position to help reshape higher education to produce graduates with the skills to think broadly and holistically about the challenges of our diverse, global and technologically complex society.”

Union also received a \$40,000 grant aimed at building a **social robotics curriculum** in cooperation with researchers from the University at Albany, RPI, Schenectady County Community College and the Schenectady Museum & Suits-Bueche Planetarium. The curriculum will incorporate elements of design, psychology, cognitive science, communication and philosophy in addition to teaching key computer science and engineering principles.

Union continued to enhance its curricular offerings with innovative minors in the past year. The new **Film Studies** minor, aimed at developing awareness of film as a widespread medium of cultural communication, continued to gather momentum. A number of influential filmmakers came to our campus, including award-winning producer and director Jim de Sève, a visiting filmmaker for the 2008 spring and fall terms whose documentary filmmaking class has drawn considerable interest from students.

Other new minors added to the curriculum include **Energy Studies**, **Digital Media**, **Environmental Engineering**, **World Musics and Cultures**, and **Organizing Theme** (in which students create their own minor). All reflect the College’s emphasis on fields of study that contribute to our students’ understanding of the global, diverse and technological world we inhabit.

The **Modern Languages and Literatures** Department expanded its offerings to include a course in Arabic and advanced classes in Chinese, both aimed at broadening students’ cultural awareness and ability to communicate with their peers in other lands.

Current students will take advantage of a variety of **study abroad and study away opportunities** opened up to them in the past year. Several will pursue independent study abroad trips designed to complement their fields of interest, and for the first time two students will travel to Africa to do research and work in a hospice.

The research-based spring term in Palermo, Italy, for science and engineering students was reinstated, as was the opportunity to study at the International Virtual Design Studio in Turkey. The studio partners engineering students from Union with students at the Middle East Technical University in Ankara to boost appreciation of engineering as a global enterprise.

The College received a five-year, \$800,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation of New York City to support four **faculty “bridge” appointments** in anthropology, English and philosophy. The appointments strengthen academic course offerings in these disciplines and in interdisciplinary programs while providing stability by training new faculty members before others have retired. Union also received an additional \$100,000 from the William Randolph Hearst Foundation augmenting our Hearst Endowed Scholarship Fund.





(ABOVE) Professor Rebecca Koopmann and Nathan Calabro '08 at the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico

(LEFT) Schaffer Library at night

## Setting the Bar for Academic Excellence

The **Schaffer Library** continued to expand its resources, adding 250,000 volumes to its collection through two important online databases: *Early English Books Online* (EEBO) and *Eighteenth-Century Collections Online* (ECCO). The databases provide users access to virtually any English text printed since 1473, from books to musical scores. These databases make available resources that no single library in the world contains, many of which are found in only a handful of institutions. Schaffer Library also hosted two exhibits of **Union Notables**, a celebration of outstanding Union men and women, and featured a new postcard collection that brings together hundreds of views of the campus from the early 20th century through the present. The first group of online postcards consists of more than 200 donated to the College by **Robert N. Michaelson '72** from his private collection.

### Research News

**Rebecca Koopmann '89**, associate professor of physics and astronomy, received a five-year National Science Foundation grant of \$172,495 to lead a consortium of 14 institutions across the country in a large radio astronomy project using the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico, home to the world's largest telescope.

**Donald Rodbell**, professor of geology, received the latest in a series of research grants from the National Science Foundation for a project with colleague Mark Abbott of the University of Pittsburgh. Their research will compare archeological records of cultural change with scientific evidence of climate change in the Central Andes. A number of Union students will join Rodbell and his colleagues for field work in the Andes Mountains and research in the lab.

### Faculty Accomplishments

Associate Professor **Frank E. Wicks** was elected a Fellow in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), the highest elected grade of the Society. Selection is based on significant engineering achievements and contributions to the mechanical engineering profession.

**Thomas Jewell**, the Carl B. Jansen Professor of Engineering, was elevated to the rank of Fellow by the American Society of Civil Engineers, which recognizes significant achievement and contributions to the profession.

**Harold Fried**, the David L. and Beverly B. Yunich Professor of Business Ethics, won the Stillman Prize for excellence in teaching.



Three faculty members were named to endowed professorships in recognition of their years of excellent teaching, scholarship and service: **Leo Fleishman**, professor and chair of biology, was appointed the William D. Williams Professor of Biology; **Janet Anderson**, professor of chemistry, the Florence B. Sherwood Professor of Physical Sciences; and **Dan Burns**, professor of psychology, the Gilbert R. Livingston Professor of Psychology.

President **Stephen C. Ainlay** was one of 30 experts from academia and the business community named to the state Commission on Higher Education. The group issued a series of sweeping recommendations designed to transform New York into one of the "idea capitals" of the 21st century.

## Publications

A book by **Jennifer Matsue**, professor of music, anthropology and East Asian studies, has been published by Routledge. "Making Music in Japan's Underground: The Tokyo Hardcore Scene" considers how individuals make music in the underground Tokyo scene and discusses the complicated position of young adult Japanese in society.

An article by Associate Professor of Economics **Tomas Dvorak**, titled "Cross-Border Returns Differentials," will be published in the November issue of the *Quarterly Journal of Economics*. Co-authors are Stephanie Curcuro of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve and Frank Warnock of the Darden School of the University of Virginia.

**Janet Anderson**, the Florence B. Sherwood Professor of Physical Sciences, and Griselda Hernández and David LeMaster of the Wadsworth Center, New York State Department of Health, published an article in *Biochemistry* titled "A Billion-Fold Range in Acidity for the Solvent-Exposed Amides of *Pyrococcus Furiosus* Rubredoxin."

**Ann Anderson**, the Agnes S. Macdonald Professor of Mechanical Engineering, and **Mary Carroll '86**, associate professor of chemistry, co-authored several articles in the past year, including "Analysis of a Rapid Supercritical Extraction Aerogel Fabrication Process: Prediction of Thermodynamic Conditions During Processing," which appeared in the *Journal of Non-Crystalline Solids*.

## Student News & Achievements

Three Union women were awarded Fulbright teaching assistantships.



**Michelle E. Koo '08** (TOP) traveled to Madrid to assist in a secondary school classroom and build a model U.N. project; **Victoria Leonard '07** (MIDDLE) was awarded an assistantship at a secondary school near Paris; and **Lauren Youngman '08** (BOTTOM) earned



an English teaching assistantship in France that is sponsored by the French government and administered by the Fulbright Program.

**Andrew Krauss '08** was one of 50 American college seniors awarded a one-year, \$25,000 Thomas J. Watson Fellowship. A double major in philosophy and mechanical engineering and member of the Union crew team, Krauss traveled to Tonga, the Cook Islands and French Polynesia to research the development of outrigger canoes and paddles.

Union Scholar and mechanical engineering major **Michael Bono Jr. '09** received an award from the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation, which recognizes promising young scientists, engineers and mathematicians. Bono was a member of the College's Aerogel Research Team.

**Bridget Austin '07**, a mechanical engineering major from Skaneateles, N.Y., garnered a first place undergraduate research award at the International Mechanical Engineering Conference & Exposition (IMECE) of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. Austin received her award for her senior project, "The Alula and its Aerodynamic Effect on Avian Flight."

**The Union College Model United Nations Team** was lauded for its participation at the National Model United Nations conference in New York, widely recognized as the most prestigious collegiate political simulation. This marked the first time a team from Union participated in the event. **Ross Wheeler '08** served as a student leader for the team.



## Cultivating Their Passions

Four years after its inception, the Minerva House system has come into its own, as students from diverse backgrounds share their interests in new ways. New leadership has brought important innovations to the historic Greek system. And enhancements to safety and wellness programs over the past year contributed to the quality of campus life.

### Minerva House Activities

The Minerva House system hit its stride this past year, with the majority of students reporting positive attitudes toward the Minervas for the first time. In 2006-07, about equal numbers of students reported negative, neutral and positive attitudes, but in 2007-2008, 60 percent of all students reported positive attitudes toward the system, and 66 percent of entering first-year students indicated that the Minervas had helped attract them to Union.

Under the leadership of Associate Dean of Students and Director of Minerva Programs **Thomas McEvoy**, the office launched a first-year lunch program; worked with UNITAS to organize the Winter Ball, which raised nearly \$6,000 for hospice care in sub-Saharan Africa; and created the Alford Prize to recognize the house that best embodies the Minerva spirit.



Bianca Germani '10 of Sorum House participates in the Minerva Pumpkin Carving Championship during Homecoming

(Wold House received the honor for 2007-08.) The Minervas also benefited from the involvement of Psychology Professor **Suzanne Benack**, who was named faculty associate of the Office of Minerva Programs and was instrumental in implementing the successful reading program for first-year students and collaborating on the Elections 2008 course.

Throughout the year, the Minervas' **Jack and Lisa Langer Dinner, Dessert and Discussion Series** featured a variety of noteworthy speakers, including environmental expert Robert Caughlan; Russian culture and culinary specialist Dara Goldstein; editor Regan



Breazzano House

Hoffman of *Poz Magazine*, which chronicles the HIV epidemic; filmmaker John Cameron Mitchell; eco-model Summer Rayne Oakes; award-winning journalist Jeremy Scahill; and poet Jay Wright.

Minerva activities extended to the local and global communities as well. The first **Minerva Games**, the brainchild of **Selin Whitham '09**, hosted 75 Schenectady middle school students in an Olympic-style academic competition. Thomas McEvoy and Economics Professor **Harold Fried** launched the **Minerva Fellows Program**, which sent eight new Union graduates to do humanitarian work in Cambodia, Uganda, India, South Africa and Malawi. They will return to campus



"Halong Bay, Vietnam," a photo by Meggie Moriarty '10



The exhibit "Aristophanes: The Birds" featured headdresses representing different world cultures.

## UNION SUPPORTS AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH PEOPLE FROM ALL BACKGROUNDS CAN SUCCEED AND THRIVE.

## EXHIBITIONS HIGHLIGHT DIVERSITY AND INTERNATIONAL TRAVELS

The year saw an impressive array of exhibitions at the Nott Memorial, including "ReView: Five Union Alumni;" "Aristophanes: The Birds;" "Selections from the 7th National Sunnyview Exhibition for Artists with Disabilities;" "The Hapa Project: Portraits by Kip Fulbeck;" recent work by Prof. Fernando Orellana; and a number of student shows. In addition, Grant Hall's Global Visions Gallery featured "New Eyes: Images of Daily Life in Vietnam," showcasing 20 photographs by students from Union and Hobart and William Smith colleges, taken during the fall 2007 color digital photography class in Vietnam.

in spring 2009 to teach a course on social entrepreneurship and share their experiences.

Other 2007-08 Minerva highlights ranged from theater outings at Proctors, to kayak and rafting trips in the Adirondacks, to dinner with international human relations scholar Naomi Tutu.

### Diversity & the Campus Community

Literary icon and civil rights activist Maya Angelou kicked off the **Presidential Forum on Diversity** speaker series with a standing-room-only talk that enthralled members of the campus and local communities. Also stimulating conversation about issues related to race, ethnicity and tolerance were Calvin Levels, with his one-man play about writer James Baldwin, and Melissa Harris-Lacewell of Princeton, who spoke on race and the 2008 elections.

The **LGBT Ally program** joined with other campus groups to sponsor "LGBT: A Union Perspective," featuring student and faculty art at the Wikoff Student Gallery. The juried exhibition explored issues surrounding the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

Three new student-initiated theme house proposals also were approved in 2007-08. Union looks forward to adding to its diverse array of theme houses **Dickens House**, centered around literature but involving students from all majors; **Iris House**, designed to raise awareness and support and provide an inviting space for members and allies of the LGBT community; and the **Global Experience House**, which intends to introduce the college and local community to the different cultures and wonders of countries around the globe.



"Under the Radar," a digital photo by Rachel Start '08, was included in the LGBT exhibit.



Karen Ferrer-Muniz was named director of Multicultural Affairs for the new Office of Multicultural Affairs. She is overseeing diversity leadership activities for a range of student and campus groups to help promote understanding about diversity on campus.





(ABOVE): Timothy Dunn, director of the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life.

(LEFT): Amelia Patten Whitney '09, a sociology major, was one of the recipients of the 2008 Edward Vilella Fellowships.

## Cultivating Their Passions

### Greek Life

The College welcomed **Timothy Dunn** as director of the new Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life. Dunn expanded the Greek Judicial Board to include the sororities and multicultural Greeks. He also held risk management training sessions and established two student committees to develop individual and chapter recognition programs. At the first **Greek awards ceremony** in June, Sigma Phi was named Fraternity of the Year and Gamma Phi Beta Sorority of the Year. The President's Recognition Cup went to **Dmitriy Geler '08**, Alpha Epsilon Pi, and **Ashley Banta '08**, Gamma Phi Beta. Lambda Pi Chi was cited for Philanthropy of the Year.

Fraternities and sororities pitched in for a range of worthy causes over the year, from a children's hospital in Israel to the Habitat for Humanity house on Barrett Street in Schenectady.

The brothers of Sigma Phi also constructed an exhibit on Greek life at the Nott Memorial.

### Arts & Culture on Campus

The College hosted 15 world-class concerts at Memorial Chapel through the Chamber Music Series, including the Emerson String Quartet, Musicians from Marlboro, and pianists Emanuel Ax and Richard Goode. Student Activities sponsored concerts by Eve 6, Talib Kweli and the Wailers.

The Theater and Dance Department presented a 1960s-inspired "As You Like It" at the Yulman Theater; "Whirled in Flux," the Winter Dance Concert; and "Dracula" by Steven Dietz, directed by Professor **William Finlay**. The department awarded the Edward Vilella Fellowship to three students: **Kira Moldow '09**,

who used her award to study in Manhattan and Rennes, France; **Nozomi Sakata '09**, who returned to her native Japan to immerse herself in Nihon Buyo at the Kyoto Art Center; and **Amelia Patten Whitney '09**, who studied at the Mark Morris Dance School in Brooklyn.

The inaugural Hedda Hainebach Memorial Prize in Music and Theater went to **Rich Leahy '08**. The award is named for the longtime coordinator of the College's language lab and supporter of the Chamber Music Series.

The 2007-08 Alumni Writers Series featured director and screenwriter **Phil Alden Robinson '71**; poet and fiction writer **Juliana Spallholz '98**; *New York Times* correspondent **Neil A. Lewis '68**; and cartoonist and *New Yorker* nightlife editor **John Donohue '90**.

## Athletic Highlights

The highly successful 2007-08 athletic year featured five teams in NCAA team or individual post-season events, five teams in ECAC tournaments (including a championship), six All-Americans, six Liberty League Players of the Year and five league Coaching Staffs of the Year.

Proving that academics and athletic success can go hand-in-hand, Union produced 164 all-league academic performers, three Academic All-District selections, a Watson Fellow, a New York State Women's Collegiate Scholar Athlete, and the first female two-time All-American in Union's track and field history.

In major team news, the men's ice hockey team posted the best ECAC finish in Union Division I history. The men's lacrosse team posted a school record of 12 victories. The volleyball team set a school record with 28 match victories and secured the program's first



Matt Cook '09 focuses on the shot in Union's match against Clarkson University.



Annora Brennan '11 helped lead the women's swim team to a third consecutive league championship.

Liberty League title. The women's swimming and diving team won its third consecutive Liberty League Championship and a second straight state championship. The field hockey team posted the most victories in a single season in 19 years, and the women's lacrosse team reached the NCAA Elite Eight.

**Bill Scanlon**, a senior associate director of athletics and the most winning coach in Union's men's basketball history, received the Athletics Appreciation Award from Athletic Director **Jim McLaughlin**. He retired after 38 years of service to the College.

Six distinguished individuals and two teams joined the Union College Athletics Hall of Fame in 2008: **Theodore Bick '58**, **Dick Cole '58**, **Gill Egan '85**, **Holly Howard '83**, **Kevin Makarowski '97** and **Brett Russ '92**; and the **1929 men's lacrosse** and **1983 football teams**.

Off the field, Union student-athletes also demonstrated a commitment to service through their work with such programs as Big Brothers Big Sisters, Adopt-a-Family and Habitat for Humanity.

## Student Resource Enhancements

The College implemented **new safety initiatives** aimed at ensuring fast and reliable communication during a campus emergency. Upgrades include a new text messaging alert system, an emergency siren, a modified Web site, and a new public address system and surveillance cameras. In November, the campus conducted a college-wide emergency exercise involving a hypothetical fire under the supervision of the state Office of Emergency Management.



Robert Soules, director of the Becker Career Center

## New Becker Center Director

Under the leadership of new director **Robert Soules**, the Becker Career Center was active in developing programs for faculty to advise students on career options, promoting internships with local organizations and fostering a network between student organizations and economic development organizations.

**Marcus Hotaling** was named director of the Counseling Center. He began a progressive campaign to reduce mental health stigmas through outreach, publications and other initiatives. Health education counselor **Amanda Tommell** launched a program focusing on harm reduction, substance abuse counseling and prevention of sexual assault. Dean of First Year Students **Kate Schurick** initiated and chairs the Campus Coalition. The Coalition includes students, faculty, administrators and staff from across campus departments and is instrumental in coordinating educational programs designed to reduce high risk behavior associated with alcohol consumption.





## Local involvement, global impact

The themes of civic engagement and global citizenship remained prominent on and off campus as Union students brought their characteristic energy and enthusiasm to a variety of volunteer and service efforts. In 2007-08, 762 Union students participated in community service projects, representing more than 7,700 hours of service. Their efforts made a lasting impact on their own lives and the lives of those around them as they helped bring Union to the world.

### Going for Green

Sustainability and environmental initiatives continued to be a priority for the College, capturing the enthusiasm of the Union community and resulting in a variety of efforts to help keep our campus, and our planet, clean and safe. To educate the campus community about ways to live, work and enjoy Union in the most environmentally friendly way possible, the College created **U Sustain**, a committee of more than 40 faculty, staff, students and administrators. The committee provides regular updates to the President's Office on the progress of sustainability initiatives in academics, energy, food, recycling, financial resources and transportation.



The Eco House at 712 Roger Hull Place

In 2007, Facilities Services worked to renovate one of the apartments at the corner of Seward Avenue and Roger Hull Place as an eco-friendly house. The **Eco House** now sports sustainable bamboo flooring, faucets with built-in generators and low flow output, light emitting diode (LED) lighting, "green" furniture and a solar panel array to help generate electricity for the house. A small computer lab in the building tracks the energy usage and other functions of the residence and is a living laboratory for students to monitor the house.



Andrew Heiser '09 (left) works with Facilities to pave a walkway behind Memorial Fieldhouse with eco-friendly concrete.

Dining Services sought new ways to reduce waste as well, beginning a program to recycle its waste oil for conversion into biofuels used in biodiesel vehicles. As a result, hundreds of gallons of waste oil are diverted from landfills to clean, closed-loop fuels. In addition, a new composting system, **Earth Tub**, composts food waste generated at West College Dining Hall and uses it as organic fertilizer for Union's grounds, decreasing the use of energy-intensive chemicals.





Constance Schmitz, campus horticulturalist, gardens with Sara Horowitz '10.



Students serve healthy homegrown lunches at the Ozone Café.

**ABOUT HALF THE PRODUCE FROM OCTOPUS'S GARDEN IS USED RIGHT ON CAMPUS, IN PLACES LIKE THE OZONE CAFÉ AND O<sub>3</sub> MARKETPLACE.**

## GARDEN OF BOUNTY

Students, staff, faculty and Union friends created the organic **Octopus's Garden** between McKean and Wells houses, with the official groundbreaking taking place in April in celebration of Earth Day. The garden features a variety of vegetables, from asparagus to zucchini, which can be harvested in fall and stored for long periods of time, while flowers and herbs aid in pest management. About half of the produce will be donated to the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York, with the rest to be used at various campus eateries including the Ozone Café and O<sub>3</sub> Marketplace.

Underscoring a presidential commitment to sustainability, President Ainlay signed a pact with hundreds of other leaders in higher education to formally work on reducing, and eventually eliminating, campus global warming emissions. As a charter signatory of the **American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment**, Union promises to provide critical research and education that will help eliminate global warming and to develop a comprehensive long-term plan to cut emissions. In addition, the president's **Green Grant Program** will provide eight grants of up to \$2,000 each year for the next three years toward grassroots sustainability projects.

Since signing the Climate Commitment, Union now purchases 15 percent of its energy from renewable wind energy sources. It also continues to pursue ways to differentiate itself in its sustainability efforts,

such as developing a revolutionary form of rubberized concrete. The **eco-friendly concrete** grew out of the collaborative research of Mechanical Engineering Professor **Ashraf Ghaly** and **Andrew Heiser '09**. The pervious concrete includes recycled tire rubber as one of its main ingredients and was used to pave a walkway near Memorial Fieldhouse.

Our strides in the green arena have not gone unnoticed. Union received high marks in the 2008 *College Sustainability Report Card* for energy consumption and for food and recycling efforts. The report card is the only independent evaluation of sustainability activities at colleges and universities in the United States and Canada, and it is designed to identify institutions that are leading by example on sustainability issues. It cited Union's energy consumption as one of the lowest among its 17 peer colleges in the Northeast.



Steve Walker '08, co-creator of the Union-Schenectady Alliance

## Union-Schenectady Alliances

Last April saw the first major event organized by the **Union-Schenectady Alliance**, a group created by students **Steve Walker '08** and **Josh DeBartolo '08** to build a stronger connection between the College and the city. The day-long "Show Me Schenectady" drew more than 400 students to downtown Schenectady to sample local restaurants, shops and cultural attractions. The event was so successful that it was repeated in September 2008 as "Welcome Back Students Day" with the Downtown Schenectady Improvement Corp.,



President Ainlay shows visiting Yates School sixth graders a compartment on a desk used by Chester A. Arthur, Class of 1848.

## Local involvement, global impact

Chamber of Schenectady County and Proctors Theatre serving as key sponsors. The Union-Schenectady Alliance has been instrumental in placing Union students as non-voting members on numerous committees and boards in the Schenectady community in order to engage local leaders in working together.

The Alliance grew out of a project done for Business Ethics Professor **Harold Fried** in which Walker and DeBartolo were asked to create a vision of a Schenectady that would be a permanent destination for young people.

In May, following hundreds of hours of volunteer time, the College was thrilled to dedicate a newly renovated home to a wonderful Schenectady couple and their five children. Union had donated the house several months earlier to the local chapter of **Habitat for**

**Humanity** and pledged to assist with its renovation. The overwhelming response from sports teams, fraternities, sororities, staff, and various departments was inspiring as the campus pulled together for a shared purpose. Students, working side-by-side with the family, gave their time both during the academic year and during school breaks to complete the project.

Union students in the **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)** program continued to help local community clients by preparing 247 tax returns during the 2008 tax season. Some new clients had not filed returns in years, so volunteers also prepared back tax returns for them, enabling them to get refunds as far back as 2004. Since its launch in 2005, the VITA program has secured more than \$1 million



Psi Upsilon brothers Chip Miller '09 and Gabe Kramer '09 work on the Habitat House.

dollars in cumulative tax refunds and rebates for local residents.

Younger students got their own taste of Union life in June, when a group of 32 soon-to-graduate sixth graders from **Yates Magnet Elementary School** in Schenectady visited campus as part of a project called "Colleges We Could Attend," coordinated by two Yates teachers. The students had a chance to meet President Stephen C. Ainlay in his office, where he showed them portraits and described the lives of notable Union alumni.

The students were invited to campus by President Ainlay in return for the school's invitation to have him speak at last year's sixth grade graduation.

During National Chemistry Week in October, three Union students joined Priscilla Scaife, widow of popular Chemistry Professor Charles Scaife, in her efforts to introduce the magic of science to children at Lincoln Elementary School. **Olga Davydenko '08**, **Laura Castellano '09** and **Bowman Potter '11** provided hands-on lessons in three classrooms at Lincoln Elementary and captivated the children with their demonstrations of scientific principles.

## Reaching Beyond the Gates

Student activism and volunteer efforts extended beyond the local community as well, supporting diverse causes in the United States and abroad. Students continued to help with hurricane recovery efforts by rebuilding damaged homes in Los Angeles from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, sheetrocking, painting and doing construction and finishing work. Several of the volunteers made subsequent presentations to campus and local community groups about the rebuilding experience and its impact on them and on the families they helped. The **Union Olympics**, organized by **Anthony Perez '11**, raised money for the Invisible Children Fund. The fund helps remove child soldiers from the war in Uganda while building schools and creating scholarships for them.

Campus Action continued to increase awareness of the war in Iraq by once again lining campus walkways with stakes bearing the name and age of American soldiers who died in Iraq. In April 2008, students and faculty also began reaching out to the campus community for support in bringing an Iraqi student to Union College as a member of this fall's entering class. Their efforts were part of the **Iraqi Student Project** at Villanova University, which worked to bring roughly 40 talented Iraqi students to American campuses. The sponsoring institutions provide tuition, room and board for the students, while volunteers seek donations for air fares, books, course materials, medical insurance and other expenses. This fall, the College is proud to count **Taif Jany Alnashi '12** as a new member of the Union community.



Laura Castellano '09 captivates young scientists at Lincoln Elementary School.



Stakes of the 2007 Iraq war memorial line walkways.



Kara Lightman with So Dany and Prom Savada of Tramung Chrum

## Peace Scholar Helps Cambodian Women

**Kara Lightman '09** took her first trip to Cambodia in 2005 with her family, who started a foundation to help the villagers of Tramung Chrum. "The first time I went, I didn't quite grasp it," Lightman said. "The second time, I had an overwhelming sense I needed to do something."

In July, Lightman embarked on a solo mission to the Southeast Asian village to help Cambodian girls escape lives of poverty, ignorance and domestic violence. She is one of 100 students from more than 85 American colleges who received \$10,000 to help promote world peace as part of the **Kathryn Wasserman Davis Projects for Peace** initiative. Lightman is an interdepartmental major in anthropology and political science and the daughter of Alan Lightman, founder of the Harpswell Foundation. The foundation built the first women's dormitory in Cambodia, providing room, board and leadership training to 30 young women.

"I want to use education as a tool to give women a voice," Lightman said. She returns to Union this winter with a photojournalistic account of her work.





## Recruiting the Best and Brightest

Mirroring the national landscape for college admissions, Union had its largest ever applicant pool for the Class of 2012, making this the most selective year in more than two decades. The 580 students in the Class of 2012 bring an impressive range of academic achievement and extracurricular interests. The diverse nature of the class members—20 percent are students of color and international students—reflects a positive campus trend. And looking at the larger picture, Union students now represent 35 states and 26 countries.

### Class of 2012 highlights

■ NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED: 5,271  
(434, OR 9%, MORE THAN LAST YEAR)

■ ACCEPTANCE RATE: 39%

■ EARLY DECISION APPLICANTS: 41%

### Class profile

■ CLASS SIZE: 580

■ STUDENTS OF COLOR: 16% OF THE CLASS

■ ENGINEERING STUDENTS: 14% OF THE CLASS

■ GENDER: 50% FEMALE; 50% MALE

■ GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION: STUDENTS COME FROM 27 STATES (41% FROM NEW YORK). THERE ARE 22 NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS FROM 12 COUNTRIES, RANGING FROM BULGARIA AND CAMBODIA TO NEPAL AND SWAZILAND.

### Financial aid picture

In 2007-08, Union administered approximately \$40 million in need-based assistance to 1,369 students, including more than \$28 million in scholarships. Sixty-two percent of all Union students received financial assistance from the College.

The average Union scholarship was \$20,800, and the average financial aid package was \$25,400 (includes all scholarships, need-based loans and work-study).

### Recruitment highlights

Grant Hall staff hosted numerous open houses and other events throughout the year while also traveling around the country and overseas to meet and attract prospective students. Students came to campus in great numbers for tours and interviews, with nearly 4,000 student visitors counted—230 more than last year.



Matthew Malatesta, new VP of Admissions, Financial Aid and Enrollment



Grant Hall, home of the Office of Admissions

## ADMISSIONS STAFF HOSTED NUMEROUS OPEN HOUSES AND TRAVELED THE COUNTRY MEETING PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS.

## NEW LEADERSHIP AT GRANT HALL

Matthew Malatesta '91 was named vice president of Admissions, Financial Aid and Enrollment, returning to his alma mater after many years at Hamilton College. Malatesta earned a bachelor's degree in managerial economics and a master of arts in teaching, both from Union. Ann Fleming Brown, who had served as interim vice president, was named director of Admissions, and Linda Parker, formerly of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, joined the Union staff as director of Financial Aid.

In October and November 2007, two **fall open houses** drew 818 prospective Class of 2012 students and their families. In May, the annual **Junior Jump Start**, an outreach to members of the Class of 2013, featured meetings with faculty, staff and current students, plus a tour of campus and an up-close look at the College's offerings. In all, Union welcomed 437 visitors, 173 of them prospective students—the largest turnout for the program in 10 years.

The College also welcomed the third class of **Posse Scholars**, 10 students recruited from the Posse Foundation's student leadership program in Boston to form multicultural teams for enrollment at top colleges.

Under the direction of **Sarah Maneely Henderson**, international admissions coordinator, Union reached out to greater numbers of international

students. The Admissions staff traveled to United World College high schools to interview students. Enrolled students from these schools are supported in part by scholarships from the Davis Foundation.

Other highlights related to the recruitment of this year's freshman class include a multicultural weekend, led by **Teran Tedal '04**. The weekend included fly-ins for students, a full day of interviews on Martin Luther King Jr. Day in New York City and a spring yield program. **Palmer Fagnoli '93**, associate dean of admissions, offered alumni training programs in Boston and northern New Jersey to focus on interviewing. He was joined by **Thomas McEvoy**, associate dean of students and director of the Minerva Program. Fagnoli also worked with staff from Alumni Relations to encourage graduates to donate air miles for use by visiting students.

The Office of Admissions produced and distributed several new publications this year in addition to updating all Viewbook materials. A full-color 32-page **Self-Guided Tourbook** features a step-by-step welcome to campus and a list of popular spots in Schenectady.

For the second straight year, Union mailed all prospective and current students a community values brochure that underscores the College's most cherished beliefs. "We are Union," which also appears on the Web, features 15 faculty and students who represent Union at its best. A set of four new Admissions postcards detailing the trimester system, Minerva House system, academic majors and city life was also developed to positive response.



## Staying the Course

Union retained a strong financial position in the 2007-08 fiscal year despite a weak economy and sharp downturns in the capital markets. We maintained solid financial ratios, and, under the leadership of our talented endowment managers and investment advisors and thanks to our fundraising efforts, grew the total market value of our endowment by 5.5 percent over the prior year. Continued financial strength will be critical as we pursue our strategic objectives in the months ahead.

### Our resources at work

■ OPERATING BUDGET: \$130 MILLION

■ NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES: 840

■ TOTAL PAYROLL PAID FOR YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2008:  
\$43.3 MILLION

■ TOTAL ANNUAL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SCHENECTADY COUNTY:  
\$303 MILLION

■ ANNUAL EMPLOYMENT IMPACT ON SCHENECTADY COUNTY: 2,528

■ ADMISSIONS VISITORS ANNUALLY: 4,700+

■ ATHLETICS SPECTATORS: 50,000+

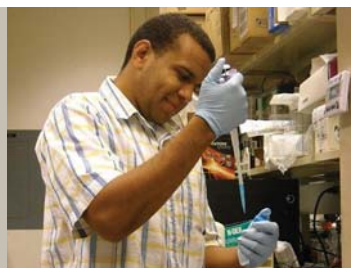
■ ATTENDANCE AT ALUMNI WEEKEND, COMMENCEMENT  
& OTHER EVENTS: 12,000+

### The Vital Role of Our Endowment

Like all colleges and universities, Union relies heavily on its endowment to support our students and ensure our future. Tuition, room and board currently cover only about 70 percent of the actual cost of attending Union, and it is the income generated by our endowment and the annual fund that helps bridge the gap so that no family pays the “full freight” of a Union education.

Thanks to our Finance Department, the Investment Committee of our Board of Trustees and the wise counsel of our investment managers, Union’s endowment outperformed the composite index (a weighted average proxy portfolio based on our asset allocation) by 10 percent in the last fiscal year, despite the weak economy and market declines. Such success makes possible many of the strategic initiatives we are undertaking today.





Kevin McKenzie '09 performs research for the Biology Department.

## UNION WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK OUT OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE RESOURCES WITH CORPORATE, INSTITUTIONAL, COMMUNITY AND NON-PROFIT ENTITIES FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT.

## THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

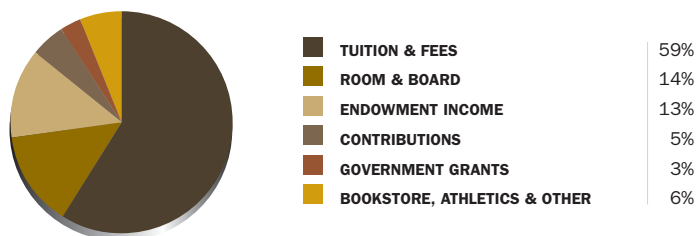
In today's globally and technologically interconnected world, Union continues to leverage opportunities to collaborate and partner with other educational institutions, as well as with local and regional community and corporate organizations, for mutual benefit. Research partnerships with organizations such as Albany Nanotech and the Albany Medical Center give Union students access to expertise, equipment and funding for cutting-edge research. Our library partnerships with entities like the Oberlin Group and the Westchester Academic Library Directors Organization (WALDO) give us considerable cost savings on our electronic resources and databases. As we look to the future, Union will continue to seek out additional opportunities to share resources with other entities to avoid redundancies and add value to the education we offer.

### Union by the Numbers

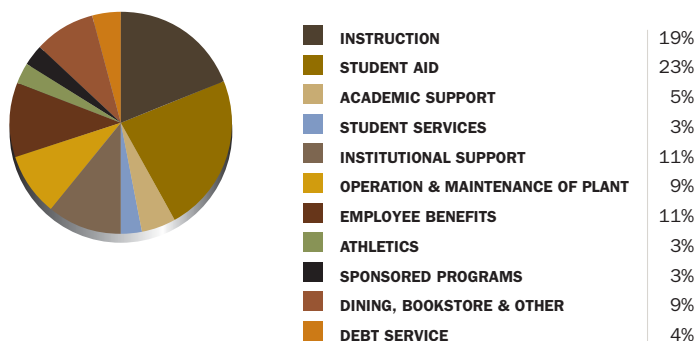
■ FULL-TIME ENROLLMENT	2,128
■ TUITION, ROOM AND BOARD	\$48,552
■ STUDENT/FACULTY RATIO	10.4:1
■ STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD	61%
■ LIBRARY VOLUMES	623,000
■ FACULTY WITH PH.D. OR HIGHER DEGREE	95%
■ CLASSES UNDER 20 PEOPLE	71%
■ FULL-TIME FACULTY	93%
■ FRESHMAN RETENTION RATE	90.5%
■ 6-YEAR GRADUATION RATE	89.5%

### How the Budget is Allocated

#### SOURCE OF FUNDS AS OF JUNE 30, 2008



#### USES OF FUNDS AS OF JUNE 30, 2008



For a full financial statement, please visit our Web site: [www.union.edu](http://www.union.edu)

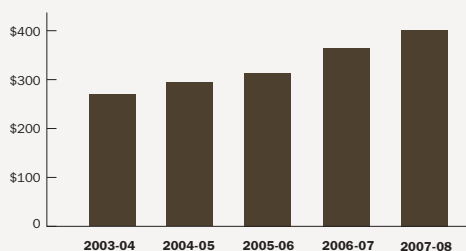
UNION COLLEGE  
2007+08 PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

## CONTINUED FINANCIAL STRENGTH WILL BE CRITICAL AS WE PURSUE OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES IN THE MONTHS AHEAD.

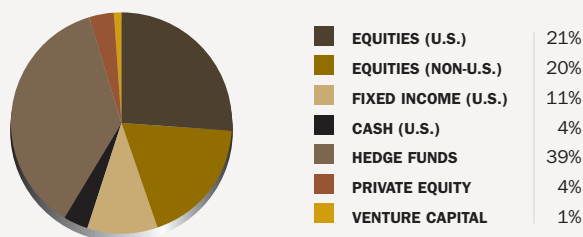
### Endowment

Union is proud to have grown its endowment to a total market value of \$400 million in 2007-08, with a total return of 3.5% despite a very difficult market. This performance places Union in the top 5th percentile of the 234 endowments tracked by the Wilshire Associates Endowment Universe.

TOTAL MARKET VALUE (IN MILLIONS)



ASSET ALLOCATION



### Fund Performance

#### PEER ANALYSIS—WILSHIRE ENDOWMENT UNIVERSE

For fiscal years ended 6/30/04-6/30/07, Union's returns are gross of fees. For fiscal year ended 6/30/08, Union's returns are net of fees.

	TRAILING 12 MONTHS				
	ENDING 6/30/2008	ENDING 6/30/2007	ENDING 6/30/2006	ENDING 6/30/2005	ENDING 6/30/2004
<b>Union</b>	<b>3.5%</b>	<b>18.95%</b>	<b>13.80%</b>	<b>11.20%</b>	<b>18.70%</b>
<b>Wilshire Universe</b>					
<b>5th Percentile</b>	3.4% <sup>+</sup>	21.0%	15.7%	11.9% <sup>+</sup>	31.0%
<b>25th Percentile</b>	-2.1%	18.8% <sup>+</sup>	12.8% <sup>+</sup>	10.3%	17.1% <sup>+</sup>
<b>50th Percentile</b>	-4.6%	17.3%	11.2%	8.4%	14.1%
<b>75th Percentile</b>	-6.5%	15.3%	8.3%	7.4%	10.2%
<b>95th Percentile</b>	-10.6%	6.4%	4.6%	5.8%	4.6%

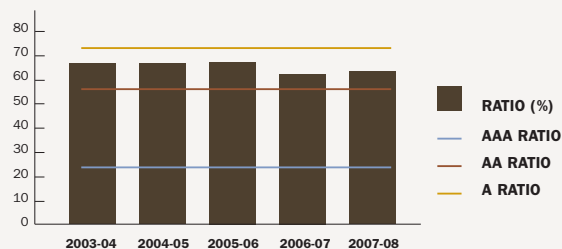
## Financial Ratios

Our financial ratios (measured by Moody's Investor Service) reflect a very strong financial position, as evidenced by our A1 credit rating.

### CONTRIBUTION RATIOS

#### TUITION/ROOM & BOARD (NET OF FINANCIAL AID)

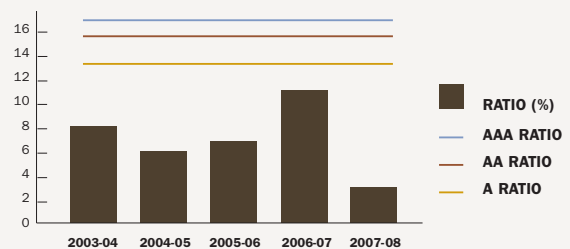
Measures the reliance on tuition, room and board revenue



### OPERATING RATIO

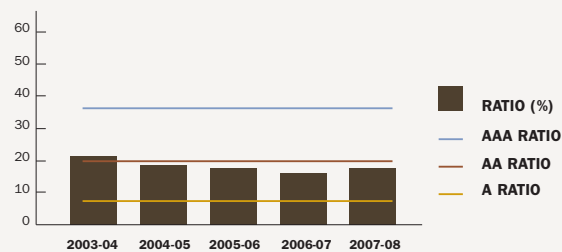
#### RETURN ON NET ASSETS

Indicates the direction and degree to which the institution has improved its total resource base



### INVESTMENT INCOME

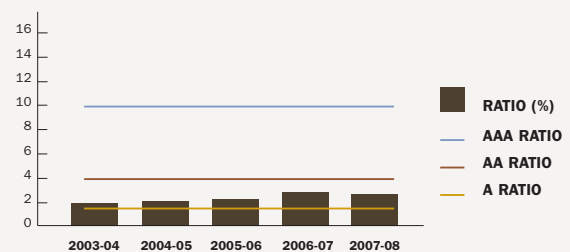
Measures the contribution of investment income to total operating revenue



### CAPITAL RATIOS

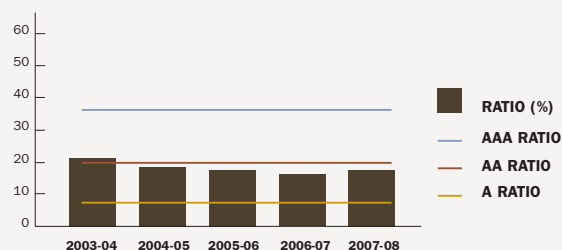
#### EXPENDABLE RESOURCES TO OPERATIONS

Measures the buffer provided to the annual operating budget by total expendable reserves



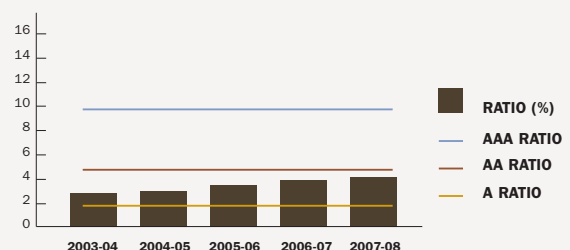
### GIFTS & PLEDGES

Measures the contribution of gifts and pledges to total operating revenue



### EXPENDABLE RESOURCES TO DEBT

Measures resources available from total expendable reserves as a percentage of debt outstanding



Due to the large contribution from investment income at AAA institutions, tuition, room and board, and gifts and pledges contribute a lower percentage to overall revenue than is the case at lower rated institutions.





## Building Relationships, Staying Connected

Union's dedicated family of alumni, parents and friends strengthened their relationships with the College and played a significant role in supporting its vision. Their enthusiastic participation in events such as Homecoming and ReUnion contributed to the sense of momentum on campus, while alumni clubs remained active ambassadors for Union in the United States and around the world. Generous support of the You are Union campaign and the Union Fund also enabled the College to complete several projects critical to its academic mission.

### You are Union Campaign Highlights

In May 2008, the Board of Trustees voted to expand the **You are Union campaign** to fuel the implementation of the goals laid out in the Strategic Plan. The campaign goal was expanded to \$250 million and the timeline extended to 2012, creating an exciting opportunity for the College to ensure its future and realize its distinctive educational mission.

The You are Union campaign has much to celebrate since its official launch in 2004. By June 2008, Union alumni and friends had helped raise more than \$145 million for the College. The challenge ahead lies in sustaining that momentum.

Going forward, the campaign will focus on four major funding priorities: supporting the student and faculty community, enhancing curriculum and programs, revitalizing Union's historic campus, and strengthening our foundation through continued annual giving.



John S. Wold '38

In March 2008, **John S. Wold '38** and his wife, **Jane**, dedicated more than \$13 million of their \$20 million gift toward building the new **Peter Irving Wold Science and Engineering Center**, named in honor of John's father, a Union physics professor from 1920-1945. The multidisciplinary teaching and research center will better integrate the science and engineering departments with other departments and create an academic "town square" to facilitate the exchange of ideas.



The Breazzano Fitness Center

The new 12,000-square-foot fitness center at Alumni Gymnasium was dedicated the **Breazzano Fitness Center** thanks to a \$2 million unrestricted gift from longtime benefactor **David J. Breazzano '78**.



A group of young Boston alumnae enjoy a Union event.



Professor Stephen Berk addressed alumni at events in Washington and Boston.

## FACULTY PARTICIPATION AT ALUMNI EVENTS

RECALLED THE LIVELY  
ACADEMIC ATMOSPHERE  
THAT CONTINUES TO  
THRIVE AT UNION.

## FACULTY INVOLVEMENT ENRICHES ALUMNI EVENTS

More than 70 alumni activities and events were held in the United States and around the world in 2007-08, involving 2,750 alumni and guests and several faculty members, whose participation reminded alumni that a lively atmosphere of academic inquiry continues to thrive in the halls of their alma mater. Political Science Professor **Byron Nichols** presented to a large group of alumni, family and friends at a fall alumni dinner in Schenectady; Engineering Dean **Cherrice Traver** met with an enthusiastic group of alumni at an event held in Naples, Fla.; and **Stephen Berk**, the Henry and Sally Schaffer Professor of Holocaust and Jewish Studies, spoke to avid alumni audiences in both Washington, D.C. and Boston.

### Alumni on Campus

**Homecoming and Family Weekend 2007** (Oct. 12-14) brought some 2,000 alumni, family and friends to campus to enjoy beautiful fall weather, several fascinating talks and gatherings, and exciting wins in football, volleyball and women's soccer. The weekend featured talks by three outstanding alumni: cardiothoracic expert **Dr. Kathy Magliato '85** spoke about her work as a female heart transplant surgeon; **Phil Alden Robinson '71**, director and screen-writer for *Field of Dreams*, spoke on his career and on the challenges of making movies; and Trustee **Stephen Ritterbush '68** gave a talk on entrepreneurship, drawing from his extensive experience building companies.

A record 1,750 alumni and guests came to Union to pay tribute to their alma mater during



(TOP LEFT) The ReUnion parade; (TOP RIGHT) Trustee Kathy Magliato '85 with alumni at Homecoming; (BOTTOM LEFT) a little dose of Union spirit; (BOTTOM RIGHT) members of the Class of 1998 with the Van Voast Cup for best ReUnion parade costumes.

**ReUnion 2008** (May 29-June 1). The festivities included events ranging from scholarly lectures to guided tours of downtown Schenectady to the popular ReUnion Parade. The College also honored longtime benefactors **John S. Wold '38** and **David J.**

**Breazzano '78** for their generosity and loyalty (*see sidebar on opposite page*). The celebration was captured for the first time in a special ReUnion video, which can be viewed online at [www.union.edu/Alumni/Events/Reunion/2008/Video](http://www.union.edu/Alumni/Events/Reunion/2008/Video).





Alumni focus intently on the Union-Susquehanna football game over Homecoming Weekend '07.



Sarah Bell '04

## Volunteers

**VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:**  
**SARAH BELL '04**

Union is grateful for the dedicated efforts of young alumni volunteers who help to mobilize their peers on behalf of the College — alumni like **Sarah Bell '04**. Bell, head agent of the Class of 2004, came on board last fall as the lead fundraising volunteer for her class. She quickly recruited six new class agents, effectively doubling their number. Many of these new volunteers cited their wish to help Sarah as a primary reason for joining her team. She and her team took their class to new heights in 2007-08 by increasing alumni participation from 22.7% to 27.5% and moving

the class dollar total from \$4,032 to nearly \$6,000. Bell's fundraising talents began when she was still at Union and served as an Affiliate, a student phone-a-thon caller. Having experienced firsthand the hard work that goes into being a caller, she personally bought pizzas for the Affiliates last year to express her appreciation for their efforts. Post-Union, Sarah went to work for Harvard Law School, where she serves as assistant director of the Harvard Law Fund.

Sarah and her corps of volunteers exemplify the leadership that we hope will continue to grow among all of our younger alumni. We have high hopes for the Class of 2004 as they work to raise their five-year ReUnion gift and achieve another record level of alumni participation.



Daniel Dimenstein '11 shows his parents around campus.

## Parents

Union appreciates and values everything our parents do, from volunteering to supporting campus events. In 2007-08, Union parents maintained a solid presence on campus, attending Homecoming and Family Weekend in record numbers. In May, parents watched with pride as their sons and daughters were recognized for academic, scholarly, creative and leadership achievements during the annual Steinmetz Symposium and Prize Day Weekend. Over the last year, 2,104 generous parents contributed more than \$692,000 to Union in support of vital initiatives ranging from scholarships to technology upgrades.



## Awards

The College paid tribute to many distinguished alumni and welcomed a number of new members to the extended Union community.

Over Homecoming weekend, Union honored **Stephen J. Ciesinski '70**, a member of the Board since 1993 and chairman from 2002 to 2007. Ciesinski received the 2007 Distinguished Service Award, presented to alumni who have made significant and diverse contributions to the College over their lifetime. **Harold Krupa '69** received the Special Appreciation Award recognizing service and loyalty to Union.

At Founders Day in February, President Ainlay presented the inaugural Bigelow Medal to **Paul LeClerc**, a former Union professor and now president of the New York Public Library. The new medal recognizes friends of the College who have contributed to the advancement of humanity. Bigelow, Class of 1835, was instrumental in the formation of the NYPL, which LeClerc has led since 1993. **Dr. Daniel Berkenblit**, director of the Union College Chamber Concert Series for the past 36 years, received the Founders Medal.

At Commencement, the College presented two honorary doctor of humane letters degrees.

Ruth J. Simmons, president of Brown University, was cited for her commitment to diversity and engineering, two key initiatives that are also integral to the Union campus. John W. Dower, author and professor of Japanese history at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was cited for his contributions in advancing relations between Japan and the United States. He is author of "Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II" (1999), which won numerous honors including the Pulitzer Prize.

At ReUnion, the Alumni Council presented Alumni Gold Medals to **John S. Wold '38** and **Dr. Robert B. Howe '58**. Wold's gift will help fund a new science and engineering center, and Howe has had a decades-long record of close involvement with the College. The Faculty Meritorious Service Award was presented to Professor **Thomas C. Werner**, a chemist who has been instrumental in securing Union's place as a national leader in undergraduate research.

June 2008 saw the departure of longtime College Relations Vice President **Thomas C. Gutenberg** to the University of Richmond, his alma mater. Gutenberg received the Special Appreciation Award for his outstanding service to Union College and to the Alumni Council.



President Stephen C. Ainlay and Alumni Relations Director Nick Famulare present the Distinguished Service Award to Steve Ciesinski '70 for his outstanding volunteer efforts.

## Union Fund Fast Facts

The College is very grateful to all those who contributed to the continuity of the Union Fund in 2007-08.

- \$4.6 million raised
- 8,314 donors
- 41% alumni participation
- 85% graduating seniors' participation in class gift
- 9 ReUnion classes achieved 50% class participation or higher
- 771 Terrace Council members (up 11% over the previous year)
- 379 volunteers
- 88% Alumni Council participation
- 10 achievement awards presented

## Engineering Alumni Awards

These awards are presented at ReUnion to dynamic leaders who show a commitment to their profession and community.

- **Leslie Hill '63** of Albuquerque, N.M.—the Dean's Award
- **Herbert Freeman '47** of Cranbury, N.J.—the Gold Award, Electrical Engineering
- **Yvonne Turchetti '02** of Red Hook, N.Y.—the Silver Award, Electrical Engineering
- **David Duchscherer '67** of Grand Island, N.Y.—the Gold Award, Civil Engineering
- **Mary McKay '98** of Ballston Spa, N.Y.—the Silver Award, Civil Engineering
- **Alexander Gelston '68** of Skaneateles, N.Y.—the Gold Award, Mechanical Engineering
- **Smitesh Bakrania '03** of Ann Arbor, Mich.—the Silver Award, Mechanical Engineering



## Union in the Spotlight

The past year saw Union featured in numerous headlines, thanks to the accomplishments of its students and faculty and the impact of its programs and public events. Coverage in a variety of highly respected media garnered excellent national, international and local publicity for the College and promoted our brand to audiences all over the world.

### Making Headlines

*The Chronicle of Higher Education* featured the remarks of President Ainlay and other leaders who participated in last spring's symposium on engineering and liberal arts. The piece, "Engineering and the Liberal Arts: Strangers No Longer," was among the most e-mailed articles in that week's issue. This marks the fourth time in three years the *Chronicle* has featured Union College, an enviable achievement. The *Chronicle* also included President Ainlay in another feature on the role small, private colleges play in the economic development efforts in their home cities.

Union also found itself in the news courtesy of **Cay Anderson-Hanley**, assistant professor of psychology and lead researcher for a national study founded by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

The study explores how interactive digital gaming can improve the health behaviors and outcomes for people age 50 and older. Her study was picked up by the Associated Press and appeared in dozens of national and international publications, including the *Tampa Tribune*, *Business Week*, *London Free Press* and *China Post*.

**Robert Baker**, chair of the Rapaport Ethics Across the Curriculum Initiative and the William D. Williams Professor of Philosophy, was featured on the front page of *The Washington Post* and dozens of other publications. Baker was the lead author of a groundbreaking study examining the past discrimination policies of the American Medical Association. He and a team of independent experts examined racial bias by the AMA between 1846 and 1968, which prompted an historic apology to members of the African-American community.



Assistant Psychology Professor Cay Anderson-Hanley (center) listens to a local senior discuss the benefits of cyber-cycling.



Professor Robert Baker was featured in *The Washington Post* and other publications.



Maya Angelou  
(photo courtesy of Katy Winn/Getty Images)



The Ysaye String Quartet was just one highlight of the Chamber Concert Series.

## ACCLAIMED POET, PLAYWRIGHT AND CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST MAYA ANGELOU SPOKE TO A STANDING-ROOM- ONLY CROWD IN MEMORIAL CHAPEL.

## DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

A number of notable speakers visited throughout the year, led by **Maya Angelou**. Hundreds turned out for the Memorial Chapel speech by the acclaimed poet, civil rights activist and playwright. A packed house also greeted former Republican presidential candidate **Mike Huckabee**. Other guest speakers included **Naomi Tutu**, daughter of Archbishop Desmond Tutu; noted science writer **Dava Sobel**, author of "Galileo's Daughter," "Longitude" and "The Planets;" and alums **Phil Robinson '71** and **Kathy Magliato '85**. Union's hosting of the 11th annual National Undergraduate Bioethics Conference attracted coverage rivaling that of previous hosts, including Princeton, the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Michigan. The annual **Chamber Concert Series** enhanced Union's local renown, with several performances making area "Top 10" lists. The *Times Union* also singled out the Taylor Music Center as a superb place to hear a concert.

**Binyavanga Wainaina** wrapped up his three-year term as the College's writer in residence by extending the College's global reach. The Kenyan native, who has already been featured in *Vanity Fair* and *Harper's*, was named by the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* to its list of people around the world worth watching in 2008. During the recent upheaval in his native country, Wainaina also provided expert commentary to the BBC and penned an op-ed piece for *The New York Times*.

Locally, the College maintained its high profile with a diverse mix of stories, led by its decision to donate a house to Habitat for Humanity of Schenectady County. Other topics that generated local coverage included the Union-Schenectady Alliance, the president's house, and a profile of Sally Van Schaick, the first woman to graduate from the College.

## Web Site and Publications

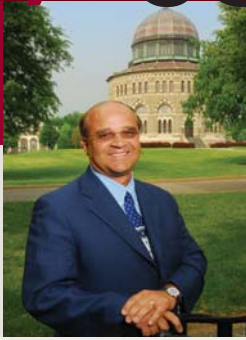
With surveys showing that more than a third of prospective students turn to the Web for information about schools, the College's own Web site [www.union.edu](http://www.union.edu) continued to provide timely, comprehensive news highlighting Union's virtues. The site has established itself as a primary news source for major events and programs such as Commencement and summer research. There, browsers can find stories, profiles, photos, videos and historical data that celebrate the best of Union, including the recently launched Office of the President site detailing President Stephen C. Ainlay's priorities for the College. In the coming year, the College plans to enhance its Web site to make its robust content even more readily available to a diverse group of users.



The new Office of the President Web site was launched this past summer and can be found under "About Union" on our home page.

Along with the Web, Union's Office of Communications continued to keep the campus and external communities informed and connected through the quarterly *Union College* magazine, the weekly *Chronicle* electronic newsletter and numerous other publications for audiences ranging from prospective students to alumni to the campus community. Going forward, the College plans to appoint a senior director of marketing and communications to continue strengthening internal and external communications and to help steward Union's valuable brand.





I THINK OUR INNOVATIVE FOUNDERS WOULD BE PROUD THAT  
THE COURSE THEY CHARTED FOR UNION MANY YEARS AGO  
HAS SERVED US WELL.

As a trustee of Union, I sometimes wonder what those who came before us would think of the present state of the College.

In the late 18th century, just after the founding of our country, a group of local leaders began to formulate an idea for a college that would chart a new course. These innovators would create an institution that, unlike nearly all others of the day, was not connected to a particular denomination. To further distinguish the fledgling school, they would choose French, not the prevailing Latin or Greek, for the school motto —Sous les lois de Minerve nous devenons tous frères (Under the laws of Minerva we all become brothers). And just a few decades after Union's founding, they would add engineering, the beginning of a series of curricular reforms that would make Union a college like no other.

In the pages of this report, you have seen evidence that Union retains its singular place in higher education. Our academic life is based on interdisciplinary collaboration, undergraduate research and international experience. Student life is focused on leadership and service. We are carefully stewarding the College's (and the earth's) resources.

Union College is not just a place of higher learning. We are very much a community—here in Schenectady and globally—of people who nourish the ideals of our mission. On behalf of the trustees, whose names appear on the opposite page, I thank you for your vote of confidence.

I think our innovative founders would be proud that the course they charted for Union many years ago has served us well. And they would be well satisfied that this generation of the Union College family continues to make Union a college like no other.

**Frank L. Messa '73**

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