WRITING OUR NEXT CHAPTERS
# 2014-2015 President’s Report

## The academic year at a glance

2

### Academics

4

### Legacy

18

### Inclusion

22

### Athletics

25

### Service

30

### Our world

34

### Sustainability

38

### Support

40

### Financials

44

### Leadership

48

Dixon Ryan Fox, 12th president of Union College
MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT STEPHEN C. AINLAY, Ph.D.

Dixon Ryan Fox, Union’s 12th president, was someone with whom I identify in many ways. He was an academic. He wanted to rekindle Union’s sense of history. He and his wife cared deeply for and appreciated the significance of the President’s House. Unfortunately, President Fox died suddenly while in office in 1945, the year the College was celebrating its sesquicentennial. At the time of his death, he was working on a book to commemorate the milestone.

In what proved a title with double meaning, Union College: An Unfinished History, Fox talked about the importance of Union’s mission not only to students but for the world in general. He also emphasized that Union’s distinguished history paved the way for future chapters that would prove even more remarkable.

I look back with pride at what we have accomplished in the last decade. We have an outstanding academic reputation, with faculty known internationally for their work and top-rank students who embrace the opportunities to take on original research, explore other disciplines, and even create new ones. We are a community that is more diverse than ever, but also more inclusive of a range of understandings and perspectives. We have an ethic of service and we respond to the needs of others in our community and the greater world. We understand that we are global citizens and we prepare students to be ethical contributors to an ever-changing world. We are strong financially. We are careful with our resources, financial and otherwise, and we appreciate the commitment and generosity of our many friends.

We owe a great deal to Fox and others who came before us. It is our obligation to build on the accomplishments of previous generations of the Union community.

As Fox suggested, it is up to us to write those next chapters. Union College, as remarkable as it is, is truly an unfinished history. Each generation has the opportunity to surpass the accomplishments of those who went before, always remembering that they are advantaged by what their predecessors accomplished during their time here, when they took up the obligation and opportunity to steward this remarkable place.

It’s our time now, we’ve accomplished much in the past decade and Union has never been stronger—measured by financial well-being, strength of its faculty, staff, and students, the quality of its infrastructure, and even its clarity of mission. Yes, Union is an unfinished history and we have the opportunity to breathe life into its distinctive mission, to write those next chapters, and to establish our continued significance to the world.
SEPTEMBER
- Union celebrates 220th academic year with Convocation
- $150,000 Mellon grant supports cross-disciplinary, global teaching
- College welcomes Class of 2018 to campus

OCTOBER
- National hockey championship banner raised in Messa Rink
- Union joins ‘It’s On Us’ to raise awareness of sexual assault, domestic violence
- More than 2,000 return for Homecoming & Family Weekend

NOVEMBER
- Notice-Choose-Tell, Union’s unique advising tool, launched
- “A Streetcar Named Desire” plays at Yulman Theater
- Ebrahim Moosa, University of Notre Dame, presents “Negotiating the Ethical in Islamic Law”

DECEMBER
- Boston Camerata plays in 43rd Concert Series season
- Associate Professor of Physics Chad Orzel releases “Eureka: Discovering Your Inner Scientist”

JANUARY
- Union named to President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for fifth time
- “Mot Juste,” a celebration of text and language, opens at the Mandeville Gallery
- Campus celebrates Martin Luther King Day with community march
The academic year at a glance

FEBRUARY
- “Profound & Poignant” exhibit on Union’s Civil War connections opens
- Mark Lowenthal, CEO of Intelligence and Security Academy, speaks on current issues in U.S. intelligence
- At Founder’s Day, Laura Skandera Trombley celebrates the power of the humanities

MARCH
- Two students named winners of prestigious Watson Fellowships
- Union hosts 7th annual Mohawk Watershed Symposium
- Dutchmen Dip raises $15,000 for Union community members battling cancer

APRIL
- $11 million gift from Feigenbaum Foundation to support Visual Arts renovation
- College hosts New York African Studies Association conference
- #ADay4U, Union’s one-day fundraising challenges, generates $1,120,000

MAY
- 25th annual Steinmetz Symposium celebrates undergraduate research
- Prestigious student awards include seven Gilman International Scholarships, two Davis Project for Peace awards, and five Fulbright teaching grants
- ReUnion features dedication of Karp Hall, the new home of humanities

JUNE
- 11 members of Class of 2015 prepare to live/work around the world as Minerva Fellows
- Union hosts annual Liberal Arts & Engineering Symposium
- 500 members of the Class of 2015 graduate during Union’s 221st Commencement
At Union, we become authors of our lives.
At Steinmetz, students do the teaching

The anniversary celebration featured a luncheon at which John E. Kelly III ’76, chairman of the board and senior vice president, solutions and portfolio research, at IBM, told an audience of business, government and technology leaders: “This inspiring event symbolizes what Union is all about. It integrates the humanities and social sciences with science and engineering in new and exciting ways, it provides students with a broad and deep education, and it ensures students are engaged, innovative, and adaptable contributors to an ever-changing world.”

Yi Cao ’15, a mechanical engineering and chemistry major, shared three presentations based on her work in the College’s aerogels laboratory. Now at Stanford University, Cao said the undergraduate research opportunities at Union have prepared her well. “The real world problems lie not only in the exploration of real world knowledge and finding technical solutions, but also depend on effective communication, collaboration and entrepreneurship,” she said. “My experiences at Union have prepared me to face future challenges and to make a difference to the world’s energy problems.”
At Founders Day, humanities take center stage

Laura Skandera Trombley, a nationally recognized champion of liberal arts education, was the keynote speaker at the Founders Day convocation, which also marked the opening of Karp Hall, the new home of Union’s humanities.

As president of Pitzer College, Trombley’s writing and lectures earned her a reputation as a noted humanist. After her appearance at Union, she assumed the presidency of the Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, Calif.

“There is an increased need for the humanities to help us cognize the ‘human experience,’ particularly in view of our multiple global challenges,” she told the audience.

Noting that we have reached a cultural crossroads, she expressed dismay at the lack of respect afforded the humanities. “Do we really need to explain why poetry, art, philosophy and theater matter?” she said. “Really, at what point did we have to start defending the value of knowing ourselves? Of human complexity? Of analysis? Communication? Meaning?”

Also at Founders Day, Katerina Toulatos, who teaches Spanish at Millennium High School in New York City, received the Gideon Hawley Teacher Recognition Award. She was nominated by Lai Wa Wong ’17, an interdepartmental major studying computer science and sociology.
NCT: ‘My Union story’

“What’s my Union story?” That is the question that a web-based app—Notice-Choose-Tell—has students asking themselves.

NCT was designed to help students through a process of self-reflection to make more intentional, meaningful and informed choices about their Union education. It has been especially valuable for students and faculty during advising sessions.

Brina Dillon ’15, a biology major from Freeport, Maine, was among the students who piloted the app, which she called an opportunity to “step back and think about the whole process instead of just the classes I’m required to take.”

What makes Union so special—its broad range of offerings across liberal arts, sciences and engineering—can also be daunting for the student trying to forge a path, Dillon said. “It can be overwhelming, but it’s nice to have this app to reflect on the decisions you make about academics.”

Grants support Strategic Plan priorities

The Planning and Priorities Committee has awarded grants totaling $180,000 for initiatives that support the priorities of the College’s Strategic Plan.

Among the supported initiatives are:

- Enhanced diversity outreach for admissions
- Support of a Kelly Adirondack Center lecture series, “Young Leaders, Diversity and the Environment”
- Expansion of bystander intervention training to combat sexual assault
- Creation of the Union College Idea Lab, an interdisciplinary project to foster creative and innovative thinking
- Development of an online end-of-care community-based learning program and palliative care fellowships

Last year, Union unveiled a reshaped Strategic Plan. Drawing from key strengths outlined in the College’s 2007 version, the ambitious plan provides a blueprint that strengthens and enhances Union’s position as a highly selective national liberal arts college that “produces graduates who make important contributions to humanity.”

Mellon grant supports ‘Our Shared Humanities’

Union was awarded a three-year $800,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to promote the integration of the arts and humanities across academic disciplines through faculty development and a series of distinctive hands-on experiences for students and faculty. Called “Our Shared Humanities,” the initiative allows the College to build on its traditional strength of crossing disciplinary boundaries to prepare students for an increasingly diverse, global and technologically complex society. Highlights include the multi-disciplinary faculty teams to work on innovative course design; a humanities lab series in which students will tackle challenges such as environmental sustainability, climate change and socioeconomic inequality; and a “maker community” that will reframe “making” from the technological to the artistic and humanistic.
An $11 million gift from the Feigenbaum Foundation will have a transformative effect on the College. It will support a major renovation of the Visual Arts building, to be renamed the Feigenbaum Center for Visual Arts; provide a four-year student scholarship; endow a professorship; and establish the annual Feigenbaum Forum on Innovation and Creativity.

The Feigenbaum Foundation was created by the late Armand V. Feigenbaum '42 and Donald S. Feigenbaum '46, loyal alumni and longtime benefactors to Union. Acknowledged world leaders in systems engineering and total quality, the brothers founded General Systems Co., the Pittsfield, Mass.-based international systems engineering firm that designs and implements operational systems for corporations and governments worldwide. For more than a dozen years, the brothers hosted the Feigenbaum Forum, a campus gathering at which academicians discussed topics such as leadership and the integration of liberal arts with science and engineering.

The new Feigenbaum Forum builds on the original series by hosting internationally recognized speakers who have revolutionized their fields through innovation and creativity. The inaugural 2015 event featured Howard Gardner, a pioneer in psychology and education reform who put forth the idea of multiple intelligences.
Karp Hall a campus hub of learning

One of the College’s most heavily-used academic spaces is enjoying a renaissance. After a year-long major renovation, the former Humanities building reopened in January 2015 as Karp Hall. Supported by a lead gift from the Karp Family Foundation, the building gets high marks from students and professors.

It was dedicated at ReUnion 2015. Accolades from students and faculty have been unanimous,” said Judith Lewin, chair of English. “Karp is a coup.”

Karp has 10 classrooms, a lobby, a faculty lounge and a cluster of student alcoves. The design emphasizes spaces that allow formal and informal interactions and the exchange of ideas.

Though home to 40 faculty in English and Modern Languages and Literatures, Karp is also an interdisciplinary hub of higher learning for the entire campus.

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GARNET COMMONS

This fall marked the opening of a new 80-bed residence hall. Garnet Commons, a three-story, 38,000 square foot residence west of campus on Roger Hull Place and Park Place, was a popular choice in the annual housing selection. It features energy use monitors, suites with full kitchens, and group study areas with white board walls.
Visitors enrich the Union experience

3D printing is focus of liberal arts and engineering conference

This spring, 170 years after Union became the first liberal arts college to offer a new discipline known as engineering, the eighth annual Engineering and Liberal Education Symposium considered the next frontier: 3D printing.

Hod Lipson, one of the nation’s top experts on 3D printing, gave the keynote address: “3D Printing: The Next 25 Years. The promise and peril of a machine that can make (almost) anything.” A professor of engineering at Cornell University, Lipson is co-author of the recent popular book Fabricated: The New World of 3D Printing.

The symposium is funded in part by the David Falk ’39 and Elynor Rudnick-Falk Endowed Fund and the Laurence W. Levine ’52 and Barry Traub ’53 Endowed Lecture Fund.

Chamber series brings thousands to Memorial Chapel

The Union College Concert Series kicked off its 44th season, and as before features favorites including pianists Emanuel Ax and Jeremy Denk, and cellist David Finckel and pianist Wu Han. The acclaimed series features the biggest stars of chamber music and annually draws thousands to the acoustically superb Memorial Chapel.

Bestselling author Elizabeth Rosner visited Union to talk about her book, Electric City. Set in Schenectady, the novel delves into the nation’s scientific ingenuity and the advancements that ushered in the modern world.
Farrell named ‘Innovation Fellow’

**Sean Farrell ’17** was named a University Innovation Fellow, a prestigious program designed to help foster entrepreneurship and innovation among students nationwide. He was among 123 students from 52 schools selected by the National Center for Engineering Pathways to Innovation (Epicenter). The program is funded by the National Science Foundation and directed by Stanford University and VentureWell. He completed six weeks of online training and participated in the Innovation Fellows Annual Meetup in Silicon Valley. He also took part in immersive experiences at Stanford University and Google. The mechanical engineering major with a minor in mathematics was supported by Shane Cotter, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering; Hal Fried, the David L. ’39 and Beverly B. Yunich Professor of Business Ethics; and Wendy Sternberg, dean of academic departments and programs.

Vermillion more than a shade of red

**Kyra Detone ’16** found that she could combine two passions in one class, “The Art and Science of Painting.” There, she discovered that vermilion, a pure red that was favored for religious paintings in the Middle Ages, had a long and complicated history. By researching ancient manuscripts, she discovered that Venice colorists made the paint through a highly toxic process of heating sulfur and mercury. Her research helped her secure a coveted summer internship at the Cloisters, which holds the Metropolitan Museum of Art’s collection of medieval art and architecture.
Barry Goldwater Scholarship recipients

Three students received Barry Goldwater Scholarships, which support promising students in science, mathematics and engineering. **Ryan M Bouck ’16** a mechanical engineer with a minor in nanotechnology, plans to pursue a doctorate in materials science and engineering. **Michael Warrener ’16**, a double major in physics and mathematics, hopes to pursue theoretical astrophysics research and teach in college. **Theodor Di Pauli von Treuheim ’16**, a bioengineer, plans to earn a doctorate in bioengineering and conduct research in the bionics and prosthetics industry.

The ASME Human Powered Vehicle Challenge Team placed 3rd in team endurance, 5th in the men’s speed event and 9th in the women’s speed event among teams from 33 large universities at the national competition in Gainesville, Fla. Union also won the “Team Spirit Award.”

The Class of 2019

A record of nearly 6,000 applications yielded 568 students in the Class of 2019. Applications were up 10 percent from last year, and 4 percent higher than the previous record in 2013.

- **38%** Admit rate
- **568** Enrolled
- **115** Students of diverse backgrounds
Firefighter jacket prototype buys precious time

**Ben Saperstein ’15**, a volunteer firefighter, looked at aerogels and saw an opportunity to save lives. A mechanical engineer and member of the College’s Aerogel Team, Ben was familiar with the insulating applications of the nanostructures known as “frozen smoke.” He designed a prototype jacket that will buy firefighters precious minutes if they get trapped in a blaze. Ben, who served as president of Student Forum, earned several prizes for his contributions to student affairs and enhancing the campus.

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Undergraduate research presentations

Among other undergraduate research presentations, nine Union students shared research results through oral or poster presentations at the 29th annual National Conference on Undergraduate Research at Eastern Washington University near Spokane, Wash. Union, a charter member of NCUR, has hosted the conference twice. Several Union students presented at the New York Six Liberal Arts Consortium Upstate New York Undergraduate Research Conference at Hobart and William Smith Colleges with topics ranging from "The Development of Silica Based-Aerogel Windows" to "Analysis of Aerosol and Soil Samples Collected in the Adirondack Mountains."

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Udall Scholarship recipient hopes to impact climate change

**Sara Covelli ’17**, an environmental policy major, received a Udall Undergraduate Scholarship to support an academic career that she hopes will help her to address human contributions to climate change. The scholarship honors the legacy of Congressmen Morris and Stewart Udall, who worked on behalf of the environment, public lands, natural resources and Native American nations.

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**International students** 69%

**U.S. residents living outside New York State** 72%

**Students living outside New York State** 640

**Verbal** 680

**Math** 640

**Writing** Average SAT score (of those provided)
Faculty accomplishments

Stephen Berk, the Henry & Sally Schaffer Professor of Holocaust & Jewish Studies
Daniel Mosquera, associate professor of Spanish and Latin American Studies, presented a paper, “Linger- ing Dilemmas in the Teaching of Africana Studies,” at the New York African Studies Association conference held at Union. He also chaired a panel in the conference titled “Education and the African Diaspora.”

Lori Marso, professor of political science, received the Contemporary Political Theory Annual Prize for her article, “Solidarity sans identity: Richard Wright and Simone de Beauvoir theorize political subjectivity,” in Contemporary Political Theory (Vol. 13, No. 3 (2014)). Also, Marso has co-edited (with Bonnie Honig of Brown University) a special issue of theory&event titled “Breaking the Rules: Gender, Power, and Politics in the Films of Lars von Trier.” Marso and Honig co-wrote the introduction, and Marso contributed an essay.

Deidre Hill Butler, associate professor of sociology and director of the Africana Studies, was cited as an “Unsung Heroine” by the Northeastern New York affiliate of the YWCA and received a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition from Congressman Paul Tonko. The award celebrates the accomplishments and spirit of African American women in Schenectady.

Kenneth DeBono, the Gilbert R. Livingston Professor of Behavioral Science, recently presented a paper with Kate Kozain ’16 at the annual meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association held in Philadelphia. The title of their paper was “Message Framing and Ad Evaluation: The Role of Self-Monitoring.”

An article by Jennifer Matsue, associate professor and director of the Asian Studies program, was published in Ethnomusicology. The piece is titled “Drumming to One’s Own Beat: Japanese Taiko and the Challenge to Genre.”

John Garver, professor of geology, was quoted in a Times Union article about Mohawk River flooding. The article discusses how local officials and those monitoring the river are anxious since the winter has brought thick ice and snow to the river basin.

Zoe Oxley, professor of political science, served as a guest editor for a special issue of Politics, Groups and Identities, which focused on gender and political psychology.

A short story by Kimmo Rosenthal, professor of mathematics, was accepted for publication in the EDGE, a literary journal edited by the Tahoe Writers Workshop. The story is titled “Dancing the Quadrille.” He is also nominated for the 2015 Pushcart Prize for an earlier story.

A study co-authored by Cay Anderson-Hanley was published in a recent edition of Frontiers in Human Neuroscience. “Executive function and self-regulating exergaming adherence among older adults” was co-authored with Joseph Nimon ’07, Marisa Thurin ’15 and Molly Maloney ’15.

Christopher Chabris, associate professor of psychology, co-authored an op-ed for the New York Times Sunday Review on collective intelligence, and why some groups are smarter than others. The piece was one of the most popular on the Times website and picked up by a number of other media outlets, including The Atlantic. Also, Chabris started a new monthly column for the Wall Street Journal, “Game On,” which covers all kinds of games.

Chad Orzel, associate professor of physics and chair of the Department of Physics and Astronomy, tested the physics of “deflate-gate,” a controversy over the New England Patriots’ use of underinflated footballs. He also took part in a recent screening and Q-and-A at Mass MoCA in North Adams, Mass. of the physics documentary “Particle Fever.”

An article by Jennifer Currey, assistant professor of bioengineering, was approved for publication in the Journal of Biomechanical Engineering. “Controlled Cyclic Compression of an Open Tibial Fracture Using an External Fixator Affects Fracture Healing in Mice” was co-authored by Meghan Mancuso ’15, Sylvie Kalikoff ’16 and Sean Day ’14.

Maggie Tongue, director of the Scholars Program, served on the selection panel for the Gilman Scholarship, which awards funds for study abroad students with financial need.

Hans-Friedrich Mueller, professor of classics, was the keynote speaker at the annual meeting of the Texas Classical Association in San Antonio. He delivered two lectures: “Nocturnal Rome: General Considerations...”
FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Steven Rice, professor of biology, received the Donald C. Brate Distinguished Advising Prize in recognition of excellence as an academic advisor.

Claire Bracken, associate professor of English, received the Stillman Prize for Excellence in Teaching.

and Further Clues” and “Pontifex Maximus: The Priestly Career of Julius Caesar.”

Helen Hanson, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering, gave a talk at the Acoustical Society of America meeting in Indianapolis. She discussed evidence that characteristics of the trachea and lungs have acoustic effects that have shaped the inventory of vowels in the world’s languages.

Christine Henseler, professor of Spanish, was a keynote speaker at Albion College in Michigan. Her talk, “Share Everything, Pursue Brilliance, Dare to Dream: When Labs and the Humanities Meet,” was part of Albion College’s Mellon grant initiative to develop humanities labs to connect courses and communities in collaborative settings. She also gave the keynote address at the first Undergraduate Symposium in Modern Languages and Classics at Siena College.

“Concerning the Art of Drawings,” an exhibit featuring the work of Charles Steckler, professor of theater and designer-in-residence, was displayed at the Schenectady Jewish Community Center in Niskayuna.

Jeffrey Corbin, associate professor of biology, was featured in a Times Union story about the proposed ban of plastic bags in Saratoga Springs. Corbin talked about the environmental problems that plastic bags pose, such as potential contamination to wildlife. He was a guest on the Northeast Public Radio show “Vox Pop” in which he discussed the United Nations Climate Summit in New York City.

Lewis Davis, associate professor of economics, was invited to serve as the 2014 visiting scholar at Furman University. He delivered a talk on his research, “Culture and the Regulation of Entry,” and discussed a student research project on “The Effects of Natural Resources on Education Spending.”

Scott Kirkton, associate professor of biology, co-organized the American Physiological Society’s Intersociety Meeting, “Comparative Approaches to Grand Challenges in Physiology,” in San Diego. He was a speaker in a National Science Foundation-sponsored career panel, organized and spoke at a symposium on “Locomotion, Biomechanics and Functional Morphology” and presented a talk that included data collected with John Carroll ’13.

Bradley Hays, associate professor of political science, was a regular guest on WAMC’s “Constitutional Corner” with Alan Chartock. The show covered key upcoming decisions by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Peter Heinegg, professor of English, led a discussion of the film “Orchestra of Exile” as part of the Schenectady Jewish Community Center’s film festival. The film chronicles how a world-renowned violinist helped save Europe’s Jewish musicians from the Nazis during World War II.

Robert Baker, the William D. Williams Professor of Philosophy and director of Union’s Ethics Across the Curriculum initiative, chaired the History of Medical Ethics sessions at the 16th annual meeting of the American Society for Bioethics and the Humanities in San Diego. He was also inducted as a Hastings Center Fellow, joining an association of researchers from around the world whose contributions have been influential in bioethics.

“Irish Travelers: The Unsettled Life,” a book by George Gmelch, the Roger Thayer Stone Professor of Anthropology, and Sharon Gmelch, professor of anthropology, was
An article by Jillmarie Murphy, assistant professor of English, was published in Literature in the Early American Republic 6. Her piece was titled “Maternal Fathers; or, the Power of Sympathy: Phillis Wheatley’s Poem to and Correspondence with ‘His Excellency General Washington.’”

Hilary Tann, the John Howard Payne Professor of Music, received three premiere performances of her works. “Embertides,” a suite for organ solo, was performed by Heinrich Christiensen in First Church, Boston, as part of the American Guild of Organists Convention. The Ricochet Duo performed “Solstice” (piano and marimba) in Lake Placid, N.Y. “And the Snow Did Lie,” a string quartet based on lithographs by Montreal artist André Bergeron, was performed at the Presteigne Festival by the Cavaleri Quartet, and recorded for broadcast by the BBC.

Roman Yukilevich, assistant professor of biology, spoke at Cornell University’s annual “Evoday,” this year focused on “Behavior and Evolution.” His talk was titled “Divergent mating preferences target male courtship song not ecological traits during rapid speciation in Drosophila.”

An article by Patricia Wareh, assistant professor of English, was published in Renaissance Drama, a leading journal in Renaissance theater. The piece was titled “Literary Mirrors of Aristocratic Performance: Readers and Audiences of The Faerie Queene and The Winter’s Tale.”

Two honored by Insight Into Diversity

Two professors—Ann Anderson (right) of Mechanical Engineering and Mary Carroll (left) of Chemistry—were cited by Insight Into Diversity magazine among the 100 Inspiring Women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). The professors run the College’s Aerogel Lab, an interdisciplinary program that produces and analyzes the porous nanostructures that have applications ranging from insulations to chemical sensors to electronics.

Orzel book leaves dog at home

For his first two books, Chad Orzel, professor of physics, turned to Emmy, his trusty German shepherd mix, to help explain complex scientific issues. The results, How to Teach Physics to Your Dog and How to Teach Relativity to Your Dog, proved to be a clever and popular way to dissect those difficult subjects. Emmy stayed home for Orzel’s latest book, Eureka: Discovering Your Inner Scientist (Basic Books), but the same breezy style that made its predecessors easy reads remains intact. The book aims to make science less mysterious and intimidating by showing that many of the things non-scientists do for fun and relaxation use the same mental processes scientists employ when making major discoveries.
FROM OUR PAST,
We learn from those who have come before us.

FORGING OUR FUTURE

Andrew Cassarino ‘18, a student of Civil War history, lays flowers at the grave of Charles Elliott Pease, Class of 1856, on April 9, the 150th anniversary of the surrender of Gen. Robert E. Lee. Pease carried out the terms of surrender.
‘Profound & Poignant’ chronicles Union people in Civil War era

A century and a half after the end of the Civil War and the Lincoln assassination, a powerful year-long exhibit in the Nott Memorial paid tribute to members of the Union community who played important roles in that era.

Profound & Poignant: Union College Connections to the Civil War Era told the story of Union alumni and others from the College who were key witnesses and makers of history: two secretaries of state, military leaders, war heroes and the man who tried in vain to prevent the murder of a president.

The exhibition was co-curated by Andrea Foroughi, associate professor of history, and Tom Werner, the Florence B. Sherwood Professor of Physical Sciences Emeritus and chair of Union’s Notables Committee.

In history class, President cites alumni who made a difference

A guest speaker in Prof. Denis Brennan’s class on Union College history—President Ainlay—urged students to follow in the steps of Union alumni who made a difference, particularly those during the Civil War era. He cited William Seward (Class of 1820), secretary of state under Lincoln and the architect of emancipation; John Bigelow (1835), consul general to France during the Civil War who averted France’s involvement with the Confederacy; Chester Arthur (1848), who before he became the 21st U.S. president was quartermaster general responsible for raising thousands of troops for the Union; and Charles Elliott Pease (1856), who carried out the terms of surrender of Gen. Robert E. Lee. “By choosing to come [to Union] and walk in the footsteps of these kinds of people, you’ve made a decision that theirs is the kind of life you want to lead,” the president said.
Alumni returned to campus to share their unique experiences. Julie Greifer-Swidler ’79, above, executive vice president and general counsel at Sony Music Entertainment, talked about her career in the music industry, complete with music clips from Def Leppard and Carlos Santana.

NHL agent Jay Grossman ’87, who started his career scouting hockey talent at Achilles Rink, talked about the globalization of the sport.

Peter Haviland Eduah ’10, national policy director for Million Hoodies for Justice, a national organization working to end mass criminalization, racial bias and gun violence, reminded students of the power of social media to share stories of injustice.

Jennifer Sconyers Lawton ’85, chief strategy officer of littleBits and a leader in the 3D printer and maker movement, talked to students about the new frontier of manufacturing.
Journalist Erin Schumaker '09 (top), poet Chelsea Woodard '04 (middle), and fiction writer Daniel Kason '11 appeared in the English department’s Alumni Writer Series.

Wenig to grads: ‘blaze own trail’

Devin Wenig ’88 told 500 members of the Class of 2015 that no one follows a career plan exactly. Rather, grads should be prepared to blaze their own trail, as he did. Wenig decided to leave his plan to join a prestigious law firm and help save the struggling biotech company founded by his late father. Today, Wenig is CEO of e-Bay, one of the world’s top 30 brands.

He received an honorary doctor of laws degree. Also, honored at Commencement was Marjorie Agosin, an award-winning poet, human rights activist and literary critic. She received an honorary doctorate of letters degree.

ReUnion 2015 draws 1,700

More than 1,700 alumni and guests returned to campus in May, with the 5th ReUnion class setting the record at more than 36 percent attendance.

At Alumni Convocation, the Alumni Council presented Alumni Gold Medals to David L. Henle ’75, president of DLH Capital; Richard Crookes ’65, who spent decades in financial management at GE; and Valerie J. Hoffman ’75, attorney and partner at Seyfarth Shaw. Cheryl Rockwood, head trainer and director of Student-Athlete Programming, received the Meritorious Service Award. Alumni Engineering Gold Awards were presented to Richard K. Templeton ’80 (electrical engineering), Cregg Brown ’00 (computer systems engineering) and Brian D. Reh ’95 (mechanical engineering).
A carnival of colors: students celebrate the Hindu tradition of Holi, the spring festival of love.

Inset: U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand at a Union roundtable on sexual assault

A TRUE ‘UNION’

Our story comes from many perspectives.
Bystander intervention, ‘It’s on US’ among programs aimed at sexual assault

The College held a series of programs and events over the past year aimed at combatting campus sexual assault and harassment.

The College expanded its bystander intervention program, which enlists and trains members of the campus community to intervene in situations where sexual harassment or sexual violence appear imminent. A related program focused on consent awareness.

Last fall, New York Lieutenant Gov. Robert Duffy joined students, college officials, police and prosecutors in a campus-wide assembly to kick off the College’s affiliation with the national ‘It’s on Us’ campaign. The event was led by Union student athletes, members of Greek organizations and other student leaders.

Last spring, the College hosted a roundtable discussion with U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand about her sponsored legislation aimed at curbing sexual harassment on campuses and creating a uniform process for investigating and adjudicating complaints.

The College has hired a Title IX coordinator, who reports to the President’s Office, whose responsibilities include prevention and awareness education.

“We will continue efforts to ensure that Union is safe for everyone,” President Ainlay said at opening convocation. “There is no place for sexual violence, abuse, or intimidation in this community.”

Rob King, John Quiñones address diversity in the media

Rob King, who oversees ESPN’s SportsCenter and News, spoke in the spring on “The Content of Our Character: How Storytellers ‘Color’ Stories,” a look into sports media coverage. Last fall, journalist and television news anchor John Quiñones, a producer and co-anchor of the ABC newsmagazine Primetime spoke on “Diversity in the Media.” The talks were part of the Presidential Forum on Diversity series.
The seventh annual LGBTQ at Union exhibit at the Wikoff Student Gallery brought awareness, promoted discussion and educated the campus about issues in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning community. Pieces by students, faculty and staff came from a variety of mediums, including painting, photography, digital art and film.

Ebrahim Moosa, a professor of Islamic studies at the University of Notre Dame, gave the annual Wold Lecture on Religion and Conflict. His lecture is titled “Negotiating the Ethical in Islamic Law: Practices, Politics and Tradition.” Prof. Moosa, a preeminent Islamic scholar met followed the lecture with a dinner and discussion with students in Wold House.


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Laverne Cox, the star of the popular show, *Orange is the New Black*, visited campus in May with a message to move beyond gender expectations. She is the first transgender woman of color to have a leading role in mainstream TV.

The seventh annual LGBTQ at Union exhibit at the Wikoff Student Gallery brought awareness, promoted discussion and educated the campus about issues in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning community. Pieces by students, faculty and staff came from a variety of mediums, including painting, photography, digital art and film.

*Mistress*, a digital photograph by Shanna Saldaña ’14, was part of the seventh annual LGBTQ at Union art exhibit.
We collaborate toward a common goal.
Women’s soccer ends at 11-4-2

Despite a win over Vassar in the last game of the season, Union was denied a spot in the Liberty League tournament by a St. Lawrence win over Clarkson. Union finished in a fourth-place tie with RIT, compiling 11 points with a 3-2-2 league record.

Men’s hockey makes ECAC quarterfinals

Men’s hockey finished last season at 19-18-2, advancing to the ECAC quarterfinals for the eighth straight year. The team won the school’s first-ever road playoff series (at the Division I level) with a sweep of Cornell. The Dutchmen, who spent 10 weeks in the national polls, also produced a pair of 50-point scorers in Daniel Ciampini and Mike Vecchione. Union also defeated Rensselaer, 8-3, in the third annual Capital District Mayor’s Cup in Albany.

Dutchwomen post best season on hardwood since 2009

Women’s basketball made the Liberty League playoffs to the 2014-15 season at 17-9, recording the most victories since the 2008-09 season. The Dutchwomen were 11-5 during the Liberty League regular season, and had won eight straight league games entering the playoffs.

Men’s lacrosse makes second round of NCAA tourney

Despite controlling the nation’s top-ranked team for most of the game, Union lost 10-9 to RIT in the second round of the NCAA tournament. This was the fourth time in five seasons that Union has advanced to the NCAA Sweet 16. The season ended at 14-5, with seven seniors finishing with a career record of 50-21.

Banner season celebrated one last time

Six months after the men’s hockey team capped off a magical season by capturing its first NCAA Division I national title, the championship banner was raised before the start of the Dutchmen’s regular season opener Oct. 10 in Messa Rink. Banners were also raised for the Cleary Cup, Whitelaw Cup, Frozen Four and NCAA tournament appearances. That will bring to 10 the number of banners hanging from the rink. As part of the festivities, all men’s hockey alumni were invited on the ice. More than 60 former players attended.

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STUDENT ATHLETE HONORS

Track’s Bechu named league athlete of year

Noemie Bechu ‘17 was named Liberty League’s Track Performer of the Year after the 2015 her outstanding indoor season. She was conference champion in both the 200- and 400-meter events, setting a school record in the 400 at 56.89 and placing 12th in the NCAA National Championships.

National swimming honors for Welch and Hoyt

Andrew Welch ‘15 and Sam Hoyt ‘18 earned All-America Honorable Mention at the national NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships. Welch set a school record in the 100 backstroke with a time of 48.72. Hoyt’s performance in the 1-meter dive placed him 11th in the nation.

Barra, Thompson are Liberty All Stars

Jenni Barra ‘18 and Kate Thompson ‘15 were named to the Liberty League’s All Stars and helped lead women’s basketball to the league playoffs. Barra played the most minutes of any first-year in the league and was also the top rookie scorer. Thompson ended her career with 137 blocks (third all-time at Union), 660 rebounds (sixth all-time) and 902 points (15th all-time).

Two honored at “World’s Most Famous Arena”

Goalkeeper Allison Brustowicz ‘15 of women’s soccer and Katherine Moeller ‘17 of volleyball were recognized at Madison Square Garden as recipients of ECAC weekly honors. The pair were among those recognized at half court during a Manhattan vs. Rutgers basketball contest.

Two men named to league basketball star team

Guard Deshon Burgess ‘18 and forward William Hython ‘17 were named to the Liberty League Men’s Basketball All Star second team. Burgess averaged 15.1 points and 5.3 rebounds per game. He was fifth in the league in scoring and scored in double figures in 19 of the 25 games. Hython led the league in rebounding by 1.6 over the next ranked player. He ranked 27th in NCAA Div. III in rebounding. He was third in the league in scoring and had 13 double-doubles this season. Hython scored in double figures in 24 of 26 games and was named to the Liberty League weekly honor roll six times this season, while also twice being named Performer of the Week.

Student-Athletes honored at Union Athletics Awards Ceremony

A number of seniors were honored at the annual Athletics awards ceremony. Whitney Bickford ‘15 of women’s soccer and Kim Grinhaus ‘15 of women’s lacrosse were named Senior Scholar Athletes of the Year. Stefan Basile ‘15 of men’s lacrosse received the Award for Leadership, Travis Barker ‘15 of men’s soccer and Cailin LaPointe ‘15 of men’s cross country received the Award for Academic Excellence. Adam Rosenthal ‘15 of men’s ice hockey received the William B. Jaffe ‘26 Athletic Award to a senior male student athlete. President Ainlay presented the Presidential Award of Academic Achievement to the Women’s Indoor Track & Field Team.
Women’s hockey at Bethlehem

Members of the women’s hockey team appreciate their early days in the sport. So, last March they were eager to visit aspiring stars at the Bethlehem YMCA, the home of the town’s youth hockey program. Union players assisted the youngsters, ages 4 to 8, in drills and scrimmages and afterward signed posters.

Women’s Hockey raises over $5,700 for charity, and records broken

The Dutchwomen last season raised over $5,700 for Kristen’s Kause, which supports Kristen Shinebarger, a member of the Union community who has been fighting cancer. The team raised over $3,000 with their eighth annual Pink at the Rink game in January. Goaltender Shenae Lundberg ’15 became the 21st member of the NCAA women’s hockey Division I 3,000 saves club in the season finale against Cornell. She finished her career with 3,023 career saves, placing her 20th all-time. Forward Christine Valente ’15 set the school’s career assists record in a 1-1 tie against St. Lawrence University.

Jake Fishman ’17 accepts congratulations after winning the third annual Union Athletics “Just Out” Home Run Derby. The event benefitted members of the Union community who are battling cancer.
The football team each year participates in several events that do not appear on the season schedule. Last year, football participated in two community service projects at the City Mission, which provides food and shelter for local citizens in need, and one at a local school, where they tutored fourth and fifth graders. They also organized a game of flag football with Miracle League, pictured here, a program that gives disabled children the chance to play sports in a safe and friendly environment.

Community service part of football culture

Student athletes take a stand against sexual assault

In a campus-wide rally and other events throughout the year, Union’s student athletes used their visibility to send a message about their commitment to prevent sexual harassment. Athletes wore blue and teal—the colors associated with the movement—in games and contests and challenged others to join the “It’s on Us” intervention campaign.

Sebastian Gingras ‘16, a student athlete on the men’s hockey team, addresses a kickoff for Union’s affiliation with “It’s on Us.”
In serving others, we enrich ourselves.
Program spotlights sex trafficking

In January, the College partnered with Safe Inc., a Schenectady nonprofit that supports sexually exploited youth, in a weeklong program to shine a light on the growing problem of human sex trafficking. According to the FBI, 300,000 children in the U.S. are at risk every year for commercial sexual exploitation. Andrea Foroughi, associate professor of history and director of the Women’s and Gender Studies Program, helped coordinate events. The keynote speaker was activist and author Corban Addison on “Combating Modern Slavery at Home and Abroad.”

Study: College contributes nearly $300 million locally

The College contributed $298.7 million to the Capital Region economy in 2013. This included $20.5 million its 2,200 students and thousands of visitors generated, according to the analysis done by the Center for Governmental Research, which conducted the statewide study for the CICU.

With 868 employees and an annual payroll of more than $52 million, Union is among the largest employers in the region. The College is also a major purchaser of goods and services in the community, as well as a source of vital construction and service contracts.

For more about Union’s economic impact, visit: www.union.edu/impact

On Toll Day, 500 spruce up the city

Nearly 500 members of Greek organizations and student clubs did chores at two dozen Schenectady non-profits in the 20th annual John Calvin Toll Day. The volunteers cleaned up parks; sorted clothing for local shelters; painted fences at Vale Cemetery; and weeded and raked everywhere. Toll Day is coordinated by Union’s Kenney Community Center and a number of city organizations. John Calvin Toll Day is named for one of Union’s first graduates in 1799. It is supported by a fund created by the late Al Hill ’46 and his wife, Perrie. Toll was the great-great-grandfather of Hill, an attorney from Buffalo.
The Community Media Action Lab might seem like any other film course: It teaches camera techniques and interviewing, filming and editing skills. But something more: developed between Union and Schenectady’s non-profits, the course encourages students to work closely with an organization to promote their work or raise funds. “It is a deeper project than just a course,” said James de Seve, Union’s filmmaker-in-residence. “It allows students to understand the needs of an organization and find a strategy to deliver these needs through media.” The Community Media Action Lab wrapped up in the spring with a packed screening in the GE Theater at Proctors.
Students clear undergrowth at Erie Canal Lock 23, about two miles west of campus, which has been maintained under the direction of Prof. Andy Morris of History.

Local students spent a day in the lab analyzing the food we eat. The event, part of the College’s Science and Technology Entry Program, was organized and hosted by Prof. Laura MacManus-Spencer, associate professor of chemistry.

Early March may not be swimming season. But one wouldn’t know that from the spirits of the dozens of students who jumped into a pool for the third annual Dutchman Dip. The event raised more than $15,000 for members of the Union community who are battling cancer.

The annual Taste of Schenectady introduces students to the range of culinary offerings at city eateries.

In Kenney Community Center, students assemble “mommy bags” of necessities for expectant mothers in Malawi in southeast Africa. The event was organized by Nuzhat Chowdhury ’16.

The seventh annual Mohawk Watershed Symposium brought together leaders in government, science and non-profits to consider the value and challenges of the Mohawk River watershed. The event is organized by John Garver, professor of geology.
A GLOBAL VISION

We bring the world to Union, and Union to the world.

Students build a playground in Hanoi
In Hanoi, building a playground

Sylvie Kalikoff ’17 and Miles Ingraham ’17 built a playground in urban Hanoi during a term abroad in Vietnam. While there, they interned with an organization, Think Playgrounds, that provides kids with safe public places to play in the city. More than 1,000 children and parents came to the opening of the playground.

Two earn Watson Fellowships

Karlee Bergendorff ’15 and Warren Thompson ’15 are the latest Union students to receive prestigious Thomas J. Watson Fellowships, which provides a $30,000 stipend to cover a year of independent study and travel outside the U.S. Bergendorff’s project, “The Dirty Archeology of Alternative History” will eschew the monumental events of history in Argentina, Germany, India, Cambodia and South Africa to find untold historical meaning in junk and abandoned spaces. Thompson will travel to Japan, Australia, India and Peru for his project, “Flute Music Across the World: Exploring Expression, Ritual, and Healing.”

Seven Gilman Scholarships awarded

Seven Union students won a prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, for up to $5,000 toward study abroad or internship costs. Alison Curley ’16 will travel to the United Kingdom, Nia Francis ’17 to Fiji, Shivangi Mehta ’16 to Greece, Nurisha Rodriguez ’16 to Turkey, Davina Tran ’17 to Vietnam, Astrid Vargas ’17 to France and Lai Wong ’17 to Brazil.

Two earn Davis Peace awards

Two students received Kathryn Wasserman Davis Project for Peace Awards, $10,000 grants to support projects for building peace. Tshering Lama Sherpa ’18, who hails from Nepal, will pursue an initiative entitled “Eco-Friendly Economic Solutions for Junbesi, Nepal.” She is majoring in environmental science and minoring in political science. Dima Yankova ’16, calls her project, “A Right to Play.” She hopes to provide relief for Bulgaria’s biggest refugee integration centers by upgrading outdoor facilities and providing a welcoming environment for residents. A native of Bulgaria, she is majoring in mechanical engineering and minor in environmental and political science.

Five receive Fulbrights

Five were awarded Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Grants to work in schools overseas to supplement English language instruction. They are: Lindsay Hage ’12, an ETA in Colombia where she plans to establish a basketball program where college students work with local grade-school students to promote social equality; Julia Hotz ’15, a teaching fellow at the Hellenic American Educational Foundation in Greece, where she will also serve as a coach and mentor in the Forensics Club, Theater Club and Debate Club; Lucas Rivers ’15, a teaching assistant in Vietnam, who also plans to engage the local community in theatrical performances to help strengthen their English skills; and Selene Paloma ’15, an ETA in Azerbaijan, where she also plans to teach Latin dance and cooking. Alumna Rachel Finkelsein ’12, who recently earned her master’s in Hispanic studies from Villanova University, received a Fulbright Scholarship to Mexico, an achievement she attributes to the support of Union’s Modern Languages and Literatures Department.

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Uganda, India, China among Minerva fellow destinations

Eleven members of the Class of 2015 are spread out across the globe in developing countries, each partnered with a social entrepreneurial organization. The Minerva Fellows work abroad for nine months then return to the College and live in a Minerva house for one month, where they participate in a social entrepreneurial course and educate current students about their experiences abroad.

This year’s fellows are (from left to right, top to bottom):

- **Charlotte Bloom** and **Joe Hinderstein**: Engeye, Ddegeya Village, Uganda
- **Kyle Tevlin** and **Maggie Hoffman**: The Global Child, Siem Reap, Cambodia
- **Lacey Reimer** and **Gerardo Reyes**: Yanapuma, Estero de Platano, Ecuador
- **Ruwimbo Makoni** and **Yilun Zhang**: Shandong Huihe Autism Education Center, Jinan, China
- **Mary Beth Gadarwoski**: Witkoppen Health and Welfare Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa
- **Caroline Brustowicz**: Fashion 4 Freedom, Hue, Vietnam
- **Davis Cutter**: Bagru Textiles, Bagru, India
Kelly Adirondack Center panel: Collaboration required in shaping our wilderness

The challenges and opportunities for educating students about the Adirondack wilderness are multidimensional—like the region itself—and require the breadth of the academy and collaboration between institutions, according to panelists in a discussion on “The Role of Higher Education in Shaping Our Wilderness.” Sponsored by Union’s Kelly Adirondack Center during Adirondack Week, the panel included Bob Bullock, deputy director for operations at the Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government; Carl George, professor emeritus of biology at Union College; and Cathy Shrady, director of Outdoor Studies/Adirondack Semester at St. Lawrence University. Philip Terrie, professor emeritus of American cultural studies and environmental studies at Bowling Green State University, served as moderator.

College hosts African studies conference

Dozens of faculty and students participated in the 40th annual conference of the New York African Studies Association, which Union hosted in April. The conference—the theme of which is “Africa, Its Diaspora, and Laws”—featured:

- **Prof. Deidre Butler**, associate professor of Africana studies, on Union’s Africana Studies program.
- Student leaders on Union’s African American organizations.
- **Prof. Robert Hislope**, associate professor of political science, on “Musical Expression and Political Repression”
- **Prof. William Garcia**, associate professor of Spanish, with a panel on media and Africa.
- Six Union students on the Civil Rights and Africa mini-terms
- **Prof. Cheikh Ndiaye**, associate professor of French, and **Prof. Butler** organized Union’s events.

Ambassador Bolton calls for action on Iran

John Bolton, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, shared his views on Iran’s attempt to acquire nuclear weapons. He was met with peaceful protest by several local organizations and student groups. His talk, “Iran and the Contemporary Middle East,” was part of the Frederic E. Miller Lecture Series in Honor of Anwar Sadat.

Japan Exchange and Teaching Program

**Kristofer Hammer ’15** was selected for the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program and is working as an assistant language teacher in Hokkaido, Japan. He is using neighborhood involvement in ceramics to foster language teaching and cultural exchange. At Union, he majored in bioengineering and minored in studio arts and Japanese.
CHAPTER 7
SUSTAINABILITY

REDUCING OUR FOOTPRINT

We take steps to preserve our natural resources.
Cogenerative plant to reduce Union’s carbon footprint

Work is under way on a cogeneration plant that will dramatically reduce Union’s carbon footprint, ease demand on current aging systems and result in significant energy saving costs.

The natural gas plant will produce approximately 1.8 megawatts of electricity, and provide 82 percent of the College’s power needs in winter and 74 percent in summer. Surplus power will be sold to the utility. Waste heat will be recycled for campus use.

The plant will increase the College’s heating and power efficiency by 58 to 80 percent.

The $12 million plant is supported by a $2.4 million grant from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority and a bond project that will be repaid through the $450,000 in annual energy-related savings the new plant is expected to generate.

Sustainability is a key priority of the College’s Strategic Plan. In 2007, President Stephen Ainlay was among the first to sign the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC), pledging to formally work on reducing, and eventually eliminating, campus greenhouse gas emissions.

Rain garden among ‘Green Grants’ to foster sustainability

Sara Covelli ’17, who spent a summer working for Nassau County’s environmental resources department to install rain gardens throughout the sprawling Long Island county, returned to Union with an idea: build a rain garden on campus to filter out runoff pollution. The rain garden uses plants and natural items so the untreated water doesn’t end up in storm drains. The environmental policy major’s project was selected to receive a Presidential Green Grant.

A total of 15 projects were awarded grants worth more than $24,000.

Princeton guide green award

Union is again ranked among the country’s most environmentally responsible colleges, according to The Princeton Review’s “Guide to Green Colleges.” The 218-page guide profiles colleges with “the most exceptional commitments to sustainability based on their academic offerings and career preparation for students, campus policies, initiatives, and activities.”

College earns ‘bike to work award,’ again

For the second straight year, cyclists from the College won the Gearshaft award for the most participants from Schenectady County in the annual Bike to Work Day Workplace Challenge. Sponsored by the Capital District Transportation Committee (CDTC), the event promotes cycling as a fun and environmentally friendly way to commute for employers in Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga and Schenectady counties.

Union had 39 riders representing a diverse mix of departments across campus, a dozen more than a year ago.
A STRONG HISTORY.
A tradition of support ensures a Union education for the next generation.

A STRONGER FUTURE.

Giving Highlights
Friends of Union College voiced their strong support for our mission in the form of giving.

$25.8 million received in cash and commitments, the most since 2011

$4.56 million raised for the unrestricted Annual Fund

Among the highlights were:

- Associated Press announced the $11 million gift from the Feigenbaum Foundation. Among those noting the gift were ABC News, Huffington Post, Minneapolis Star-Tribune and Seattle Post-Intelligencer.
- AP did a piece on “Profound & Poignant,” the exhibit about Union’s role in the Civil War era. The exhibit had extensive local coverage including an appearance by President Ainlay on WAMC, Northeast Public Radio.
- AP and a dozen other media outlets covered the campus announcement by Lt. Gov. Robert J. Duffy, President Ainlay and student leaders to raise awareness of sexual assault and domestic violence. The story appeared in dozens of media outlets across the country.
- The Chronicle of Higher Education visited campus to highlight the “It’s On Us” campaign, the sixth time a Chronicle writer has visited campus in the last eight years.

Giving at new levels

The quality of a Union education is a direct result of the support we receive from the many friends of the College.

This year, thanks to our friends investing in Union as never before, we reached $4.56 million in unrestricted giving through the Annual Fund. This funding is essential in helping us keep Union accessible to all students.

The Annual Fund total, which includes restricted giving, was $7.08 million.

Total cash and commitments for the last fiscal year was $25.8 million. Giving at Union is a strong tradition and a moving testament to the confidence our generous donors have for our mission.

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Social media engagement

- 805 tweets
- 987 new followers
- 683 retweets

- 280 posts
- 2,111 new likes on page
- 45,780 likes on posts
- 3,209 shares
- 1,212 comments

- 51,145 views on videos
- 96,103 minutes of videos watched

- 1,250 new followers
The Office of Corporate, Government & Foundation Relations reported 18 new awards totaling more than $1.4 million. These awards involved faculty from numerous departments or programs, spanning all academic divisions.

Forty faculty from 27 departments or programs were involved in grant-funded projects during FY2014-15, totaling $8.1 million.
Among recent grants:

A three-year $800,000 grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to promote “Our Shared Humanities,” the integration of the arts and humanities across academic disciplines through faculty development and a series of distinctive hands-on experiences for students and faculty. Highlights include: expansion of Union’s Faculty Development Institutes (FDI), establishing Zones of Inquiry/Humanities Lab Series and the creation of a Humanities Maker Community.

The National Geographic Society has awarded a $20,000 grant for the faculty research project, “The volcanic history and magmatic degassing of Dominica: implications for future eruptions,” under the direction of Holli Frey, associate professor of geology.

The George I. Alden Trust supported renovations to Karp Hall with a $175,000 grant, helping to establish the collaborative computing classroom. The J. M. McDonald Foundation also supported the renovation project with a $15,000 grant to the College.

Union’s Space Grant Program, directed by Rebecca Koopmann ’89, professor of physics and astronomy, has received a three-year $24,000 grant through the NASA New York Space Grant (NYSG) Consortium at Cornell University. The grant is to encourage student participation in STEM research, engagement in the Union’s summer seminar program, and conference presentations regionally and nationally.

The National Science Foundation has awarded a supplemental grant to Donald Rodbell, professor of geology, at right, in support of a public outreach and citizen’s science program to survey mining contamination in the Lake Junín region of the Peruvian Andes. The grant also covers programs to educate local citizens about another NSF-supported project led by Rodbell to determine climate history from sediment cores in the lake.
2014-2015 FINANCIAL RECAP

STEWARDING OUR RESOURCES

We enhance the value of Union.

Union by the numbers

$441 million
Endowment Market Value

$158 million
Operating Budget (2013-2014)

885
Full-Time Employees

2,242
Full-Time Enrollment

1:10
Faculty-to-Student Ratio

568
Size of Incoming Class (Class of 2019)
Financial operations

With the conclusion of the 2014-15 fiscal year, the College’s financial position and fiscal operations remain strong. Revenue sources increased with the influx of annual gifts to support operations. This resulted in total operating revenues (net of financial aid) growing approximately 11 percent. Operating expenses grew at a rate of approximately 4 percent, which is consistent with prior years. Although the College has multiple revenue sources, like most of our peer institutions, two of these—net tuition revenue and investment income primarily from endowment and other investments—account for a significant majority of total operating revenues, in our case, approximately 78 percent. Recognizing this, the College continues to explore new revenue possibilities, while holding expenses steady and remains committed to balanced operating budgets where revenues equal or exceed expenditures.
Union’s endowment

The College’s endowment-spending policy seeks to balance the need for a stable and growing income stream from the endowment in support of operations while maintaining the purchasing power of the income provided by the endowment for generations to come. As such, endowment assets continue to be invested through a broad range of strategies while preserving liquidity. And despite a significant allocation to alternative strategies and private equity asset classes, the endowment’s liquidity has been maintained. The endowment performed very well in 2014-15, with a return of 8.6 percent. The market value at June 30, 2015 was $441 million, which exceeded our all-time high of $400 million, reached in 2008. A large part of the high return came as a result of investing in U.S. equities as well as hedged equity strategies. Among other endowments and foundations reporting in the InvestorForce Universe, Union’s return ranked within the top 1 percent.
Financial ratios

Both contribution ratios (reliance on revenues) and operating ratios (availability of resources for operations) for fiscal year 2014-15 remained strong. The contribution ratio for tuition/room and board (net of student aid) decreased slightly, and the contribution ratio for gifts and pledges slightly increased, due to the additional gifts received for operations, thus slightly lowering the reliance upon net tuition revenue. Union’s return on net assets decreased from the prior year due to the fact that while the endowment performance was strong at 8.6 percent, it was less than the return in 2013-14 of 17.9 percent. Expendable resources to debt remained consistent even with the additional debt added of approximately $8 million.

**Contribution ratios %**

**TUITION/ROOM AND BOARD**
(net of Financial Aid)
Measures reliance on tuition, room and board revenue

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**INVESTMENT INCOME**
Measures the contribution of investment income to total operating revenue

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**GIFTS AND PLEDGES**
(excluding gifts to endowment)
Measures the contribution of gifts and pledges to total operating revenue

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**Operating ratios %**

**EXPENDABLE RESOURCES TO DEBT**
Measures resources available from total expendable reserves as a percentage of debt outstanding

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**EXPENDABLE RESOURCES TO OPERATIONS**
Measures the buffer provided to the annual operating budget by total expendable reserves

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<td>2.0</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>2.7</td>
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**RETURN ON NET ASSETS**
Indicates the direction and degree to which the institution has improved its total resource base

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<td>%</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>-24.0</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>-1.4</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>5.9</td>
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Leadership of the College

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Robert Kelly named chief of staff

Robert Kelly joined the College as chief of staff in President Stephen C. Ainlay’s office. He received his B.A. from Loyola University Maryland, and his master’s in education at the University of Vermont. His doctorate, in educational policy, planning and administration, is from the University of Maryland. Most recently, he served as vice president for student development at Loyola University Chicago. He had previously served as vice president for student development at Seattle University and has held other positions at the University of Vermont, University of Maryland and Colgate University. “Rob brings a wealth of experience to the position, and I’m excited about the qualities and expertise he brings to Union’s senior staff,” Ainlay said in introducing him.
WRITING OUR NEXT CHAPTERS